

# Submariners Association Barrow-in-Furness Branch



HON PRESIDENT John. V. Hart 01229 821831

CHAIRMAN & Hon. Chaplain Alan Jones 01229 463150

**VICE CHAIRMAN** John F Houlding 01229 812593

**SECRETARY Barrie K.Downer** 01229 820963

**TREASURER Mick Mailey** 01229 821290 4 Jesmond Avenvue Barrow-in-Furness **LA13 9AW** 

**SOCIAL TEAM** Colin Hutchinson 01229 474927 **Jeff Thomas** 01229 464493

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Richard Britten 01229 820265

> WEB MASTER Ron Hiseman 01229 828664

STANDARD BEARERS **Dudley Davenport** Pedlar Palmer

01229 828120 Ginge Cundall

WELFARE COMMITTEE

**Dave Craven Alan Jones Peter Lorking** Colin Taylor



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Followed by:-

July Puzzle no 11



**Chairmans Dit** August 2009

Memsab arranged a surprise five-day birthday gift holiday to Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel in North Wales, and it was a welcome break. Unfortunately it impacted on other plans and we had to miss the Bar-Be-Oue because of Grandsons Birthday. I am reliably informed that the evening was a success, so it's well done to Colin our Social Secretary: Brigham Young and his BBO Wizards: Shindig entertained in their normal slick manner: Peddler Palmer won the loudest shirt competition yet again. Adding to the mix was our friends from the Manchester Branch, and guess what!! It was the first time in many a year that the heavens did not open. My personal thoughts reflecting back to our Cheese and Wine event at the July Meeting when our Ladies attended.

Continued on page 2







the conflict of "Up Spirits" at the same time I feel the meeting was nevertheless a reasonable success for a first attempt, Cheese and Wine Soiree. However I must add my special thanks to Jan and Linda Mead who came straight home from their holiday to organise and prepare the Cheese and Nibbles. The second event that I had hoped to launch that evening was the setting up of our Ladies Section (Barrow in Furness). I did print a stack of Information Sheets to set the ball rolling. Unfortunately only a few of our Ladies received a copy, so I am going to make a second attempt of setting up a Ladies meeting at a suitable time in September. Several members of our Branch were in attendance at the Armed Forces Veterans Service in Barrow Town Hall but more of that in a separate article.

**Regards Jonsey** 

## Social Scene August 2009



As I write this (I'm thinking will I make the deadline for Ben to publish in time), It is raining hard and the annual BBQ is on

Saturday, well what's new, it always manages to rain on the BBQ, but I'm sure a good time will be had by all who attend.

I have a couple of Social notices this month, firstly our next main social will be the Ladies night dinner dance to be held at the Lisdoonie on November 6th with the usual ladies night format, list will be circulated at the next meeting so that you can get your names down early, more details in next months newsletter.

Again in November we have been offered a visit to Faslane on the weekend of 20th to 22nd

November, so far 11 members have shown an interest and as we are the only branch offered those dates there are plenty of places left so if you would like to go get your names down at the August meeting. If there are still places after that then it may be opened up to our friends at Morecambe to join us.

At the last branch meeting a list was circulated for a proposed visit to Spain in April 2010 to visit our shipmates in Spain who have started a branch called Espana Levante, there has been keen interest judging by the names on the list and again this will be circulated at the next meeting, no details as yet, this is just to see how much interest there might be.

Something that John Houlding sent me, Dave Rawson ex POMA will be bringing his Comedy Hypnotist act to the Bluebird Club in November (we think 21st TBC). Although this clashes with the trip to Faslane I'm sure some would like to attend. I remember him entertaining us back in the 80's and he was excellent then and I believe he works a lot now on the continent and Cruise ships, so those of you that are permanently on holiday may have seen him!

Well that's me for this month See you all next month!!

# Chaplains Dit August 2009

I was honoured to be part of A Service for Armed Forces Veterans that took place in the town hall on Sunday the Second of August.

My role was to lead the act of Reflection Remembrance & Prayers.



