

Submariners Association Barrow-in-Furness Branch



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WELFARE COMMITTEE



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Chairman's Dit February 2009 Annual K13 Memorial Weekend

This year our Branch attended the Submarine K13 Memorial Weekend and it was for me my first time, and I am glad I made the effort. As we all know the weekend commemorates the sinking of K13 in the Gareloch in January 1917 that has now become a regular feature of the West of Scotland Branch and Faslane Naval Base social programme and has developed into a somewhat formal roufine.

The weekend kicked off with the traditional attending branch members meeting and greeting in the WO & SR Mess bar (where else!!). This year five other branches joined the West of Scotland Branch Meeting where their Chairman Jim McMaster warmly welcomed us. The formal business meeting was brief to allow time for a presentation given by Commander Piers Barker. "The Submarine Service during the Past Year".





This was followed with Up Spirits. Our Saturday events include a visit to SSBN Victorious and in the evening a formal Memorial Dinner, with a difference. As the cost for the dinner if we used the waiter service was fifty pound per head as opposed to a ten pounds if we served ourselves. The collective answer was a resounding no brainer. Hence Commander the Andrew Corbett who delivered a witty after dinner speech, based around "cutting long stories short" still had to line up with the rest of us. Cause we are all **Buddies in Boats.**



Sunday On after breakfast/brunch there was Memorial Service in the Base Church and the Standards were paraded. After a simple service conducted by Royal Naval Chaplain the **Rev Andrew Corness we were all** transported to Garelochhead Cemetery where those who died in the accident are buried in a mass grave.

There was another simple service alongside the grave during which the Sea Cadets once for each man lost, tolled the K13 Submarine Bell.



Wreaths were are then laid at the Mass Grave including one by a 104 year senior citizen Batchelor Amy who had witnessed some of the events at the time of the tragedy. But because she was a hotel parlour maid no one would believe her of seeing two men in the water. Although she is now wheel chair bound she is still aware of things around her. The image above was taken in 2004, and she still wears the same hat today.



At great expense we have been able to capture via the magic of Bob Sheriff's digital camera the image of our six-man Barrow in Furness Posse. Where is Bob Faragher I hear you ask? Well, on that very afternoon he had been set upon by the Northern Ireland gang, and had been forced, against his better nature, to drink white man's fall down medicine and was therefore unable to come out to play.

Regards Jonsey

Social Scene February 2009



It was nice to see so many of the ladies at the first monthly meeting of the year no doubt there will be a couple of more

meetings with the ladies in attendance throughout the year.

As you know by now the first footing visit to the Morecambe branch on the Friday 2nd January was postponed until February 6th due to a number of circumstances, at present we have nine members who have put their names down to go, there are still three or four places left, John Houlding has kindly agreed to be the chauffer for the evening, if you are interested in going see myself or John at the February meeting.

Annual dinner Saturday April 11th

Our next major social will be the Annual dinner and dance which is to be held at the Lisdoonie on Saturday April 11th, I have

attached the proposed menu and ticket request list to this newsletter. Please get your bids in early as it makes the planning that much easier. If you have any special dietary requirements please let me know, also if you have a preference on who you would like to sit with let me know. The cost will be £26 per head for a 3 course meal with ½ bottle wine and entertainment. Not sure yet who the guest of honour will be or the entertainment as the one I had planned cannot now make that date, if you have any suggestions for a suitable band that you have seen please let me know.

Last year for our 45th Anniversary we commissioned commemorative badges, some where distributed at the Annual dinner for all members attending, every member will get a free badge so if you have not received yours yet see me at the next couple of meetings or drop me a line and I will make sure that you receive it.

A lot of us will be looking forward to going to the **Submariners Association annual** conference in Bangor NI at the end of March, John probably cover this but final numbers are needed so that travel can be planned, details can be obtained from the committee if you need to know more.

Finally keep a look out for a mystic dwarf that has escaped from Haverigg prison this week, police say they are looking for a small, medium at large!! See you next month.

