



HMS MAGPIE

BFPO 328

Telephone: 07779 972 142

Email: hmsmagp-co@mod.gov.uk

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Dear Mr Mayor,

As the year draws to a close, I am thrilled to write and share the highlights of HMS MAGPIE's endeavours in 2023. The year started with a maintenance period and successful sonar trials proving the accuracy of our systems. By spring, the Ship was shipshape and Bristol fashion, and ready to conduct FOST training with the Ship's Company achieving a well-earned VSAT grade. Our journey continued with a visit to our affiliated town of Salcombe, where we not only strengthened our ties with the town but also engaged in valuable training alongside the RNLI lifeboat crew. MAGPIE then set sail for South Wales, undertaking a survey of Milford Haven amidst the scenic backdrop of Welsh landscapes. Summer saw the Ship's Company enjoying the Welsh outdoors while continuing with the very substantial survey.

Our next chapter unfolded in Northern Ireland, where the team conducted survey operations in Belfast and Larne throughout late summer and autumn, embracing the unique challenges and opportunities of each location. We were well supported by the Naval Regional Commander, allowing us to conduct a number of engagement events with sea cadets, CCF, Ulster and Queen's Universities, local officials, as well as hosting Baroness Goldie the former Minister of State for Defence. Battling high seas, we navigated back to HMNB Devonport in November, seeking refuge in Welsh ports as the season's first storms rolled through. Now, as we gear up for a docking period, we reflect on a year filled with achievements and challenges.

Over the past 12 months we have also seen notable change in the Ship's Company with Lt Cdr Hywel Morgan handing over command to me in August. Lt Matt Waring has also joined as our Executive Officer after a period of temporary XO's and he is demonstrating a natural flare for all executive matters. We have also had two new joiners from HMS SCOTT, Leading Seaman Paul "Bill" Bailey and Able Seaman Jade Blackburn, who have both brought a great deal of enthusiasm and professionalism to their positions. This all bodes well for the next couple of years. Of note, I would also like to praise Leading Engineering Technician Dennis Taylor who has worked tirelessly over the year to cover both his position and that of the gapped second engineer.

Looking ahead, we aim to visit Salcombe in Mar 2024, as well as hosting the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers. It promises to be an exciting 2024, and I extend heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Wishing you a joyous festive season and New Year. We look forward to sharing more with you in 2024.

Yours Faithfully,

Nick

Nicholas Radue
Lieutenant Commander
Commanding Officer
HMS MAGPIE