Gold Beach British 2nd Army,
30th Corps Beginning an hour later
than the Utah and
Omaha landings,
Gold Beach was
located at the

center of the invasion. A rising tide and choppy water meant that mines and obstacles hadn't been effectively cleared. Consequently, the British troops experience some difficulty getting ashore. The Germans had heavily secured the seafront towns of La Riviere and Le Hamel. In addition, four heavy 155mm guns were also trained

on the coast from 500m inland. Heavy shelling from HMS Ajax took out the guns and quietened the German defence. By nightfall,



25,000 troops had landed and pushed the Nazis six miles inland. There were just 400 British casualties. And two days later our special guest Mrs Vera Hay now holder of the Legion of d'Honneur moved in amongst all the heat and noise of war and set up a tented military Hospital

When all this was happening I was six years old and for me it was awesome to be in the company of someone who was in the middle of WW2 action and also other veterans from other conflicts



Dear Mrs. woods.

I wish to clarify that I am not now, nor have I ever been, an exotic dancer. I work at Home Depot and I told my daughter how hectic it was last week before the blizzard hit. I told her we sold out every single shovel we had, and then I found one more in the back room, and that several people were fighting over who would get it. Her picture doesn't show me dancing around a pole. It's supposed to depict me selling the last snow shovel we had at Home Depot. From now on I will remember to check her homework more thoroughly before she turns it in. Sincerely, Mrs. Smith



## Barrow Submarine Series: issue number 4



GOING PLACES: The Barrow-built HMS Trafalgar seen on the launch day, July 1 in 1981

THE nuclear-powered submarine *HMS Trafalgar* was launched at Barrow on July 1 in 1981.

The ceremony was performed just after 11.09am by the wife of Commander-in-Chief of the fleet Sir John Fieldhouse.

She cracked a bottle of wine against the tiles to send *Trafalgar* rolling down the slipways to a thunder of applause.

Builders VSEL noted that *Trafalgar* was capable of operating for years without refuelling and her improved nuclear reactor could produce enough power to supply a town of 50,000 people.

A press release at the time claimed: "With her improved noise reduction system she is much quieter than even the earlier Swiftsure class."

#### **CAREER:**

After Operation Veritas, the attack on Al-Qaeda and Taliban forces following the 9/11 attacks in the United States, *Trafalgar* entered Plymouth Sound flying the Jolly Roger on March 1 in 2002. She was welcomed back by Admiral Sir Alan West, Commander-in-Chief of the fleet and it emerged she was the first Royal Navy submarine to launch tomahawk cruise missiles against Afghanistan.

In November 2002, *Trafalgar* ran aground close to Skye, causing £5m



JOURNEY'S END: Heading into the Clyde in May 1996

worth of damage to her hull and injuring three sailors. She was traveling 50 metres below the surface at more than 14 knots when Lieutenant-Commander Tim Green, a student in the "Perisher" course for new submarine commanders, ordered a course change that took her onto the rocks at Fladda Chuain, a small but well-charted islet.

#### STATS:

Ordered: 7 April 1977, from Vickers at Barrow

Laid down: 15 April 1979 Launched: 1 July 1981 Commissioned: 27 May 1983 Homeport: HMNB Devonport, Plymouth.

Displacement: Surfaced: 4,740 tons

Dived: 5,208 tons Length: 280.1 ft (85.4 m) Beam: 32.1 ft (9.8 m) Draught: 31.2 ft (9.5 m)

Propulsion: Rolls-Royce PWR1

nuclear reactor

Speed: Dived: over 25 knots Complement: 18 officers and 112 ratings

Armament: Spearfish torpedoes (originally Tigerfish torpedoes) with 20 reloads, Harpoon submarine-launched cruise missile, mines and decoys.



# Barrie Downer Secretary

Well, after all that nice weather in June and early July I see we are back to normal Lake District weather just in case you were getting used to it and were having too many barbeques! Speaking of barbeques by the time you read this I hope you will all have enjoyed the Annual Barbeque at the Vickerstown Institute with all of the usual attractions Shindig with the entertainment, the Tot Time, the Raffle and the Shirt competition.

