Sutton Coldfield Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets

Newsletter

July-September 2026

A Message from the CO

As we come to the end of another busy and successful quarter, I am incredibly proud to reflect on everything our cadets and volunteers have achieved.

Our cadets have continued to represent the Unit and Warwickshire District with distinction. At the South West Area Combined Regatta, we were delighted that our Rowing Boat Handlers brought the gold home, while cadets also competed across several classes at the South West Area Sailing Regatta.

Training and development have remained at the heart of everything we do. We hosted an in-house Young Leaders Award course for our Junior Sea Cadets, while others attended South West Area Training Week and Alpha Company Summer Training, gaining qualifications, experiences and valuable life skills.

We have seen some fantastic individual achievements with one cadet successfully completing the Physical Training Zero to Hero course, gaining their Intermediate PT qualification, the first Sutton Coldfield cadet to achieve this in at least 17 years.

Closer to home, we supported the Birmingham Triathlon as marshals and had a hugely successful presence at the Sutton Coldfield Community Games. Our staff also enjoyed their summer social, combining some well-earned downtime with team-building activities.

A major milestone this quarter was our annual Unit Review, where the Unit performed exceptionally well and achieved a standard that everyone involved should be immensely proud of. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the hard work, commitment and professionalism displayed throughout the Unit.

None of these achievements would be possible without our dedicated volunteers, supportive parents and guardians, and our fantastic cadets. Thank you to everyone who continues to give their time, energy and support, and who makes Sutton Coldfield Sea Cadets something we can all be incredibly proud of.

Yours Aye,
Sub Lieutenant (SCC) Ryan Richards RNR
Officer in Charge, Sutton Coldfield Sea Cadets & Royal Marines Cadets

South West Area Combined Regatta

On Saturday 4th July, five of our cadets proudly represented Warwickshire District at the South West Area Combined Regatta, competing in the Rowing Boat Handling category.

Putting months of training, teamwork and determination into action, the team delivered an outstanding performance and brought home the gold medal 🏅 and the trophy 🏆!

Even more impressively, this marks the third consecutive year that Sutton Coldfield Unit has secured this title for Warwickshire District. It is a fantastic achievement that demonstrates not only the dedication and continued development of our cadets, but also the strength of the team as new members have stepped up and continued the winning legacy.

We are incredibly proud of every cadet involved and hugely grateful to our staff, whose commitment to delivering consistently high-quality training continues to give our young people the skills and confidence to succeed.







Young Leaders Award

Over the course of four weeks, members of our Junior Sea Cadet section completed the Young Leaders Award.

The award, supported by the Leadership Skills Foundation, aims to help learners develop leadership skills such as organisation, communication and teamwork, as well as helping to build confidence and self-esteem as they take on responsibility of leading their peers and younger children.

Our Juniors started by going through different leadership types and styles, and understand all elements of being in a team. They worked in small groups to build their own leadership tasks and activities.

The sessions concluded with feedback, allowing the Juniors to understand the point of leadership and why being a good leader and team-player is important.

These are values we aim to instil at every stage in a cadets' development, and we are grateful to be able to offer this to our youngest cadets.





Birmingham Triathlon

On Saturday 11th July, thirteen of our cadets, supported by four members of staff, gave their time to support the Birmingham Triathlon, held in Sutton Park.



Throughout the morning, our cadets took on a variety of important roles, including marshalling along the bike course, assisting athletes through the transition area between the swimming and cycling stages, and keeping competitors hydrated at the water station.

Of course, their support didn't stop there! Our cadets were also on hand to cheer on the athletes as they passed, with those at the water station providing a particularly enthusiastic boost of encouragement to runners as they tackled the later stage of the event.



The Birmingham Triathlon is an annual event that we are always proud to support. Opportunities like this allow our cadets to play an active role within their local community, while learning the importance of volunteering, teamwork and giving something back.

Sutton Coldfield Community Games

On Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th July, our cadets proudly supported the local Community Games event.

Throughout the weekend, our cadets, supported by staff members, ran three popular activity stations: Trinity Rowing, Camo Crawl, and the Kit Booth. Working hard to engage as many visitors as possible, they welcomed participants of all ages and helped create a fun and inclusive atmosphere.

