



PERISCOPE VIEW

Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KCVO KBE

President: Commodore Jim Perks CB

The Newsletter of the Barrow-in Furness Branch

Submariners Association

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July 2026

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COVER PHOTO – THE STANDARD OF THE BARROW BRANCH RNA

“Nothing in the world, nothing that you may think or dream of, or anyone may tell you, no arguments however specious, no appeals however seductive, must lead you to abandon that naval supremacy on which the life of our country depends.”

WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL

EDITORIAL July 2026

Hello Everybody

How did it get to be July already - half way through the 125th Anniversary year already and starting the run down to Christmas! The weather hasn't been so good of late with the rain and thunder and lightning but I have been assured that another heatwave is just around the corner!.

Firstly apologies for the late production of the Newsletter this month – computer problems with the PDF programme particularly refusing to play ball – but all sorted out now!

One extra event this month – THE TROJAN GAMES - organised by the Building Boats for Wednesday 8th July at Hawcoat Park – see details on Page 5. Very short notice I know but HMS AGAMEMNON will be leaving Barrow shortly and this might be the last chance for them to be involved in organising something for us all! Please support the Building Boats if you can.

Several Submariners were recognised in the recent Birthday Honours List and Navy Awards announced last week as follows:

CBE

Commodore David Mark Filtress

Meritorious Service Medal

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (MESM) A Brown

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (WESM) J Parker

Royal Navy Commendation

Chief Petty Officer Coxswain (SM) L Davis

Petty Officer Engineering Technician (WESM) J Drummond

Petty Officer Engineering Technician (MESM) M Forrest - VENGEANCE

Leading Engineering Technician (MESM) C Rice - VENGEANCE

Leading Engineering Technician (MESM) J Stretch - VENGEANCE

NATO Meritorious Service Medal

Chief Petty Officer Engineering Technician (MESM) M R Impey

Thanks to all those who supported Armed Forces Day Flag Raising and the various events including the Displays in the Town Hall and thanks to those involved in the organisation. Good to see that a selection of the Paintings from our Submarine Heritage Collection were on show. Thanks also to those who were able to attend the Dunoon Memorial Service. I hope you will all be able to attend the July Branch Meeting and support the Committee and the Members. Meanwhile, hopefully, you will find something interesting to read and enjoy in this Issue. No 'Monthly Member's Draw' this month as Alex will be on his 'Holibobs' - that's not a reason to miss the Monthly Meeting - it will be back at the August Meeting when you might be able to win £20. The July Branch Meeting will be held in the Concert Room at the Royal British Legion at 1930 on Tuesday 7th July – see you all there – don't be late!

Best Regards, Barrie

SECRETARY'S REPORT – July 2026

Hello all,

On the 10th of June, Brisbane Infants School held their Bright Stars project which they partnered with couple of the guys from HMS Dreadnought. This was reported to be a great success with the children making plantable cards and learning British sign language to accompany songs. There were drinks, cakes and entertainment for all the guests and the option to purchase a plantable card. The school would like to thank the guys from HMS Dreadnought and the Veterans for their support of this event.

On the 20th of June we marked the start of Armed Forces Week by presenting the AFD Flag to the new Mayor of Barrow at the Town Hall. It was a short ceremony with tea and stickies on completion. Our Branch Standard was then displayed in the Town Hall along with a detailed history of the laid-up Standards in St. John's Church. Thank you to Barrie Downer - our President and Branch historian - for writing up this document for the display. On the 27th of June we attended the Armed Forces Day parade. There was a service at the War Memorial, followed by a parade through Barrow precinct, much to the delight of the people of the town doing their shopping. Thank you to Jake Lake for arranging a display of our Submarine Heritage Collection paintings in the Town Hall showing the history of the Royal Navy Ship and Submarine building in Barrow. As the day progressed, it evolved into a great social occasion as Veterans visited several of the local pubs, all in all, a great celebration of Armed Forces Day. Finally, our Branch Committee would like to thank Claire Nolan for all her efforts to organise this event, we believe that Claire goes above and beyond what is expected and is a great advocate, not just for our Branch but for all Military Veterans and Cadets.

Yours aye,

Julian (Jules) Talks

barrow.sa.secretary@gmail.com

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT - July 2026

Hi Everybody

June didn't see much in the way or organised Branch socials but we did have a busy month. Started off with Nikki's birthday run at the Hope and Anchor; rum, food, more rum, singing and dancing – what a great afternoon.

Then a few of us went over to Malta for the HMS Upholder reunion. Fantastic five days in the pre-sun sun; who would have known it was going to get warmer in Uk than it was in Valetta. Another great run ashore organised by Barney – yes he is a member of our branch.