Colin Hutchinson Social Secretary





Indian & Russian Sailors Refuse to Board Cursed Boat

StrategyPage.com

27th January 2009



The Russian Akula II SSN (nuclear attack submarine) that was supposed to be delivered to India this year is being delayed by difficulty in completing its sea trials.

The problem is that Russians can't get enough qualified sailors and civilian technicians to serve on the boat. This is because, while undergoing sea trials last November, there was an accidental activation of the fire extinguisher system. This killed twenty sailors and civilians, and injured more than twenty.

There were 208 people aboard the sub at the time, most of them navy and shipyard personnel there to closely monitor all aspects of the sub as it made its first dives and other manoeuvres.

The source of the fatal accident design poor and of the construction safety the sub. systems on This accident led to sailors and being technicians shipyard fearful of going to sea on the boat. So the sea trials have been suspended making the sub ineligible for transfer to the Indian Navy.

A year ago, Indian officials acknowledged that it is leasing at least one Russian Akula II, which was to enter Indian service in 2009.

Late last year, Indian submarine sailors went to Vladivostok, the

Russian city on the Pacific, near the naval base where the new Akula II boat is based.

These Indian submariners are apparently the crew of the leased boat that apparently will be called the INS Chakra (the same name used by the Charlie class Russian sub India leased from 1988-91). It's believed that the Indians have the option to back out if the sea trials don't work out.

Traditionally, when a new ship looses lots of people during sea trials, it is regarded as "cursed" and unlucky. Sailors can be a superstitious, especially when there are dead bodies involved.

The 7,000 ton Akula IIs are recently built and each requires a crew of 51 highly trained sailors.

The Indian money enabled Russia to complete construction on at least two Akulas. These boats were less than half finished at the end of the Cold War. This was another after effect of the collapse of the Soviet Union. Several major projects shipbuilding were basically put on hold (which still cost a lot of money) in the hopes that something would turn up. In this case, it was Indians with lots of cash.



The Indian crew was, apparently, to take possession of the INS Chakra this Summer and take it back to India. But until Russia can lift the curse from this boat and get enough sailors on board to complete the sea trials the Indians will have to wait. Talk around the Russian shipyard is that the trials will not resume until next year. Apparently the design of the Akula II is being reviewed and modifications are planned.

India also expects to complete construction of its own nuclear sub design in a year or two and begin sea trials and tests. This boat is based on Russian technology, but is basically Indian designed and built. The Russian Akula will basically serve as a training boat for India's new nuclear submarine force.

The new Indian SSN is called the ATV (Advanced Technology Vessel) class.

There are to be five boats in the class - assuming that the first one works well.

That first ATV SSN (nuclear attack sub) is not expected to enter service for at least another 3-5 years. In the late 1980s India leased a Russian nuclear sub for three years providing Indian sailors with an opportunity to become very familiar with the technology.

The ATV will be a 5,000 ton boat and comparisons are being made to the new Chinese 093 (Shang) class which is a 6,000 ton boat that entered service two years ago after more than a decade of construction.

That was China's second class of SSNs. The first (the Han class) was a disaster. India is trying to learn from Chinas mistakes. That's one reason the ATV project has been kept so secret. Another reason for the secrecy was that so much of the project involved developing a compact, light, water reactor technology that would fit in a submarine. of these Indian reactors is being installed in a 5,000 ton Charlie II class submarine that was leased from Russia.

This boat will be ready for sea trials next year. If that goes well the reactor will be installed in the first ATV.

Once the ATV SSN is proven a modified version will be built as a SSBN (ballistic missile carrying sub). This was how everyone else did it including the Chinese. Get an SSN operational then modify the design to include some SLBM launch tubes.



Barrie Downer



Doesn't January seem to be an awfully long month? December has exactly the same number of days and it seems to be over in a flash but January seems to drag on and on. Funny thing is that even though it seems longer there is less time to get work done. Roll on February as it's only twenty eight days long! Perhaps January dragging is something to do with the weather or maybe it's because the day light hours are shorter but at least we can have the consolation that the daylight hours have been getting longer since 21st December and, before we know what's happening, it will be Spring again.

So what have we got to look forward to this year? Most of the dates were published with the Social Programme in January News Letter so I won't go over everything but I'll just pick a couple of items from the first half of the year.

