

# News etter Barrow-in-Furness Branch



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Followed by:-National issues Quiz4 The Chaplain

## The January word



Let me commence by wishing the Committee and all of our Membership and their families the

very best of wishes for the New Year. We can look back at our highlights and forward to new challenges and that's quite exciting. It is therefore not my intention to write a long Chairman's epistle as I have already covered a lot of ground in my Chaplain Dit, and another document. So I would like to use the space to Launch a Ladies and Widows plus Supporting Friends Network. Having already discussed the feasibility at Committee level, I have made it one of my New Year's resolutions to set the ball rolling. The former Chairman of the Gosport Branch, whose branch has been operating such a network for a few years, has confirmed its success. So I will now set too and produce some sort of launch document.

**Regards Jonsey** 





From Helmand "A Merry **Christmas and May Your** Evebrows stay with you".

> Time: Midnight

**Place: Middle of Enemy** Territory in Afghanistan.



Today we have repatriated four Royal Marines and one commando-trained Royal Artillery officer all killed in action to their loved ones, the best eulogies always come from the lads themselves and they are not always repeatable in polite conversation. But todays were awesome. Some had known the dead men since they were boys, and the humour was rich and the respect profound. Sadly, while we were praying for their souls, another of our task force, a rifleman, was killed. As I write, we are sitting in the back of a truck, just waiting for mortars or rockets to start landing. It's a strange feeling.

There is nothing you can do in circumstances except exchange the dark humour that only those who share such fears can truly understand. Random thoughts abound. A voice in the blackness asks' 'So would you rather lose a leg or an arm?' Another replies: 'I dun no a leg I guess. At least I'd still look essence from the waist up and those bouncy leg things seem to work quite well. Anyway, I know I'm not gonna die out here.'
'How's that?' 'I just do. My
fiancée said she'd kill me if I did.' "Eyebrows it!" Out here is the ultimate wager. Should you lose the bet, off come your misplaced evebrows. Your confidence, arrogance or inepti-

tude will be plain for all to see for many days to come. 'OK. If I die, the padre can have my eyebrows off,' comes the answer. Listening to this bizarre conversation between a matelot and a boot neck. The Padre hopes he doesn't have to shave anyone's eyebrows off. I'm aware this is a dark and, to some, a tasteless conversation. But such thoughts reveal much about who we are and what we value. It is a gift of sorts to those in danger. For some it is a gift that helps them discover in weeks what others spend a lifetime seeking truths about themselves and what they hold dear.

## **Social Scene** January 2009

The Christmas Social took place on 29th November and was left in the capable hands of Jeff **Thomas** and Jan Mead. attendance was down this year compared to past years, but may have been due to the atrocious weather we experienced. From the feed back I have received I believe you had a good time and a great start to your Christmas Festivities. I would like to thank Jeff and Jan for their help and Shindig for their entertainment.

Our first social occasion of the New Year is a first footing visit to the Morecambe branch on the Friday 2nd January and our first monthly meeting will be on January 6th where the Ladies and friends of the branch are also invited to attend. I will run a raffle on the night.

At the last meeting I canvassed opinion on whether members would like us to organize a Burns night do, I also e mailed members although about 15 members said they would like a do there was not enough to put on a viable function, maybe with more notice next year we could organize a Burns night.

Our next major social will be the Annual dinner and dance which is to be held at the Lisdoonie on April 11th, please get your

requests for tickets in early a list will be circulated shortly.

It was with great sadness that I heard of the passing of Margaret Budgen, she was a wonderful lady and a staunch supporter of all our social functions, I know she really enjoyed our quiz nights and was always willing to help out at particularly functions Christmas social, she will be sadly missed by us all and my condolences go to Ted and fami-

On a closing note, I look forward to seeing all the usual faces and hopefully new faces at the social functions in 2009.

Colin Hutchinson **Social Secretary** 

#### **True Luv**

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age. I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at

I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later.

woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'. So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair. She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly my wife about experience at the Social Security office.

She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too'

> And that's how the fight started.....