Then we had our armed forces flag presentation at the town hall by Peter Lamb; a great job he did but the Mayor however was a little less sure of herself; needs more training me thinks. Then it was Dave's day another fantastic turnout from the town and it was definitely a feel good day. I am hoping this isn't going to be the last one, and especially given the reason is the funding from above.

Finally for June we had the Armed Forces Parade proper, which is just coming up so I won't spoil the ending for you. But I would like to add that the work put in on our behalf by Jules and Claire has been first class and I hope you all got to see our Standard on display in the town hall.

So what's coming up?

Saturday 25th July was to have been our Committee pie and pint run ashore, sadly a few of the main players are away on holibobs, so I have postponed this to a later date – watch this space

Sat 29th August is our annual trip to Cartmel to bet on the ponies, have a picnic and a few tinnies. This is always a great day out at only £20 to get taken there on coach and all back home by 1900. I have a 49 seater for this trip so please support it if you can. You don't need to bet on the horses they also have a fun fair there. I will be taking names and payment for this at the August meeting.

Saturday 12th September is our ladies afternoon tea; I am after a couple of volunteers to help drive these ladies around.

Saturday 19th September is our DTS in the West Shore Club.

The members' draw was won June so stands at £20 for the August meeting; due to the fact I am away on holibobs myself at the next meeting.

Yours Aye

Alex

Barrow Submariners Association Social Planner 2026 (Mod 3)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
		<u>July</u>	
25th	Sat	DTS	Askam
		<u>August</u>	
29th	Sat	Race Day	Cartmel
		<u>September</u>	
12th	Sat	Ladies Lunch	Townhouse
19th	Sat	DTS West Shore Club	Walney
20th	Sun	Battle of Britain Parade	Barrow
		<u>October</u>	
15th	Thur	Jan's Birthday & 50th RN Anniversary	Hope & Anchor (Ulv)
23rd	Fri	Trafalgar Night	Fairfield
		<u>November</u>	
8th - 10th	W/E	Remembrance Parades	Barrow
		<u>December</u>	
18th	Fri	Christmas Party	Legion
27th	Sun	DTS Seaweed Corner	Walney

NOTES

1. Monthly Meeting 1st Tuesday of Month at 7:30pm
2. Meetings include: Rum Issue, Scratchcard, Members Draw & Snacks.
3. Prices of Events & Dress Code TBC.
4. Quiz Nights TBC Prior to Event.

THE TROJAN GAMES

This is an event the 'Building Boats' Ship's Companies are putting on Wednesday 8th July starting at 13:00: The Trojan Games will be hosted at Hawcoat Park on Wednesday 8th July starting at 13:00. The Itinerary to include Sports games from participating Ship's Company Teams, a BBQ, Submarine Gizzet stalls, fantastic prizes to be won on the raffle, prize/Dolphins presentation and live entertainment from local band Route 66.

This is also (unofficially) the last Social Event that Boat 6 (AGAMEMNON) will likely get prior to exit from Barrow, and we'd be honoured to have any members from the Barrow SA who wish to attend.

PFA the event poster, if you wish to broadcast a heads up email out to the further reaches of the association to gauge interest, let them know I will be selling tickets at the monthly get together next Tuesday (7th July).

Apologies if this is fairly short notice, we've had somewhat limited time to arrange the event, but it should be a good little get together for all submarine adjacent personnel in the Barrow area, any further questions feel free to get in touch.

JULY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 7 th Jul
Committee Meeting	As Required

AUGUST BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 4 th Aug
Committee Meeting	As Required

SEPTEMBER BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 1 st Sep
Committee Meeting	As Required

JULY BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

M. (Michael) Gardener	02/07/1955
C. (Chris) Findley	04/07/1983
S (Stephen) Cox	05/07/1992
M. (Mark) Butchart	13/07/1979
P (Phyllis) Palmer (A)	14/07/1943
G (Gary) Ellis (A)	14/07/1957
M. (Malcolm) Hogg	15/07/1957
R. (Dickie) Cambridge	16/07/1947
J. (Jon) Broome	17/07/1983
B.D. (Brian) Downie	17/07/1948
V (Veronica) Pointer(A)	17/07/1949
J.A. (John) Davies	20/07/1969
S. M. Stephen McKay	24/07/1961
P. (Paul) Acton	25/07/1993
C. (Cheryl) Hagen (A)	25/07/1974
B. (Barney) Naylor	25/07/1964
A (Adel) Groundwater(A)	29/07/1973
E (Edward) Higgins	29/07/1985

Happy Birthday All!!

DISCLAIMER

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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 liability on any issue in this Newsletter.

SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

Do you have any? Submarine Commissioning, Paying Off, De-commissioning and Re-dedication Crew Lists – are still wanted, thank you very much. These Crew List are required for an ongoing project to compile a Chronological Record of Submariners. If you don't have any Crew Lists and you wish to be added to the Record you can always send me your individual details - where and when joined boats, rank or rate, boats served in - with dates if known – Official Numbers are always helpful as well.

I am looking for 'First Commission' Crew Lists as follows: PORPOISE, GRAMPUS, CACHALOT, WALRUS, OBERON, ONYX, ORPHEUS, ODIN, OTUS, UNICORN, AUDACIOUS and ANSON. Also looking for copies of Crew Lists for subsequent Commissions of any 'O' Class, 'P' Class or Nuclear Boat – SSN & SSBN. Crew Lists for any Commissioning or Decommissioning of any Diesel 'A,' 'S' or 'T' Class Boat refitting in Home Dockyards or in Malta, Singapore or Sydney are also required. Have a look through your records and 'Ditty Boxes' and see what you can find. You can contact me by E Mail, Snail Mail or Telephone
Thanks Barrie Downer

RESURGAM - REMEMBERING FORMER BARROW MEMBERS JULY

N T V Evans	1985
Herbie Rowlands	1988
Francis Jordan	1992
Kenneth Martin	1993
Len Malkin	1998
David Melvin	2001

Christopher Breeze	2010
Ben Skeates	2010
Terry Spurling	2015
Peter Lorking	2015
Mike Kirk	2022
Carl Haythornthwaite	2022
Brian Reed	2022
Eric Herron	2023

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFO

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the Newsletter - then ring Barrie Downer on 01229 820963 or, if you wish to send me an article, my Postal Address is 'The Firs', Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ. You may also send your contribution by e-mail frozennorth55@gmail.com. Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

Constructive suggestions about the Newsletter are also very welcome. The Newsletter will be published in the last week of each month i.e., the last week in July for the August 2026 Issue.

Also, please note that the SA National Newsletter 'In Depth' will be published on 1st August 2026 so, if you have anything for either Newsletter please ensure you have any information with me ideally by the 15th of the previous month to ensure its

inclusion in the next issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition – keep them stories coming

BARROW PARADES AND EVENTS 2026

Battle of Britain Parade – 20th Sep 2026

The Deputy Clerk has submitted the relevant Event Forms to W&F. Des Murphy has submitted an invitation to the Mayor and Town Councillors, together with details of the Parade Order, Civic Party, Order of wreath laying and route map. The Parade will leave the Town Hall at 11.30am and proceed to the War Memorial for the commemorative service at 12. Refreshments will be served at the Royal British Legion afterwards. Invites will be sent to the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff. The Police have will carry out traffic control/management for this event.

Submarine Service 125th Anniversary - Submariners Working Group

Both BAE and the Submarine Service will be involved. This will be a large event covering the weekend of 3rd and 4th October 2026. An e-mail outlining the tasks that need to be completed and acceptance to join the working group has been promulgated by J Talks.

HRH PRINCE WILLIAM JOINS ROYAL NAVY AT HM NAVAL BASE FASLANE TO MARK 125th ANNIVERSARY OF SUBMARINE SERVICE

ROYAL NAVY MEDIA RELEASE

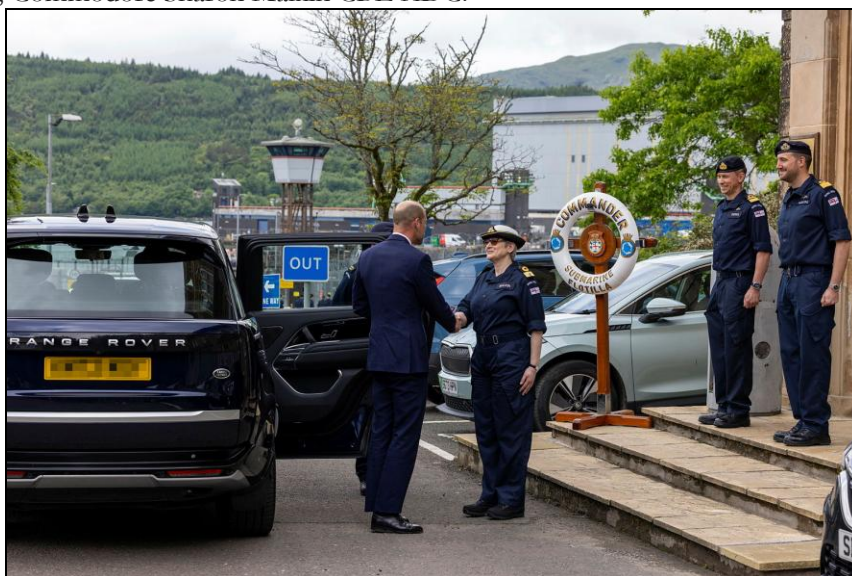
Friday, 5th June 2026



HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Prince William joined Royal Navy submariners and their families on Tuesday, 2nd June, to help mark the 125th anniversary of the Submarine Service.

