



**URNU NORTHUMBRIA**

# NEWSLETTER

Edited by OC Brennan

## LEAVERS 2024

As we come to the end of yet another amazing academic year with the URNU, we must say goodbye to many of our fellow comrades as they move onto the next stage of their journey. Goodbye and good luck to the following:

Surg S/Lt Blaise Hickson

Mid William Eversfield – BRNC Sept 2024

Mid Charlie Jones – BRNC Sep 2024

Mid Eden Behl – BRNC Sept 2024

Mid Evie Jackson

Mid Nathan Coulson

Mid Will Gaffing

OC Felix Powell

OC Ethan Stephenson

OC Melchior Raywood

OC Lewis Kelly

OC Miriam Helal

OC Ruby Smith

OC Amelia Blamphin

OC Ashley Warren



## LDO MESS DINNER

On Friday 10 May, URNU Northumbria held its annual LDO Mess dinner; this included a night of good food and awards. This year, the VIP was Captain Ian Park Royal Navy, Head Navy Legal. He gave the OCs interested in the legal branch of the Royal Navy an insight into what their careers may look like and, more importantly, how you apply. It was an honour to host Captain Park.

Congratulations to all who received awards and further congratulations to our new Senior Student Team.

**A/OC Brennan**



## HOLCOMBE MOOR ADVENTUROUS TRAINING (AT)

I attended an URNU AT week at Holcombe Moor Training camp between 10- 14 June. This was the first camp that I have been on in URNU, and I am very glad that I signed up for it. The 9 activities being offered were completed over three days, each day being laid out with a single activity taking place all morning, then a lunch break, followed by two activities in the afternoon. The evenings were spent eating dinner back at Holcombe Moor and then venturing into the local area to explore.

We used rafted canoes, but throughout the morning we also built double canoes and raced around the lake completing challenges and games which ended with quite a few people falling into the lake and some being pushed in (wearing buoyance aids of course)! The afternoon was then spent abseiling and axe throwing. Both were great activities for any ability and previous levels of experience. It was also my first time axe throwing and it was great fun to learn on the smaller axes and then eventually move up to the larger axes whilst teaming up with other URNU members to win challenges.

The second day started with kayaks, which I have to say was my favourite activity from the week. Taking part in many group games was a fun team building activity where everyone ended up in the lake. Overall, it was a light-hearted morning that I would recommend anyone to take part in. The afternoon was spent doing archery and an activity called "high all aboard". This was a team-based climbing activity where we were split into twos and had to help our partner reach to the top of a narrow tower and complete challenges without falling off.

The third day started with giant Stand-Up Paddleboards (SUPs); with the rough weather we experienced that morning it meant that paddleboarding in groups of 8 was quite difficult. We spent an hour battling the wind but eventually got to an area in-between the trees where we managed to play a variation of netball against the other paddleboards and completed a tug of war. The afternoon was spent doing problem-solving and tree-climbing, both very enjoyable activities. The problem-solving was made more difficult as the first few tasks were too easy, and this resulted in most of the group completing the problems blindfolded.

Overall, the team that looked after us in Holcombe Moor and the Anderton centre where the activities took place were amazing and we could not have asked for better. It was a lovely camp that I hope to attend again and would recommend others to try.

**OC M Atkinson**



## OFFSHORE YACHTING

During 7-12 April, members from URNU Northumbria had the opportunity to experience Offshore Yachting on a Victoria 34 around the Solent. During the week, we got to live and work on the boat learning both the knowledge and practical skills that are needed to take a yacht out. We learnt to rig different sails such as a Jib, Genoa and a Spinacia, learning how to sail under different points of sails, how to drop an anchor or attach to a buoy, and how to conduct Man Overboard drills. As part of the week, we were able to get qualifications such as Day Skipper for those with previous experience, Competent Crew for those who had never done any sailing, or gain valuable miles to use for our next qualifications. Nearly every evening we had the opportunity to berth in different ports and this allowed us to visit different areas around the Solent and put the skills we had been learning into practice. Whilst we were sailing, we were affected by the "super moon", which causes unusually high tides. We were affected by this when we were in Cowes as the tides caused waves to come over the break water and left a lot of Cowes without power and flooding as a result. It was interesting to learn and experience how much celestial events have on the tides. Thank you to JSAT for the use of the yachts, the instructors were brilliant, and we all had a very fun, informational, and enjoyable week.

