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WINTER 2013



THE ULYSSES TRUST

# Winter Newsletter

SINCE 1992 WE HAVE SUPPORTED OVER 20,000 CADETS  
AND RESERVISTS TO UNDERTAKE EXPEDITIONS AND  
ADVENTUROUS TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

## AVM Nick Kurth Takes The Lead

A leader both within the Royal Air Force and on rock faces throughout the world, Air Vice-Marshal Nick Kurth has now taken over from Colonel Julian Radcliffe as the new Chairman of the Ulysses Trust. Julian steps down from the role after several years of valuable service for which his sterling efforts are much appreciated by all, and he will remain a Vice Patron of the Trust for the foreseeable future.

Starting as he means to go on, Nick has a keen vision for further developing the Trust's role in supporting Cadet and Reserve Forces' adventurous training, and has already outlined a number of new initiatives all of which will make a significant difference to the Trust in the coming years.



*Nick dressed for the weather on Swirl How in the Lake District.*

One of Nick's first official roles was to attend a prestigious ceremony at the House of Commons during which he presented a Ulysses Trust Award to WO2 Dave Bellamy from 299 Para Sqn RE(V).

Exercise HIMALAYAN SAPPER 2012, led by Captain Jon Evans and WO2 Dave Bellamy saw 9 novices and 3 instructors drawn from 299 Para Sqn RE(V) and other RE(V) units undertake high altitude trekking in Nepal, culminating in climbing Island Peak (6189m), as well as a quick detour to the Everest Base camp.

For not only stunning pictures of their high altitude trekking, but also for their leadership and accomplishment thus meeting the Ulysses Trust's demanding standards of challenge, adventure and personal development, 299 Para Sqn RE(V) was awarded the Ulysses Trust's 2013 Volunteer Reserve Best Imagery Award for this highly successful expedition.



*WO2 Dave Bellamy from 299 Para Sqn RE(V) receiving his award from AVM Nick Kurth CBE in the House of Commons.*

# Chairman's Comment

I was sat at the bottom of the crag in the Peak District after another day's climbing on God's rock (gritstone) thinking what a great day we had just had. My climbing partner and I had swapped lead on a number of starred rock climbing routes and both of us were smiling. The sun had been out during the day (the summer of 2013 turned out to be better on this front than the early months of the year promised) and the routes had been challenging enough to offer excitement but not outright fear!

On my drive back home I thought of the qualities we needed during the day and they included leadership, followership and teamwork. Moreover, I reasoned that these same qualities were not only required by those partaking in Trust supported activities but also were probably enhanced as a result of participation. It was clearly a long journey home but I further reasoned that these qualities were of value in Reserve and Cadet life, in one's employment, education and in one's home life. Accordingly, the attractiveness of the Trust's proposition is, I believe, self-evidently significant. However, for the Trust to deliver, we do rely on Reserve and Cadet organisations to put expeditions in place.

***So, if you are thinking about running an expedition, do it!*** We have funding available and expertise to assist you with pulling an expedition or activity together.

To make our proposition happen, we rely on a number of institutions and benefactors. To this end, on behalf of all the Trustees, many, many thanks for all your generous assistance and we hope that you will continue supporting the Trust.



*Oswestry School CCF during Ex Dragon Venturer mountaineering in the Scottish Highlands.*

Furthermore, we would like to encourage others, perhaps those whom we have supported in the past, to consider becoming a supporter of the Trust, by providing expertise, time or making a financial donation. Alternatively, just spreading the word about what the Trust delivers would be a useful activity. By contributing, you could make a real difference to a large number of young people, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, which will benefit the range of contexts mentioned previously.

I should like to thank my predecessor, Colonel Julian Radcliffe, for the support he provided to the Trust during his tenure as Chairman. In terms of my 'manifesto', as Chairman, I am keen to take the Trust to the next level, by putting in place a formal fund-raising committee, providing clearer direction to the Trustees and Officers of the Trust, creating robust succession plans and engaging more effectively with the Trust's various stakeholders – all with the intent of providing stronger expedition and adventurous activities support to the UK's Reserve and Cadet Forces.

To finish, I would like to wish you all the very best of wishes for the festive season, and a happy and healthy New Year.

AVM Nick Kurth CBE FRGS  
Chairman of Trustees

## £190,880

Total amount granted by the Ulysses Trust to successful applicants in the last 12 months.



## £5,000

Amount raised in 2013 for the Ulysses Trust by volunteers undertaking the Welsh 3000s Challenge and the British 10K.

## £100,000

Minimum funding target that the Ulysses Trust needs to raise this year.  
Can you help?



