



# SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION BARROW-IN-FURNESS BRANCH NEWS LETTER



## THE FEBRUARY WORD



**Combined Chairman  
&  
Chaplain Dit**

FEB 2008. Without going over familiar ground we are back to hospital visiting and Pat and I thank all for the words of support we have received from the membership during these difficult months. If I manage get this Dit complete on time it will be a miracle, nevertheless I am going to give my best shot. The first month of 2008 has flown by like an express train and my "things to do list" is getting ever longer. Perhaps it's an age thing with my increasing number of years pushing ever steeper the exponential curve for the time it now takes to complete any routine task. "Or is it the fall down medicine"? I am very much looking forward to the Valentines Dinner; it should be a good evening. The other night when Furness was in the grip of a winter storm that

ripped a chunk off my newly installed garage roof, and least one tile off our Social Sec's Walney house. So in the light of our minor calamities I punched into



Google Images winter gales and the clip art above is the result, so I included for interest, and break up the words. Whilst on the net I searched for any worldwide snippets of submarine news and came across two interesting articles. I hope if there is room, that Ben will include them in this month's issue, if not maybe at some future date. The Brazilian submarine is of interest to me because it was the Barrow Built Brazilian O Boats that brought me never to leave thirty-one years ago. The Chinese submarine and the USS Kitty Hawk incident is certainly food for future submarine tactics thought.

Thursday 30th was the funeral of Brian Kerr one of our long standing branch members, another man like myself and many other branch members who came to Barrow for one submarine project and was never to leave. Brian and Denise gave long service to our branch as part of the welfare committee. Brian will be missed and he and his family were

honoured and supported with a very large turnout at the crematorium, so I thank all members who were able to attend. Denise knows that there is an ongoing support for her and family and we are only a phone call away.

To end on a lighter note my Grandson has just taken his Army swimming test at the Army Foundation College and it reminded me of TUGG the famous R.N. cartoonist

Until next time regards Jonsey  
Chairman/Honorary  
Lay Chaplain

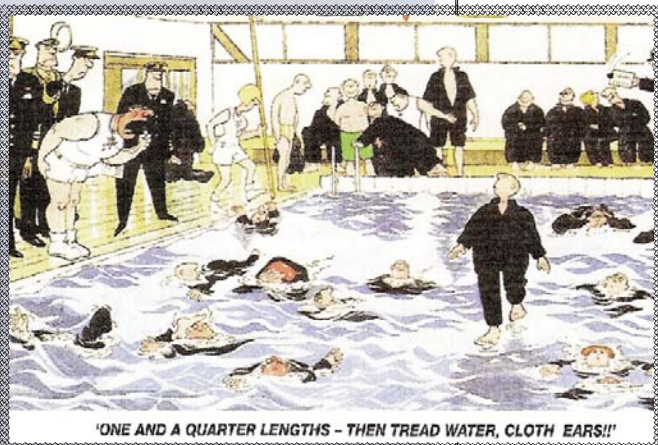
### Lockheed Martin Awarded Contract To Modernize Brazilian Navy Submarine Force



Lockheed Martin was awarded a \$35 million contract to deliver advanced, open-architecture combat systems that will modernize four Tupi-class submarines, one Tikuna-class submarine and one shore-based trainer system for the Brazilian Navy.

Under a contract administered by the U.S. Navy, as part of a foreign military sale for weapons and combat systems to the Brazilian Navy, Lockheed Martin will provide systems engineering, sensors, software and electronics for the modernization of the diesel submarines' control, combat management, sonar and fire control and weapons launch systems.

The modernized systems will provide the Brazilian Navy tangible improvements in overall submarine performance with dramatically improved war fighting capability. At the same time, it will improve the Brazilian Navy's ability to operate with naval forces of the U.S. and other allies



## Social Scene

1) A proposed trip to Crewe to visit Ray Scouse Bruchez we currently have about 11 confirmed and the mini-bus can take 15. The Date is Saturday 12th April and it is just the lads.

The Morecambe Bay Branch is also going and the Manchester and Merseyside branches.

Scouse has resurrected Shep Wooley who used to sing all the Submariners and folk songs at Dolphin reunions.

Any more takers contact me direct (B&B approx £20 plus cost of travel)

2) The Army Navy Rugby on Saturday 3rd May weekend. I have written to the RNRU to confirm the date and venue are unchanged. And will start a list next meeting (tomorrow)

3) There is a list out for those wishing to support the Annual Conference weekend with a meet & greet to all visitors to Barrow in the Victoria Park Hotel on Friday evening (28th March), and a social evening at the same venue on the Saturday night (29th). Ladies invited

Those who can take the pace may also like to be in the Harbour for a while on the Saturday afternoon for a chat with those visitors who are not actually attending the Conference and those who need a livener after the Conference.

### Chinese Sub Sneaks Under USS Kitty Hawk

An unexpected visit by a Chinese Submarine that went undetected in the middle of a Pacific Ocean Naval exercise and came extremely close to the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, has American military chiefs looking for answers.

The sub was apparently able to slip past at least a dozen U.S. warships, two U.S. submarines and a vast array of advanced technology, which failed to detect it.



When the Navy deploys a battle fleet on exercises, they take the security of the aircraft carriers very seriously. At least a dozen warships are used to provide a physical guard, and using advanced technology they are able to detect and deter any potential intruders. By the time the Chinese sub surfaced, the 160ft Song Class diesel-electric attack submarine sailed within viable range for launching torpedoes or missiles at the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, a 1,000ft. super carrier with 4,500 military personnel on-board

According to senior NATO officials, the incident caused a sense of sudden fear in the U.S. Navy, as officials realized the seriousness of the encounter. The U.S. apparently had no idea just how sophisticated China's fast growing submarine fleet had become, or that they even posed such a threat.