This year the Branch has decided (as a one off) to subsidise the Barbeque from Branch funds it is not intended that subsidy will be provided for all Branch Functions as they have generally been self financing in the past and probably will continue to be in the future.

We will have a full report for the Barbeque at the next Branch Meeting on 4th August and an article hopefully with embarrassing pictures in the September Newsletter especially embarrassing if it was you who managed to win the outrageous Beach Shirt competition.

I hope you all enjoyed the **Cheese and Wine Social evening** after the July Branch Meeting! Thanks must go to Alan Jones for organising the wine tasting part of the evening and to Jan Mead (having only just returned from his holidays) for the Cheese part. It was very good to see so many of the Ladies along and enjoying themselves and there was a bigger turnout of Members than average as well. There were plenty of contributions for the Raffle thank you every one hopefully you didn't end up taking away the same prize as you brought along!

At the Branch Meeting we had a visitor in the way of Willy Russan who has recently moved

to the area hopefully we will be seeing him again and one of our visitors from the June Meeting -Dave Cattroll has now joined the Branch.

Welcome Dave we hope you enjoyed the evening and many more to come. Well apart from the Branch Meeting what has been going on?

Well not a lot really. The Committee Meeting came and went most of that meeting was taken up with a 'Wash Up' of the **Cheese and Wine Social evening** and a discussion on the plans/programme for the Memorial Bench. Hopefully this project is now coming to fruition and with a fair wind the Benches will be in place before the next Remembrance Day Parade in November.

We also had a discussion about the National Draw in Portsmouth on Saturday 4th July.

This year we didn't win anything no surprise there but our Branch Prize which we donated was won by Mr Van Hagen of the Bristol Branch and he chose a print of an 'S' Class Submarine as he has served on 'S' Class himself. By now he should have received his prize and no doubt it is taking pride of place on his sitting room wall.

Did you attend the Veterans Badge Award Ceremony in the Town Hall on Sunday 2nd August? If you did I hope you are now wearing tour Veterans Badge with pride if you haven't got your Veterans Badge yet you can still apply for one to be sent to you but if you would like to have it formally presented you will get another chance next year at the Veterans Day Parade.

And now the usual reminders are you outstanding your Branch Subs for this year (and even some for last year). You can pay any member of the Committee and then you will be sent your Membership Card you know the nice Lilac ones (or is it Mauve?). If you have paid up and you haven't yet got your Membership Card see any

Committee Member and we can sort it out! Any way if you are outstanding Mick Mailey will only be pleased to take your money and John Houlding is still trying to get rid of those cards! Don't forget if you are attending the Annual Reunion in Nottingham in October you must be a 'Paid Up' Member of the Association to attend the Reunion Dinner! Also, if you have already paid your Deposit for the Reunion we now need the Balances paid up as soon as possible. Hopefully you have brought your cash or cheque books to the August Branch Meeting remembering to make your cheques out to the Barrow Branch! As ever if you have moved, changed your phone number or your e mail provider please let us know as soon as possible so that we can keep in touch and make sure you get all vour Branch information.

A few more Members this month have advised me of E Mail Address changes I expect there are a few more I don't yet know about so don't be shy let me know! Also if you can't make it to a Branch Meeting remember to send in your apologies partly so we still know you are well. If you are not keeping too well yourself let us know and we will see if there is anything the Welfare team can help with. Remember to let us know if there are any Branch Members that you know (or their wives, girlfriends or partners) who are not too well sometimes they may be too busy or pre-occupied with events to let us know themselves. If we don't know we can't help!

That's about it for now see you all at the Branch Meeting Tuesday 4th August usual time usual place!