Prince William, who is known as the Duke of Rothesay in Scotland and is Commodore-in-Chief of the Submarine Service, visited HM Naval Base Clyde, the navy's operating base for its Submarine Flotilla.

Welcoming him to the military site was Rear Admiral Andy Perks MBE, Head of the Submarine Service, and Commodore Ben Haskins CBE, Commander of the Submarine Flotilla, who were joined by Naval Base Commander Clyde, Commodore Sharon Malkin CBE ADC.



"It was a great honour to welcome His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, Commodore-in Chief of the Submarine Service, to HM Naval Base Clyde," said Rear Admiral Andy Perks.

"The Prince of Wales spent time with our people, recognising the skill, dedication and teamwork that define the Submarine Service. From maintaining our Strategic Deterrent to delivering operations worldwide, our people work quietly but tirelessly, and this visit was a valued acknowledgement of their extraordinary contribution."

The Royal Navy Submarine Service began with the arrival of its first vessel, HOLLAND 1, in 1901. The Navy recruited six officers under the command of Captain Reginald Bacon who was appointed *"Inspecting Captain of Submarines"*.

Initially dismissed as *"underhand, unfair, and damned un-English"*, submarines quickly proved their worth as effective weapons of war.

By the start of the First World War in 1914, the Silent Service had grown to 168 officers and 1,250 Ratings. During the conflict, the Submarine Service was awarded five of the Royal Navy's Victoria Crosses and went on to earn a total of 14 during its 125-year history.

Commander of the Submarine Flotilla, Commodore Ben Haskins, said:

"It was a true privilege to welcome the Duke of Rothesay to the home of the Submarine Service as our Commodore-in-Chief.

The visit was particularly special in this the 125th Anniversary year of the commissioning of the first Royal Navy submarine, HMS HOLLAND 1.

"His Royal Highness' support to our superb submariners and enthusiasm for the Service are humbling. Together, we share a commitment to improving the conditions of service for those within the Flotilla and their families, and this close relationship continues to make a meaningful difference to our people."

While at the Faslane site, Prince William took the opportunity to meet with women in the Submarine Service as part of his ongoing efforts to learn about the experiences and welfare of women in the armed forces.

He also toured a Vanguard Class submarine, one of four which maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent. While onboard the vessel he presented trainees with their Gold Dolphins – the badge that signifies they have successfully completed training to become fully qualified Royal Navy submariners.

Among them was Drew, a 19-year-old submariner, who has recently completed his ten-week submarine training course.

"To have His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales present my Dolphins is an absolute privilege and an experience I will remember for the rest of my life," said Drew.

"My dad and brother, who are both in the Royal Air Force, are jealous that I was presented with my Dolphins by the future King. My mum is jealous too, but also very proud."

Travelling to the nearby Drumfork Community Centre in Helensburgh, His Royal Highness finished his visit by meeting with the often “silent heroes” of the Silent Service – the families of submariners.

Kayleigh, whose husband was onboard the Vanguard Class submarine during the Prince’s visit earlier in the day, said:

“I was very nervous to meet him, but he was incredibly kind and a warm person. It was an honour to meet him.

“It is sometimes hard to be part of the submarine community so it is nice to be recognised, especially on this occasion, by the Prince.”

Kayleigh was accompanied by her ten-year-old daughter, Olivia, who said:

“The Prince was much taller than I expected!”

Today, the Royal Navy Submarine Service provides the UK with unique military capabilities. Submarines can operate undetected, contribute to intelligence gathering, special operations, and can carry out surprise attacks.

They also provide a deterrent effect. The Royal Navy’s Vanguard Class submarines contribute to the delivery of the UK’s Continuous At Sea Deterrent (CASD), a mission which has been fulfilled, unbroken, since 1969.

From the 2030s the nuclear deterrent baton will be passed to a new generation of submarines – the Dreadnought Class.

The UK government is investing millions of pounds at HM Naval Base Clyde to prepare for the Dreadnought vessels. Last year, a £270M investment package was approved – an initial three-year funding to be used to adapt and improve infrastructure at the Clyde base.

Part of the improvements include the construction of four new Single Living Accommodation (SLA) blocks. The first two, earmarked for Submariner students undertaking training at Clyde’s new Royal Navy Submarine Training Centre (RNSTC), are scheduled to open later this year.

