



THE ULYSSES TRUST

Summer 2021 Newsletter



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WAY IN NORTHUMBERLAND

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FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN
WELCOMES NEW SUPPORTERS

SINCE 1992 WE HAVE SUPPORTED OVER 37,185 CADETS AND
RESERVISTS TO UNDERTAKE EXPEDITIONS AND
ADVENTUROUS TRAINING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD



THE ULYSSES TRUST

Chairman's Comment

I am delighted that our drive of 'Let's Go For It' has resonated and the green shoots of recovery are appearing on the expedition front. The Trust is beginning to see a smattering of expeditions deploy to UK locations this summer with more to come in the autumn. That said, the pandemic has still impacted on the plans of some units, forcing postponement or cancellation. Commiserations to those in this category and hopefully circumstances will improve in due course. First out of the box since the March 2020 lockdown was 2344 (Longbenton) Squadron ATC, who deserve a massive pat on the back for a determination to get on with matters. The expedition had to adapt to the requirements driven by the pandemic, with no overnight camping, but despite this, many cadets have managed to complete their DofE expedition requirements with our support.

The Charity's 'New Horizons' fundraising campaign is in top gear and I am extremely pleased to highlight that over £1 million has now been pledged. This is clearly great news! It would be remiss of me not to thank our very generous benefactors whose support is absolutely vital for helping the country's young people at this very difficult time.

"The Charity's 'New Horizons' fundraising campaign is in top gear and I am extremely pleased to highlight that over £1 million has now been pledged."



The Chairman enjoying the 3* route (Green Gut) in the Peak District

The Campaign Council (Chair Maj Gen Simon Lalor, Lady Jane Grosvenor, Col Julian Radcliffe, Henry Colthurst, Lt Col Phil Neame and myself, under the overall engagement of Viscount Chelsea) is hitting its stride and a number of events are being planned.

On the subject of events, the Trust held a very successful online presentation to members of the Army & Navy Club. The centrepiece was an interview of war photographer Paul Conroy by our very own Phil Neame. Without question this hit the mark in great measure and the testimonials from several cadets on their Trust-supported expeditions received equal laudatory praise.

With the Trust's 30th anniversary in the diary for next year thoughts are turning to putting in place a suitable celebration. Without question, the Charity has moved a long way since it started back in 1992. Indeed, it has kept step with all developments in the Charity sector and continues to receive many plaudits from various quarters.

To finish, I do hope units will consider getting out in the summer and autumn. Whether it is climbing a mountain, paddling a canoe or mountain biking along deserted trails, all will offer challenges but are capable of being mounted during these uncertain times. If you are unsure about any aspect, particularly addressing potential COVID-related issues, do engage with the Trust's Facebook Forum; it is there to help you!

Stay healthy!

AVM Nick Kurth CBE FRGS
Chairman of Trustees

Artemis MMXXI

2344 (Longbenton) Squadron ATC is the first 'post-COVID' expedition supported by The Ulysses Trust to deploy since March 2020.



Longbenton Air Cadets happily swapped their parade shoes for walking boots to trek as they embarked on their expedition season, leaving their homes behind for the beautiful Northumberland Coastline and striking Cleveland Hills.

CADET BUBBLES

The 34 cadets were split into 8 teams ('bubbles') to undertake a series of expeditions trekking across parks, forests, moors and beaches. This took them to some of the most beautiful and historically significant sites in the North East.

Following rigorous training sessions in County Durham, the Longbenton Cadets tested their navigation, campcraft and teamwork skills as they hiked their way to attain their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

12 of the youngsters completed their Bronze DofE Award, while 11 completed Silver and 10 Gold.

Cadet Finlay Atwell, 15, who has gained his Bronze DofE Award, said, "We were really excited to be getting out after being locked-down and then not being able to go to school for a long time. The Cleveland Hills were stunning and we were really lucky with the weather – it made it difficult to take a bad photo!"

Cadet Corporal Morgan Campbell, 16, who has achieved her Silver DofE Award, added, "It was great fun being out independently in the hills, helping each other as we went, from getting a water bottle out of the side zip for a teammate to putting the tent up & cooking."

Going for Gold is Cadet Corporal Daniel Jackson, 17, who enjoyed the unforgettable experience and said, "We had great weather, on the whole, which meant we had fantastic visibility as we trekked different environments.

