

April 2010 Issue 118

# Submariners Association New Setter 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 Avenue
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



#### CHAIRMAN'S State of Union Comment



Our Vice Chairman would have covered all the nitty gritty items bases in his Dit, and he really is a lot

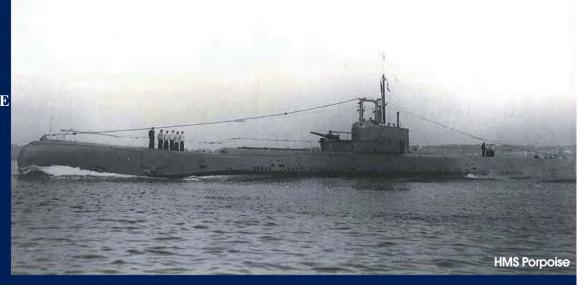
more efficient at doing such reports than me, however with our AGM looming I feel it is important to say a few brief words of thanks. Firstly to all of the membership, it is the combined strength and diversity of all that makes our Barrow in Furness branch a force to be reckoned with. However we must not rest on our laurels as I believe there is more we can do. Our social calendar impressive, but there could be items that may not suit all members, so we need to keep our thinking caps on. For example maybe a quarterly

lecture along the lines of the Barrow & District Association of Engineers on the same night as our mid monthly Committee Meeting could attract a different section of our membership. We have a special year of celebration with 50 years of nuclear submarines what can we do to make it special for the branch.

So without highlighting individuals I want now to thank those members who are proactive in delivering our month on month programmes ranging from Web-page to Welfare. If you feel you can spare the time to serve the branch with a more "Hands On" contribution then please come along to the mid monthly Committee Meeting.

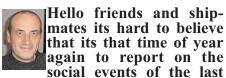
Regards

Jonsey





## Social Secretary's Report April 2010



year and to let you know what you can expect socially in the coming year and it also gives me the chance to thank all those that have supported the branch and helped during the social events.

A brief summary of social events in 2009:

Due to a combination of events the first footing visit to the Morecambe branch did not take place, and the subsequent re arrangement was also called off due to transport difficulties.

A proposal was received for organising a Burns night supper, but this did not go ahead due to insufficient support.

The SA annual conference was held in Bangor Northern Ireland at the end of March and a goodly number of members and some wives travelled over for the weekend by bus and mini booze cruise. It was hosted by the NI branch who put on some splendid hospitality and I can say this for all those who attended that it was a fantastic weekend.



- 1 Chairman's Dit
- 2) Social Sec's report
- 3) HMS Porpoise
- 4) Barrie Downer Secretary
- 5) Last T Boat refit
- 6) Chaplains dit & Canada Honours Sub
- 7) Obits
- 8) General info

Puzzle page no 19

The Annual branch dinner dance took place on 11th April. Our principle guest was the Submariners Association National secretary Jim McMaster. Jim gave a very entertaining speech which was enjoyed by all, entertainment was provided by the Jill Fielding Trio.

The BBQ on August 1st was once again well supported and a very good night was had by all. Plenty of colourful shirts (and dresses!) were in evidence, lively entertainment was laid on by Shindig and a fine spread was put on by Brigham and his team of helpers; around 120 people attended the BBQ, with a good from representation Manchester branch and members guests and once again the raffle and rum barrel was well supported.

October saw the annual re union held in Nottingham and around 10 members travelled down for the weekend, as usual it was a great weekend with wonderful weather for October and only a small hiccup with the mini bus brakes, our thanks to Tony Griffiths for his patience and effort as our chauffer.

Also in October some members attended the Trafalgar night dinner as usual organised by the Sea Cadets.

Our Ladies night dinner was held on November 6th with guest speaker Tim Roberts Shindig provided the entertainment and looked quite dapper in there penguin suits and I liked the variation from there Dinner dance set to there BBQ set.

The social scene for 2009 drew to a close with the Annual Christmas bash on November 29th at the RBL. I was unable to attend this event but my thanks go to all those who took charge on the night and made it the success it was.

#### 2010

Our proposed first footing visit to Morecambe had to be delayed until February due to the atrocious weather conditions, but unlike last year we managed to send a handful of first footers to attend their February meeting.