Regards

Barrie





## India Launches Mysterious Arihant

July 2009: India has 28, its first nuclear launched submarine, the INS Arihant (Destroyer of Enemies), after over a decade of planning and construction. The Arihant will now undergo up to two years of testing and sea trials before being accepted for service. The Arihant is based on the Russian Charlie II sub, which it resembles. A leased Russian Akula II nuclear sub will basically serve as a training boat for India's new nuclear submarine force. Russia retired all its Charlie class subs in the early 1990s. India leased one from 1988-91, and gained a great deal of familiarity with it. The Charlie class had eight launch tubes, outside the pressure hull, for anti-ship missiles. The Arihant has vertical launch tubes, apparently large enough for the cruise missiles, but not any SLBM (Sea Launched Ballistic Missile) India has (like the Sagarika, which is too long to fit in a vertical silo on the Arihant.) Actually, the exact purpose of vertical launch tubes on the Arihant is unclear. The navy revealed very little detail on the new sub (which, until two years ago, the government refused to say anything about.) Access by photographers was restricted.

The new Indian SSN was long referred to as the ATV (Advanced Technology Vessel) class. There are apparently to be five boats in the class, assuming that the first one works well. The ATV is a 5,000 ton boat, and comparisons have also been 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 ATV project involved developing a compact, light water reactor technology that would fit in a submarine. This 85 MW reactor makes the Arihant underpowered by the standards of other SSNs, and the Indians give the Arihant's top speed as 55 kilometers an hour.



Once the Arihant class SSN is proven, a modified version can 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. But the Arihant already appears to have vertical launch tubes, but not of sufficient diameter and length to hold any of the SLBM (sea launched ballistic missiles) in service.



#### Reunion

26 September - HMS Churchill Reunion takes place on 26th September 2009 at the Park Inn Hotel, York. Full details can be found on HMS Churchill's website. Booking forms, menus and seating plans will be available on the site when they become available. Contact Andy Broadbelt.

### **Annual Reunion**

Can all those who have paid their deposits for the Reunion in Nottingham and who still need to pay the Balance get their cash or cheques to me as soon as possible. You can pay me at the Branch Meeting on Tuesday 4th August.

## The Bill Cole Trophy

Our first visit to Romania in June this year was short, only lasting five days.

We achieved many things for our return trip early October, with students from Furness college who will be undertaking the mammoth task of refurbishing the 3 chalets where some of our children live with house mothers, they are in the ground of our orphanage. The high school we visit was holding the end of term Diploma ceremony which was june the 12th Bills Birthday, and to my delight I was asked to present "The Bill Cole Trophy" in front of all the students and parents to a student called "Marius" who richly deserved the award.



After only 3 years the 'trophy' has now become a school tradition it is now open to every student in the school who studies English and will carry on for many years. So Bill's name and good woks will live on in Constanta Romania.

That makes me feel very proud of him

Joan Cole.





## In the Beginning

In the beginning was the word, and the word was God and all else was darkness and void and without form. So God created the heavens and the earth. He created the sun and the moon and thestars, so that their light might pierce the dark. And the earth, God divided between the land and the sea, and these He filled with many assorted ickies.

And from the slime, in aland called Lympstone, God made dark, salty creatures that inhabited the seashore. He called Royal Marines, and dressed them in bright colours so that their betters may more easily find them in the holes and burrows that they'd scoured out of the ground. And God said "Whilst at their appointed labours they will devour worms and maggots and all ickies that creep or crawl.

The flighty creatures of the air, He called Airy Fairies, and these He clothed in uniforms which were ruffled, foul and stinking.He gave them great floating cities with flat roofs in which to live, where they gathered and formed huge multitudes. They carried out heathen rites and ceremonies by day and by night upon the roof amidst thunderous noise. They were given God's blue sky and their existence was on the backs of others.

And the lower creatures of the sea, God called Skimmers, who supported the Airy Fairies andwith a twinkle in His eye and a sense of humour only He could have, He gave them all rum, polluted with much water, to drink. God gave them big grey 'targets' to go to sea in. He gave them many splendid uniforms to wear. And He gave them all the world's exotic and wonderful places to visit. He gave them pen and paper so that they could write home every week, and He gave them Make and Mends at sea and a laundry so they could clean and polish their splendid uniforms. (When you are God it is very easy to get carried away with your own great and wondrous

And benevolence). on the seventh day, God rested from his labours.

And on the eighth day at 0755, just before Colours, God looked down upon the earth and He was not a happy man.