Analysts believe that China was sending a message to the United States and the West by demonstrating their rapidly growing military capability to threaten foreign powers that might try to interfere in their own "backyard."

The U.S. Navy and Nato are now forced to re-think their strategy, and reconsider the level of threat posed from potentially hostile Chinese submarines.

### ID Cards

The Skipper of the American aircraft carrier USS JOHN F. KENNEDY was relieved of command in 2001 due to a failed inspection.

Then in August 2004, the next Skipper, Captain Stephen B. Squires, was relieved of command due to an Arab dhow being able to get close enough to the carrier to allegedly hit the ship.

Whether the dhow did or did not hit the flattop was not as important as the fact that it did apparently get within mere feet of the ship.....too close for security.

And now it is the Commanding Officer of VF-103, the famed "Jolly Roger" Squadron made famous in the movie "the Final Countdown" in which a time warp takes the carrier back in time to December 7th, 1941 and the F-14 fighters of this Squadron were attempting to intercept Japanese Zero fighters over the Hawaiian Islands.

Captain W. R. Massey, Deputy Commander of Air Wing 17, has temporarily replaced Commander Guy Maiden as Commanding Officer of VF-103. Commander David Landess is en route to the carrier to assume command of the "Jolly Rogers". Commander Maiden will be temporarily reassigned to duties in the United States. (Translation - banished to a desk job near the exit door).

The relief of Commander Maiden was an administrative taken by Rear Admiral Barry McCullough, Commander of the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY Strike Group after a review of the investigation into circumstances surrounding the incident stating that the U.S. Navy takes these incidents very seriously and holds service members accountable.

So what horrible thing did Commander Maiden do that cost him his command and most probably his career in the U.S. Navy? Here is what our friend aboard ship reports as the scuttlebutt, although not released as fact. It is alleged that Commander Maiden was returning from liberty and did not have his identification card on his person, and a scuffle ensued with a 'foreign national security guard' and the rest, as they say, is history.





## Secretary's Dit



It is only right for me to start this report of with an acknowledgement of the 'Crossing of the Bar' on 12th January of our former Welfare Committee Member and stalwart Branch Member Brian Kerr. Brian did a lot for the Branch in his nearly twelve years Membership and was always a regular attendee even in the last few months when his health was not good. I am sure I speak for all members of the Branch when I say Brian will be very sadly missed. By the time that you read this Brian's funeral will have been conducted and I am sure that many Branch Members will have attended.

There is an Obituary for Brian elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Another friend of the Barrow Branch also 'Crossed the Bar' in Januar this was Australian Branch Secretary Mike Pearson who died on 23rd January 2008. Mike, the leading light of the Australian Branch was well known to many Branch Members and, I understand had visited Barrow and the Branch on a number of occasions.

We send our condolences to his family, friends and all Members of the Australian Branch.

Planning is continuing for the events arranged to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Barrow in Furness Branch on which falls on 14th May 2008. This seems to have come round very quickly and it is sometimes difficult to realise that it was only two years ago that we first started discussing it.

Anyway you all probably remember it starts off with the 'National Council Conference' Weekend which we are hosting at the end of March. Planning by John Houlding and his Sub Committee is progressing well and there has been a steady trickle of Branches letting us know about their Delegates and Observers and which events they wish to attend apart from the actual Conference that is and what their accommodation arrangement are over the weekend!

Colin Hutchinson and the Committee are continuing the arrangements for our special '45th

Anniversary Dinner Dance' at the end of April – the nearest weekend we could arrange to the actual Anniversary Weekend without getting mixed up with Bank Holidays etc.

The Mayor has confirmed that he will be attending as a Guest and I am awaiting confirmation of our 'Special Guest of Honour'. Following that we have the 'National Draw' which again we are hosting and combining with our Annual Barbeque at the start of July.

This will be at our usual Venue at the Vickerstown Institute and is being arranged by Colin, Brigham and a small Sub Committee. Details of the National Draw Tickets and Prizes should be available from the National Committee before the National Conference. The Tickets will be distributed to the Branches via the National Committee and the Stubs will be returned to the Barrow Branch Committee to hold until the Draw takes place. Then we will have the 'not so small task' of folding all the Tickets some assistance might be needed here! As far as our share of the Tickets for the draw is concerned I intend to follow the practice of the last few years in allocating £10.00 worth to each Member to sell and return the cash and the stubs to the Committee. Don't forget that one third of the proceeds of the Branch Ticket sales comes back to the Branch Funds if we are allocated £1,600 worth to sell that means that funds can benefit by up to £533.00 if we sell all our Allocation!

As I said previously Ron Hiseman and his 'Website' afficianodos are also arranging their Annual Reunion the '08 08 08 Reunion' in Barrow on 8th August but Ron will let us know more details later. The assistance of any Branch Member in giving us a hand to show the whole of the Submariners Association what we at Barrow can do will be welcomed just let any Member of the Committee know which event you can help out with.

Back to Branch business the Branch AGM this year will be held on Tuesday 1st April. Prior to the AGM you have the opportunity to raise and discuss issues that you think are important to the running of the Branch and to elect or re-elect various Members of the Committee. Committee Members due for election this year are the Chairman, the extra Committee Members and our

National Delegate for the 2009 National Council Conference John Hart is of course our Delegate for 2008. Fancy yourself as the Chairman or as an extra Committee Member? Then put your name forward and don't forget to get yourself some one to 'Nominate' you and 'Second' you as well!