**Mid Sheldon**



## 80<sup>th</sup> D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS

On Saturday 1 June, members of URNU Northumbria assisted with celebrations in Blyth for 80<sup>th</sup> D-Day Commemorations. Arriving from 1000hrs, URNU Northumbria helped set up an inflatable track with bungee attached. This tested the public's strength, with prize stickers for children. There was also a virtual reality headset that allowed children to drive a vessel simulator. Furthermore, members of the URNU helped demonstrate safety procedures that would be used if a vessel was on fire and how to evacuate if required. Additionally, members of the URNU were allowed free time in which they could explore other stalls including vintage cars and weapons that were used at the time of the war. Members of URNU Northumbria also had the chance to listen to popular music from the time whilst assisting with the stalls as live acts played throughout the day. It was an enjoyable day and we were all grateful to commemorate such an important day in our history.

**Mid T Collin**



## YORKSHIRE CASUALTY ACTOR EXERCISE

During 24 – 26 June, I attended a casualty actor exercise in Yorkshire. It was a great opportunity for Officer Cadets, and especially those in Jolly Division, who are interested in all things medicine. It was an exercise to enable the clinical validation of the Army Field Hospital at readiness. We began the camp early on the morning of 25 June by getting our casualty makeup done by professional makeup artists. We were then told which injury we would be acting during the exercise and what our back story was to keep the exercise as realistic as possible. After getting our IDs for the exercise we were then told to wait outside as the activity was about to begin. The doctors in training then came over and started their examinations, ranking patients in need based on severity of condition and in need of immediate treatment, and those who just had a flesh wound and could wait to receive their treatment. My injury was an orbital fracture and gash to the forehead. I was covered in fake blood and bandages for the morning and was sent to a triage level 3 to be treated and then sent on to receive extra treatment at a hospital more suited to my injuries. During the breaks between the training exercises, we were given the opportunity to explore around the hospital itself seeing exactly what goes into setting up these facilities and what treatment options are available. It was an extremely fascinating couple of days in which I learnt a lot of new information on how people are trained in medicine to deal with injuries on the battlefield. Overall, this was my favourite camp that I have been on so far and I would recommend this opportunity to anyone who has an interest in medicine whether that be for a future career or just in general as it was an experience I will never forget.

**OC M Atkinson**



## Ex HIGH JUMP (STATIC LINE PARACHUTING)

The parachute foundation course at Netheravon Airfield was the best experience of my time in URNU Northumbria and my life so far. On the first day we were introduced to our instructor for the week. All staff were highly experienced, with over 1000 jumps each, and they discussed what to expect during our time there. The principles of ground training were to address dealing with emergencies and what to do if something was to go wrong. The odds of parachuting regarding safety are pretty good but every now and then things can go wrong given the nature of the sport! After being taught the method of jumping out the plane and ensuring your parachute has properly deployed, we were then taught how to make a safe landing, including factors such as wind direction and how not to land in the wrong place – such as a cow field or someone’s roof. Repeated practices of the drills concluded with a mock harness and parachute. The weather then cleared up and we were finally allowed to jump. The feeling of being told you are going to jump is indescribable, your heart is racing, and you’re filled with the excitement. The sound of the propellers when boarding the plane really gets the adrenaline going. Once the plane takes off you watch the number on your altimeter go up and up, followed by the roller of the plane door opening. Glancing out the side seems like you’re looking for miles and miles and down at the floor. Once over the drop zone you hear the command “in the door...” Here you sit on the edge of the plane door with the wind streaming at about 100 miles an hour in your face, until you are told “LOOK UP, GO!” Out you go, freefalling for about 5 seconds until you look up and see your canopy, and you are now gliding with just the parachute above your head – the best feeling in the world. In the moment it is quite overwhelming being able to take in all the sights before navigating to the landing zone. All of us on the course managed to complete three jumps by the end of the week after a great window for the weather and successfully completing the training. Over the duration of the week, we enjoyed the physical and mental challenge of the rigorous ground school before the most exhilarating experience of static line jumping at four thousand feet.

**Mid Ellam**



## LEAVERS BBQ

On 6 June, URNU Northumbria held their annual Leavers' BBQ. Everyone enjoyed a plethora of goods supplied by the unit, followed by a series of dits spun about departing OCs. From then, OCs made their way into Newcastle city centre to make the most of their last bit of time in each other's company until the next academic year, for those remaining. All the best to our leavers in their future endeavours!

**A/OC Godley**