The February monthly meeting included Ladies attending for the meeting and I also held a quiz night, this will be repeated again during the year.

**Future events for your diary:** 

Weekend of 16th – 20th April visit to the Espana Levante branch in Benidorm

April 24th Annual dinner dance at Lisdoonie

June/July hope to arrange a Brewery visit

Late July early August branch BBO TBC

October 1st / 3rd Annual reunion Nottingham

October 22nd Trafalgar ball

November 12th Ladies night dinner dance - Lisdoonie

December 11th Christmas Social – RBL

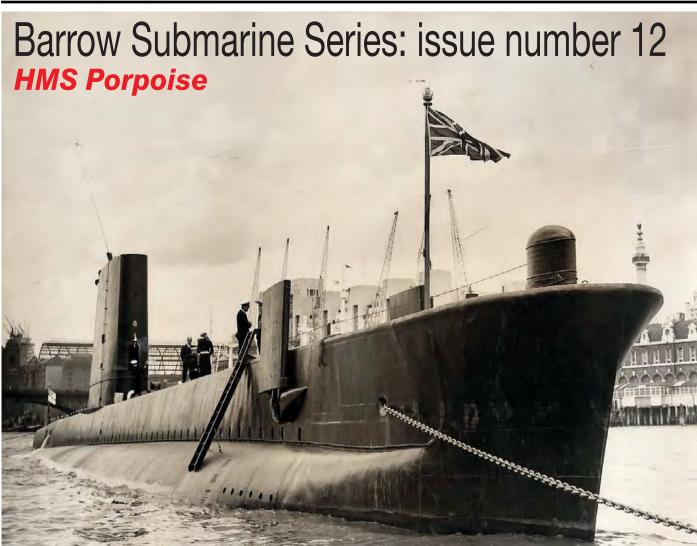
As you probably know by now I have expressed my intention to down stand from Social secretary at the end of this year, I feel that a change is needed and fresh ideas are required to maintain the healthy social programme that we have, and that I know is the envy of many throughout branches country. I would like to thank you for the support you have given to me and the social events, and that you continue to do so for my successor. Don't forget if you have suggestions for social events please don't hesitate to contact any member of the committee.

**Colin Hutchinson** 

**Social Secretary** 







ON TOUR: HMS Porpoise in London for an official four-day visit in July 1958

**H**MS Porpoise (designated S01) was a Porpoise-class submarine of the Royal Navy.

The boat was launched at Barrow on April 25 in 1956 and commissioned into Royal Navy service on 17 April in 1958.

Porpoise was eventually decommissioned in 1982 and was sunk as a target in 1985 in trials for the Spearfish torpedo, for which purpose she was painted bright red.

She had also been used as a target while still serving with the Navy.

In 1979 the casing, ballast tanks and vents were reinforced so that unarmed torpedoes could be fired at the submarine without the risk of sinking her.

The Porpoise-class was an eight-boat class originally designated as patrol submarines, then attack.

They were the first conventional British submarines to be built after the end of the Second World War.

The design was influenced by

the German wartime U-boats.

The Porpoises were larger but shorter than their T-class British submarines designed in the 1930s to replace the O, P and R classes.

Porpoise could make 17 knots, which, with the use of silenced propellers, dropped to 16 knots.

However, quieter running was felt to be a positive trade off for the reduced speed.

The Porpoise-class were exceptionally quiet underwater.

They were far more capable than previous submarine classes in operating for prolonged periods thanks to much improved air recirculation and cleaning systems.

The class also performed excellently in clandestine operations, such as surveillance and inserting special forces.

The weaponry of the Porpoise class was updated in 1970 to operate the Mark 24 Tigerfish, a heavy acoustic homing torpedo.



LAUNCH DAY: Porpoise seen at Barrow shipyard in 1956



## Barrie Downer Secretary



#### Hi Everybody

The April Branch Meeting will be the 47th Annual General Meeting of the Barrow Branch I wonder if those fifteen 'Founder Members' back at the Bay Horse in 1963 thought that the Branch would still be going strong 2010! Fifteen in Members then 187 and Members now I think they would have been proud. Not long now and we will be reaching the 50th Anniversary of the Branch which should be a good excuse for a party!