By time that you read this a bunch of the usual suspects will have been to Faslane for the K13 Weekend and I expect we might get a 'Dit' and a few photos from that event!

March will bring **Submariners** Association National Council Conference hosted this year by the Northern Ireland Branch. I hope you have all put down your names to go and that you have booked your accommodation.

The Northern Ireland Branch always put on a good Party and I've no doubt that this year they will be up to their usual standard. Elsewhere in this Edition you will find a flyer from the Northern Ireland Branch with information on what to do on arrival, what events are planned and things to do if you have some spare time! So far only twenty three Branches have indicated that they will be sending Delegates to the Conference which is well down on previous years and is only just over a third of the Branches nationwide.

April brings our Annual Dinner Dance which I expect Colin will cover in detail in his Dit but I can tell you that our Guest of Honour this year will be the new Captain of HMS ASTUTE Commander Andy Coles. His predecessor, Commander Mike Walliker, got himself promoted to Captain and, after some Courses, he will be off to Command HMS WESTMIN-STER that's a Skimmer not a **Submarine!**

May brings the Submariners Spring Cruise to Zeebrugge which I told you about in the last Newsletter. At that time it was looking a bit dodgy for numbers but I gather there has been a late rush but it's still not too late if vou'd like to go contact Rick Rothwell down at Merseyside ASAP!

July will bring the Annual Draw to be hosted this year by the Portsmouth Branch no details as yet but I expect that the Portsmouth Gang will put on a good 'Do' if their Raffle efforts at last year's Reunion are anything to go by.

On Branch Business we do need an injection of new blood into the Branch Committee. I expect quite a few of you have got a bit of time on your hands and perhaps you also have a few new ideas on the way the Branch should be run or on what events the Branch needs to keep the interest going. Dave Jenkins is standing down from Committee work after a very long involvement with Branch Business and Ted Budgen wishes to give up the Membership work he had been doing and also distribution of News letters! Both have been stalwarts of the Branch Committee for a very long time and our thanks are due to both of them.

Committee So two new Members needed!

We need to know what you want to do before the AGM in April so you haven't got too long to make up your minds!

MEMBERSHIP

Are you an Active Member? The kind that would be missed Or are you just contented That you are on the list?

Do you attend the functions? And mingle with the flock? Or do you just stay at home And criticise, perhaps to knock?

Do you ever go and visit A member who is sick? Or leave the work to just a few And talk about the clique?

Come to the functions often To help with hand and heart! Don't just be a Member Please take an Active Part!

Think this over Members Do you know right from wrong? Are you an Active Member Or do you just belong?

Taking about the AGM as yet no-one has raised any proposals for the AGM so, apart from the Officers Reports and voting on new Committee Members and a Delegate for the 2010 National Council Conference, it could be a short AGM however I am sure there is something that some one wishes to raise for debate and a Vote so the Committee will watch this space. As a reminder as I am sure the Treasurer will also remind you your Annual are Subs now due! As in previous years its still just £10.00 so, if you haven't paid up yet, bring your cash or your cheque book along to the February Meeting and the Treasurer will relieve you of the money and exchange it for one of this years nice 'Mauve' (or is it 'Lilac') Membership Cards. All of which reminds me of a little poem you may have seen before:



DHES

By the Secretary of the Canadian Branch

I wonder why the short word 'dues'

Makes a hardened Submariner quake in his shoes.

It has four little letters, though nothing to fear

Yet it requires more letter space year after year.

So what is involved with this terrible word.

Whenever it's mentioned not a word can be heard.

Those drinking rum or a bottle of beer

Hear the word, choke and run in great fear.

There's no problem with 'dues' to the 'loyal few'

Who year after year pay on the date 'dues' are due.

Thanks to those men, our bills are not overdue

And never have so many owed

so much to so few.
How about you are you due
too?

Regards

Barrie

VETERANS WEEKEND 2009

The proposed date for the Barrow in Furness Veterans Weekend/Festival of the Sea 2009 is 5th - 7th June 2009.