God knew He had not quite perfection, so achieved thought about his labours, and in His infinite wisdom, He created a divine creature, His masterpiece, and this He called a Submariner. A child of heaven.

And these Submariners, whom God created in His own image, and to whom He gave his most cherished gift, a White Woolly Jumper, were to be of the deep, and to them He gave more of his greatest gifts. He gave them black steel messengers of death, called them "Bombers", in which to roam the depths of his oceans, and He gave them His arrows and slingshots, the Mark 23 torpedo of burnished gold and blue, and the Tigerfish of grey, to wage war against the forces of Satan and all evil.

He also gave them a great weapon called Polaris A3 but put his beloved in charge to use as a deterrent against all evil. He heaped great knowledge and understanding upon them, in order that they may more easily win their greatest challenge, to pass their Part Three and be skilled in the great works God had charged them with. The finest of these men, God called " Wreckers " for they made allhappen beyond the understanding of other men.

He gave His Submariners hotels in which to live when they were exhausted and weary from doing God's will. He gave them a shilling or two a day extra victualling allowance, to sustain them in their arduous tasks, performed in His name. He gave them Hard Layers, Submarine Pay, Nuc Pay and, occasionally, subsistence so that they might entertain the Ladies of the "Albany" like Big Silv, The Imps and Cavallier in the Burgh, "R.A", the "Mucky Duck" andthe "Fleece" on Saturday nights and impress the

hell outof the creatures He called Skimmers and Royal Marines.

And at the end of the eighth day, God again looked down upon the earth and saw all was good in His realm. But God was not happy because, in the course of His mighty labours He had forgotten one thing. He had not kept a White Woolly Jumper for Himself. But He thought about it and considered it and finally Heconsoled himself, in the certainknowledge that,

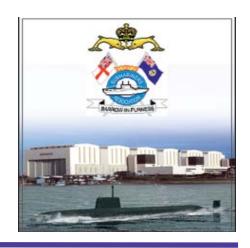
NOT JUST ANYBODY CAN **BE A SUBMARINER!** 

Ginge Cundell & Duddley Davanport, visit Eric Johnson & John Horton at the Crown in Cark with rum last Saturday.

Eric Johnson and John Horton are members of the Morcambe branch and live the in Cark area, Duddley Davenport and myself visit them with rum, they are known by our branch members.

cheers Ginge







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 July to have 'Crossed the Bar'



**SOAC (East)** (Formerly Canadian Branch) **July 2009** S(Steve) Jenner Commander Aged 88 Submarine service 1941-1962 Taku, Rorqual, Nebjosa, Una, Sybil, Sentinel, Alliance, Scorcher (CO), Aurochs (CO) Telemachus (CO)



Non Member 3rd July 2009 Joseph Elder Fishwick, OBE **Commander (MESM)** 

> **Submarine Service Including Resolution.**



Non Member 28th Jun 2009

> 'Jack' Tarr Aged 60

Submarine service in **Diesel Boats** 





Non Member 8th July Dai Reece CPO (OPS) (SM) Aged 61

**Subamine Service to 1993** In Warspite, **Courageous (1970-75) Onslought** 



Northern Ireland Branch **July 2009** J (John) Megaw **Leading Stoker** Aged 82 Submarine service 1946-1948 In Thermopylae



**Northants Branch July 2009** GS (George) Monro BEM **Chief Petty Officer (TASI)** P/JX 170232 Aged 85 Submarine service 1950-1973 In Artemis, Alliance, Scythian, Seneschal, Sea devil, Totem Truncheon



**Bristol Branch July 2009** G (George) Fennell **Stoker Mechanic** D/SKX 816053 Aged 80 Submarine service 1946-1949 In Thorough, Token & Teredo



**Scotland North East Branch July 2009** C J (Cyril) Baldwin Able Seaman (HSD) P/JX 416673 Aged 85 Submarine service 1943-1946 Venturer, Spur & Seneschal



**Submarines Association of** Australia 22nd July 2009 **Don Wilson Lieutenant Commander RANVR** Aged 92 **Submarine service WWII** In P31, Untiring **Voracious (CO)** 



Non Member **July 2009** W Vickers **Stoker 1st Class** Aged 98 Submarine service 1926-1942 P614









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## New Branch

Another New Branch of the Asociation has been formed. This is another Branch in Spain and is called INDALO SPAIN.