There was also time for our cadets to enjoy some of the other activities on offer, including gymnastics, boxing, and a run around the athletics track.

It was a fantastic weekend of community engagement and representing the Unit, and we look forward to supporting the event again next year.







South West Area Sailing Regatta

On the weekend of Friday 17th July - Sunday 19th July, six of our cadets attended the South West Area Sailing Regatta, representing Warwickshire District. They were entered across three classes: Junior Quest, Open Quest, and Open Zest.

Despite having limited opportunities to train beforehand, they put in a fantastic effort throughout the weekend. For many of the cadets, this was their first experience of coastal sailing, making the challenge of sailing out of Weymouth Harbour an even greater achievement.



They came back with the following results:
Junior Quest: 4th
Open Quest: 8th and 10th
Open Zest: 12th

BZ to all who took part!





South West Area Training Week

On Sunday 2nd August, six cadets left Sutton Coldfield Unit and headed to HMS Raleigh to join the South West Area Training Week, attending courses for Drill, Catering, and Cadet Development.

Throughout the week, the cadets have the opportunity to meet and learn with cadets from across the South West Area, as far out as Pembroke in Wales and as far South as Penzance in Cornwall. This gives them an opportunity to make memories and have experiences that cannot be repeated.

All cadets came away successful in their courses, ready to apply their knowledge to the next stage of their Cadet Experience.



Alpha Company Summer Training

On Saturday 8th August, twelve Royal Marines Cadets and seven Sea Cadets travelled from Sutton Coldfield Unit to Rollestone Camp to take part in Alpha Company Summer Training.

During the week, the cadets joined detachments from across the Company and immersed themselves in a wide range of training activities, covering key elements of the Royal Marines Cadet syllabus. Training included fieldcraft, navigation and map reading, as well as a harbour exercise that saw the cadets spend two nights living and operating in the field.

The cadets also took part in a variety of practical training, gaining experience in the safe handling of weapons, marksmanship principles, and the fundamentals of Close Quarter Battle (CQB). Through progressive and realistic scenarios delivered in a safe and controlled environment, they developed their teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills.







Physical Training - Zero to Hero

On Saturday 8th August, one of our cadets departed from Sutton Coldfield Unit and joined the "Physical Training - Zero to Hero" course hosted at HMS Temeraire.

The week is a challenging and rewarding course for cadets who want to develop their physical training, leadership and instructional skills. The course provides cadets with the knowledge and confidence to plan and deliver safe, effective physical training sessions while building teamwork, resilience and personal fitness.

Ordinary Cadet Hopkins successfully completed the week, finishing with a Pass Out and Award Ceremony, and achieved her Intermediate Physical Training qualification - which makes her the first Sutton Coldfield cadet to achieve this in at least 17 years!





Summer Staff Social

On Saturday 15th August, volunteers from our Unit spent time team-building and socialising at a local venue - Cliff Lakes.

This provided a great chance to unwind, build team spirit, and recognise the commitment that our volunteers give all throughout the year. Without them, the Unit wouldn't be able to offer the cadet experience that it does.

Having a friendly competition across the afloat course, our volunteers engaged in several activities and one of them successfully completed the "Aqua Chimp" assault course!



Officer Development Programme

On Sunday 13th September, one of our staff members completed the second phase of the Officer Development Programme, and attained promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant(SCC) RMR.

2Lt(SCC) Birdi RMR took part in the Officer Development Programme, which has three phases: phase one, at an Area level, phase two at a National level, and then phase three, which is upto three years of development before promotion.

With this success, 2Lt(SCC) Birdi RMR becomes a Young Officer, and will be mentored through the next phase of his development. He is the second Young Officer to come from Sutton Coldfield in the last two years.

We are very proud of our staff development, and wish him all the best.





Unit Review

On Friday 25th September, Sutton Coldfield Unit welcomed the District Team for our annual Unit Review, an opportunity to showcase the achievements of the previous 12 months.

The evening began with a ceremonial parade, with cadets and staff proudly displaying their highest standards of dress and turnout. During the parade, the District Officer presented a range of awards and certificates, before moving onto the inspection.