It was disappointing that the Branch Committee Meeting on 15th January - which was an open meeting to which you were all invited - was rather poorly attended. We need to know about your thoughts on the running of the Branch and how we might improve things or to confirm if you are happy with the way things are being done. It not too late for you to let us know - there are still two more Branch Meetings before the AGM!

On the good news front we have some more new Members on the way - I have just received an application from John Oldfield from Little Urswick - John served on REVENGE, REPULSE and SWIFTSURE so I am sure some of you know him. Hopefully he can make it to the next Branch Meeting to catch up with every one. As ever all new Members are very welcome.

Just a reminder that dissemination of Branch and National SA information (Meeting Minutes, Branch News Letters and the 'In Depth' quarterly News Letter) via the BAE system is still possible but we have given an undertaking that we will only send out data prepared outside 'working hours' and that we should remind anyone with a BAE Address that they should not download it during working hours. I have received several updates to your E Mail Addresses but, in sending out various items I still have a number of E Mail addresses which either don't work or which will not allow me to attach Newsletters, minutes etc. Please check your computer settings to make sure you can receive multiple address E Mails and large attachments. For Members who have only given me your work 'E' Mail addresses (mainly people from the Yard) you are requested to advise me of your home 'E' Mail Addresses so we can continue to keep you all fully informed - and if you give me your Work E Mail address also make sure your employers rules allow you to receive personal E Mails. Have you changed your 'E' Mail Provider recently please let me know how to get hold of you! If you think you are not

getting all the information you should check the address with me all those 'DOTs' and '@'s' and 'Underscores' are so easy to get wrong!. Also as I always say - don't forget that we also need your up to date Postal Addresses and Phone numbers. These will only be held by the Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Member and will not be released to anyone else without your permission!

That's all from me for now! See you all at the February 2008 Branch Meeting on Tuesday 5th February back to the usual time at 2000 - at the Harbour of course! One final reminder as discussed and agreed at the January Meeting the Rum Barrel will be out so don't forget to walk, get a taxi, get the bus or get a lift.

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### THE 'ATOM-AGE NAVY' WILL NOT BE KEPT WAITING

Vickers do not intend that the 'Atom-Age Navy' will be kept waiting for its nuclear propelled submarines, and the Shipbuilding Group will meet the stringent delivery requirements for HMS Resolution, Britain's first Polaris submarine, and keep the whole of the nuclear submarine programme 'on time'.

These more than encouraging facts emerged when directors from all companies in the Vickers Group attended a seminar on Planning and Programme Control Procedures, held at Barrow Shipyard in June. It was stated that the shipbuilders intended to hand over Resolution in September, 'right on schedule' after four years of design, equipment development, construction, and the most comprehensive testing and installation phase a British shipyard has yet known.

There was still more encouraging news in the statement that the job of testing and tuning the boat's weapon system, which had meant building up and training a team of skilled men, had been completed in a time comparable with the best achieved by the Americans in their programme.

Mr G. G. Mott, Projects Controller and Local Director at Barrow Shipyard outlined the nuclear submarine programme and the planning organisation, and pointed

out that the advent of the Polaris programme had reshaped the attitude to planned working. There was now a two level concept of planning organisation a Project Control Office operating in a staff function for the whole company and as the upper level and detail planning as the second level.

A paper on 'Steelwork Planning and Control' was read by Mr H. Hampson, Chief of the Shipyard Planning Department, and there followed papers on 'The Group System of Planning' (Mr D. Tuson, Chief Installation Planner); 'Project Control Procedures' (Mr P. H. Rane, Nuclear Project Control Officer, Production); 'Equipment Delivery Progressing' (Mr T. Woodall, Manager of the Equipment Procurement Department) and 'Computer Technique Developments' (Mr G. D. Hawkins, Manager of the Computer Applications Department). It was pointed out during the seminar that, despite delays in the provision of equipment by some outside suppliers, the nuclear submarine programme had been maintained through the operation of production control and the ability to take appropriate recovery action.

The planning and control procedures had been developed at the Barrow Yard and were being used with undoubtedly successful results.

The seminar was useful in that it enabled explanations of work and resource analysis techniques covering steelwork operations and the group system of installation to be explained. It was suggested that such things were the 'tools' of the modern shipbuilder and that, backed up by computer techniques, they had enabled Vickers Shipbuilding Group to collate the efforts of more than 550 sub-contractors.

Additionally they had enabled the phasing in of about 10,000 drawings; the control of progress on 400 steel work 'work-packages' and the timely installation of about 17,000 component groups. Such a scale of operations applied to Resolution and Repulse, the two Polaris boats being built at Barrow, and to Renown and Revenge, the two other Polaris boats being built by Cammell

Laird, Birkenhead, with Barrow acting as the lead yard

There was no lack of confidence that the stringent conditions being written into the Ministry of Defence contracts for the Polaris and nuclear propelled Fleet submarines would be met.

**Extract from Vickers News  
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## Letters

Dear Richard

Following the crash landing of the BA flight at Heathrow last Thursday, I thought you might like a topical article for the next newsletter. It recounts my experiences of the last big crash at Heathrow in 1972. I was, of course, out of the RN by then but I was a 'Special' in the Metropolitan Police and attended at the crash site near Staines.

Yours Aye  
Leslie Willcox

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## Papa India

The crash-landing of BA Flight 038 from Beijing at Heathrow on 17 January 2008, with, thanks to the skills of the pilots, no loss of life, reminds me of the loss of the BEA Trident aircraft near the airport in June 1972.

The Sunday started with a visit from friends, who were neighbours at Pieta, Malta, during my LDR (Med), days.