Don't forget that the Annual General Meeting always starts 30 minutes earlier at 1930. It is in the Royal British Legion again hopefully we will have a good turn out again this year. Don't forget, if you can't make it to the AGM, can you send in your apologies. It's a Meeting where various decisions are taken about who the Branch is managed by and how the Branch should be run! If you are not at the AGM to cast your vote on any proposals and recommendations you won't get another chance until 2011.

**Talking** about 50th Anniversaries this year, 2010, is the 50th Anniversary of Nuclear **Submarines at Barrow. This has** been recognised by those in the know and, in October there will be a Civic Reception and other events to mark this auspicious occasion. Full details are not yet available but we will keep you all informed and, of course if you can assist in any way in the organisation let any Member of Committee **Terry** the or Spurling.

This year there will also be a Festival of the Sea (FOS) Weekend in June. As you know last year's FOS was cancelled possibly something to do with planned sailing dates for HMS ASTUTE! Again not too many details are currently available but it will probably involve some form of Social Event, various

displays and entertainments in the Shipyard, visiting ships and a Veterans Parade. Hopefully we will have some space set aside for a Submariners Association Stall and for a Submarine Heritage Centre Display. Again we will keep you in the know when we have further details.

The last Branch Meeting in March was quite a long meeting where we discussed and agreed who we would be supporting for the vacant places on the National Management Committee and how the Branch was going to tell our Delegate (John Hart) to the National Council Conference in Weymouth to vote on the Proposals and Recommendations. By time you read this the Conference will have come and gone and John Hart will be able to brief us all on the events at the NCC at the AGM on 6th April.

So what has been going on since the last News Letter? Not much at all! It's been pretty quiet all round.

Well, there was the monthly Committee Meeting on 16th March at which a good part of the discussion was about preparation for the AGM and whether all the Branch Officers had written their Reports to the Branch.

So what is coming up in the near future? First there is the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 24th April at the Lisdoonie make sure you get your names down as soon as possible to make sure of your table it should be a good do as usual!

Then there is the St George's Day Parade on 20th April a Parade up to St George's Church for a short Service and then back to the Engineers for some liquid refreshment a few solids and some entertainment and then on to the Steelworks for those with the stamina! Then, of course, also in April there is the trip to Alicante for the Weekend with the Espana Levante Branch. I think all those going have now got your travel and accommodation sorted out

but you need to check with John Houlding on the details of the Weekend.

Looking a bit further forwards and over the horizon again in September the KORBRA are arranging a Ferry and Coach Trip (there and back!) a whole week away to Holland and Belgium. Numbers are required by the end of March the details including the itinerary, accommodation and costs are in the Branch Meeting Minutes which are going out to all members by E Mail or Snail Mail.

And now the usual boring reminders are you still 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 nice new light green Membership Card. If you have paid up and 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 he is still trying to get rid of those cards!

Hopefully you have brought your cash or cheque books to the AGM Branch Meeting to pay your subs and to pay for your Annual Dinner Dance tickets remembering to make your cheques out to the Barrow Branch!

if you have moved, As ever 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 your Branch information. E Mail updates Address are changing three in the last three weeks and I expect there are a few more I don't yet know about so don't be shy let me know! We can't keep everyone fully informed if we don't know how to get hold of you!

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 47th Annual General Meeting Tuesday 6th April usual place but don't forget it's at 1930!!

Regards

Barrie

## Last T-class refit draws to a close

March 4, 2010 Nuclear powered attack submarine (SSN) HMS Triumph sailed from Devonport Royal Dockyard following a successful Long Overhaul Period (Refuel) [LOP(R)] by Babcock the last Trafalgar class submarine refit and refuel to be undertaken.

The extensive four year, 2.75 million manhour refit has included some significant capability improvements, as well as reactor refuelling, refurbishment work on all submarine systems, and addressing considerable emergent repair work.

Capability improvements have included installation of the latest sonar 2076 bow, flank and towed array systems, and upgrade for Tomahawk land attack cruise systems. missile command and control system has been installed, as well as a new internal fibre optic computer systems network and enhanced satellite communications system. An additional ballast pump has been installed to aid rapid deballasting, and a number of safety improvements incorporated to fire fighting and Major escape capabilities. equipments have been upgraded to support both efficiency and obsolescence management programmes, such as the chilled water plants.



next commission."