*Selly Oak Trust School CCF learning the ropes on Ex Tall Ships Challenger.*



## THE ULYSSES TRUST



# North West Highlands Trek 2013

## Royal Marines Cadets rise to the challenge

On the weekend of 10th - 12th May RM Cadets from all over the North West Area attended Rochdale unit for the selection process to become a member of this years expedition team. After a hotly contested series of challenges which would make non-RM Cadets tremble, the best Cadets won the day and were awarded a much coveted place on the North West Highlands Trek.

On Friday 12th July the team headed up to the Highlands in a Mini bus and crew bus. Our Area Officer, Commander Mark Irwin, came out to meet us and wave us off from Penrith station, which was appreciated by all of the cadets and staff. Of course a stop at Spean bridge was a must to pay our respects at the Commando memorial, a first visit for all of the cadets and also a couple of the staff.

We arrived at Badrallach campsite at 1900 and pitched the two huge tents. A quick supper was prepared and personal admin sorted for the mornings trip back around to Kinlochewe and the start of the trek.

The team set off from Kinlochewe in fine spirits and big smiles, the weather was perfect with a nice breeze to keep away the dreaded midges! We completed stage one along Loch Maree to the Letterewe estate averaging 3.7 mph, a great pace which took its toll over the Beallach to Carnmore bothy, our first night's accommodation. The weight of the Bergen's plus tired legs were beginning to show. However the team arrived at the bothy in high spirits and cracked on with sorting our



accommodation out for the night, not an easy feat at Carnmore as its not the best bothy in the Highlands! An evening meal was prepared, Thai green curry & rice....hoofing!

Sunday morning arrived bright and early so we set off for Shenavall bothy with a steep immediate climb to wake us all up and sort the creaking shoulders and backs out! As we crested the ridge we could see Shenavall in the distance and we smashed the stage up to the river at another good pace to match the day before. We crossed the River and arrived at our second nights accommodation at 1300!

We put an idea to the cadets that if we completed the walk now we could have a jolly on the Isle of Skye tomorrow. It was only around 12k (with a big ascent!) The cadets decided on a Chinese parliament during lunch. We awaited their decision, and they decided to go for the finish in two days rather than the three! So we once again set off straight into a punishing ascent to test the legs. I'm happy to report the team made it out onto the road at Dundonnell after crossing one of the last remaining wildernesses in the British Isles.

I am extremely proud of these young guys, they all showed courage, determination, cheerfulness and teamwork. It was a fantastic trip and we are already planning next years adventure.

A big thank you to the Ulysses trust for helping us fund this expedition.

***Lt (SCC) G E MacLennan RMR***



**THE ULYSSES TRUST**



# Ex Atlantic Adventure 2013

*Many expeditions that we support are mountaineering and climbing based, but we also support expeditions that undertake different kinds of challenges. Here a group of CCF RN Cadets took on the challenges of the sea, sailing around the Bay of Biscay in a 67' yacht on an adventure of a lifetime.*

A group of Combined Cadet Force cadets aged 16-18 were selected to take part in an expedition that started in A Coruña, Spain on Sunday 14th July and finished in Brest, France on Sunday 27th July. The cadets came from a range of different schools, had a range of different yachting and dinghy experience, and were made up of 5 males and 5 females.

The group met in Portsmouth a day before the expedition started, stayed overnight on board HMS BRISTOL at Whale Island, and visited the Historic Dockyard to allow time to meet and get to know each other before flying out to Spain. The group were initially quite quiet and reserved. Apprehension surrounding the trip was obvious. The previous sailing experiences among the cadets included two very recently qualified Day Skippers, four cadets had completed a Competent Crew Course, one of the cadets had finished 27th in the Topper World Championships, another is an Assistant Dinghy Instructor and several cadets, Emma, Beth, Issy, Jack and Eoin hoped to use the Expedition to complete the Residential Section of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The flight to A Coruña on Sunday 14th was on time but the security check revealed that some stray items had been left in hand



**£90**

Average amount awarded per person for each successful application to the Trust in the last 12 months.



luggage. It was, however, reassuring to see that the checks were thorough. After a short taxi ride, we met the Skipper, Paul and the female Watch Leader and Second Mate, Geraldine who had arrived at the Marina Coruna on Saturday, a day earlier to accept the transfer of the JSASTC (Joint Services Adventurous Sail Training Centre at Gosport) Yacht ADVENTURE from the previous crew. Our departure was going to be delayed as components had to be flown out from the UK to repair parts that had failed on the previous leg from the Azores. The delay allowed for on-shore training to start and the first in a series of lectures. Storm sails were hoisted and tested, points of sail explained and the Competent Crew course got well underway. The group was split into two watches, Blue and Red, with Jack and Eoin, the recently qualified Day Skippers, as second in charge of a Watch under the Adult Watch Leaders Geraldine and Gary. This allowed the boys to test their leadership skills, help them develop skills in managing a group and put into practice the skills they had learned on the Day Skipper Course.