With their two very young children we spent a pleasant afternoon at Heathrow. It was the ideal venue on a rainy day. We spent most of our time in Terminal Two. As events would turn out, we must have mixed with the passengers, who would later be the victims involved in the Papa India disaster.

My car park ticket, as we left Heathrow, showed 15:55. I went



home via the reservoirs and turned left at the Crooked Billet roundabout. At my home in Ashford (Middlesex), the six o'clock news reported the air crash at Staines. At 16:11 on Sunday, 18 June 1972 a BEA Trident G-ARPI (call sign Papa India), having taken off from Heathrow for Brussels, crashed in a field near Staines. All on board were killed – 3 pilots, 2 stewards, 1 stewardess and 112 passengers (which included 3 BEA positioning flight crew one of whom, the Captain, was sitting in the P4 position on the flight deck).

My wife, Maureen, and friend, Margaret, and I (in my police uniform, as I was the 'Specials'), drove via Shepperton (from Muncaster Road) to avoid the heavy traffic of a Sunday teatime plus the build up expected by the incident.

After ten minutes at the 'nick' I got a lift in an area car and went to the site of the crash, a few minutes away. The A30 was shut off from the roundabout at the Crooked Billet. The site was becoming overcrowded as three bordering counties attended to assist with ambulances and fire appliances.

The site was just off the A30, with the reservoir on the other side of the carriageway and bounded by a small wooded area. The meadow had long grass and the plane had dropped with the tail buried adjacent to a ditch. The remaining aircraft frame had shot across to the bordering hedgerow. Of the people onboard, as I recall there were four who were taken to hospital, but died sometime later. The remainder were transported to a temporary morgue at Heathrow.

Following the formation of a line to search the rest of the meadow, I was posted to the tail plane site to protect the black box, which had yet to be located. There was a problem of the public trying to gain access to the site, via the wooded area. As I challenged one chap, he informed me he was from the BBC and wanted to get his equipment across the ditch I mentioned earlier. Somehow we managed to accomplish this and I finished up with the microphone. Shortly afterwards I handed it to Mr Michael Heseltine (now Lord Heseltine), then a junior minister

in the Department of Aerospace & Industry, who proceeded to speak on the nine o'clock news.

On a lighter note, there had been a convention of the Salvation Army at Sunbury and they attended in their usual role of tea and buns; as an ex serviceman I was so proud of them and grateful for our 'Sally Army', God bless 'em! By 11:00 pm I had to seek permission to go off duty. Along the A30 the sight-seers were still very much in evidence. Particularly portrayed in a cartoon in, I believe, the Daily Mail - a line of people with sheep's heads, passing the line of victims.

I say, in passing, I was at my desk at BUPA HQ near Fleet Street, at 09:00 sharp, next morning. I had not slept at all. With the current culture of stress counselling and compensation, how different, given how Police officers in those days and especially volunteer 'Specials' just accepted each duty as it came - rough or smooth.

Leslie Willcox

### Forensic Science

At the 1994 annual awards dinner given for Forensic Science, AAFS, President Dr. Don Harper Mills astounded his audience with the legal complications of a bizarre death. Here is the story:

On March 23, 1994 the medical examiner viewed the body of Ronald Opus and concluded that he died from a shotgun wound to the head. Mr. Opus had jumped from the top of a ten story building intending to commit suicide. He left a note to that effect, indicating his despondency. As he fell past the ninth floor his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast passing through a window which killed him instantly.

Neither the shooter nor the descender was aware that a safety net had been installed just below at the eighth floor level to protect some building workers and that Ronald Opus would not have been able to complete his suicide the way he had planned.

"Ordinarily," Dr. Mills continued, "a person who sets out to commit

suicide and ultimately succeeds, even though the mechanism might not be what he intended, is still defined as committing suicide."

That Mr. Opus was shot on the way to certain death, but probably would not have been successful because of the safety net, caused the medical examiner to feel that he had a homicide on his hands. The room on the ninth floor, whence the shotgun blast emanated, was occupied by an elderly man and his wife. They were arguing vigorously and he was threatening her with a shotgun. The man was so upset that when he pulled the trigger he completely missed his wife and the pellets went through the window, striking Mr. Opus.

When one intends to kill subject A but kills subject B in the attempt, one is guilty of the murder of subject B. When confronted with the murder charge the old man and his wife were both adamant. They both said they thought the shotgun was unloaded. The old man said it was his long-standing habit to threaten his wife with the unloaded shotgun. He had no intention to murder her.

Therefore the killing of Mr. Opus appeared to be an accident; that is, the gun had been accidentally loaded. The continuing investigation turned up a witness who saw the old couple's son loading the shotgun about six weeks prior to the fatal accident. It transpired that the old lady had cut off her son's financial support and the son, knowing the propensity of his father to use the shotgun threateningly, loaded the gun with the expectation that his father would shoot his mother. The case now becomes one of murder on the part of the son for the death of Ronald Opus.

Now comes the exquisite twist. Further investigation revealed that the son was, in fact, Ronald Opus. He had become increasingly despondent over the failure of his attempt to engineer his mother's murder. This led him to jump off the ten story building on March 23rd, only to be killed by a shotgun blast passing through the ninth story window.

The son had actually murdered himself so the medical examiner closed the case as a suicide.

## Open Forum Committee Meeting

Held on Tuesday 15th January.



The open invitation for branch members to come and comment and criticise the way the branch is organised and managed was not too well attended other than by the elected committee members. We can assume that either; members are totally happy with things as they are at present or you all forgot or could not be bothered.

The meeting was held and several topics were discussed.

1) Kevin (Whisky) Walker from Aberdeen suggested by post that he and perhaps lots of other remote members could attend at least one branch meeting each year if:-

“The Annual General Meeting was to be held on a weekend”.