Barrow Council is to arrange a fair and other side shows and at least one Tall Ship operating sailing each day. RN ships are being booked for berthing in Buccleuch Dock.

BAE will allocate the whole of Buccleuch Dockside for the event and also organise Marquees and tents etc. BAE are also looking into involving local schools in the activities.

The Veterans Committee is looking at the following:-

Any assets which may be available from ARMY/TA, RAFA and RN.

The intention is to research for Displays, Bands, interactive items.

The Veterans Parade is to be organised by Service Personnel and is to include bands for the Parade from the Town Hall to Buccleuch Dock with transport arrangements for people unable to march.

Capt Mike Henry

I would like to tell you a little about Mike's life, his service and his dedication to the Submariners Association which spread over very nearly 30 years. I feel very fortunate to have known and worked with Mike from the very outset of him joining the Association.

Mike joined the Scottish Branch of the Submarine Old Comrades' early in 1980 shortly after the branch was founded in November 1979.

It was in 1981 that he became the President of the Branch taking over from Capt Blacklock of Holland One fame. This was shortly before I was elected as the secretary of the branch so we sort of grew up together within the association. He was very supportive of the branch in all its activities and attended nearly all the varied functions.

As the two other Scottish branches came along, he was equally supportive of them.

He was appointed as National Honorary Vice President in the early 90s with special license to represent the President at the more northerly branches and the numerous and varied association events in Scotland, the North of England and not forgetting Northern Ireland.

This task he undertook with zeal and fervour. He was particularinvolved in the annual Untamed and Vandal Memorial services based in Dunoon and Lochranza, the K13 Memorial here in Faslane and the K4, K17 Memorial in Anstruther across I don't ever recollect in Fife. him missing any of these annual In fact his last public events. role as the Submariners Association Honorary Vice President was to speak in Meigle Church on the occasion of the dedication

of the new Scotland North East Branch Standard which I am pleased to see is being paraded here today.

If ever we needed a voice or a bit of clout in the Base then Mike was your man. There were times when some assistance we needed wasn't forthcoming but after a quiet word in his ear, as if by magic we had what we wanted.

When I made noises about pursuing my association involvement at a National level, he took me under his wing and was my mentor; and I don't think I would have attained my current position if it hadn't been for Mike's invaluable advice and assistance.

He did once suggest that I should wear a bowler hat on formal occasions but could you really see me in one? That was about the only piece of advice I disregarded.

I could spin many a dit about our association exploits together but these are perhaps better left for a more appropriate time. Mike, the Submariners Association owes you a great debt of gratitude and we will all miss you very much.

Farewell and God Bless you sir.

Dave Barlow

Reality Laws

Murphy's Law of Lockers

If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.

Law of Logical Argument

Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

White's Law of Physical Appearance

If the shoe fits, it's ugly.

Oliver's Law of Public Speaking

A closed mouth gathers no feet





Chaplains Dit February 2009



Commandoes Memorial Monument Spean Bridge Scotland

Having made two trips to Scotland during the past month with a week in Aviemore just after the New Year, and weekend in Faslane for the recent K13 Memorial Weekend. As far as the base is concerned I believe that I am just beginning to notch up more time within its confines as a civilian than I ever did when I was serving. I must add that the new accommodation blocks are first class and I would not hesitate to return to the WO & SR Mess for the next available function.

Spent Many an hour under pun on this parade

Reflecting on how things have moved on from Chatham Electrical School circa 1957 see above where the accommodation provided by K lounge

Because we were already in the area I wanted to visit Spean **Bridge Commandoes Memorial** and see the area where so many Commandoes were trained during WW2. The story of the

how

survive?

would

formation of the unit started in the summer of 1940 when **Britain's fortunes in World War** II were at their lowest ebb and enemy invasion threatened, Winston Churchill boldly ordered the raising of an elite force to raid the enemyheld coastline of Europe and regain the initiative. For their valour in action the Commandos earned thirty-eight battle honours and many awards including eight Victoria Crosses, but many made the supreme sacrifice, no fewer than 1,700 Commando soldiers lost their lives and others were seriously wounded. It was a record that prompted Winston Churchill to write the following tribute:

"We may feel sure that nothing of which we have any knowledge or record has ever been done by mortal men which surpasses their feats of arms. Truly we may say of them when shall their glory fade."