#### 'Submarine Rescue Ship's Fairlie Launch'

Largs and Millport Weekly News

#### 17th December 2008

Fairlie was specially selected this week to mark the naming of a Scottish built rescue Submarine on Wednesday in a prestigious occasion which attracted representatives from the Singapore Navy

The Rescue Submarines come to the aid of Submarines which are in trouble such as the KURSK off Norwegian waters which made international headlines a few years ago.

James Fisher Defence has built a Rescue Submarine for the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) in a record 22 month period and selected Fairlie Quay for the official naming ceremony.

A spokeswoman for James Fisher Defence said: "We were selected as part of a joint venture with ST Marine of Singapore, to deliver a comprehensive Submarine Rescue Service to the RSN.

A key part of the contract is the design and construction of the Rescue Submarine. "This is a very important day for James Fisher. It highlights the strengthening international relationships that the company enjoys and marks the end of nearly two years work from the James Fisher team."

Fairlie was selected for the ceremony as the local bay is being used for sea trials of the new Rescue Submarine.



## Hunt almost over for killer-class subs

A CLASS of Barrow-built nuclear powered submarines will all be withdrawn over the next 14 years, says the government.

The Trafalgar-class hunter killer submarines were each built in the town, and will eventually be replaced by the new and much larger Astute-class subs being built by BAE.

In answer to a parliamentary question, defence minister Quentin Davies said that on current planning assumptions, the Trafalgars would be decommissioned as follows: HMS Trafalgar and HMS Turbulent 2011, HMS Tireless in 2013, HMS Torbay in 2015, HMS Trenchant in 2017, HMS Talent in 2019, and HMS Triumph in 2022.

The navy currently has eight hunter killer boats, including one remaining member of the earlier all Barrow-built Swiftsure class, HMS Sceptre, and four ballistic missiles subs.





HMS Sceptre (Pictured above) is expected to be withdrawn in 2010.

The first Trafalgar-class submarine was ordered on April 7 1977 and completed in 1983.

HMS Turbulent was ordered on July 28, 1978; HMS Tireless on July 5, 1979; HMS Torbay on June 26, 1981; HMS Trenchant on March 22, 1983; HMS Talent on September 10, 1984; and finally HMS Triumph on July 3 1986.

The government is talking about ordering seven Astute boats in total from Barrow, although the original plan was for eight.

## A Big Thanks to Cooperative Funeralcare

For the second year the Cooperative Funeralcare based in Roose Road Barrow helped the Submariners Association to remember those who had fallen in the past wars.



They provided a large limousine complete with a uniformed chauffeur (David Colquhoun) totally free of charge to take a number of the more elderly or infirm from their individual homes to the cenotaph in the park on Remembrance Sunday. Once there, they kept warm in the car until the main parade arrived from the Town hall. They were then able to take part in the Service of Remembrance. It was nice to see that a wreath was laid by Duncan Learmonth on behalf of Cooperative Funeralcare too. On completion of the Service of Remembrance and wreath laying they were then taken to the Royal British Legion in Holker Street to meet up with the rest of their chums and enjoy a drink and a chat. About an hour later the limousine reappeared to take them to the Harbour Inn where the Barrow Branch of the **Submariners Association holds** own small its act remembrance.

It meant a lot to those who were able to partake of this offer as otherwise they might not have been able to attend what to us is an important event in our calendar.

Thanks once again Coop.



#### Barrie Downer



By the time that you all read this Santa Claus will have been and gone for another year I hope you had all been very good last year and got lots of presents from him!

We have also seen another New Year in 2009 already and the arrival of 2008 seems like only yesterday where does all the time go?

This year (2009) should be a bit quieter on the Social front having got all our 45th Anniversary Year functions under our belt last year although Colin is putting together another 'fun filled' programme. I hope you managed to attend as many of the events as possible and that you enjoyed them as much as I did. Colin and the Social Team had their work cut out to meet all the deadlines in 2008 but everything seems to have gone off well and Colin and his team are due the thanks of us all.