"Although we couldn't get to the Lakes due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were able to trek along St Oswald's Way, which gave us an insight into the 97 miles of local history – the castles, coastline, islands, river valleys, hills, villages, forests and moors.

"It's special to have trekked from Holy Island to Hadrian's Wall and is definitely something to talk about when I receive my Gold Award at the palace".

TRUE GRIT

Squadron Officer Commanding, Flight Lieutenant Gary Richardson, was delighted with the expeditions "The young people showed grit, determination and ambition to complete their expeditions.

"As we haven't been able to get out recently, these expeditions were the final section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award for the cadets to undertake in order to complete their scheme.



"I've been tremendously impressed with the groups, who worked well together as individual teams and showed great humour, determination and resilience.

"I'm absolutely delighted that their hard work and effort led them to enjoy the experience, developing many life skills and we are all very proud of them for their achievement.

"I sincerely thank The Ulysses Trust and the RAF Charitable Trust for supporting our young people to enjoy this life-changing opportunity."

"The young people showed grit, determination and ambition to complete their expeditions."

Flight Lieutenant Gary Richardson | 2344 (Longbenton) ATC

Read the full report on our website at www.ulysses-trust.co.uk

Ready, Steady, Go!

Summer 2021 is the launchpad for hundreds of cadets and reservists to return to the hills, lakes and seas to kickstart adventures after a lengthy spell of inactivity. So Let's Go For It!

The summer months usually see a surge of Ulysses Trust-supported expeditions deploying to all corners of the globe and throughout the UK. Needless to say we are living in extremely unusual times, so this summer there has been, unsurprisingly, a significant reduction in the number of expeditions deploying in comparison to previous years.



However, getting an expedition underway whilst tackling the logistical nightmare of planning and executing an adventurous activity under the constantly shifting sands caused by COVID is no mean feat!

LET'S GO FOR IT!

The Trust has awarded 16 grants for expeditions to deploy this summer. 6 had to cancel, leaving 10 that are either expected to go ahead, or have already deployed. 534 cadets and officer cadets (OCdts), 18 adult instructors and 40 reservists will deploy throughout the UK to undertake a range of activities. These include canoeing in the Lakes, climbing in the Highlands and boarding a yacht to explore the Solent. Our "Let's Go For It" mantra for UK expeditions is finally bearing fruit.

However, it hasn't all been plain sailing for the planners who've had a seemingly endless stream of problems to fix in order to get their expeditions under way.

OCdts from Yorkshire OTR plan to undertake a canoeing expedition in the Lake District in September. With various guidelines to adhere to from two different universities + Army rules and Government guidance alongside continually-changing directives, pre-expedition training suffered. This was compounded by dispersal of student OCdts across the UK during COVID when they were told to 'stay at home'.



However, the old adage 'adapt and overcome' has certainly been put to the test. In fact, some restrictions had a hidden benefit.

Let's GO For It!



Summer 2021

GRANTS FROM THE TRUST TO 10 UK EXPEDITIONS THIS SUMMER WILL SUPPORT:



534 CADETS



40 RESERVISTS



18 INSTRUCTORS

SUMMER SCHEDULE

1 Artemis MMXXI
29 May | Trekking/Exploring
2344 (Longbenton) ATC

2 Blue Phoenix
05 July | Multi-Activity
Oxford UOTC

3 Dragon Devil
07 July | Trekking
EMUOTC

4 Summit Adventure
24 July | Multi-Activity
282, 34F, 6F

5 Annual Camp 2021
25 July | Multi-Activity
Essex ACF

6 Dragon Gold
26 July | Trekking/Exploring
East Midlands UOTC OTR

7 Oban Express
31 July | Sailing
London UOTC

8 Sapper Fastnet
09 August | Sailing
65 Royal Engineers (V)

9 Cockney Sailor
23 August | Sailing
London UOTC

10 Northern Lakes
04 September | Canoeing
Yorkshire OTR

The lack of availability of MOD space in the Lakes made Yorkshire OTR seek alternatives. That resulted in the free use of a field by an old friend, including drinking water - which not only saved money but added an extra dimension of challenge to the team as they would need to be self-reliant during their stay.

Sadly, others have not been so lucky. The 6 cancellations meant that 96 cadets, 9 adult instructors and 26 reservists will not be deploying this summer—that's 18% or 131 of the 723 participants who were due to deploy this summer.