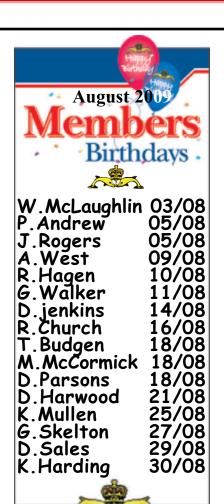
This Branch will meet every two months at locations further south in Spain from Almeria to Murcia. The locations and dates will be arranged by volunteer Branch Members.

The Secretary of the new Branch is John R Patrick. Contact details are available from the Secretary.

## It's True

Genuine clips from British Council flat tenants complaining to their Councils about problems with their flats.

- 1) The toilet is blocked and we cannot bathe the children until it is cleared.
- 2) 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster and 50% are plain filthy.







## 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 August for the September 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.

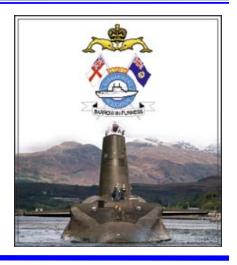






New Branch Member.
Dave Cattroll.

Dave, who lives in Scotland, served in REVENGE, RENOWN, SPARTAN and SOVEREIGN betwen January 1979 and November 2006. Welcome to the Barrow Branch, Dave





## 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 14 naval clues to solve.

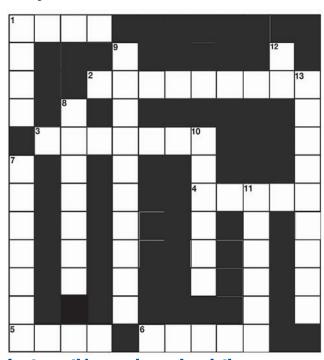
If you have any comments or suggestions on how our puzzles can be improved or developed, drop an email to Bill Myers at bill.myers@nwemail.co.uk

### **Across**

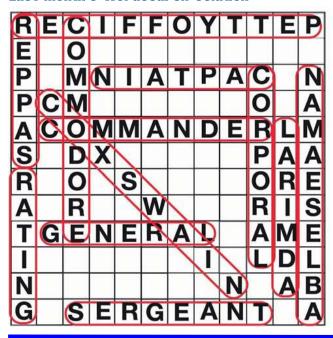
- 1: Making an evasive movement
- 2: The first of its kind
- 3: Home for
- preserved submarines
- 4: Electronic method of detection
- 5: Going nowhere fast
- 6: Keep this behind vou at all times

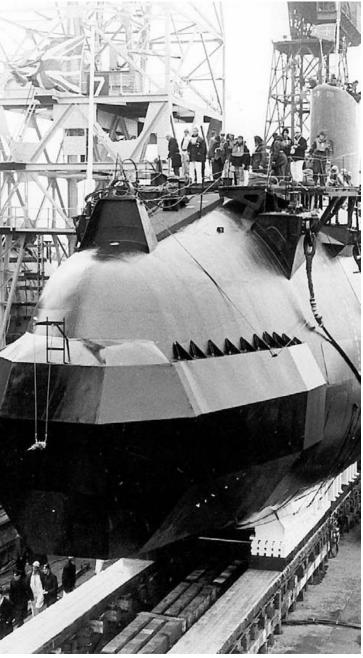
### Down

- 1: Filled with more than Smarties
- 7: Religious-sounding naval manufacturer
- 8: Early submarine shares name with famous pie maker
- 9: A means of movement
- 10: enemy vessel seen through the periscope
- 11: Putting new ideas down on paper
- 12: Short form for engine's power output
- 13: Keeps going like a long-distance runner



Last month's wordsearch solution





UNDER CONSTRUCTION: The Barrow-built HMS Trafalgar was launched in 1981