December has been a quiet month for us this year probably because the Christmas Social was early but, apart from the Monthly Meeting I expect quite a few of you will have had Office and Works Socials to contend with as well I hope you all managed to survive these with out too much of a thick head the following morning!

Now back to Branch business again. What do you all think about the 'New Look' News letter that Ben is producing?

We have had a few Issues now for you to get used to the new format. Personally I think that Ben has done a magnificent job if you think so as well then let Ben know as you all know it's nice to get a bit of appreciation for a job well done once in a while!

Mick Mailey will resume duties as the Branch Treasurer from John Houlding shortly. John has done a sterling job of 'Holding the Fort' as the Treasurer and can now revert to his other duties as Vice Chairman.

As I said last Month the Branch will be short of Committee Members from April next year unless a few more volunteers come forward. David Jenkins is definitely standing down as from the next AGM so at least one more ideally two or three **Committee Members are needed** and we still need a volunteer for Membership Secretary from April next year. If you think that you can help out then give it a bit of thought and let us know in plenty of time. 2009 will be a much quieter year we are not hosting any of the National Events this year it is up to the Northern Ireland Branch to host the National Council Conference and we know what a good thev can put

The Portsmouth Branch is to host the Annual Draw this time. So from the point of view of Branch Events and their organisation it would be a good time to join the Committee and see how things are done and give plenty of time to build up experience for the arrangements for the Branch 50th anniversary in 2013! Colin can always use a hand to see to the details of each event you might want to do all the arrangements yourself once you get the hang of it. Of course being on the Committee is another excuse for an evening out once a Month for the Committee Meeting at the RBL. On the subject of the National **Council Conference in Northern** Ireland if you did have any items you wished to raise for the Agenda at the Conference it's too late for this year!

All Items for the Agenda had to be with the National Secretary by 31st December. Still if there is something which worries you about the Association and it's organisation you now have a whole year to refine your proposals for consideration in 2010! Bob Palmer is to be the **Branch Delegate for the Confer**ence as John Hart has stood down well for this year at least! Also on the subject of the 2009 National Council Conference next March (Weekend 27th to 30th March) it's still not too late to attend the Conference as an

Observer or to attend the supporting events. Indications are that we will have a good attendance from the Barrow Branch but all those travelling or intending to travel should have booked your Hotels and accommodation by now but if you haven't - you do need to book for yourselves and you do need to hurry up as the hotels are filling up fast! Details of the Coach to take all travelling members across to Ireland which should be much cheaper and easier than everyone making their own arrangements will be available shortly. Watch this space!!

Did anyone go to the HMS **RENOWN Association Reunion** in Leicester on W/E 21st to 23rd Nov 2008? If you did can you write a report to put in the Newsletter or on the Website? If you have some photographs as well that would be even better! Just write your dit and send it to me or to Ben Britten and see your article in print!

Don't forget the 'First Footing' to the Morecambe Bay Branch on Friday 2nd January there is a minibus to get you there so if it had slipped your mind and you still want to go get in touch with John Houlding or any Member of the Committee ASAP! The Morecambe Bay Branch always look after us well so it a trip not to miss! See you all at the January Branch Meeting on Tuesday 6th January at the Royal British Legion at 2000 so don't be late and new Members are always welcome. Don't forget that it is also to be a Social **Evening with the Ladies and an** invitation has been extended to our Army and RAF Chums to attend as well for a bit of a 'knees up'. I hear there will be an 'Up Spirits' as well so make sure come on the train, on the bus, in a taxi or get some one else to drive or walk so you can enjoy your 'Tot' once again.

As always another long 'dit' from me again this month I must learn to write a bit less but there is so much going on that you all need to know about but it's been another busy month again!

See you there! Barrie



#### 'One of a Kind' Nuclear Sub to be 'inactivated' at Shipyard

Fosters Daily Democrat 3rd December 2008

#### KITTERY, Maine

'one-of-a-kind' nuclear powered undersea research and ocean engineering Submarine will soon make its way to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where it will gradually be inactivated after nearly 40 years of exploring the seas.



