

HMS KENT

Families' Newsletter

Issue 02 | November 2018



REJOINING THE FLEET

As those of you who attended our Rededication Ceremony will be well aware, KENT has now officially rejoined the Fleet having been formally accepted by representatives of the Fleet Commander. Having only sailed for the first time back in July, the Ship successfully passed her Fleet Date Inspection on 3 October. This involved a formal inspection by Portsmouth Flotilla and many of the external agencies involved in bringing the Ship out of refit. Then, two days later, the Ship's Rededication Ceremony took place on South Railway Jetty in HMNB Portsmouth, with the Lord Lieutenant of Kent as the Guest of Honour. We were once again lucky enough to have beautiful weather for the occasion, showing the Ship off at her best, before a delightful hog roast on the jetty for the Ship's Company and their guests (plus the odd celebratory glass of champagne!).

FAMILIES' DAY

A huge thanks must go to all of you who were able to attend our Families' Day on 3 August.

The Ship sailed with almost 500 people onboard, including over 300 family members, which is absolutely fantastic.

We were blessed with an absolutely lovely day of sky-high temperatures and flat calm seas, which thankfully resulted in very few incidences of sea sickness!

The planned fly-past by a Coast Guard Search and Rescue helicopter sadly did not take place, due to them having a real emergency to attend to, but otherwise the day ran smoothly.

KENT's own chefs and stewards put on a rather spectacular buffet for lunch, which was very gratefully received by the hungry hordes onboard. The Ship then got back alongside early afternoon to disembark families and allow the Ship's Company to proceed on some well-deserved summer leave.

All in all, the day was a great success and hopefully one we will be able to repeat at some point in the future!

"This is a momentous moment for the Ship's Company and is the culmination of a lot of hard work"

Cdr A S Brown
MBE
Commanding
Officer





BACK TO FLYING STATIONS

KENT recently achieved another key milestone in her regeneration: landing an aircraft on the flight deck for the first time since 2016!

Back in September, a Merlin aircraft, callsign TIGER 61, flew out to the Ship in Plymouth Sound and conducted a few circuits before landing on the flight deck for the first time. The aircraft was then moved into and out of the hangar to prove our aviation facilities and give the flight deck team a chance to practice handling and moving an aircraft (weighing in at around a casual 10500kg!).

Although the Ship remained secured to a buoy for the duration of the serial, this was an important first step in regaining our aviation currency before we move on to conducting flying serials at sea in November and embarking our own aircraft next year.

SEA CEPTOR FIRING

One of the major upgrades KENT received during her refit was the replacement of Sea Wolf with the new Sea Ceptor missile system, greatly enhancing our ability to protect ourselves and other units from airborne attack.

KENT recently became one of the first Type 23 frigates to test this system, firing one missile at a remotely operated target off the Outer Hebrides back in early September. This Initial Test Firing was a huge undertaking, requiring the embarkation of a number of staff from some of the external agencies involved in designing, installing and evaluating the system, and a lot of hard work throughout the Ship across all departments.

The firing demonstrated the enormous step change in capability and versatility that the new missile system provides to the RN, greatly impressing the many visitors who had come up to witness it from the Bridge.

The Ship has also now tested her 4.5 inch Mark 8 naval gun, her automatic small calibre 30mm guns, her 20mm mini-guns and her general purpose machine guns, so we're definitely back to fighting fit, ready for Operational Sea Training next year!



MORE SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, KENT's sporting teams have also continued going from strength to strength over the last few months, racking up an impressive record of results.

The rugby team recently played ST ALBANS, narrowly losing 14-15 in what was a very closely contested match. Then, the following week, the two Ships combined forces, sending a joint team to play against HMS COLLINGWOOD.

Sadly though, their combined might wasn't quite enough to defeat a team from one of the biggest shore establishments in the Navy, but they put up a good fight anyway in what was described as the hardest game of rugby many of them had ever played!

The Ship's football team, on the other hand, had much more success when facing off against the same opponent, beating HMS COLLINGWOOD 5-1! The whole team played well, but individual praise must go to ETME Caton who scored his first goal for HMS KENT (and celebrated like he'd won the World Cup...) and to the eventual Man of the Match, ETCIS Charlton, who actually scored a hat-trick!



JOKES!

What do you call a dinosaur when it's sleeping?

Dino-snore!

What did the left eye say to the right eye?

Between us, something smells!

How do you stop an astronaut's baby from crying?

You rocket!

What kind of tree fits in your hand?

A palm tree!

What falls in winter but never gets hurt?

Snow!

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

RN Forum:

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

Tel: 02392 654374

Email: 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-

jcccgrouppmailbox@mod.gov.uk

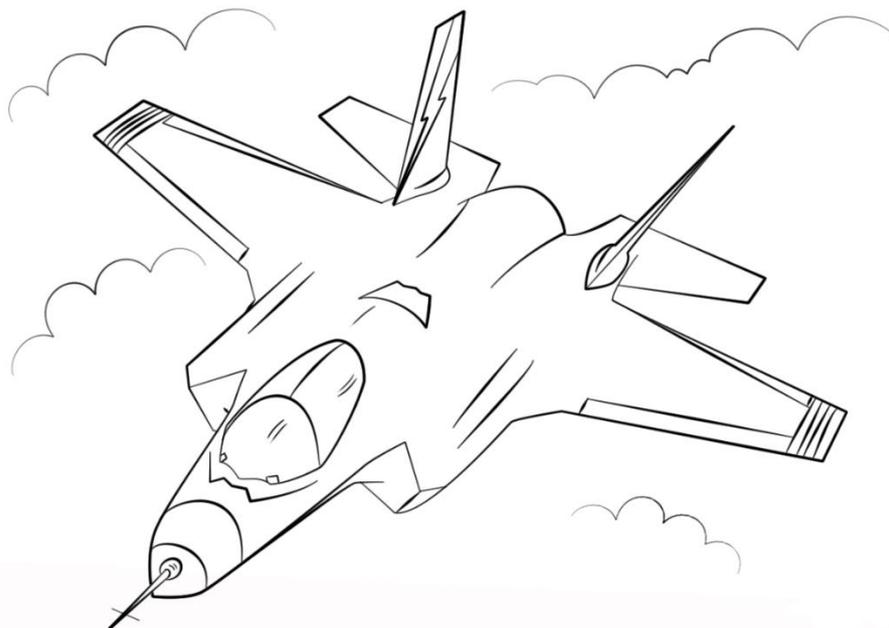
KIDS' CORNER

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

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

MISSILE GUN BANG SHOOT FIRE SEA
WEAPON WARSHIP SAILOR

Can you colour in the F35 jet?



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