



# HMS CHIDDINGFOLD

## 'Leading the Hunt'



Monthly Summary - May 2016

After a busy month at sea throughout April in the Gulf of Oman conducting a large multi-national exercise, Crew 5 were straight back to sea to a few different locations which offered some fantastic opportunities for relaxing and recharging their batteries in preparation for a busy final 2 months.

### Armed Forces Day in Doha, Qatar.

Last year, Crew 5 sailed HURWORTH into Plymouth Harbour and conducted a sail past of the famous Plymouth Hoe where thousands of spectators were gathered for the celebrations. This year, the annual Armed Forces Day celebrations came early for the crew as they supported the British Ambassador His Excellency Mr Ajay Sharma over a high profile weekend of events in Doha.



Arriving in the early morning heat, the ship was quickly overrun with 54 school children and teachers from the Al-Wataniya International School who were very keen to find out if we had seen any pirates! They had been learning all about pirates at school and the 4-5 year olds even arrived with their home made pirate hats! The



children were given a special ships tour and allowed to use our fire fighting equipment under the expert tutelage of AB(MW) Jack 'Swiftly' Taylor, to scare away on pirates getting too close!

Once the children departed to find more pirates elsewhere, we welcomed several ex-service personnel who had recently set up a Royal Naval Association (RNA) branch in Doha. After a tour of the ship, over 25 of the crew were invited back to their RNA HQ for a fantastic evening of food, drink, songs and laughter and were made to feel extremely welcome. Their hospitality was extremely generous and everyone had a great night enjoying the company of like minded people.

The following morning with the heat quickly rising well above 30°C, the crew arrived at the Doha Rugby Club for the Armed Forces Day celebrations, participating in a football competition with quick dips in the swimming pool to cool off between games. Winning the competition, the CO and members of the crew then presented sporting certificates to the children and then enjoyed getting into the air conditioned marquee and meeting local ex-pats and many ex-service personnel. Visiting Doha proved to be a great success and another new country ticked off the list for many.



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## Commanding Officer's Week

There is probably no need to tell you where we stopped for the CO's Week as you will be able to guess from the photos which display the iconic 'Palm'. After 4 months deployed, this was a very welcome break from operations and a fantastic opportunity for the crew to fly out their families and partners to enjoy some very well earned rest and relaxation.



With the vast array of activities on offer Dubai did not disappoint as members of the crew went on desert safaris, sky dived, and enjoyed the culinary delights of Dubai's countless restaurants and bars and visited the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building.

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## Other news

The MCMV crews thoroughly enjoyed a fantastic night of comedy entertainment by the Global Forces Entertainment team, organised to show the appreciation of the job the military does. Sport has also been high on the agenda with several of the crew competing in the Memorial Day 5km run at the NSA which our Cox'n won (again!) and then the Bahrain Olympic Day celebrations which concluded with a 5.3km race around the Bahrain F1 Circuit.



AB(SEA) Brodrick organised a Battle of Jutland Remembrance Service onboard to commemorate 100 years since the battle. After reading extracts about the battle and some heartily sung hymns, the crew enjoyed tea and cakes and discussed modern day events and the vital role the RN plays.

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**Bravo Zulu** to all the sailors recently selected for promotion, especially to the 5 from Crew 5!



*AB(MW) Watkinson, AB(SEA) Brodrick, LET(CIS) Mortimer, ET(ME) McCabe, ET(ME) Whittle.*