Sent by: Royal Navy, Communications & Influence (RNCI) Regional Press Office (Scotland & Northern Ireland), HM Naval Base Clyde.

Photographs:

Other pictures of the visit can be downloaded from the following link: [Royal visit to Faslane](#)



**125 YEARS OF
HM SUBMARINES**

BARROW IN FURNESS BRANCH

125th Anniversary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service.

Dear Branch Member and Partner,

On behalf of the Royal Navy Submarine Service and the Barrow Submariners Association, we are delighted to invite you to join us in celebrating the **125th Anniversary of the Royal Navy Submarine Service.**

The celebrations will take place on:

Saturday 3rd October 2026

Programme of Events

- 11:30am** Serving & Veteran Submariners Muster at AE1 & AE2 Memorial
- 12:00pm** Main Parade at the Town Hall Forecourt
- 12:30pm** Meet and greet in the Town Hall
- 1:00pm** Buffet lunch and bar, including a Submarine Art Exhibition
- 2:00pm** Concert by the Scarborough Sea Cadet Band
- 3:00pm** Meet & Greet at the Royal British Legion, Barrow
- 4:00pm – 8:00pm** – Refreshments and entertainment at the Royal British Legion, Barrow

This occasion will provide an opportunity to celebrate 125 years of the Royal Navy Submarine Service and recognise the proud and historic connection between the Submarine Service and the town of Barrow.

We would be honoured by your attendance.

Please RSVP by **24th July 2026** and advise us of any dietary requirements or allergies when responding.

RSVP and enquiries to:

Julian Talks

Barrow-in-Furness Branch Secretary

Email: barrow.sa.secretary@gmail.com

We look forward to welcoming you to this special occasion.

Julian Talks

Barrow-in-Furness Submariners Association

Dunoon Memorial Weekend (2nd May 2026)



Every year on the first or second weekend in May the Scottish Branch of the Submariners Association is organising a Memorial weekend in Dunoon (Argyll) to commemorate the loss of HMS VANDAL and HMS UNTAMED both lost in 1943 during WWII. The story in short is that both Submarines sank during their working up period in the Firth of Clyde. HMS VANDAL was eventually located just off Lochranza on the Isle of Arran. HMS UNTAMED perished near Campbeltown. Because she went down in shallower waters they managed to raise the boat and therefore the Crew is buried in Dunoon Cemetery (except for one crew member who was laid to rest in Campbeltown)



HMS VANDAL could not be located precisely at the time and remained “On Patrol” until found in 1994 by HMS Hurworth, 300 feet deep, after a search by the Royal Navy which was initiated by the Scottish Branch of the Submariners Association.

(Full Stories for both boats are available from the Scottish Branch)

HMS VANDAL

Arriving at the Esplanade Hotel in Dunoon, which has been hosting the Scottish Branch now for many years during the Memorial Weekend, the “meet and greet” as planned went in full swing and accompanied by a tot or two everybody that knew each other quickly mixed with those others that joined us for the first time. It is always very unfortunate however that a few of the “regulars” could not join us anymore due to advancing years, mobility and sadly some Crossed the Bar. We will remember them!!

After our dinner and some more hours of spinning dits etc. it was time to get into our bunks to get ready for a busy Saturday program.

Mustering at the now repaired Dunoon Jetty, the Tender arrived right on time and after safely boarding with great assistance from the Crew on the Tender we set sail for Lochranza on the Isle of Arran.

With kind weather conditions and the Helensburgh/Rhu Sea Cadets joining us on the Tender we arrived 2 and half hours later at Lochranza for our first Memorial Service of the weekend at the Memorial Cairn for HMS VANDAL which was erected there in 1997 by the Scottish Branch of the SA just next to the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal. The Memorial carries the names of all 37 Crew Member that lost their lives.

After the Memorial Service officiated by Rev. Chris Lamb from the National and International Submariners Association, we all went back on board of the Tender which brought us to exactly the position where HMS VANDAL still rests

and give us an opportunity to put some more wreaths overboard in remembrance to those that perished in the waters below us. This being probably the most emotional moment for many that joined us on the Tender.

Back to Dunoon, serving lunch, teas and coffees and the traditional Tot to all aboard. The Ladies performed a Scottish Highland Jig (at least that is what we believe it is!!) to the tunes of our resident Pipers and Drummer. Well

done girls!! A mention also about the Sea Cadets who have been of great assistance with the catering, looking after all on board and socializing with both the Tender Crew and all others. Well done and thank you!

Arriving back in Dunoon and the Hotel the Scottish Branch organised a Pimms Reception with the opportunity for some of our guests to give a short presentation. Mrs. Rowina Japp from the local NHS was talking about the implementation of the Veterans Covenant and Captain Nick Locke saying thanks on behalf of the Royal Navy Submarine Service.