The LOP(R), which saw some 30,000 work instructions raised and issued, and over 75,000 items of equipment overhauled, has included a number of challenges that were successfully met. Among these was the need for new inspection equipment to be designed, manufactured and commissioned to carry out surveys on the reactor systems. This required close working between Babcock, the MoD design authority and Rolls Royce to minimise programme impact. Additionally, repairs were successfully carried out by Babcock to both torpedo tube air ram cylinders which were far more extensive than anticipated before being surveyed at the start of the LOP(R). Further challenges included equipment obsolescence issues, often requiring fault diagnosis and resolution without original manufacturer's drawings.

Commenting on the LOP(R), Babcock submarine operations director, Devonport, Gavin Leckie, said: "The quality of HMS Triumph as she leaves for sea trials, and timely completion of this extensive refit, is testament to the skill, dedication, and close teamwork by all involved. The significant safety and capability improvements undertaken during this substantial overhaul programme have fully equipped the submarine for her

Superintendent Submarines, Captain Mike Robinson, said: "Despite this being the last Trafalgar Class submarine LOP(R) the project has had to overcome some significant emergent technical challenges and this has required close co-operation between the MoD and Babcock. The output of much hard work is an extremely capable submarine ready for her next commission."

HMS Triumph will now undergo a three month sea trials programme before returning to the Fleet for operational duties.

#### An age thing

Youth passes, but with luck immaturity can last a life time.





#### CANADA HONOURS SUB IN EVENT

A FRAMED history of a Barrow-designed and reactivated submarine was set to be presented to the Victoria City Council in Western Canada today as part of the Canadian Navy's centenary celebrations.

HMCS Victoria, built in1991, is the former Royal Navy HMS Unseen and one of the four Upholder class submarines designed inBarrow and reactivated in the town for Canada after four years moth balls .Although first of class Upholder now HMC **SChicoutimi** was built in Barrow, Victoria was built at Cammell Laird inBirkenhead, then owned by VSEL.

The presentation includes a picture of the submarine, its ship's badge and a short history.

At the same meeting His Worship will proclaim May 4, 2010, Navy Day in honour of the Canadian Naval Centennial. Victoria is currently in refit.

Similar presentations are being made across Canada to bring attention to the Canadian Naval Centennial and highlight the connection the navy has with communities large and small in every corner of the country.

Since 1910 Canada has put more than 850 warships to sea under the naval ensign.



Upholder class sub in Barrow

News paper Ad

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE.

Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.

#### CHAPLAINS DIT APRIL 2010

Chaplain = Keeper of St. Martin's cloak. St. Martin is the patron saint of soldiers: When I wrote last month's Dit it was my intention to split the article into two parts History One and History Two, and felt that would be sufficient. However having reread my opening paragraphs I felt there is room for improvement. So with the benefit of more research I am now taking a different path and will spread the results over the coming months The name "chaplain" first appears in British military history in the reign of Edward I between 1272 and 1305, but Chaplaincy historians derive the word from a much earlier source, the story of St. Martin of Tours in the 4th century. Concerned for a starving, shivering beggar on a freezing cold night, Martin, a soldier, took off his cloak, cut it into two and gave half to the beggar. His dream that night of Jesus wearing the half cloak turned him into a believer. He was eventually the patron saint of the kings of France, who carried his cloak (capella) into battle to symbolise the Divine presence. The keeper of the cloak (capellanus) was the king's spiritual adviser (i.e. chaplain) and the place where the cloak was housed was called a (chapel). The current form of military chaplain dates from the era of the First World War. A chaplain provides spiritual and pastoral support for service personnel. including conduct of religious services at sea or in the field. In the Royal Navy chaplains are traditionally addressed by their Christian name, or with one of many nick-names (Bish; Sin-Bosun; Devil Dodger; Sky-Pilot; God Botherer etc). In the British Army and Koyal Air Force, chaplains are traditionally referred to (and addressed) as padre or as Sir/Ma'am. In the Royal Navy chaplains have no rank other than "chaplain" while in the British Army they hold commissioned executive All chaplains rank. commissioned officers and wear

uniform. British Army and Royal Air Force chaplains bear ranks and wear rank insignia, but Royal Navy chaplains do not, wearing a cross and the officers' cap badge as their only insignia.