The NR-1, a U.S. Navy nuclear powered exploration Submarine, is scheduled to arrive at the Shipyard in early December, according to Gary Hildreth a public affairs spokesman for the Shipyard.

specific date for the Submarine's arrival will not be released until 24 hours prior, said Hildreth, and the Boat is expected to stay at the Shipyard for one year.

The specialized Submarine has performed a variety of missions that included search, object geological survey, recovery, oceanographic research, and installation and maintenance of underwater equipment. Following the loss of the Space Shuttle 'Challenger' in 1986 the NR-1 was used to search for, identify and recover critical parts of the 'Challenger' spacecraft. has also recovered weapons from the ocean floor in 1976, discovered three wrecks along the Mediterranean trade route at the Skerki Bank in 1995, surveyed the remains of the USS **MONITOR and USS AKRON in** 2002 and explored the Flower Garden Banks in the Gulf of Mexico in 2007.

The 'inactivation' process includes the Submarine being

de-fuelled using the same techniques that have been used to refuel and de-fuel more than 400 naval nuclear reactors. In addition, hydraulic systems are drained; expendable materials, parts spare furnishings are removed; and tanks containing oil and other fluids are drained and cleaned. Following the successful completion of the inactivation, the Boat will then be prepared for Bremerton, transport to for Washington, reactor compartment disposal at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance 'De-activation Facility. A 'De-activation Ceremony' was held for the NR-1 at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., on 21st November.

According to the U.S. Navy 'fact file' on the deep submergence craft, the NR-1 can perform a variety of tasks, including underwater search oceanographic recovery, research missions installation and maintenance of underwater equipment, to a depth of over half a mile. Its unique features include extendible bottoming wheels, three viewing ports, exterior lighting and television and still cameras for color photographic studies, an object recovery claw, a manipulator that can be fitted various gripping with cutting tools, and a work basket that can be used in conjunction with the manipulator to deposit or recover items in the sea.

The submarine also contains sophisticated electronics and computers that navigation, communications, and object location and identification. It is capable of manoeuvering or holding a steady position on or close to the seabed or underwater ridges, detecting and identifying objects at a considerable distance, and even lifting objects off the ocean floor. Capable of travelling approximately 4 knots for long periods, the 150-foot vessel can study and map the ocean bottom, including temperature, currents and other information for military, commercial and scientific uses. "Its nuclear propulsion provides independence from surface support ships and essentially unlimited endurance" according to the 'fact file'. The NR-1 is generally towed to and from remote mission locations by accompanying surface vessel, which is also capable of conducting research in conjunction with the submarine.

The Submarine was built by **General Dynamics-Electric Boat** Division and was launched at the Groton facility on 25th Jan 1969, successfully and completed her initial sea trials on 19th Aug 1969.

The Boat's crew consists of two Officers, three enlisted Seamen and two Scientists. Her final mission was a hunt for the wreck of the 'BONHOMME RICHARD' the Flagship of American Naval hero John Paul Jones in 2008.

#### Childish Humour

A nursery school pupil told his teacher He'd found a cat, but it was dead. 'How do you know that the cat was dead?'She asked her pupil. 'Because I pissed in its ear and it didn't move,' Answered the child innocently. 'You did WHAT?' teacher exclaimed surprise.'You know,' explained the boy, 'I leaned over and went 'Pssst' and it didn't move'

One summer evening during a violent thunderstorm A mother was tucking her son into bed. She was about to turn off the light when he Asked with a tremor in his voice, 'Mummy, will you sleep with me tonight?' The mother smiled and gave him a reassuring hug. 'I can't dear,' she said. 'I have to sleep in Daddy's room.' A long silence was broken at last by his shaky little voice, 'The big sissy.'

A little girl asked her mother, 'Can I go outside and play with the boys?' Her mother replied, 'No, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough.' The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, If I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?'



