A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

"As we come to the end of sea trials and a busy maintenance period HMS WESTMINSTER is gearing up for Operational Sea Training- the final challenge before commencing operations at the end of July as the UK Fleet Ready Escort.

But it’s not all work and no play- our sailors have been making the most of time alongside for over the past few weeks. Importantly I hope you all managed to spend some quality time together as a family, in particular as the next few months are going to be very busy.

I am in the process of ensuring that the Ship’s Company all understand the details of the months ahead, so that they can explain what we are up to and the importance of the up coming mission. If you have questions or concerns please discuss them with ‘your sailor’ so that I can support you as our operational tempo increases."

Cdr Simon P Kelly RN

HELO- IS IT ME YOU’RE LOOKING FOR?

Within the coming weeks HMS Westminster’s Ship's Company will be joined by aircrew and support personnel from 829 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm based at RNAS Culdrose, Cornwall. They will bring with them a Merlin Mk II Anti-Submarine helicopter, a state of the art aircraft that is used to locate, track and engage enemy submarines beyond the horizon.

Equipped with dipping sonar (a floating transmitter, lowered from the helicopter and used to search for submarines) as well as Stingray torpedoes, depth charges and Machine Guns, the Merlin makes a potent addition to WESTMINSTER's already formidable firepower in the hunt for enemy submarines.

Beyond searching for submarines the helicopter is capable of round-the-clock maritime patrol, enhanced Search and Rescue and other contingent tasks, all of which will put WESTMINSTER at the forefront of Maritime Security as one of the most capable (and useful!) ships in The Fleet.

The addition of a helicopter will increase the challenges for all on board- preparing and executing flying operations requires the involvement of the entire Ship’s Company and adds an extra level of detail to already robust practices. It will be the first time we have worked with an embarked flight since coming out of refit in January, and the next few weeks will be filled with training to ensure that we are capable and confident working in the air environment before patrols start in earnest later in 2017.

- SLt T Clouter RN

Phot: Lt Cdr A J Woodward RN
LONDON CALLING FOR SOME HORSEING AROUND

On the 4th of May, eight members of the Ship’s Company took part in a reciprocal liaison visit with the Household Cavalry, the regiment of the British Army affiliated with HMS WESTMINSTER. We were welcomed into the Regiment’s Hyde Park Barracks, and introduced to the ceremonial work that the Lifeguards and Blues and Royals perform. A tour of the barracks included the multi-storey stables, the forge and the workshops. The experience allowed sailors to witness the huge amount of preparation and traditional skills that go into maintaining the high standards of the Regiment. A quick stop at Horse Guards Parade saw the daily Changing of The Guard ceremony, a guided tour of the museum and an insight into the history of the Household Cavalry. The next day, after witnessing a show rehearsal in Hyde Park, WESTMINSTER’s sailors travelled out of the capital to the Household Cavalry’s Windsor Barracks where they were given the opportunity to ride on a horse drawn cart around the historical town. On completion, the modern fighting component of the unit was explained, in the form of its reconnaissance role, using specialist high-tech vehicles around the world.

- SLt J Burke RN

CAPTAIN’S DINNER IS A WINNER

The Chefs and Stewards of HMS WESTMINSTER wowed her former Commanding Officers with a spectacular evening of fine dining and high-class hosting.

The six serving and retired Commodores and Captains enjoyed Chef Jackson’s remarkable four-course creations which included salmon, beetroot crisps, steak with pommes puree and chocolate torte. A very different challenge to the usual business of feeding 170 hungry sailors, Chef Jackson believes that “The long hours I put into events like this are always worth it when I

- SLt N Davies RN

JACKSPEAK CORNER

Run ashore(n); Port visit, generally foreign or away from base port where leave off-ship is granted.

Duff(n); dessert or pudding. e.g. “Would you like double duff, Officer of the Watch Four?” is an offer of two desserts!

FROM THE OPS ROOM

Surface Picture Supervisor

The Surface Picture Supervisor (SPS) provides up to date, timely information to the Officer of the Watch (OOW) 24 hours a day to aid in identifying and classify vessels and/or aircraft, military and civilian.

The SPS uses a variety of equipment to build this picture which includes 997 Air Search Radar, IFF (Indicate friend or foe) and the 1007 Navigational radar. The information is then compiled into one picture in the OPS (operations) room.

This is the information that can then be provided up to the OOW on the Bridge of the Ship. The ‘picture’ is therefore our knowledge of our immediate environment, and is a useful tool for those driving and directing the ship.

- SLt J Burke RN

MEET THE SAILOR:

Name: ET ‘Jeff’ Buckley
Age: 22
Rank: AB1
Joined: 2014
Branch: Marine Engineer
Home: Stoke-On-Trent
Best run ashore: Gibraltar
Favourite Duff: Apple crumble & custard

“I enjoy being an ME because I like getting-hands on, down in the machinery spaces of the ship. I feel like the Royal Navy fits my personality and appreciates me for who I am, giving me the opportunities to do what I want to do. I’m hoping to be on the next promotion signal as I am keen to do my Killick (Leading Hand) course to progress in my career”.