**Regards Jonsey** 

#### SENIOR HEALTH Care Solution

So you're a senior citizen and the government says no health care or pension for you, what do you do? Our plan gives anyone 65 years or older a gun and 4 bullets.

You are allowed to shoot 2 MP's and 2 Senior Government Officials. Of Course, this means you will be sent to prison where you will get 3 meals a day, a roof over your head, and all the health care you need! New teeth, no problem. Need glasses, great. New hip, knees, kidney, lungs, heart? All covered. And who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you that you are too old for health care. Plus, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any income taxes anymore.

## IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?!

An age thing

Trust me at my age I'm an expert on every thing.







#### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Merseyside Branch
7th Feb 2010
Able seaman (HSD)
Aged 84
Submarine service 1943-1952
Sirdar, Tactician, Tradewind,
Thule

Scotland North East Branch
March 2010
Reider Pedersen
Able seaman
Aged 90
served in URedd, Ula, and B1
(Norwegian)

Non Member 8th March 2010 Jeffrey (Maggot) Mathews CPO (TI) Submarine service in Dreadnought, Superb, Otter, Splendid and Torbay

Non Member
March 2010
J E Barber
Chief Engine room Artificer
Submarine service 1953-1969
Anchorite, Seascout,
Excalibur, Porpose, Ocelot,
Ambush & Alliance

Scotland NE & Beds & Herts
Branches
March 2010
P (Pat) Fitzgerald
Able Seaman (UW3)
aged 72
Submarine service 1955-1961
Subtle, Auriga, Aurochs,
Telemachus, Walrus and
Explorer

Morecambe Bay Branch
March 2010
E B (Eric) Johnson
Chief Electrical Mechanician
Aged 72
Submarine service from 1956
in
Talent, Alaric, Sleuth,
Trespasser, Seascout,
Dreadnought & Conqueror



Medway Towns Branch
March 2010
R (Roger) Foster
Able Seaman (UW3)
Aged 73
Submarine service 1956-1966
Trespasser, Springer,
Grampus, Springer and
Finwhale

Gosport Branch
22nd March
D (Dave) Cassie
Charge Chief Radio
Mechanician
Aged 76
Submarine service 1955-1990
Artemis, Alaric, Tallyho,
Tanin, Rahav, Narwhal, Tudor

NonMember
March 2010
George Hayhoe, CBE
Captain
Aged 81
Submarine service from 1950
in
Thule, Trenchant, Anchorite,
Scotsman, Andrew, Amphion,
Acheron, Scircher (CO),
Token(CO), Anchorite (CO),
Tabard (CO), Ocelot (CO)
Commander SM1 and
Captain SM1

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 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.

#### Eric (Electric Boat) Johnson

Some of our Members will remember the late Chief El Mechanician Eric **Barlow** (Electric Boat) Johnson some from serving with him in Sub-marines HMS TALENT (the first one), ALARIC, SLEUTH, TRESPASSER, DREADNOUGHT SEASCOUT, and Others may CONOUEROR. remember him from his time in the Shipyard working in SMITE and others will remember him from visits to and from the Morecambe Bay Branch.

Eric recently passed away in Furness General at the age of 72 after a lengthy illness.

We had a chance to say goodbye to Eric on 22nd March when his funeral service took place at the Thorncliffe Crematorium in Barrow.

The Chapel was packed with family (his wife Pam, their children and grandchildren), many friends and a very good turn out of Submariners from both the Barrow and Morecambe Bay Branches

Tim Roberts (Morecambe Bay Branch President) gave the eulogy for Eric from a very Submariner oriented perspective very nicely done and one of the first times I have heard clapping at a funeral service.

The Barrow and Morecambe Bay Branch Standards were paraded and a guard of honour provided. Some Members went back to the 'Crown' at Flookburgh for the wake and several others went back to the 'Railway' to raise a few glasses in memory of a Submariner and a gentleman.

