

# HMS KENT

Families' Newsletter

Issue 01 | July 2018



## OUT OF THE SHEDS AND BACK TO SEA

It's been a busy few months for HMS KENT Ship's Company just recently as we prepared to return to sea for the first time in over 2 years. Having moved out of our offices at HMS DRAKE in Plymouth and back onboard in March, the Ship's Company has gradually reclaimed the Ship as our own. Slowly but surely, protective plastic sheeting and scaffolding were removed and KENT gradually began once again to resemble a warship rather than a building site!

We sailed for the first time on a sunny Saturday morning in mid-July, heading straight into a busy weekend of Initial Sea Safety Training, accompanied by representatives from Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) who assessed us to ensure that we were safe to be at sea. This was immediately followed by a period of sea trials, starting with Sea Acceptance Trials for the Marine Engineering Department, testing the Ship's engines and steering to ensure that all was working well. The trials picked up a few gremlins, but all in all, everything went well and we discovered that KENT is the fastest T23 in the fleet, capable of doing over 30 knots!

After a weekend of defect rectification back in Plymouth, the Ship returned to sea to commence the next stage: Weapon Engineering trials. This has involved putting all of our sensors and weapon system to the test, ensuring that we are ready to get back to our core business of war-fighting on our return from summer leave, when we will fire our new Sea Ceptor missile system for the very first time.

**"It's been exciting to see the Ship change from a building site into a fighting platform again"**

SLt Bowman  
CFT Officer



# MARINE ENGINEERS DIGGING OUT

The programme for HMS KENT's ME Department coming out of refit has involved, amongst many other things, conducting Safety and Assurance Checks and Harbour Acceptance Trials, which we had to pass in order to continue on to SATs (Sea Acceptance Trials). This busy programme has meant many, many late nights, and the occasional working weekend. As the majority of the department are relatively new to their rank, role and/or the T23 platform, it has been a steep learning curve for most, but with almost all of the ME department living in Portsmouth (or at least closer to Portsmouth than Plymouth!), the incentive to get the Ship working and able to sail was a strong one!

However, coercing KENT back into a seagoing vessel, never mind a warfighting one, involved closely liaising with contractors to remedy defects and optimise the performance of a dizzying array of systems, including diesel generators, gas turbines, electrical distribution systems and lighting, fresh and chilled water systems, the high pressure salt water firefighting system, and (of course) the sewage treatment plant.

When needed, the MEO supplied morale in the form of Coca Cola and snacks (productivity soared, boosted by caffeine and sugar), and on one memorable occasion, cans of beer and cider one evening on the bridge wing. The opportunity to sample some of the local beers around the Guzz area has also not passed the ME department by, and several shore runs on evenings off have allowed the department to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

With most systems on the way to optimum performance (if not already there), and several new ETMEs due to bolster manpower, the future of the Marine Engineering department on HMS Kent is looking bright.

Especially now the lights are working!

**ET(ME) Ellis**

## SAILOR OF THE MONTH

**Each month, all of the Heads of Department have been putting forward one nominee to win the CO's Sailor of the Month award. Last month, the winner was the ME department's LET Newton.**

LET Newton has been working with M3 group since joining the ship and is an integral part of the ME department. He rapidly improved his skill set and knowledge base to assist the group with getting all of their equipment ready in a very short space of time, in addition to stepping up to cover gaps when the group's POs were away. He quickly dealt with defects on the low and high pressure air systems, and was an integral part in getting both working, which was key in achieving the tight time schedule the Ship needed to adhere to in order to get back to sea on time.

In short, LET Newton was a highly deserving recipient of the CO's Sailor of the Month award.



## NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY

**While the Ship's Company has had to work extremely hard to get the Ship back to sea, we've also taken some time to relax and let our hair down.**

Both Arctic and Falklands Messes have had mess socials recently, with Falklands Mess taking the opportunity to relax with a spa day while Arctic sampled the delights of Plymouth nightlife. The WOs & CPOs mess and the Wardroom have each hosted the other in a pub quiz, ably hosted by CPO McNeill and Navs respectively, heckled on both occasions to a high standard by the EWO.

Additionally, although KENT's rugby team (the White Stallions) started out as just a group of lads, many of whom had never played before, throwing a rugby ball around on a Monday night, it rapidly became a whole lot more as increasing numbers of players began to appear out of the woodwork and show a willing to represent their Ship. The newly formed team entered the Royal Navy 7s Tournament in June (the only ship other than the QE to do so!) and, against the odds, defeated two title contenders – HMS RALEIGH and BRNC Dartmouth – on their way to the semi-final. That was the first time a frigate's team had reached that stage of the tournament and was a testament to how hard the team had worked in training during the months leading up. It was a collective team effort, but LS(UW) Attwood shone through as the star player of the afternoon.

## JOKES!

What did one ocean say to the other?

*Nothing – it just waved!*

Knock knock!

*Who's there?*

Stopwatch!

*Stopwatch who?*

Stopwatch you're doing and answer the door!

Why did the picture go to jail?

*It was framed!*

How do you make an octopus laugh?

*With ten-tickles!*

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare

RNRMW offers a range of services to Naval Personnel and their families across the UK and overseas, which provide accessible, confidential specialist welfare services to individuals and the Divisional system.

RNRMW can be contacted on 023 9272 8777. For further information including planned events:

Website: [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare)

RN Forum:

[www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/forums)

Facebook:

Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare

### Naval Families Federation

The Naval Families Federation was set up at the request of the Government in order to allow the families of the Naval Service to have their voices heard.

Website: [www.nff.org.uk](http://www.nff.org.uk)

Tel: 02392 654374

Email: [contactus@nff.org.uk](mailto:contactus@nff.org.uk)

### Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC)

JCCC is responsible for the management of casualties and compassionate cases within the Armed Forces 24/7, 365 days a year.

24 hour helpline: 01452 519951

Email: [dbs-](mailto:dbs-)

[jcccgrouppmailbox@mod.gov.uk](mailto:jcccgrouppmailbox@mod.gov.uk)

## KIDS' CORNER

Can you find all of the words in this word search?

P	W	O	A	Y	U	T	E	R	I	A	L	A	W	W
N	O	R	E	B	H	U	J	K	D	F	O	V	P	A
N	E	R	W	N	I	K	N	O	H	E	N	A	V	Y
Z	A	D	T	N	G	H	R	T	O	U	K	S	C	O
X	E	I	O	S	U	I	L	A	T	Y	G	T	Z	K
Y	C	A	T	I	M	E	N	P	N	C	B	V	N	M
U	A	B	R	G	L	O	A	F	I	N	G	J	U	I
T	N	Q	D	X	S	A	U	O	Q	R	K	E	N	T
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U	N	A	V	S	U	W	W	B	M	E	D	E	P	T
C	A	T	D	N	E	M	E	S	N	U	B	R	A	L
X	O	B	S	H	I	P	A	C	A	P	T	A	I	N
K	B	L	Q	W	Y	I	O	P	Z	X	F	G	H	S
K	C	E	D	R	E	T	R	A	U	Q	B	R	N	C

SHIP CANNON ANCHOR AVAST  
CAPTAIN NAVY KENT  
QUARTERDECK PORTSMOUTH

Can you colour in the sailor?