- SLt N Davies RN
get such positive feedback from the guests”. The Maitre d’hôtel for the evening was Steward Stewart, who put in a strong performance in organising the running of the night, with new joiner Steward Moss assisting in her first VIP dinner onboard a ship: “It was challenging but rewarding, I was slightly nervous to start with but soon became confident in my own training and skills as the evening progressed”. AB Cunningham provided photography for the evening, skilfully capturing both the occasion of the event and the culinary delights!

Phot: AB Cunningham

A six-man guard headed up by Lt Gary “Guard Commander” Millar brought a sense military showmanship and occasion to the evening. Altogether, the event provided a sense of nostalgia for the previous Captains whilst very much giving them a flavour of WESTMINSTER’s future.

- SLt A Sykes RN, Editor

SPORT

… and Adventurous Training

SEVENS AND THE END OF THE “SEA TRIALS” TOUR

A Rugby Match Report from SLt Simon Priestley, OOW3

HMS WESTMINSTER played their second game having generated from refit in Belfast against Malone RFC. Malone, with experience of playing visiting RN Ships, would surely test the WESTMINSTER side.

Malone kicked off and dominated possession in the opening minutes and came up against some resolute WESTMINSTER defence. But the deadlock was broken after the Malone forwards drove over from a maul, and further tries came from Malone to make the score 22-0. The best piece of attacking play of the half then followed from WESTMINSTER with PO(UW) “Giraffe” Flack drawing two players and passing to LET(WE) “Bagsy” Baker. The ball made its way down the line to AB Stretton who showed some great pace before passing inside to Snr Chief “Fez” Parker. He offloaded to ET(ME) Clissold who was brought down metres from the line, and despite further pressure the chance was lost, with Malone breaking away to score again.

The teams changed ends for a much more even second half. Despite further tries from Malone, LET(WE) Baker took a quick tap penalty close to the Malone line and passed to LET(ME) “Bomber” Mills, who charged over from close range. SC “Jono” Waugh also managed to capitalise on a loose ball shortly after to kick ahead, re-gather and dive over on the right wing. Malone managed to score a couple more tries to make the final score 44-10, although WESTMINSTER’s performance had significantly improved since their trip to Plymouth a few weeks previously. After the final whistle the teams retreated to the clubhouse with Malone offering some excellent hospitality which was much appreciated and enjoyed.

A few weeks later the WESTMINSTER team were out again, this time in the shorter and quicker version of the game – Rugby 7s.

Playing in a tournament against three shore establishments and just one other ship, the team were always going to be up against the tide but gave an excellent account of themselves, especially given most of them had never played this format before. In spite of losses to the shore establishments, WESTMINSTER gained her first victory as a team over HMS DIAMOND, running riot over the Type 45 to win by some margin.

With the season now coming to a close the WESTMINSTER team are off for a rest until September when they hope to face a few more Ships teams – so watch this space for more news of impending WESTMINSTER victories on the Rugby Pitch!
A WHEELIE GRAND DAY OUT

During HMS WESTMINSTER’s recent maintenance period, 7 members of the Ship’s Company made full advantage of the Royal Navy’s Adventurous Training facilities by mountain biking in Queen Elizabeth Country Park (QECP) located on the South Downs in East Hampshire. QECP has 2 routes, a blue trail 6km long (made up of mainly forest gravel roads), and a red trail that is approximately 7.4 km long (more challenging with steep climbs and a fast flowing single track).

Led by Writer Liggett and Warrant Officer Johnson, the group were coached in a variety of mountain bike techniques before hitting the trails (quite literally in some cases!). The mixed ability group found the routes challenging, testing nerves and resolve demonstrating that Royal Navy core values can be practiced outside the workplace.

Despite the cold and wet conditions all participants thoroughly enjoyed the day and progressed in their mountain biking skill level, and crucially returned back onboard with no injuries!

- Wtr S Liggett

Royal Navy and Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW)

Provide a confidential service for families regarding any welfare issue. RNRMW Portal can be accessed via the RN Website (http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare/welfare-teams)

During the working day contact +44 (0)2392 72 87 77 navypers-welfare@mod.uk

Out of Hours Cover provided by Officer of the Day at HMS Nelson 023 9272 3875

These teams are always there to support you, so please make sure that you call them if you need them.

WESTY WORDSEARCH

Can you find the names of all 13 Type-23 Duke class Frigates?

WESTMINSTER STALBANS
NORTHUMBERLAND IRONDUKE
SUTHERLAND ARGYLL
LANCASTER KENT
RICHMOND MONROSE
PORTLAND MONMOUTH
SOMERSET