COVID CANCELLATIONS

The cancellations included a planned sailing expedition for a group of 11 cadets which had already been postponed after the first COVID lockdown of 2020. Expedition leader Mike Blakey explains why.

“The basic challenge was accommodating 12 cadets, with 6 sea-staff, within the confines of a 72' yacht. Even reducing the cadet group to 6 we were left with a situation where anyone, or all of them, could have been denied boarding if they had provided a

positive COVID test at the dockside. With the cadets travelling from across the UK it would have caused a significant logistical challenge to return them home. This in turn would have caused a financial loss to the cadet concerned together with increasing the per head cost for the remaining cadets to an unacceptable level.”

So although we are seeing a return to expedition activity, the impact of COVID remains. The Trust will continue to monitor the situation, and will take all necessary steps to support units seeking to deploy in the months ahead.

INTERVIEW WITH EXPEDITION LEADER OCDT FREYA KING | EAST MIDLANDS UOTC | EX DRAGON GOLD 21

What have been the main challenges in planning?

“These have been mostly due to COVID. These include uncertainty in knowing if the expedition will go ahead and trying to plan my first expedition while being unable to talk face to face and work on the expedition in person with my 2IC and the staff supporting us.”

What has been the impact of the pandemic on your unit?

“COVID has had a big impact on our unit's training this year. While we have had online training nights, and physical challenges to keep spirits high, nothing can replace in-person training nights and weekends. Since the COVID restrictions have started to ease we have had extra drill nights which have improved the morale of all the OCdts. Now OCdts are looking forward to expeditions such as EX DRAGON GOLD 21.”



Freya King (left) & her 2IC Izzy Horsfall

How important will this expedition be to help re-energise your unit?

“This expedition is vital for the re-energisation of the unit as Adventure Training is always a highlight for many OCdts. Unfortunately, due to COVID, only two trips were able to go ahead last year, and this year the qualifying trips run at Easter where OCdts would normally gain qualifications were sadly cancelled too. It makes this year's expeditions even more important.”

Why have you chosen this particular location and activity?

“Having originally wanted to plan an expedition to Iceland, we chose instead to walk along part of the Pennine Way. It's one of Britain's toughest trails and we hope it will prove challenging but achievable for our OCdts and increase their confidence to do their own hiking in and around the Pennines and lead their own Adventure Training in the future.

“For some OCdts this will be their first experience of more advanced hiking and navigation, walking 180km over 8 days and tackling the same cumulative elevation as the height of Mont Blanc.”

Find out more about
EX: DRAGON GOLD 21 and
other featured expeditions by
visiting our website at
www.ulyssustrust.co.uk

Seeking New Horizons

On 17 June 2021 we invited members of the Army & Navy Club to join us for an exclusive online event to find out more about The Ulysses Trust.



When David Pinchard (a long-time friend of The Ulysses Trust), approached the charity offering to run an event to promote the Trust to members of the Army and Navy Club, we were delighted to accept. At the time we were trapped in the first lockdown and looked forward to having a lively get-together at the prestigious Army and Navy Club. However we did not foresee the continued disruption caused by the COVID crisis, which thwarted our plans at every step. So we changed tack and tried a different approach by adapting our plans to run an online Zoom event to showcase our work and reach new audiences.

“Cadets has given me massive amounts of confidence. I've become a leader.”

Cadet Zuzanna Zapart | 282 Sqn ATC

CADET VOICES

The event itself was a great success and attracted 130+ bookings. It featured a compilation of expedition videos provided by a range of units supported prior to the lockdown.

We also heard from several cadets who had been on expeditions supported by the Trust. They talked about how the expedition and cadet experiences had shaped their lives. These testimonials were incredibly moving as cadets from 282 (East Ham) Squadron (pictured below) opened their hearts to share their amazing stories.



The icing on the cake was an exclusive interview between our Vice Chairman Lt Col Phil Neame and war photographer Paul Conroy. Paul revealed a fascinating insight into his remarkable life under fire and behind the lens which owed a lot to his time in the cadets. A big thank you to everyone involved in making this event happen.

Q&A WITH PAUL CONROY

What was your time like in cadets?