After Dinner it was time for our social night and the band Acoustic Soundz. It was not long before the dance floor was crowded with a special performance from some. A great time was had by all and I am sure the Hotel Bar did also great business that night. The band was exceptional again and certainly booked for the next time in 2027. Sunday morning breakfast out of the way we all made our way to Dunoon Castle Garden and the HMS UNTAMED Memorial Stone. Here we held the Memorial Service for the Crew of HMS UNTAMED before we made our way to the Cowal Kirk(St John's) for the Sunday Service. After the Service we were invited to have a tea and coffee including cakes with the members of the church which was very enjoyable.

The last action of the weekend is our visit to Dunoon Cemetery. Here we have our last short Memorial Service and an opportunity to place our wooden crosses at the graves of the 32 Crew Members buried here in 1943 after the HMS UNTAMED was salvaged and went actually to war as HMS VITALITY. She was scrapped in Troon in 1946. One Crew Member was buried in Campbeltown.

HMS UNTAMED

The Scottish Branch is very grateful to those that attended the Memorial weekend this year. Many of you have travelled from far and beyond to join us and commemorate the Crews from HMS VANDAL and HMS UNTAMED.

We would like to remind everyone that the West of Scotland Branch will also organise a Memorial Service for the 12th X-Craft Flotilla on 6th June in Rothesay on the Isle of Bute.

So at this point everybody said their farewells and I hope all had a safe journey home. HASTE YE BACK!!

Image Credit: <https://www.visitorsguidetoscotland.com/2021/12/dunoon/>

Author: Ronald Rietveld

Chairman/Secretary Scottish Branch

HMS AGAMEMNON TO LEAVE BARROW



The Royal Navy's sixth Astute-class attack submarine, HMS AGAMEMNON, is in the final stages of commissioning and is expected to depart Barrow-in-Furness to begin sea trials by the end of 2026, the Ministry of Defence stated in a written answer to a parliamentary question.

Liberal Democrat MP James MacCleary had asked the Secretary of State for Defence when HMS AGAMEMNON was expected to be fully operational.

Minister for Defence Readiness and Industry Luke Pollard replied: “HMS *AGAMEMNON* is in the final stages of commissioning, and we continue to work closely with industry partners to deliver the submarine by the end of 2026, at which point she is expected to depart Barrow and commence sea trials.” He continued: “For security reasons, we do not disclose specific timelines for full operational capability, which will be dependent on the successful completion of these trials.”

Pollard's answer confirms only the broad sequencing from commissioning through departure to sea trials, leaving the period between trials and front-line tasking unstated.

HMS AGAMEMNON was launched at Barrow in October 2024. The boat's transition from build through commissioning to sea trials will, on the timeline set out in Pollard's answer, see it leave the Devonshire Dock Hall by the end of 2026 to begin the long process of trials and work-up that traditionally precedes acceptance into front-line service. For previous boats of the class that process has taken several years.

HMS SIDON MEMORIAL SERVICE

On the 16th June 2026 members of the Dorset Branch of the Submariners Association and guest met at the SIDON Memorial on Portland to commemorate the sinking of Submarine SIDON on the 16th June 1955 with the loss of 13 lives. It was a pleasure to meet up with Gill Dash whose father Surgeon Lieutenant Rhodes lost his life rescuing men from the Boat after the explosion He was awarded the Albert Medal for his actions on the day. Gill was a baby in arms when her father died and regularly attends the services proudly wearing Her fathers medal.

Also with us was Eileen Deacon whose husband Gordon was a survivor of the accident, Gordon Crossed the Bar a couple of years ago and as per his request his ashes were scattered at the scene of SIDONs sinking.

OBOR Update

We are pleased to report that the re-engineering of Online Book Of Remembrance under the new developer, Brew Digital, who also manage the Friends of the RN Submarine Museum website, is now complete. So the Friends have now taken over the contract from The Submarine Family / Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity. You won't notice much difference except that it is quicker but we are confident that it will be more reliable and the admin side is certainly simpler and easier to use.

Engagement by the public continues well with about one visitor comment every 2 days and a total of over 300 comments on People. We now have stories completed for over 1,000 of the 5,944 people listed, and are keen to complete more, especially for those people on whom interest has been shown by the public - 200 of these are still to be done.

We continue to refine and update the data where necessary and correct omissions. We were contacted by the widow of Warrant Officer Stephen Nevard, who some readers may have known, and who died in 2002 while serving in HMS DRYAD. He had been missed off the Memorial Wall at the Museum and was not in OBOR, however that has now been rectified. Have a look at his page and leave a comment if you wish. And please leave comments on the pages of any other shipmates that you may have known. Scan the QR Code below or visit <https://submarineremembrance.uk/>.

