

CPO (SCC) Robert Pearce MSM



With 65 years' service in naval uniform, CPO (SCC) Robert Pearce MSM (known as Bob) has had an inspirational impact on Sea Cadets as a national charity: delivering thousands of qualifications and promotions, facilitating hundreds of memorable events and passing on an immeasurable number of life skills to young people and volunteers.

Bob joined the Royal Navy in 1958 at the age of 15 and retired almost 36 years later, having gained a wealth of knowledge that he began to pass on to cadets and fellow volunteers upon joining the Sea Cadet Corps in 1994. As the National Ceremonial Training Officer, we estimate Bob has trained and enthused well over 1,000 individual cadet and adult Drill Instructors – empowering them to deliver the highest level of ceremonial training to others, thus ensuring that Sea Cadets can enhance parades and ceremonies in hundreds of villages, towns and cities.

Since taking on responsibility for the ceremonial aspects of our Annual National Trafalgar Day Parade in 2004, Bob has given over 8,500 cadets the opportunity to take part in the parade by training them to the highest standards under his watchful eye. Thanks to his ability to make preparation enjoyable and help people perform at their best under pressure, 400 sea cadets made a triumphant return to Trafalgar Square in 2022 after a three-year absence. The Cadets delivered a spectacular display in front of large crowds, before marching through Admiralty Arch and down The Mall – giving them a huge sense of achievement and lifelong memories.

As one of the principal assessors on the Senior Cadet Advancement Boards, Bob is passionate about the development of young people and adults. Many former cadets cite him as the person who inspired them to achieve their dreams, whether maximising their achievements within Sea Cadets or pursuing distinguished careers in the forces or civilian organisations. With his experience of starting a career at sea at such a young age, countless cadets have also utilised Bob's credible and practical advice on adapting to adult life and making progress in the workplace.

Bob has earned the trust and respect of the whole Sea Cadets volunteer community, which continues to benefit from his wisdom, pragmatism and ability to unite people in challenging circumstances. Throughout his 29 years of exemplary service, he has

chosen to give up extra free time and take on considerable additional responsibilities, often taking on the arduous and unglamorous tasks that would not otherwise get done. And, despite dealing with life-changing personal issues, Bob has never wavered in his commitment to Sea Cadets and the young people he has dedicated so much of his life to helping.

By going so far above and beyond what has been asked of him, Bob has personally assisted hundreds of young people who may otherwise have missed out on our support. Turning 80 in 2023, Bob is planning to retire from uniform in the near future, having won numerous plaudits from all who have worked with him or been trained by him. He can be proud of his incredible record of achievement and, while irreplaceable, he will leave behind a major legacy in the form of his positive and lasting influence on the charity.