#### Revolutionary Submarine Design: The SSGT



An innovative new hybrid gas turbine and fuel cell submarine that, it is claimed, can travel faster and further than conventional diesel-electric and more quietly than nuclear submarines has been designed by BMT Defence Services Ltd, a subsidiary of British Maritime Technology Ltd (BMT), in consultation with Rolls-Royce. The new concept, known as the Ship Submersibles Gas Turbine (or SSGT), is alleged to possess superior capabilities to the current generation of diesel-electric attack boats (SSKs).

If brought to fruition it will travel at speeds of 20 knots for up to as much as 6,000 nautical miles, with short 'sprints' of up to 30 knots. It will, so BMT claim, be quieter during stealth operations than nuclear powered submarines, which must operate pump machinery continuously.

Dr Andrew Tyler, Managing Director of BMT Defence Services, told WARSHIPS IFR: "The SSGT concept is a major breakthrough in the design history of submarines with the novel, but practical, application of gas turbine technology. "By new hybrid developing a propulsion system BMT has been able to provide greater flexibility in the speed, range and quietness achieved by the vessel. "We have been very pleased with how well the concept was received by defence professionals when

announced it at Pacific 2004, the maritime exhibition held recently in Sydney, Australia. "We are confident this innovative design will bring the skills of BMT to the attention of navies around the world that need unconventional, but non-nuclear, submarines."

BMT, which describes itself as a multi-disciplinary engineering and technology consultancy, claims the SSGT's high-speed, long endurance transit capability is made possible by an innovative propulsion design that uses twin, independent gas turbine alternator sets, housed in a 'bulb' on top of the fin. When in the fast transit mode, the boat operates as a semi-submersible with the bulb above the surface.

For more covert, but slower, transit requirements, fuel cell stack provide the ship's services and propulsion power.

The stacks take in air from the atmosphere through a short mast; this then reacts with hydrogen obtained from reformed kerosene, which is carried in external fuel bags mounted under the casing.

In-theatre, SSGT will operate fully submerged, in Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) mode, for up to 25 days.

The fuel cell stacks are fed by liquid oxygen (LOX) stored onboard, to permit fully covert operations at up to 10 knots.

The 30 knot sprints confer tactical advantage and are provided by power drawn from a large advanced ZEBRA battery that also acts as a load leveller during operation of the fuel cells or the gas turbines. The design offers a flexible mix of vertical and horizontal weapon discharge tubes and Unmanned Underwater Vehicle (UUV) stowage able to satisfy a range of mission profiles.

The vessel's systems are fully integrated, making it highly capable, cost effective and environmentally sound.

The Pricipal Characteristics are:-

Leght Overall 80.8m Maximum Beam 11.4m Diameter of Pressure hull 7.6m Submerged dispacement 4195 t at full load. Surfacce Displacement 3700 t Crew 25

#### **Mobility**

Maximum sprint speed: 30 knots (submerged on Battery) High speed transit: 20 knots (semi submerged on gas turbine)

Standard Transit: 10 knots (snorting on fuel cells with reformed kerosene)

Maximum transit range: 6000 nuatical miles at 20 knots & 13000 nautical miles at 10 knots Typical mission: 2500nm transit out at 20 knots, 28 day AIP on task at 5 knots, return to base at 10 knots.

Stores endurance 60 days.

#### **Payload**

Radar, ESM and extensive communications.

Advanced combat management system- conformal bow flank and fin arrays.

6 x 21 inch torpedo tubes with 12 heavy weight or equivalent weapons.

8 x Virtical launch system tubes for heavy weight weapons.

Accommodation for 12 special forces personnel.

6 man lock in/ lock out chamber Provision for special forces stores under casing and in pressure hull.

4 x large UUV's (some able to serve as SF swimmer delivery vechiles.

16 x Counter measure tubes.





### **BR** doctor honored for saving British sailor

By

#### **SANDY DAVIS**

Advocate staff writer

Published: Dec 19, 2008

The story of an Earl K. Long doctor sounds like a scene from a James Bond movie: an unassuming physician who rides his bike to work every day is also a hero to the British Navy for his daring



rescue of a submarine sailor on the Arctic polar ice cap. British Royal Navy Commodore Steve Ramm was at LSU Earl K. Long Medical Center on Thursday to honor David Crawford, resident in emergency care, in a surprise ceremony for the 2007 rescue.