We are now embarking on a further development of OBOR where we will add pages for all submarine memorials with list of People in OBOR who feature on each memorial. There is a lot of work to be done in completing all the data for this enhancement and in writing up stories. Help with this would be appreciated. If any of you have the time, interest and familiarity with researching peoples' past then we would be delighted if you were able to join the team. Just contact Peter Jeanneret at obor@submarineremembrance.uk.

Jeanneret at obor@submarineremembrance.uk.

We Remember Submarines – Price Increase

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with deep regret that due to the ever-rising prices of manufacture, postage and packing, membership of We Remember Submariners will rise from £10 per year to £15 per year with effect from Saturday, 1st May 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is the membership fee increasing?

Over recent years, the cost of postage, manufacturing, and packaging has risen significantly. These increases directly affect the funds available for our charitable work. The membership fee increase helps WRS remain sustainable and continue supporting submariners and their families.

When does the new membership fee take effect?

The new annual membership fee of £15 will take effect from Saturday, 1st May 2026.

Will the cost of the annual pin change?

No. The price of the annual pin will remain £6 for 2026.

How will the additional funds be used?

The increased membership income will help:

Maintain and improve support for submariners and their families

Cover rising operational costs such as postage and production

Introduce new initiatives such as long service recognition and expanded membership options

All WRS trustees and volunteers continue to work unpaid.

What is the 10 year membership pin?

This is a proposed recognition pin to thank members for 10 years of continued support. It reflects our appreciation for long standing commitment to WRS.

What does "Next of Kin continuation membership" mean?

This option allows a member's Next of Kin to continue membership following the loss of a loved one, ensuring continued connection, remembrance, and inclusion within the WRS community.

What is junior membership, and who would it be for?

WRS is exploring the possibility of junior membership for those under 18, aimed at engaging younger generations and helping preserve submariner heritage for the future. Further details will be shared if and when this is introduced.

Do I need to do anything right now?

No immediate action is required. Your membership will continue as normal, with the new fee applying at your next renewal on or after 1st May 2026.

I'm struggling financially — are there any options?

If you have concerns about continuing your membership, please contact the WRS team in confidence. We value every member and will do our best to help where possible.

Who runs We Remember Submariners?

WRS is run entirely by volunteers. No one receives a salary, and all funds raised go directly toward supporting the charity's aims

PROJECT EUSTON UPDATE



Programme Euston will be one of the most significant and sustained government investments in Scotland over the coming decades, the Ministry of Defence has said, with employment and training in the local area set to rise as the work gets under way. The assessment was set out by the Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, Lord Coaker, in response to a written question from the Labour peer Lord Beamish, who had asked what assessment the government had made of the number of apprenticeships that would be created in Scotland and the north-east of England under the programme.

Coaker said the programme would be *“one of the most significant and sustained Government investments in Scotland over the coming decades”*, and that employment and training in the local area would rise, with the investment driving *“regional economic skills and social/environmental benefits further afield”*.

On the specific figures Beamish had asked about, the minister said the commercial approach for delivering the dock and shoreside elements of the programme would be finalised as part of the investment decision to be outlined following the publication of the Defence Investment Plan, and that the actual number of UK-based jobs and apprenticeships *“can only be assessed following completion of the procurement process”*. Programme Euston is the Royal Navy's plan to build two floating dry docks to provide a resilient out-of-water engineering capability for its submarine fleet at HM Naval Base Clyde by the early 2030s, with a Programme Business Case due in the middle of this year and procurement decisions to follow. The scale of the investment, concentrated on the Clyde, is what underpins the minister's billing of it as a decades-long boost for Scotland, even as the precise employment benefit remains tied to the still-undecided procurement. That investment decision, and with it the commercial model and the resulting jobs picture, is bound to the Defence Investment Plan, the spending document the government has committed to publishing before next month's NATO summit, which has become the single point on which a long line of capability and industrial decisions now depends.

Where the docks will actually be built remains the central unanswered question around the programme, with no contract award location yet chosen. Navantia UK's Methil yard in Fife has openly positioned itself to build them, pointing to its transformation on the back of the Seahorse barge project, while unions have pressed for the work to stay in the United Kingdom, with GMB Scotland having warned the former Defence Secretary John Healey that building the docks abroad would amount to *“national self-harming on a grand scale”*.

The minister's remark on the scale of the Scottish investment is likely to feed directly into that debate over how much of the work, and how many of the jobs, actually land in the United Kingdom.

SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED IN JUNE 2026 (Information from all available sources)

Reported Via	Date CTB	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
We Remember Submariners	16 th August 2022	Warren Palmer (Bunny) Raynham	Lieutenant Commander (WESM)	TBA	79	Submarine Service as EA to Lt Commander WESM from 1960s to 1991 in including DOLPHIN, DREADNOUGHT, RNEC Manadon, RNC Greenwich, DEFIANCE & HM Naval Base Devonport
We Remember Submariners	30th May 2026	Simon Douglas Bird	Leading Weapons Electrical Mechanic (Ordnance)	TBA	69	Submarine Service in SPARTAN (1st Commission Crew 22nd September 1979)
We Remember Submariners	1st June 2026	Kenneth Charles Wood	Chief Petty Officer Weapons Electrical Artificer	D091288C	TBA	Submarine Service in SPARTAN, SPLENDID (1st Commission Crew) on 21st March 1981 & TURBULENT (1st Commission Crew) 28th April 1986
Friend of SM Museum Colchester Branch Member No. 2901	7 th June 2026	Fergus Seymour Evans	Commander (E) (MESM)	CO 03092Q	85	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1990 in ARTFUL (1966 to 1967), PORPOISE (1967 to 1970), COURAGEOUS (MEO 1972 to 1975), VULCAN (1976), DRAKE (1980) & MOD London (1989) Also served in BELFAST & ARK ROYAL
Nottingham Branch Member No. 4566	16th June 2026	Trevor A Turton	Leading Stores Accountant	D136694Y	81	Submarine Service from 1967 to 1971 in WARSPITE (1968) & REVENGE (P) (1968 & 1st Commission Crew from 1969 to 1971) Died aged 81
Australia Branch Member No. 3456	June 2026	Paul T Meakin	Chief Ordnance Electrical Artificer & Commander RAN (WESM)	D050113D	83	Submarine Service from October 1966 to November 1972 in DOLPHIN, WALRUS, REPULSE (S) (1967 & 1st Commission Crew 28th September 1968 to 1971) RAN Service in ORION & OTAMA

Friend of SM Museum	22 nd June 2026	Robin Courtney Whiteside OBE	Commander (X) (SM)	TBA	89	Submarine Service in TOKEN (Sep 56-Dec 56), AMBUSH (Dec 58-Dec 59), TYNE (Spare Crew) (Oct 59-May 60), FINWHALE (Jun 60-Mar 63), ASTUTE (XO) (Apr 63-Sep 63), ARTEMIS (XO) Apr 64 Mar 65, HMS OTTER (XO) (Apr 65-Aug 66), TIPTOE (CO) (Jan 67-Aug 68), DREADNOUGHT (XO) (Jan 67-Dec 71), SM School (TXO) (Jan 72 Sep 73), NEPTUNE PCO Course (Oct 73-Dec 73), RENOWN(S) (CO) (Jan 74-Apr 74), CINCNVHOM (May 74- Jul 74), DNW Aug 74-Oct 74), DNE Foxhill (SM Desk Officer) (Nov 74 - Dec 76, FOSM (FTPO) (Jan 77-Nov 79), FOSM (SEDO) (Apr 85 - Aug 89)
Norfolk Branch Member No. 6237	22 nd June 2026	Ian R Lund	Leading Ordnance Electrical Mechanic	D114063P	72	Submarine Service from 1973 to 1977 in VALIANT (1974 to 1976)
Submarines Association of Canada	22 nd June 2026	Christopher John Andrew	Chief Petty Officer 1 RCN	TBA	89	Submariner Service from December 1969 in RN in OBERON (Part 3) & in RCN OJIBWA, ONONDAGA & OKANAGAN
Gosport Branch Member No. 2929	23 rd June 2026	James G (Jim) Fisher	Radio Mechanician	P/M 961697	88	Submarine Service from October 1970 to April 1978 in PORPOISE & NARWHAL
We Remember Submariners	23 rd June 2026	Roy Lippett	Leading Marine Engineering Mechanic	TBA	80	Submarine Service from 1963 to 1973 including RORQUAL (on recommissioning for 4th Commission at Rosyth in 1971)
We Remember Submariners	1 st July 2026	Eifion (Taff) Thomas	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Artificer (L)	TBA	73	Submarine Service in VALIANT (1973 to 1979), DREADNOUGHT (1981 to 1982), SEALION (1983 to 1985), OTUS (1986 to 1988) & OCELOT (1989 to 1991) Also served in BULWARK as JOEM (1969 to 1971)

NOTE Of the above names both Lt Cdr Warren Raynham (then serving as an Electrical Artificer) and Commander Whiteside were onboard HMS DREADNOUGHT for the North Pole trip from 20th February to 11th March 1971