The District Officer and Troop Sergeant then visited classes, observing first-hand the wide range of opportunities and experiences delivered at Sutton Coldfield Unit.

To conclude the evening, our Junior Sea Cadets carried out the Colours ceremony with confidence and professionalism. The District Officer then addressed the Ship's Company, commending the efforts and achievements of the unit over the past year.

We are incredibly proud of how our cadets conducted themselves throughout the review and of everything they have achieved over the last twelve months. We look forward to receiving our final score and efficiency award.







Warwickshire Band Training

On the weekend of Friday 25th September to Sunday 27th September, three of our cadets attended Redditch Unit for the Warwickshire District Band Training.

With an enriched band history at Sutton Coldfield Unit, the cadets were excited to go and learn new skills and start their progression to take part in the Warwickshire District Band. They took part in learning how to play the military side drum, and how to make up part of a Corps of Drums.

We are hoping that in the future, once we are able to purchase and replenish our band equipment, we can bring back the Sutton Coldfield band and engage more with the wider District band and local community events.





Divisional Parades

Across July to September, we hosted two Divisional Parades, and issued even more certificates!

Our cadets spent the summer staying busy, gaining qualifications in several boating areas, first aid, drill and ceremonial, BTECs and Duke of Edinburgh, as well as good conduct awards.

Following our Divisional Parades, we hosted our Divisional Games - one afloat and one ashore - where cadets from all divisions compete to gain points towards the Divisional Shield! Whilst we're keeping the scoring secret, we can announce that gap in scores is only 7 points.

Points are scored by attendance, qualifications, commendations, uniform standards, and their teamwork and success in Divisional Games, and with three months left it is still all to play for!













Promotions

Junior Cadet to Junior Cadet First Class

Junior Cadet Jonson

Junior Cadet First Class to Able Junior Cadet

Junior Cadet Hodaj

New Entry Cadet to Cadet

New Entry Cadet Arefin
New Entry Cadet Collins
New Entry Cadet Crowe
New Entry Cadet Kerins
New Entry Cadet Southern

Recruit to Royal Marines Cadet

Recruit Azmy
Recruit Leighton
Recruit Slater
Recruit Slater
Recruit Soul

Cadet to Cadet First Class

Cadet Shirvani
Cadet Smith
Cadet Weston



Cadet First Class to Ordinary Cadet

Cadet First Class Davies
Cadet First Class Poole

Royal Marines Cadet to Cadet Lance Corporal

Royal Marines Cadet Weston

Cadet Lance Corporal to Cadet Corporal

Cadet Lance Corporal Bolton

Probationary Petty Offficer to Petty Officer

Probationary Petty Officer Kanengisser

Sergeant to Second Lieutenant(SCC) RMR

Sergeant Birdi

Qualifications

Advanced Catering
- Ordinary Cadet Hopkins

Cadet Drill Instructor
- Leading Cadet Birdi
- Able Cadet Ng

Intermediate Physical Training
- Ordinary Cadet Hopkins

Basic CIS (Radio)
- Ordinary Cadet Satish
- Cadet First Class Jones

Basic First Aid
- Cadet First Class Shirvani
- Cadet Bolton
- Cadet Bude-Fratila
- Cadet Chauhan
- Cadet Goffe-Wood
- Cadet Jackson
- Cadet Nelson
- Royal Marines Cadet Azmy

Basic Marine Engineering
- Royal Marines Cadet Salama

Basic Physical Training
- Ordinary Cadet Hopkins

RYA Essential Navigation and Seamanship
- Able Cadet Ng
- Able Cadet Soul
- Cadet First Class Jones

NICAS Level 1 (Basic Climbing)
- Ordinary Cadet Satish
- Cadet First Class Jones

Basic Piping
- Ordinary Cadet Poole

SCC Row Touring Module
- Ordinary Cadet Satish
- Cadet First Class Jones

SCC Row 2
- Royal Marines Cadet Bakhshi
- Royal Marines Cadet Johnson
- Royal Marines Cadet Roberts

