



SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION BARROW-IN-FURNESS BRANCH NEWS LETTER



THE JANUARY WORD



Our Christmas Celebrations are now done and dusted; yet the tinsel is not quite ready to be put away for another year, as there are still the New Years celebrations to go at.

We as a Branch can all look forward to the challenges and excitement of our 45th Anniversary Year of our Inauguration. So may I take this opportunity to wish all of the best for the New Year to every one of our members. I realise that some members or their loved ones will be facing personal challenges during the coming year and as the branch Lay Chaplain may my prayers and thoughts go with you all.

A Personal Reflection; late last night I was flicking through the TV Channels as you do, and I accidentally came across a Discovery Channel that was telling the tale of Humped Back Whale research that involved tagging one whale within a pod/school.

The tagging device was a suction pad mounted camera and monitoring device that was attached behind the blowhole; that not only recorded the interaction of the half a dozen or so whales within the group as they swam together but also monitored the incredible depths that these apparent gentle mammals get to during their feeding pattern dives.

At one stage the depth gauge registered 4,395 feet before the pod returned to the surface now that makes a pretty remarkable submersible.

The one thing that struck me were the vulnerability of two guys who were hanging over the side of a small kayak as they attempted to attach the recording equipment on to the backs of the whales. Now I am not quite sure that I would be up for such a task.

I remember many moons ago during hands to bathe off HMS Hartland Point in the Mediterranean feeling quite small and insignificant when the swell took me for what seemed more yards away from the ship than I felt comfortable. I felt so small in the vastness of the ocean and, to be perfectly honest, was glad to climb the scramble netting back on board and I never went hands to bathe again.

Before Christmas I attended my 16-year-old grandsons Oath of Allegiance Ceremony prior to him going off to the Army Foundation College (Army Sixth Form College) in Harrogate, and I found myself quite moved by the occasion and it brought memories flooding back. I am sure we can all remember the dulcets tones that said welcome to the reality of the Royal Navy during our basic training.

So what I am I trying say within this reflection: here we are three days after Christmas - a time of Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men: and Benazir Bhutto has been assassinated in a terrorist driven attack where men are trying to enforce their unwanted and unsolicited will on other people. For democracy to survive we need to have people ready to step up to the plate and do whatever is necessary to maintain the status quo of our democratic nation albeit fixing and operating submarines or fixing army vehicles.

As for the whales it was the collective democratic voice of several nations that has forced the Japanese to put their Humped Back Whale Killing research onto the back burner. Our latest Astute Class submarines are state of the art, yet when we reflect that our planet is three quarters water and we know so little about it's depths then we can truly say that the force of nature makes a better submariner than we can ever be. My "hands to bathe fear" has now been conquered by copious G&T's by the swimming pools of Tenerife.

Regards Jonsey

Public Holiday

Number 10 Downing Street has approved a petition that was launched requesting a new public holiday falling on the Monday after Remembrance Sunday in November each year.

To be known as the National Remembrance Holiday, it's purpose is three fold:

- 1.) To emphasise the remembrance of those servicemen and women who have given, and continue to give, their lives for Britain.
- 2.) To remind people of the importance of protecting our Nation and what it stands for.
- 3.) To break that 3 month period between the August Public Holiday and Christmas when there are currently no long weekends, especially as the UK has fewer public holidays than most European Countries.

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/remembermonday/>

Social Scene



Hi folks! The social scene for 2007 drew to a close with the annual Christmas bash at the Roose Conservative club. In the end it was well attended and Shindig done us proud with the entertainment. The support I had was fantastic especially with the raffle and the unbelievable size of the buffet provided by you all, there was a lot left at the end, I must remember to bring only one plate of food next year. Once again thank you all.

2008 is kicking off with a first footing visit to the Morecambe Bay branch on the 4th January and this will lead us in to a very busy year where we celebrate our 45th Anniversary.

The annual dinner is to be held at the Lisdoonie on the 26th April, followed by the annual BBQ and national draw on the 5th July at the Vickerstown Institute. In between that our branch is holding the National Conference in March where there will be some small events to entertain our guests attending the conference.