Those present discussed this possibility and generally find it needs further discussion.

a) Apart from Kevin are there any other members who either work or live away from Barrow and can not make it to the regular monthly meetings on the first Tuesday who WOULD consider attending the AGM if it was held during the day say on a Saturday.

b) Alternatively are there any members who would normally attend the AGM on the first Tuesday in April each year who would not be able to attend if it was to be held on a Saturday.

We would very much like to hear from every branch member to get a feel for this suggestion before we take it any further. To help you all in this decision it was also discussed that - if the suggestion was popular we would almost certainly think about linking this to some form of social event which the travelling members and perhaps their ladies could join in to make the trip even more worthwhile.

2) The next topic was regarding the suitability of the current meeting venue for the branch. Despite the fact that our hosts have made us most welcome at the Harbour there are certainly difficulties with the size to accommodate our normal

attendance and also with audibility and background noise levels. This is not the first time the matter has been raised and it was agreed it should be discussed on the agenda for this year's AGM. Meanwhile the committee members would make some enquiries to see if a more suitable venue, which meets all our requirements, exists.

3) The next topic was one which again has been aired on several occasions in the past. The subject of other types of membership of the Barrow in Furness branch of the submariners association.

This was recently raised at a normal branch meeting by Colin Hutchinson, in particular for associate membership. It was suggested that the branch membership should firstly define and agree the criteria by which a non-submariner might be offered an Associate membership of the branch. We will contact other branches who we know allow this membership status and ask if they have a defined set of rules we might use as a guide. This would be required as a first step even if the matter should be raised as a proposal at the next or future AGMs by a Barrow branch member.

4) Alan Jones raised the subject of our ladies. Both the ladies of current members and the ladies of past members. With regard to the ladies of current members it was suggested there may be benefit in having some form of ladies committee. This of course would not be a problem as their operations would not adversely affect the business of the branch. For the widows of past members we should try and maintain contact with them without being unnecessarily intrusive and ensure they are aware of and involved in as many branch functions as they may wish. If there were a branch ladies committee this would provide a vehicle for their involvement. It was stated that we had tried to encourage our ladies involvement in the past without significant successes other than Denise Kerr tremendous work with Brian when part of the Welfare team, and more recently Lynn Hutchinson's great help and work as Colin's aide on the Social Team. It appears that very much the onus is on the ladies, if they wish to do something like this to get together socially and kick it

off. If all members were to discuss this with their wives and there is some interest I feel sure we can help in any way possible to get them started. IN FACT ALL YOU LADIES READING THIS WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A LADIES GROUP?

There were no other significant topics regarding the running and organisation of the Barrow Branch but we, the committee, would like to hear your opinions on these three matters. So why not e-mail, write or phone any of us to give your views.

Many thanks – John Houlding  
Vice Chairman.



### Obituary Brian Kerr



Brian Kerr was born on 21st January 1935. Brian, who acknowledged the nick name of 'George', joined Submarines in November 1954 and served in Submarines HMS THULE, TELEMACHUS, THOROUGH, EXPLORER, THULE (again) and GRAMPUS. He left Submarines in January 1964 having reached the rating of Petty Officer M(E). Brian first attended the Barrow in Furness Branch of the Submarine Old Comrades Association (SOCA) on 3rd Aug 1996 and was registered as a Member of the Association on 4th September 1996. He transferred to the Submariners Association on the change of name from SOCA. Brian, who lived in Dalton, was a very active Member of the Barrow in Furness Branch and, with his wife Denise, served for many years on the Welfare Committee only standing down in recent years owing to his own illness. Brian 'Crossed the Bar' on 12th January 2008 at the age of seventy two after a long illness. He will be very much missed by all his friends in the Barrow Branch and we send our most sincere condolences to Denise and all of his extended family.





## SHC Paintings Collection January 2008 Update

Where are we with the Submarine Paintings Collection?

You might think that not a lot has been going on but, behind the scenes things are progressing quite well. As most of you might know the Collection started off before the Submarine Centenary in 2001. It was intended to be a vehicle to record for posterity the Submarine Building Heritage of the Barrow Ship Yard (and each Class of Submarines built in the Yard), to provide a display for the Submarine Heritage Centre and also to provide a source of funding to assist in the former plan to get HMS OLYMPUS back to Barrow from Canada to be the centrepiece of the Submarine Heritage Centre.

As ever with such projects things change over a period of time.

The Submarine Heritage Centre is still not a tangible building (although plans are in place for a new building adjacent to the Dock Museum and Graving Dock), HMS OLYMPUS remains (and will remain) in Canada, HMS ONYX is now in Barrow and is to be the centrepiece of the Submarine Heritage Museum (sited in the Graving Dock but not owned by the original Submarine Heritage Centre) and the Paintings Collection has expanded somewhat from its original scope. All of the original Series of Paintings have been sponsored and have been completed by our artist Tom Murphy and are on display in a variety of locations including the Town Hall, The Barrow Library, the Roa Island Lifeboat Station and the 'Subconsult' Offices in Duke Street.

Now, as well as depicting the various classes of Submarines built at Barrow, the Paintings Collection now includes a Painting of a Submarine Depot Ship – HMS MEDWAY, another honouring the memory of one of Barrow's own heroes from WWII – James (Jimmy) Freel, CGM and, now, an additional (but complementary) series of Paintings depicting the output of the Vickers Yards at Barrow from 1871 to the current times.

There are to be twelve of these 'Decade' Paintings of which nine have been fully 'Sponsored'. The first of these covers the years 1871 to 1900 (three 'Decades' in one) but the remainder each cover a 'Ten Year' slice of the output of the Yard.

