



MCM 2 Crew 5 'Leading the Hunt' 2015 Overview



After an incredibly busy 2014 which included taking CHIDDINGFOLD out of refit as the first HUNT with the new Caterpillar diesel engines and delivering her to the Gulf, Crew 5 returned in Dec 14 for well deserved Christmas leave. A busy and rewarding 2015 ensued, firstly looking after LEDBURY in refit, then conducting UK tasking in HURWORTH preparing to deploy again.

LEDBURY to Ledbury Charity Triathlon Challenge (18-20 May)

In order to strengthen links with affiliates in Ledbury, Herefordshire, we invited them to Portsmouth to see their ship and then paid a reciprocal visit however as a military fighting force, we always like a challenge. Therefore we swam, cycled and ran the 220km over 3 days, and raised over £1,200 for two very worthy service charities. Everyone participated in some way so even if they were not cycling up hills, they were in support vehicles, or meeting locals and showing and explaining items of onboard equipment such as fire fighting hoses, diving sets and Seafox mine disposal system.



Defence Security Exhibition International (DSEI) at the ExCel Centre London

After a short notice period of national tasking, we sailed up the Thames to participate in DSEI representing the RN and supporting the First Sea Lord. Berthed at London's ExCel in Royal Victoria Docks, this was the largest naval participation ever at the event and all the 8 ships attracted huge crowds of visitors with particular interest in our MCM capabilities.



This was the first time a Minehunter had participated in the event and it proved to be a great success. We hosted over 500 guests including the Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB, Penny Mordaunt MP (Minister for Armed Forces) and members of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme as well as military and industry delegations. We also hosted a dinner for members of the Merchant Taylors' Company (affiliated with 2nd MCM Squadron) who recently admitted the First Sea Lord and Sir Ben Ainslie as Honorary Freeman of the Company.

Pre Deployment Training (Exercise JOINT WARRIOR and Operational Sea Training)



Working with the 3 different MCMV crews that we would deploy with, the highlight of this period at sea was operating in the scenic waters off the Scottish coast in fantastic weather. We welcomed school children onboard from Poolewe Primary in Loch Ewe to look around the ship, however by the time we visited Campbeltown for Remembrance



Sunday, the weather had turned and we had to brave the very rough sea states in the Irish Sea caused by Storm Abigail as we transited back home to baseport!



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Just as 2015 proved to be a hugely successful year for Crew 5, so has 2016 been an equally busy and challenging time; it was great to be back in CHIDDINGFOLD however the main obstacle was getting used to doing our job whilst deployed in the soaring heat of the Gulf!!

Crew 5 return to CHID

Leaving the wind and rain of the UK behind us, Crew 5 returned to CHIDDINGFOLD, our home for 6 ½ months. Forward deployed in Bahrain, conducting various different regional exercises and port visits, working alongside UK MCMVs (BANGOR, MIDDLETON and PENZANCE) and 4 US MCMVs as well as staff from Commander UK MCM Force (COMUKMCMFOR) and UK Maritime Component Commander (UKMCC), there was plenty to keep us busy at sea and plenty of friendly faces amongst the ships and staffs to challenge at sports alongside.



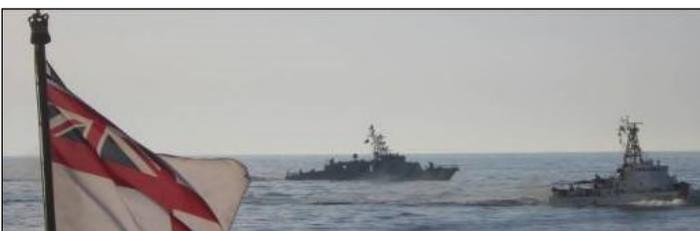
Sporting Challenges and Achievements

Crew 5 kept themselves busy through a challenging **NAVYfit** programme of early morning exercise, competitive games of football and swimming against other crews and rugby against Bahrain RFC. The regular Bahrain Road Runner events were well attended with several of us returning with prizes. All this helped to us clock up our 3,200 'Road to Twickenham' miles raising over £1,000 for the RNRMC.



BZ for your support

As we approach the end of a busy 6 ½ month deployment which included a busy period of training and generation in the UK, Crew 5 would like to say a huge thanks to all our families, friends, affiliates of LEDBURY, HURWORTH, CHIDDINGFOLD and others who we have met along the way, and our RN colleagues in the UK and deployed who assisted us throughout our UK and deployed operations. It is absolutely a team effort and we genuinely couldn't do it with your continued support.



We will be home by mid July to see our families and friends and will be back at sea in HURWORTH later in the year so will no



MCM 2 CREW 5 NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES, FRIENDS & AFFILIATES

doubt see lots of friendly faces. However for many of us we leave the crew to start our next jobs, thanks again for helping us achieve so much and have fun throughout.



THE CREW MAKE THE SHIP.
The officers of HMS CHIDDINGFOLD in May 1945,
and below the current crew in July 2016.





HMS CHIDDINGFOLD
MCM 2 CREW 5 OP KIPION 2016