What moved me more was seeing the ashes of young soldiers as recently as 2007 from Iraq and Afghanistan. And to think that there are now goodness knows many sailors are right there on the front line undertaking a support role for an overstretched Army. How things have changed since those halcyon days of 1957 when I started my career.

Ending on a lighter note I had the opportunity to view the Gare Loch scenery on a boat a long distance from the base and it reminded how stunning it looked. Given I had the opportunity to witness it from this angle for the first time this weekend, see image below. Most of us would have spent time going about our business at Harbour Stations and would have missed such views.

The occasion was the scattering of the ashes of a West of Scotland member Alexander D Swinton. We were taken out on a Fleet Auxiliary or whatever they are called these days to this point. Where the Base Chaplain conducted a simple service and the ashes and roses were scattered to the mercy of wind and tide by his family. Very peaceful but very very cold, I was sure glad that someone had the forethought to bring a hip flask.

A suitable thought to end Psalm

Regards Jonsey

Lay Chaplain.







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'



Welsh Branch 1st January 2009 D (Danny) Anscombe **Chief Petty Officer** Coxswain P/JX 159704 Aged 85 **Submarine Service 1947-1963** Ambush, Token, Auriga Selene and Alcide



Gosport Branch (Lapsed) January 2009 John Merritt **Chief Petty Officer** Coxswain D067208T Aged 61 **Submarine Service in** Grampus, Acheron, Oracle Odin, Ocelot and Valiant



Non Member January 2009 Stephen Bell **Charge Chief** Marine Engineering Artificer Aged 52 **Submarine Service in** Victorious, Tireless And Turbulent





East Kent Branch 12th January 2009 John Cayzer **Leading Electrical Mechanic** Aged 67 Submrine Service 1965-1968 **Oppossum and Tiptoe**



Non Member January 2009 **Greame Baines Charge Chief** Weapons Engineering **Artificer Submrine Service in Polaris** and Vanguard



Non Member 21st January 2009 Colin Malcolm Hankin Lieutenant Commander **Submarine Service 1950-1966** Tireless, Auriga, Seraph, Telemachus, Trenchant (CO) And Tabard (CO)



Non member

23rd January 2009 Michael Beauchamp St John **DSC** Commander Submarine service from 1937 in, Panda, Olympus, L26 Upholder, L26 (CO), Tuna (CO), Traveller (CO) Parthian (CO), Otway (CO) And Totem (CO)



TEXAS STYLE

From a county where drunk driving is considered a sport, comes this true story.

Recently a routine police patrol parked outside a bar in Austin, Texas . After last call, the officer noticed a man leaving the bar so apparently intoxicated that he could barely walk. The man stumbled around the parking lot for a few minutes, with the officer quietly observing.

After what seemed an eternity in which he tried his keys on five different vehicles, the man managed to find his car and fall into it. He sat there for a few minutes as a number of other patrons left the bar and drove off. Finally he started the car, switched the wipers on and off they worked fine, dry summer night, flicked the blinkers on and off a couple of times, honked the horn and then switched on the lights.

He moved the vehicle forward a few inches, reversed a little and then remained still for a few more minutes as some more of the other patrons' vehicles left.

At last, when he was the only car left in the parking lot, he pulled out and drove slowly down the road.

The police officer, having waited patiently all this time, now started up his patrol car, put on the flashing lights, promptly pulled the man over and administered a breathalyzer test.

To his amazement, the breath alvzer indicated no evidence that the man had consumed any alcohol at all! Dumbfounded, the officer said, I'll have to ask you to accompany me to the police station.. This breath alyzer equipment must be broken.'

'I doubt it,' said the truly proud Redneck. 'Tonight I'm the designated decoy.

