A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Let me take a moment to thank you all as members of the St Albans family for your unwavering support and patience amidst a period of significant uncertainty. It goes without saying that you are crucial to our operational success and morale. The Ship has had a very challenging and varied programme and knowing you are all ok without us for a bit, allows us to keep going.

We've made a genuine contribution to the security of the United Kingdom and to our relationships with key allies. The dedication and consistent performance of my Ship’s Company has been nothing short of inspirational. Their ability to be good ambassadors for the UK when in foreign ports would also make you incredibly proud.

A Captain is naturally proud of their Ship and her Company, but it has been great to see this recognised at the highest levels of Government and in the Press. With the Ship being nominated for the ‘Hero at Home’ in this year’s Sun Military Awards. The hard work isn’t yet over, and I must ask St Albans for a few more weeks grit and determination where your support will be as important as ever.

Commander Chris Ansell
Captain

PATROLLING TO PROTECT THE UK

Since sailing from Portsmouth in August St Albans has spent over 50 days at sea, steaming over 11,000nm whilst on patrol in the waters around the United Kingdom and the North East Atlantic. The Ship’s Company have been actively protecting the nation’s immediate security interests whilst also working with partner nations including the USA, France, Netherlands, Norway, and Canada.

The Ship has enjoyed the ethereal sight of the Northern Lights (See above Photo: POET Blease) and the cultural trappings of Trondheim, Reykjavik and Glasgow. A busy month lies ahead of the Ship before advanced Christmas leave in early December.

SWINGING SINNER

St Albans’ Merlin Helicopter recently had the opportunity to practice winching to and from the deck, an important skill for Search and Rescue.
LEADING THE WAY WITH TRAINING THE FUTURE OF THE FLEET

St Albans has played host to young trainees from the Warfare Training Squadron, many of whom are experiencing their first time aboard a warship.

Not many people can say that they’ve played an active part in protecting the nation whilst still completing their professional training, but that is exactly what the young Able Seamen of the Warfare Training Squadron have been doing. Under the watchful mentorship of members of the Ship’s Company the junior sailors have been getting stuck in with everything from maintenance to manning the Ship’s radars and monitoring the sonars for signs of underwater activity.

Building on the Ship’s long established culture of coaching and mentoring sailors of all levels of seniority and experience have been able to contribute to training the “nozzers”. AB Currie of the WTS says “It’s good to be able to learn whilst being part of live operations, it gives us all an idea of what to look forward to once we qualify”.

ICE HOCKEY SUCCESS FOR ENGINEER

Weapons Engineering Technician Jack Powell was selected to represent HMS St Albans and the Royal Navy during the Royal Navy Ice Hockey team’s tour to Australia.

ET(WE) Powell played a significant role in the team who travelled to Sydney for a few warm-up games in preparation for a tournament held in the state of New-South Wales. The Royal Navy faced off against a strong Australian Combined Services team in a semi-final which saw them emerge victorious but alas they finished second overall after losing out to a local team in the final.

ET(WE) Powell was also honoured with man of the match in the teams first encounter against the Sydney Convicts, he’s looking forward to representing the Royal Navy again soon.
Royal Navy Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW)

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.

Services also include: Community Support, providing activities and events for Service Families; Information Support on various service related topics; and Communication Networks, including the RN Forum and Facebook.

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

MAKE SURE YOUR LOVED ONE GETS THEIR CHRISTMAS CARDS ON TIME!

The British Forces Post Office (BFPO) have released this year’s deadline for making sure Cards and Presents arrive in time for the 25th December.

BFPO have released that post sent before Monday 27th November 2017 will be in the Ship’s mail bag in time for Christmas. All the usual rules for sending post apply, and for anyone who’s unsure of the rules or needs clarification on how to send post using the BFPO more information can be found at the web address below:


MULTI-NATIONAL MARINE ENGINEERS

The Marine Engineering Department now has personnel on exchange from the Royal New Zealand Navy, US Coastguard and the French Marine Nationale. The exchange programmes allow Navies to share expertise and learn from each other so that we can operate better when working with international partners.

Sub-Lieutenant Jesse Samuel RNZN, who is currently the ship’s Assistant Marine Engineering Officer, comments “It’s good to see how the Brits do things, I’m still getting used to the food, but the experience I’m gaining here will be invaluable when I return to our own Frigates in New Zealand.”

He also recently led the Officers’ Mess in a traditional New Zealand ‘Hakah’, a somewhat unorthodox addition to the recent Trafalgar Night commemorations

WAVE KNIGHT SUPPORTS THE SAINT TO SUSTAIN OPERATIONS

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Tanker Wave Knight keeps St Albans topped up with fuel so she can sustain operations to protect UK waters. Replenishment at Sea is one of the highest risk evolutions carried out by the Ship and requires the full concentration of the Ship’s Company for hours at a time. Photo POET Blease

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Tanker Wave Knight keeps St Albans topped up with fuel so she can sustain operations to protect UK waters. Replenishment at Sea is one of the highest risk evolutions carried out by the Ship and requires the full concentration of the Ship’s Company for hours at a time. Photo POET Blease