These paintings will depict the variety of the items produced by the Yard including, Ships (Naval and Mercantile), Submarines, Floating Docks, Engines, Guns etc and the main criteria for inclusion in the individual Painting will be that the Ship or Submarine was 'Launched' within that Decade.

One of the Decade Paintings (1991 – 2000) has already been completed by Tom Murphy and 1901 – 1910 is almost complete and a third (1971 – 1980) is in the 'Sketch' stage.

These will be followed by the Decade 1981 – 1990. So what is the way ahead for the Paintings Collection?

(i) Firstly we have been offering for sale 'Limited Edition' prints of each of the paintings (either via the original SHC Website) or via Members of the Paintings Committee as the Paintings are completed and Prints become available. This will continue.

(ii) Secondly the Paintings have been used for four Submariners Association Calendars the latest covering 2008 and, if all the Decade Paintings are 'sponsored' and completed, there is an option for a fifth Calendar.

(iii) Thirdly plans are currently in hand for the production of a 'Big Book' of all the Paintings a 'Coffee Table' type book with the Paintings presented on the right hand page and the description of the Painting and the Submarine(s) on the left hand page.

The hard part about this Book is getting the words agreed for each of the Paintings but this work is progressing albeit slower than anticipated. It is a target that this 'Big Book' for want of a final title is produced in time to tie in with the 50th Anniversary in 2010 of the launch of the first Nuclear Submarine in Barrow HMS DREADNOUGHT on 21st October 1960.

(iv) Fourthly consideration is also being given to the production

and sale of a series of Post Cards depicting the Paintings Collection and it is possible that Posters could also be produced for sale.

The original scope of the Heritage Collection in covering all Submarine Classes built in Barrow wasn't quite as full as it might have been. It included the 'O' Class Submarines built for Brazil and the 'GAL' Class Submarines built for Israel. It also included the 'T', 'U' and 'V' Class Submarines built for the 'Exile' Navies during WWII. It didn't, however, include the Nordenfelt Submarines built for Turkey in the 1880's, the 'C' Class Submarines built for Japan and 'E' Class Submarines built for Australia prior to WWI or the 'OBERON' Class Submarines built for Australia in the 1920's. The original Collection also excludes Submarines built for Portugal, Chile and Estonia. Consideration is being given on how to address this omission and decisions need to be taken on whether to ignore them, cover them by one additional Painting or to widen the scope of the Collection with a further seven paintings.

As ever things change over time from what was originally a 'what if' suggestion to raise funds for the Centenary and the SHC to the current large and reasonably comprehensive Paintings Collection we have today. What is clear is that Barrow currently has a very valuable and unique Paintings Collection which, when complete, will form a comprehensive record by one Artist of Submarine Building at Barrow.

Anyone wishing to 'Sponsor' one of the remaining 'Decade' Paintings should contact either Terry Spurling the CEO of the Submarine Heritage Centre or Barrie Downer Chairman of the Paintings Collection Committee. The 'Decade' Paintings still available for Sponsorship are 1911 to 1920, 1921 to 1930 and 1931 to 1940.

The Cost of Sponsorship is £150.00 for the Painting plus £50.00 for the Plaque. Of course you don't have to pay it all yourself – unless you really want to – you can always get together with colleagues/friends or family and share the cost.

For those who don't want to sponsor a Painting you can always buy a 'Limited Edition' of a print of a Submarine of your choice. Details are on the SHC Website and the Prints cost £45.00 each plus Post and Packing.

Also remember that as the 'Sponsor' of a Painting you are entitled to purchase Print No. 1 of the 'Limited Edition' print run of 'your' Painting.

Barrie Downer, Terry Spurling  
27th January 2008

**Lieutenant Commander  
Thomas Godman, Royal Naval  
Reserve**

### A short biography by Barrie Downer.

Whilst researching WWI Submariners I established the following information about Thomas Godman from the Navy Lists and his Naval Service Record:

He was born in Kingston upon Hull on 10th Jun 1889. On leaving school he joined the Merchant Marine and, before the First World, he served as an Extra 3rd Mate on the Cunard Liner RMS CAMPANIA in which he was serving on 23rd Jul 1913. He had been appointed as a Probationary Sub Lieutenant, RNR on 30th Jun 1913. He was called up to the Royal Navy for 'Active Service' on 11th Aug 1914.

Thomas Godman was appointed to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS MAIDSTONE (8th Submarine Flotilla) at Harwich 'for Submarines' on 16th Aug 1914. He was promoted to Sub Lieutenant, RNR on 10th Oct 1914 with a back dated Seniority of 1st Jul 1913 and was then promoted to Acting Lieutenant, RNR on 13th Sep 1914. Thomas Godman was then appointed to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS ALECTO (8th Submarine Flotilla) at Great Yarmouth 'for Submarine D7 as Third Hand/Navigator' on 4th Feb 1915 (Nominal List). He was further promoted to Lieutenant, RNR on 2nd Aug 1915. Submarine D7 was transferred to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS BONAVENTURE on 8th Nov 1915 and, on 29th Nov 1915 was transferred to the Submarine Depot Ship HMS TITANIA.

On 8th Mar 1916 Thomas Godman left Submarines and was appointed to HMS PRESIDENT 'for the Royal Naval Air Service' but it is reported that he was discharged from the RNAS only a month later in April 1916 under somewhat of a cloud about his behaviour – thought to have been the result of insubordination. His next appointment was to HMS PEMBROKE (the Royal Naval Barracks) at Chatham on 25th Apr 1916 for a 30-day 'Gunnery Course'. He then was appointed to the Cruiser HMS BÉRWICK on 11th Jun 1916 and to the Armed Merchant Cruiser NALDERA 'as First Lieutenant' on 2nd Oct 1918. He was appointed to HMS EXCELLENT on 15th Mar 1919 and was demobilised on 14th May 1919. It is reported that suffered an unspecified serious illness in 1919 and 1920.