**37**

Number of expeditions supported by the Ulysses Trust in the last 12 months that involved water sports.



**THE ULYSSES TRUST**

In each watch one person was nominated as 'Mother Watch' and they became responsible for cleaning and the cooking of all meals, snacks and drinks for a 24 hours period from 1600 to 1559. Sarah and Dervla cooked Chicken Curry on the first evening of the Mother Watch rota which caused some alarm amongst some of the crew as cadet Simon Chicken, Geraldine Poulet-Bowden and Honorary Crew member (Shore based) Gerafd Poulet all hoped they were not on the menu!

As the group had a range of different skills and experiences, the expectations from the course varied. The younger members, Issy and Beth, wanted to learn about sailing and living on a 67' yacht. Emma and Sarah who had sailed before were interested in learning how the watch system would operate on long overnight passages. Josh and Tom were keen on the physical aspect of crewing on such a large powerful yacht.

The expedition completed over 800 miles in mostly light winds but it did reach Force 8 around the headland at El Ferrol (Cabo Prior). We visited 8 different ports: A Coruña, El Ferrol, Gijon, La Rochelle, Lorient, Concarneau, Camaret-Sur-Mer and finished in Brest. The yacht was night sailed by both watches for a total of 31 hours. Dolphins swam alongside the yacht 5 times playing in the bow wake and posing for photographs. Watches were 4 hours on and 4 hours off which involves considerable personal discipline in order to sleep off watch.

At the beginning of the trip 10 pale, reserved cadets met on HMS Bristol with varying expectations of a trip across an unpredictable stretch of water in a large and heavy sailing boat. After 13 days of working together and looking after each other they depart as a cohesive team.

In 2012 the CCF organised a 14 day sail on a Challenger 67 from Portsmouth to St.Malo via the Channel Island. This year we tried to improve on this by completing a 750nm trip across the Bay of Biscay. It was a fantastic trip, the cadets were all hard working, focussed and gained a great deal from the trip and all of them have aspirations to continue sailing yachts in the future.





# In Memoriam

*It is with great regret that we report the recent deaths of Colonel David Mallam OBE and General Sir Michael Wilkes KCB CBE, two outstanding supporters of the Ulysses Trust .*

## COLONEL DAVID MALLAM OBE

David Mallam was Secretary of the Ulysses Trust until 2007, and continued to support our fund-raising until 2009. He died, aged 75, on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

It was mid-1992 that David appeared in Project DARC STAR's (the TA winter attempt on Mt Everest) expedition office - a converted freight container. David was a big man, and coupled to his enthusiasm, optimism and energy, seemed to fill the whole container. The expedition was still well short of the funds required, and having recently retired from a fund-raising project with Leonard Cheshire Homes, he offered his services. The Ulysses Trust had recently been established, so he also immediately took on the role of Honorary Secretary.

Although the expedition funding gap was shortly after resolved by one particularly generous donation, David took on the whole of that side of the project, briefing Patrons and press etc, leaving the Expedition Leader at last free to focus solely on the Expedition. As the team left for Nepal in November 1992, David took on the role of 'OC Rear Party,' and the entire team soon developed a great affection for this hugely caring man who kept relatives and others constantly updated and reassured over very natural concerns. Nothing was too much trouble.

On the expedition's return, the remaining funds in the Trust clearly needed reinforcing if it was to continue its mission for the long term. He threw himself into this. An enormous amount of work was also required to promote the support that the Trust could provide to Reserves and Cadets, and setting up a rigorous Applications process. Moreover, the concept of overseas expeditions being



*David Mallam as a Major in the AAC circa 1971*

undertaken by Reserve Forces and Cadets was viewed with much doubt by many in the Chain of Command in those days. David, had by now secured an appointment as a Retired Officer in a Grade 1 Staff appointment. From this position, he vigorously beat his way through countless obstacles, converting the doubters. He never let up until he handed over in 2007.

Without David Mallam's labours, enthusiasm, networking, charm, elbow squeezing, arm twisting and administrative skill, especially in its early years, it is doubtful that the Trust would still be around today. Throughout, he was much supported by his incredibly patient wife Carolyn who survives him. His contribution was unstinting, unselfish and immense. A big man in every way.

# 2,140

Number of individuals who have taken part in supported expeditions in the last 12 months.

# 124

Number of expeditions supported by the Ulysses Trust in the last 12 months.

# 41%

Percentage of expeditions supported by the Ulysses Trust in the last 12 months that involved mountaineering.