Crawford was a lieutenant commander and a medical officer in the U.S. Navy when on March 20, 2007, he was sent to an ice camp 210 miles north of Alaska on the Arctic polar ice cap.

The ice camp was providing support to two submarines, Britain's HMS Tireless and the USS Alexandria, which were both under the ice cap scientific conducting experiments, Ramm said.

"I had just been at the camp for about two hours when we got the call," Crawford said.

As darkness covered the ice, the Tireless sent out a distress call saying there had been an explosion on board and the sailors needed urgent medical assistance.



An oxygen generator that provides the life-sustaining element to the submarine had exploded and injured three sailors, while others were being exposed to smoke.

The officers on the emergency call said the submarine was going to surface by punching through thin ice, Ramm said.

darkness Because had descended over the Arctic, helicopters could not fly to where the submarine had surfaced. Instead, a six-man team, including Crawford, decided to travel the 3 miles across the thin ice in snow mobiles, Ramm said.

It took 45 minutes to reach the sub in minus 50-degree temperatures.

"On the way, the snow mobile my husband was on flipped over," said Karen Crawford, Crawford's wife of 21 years. "They just turned it back over and kept going."

The group boarded the sub wearing oxygen masks because of the smoke.

Two of the sailors were dead and one was seriously injured, Ramm said.

"It was a difficult decision to move the injured man," Crawford said. "But we had

Loading him onto a rigid inflatable boat that was turned into a stretcher, the team pulled the sailor behind a snowmobile to the ice camp. providéd Crawford continuous treatment along the way.

From there, a helicopter flew Crawford and the sailor to the Alaskan mainland, where they boarded an airplane to Elmendorf Air Force Base in southern Alaska.

The trip from the submarine to the Air Force base took eight hours. For six of those, Crawford provided continuous treatment.

"The sailor lived," Ramm said.

For his heroics, Crawford was awarded the British Navy Commander-in-Chief Fleet's Commendation.

"I guess I was worried about the thin ice and I hoped we didn't run into a polar bear, Crawford told those gathered in a conference room at the hospital, including his wife, 12-year-old daughter, Hannah, and other hospital staff.

"But I don't think I'm a hero," he added.

Hannah disagreed.

"I am so inspired by him," she said. "He always wants to help people.'







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 December to have 'Crossed the Bar'



Barrow-in-Furness Branch
22nd December
Tim Coop
LCEM
D087984N
Aged 60
Submarine Service 1967-1975
Churchil, Valiant & Sovereign



Australia Branch
1st December
John Crisford, DSM
(Formerly Crutch)
Petty Officer Telegraphist
C/LDX 5493
Aged 93
Submarine service WWII
H28, Unbroken & Thule



Bury Branch
December 2008
FA (Francis) Grice
Able Seaman (ST)
D/JX 306785
Aged 85
Submarine service 1942-1946
Ultimatum, Upstart
& Untiring



SAA New South Wales
Branch
1st December
Peter Warren Vidler
Petty Officer EWRSM

Submarine service 1964-1970 Porpoise, Walrus, Otway & Oxley



Scottish Branch
3rd December
A D (Alex) Swinton
Chief Petty Officer Coxswain
P/JX 850860
Aged 78
Andrew, Tireless,
Thermopylae, Astute,
Tally HO, Seadevil,
Truncheon & Porpoise



South Kent Branch

11th December
Alan (Ginge) Easterbrook
Leading Seaman (UW2)
P/SSX 905754
Aged 72
Submarine service 1955-1963
Sleuth, Sentinel, Artemis
& Porpoise



Non Member
December 2008
John Ashby
Chief MEA
Aged 74
Submrine Service in
Ambush, Andrew, Artemis,
Artful, Excalibur, Explorer,
Narwhal & Oppossum



## THE LAWS OF ULTIMATE REALITY

Law of Mechanical Repair

After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you'll have to pee.