SCC Row 1
- Cadet Bolton
- Junior Cadet First Class Cole
- Junior Cadet Higgs
- Junior Cadet Paqliffe
- Junior Cadet Southern
- Junior Cadet Stokes

BR Go Row 2 (Sliding)
- Cadet First Class Gibbons
- Royal Marines Cadet
- Royal Marines Cadet Salama

Qualifications

BR Go Row 1 (Sliding)
- Cadet Corporal Wilkinson
- Cadet Corporal Bolton
- Cadet First Class Shirvani
- Cadet Fisher-Tsang
- Cadet Kanengisser

RYA Youth Sailing Stage 4
- Ordinary Cadet Hopkins
- Cadet Kanengisser

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RYA Youth Sailing Stage 3
- Cadet First Class Shirvani
- Royal Marines Cadet Azmy

RYA Youth Sailing Stage 2
- Cadet Goffe-Wood

RYA Safety Boat
- Able Cadet Ng

RYA Powerboat Level 2
- Able Cadet Collins
- Royal Marines Cadet Salama

RYA Powerboat Level 1
- Cadet First Class Jones
- Royal Marines Cadet Slater
- Royal Marines Cadet Slater

Paddle Discover
- Ordinary Cadet Poole

Paddle Start
- Cadet Lance Corporal Charlton
- Cadet First Class Jones
- Cadet Collins
- Cadet Fisher-Tsang
- Cadet Goffe-Wood
- Cadet Nelson
- Royal Marines Cadet Leighton
- Leading Junior Cadet Jenkins
- Junior Cadet First Class Jonson
- Junior Cadet Ghafoorian Pakdel
- Junior Cadet Green
- Junior Cadet Higgs
- Junior Cadet Paqliffe
- Junior Cadet Stokes

RYA Start Yachting
- Ordinary Cadet Hopkins

Offshore Sail - Grade 1
- Ordinary Cadet Hopkins

Silver Duke of Edinburgh
- Cadet First Class Jones

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh
- Leading Cadet Birdi
- Cadet Lance Corporal Roberts
- Ordinary Cadet Satish

Weapon Handling Test (GP A2)
- Cadet Corporal Bolton
- Cadet Lance Corporal Charlton
- Cadet Lance Corporal Marfo
- Royal Marines Cadet Bakhshi
- Royal Marines Cadet Cardinali
- Royal Marines Cadet Johnson
- Royal Marines Cadet Kanengisser
- Royal Marines Cadet Newey
- Royal Marines Cadet Roberts

Junior Sea Cadet Red Module
- Junior Cadet First Class Jonson
- Junior Cadet Ghafoorian Pakdel
- Junior Cadet Green
- Junior Cadet Stokes

Junior Sea Cadet Yellow Module
- Able Junior Cadet Hodaj

Drill Instructor
- Midshipman(SCC) Mobley RNR
- Petty Officer(SCC) Taylor

Rowing Coach
- Sub Lieutenant(SCC) Owen RNR

Rowing Instructor
- Midshipman(SCC) Mobley RNR

RYA Safety Boat
- Petty Officer(SCC) Kanengisser
- Petty Officer(SCC) Sanford
- Probationary Sergeant(SCC) Guest
- Corporal Britton
- Mrs Vyse
- Mrs Walsh

RYA Better Sailing Level 3
- Petty Officer(SCC) Kanengisser
- Mr Kanengisser

Weapon Handling Test (GP A2)
- Lieutenant(SCC) Mobley RMR
- Second Lieutenant(SCC) Birdi RMR

Appointment as Assistant Area Staff Officer - Shooting
- Lieutenant(SCC) Mobley RMR

Dates for your Diary

October
Sunday 18th October – District Trafalgar Parade (Coventry)
Sunday 25th October – National Trafalgar Parade (London)
Saturday 31st October - Concert of Remembrance

November
Saturday 7th November – Poppy Selling
Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday
Friday 13th – Sunday 15th November – National First Aid Competition

December
Friday 4th December – Rowans Christmas Fete
Sunday 20th December – Last Parade (1000-1330)
Sunday 20th December –Mess Meal (1800-2230)

January 2027
Sunday 10th January - First Parade

***Date is subject to change**