Thomas Godman did not return to sea with the Royal Navy and he was transferred to the Retired List of the Royal Naval Reserve 'at his own request' on 20th Jun 1921. It is reported that he was working in Germany between 1922 and 1927 in a Shipping Business.

Thomas Godman had been promoted to Lieutenant Commander, RNR on the Retired List on 2nd Aug 1923. By 1928 he had moved to Canada and he was living at 28, Holles Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thomas Godman, who was married to Dorothy Margaret Godman, died at Haxby, York on 4th Dec 1964 at the age of seventy five. He is buried in the York Cemetery and his Gravestone is inscribed as follows:

**Sacred to the memory of  
Lt Commander  
Thomas Godman, DSC, RNR  
Croix de Guerre  
Order of St. Anne of Russia  
Born in Hull on 10th June 1889  
Endowed with a happy disposition,  
a brilliant mind  
and a valiant spirit  
he strove to serve his fellow  
man  
inspiring affection and respect.  
He died in Haxby, York on  
4th December 1964  
Erected by his devoted wife  
Dorothy Margaret**

Further information then came to light - a York Cemetery Trust website contains the following information about Thomas

Godman. It differs somewhat from the brief biography above:

"Thomas Godman joined the Royal Navy in 1913 and served extensively in Submarines. During this time he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Order of St Anne which was awarded personally by the Czar of Russia after Godman's Submarine had rescued a party of shipwrecked Russian fishermen during the First World War.

He obtained his pilot's flying licence, No. 77, in 1916 and transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service seeing action in France where he was shot down and severely injured. He was rescued by a Canadian soldier who was decorated for his bravery. Godman's arm was badly hurt leading to his retirement from the armed forces in 1919 aged 30.

Between the wars he spent much time in both Russia and Germany, involved in import/export trade but supplying information to our intelligence services. Shortly before the war was declared in 1939 he escaped from Templehof Airport, Berlin with the Gestapo hot on his heels. He provided much valuable target information to the authorities in Britain. In 1944 he served as a civilian with the United States Welfare Section helping to organise the despatch of GI Brides."

No record has yet been found of the rescue of Russian Seamen or the award of the Russian Decoration (personally by the Czar), the Croix de Guerre or of the award of the DSC none of these awards are apparent in the lists the London Gazette. It is unclear how much action he saw in the air in France as he only appears to have been in the RNAS for a month. Details of his apparently colourful life after leaving the Navy have yet to be verified. A Distinguished Service Cross was awarded to a Lieutenant Thomas Ellison Godman (no relation of the Submariner Thomas Godman) for his services as a Sub Lieutenant RNVR in HM Yacht SERIOLA during the evacuation from the beaches of Dunkirk (See London Gazette dated 16th Aug 1940.

This Thomas Godman was later appointed to the Destroyer HMS HAVOCK and died in Malta on 4th Jan 1942.  
All very mysterious!





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## DISCLAIMER

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## News Letter Contact Information

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the news letter then ring Ben Britten on 01229 820265 (evenings) or if you wish to send me an article please ring for postal address. or send your contribution by e-mail to:

**Rwbritten1@msn.com**

Constructive suggestions about the news letter are very welcome. The news letter will be published in the last week of each month IE last week of February for the March 2008 issue please try and have any information with me by the **15th of each month.** Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.



[www.rnsubmus.co.uk](http://www.rnsubmus.co.uk)



## Members Birthdays February 2008

M.Flemming	03/02
T.Gale	11/02
L.Dennett	19/02
Y.Thornton	20/02
M.Moreland	23/02
B.Daniels	26/02
G.Chapman	26/02



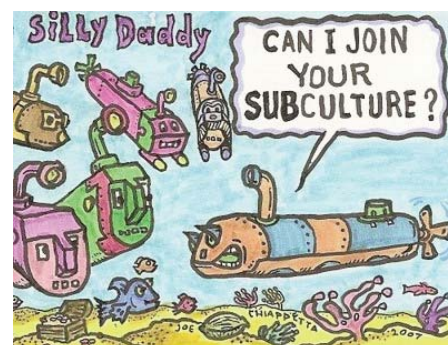
## New Member Joining in January John Oldfield A Warm Welcome to you

### The Editor

May I thank all who have contributed to this months News letter, over the years Brian Kerr contributed to this news letter with dits from his time in the submarine service and of the characters he met, characters that only a submariner would appreciate, if you can recall them you will know what I mean. I will publish one of his dits in the March edition.

Do you have any publishable dits for the news letter, if so please see contact details to the left of this column.