Law of Gravity

Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of Probability

The probability of being seen is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

**Law of Random Numbers** 

If you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal and someone always answers.

Law of the Alibi

If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.

**Variation Law** 

If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

Law of the Bath

When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.

**Law of Close Encounters** 

The probability of meeting someone you know increases dramatically when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.

Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Biomechanics

The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

Law of the Theater

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

The Starbucks Law

As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.



#### **DISCLAIMER**

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# New Members Joining in December

## William McLaughlin

Chief MEM (M) William (Mac) McLaughlin served in Submarines from 1965-1986 in HMS OLYMPUS (66-68), RESOLUTION (68-73), SUPERB (74-79), SPLENDID (79-82), TURBULENT (82-85) and TORBAY (85-86).

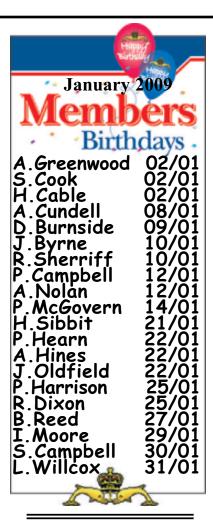
#### John W Rogers

Chief Petty Officer MEA (M)
John (Buck) Rogers served
in Submarines from 19781989 in Submarines
HMS SUPERB (78-81),
SPLENDID (82-85) and
TRENCHANT (86-89).

#### Ken Williams

RO2 (G) Ken Williams served in Submarines from 1968-1975 and in Submarines HMS WARSPITE, COURAGEOUS, WARSPITE, ODIN and OTTER.

Welcome gentlemen
We hope to see you at Branch
Meetings and at both Branch
and National Social events



www.rnsubmus.co.uk



#### 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 January for the February 2009 issue please try and have any information with me by the **15th of each month**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.



## SOCIAL CALENDAR 2009 - LOOK AHEAD

## •••••••

January

2nd First Footing 6th Monthly Meeting 20th Committee Meeting 23/25th K13 W/E February

3rd Monthly Meeting

17th Committee

Meeting

20th Blackpool Visit

## 66666666666

March

3rd Monthly Meeting 6/13th KORBRA trip 17th Committee Meeting 27/29th Annual Conf

#### True Luv

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first. 'I'll have a t bone steak, medium rare, please.' He said, 'Aren't you worried about the mad cow?' 'Nah, she can order for herself.'

AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED





#### **REUNION 09**

The committee have decided that we should return to Nottingham next year. Unfortunately our traditional date was unavailable so we have opted for the following week, there, make a note before you forget - the date is Friday 9th to Sunday 11th October with the usual options for the Thursday and Sunday evenings. Jim and I have a meeting with the hotel late January early February so it will be after that before I will be able to give any details on the packages and the room and overflow allocations.

A lesson learned from this year is that when the closing date is reached I will then do the allocations so that you have more notice. If you then are not happy you have plenty of time to cancel.

Against that I will not be prepared to spend my reunion trying to satisfy late comers as I did this year.

# NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE 2009

As the National Secretary I am aware of the many and varied opinions regarding the location for the next National Council Conference.

The vast majority of comments are very positive and supportive of the venue. However there are a few who are not so keen on travelling to Northern Ireland for the event. I should remind you at this point that the venue is decided at each Conference where those wishing to host the event put their case to the assembled Delegates. Once all the presentations are completed a vote is taken. So only those who attend the National Conference can have a say in where the following one will be.

Were you represented at the Conference in Barrow-in-Furness in 2008? I agree as does the NMC that Bangor, Northern Ireland is quite some distance to travel but I'm sure that all

Secretaries have informed their branch members that the National will assist financially with the cost involved.

This assistance is for the Branch Delegate only and does not apply to observers. So let's have a good turn out in Belfast and let the democratic procedure represent the majority of branches.

## Royal Navy Submarine School Heritage Area



The Heritage area of the Royal Navy Submarine School at HMS RALEIGH has been dedicated to the memory of a former Warrant Officer Coxswain who worked tirelessly to bring the project to completion.