“What a fantastic time I had in the cadets. In Liverpool in the 1970s, the options to get out weren't that many. I loved every single minute of it... the weekend camps at RAF Woodvale, and flying a glider at the age of 14. It was a whole new world that gave me that foundation to join the Army to become a helicopter pilot.”

How did it prepare you for your later adventures?

“I always felt I had the edge as a lot of it was second nature. When I left the Army and I started going to war zones, the stuff I learnt was built into me so it was second nature. Many times when I've been running round some war zone, there's that basic nugget of information and confidence that you have within yourself which you need. In a war zone there's very little time to think. It's saved my life so many times.”

What was it like working with the inimitable Marie Colvin?

“It was a wonderful relationship and a beautiful way of working. I had total confidence in her and that's a really special thing. Friendships made under fire are very strong.”



Watch a recording of the event via our website: www.ulyssesrust.co.uk

“What a fantastic time I had in the cadets. I loved every single minute of it.”

Paul Conroy | War Photographer

News

FUNDING UPDATE

BAE SYSTEMS

We are delighted to announce that BAE Systems has renewed its support of The Ulysses Trust. On making the award the company's Senior Military Adviser, Sir Andy Pulford, said "We are certainly living in challenging times and I am acutely aware of the difficulties being faced by cadet organisations. We run the very real risk of having a generation of young people who have lost their link with the great outdoors and, perhaps more importantly, a sense of adventure. It is against this backdrop, together with our renewal, at the gold standard, of the Armed Forces Covenant that I feel we should do all we can to renew our support to you."

Thank you BAE Systems!



We are also thrilled to announce that the Veterans' Foundation has awarded a substantial grant to The Ulysses Trust. Veterans are the backbone of many cadet units across the country. Numerous cadet expeditions we support rely heavily on adult volunteers who have served in the Armed Forces to act as adult instructors. With the support of the Veterans' Foundation we are able to increase the level of support we provide to cadet units supported by veterans. The Veterans' Lottery helps raise funds for the Foundation, so if you play this lottery you'll be helping support The Ulysses Trust and many other charities too. Thank you Veterans' Foundation!

NEW RECRUITS



We are delighted to have recruited three new team members to our Grants

Applications Committee in recent months: Paul Edwards, Polly Marsh and Graeme Taylor bring a wealth of expedition experience and knowledge to the charity.

Welcome Paul, Polly & Graeme!



NEW CFA

Army Ex Officio VP: Lieutenant General I B L Jones retired from his position as Commander Field Army (CFA) in April this year. His replacement, Lieutenant General R W Wooddisse CBE MC, has taken over the responsibility.

SUNDAY EXPRESS

The Ulysses Trust hit the headlines earlier this year when we featured in the Sunday Express newspaper. The article was written by the newspaper's Defence and Diplomatic Editor, Marco Giannangeli, and focussed on the impact of the pandemic on cadets from Tile Cross Academy. It championed the benefits of the cadet movement especially the Cadet Expansion Programme and its success in bringing new recruits into cadets from state schools. You can read the article at: <https://tinyurl.com/55k7pt82>



OBITUARY



It is with great sadness that we announce that The Ulysses Trust Vice Patron, Clive Richards Esq CBE

KSG DL, passed away peacefully at home on Friday 16th April 2021.

Clive was a generous benefactor of The Ulysses Trust for many years and was a supporter of the DARC STAR expedition which ultimately led to the creation of The Ulysses Trust. However, Clive's interest in the charity did not end with DARC STAR. As one of the founding Trustees of the charity his enthusiasm and forward thinking helped the Trust broaden its outlook to include cadet expeditions alongside reservist exercises.

After standing down as a Trustee, in 2015, he agreed to become a Vice Patron and continued to support the Trust. In this capacity also, Clive was instrumental in focusing our attention on community cohesion to ensure and demonstrate that our work is getting to where it is most needed.

Clive played a crucial role in the work of the charity, spanning several decades. The Trust can never thank him enough for his generosity and support in so many ways over the years. We will do our best in our ongoing work to support young cadets. We will miss him!

Our condolences to his widow Sylvia and his children.

For all the latest news, please visit our website: www.ulysses trust.co.uk or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @UlyssesTrust

Amazon Smile—Raise free funds for us with your everyday shopping: [ulyssestrust.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk/smile)



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support young
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they need us
the most

Pledged
£1.0M

Total pledged
so far

£1,000,784