

Commodore Ian Shipperley ADC, Royal Navy

Ian Shipperley was educated at Brentwood School and joined the Royal Navy in 1980 on his 17th birthday.

Following training at the Royal Naval Engineering College Manadon and in a variety of now long defunct steam ships, he took up his first complement appointment in HMS Birmingham in 1986 where he cut his teeth as an engineer during a refit in Rosyth spanning the transition of the sale of the Royal Dockyard into commercial ownership.

After junior staff training and a spell at the Marine Engineering Training School where he managed to fill in the paperwork to become a Chartered Engineer, he moved to Holland in 1991 on exchange with the RNLN.

Despite the temptation to speak English and drink frothy beer, he surprised himself by becoming a Dutch Interpreter.

Returning to the RN in 1994 as the Marine Engineer Officer of HMS Southampton, he took part in disaster relief in the Caribbean in the wake of hurricanes and the Montserrat volcano eruptions.

Promoted to Commander in 1998, he spent time as a Staff Officer in the Fleet HQ before moving to Bath as the Naval Assistant to the Chief Executive of the Ship Support Agency where he helped plan the formation of the Warship Support Agency and a move to Abbey Wood for 2000 staff.

He pulled on his overalls and boots for the last time to guide HMS Ocean out of Upkeep in 2002 and on to operations in the Gulf as part of Op Telic which included almost 6 months underway culminating in a meteoric run ashore in Gibraltar.

He returned to Abbey Wood in 2004 to take responsibility for the marine engineering systems of Capital Ships, T42 Destroyers and overall support for Landing Craft.

Promoted to Captain in 2006, he was catapulted into the murky world of industrial alliances, cost models and contracts as Head of the Surface Ship Support Programme which he steered through concept to approval.

A stint at the waterfront as Superintendent Fleet Maintenance (Devonport) was followed by an intensely busy period at the helm of the Capital Ships & Destroyers Team which saw the first 3 T45 Destroyers deployed on operations.

A new chapter opened in 2012 on promotion to Commodore and brought a leading role in managing the capability of ships and submarines from Navy Command HQ in Portsmouth. Alongside this job, he also became the first Deputy Chief Naval Engineer Officer and set about redefining the employment and training of Naval Engineers.

After 3 years and a thorough re-acquaintance with the A35 Coast Road, Ian returned to the West Country to take Command of Devonport Naval Base.

His interests include sailing, cycling, fell walking and tinkering with vehicles that should already have been recycled.