

Sell-out tour of 'Guernsey's own' Navy ship gives islanders an insight into crew's life

Daring days revealed as the public flocks to get on board

by Helen Devonshire

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HMS DARING's Commander said it was great for its crew to meet islanders, as it hosted tours on board Saturday.

Tickets had sold out for the trips allowing islanders to go on board Guernsey's affiliated warship.

Those who had enjoyed a tour of the ship spoke of how interesting the visit had been.

The Type 45 destroyer, which is one of the Royal Navy's newest and most capable vessels, arrived on Friday and leaves today.

Ship's captain Philip Dennis said that while it has not visited the Bailiwick since 2011, he hoped it would not be as long before it returned.

He said that it was good for islanders to see what its crew did day-to-day as well as what happens on the ship when they are fighting.

The ship anchored outside St Peter Port Harbour and visitors were ferried aboard by tender.

Officers on shore gave out information leaflets to the waiting queues, who were excited to get an onboard glimpse.

They also spoke to them and were on hand to answer any questions the public had.

The visit was such a good opportunity, people said, because the ship does not get to come to Bailiwick waters that often.

For two Elizabeth College students it was an insight into potential future careers.

Year 13 students Jonty Inderwick and Seb Robinson, both 17, were part of a Combined Cadet Force and Royal Navy section cadet group going on board.

The pair also had the opportunity to do so on Friday night when a

'They were really efficient and it was well organised'

Mel Torode



HMS Daring was in Bailiwick waters for the first time since 2011, and islanders were keen to get on board and take a look around. Inset: the ship's captain, Commander Philip Dennis, on the bridge.

(Pictures by Peter Frankland, 11032924 and 11032970)

reception and capability demonstration was held.

It was particularly significant for them as they are both hoping to join the forces straight from school.

'It was really useful as I am looking at being a pilot officer,' Jonty said.

Seb added: 'I am looking at joining the Royal Marines as an officer so it was good to chat and get contacts.'

The highlight for the pair was the operations room, which houses a large number of computers, radar, screens showing images from cameras on the ship

and is also where some of the weapons can be controlled and activated.

'It was so useful because all the officers have been through it and you can talk about the job,' said Seb.

Andy, 37, and Mel, 36, Torode took children Amelie, seven and Zack, five, on board. 'It was really good,' Mr Torode said.

'The children had fun with the water cannons and enjoyed holding empty shell cases.'

'They were really efficient and it was well organised,' Mrs Torode said, adding that the staff had been good with the children.



Lt Cdr Rachel Singleton, ready to welcome visitors. (11032961)

Crew 'proud' of links with Guernsey

FOR HMS DARING's Commander this weekend's visit was his first to Guernsey on board the ship.

In the last 14 months Philip Dennis said he has been to the island three or four times, for two Liberation Day ceremonies and for Remembrance Sunday last year.

He said his crew are proud and aware of the links with Guernsey, as its affiliated ship.

He said Daring previously had an islander working on-board.

'We had a Guernseyman on the ship,

Max Barber,' he said. The local man is now a Royal Navy officer at Sandhurst.

'It is great for the islanders to meet the sailors,' he said.

It was good for them to see what happens routinely, as well as when the ship faces a challenging time and fighting.

The ship is currently going through a training cycle, ahead of a nine-month deployment to the Gulf next year.

The operations room, control centre and the bridge were some of the locations that islanders got to visit on their tour.

Cdr Dennis said it was great that schools and youth groups also came on board.

As further examples of the ship's bond with the island, the crew took part in Headway's 70-mile cycle ride, played rugby against the Mauwawii Warriors, which comprises Guernsey rugby stars from the Guernsey 1st and 2nd XVs, GRFC Veterans, St Jacques and other unattached players.

They also had fixtures against Guernsey's Under 18s football team.

HMS Daring facts

- HMS Daring has a displacement of 7500 tonnes and is 152.5m-long.
- The ship's primary weapon system is the Sea Viper Missile system, capable of providing air defence against a wide variety and number of targets, both for the ship itself and other vessels in company.
- Other weapons include a 4.5" Mk 8 Mod 1 Gun, NATO Seagat Decoy Launchers and machine guns.
- The ship is capable of being configured to operate either the Lynx or Merlin helicopters.
- There is also a sickbay which can support major surgical procedures.
- HMS Daring's 191 crew is divided into five main departments - warfare, logistics, executive, weapon engineering and marine engineering.