

Double Up 2017

Southampton Sea Cadets Expansion Plan

By expanding its premises, the Southampton Sea Cadet Unit is aiming to double the numbers of young people in the City who can take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that being a Sea Cadet offers. This short document explains this exciting project.

While the Unit's buildings (A, below) encompass a boatshed and slipway, fire department advice is that they should not accommodate more than 40 cadets at any one time. Southampton Sea Cadets has leased the vacant plot (B) for 10 years, and aims to expand its capacity by installing temporary classrooms and storage on the site. Clearing, preparing and fencing the site, and purchasing and installing the temporary buildings is likely to cost in the region of £50,000, which the Sea Cadets are now trying to raise.



Photograph showing the current Sea Cadet Unit (A) and the vacant plot (B)

Why Expand?

There are three main reasons why Southampton Sea Cadets is keen to expand:

- Firstly, to take on more cadets. The Unit is already has more cadets than it can train at any one time, and has a growing waiting list. More accommodation will solve the site capacity limitation and also allow the Unit to expand. We are aiming to provide a facility that can hold 80 cadets at once.
- Secondly, more space will improve the quality of training by allowing some rooms to be dedicated to specific subjects, such as navigation, seamanship or engineering. At present, the pressure on space means that all training materials and equipment are constantly being moved from room to room. This significantly increases wear and tear, which we aim to reduce in the future.
- Finally, we will be able to dedicate the Boathouse main deck to the storage and upkeep of the Unit's boats, which will both improve security and reduce the time boats are off the water awaiting repair or maintenance .

How will we use the new space?

The adjacent land is large enough for us to allocate space for off-road parking of the Unit's vehicles and a dinghy storage area, while still leaving sufficient room for the temporary buildings we aim to install.

The temporary buildings will be of modular construction, each approximately 12m x 6m, similar to that shown below. Each building will be sub-divided into three rooms. Unfortunately, the adjacent land is low lying, so is susceptible to flooding during Spring tides and storm surges. Consequently, the buildings will need to be on raised footings to keep them above the flood tide level, which will add to the cost. The buildings will be either new, or second hand if suitable units can be located. Power and drainage will be provided using existing site facilities.



Once the extra classrooms are in place, the current Unit building will undergo a number of changes to better equip it to handle the increased numbers and to create limited overnight accommodation for weekend training events. These changes will include increasing the bathroom and toilet facilities, and enlarging the galley so that hot meals for the course

participants can be cooked on site.

In summary, we are not attempting to expand the range of activities we offer, just to improve what we already do. We hope to complete this work by the Autumn of 2017.

How Can You Help?

Each Sea Cadet Unit is responsible for raising funds to meet its annual running costs and to maintain its premises, vehicles, boats and all other equipment. This is achieved by regular fund raising by the staff, cadets and parents, and supporters of the Unit. This allows us to keep the weekly subscription paid by each cadet to a minimum, but it does not raise lump sums to fund development projects. For these, the Unit relies heavily on the generosity of local businesses and organisations, and there is a long history of support from those in Southampton with connections to shipping, the port, and the Sea. Despite changes and diversification, Southampton remains a Sea City and through the Sea Cadets we aim to teach Southampton's young people something about it.

To fund this expansion project, the Unit is seeking partial funding from the National Lottery and from a number of charities that traditionally support cadet units. However, this will not be sufficient in itself, and we also are seeking support from local organisations. In this respect, we have already been fortunate: our landlord has agreed a rent we can afford, and a national construction company has offered to prepare the site for us. With these in place, at this early stage of the project, we are looking for:

- Financial support from local businesses and organisations, particularly those connected with the sea.
- Support from local charities that value the important difference being a Sea Cadet can make to the lives of the young people in Southampton
- Donation of items needed as part of the expansion. At the upper end, we are seeking good quality modular buildings, but we will also need furniture, chairs, wipe-boards, cupboards and IT equipment to equip the classrooms
- Physical / skilled help with the work on site – do you have a group who would be willing to spare a day to help in the installation work for example?

What can we provide for you?

Contributing to a youth project such as this can be a reward in itself. However, we want to acknowledge any help and support we receive, and to offer the opportunity to see at first hand the enjoyment and benefits young people can get from being a Sea Cadet. We will talk to each benefactor individually, but in general would like to offer:

- Publicity for your support in all we do,
- An opportunity for a “day afloat” for people from your organisation,
- An invitation to the grand opening,

- And, hopefully, an ongoing association with the Unit so you can see the fruits of this project

Do please consider if you can offer something for the young people of the city and help us Double Up 2017! For further information please contact Martin Kelly, Double Up 2017 Fundraiser at kellylordswood@btinternet.com

Finally, thank you for reading this far and, in anticipation, may I thank you for supporting this project.

Andrew Moll
Chairman
Southampton Sea Cadets
Unit Management Committee

We are most grateful that the Mayor of Southampton, Councillor Les Harris, who has nominated Southampton Sea Cadets as one of his two charities for his year in office. With his support, we are hoping to run a number of events during the year specifically aimed at raising funds for this project.

Background information

Marine Society and Sea Cadets (MSSC) is the UK's largest nautical youth organisation, representing some 385 sea cadet units, totalling some 14,000 cadets between the ages of 10-18. While Southampton Sea Cadets operates to the MSSC's rules, like all local units, it is an independent charity that has to raise money to fund its activities.

What does Sea Cadets Offer?

The Sea Cadets offers amazing opportunities for personal development. Young people rapidly grow in confidence by learning and mastering new skills and through a focus on teamwork. Although the core of the programme is about getting afloat and learning about boats, the opportunities are much wider and include, for example, participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme. The Sea Cadets offer opportunities to gain qualifications and experience that will provide lifelong benefit to individuals, as well as developing their sense of community. For more information please explore the Sea Cadet Website at www.sea-cadets.org.

Southampton Sea Cadets: 1941 to Today

Southampton Sea Cadets was established in 1941. As ties with the Royal Naval Reserve were developed, the Unit moved to a building at HMS WESSEX in the Eastern Docks. However, when WESSEX closed in 1994 the Unit had to move. After two years of searching for a new home, Hampshire County Council offered the use of a derelict former sailing centre boathouse at Vespasian Road. The Unit raised the £62,000 pounds necessary to convert the ruins into a centre able to support the training programme. Much further work was conducted by volunteers, and the Unit moved into its new buildings in February 1997. While the new site benefits from direct access to the River Itchen, it is much smaller than the previous premises, and is only able to support a maximum of 40 cadets on site at any time.

The first few years after the move were spent consolidating the new premises. However, it has been a long-held ambition to expand the Unit to cater for more cadets, and to increase the on-water activities offered. In 2014, with the aim of grant funding, the Unit installed pontoons beside the existing slipway. This removed the need to pay marina costs, and increased the time the cadets can spend afloat (the current target is 30 hours per cadet each year). On the back of this work, the Unit secured Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Recognised Training Centre (RTC) status for powerboating, and we hope to extend this to include dinghy sailing for the next season. The Unit already has its own qualified canoe, kayak and rowing instructors.

The Unit is well placed to grow. The 2011 census showed Southampton has 30,000 children between the ages of 10 and 18. More locally, the Unit lies in Bitterne Park Ward, which the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation was shown as an amber area (20%-40%). There are few community facilities in the area, the nearest being Bitterne Leisure Centre on Dean Road. While this has excellent sports facilities, it is not cheap. The Unit offers the cadets 2 hours training for £2, twice a week.