WO Simon 'Jim' Slater joined the School in 2001 and was instrumental in gathering artefacts for the site, which is used extensively to educate new recruits and other visitors about the history of the Submarine Service.

The site was completed in May 2002 and was officially opened by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. In recognition of Jim's enthusiasm and dynamism for the project he was awarded the MBE in December 2002.

Sadly Jim passed away unexpectedly in August 2008, aged 50, just four months after leaving the Service. Jim's widow, Bev, and sons, Michael, aged 14, and William, aged 12, along with other members of his extended family, were invited to

the Submarine School for a small dedication ceremony when a photograph of Jim was unveiled at the entrance to the heritage area.

Commander Rob Dunn, the Officer Commanding the Royal Navy Submarine School, said:

#### WO Coxswain Jim Slater

"Jim was an inspirational submariner, who was widely respected by all those who were fortunate enough to know him. The heritage area is excellent in helping to build and foster the widely envied ethos and esprit de corps of the Submarine Service. We were very pleased to dedicate the area to Jim and honour his memory in this way."

WO Jim Slater joined the Royal Navy in 1974 as a Junior Assistant Steward 2nd Class. He was one of the last boy sailors to train at HMS GANGES. After working his way up to Petty Officer Steward, he transferred to the Submarine's Coxswain's branch and undertook many submarine patrols.



2008 Memorial Service at the Royal Navy Submarine School

Items on this page are taken from the Dec 2008 issue of IN DEPTH



Official Newsletter of the Submariners Association

Patron: Admiral the Lord Boyce GCB OBE DL



# Solve the New Year submarine wordsearch

We hope you enjoyed last month's submarine crossword. If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page.

This month we return to a wordsearch for the first edition of 2009 with 15 words to find, all with strong submarine links.

The words could be backwards or forwards, up, down, or horizontal.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how our puzzles can be improved or developed, drop an email to Bill Myers at bill.myers@nwemail.co.uk Your words to search for

1: DISPLACEMENT

2: BEAM

3: WIRELESS

4: ENGINE

5: MINE

**6: PRESSURE HULL** 

7: BULKHEADS

8: TUBES

9: REFIT

10: DESIGN

**11: KNOTS** 

12: CELL

**13: CLASS** 

14: BATTERY

**15: NAUTILUS** 



#### Last month's crossword solution







Here we are four days into the New Year when normally all the Jones household decorations are put away. This year for a variety of reasons they were late going up and because they take so long to drag out of the loft I was going to get some reward for my effort come what may. I also think we were seen off with the purchase of a small potted, root an all, Christmas tree from the supermarket. The tree was

destined to become our new year on year feature. Alas it was not to be, as I moved it a couple of hours ago with the result the needles fell off and stuck all over my woolen jumper and I now feel as if I have gone three rounds, with a porcupine. As most of you will know I undertook the challenging privilege of conducting the funeral of one of our branch members namely Tim Coop. To then return home and receive news of the death of a family friend whose widow wants me to be involved with helping organise Jim's funeral. So you may forgive me for being in a guiet reflective mood. This in turn took me down the path of thinking about those members and families that need our support thoughts and prayer at this time. There is a danger that the list can get inordinately long and someone may get left off the list. However its worthy to note the following: Ted Budgen and family: Linda, Tim's widow and her family: The Downer family for Margaret who lost her friend of many years standing, and Barrie's mother who is recovering from a major operation. Not forgetting TPS who is facing a serious operation, and thoughts and prayers for Bett. and family. There was an article in the Sunday Mail December 21<sup>st</sup> on the Royal Naval Chaplain of the 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines (Rev David Wylie), that it brings to mind the realities of front Chaplaincy, and the humour, often black, that exists in the military. I will attempt if there is room, to publish a shortened copy, for the Newsletter. I came across some challenging maxims on an obscure Web Page that I thought would be interesting to mull over as we leave 2008 and move into 2009.

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider motorways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgment, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine, but less wellness. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbour. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not

better things. "The number of breaths we take does not measure life, it

is by the moments that take our breath away".

Regards The Chaplain