Regards  
Ben



Lord These Departed shipmates with Dolphins on their chest are part of an outfit known as the best. Make them welcome and take them by the hand you'll find without doubt they are the best in the land. So heavenly father add their names to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol let them know that we who survive will always keep there memories alive

The names of those members reported in January to have 'Crossed the Bar'



12th January 2008



**Brian "Geaorge" Ker**  
Petty Officer (ME)  
P/KX 907938  
Aged 71

Submarine Service 1954-1964  
Thule (Twice) Telemachus  
Thorough, Explorer, Grampus



Dolphin Branch  
April 2007

**W.(Bill). Knowles**  
Engine room Artificer 3rd  
class  
P/SMX 667818  
Aged 85

Submarine Service 1942-1948  
Viking & Seneschal



Brierley Hill Branch  
21st December 2007

**P.(Pete) Downing**  
ME1  
D/KX 902734  
Aged 74

Submarine Service 1957-1963  
Tapir, Tally HO & Finwhale



Non Member  
22d January 2008

**Eddie Whelan**  
Chief Wem(o)  
Submarine service on  
Opossum & Conqueror



London Branch

January 2008

**CJ (Chris) Walsh**  
Leading Torpedo Operator  
D/SSX 27842

Aged 90

Submarine Service 1938-1940  
Sunfish



London Branch

January 2008

**EF (Eddie) Mundy**  
Stoker 1st Class  
PX/179792

Aged 83

Submarine Service 1945-1946  
Taku, U2502, U3017, Votary  
Vulpine



Welsh Branch

9th January

**Sir John Harvey-Jones, MBE**  
Lieutenant Commander  
Aged 83

Submarine Service 1943-1946  
Trusty, Sturdy, Voracious,  
Sea Scout & Surf



Birmingham Branch

January 2008

**W.F (Bill) Scott**  
Petty Officer (2nd Coxn)  
P/JX 839061

Aged 75

Submarine Service 1953-1959  
Aeneas, Teredo & Sleuth



Hull Branch & West Riding  
Branch

21st January 2008

**POM(E)**  
C/KX 622960

Aged 83

Submarine Service 1948-1955  
Tradewind, Acheron, Astute  
Selene



West of Scotland Branch

January 2008

**A.E(Sandy) Barclay**  
Warrant Officer WEM (O)  
D073646W

Aged 60

Submarine Service 1971-1992  
Swifture, Revenge, Repulse



Dolphin Branch

13th January

**C.A.W (Chris) Russell OBE**  
Commander  
Aged 79

Submarine Service 1949-1977  
Astute, Sea Scout, Springer  
Teredo, Tudor, Artemis(CO),  
Sea Scout (CO),  
Explorer (CO)  
Alliance (CO)  
Onslaught (CO)  
Repulse Stbd (CO)



Non Member

13th January 2008  
**D.W (DON) Mitchell**  
Captain

Submarine Service  
Acheron (CO)  
Swiftsure (CO)  
Spartan Temp (CO)



Welsh Branch

January 2008

**G (Glen) Scott**  
EM1

D/SMX 895557

Aged 74

Submarine Service 1954-1957  
Turpin, Ambush & Trespasser



Non Member

January 2008

**John Meyers, BEM**  
Chief OPS (TS) (SM)



**Dolphin Branch**

January 2008

P.W (Patrick) Dillon

Telgraphist (TO)

P/JX 162243

Aged 85

Submarine Service 1940-1953

Oberon (1), H50, Tally HO,

P37, Sirdar, Sanguine, Talent

Truncheon

**Australia Branch**

23rd January 2008

M.M.E (Mike) Pearson

Able Seaman (UC3)

D/SSX 958491

Aged 70

Submarine Service 1957-1962

Taciturn, Seraph, Andrew

Tactician

**Merseyside Branch**

22nd January 2008

A. (Arthur) Stafford

Stoker 1st Class

D/KX 1653092

Aged 83

Submarine Service 1943-1946

SunFish, Subtle &amp; Scorcher

**SUBSCRIPTIONS 2008**

Yes it's that time of year when we must dig deep and pay our treasurer our £10 subscriptions for 2008. As you all know we are required to pay £5 per member to the National Treasurer by 1st March to render the branch as "paid up" entitling us to send our delegate to represent us at the Annual Conference of the National Council of the Submariners Association. (Which would otherwise be embarrassing as we are hosting here in Barrow)

The treasurer and committee wish to extend their thanks to all those who have already paid for this year and urge those who have not, to make suitable arrangements to do so.

If you would prefer to make arrangements to pay via your bank please see Mick Mailey who will be only too willing to provide you with details for this.

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## Footloose

24 June 2007, Colorado) If you get "Footloose" and cut the rug on an oil tank, be sure not to light a cigarette (or bong of weed) else you may soon be walking up the proverbial "Stairway to Heaven".

News reports say a crude oil storage tank exploded as two teens were jumping on it, hurling the youths to their deaths.

The tank, owned by Pinnacle Oil Company, exploded during a party in Routt National Forest. The victims were identified as Samuel and Christopher, 17 and 19.

After smoking marijuana and liquoring themselves up at this "popular party spot," the "Footloose" teens decided that it would be fun to leap and cavort upon a mostly-empty oil tank. Their energetic "Saturday Night Fever" gyrations caused fumes to leak from the relief valve...

"There were several ignitions sources," according to Rio Blanco County Undersheriff Michael Joos. One teenager was smoking, and there was a bonfire nearby. One or another of these "ignition sources" sparked a flashdance that sent the two teens hurtling 150 yards away from the explosion.

So let's go over the Check Points, aka The Rules:

1. **Reproduction:** at 17 and 19, they weren't married, nor had they reproduced, nor can they now reproduce. Check!
2. **Excellence:** They thought it

was wise to jump up and down on an oil tank containing 160 barrels of crude oil, while stoned out of their gourds. Check!

3. **Self Selection:** These two were stoned insensible, and drunker then the town drunk, while dancing on a oil tank exuding flammable vapors. And there's a campfire nearby. Check!

4. **Maturity:** At 17 and 19, both are over the minimum age of 16. Check!

5. **Veracity:** Big check!

In the end, this was definitely a "Footloose" dance that turned into a "Flash\*BOOM\*Dance!"

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## Nail Biters



guppy III USS Pickerel SS-524 surfacing



USS San Francisco after an uncharted object got in the way