Wendell Jeff Becker Supervisor of VMF Office (916) 263-7123 Cell (916) 416-1986 Sacramento District Vehicle Maintenance



DISCLAIMER

This Newsletter is published by Submariners Association (Barrow in Furness) and is (c) 2009. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily the opinion of the Editor, The Submariners Association, the MoD or the Submarine Service unless otherwise stated. The Submariners Association may not agree with the opinions expressed in this Newsletter but encourages publication as a matter of interest. Nothing printed may be construed as policy or an official announcement unless so stated. Otherwise the Association accepts no liabilty on any issue in this Newsletter



Reunion

Hi Dave,

We are currently organizing a SETT Staff / Instructors 55th Anniversary Reunion on the 18th July 2009. I am attempting to notify as many Submariners that were Ex Staff / Instructors at SETT of which there is in the region of 250+.

I was hoping you may be able to put a few lines in a newsletter or a notice on your website to help us spread the word within the Submarine community.

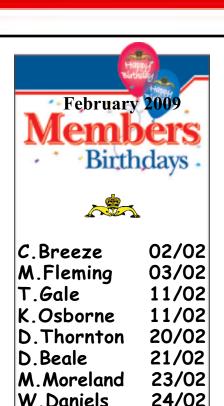
There is a link on the www.subescapetraining.org website where any Ex Staff / Instructors can complete and submit a form to me at SETT.

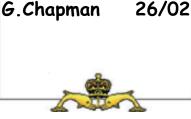
Regrettably this is only open to Ex SETT Staff. If you can help in any way it would be very much appreciated,

Curly.....

Deputy Chief Instructor Foreign & Commonwealth Training

CPO SETT 9380 65308 02392 765308





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 February for the March 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

•••••••

February

3rd Monthly Meeting

17th Committee

Meeting

20th Blackpool Visit

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

20000000000

April

7th Annual General meeting 11th Annual Dinner Dance

21st Committee meeting

Sign's

Tyre repair service

"invite us to your next blowout"

On a church Bill Board

7 Days without god makes one weak





Branch Annual Dinner Lisdoonie Hotel 2009

Menu

To start choice of:

Soup Fruit Juice

Main Course choice of:

Roast Turkey with all accompaniments
Roast Beef with all accompaniments

Full choice of Sweets
Or
Cheese and Biscuits

Tea or Coffee with Mints

Choice of Red or White wine

<u>SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION –</u> <u>BARROW BRANCH</u>





Date: SATURDAY 11th APRIL 2009

For:

Venue: LISDOONIE HOTEL - Dress Lounge suits / Branch Blazers

Cost: £26 per person – Welcoming drink, 3 course meal, wine, live

band and of course excellent company.

Please help by completing this form to fill a round table of 10 people if possible. If you do not mind who you are seated with just add your name to any form with vacant seats.

Name:	No:	Cost:	WINE (R) or(W)
1.		£26	
2.		£26	
3.		£26	
4.		£26	
5.		£26	
6.		£26	
7.		£26	
8.		£26	
9.		£26	
10.		£26	

PLEASE RETURN TO COLIN HUTCHINSON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:

colin.hutchinson@dbpxfellside.com

38 Moor Tarn Lane Barrow-in-Furness Cumbria LA14 3LP



Solve the submarine crossword

We hope you enjoyed last month's submarine wordsearch.

If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page.

This month we return to a crossword with 12 clues to solve, all with strong nautical or submarine links.

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

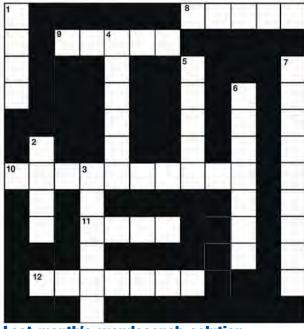
Your crossword clues

Down

- 1: Sub shares name with term for small lake or body of water
- 2. A warm place to get some sleep
- 3: Sub name of the very highest quality
- 4: It diverts water and leaves you puzzled
- 5: Best place on sub for fresh air and views
- 6: Mountainous home to famous games and a submarine name
- 7: Boat honours famous victory

Across

- 8: South American hoofed mamal and sub's name
- 9. The best ones have a sea view
- 10: Throat-burning sailor's tipple
- 11: A gambler might take a trip in this flat boat
- 12: A whale with a tusk shares this submarine's name



Last month's wordsearch solution