*To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield*

# In Memoriam

## General Sir Michael Wilkes KCB CBE KStJ

General Sir Michael Wilkes, one of our founding Vice Patrons, died on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2013, aged 73.

In June 1991, General Mike was Deputy Commander Field Army and Inspector General TA, when he was invited to London by GOC London District to “hear about what part of his Army was trying to achieve.” This was Project DARC STAR – a Territorial Army attempt at the first British winter ascent of Mount Everest, which took place in the winter of 1992/3. He accepted the invitation.

At that time, many in MoD and at HQ UKLF viewed expeditioning as inappropriate for the Volunteer Reserve, and were trying to kill the project. General Mike listened patiently to a briefing on the project by its leaders, Lt Col Philip Neame and Major Rod Stables. At the end, Colonel Neame invited him to become a Patron of what was undeniably a high risk project – both in terms of physical challenge and danger, and financially. There was a long pause, followed by General Mike taking time out to phone his HQ...

The meeting re-convened. The General agreed to become a Vice Patron. Neame cheekily asked if he was sure, as the patrons’ names would be on the expedition letterheads, and that success or failure, they would be irrevocably linked to the project – and that success was far from assured! “Don’t push your luck!” was the robust but friendly reply.

The next day, the phones were suddenly hot with requests from HQ UKLF as to how could they help. In the face of many other later uncertainties before departing for Nepal, his support for the project remained constant.



General Mike’s intervention undoubtedly saved the project (others were to do so financially later), opening the way subsequently to the establishment of the Ulysses Trust - of which he then also became a patron.

In this capacity, he continued to help Reserve Forces expeditioning. In those days, for example, Concessionary Non-Fare Paying (CNFP) travel was only available to Regular Forces. General Mike was instrumental in opening this up to Reserve Forces. On his retirement from the Army, he continued to take a close interest in the Trust, including representing our interests on the board of the Nuffield Trust, which has been our principal supporter for 20 years.

All those who have undertaken expeditions as members of the Volunteer Reserve, whether supported by the Ulysses Trust and Nuffield Trust or not, had their opportunities in no small measure thanks to General Mike.

We extend our sincerest condolences to his family. He will be missed.



## THE ULYSSES TRUST

*To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield*

# 21

The number of years that the Ulysses Trust has been supporting adventurous training expeditions.

# £1.7M

The amount provided in funding contributions to support Cadet and Reserve unit expeditions since our formation in 1992.

# 21,074

The number of individuals who have participated in all Ulysses Trust supported expeditions.



# We need your support...

## Ulysses Trust Challenge 2014

**Is your unit better than all the others? Are your Cadets keen to prove how good they really are against the whole country? Well now's your chance to prove it.**

So what do you have to do? It's simple. We challenge you to do whatever it takes to raise the most funds for the Ulysses Trust in 2014.

This year, our Vice Chairman and founder Phil Neame and a team of keen volunteers have raised over £5000 for the Trust through taking on the Welsh 3000s Challenge and climbing 14 Peaks within 24 hours (twice!), and as if that wasn't enough putting in a sterling effort in the British 10K run through the streets of London (see picture).

We've also had a very kind offer from Lt Glenn MacLennan RMR, 2i/c Bravo Company who is planning for his Troop to walk the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path next year to raise funds for the Ulysses Trust. Thanks Glenn.

Let us know what your unit is planning to do for us next year. Help us to help you.

## Do You Want To Run Through London?

We have places reserved for next year's British 10k in London on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2014. If you would like to run and raise money for the Ulysses Trust, contact Phil Neame at: philip.neame@ulyssesrust.co.uk

And, if any reader has an event or great goal planned which lends itself to sponsorship, please think of us. We have all the facilities set up for online sponsorships at Bmycharity, t-shirts and other support to optimise the opportunity. Contact Jeremy Hurst at: development@ulyssesrust.co.uk



## Free Donations!

Christmas is a time for celebration, for family and friends, and for looking beyond life's worries and stresses. It's a time when we enjoy giving to those we love and doing good things for those who need our support.

With Give as you Live you can do both at the same time. When you buy your Christmas gifts online, the retailers you buy from will donate a percentage of your spending to us. At no extra cost to you. That would be a good Christmas, wouldn't it?

Help us to inspire a generation—visit [www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ulyssesrust](http://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/ulyssesrust) and sign up to support us the next time you go shopping. Thanks very much.



We're one of the founding charity partners of Britain's Personal Best, a national initiative that aims to encourage people in the UK to take part in challenges to achieve their own Personal Best.

Visit [www.whatsyours.org](http://www.whatsyours.org) to find out more about Britain's Personal Best and to take part in this innovative and exciting project on behalf of the Ulysses Trust.

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