#### REMINDER!!!!

There will be DVD **EDITORIAL MEETING 13th** April 1930 HRS at the Royal British Legion. I am mindful that November is getting ever closer and if possible the Committee would like to see a completed version to be ready for this year's Remembrance Sunday Service. If any member feels they can contribute to the process of turning our DVD into a first class production, then we would appreciate your input.

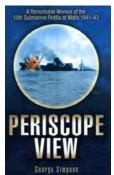
#### An Age Thing

A poor Memory's not the same as a clear conscience.

You can hold your stomach in for just so many years.



#### **Book Shelf Report**



This book is a new edition to our Branch Library and is available for any member to borrow. It tells the story of Malta and the 10th Submarine Flotilla under the Command

the Command of George "Shrimp" Simpson between 1941- 43. Barrie Downer has reviewed the book and produced a report filtered via his historical head. I personally found it a good read, which again opened my mind to the harsh realities of submarine warfare at its bloodiest. To quote the flyleaf "As the retribution on both sides was terrible: half of all Axis shipping was sunk: and half the **R**oyal Navy's submarines failed to return". And a sobering thought came to me. That although we are now training and spending for a different scenario I very much doubt that future Captain S.M's will ever again enjoy the luxury of having the requisite submarine hulls at their dispal.

#### The Editor

On a recent branch outing we suddenly find a twin. See picture opposite.

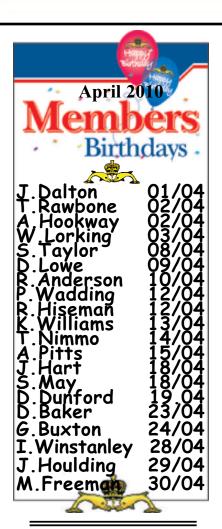
The News letter is 2 publications away from it's 10th anniversary As normal if we are to continue to publish monthly please keep the articles and pictures coming. I look forward to your continued support. Below is a recent Newspaper AD.

#### FOR SALE BY OWNER.

Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 45 volumes. Excellent condition.....£200 or best offer. No longer needed; got married last month. Wife knows



everything!



www.hmsresolution.org.uk



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#### News Letter Contact Information

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

#### Rwbritten1@msn.com

Constructive suggestions about the news letter are very welcome. The news letter will be published in the last week of each month IE last week of April for the Mayl 2010 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 2010

### **April**

Tuesday 6th Annual general meeting 1930 RBL 16/18 w/e Espana Levanta Tuesday 20th Branch committee meeting 1930 RBL Sat 24th Annual dinner dance Sunday 25th St Georges day parade

### May

Tuesday 4th Monthly meeting Tuesday 18th Branch Committee Meeting



## Solve the monthly submarine quiz

We hope you enjoyed last month's submarine wordsquare.

If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page. This month we have clues based on Barrow street names with a nautical flavour.

It seems Hindpool has 31 Admirals, Captains or notable men from the Admiralty on its street signs.

The latest was named after Roger Keves in 1929.

### The Admirals of Hindpool

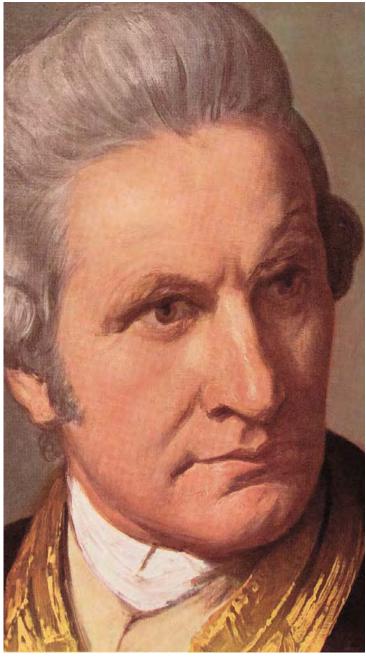
- 1. HOWE
- 2. VINCENT
- 3. DUNCAN
- 4. SIDNEY
- 5. ANSON
- 6. DRAKE

- 7. RALEIGH
- 8. COOK
- 9. HAWKE
- 10. KEYES
- 11. VERNON
- 12. COLLINGWOOD



Last month's wordsquare solution (below)





NO LIMITS: Captain Cook took navigational knowledge to new levels