I have attached to this newsletter the Social programme for the year with all dates as I know of them filled in, if there are any changes I will send out an amended version next month.

I would like to thank you all for your support during the past year and look forward to seeing all the old faces and some new faces in the coming year. Don't forget if there if anyone has any new suggestions for social functions or you feel that we have too many or any other feed back please let me or your committee know.

Colin Hutchinson

Social Secretary



FIFTY YEARS OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINES.

Preliminary discussions have started in the Town to decide how and when, Barrow should celebrate the fact that, in 2010, this area will have been involved in the design, build and testing of nearly all of the Royal Navy Nuclear Submarine Fleet.

The broad date (2010) itself is based on the fact that **HMS Dreadnought** was launched on Trafalgar Day 1960.



With such initial brief discussions the celebrations in 2001 for 100 years of British Submarines started sometime in 1998. If our SA wishes to be involved in what will be a very large celebration, we should start considering, now, how we would wish to be involved.

In 2001 we ended up with a very big all day celebration culminating in the Freedom of Barrow being awarded to the Submarine Service.

It is assumed that the National Committee might become involved in some way. For sure we shall be contacting the Dreadnought Association to suggest they hold their next Reunion, initially planned for 2009, coincident with any of the Barrow plans in 2010.

If we follow the same route as in 2001, we should elect a few SA Members to form a small Committee to consider our position. We already have Terry Spurling on the main committee along with BAE, Borough Officers and one or two other local organisations, so a direct link is available to float our ideas.

As a starter our Council will request a decision from the

Barrow SA Membership to decide if we wish to become involved.

CBE for Murray



Mr Easton was first appointed to a troubled Barrow as MD of the then Sea Systems group in 2002, but there were disagreements behind the scenes about the structure for recovery and he quickly left. He returned in 2003 heavily backed by the Ministry of Defence as managing director for a new submarines division.

The son of a shipyard boss, Mr Easton began his shipbuilding career in Scotland at Yarrow Shipbuilders (now BAE Scotstoun) working as a manager on warships, before later moving to the Birkenhead yard of Cammell Laird Shipbuilders where he became production director. He returned to Scotland as MD at Yarrow in 1991 and later became managing director of the big Rosyth naval dockyard in Scotland for the Babcock group.

Mr Easton, whose hobbies include ice climbing in the Highlands, paragliding, snowboarding and motorcycling, said he intends to stay on at Barrow for the foreseeable future.

He added: "I think Astute is a fantastic submarine which without doubt is not only the most modern in the world but it is also the most capable in the world, and built in a town which builds the best submarines in the world."



Secretary's Dit



Well 'Happy New Year' to you all and here we are at the start of a very important and a busy 2008. But firstly, I hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Good New Year and that there weren't too many thick heads!

This year is, as I'm sure many of you remember, is our 45th Anniversary of the founding of the Barrow in Furness Branch of the Submarine Old Comrades Association (now, of course, the Submariners Association) on 14th May 1963.

The Branch Inaugural Meeting was at the 'Bay Horse Inn' at Hawcoats with 15 of the 18 founder Members Present.

We still have one of our Founder Members with us today Peter Lorking! Well done Peter some stamina involved there!

As you know we have a number of events arrange this year to celebrate this important Occasion starting with the 'National Council Conference' Weekend which we are hosting at the end of March. John Houlding and his Sub Committee have everything in hand as far as the arrangements go and we look to the Branch Membership to support John and his team in making sure everything goes off well John will, of course, keep us all up to speed with what's happening where and when!

Next up (as they say) Colin Hutchinson and the Committee are arranging our special '45th Anniversary Dinner Dance' at the end of April the nearest weekend we could arrange to the actual Anniversary Weekend without getting mixed up with Bank Holidays etc.

Following that we will have the 'National Draw' which again we are hosting and combining with our Annual Barbeque at the start of July.

This will be at our usual Venue at the Vickerstown Institute and is being arranged by Colin, Brigham and a small Sub Committee.

And finally Ron Hiseman and his

'Website' afficianodos are arranging their Annual Reunion the '08 08 08 Reunion' in Barrow this year but more of that from Ron later.

To be successful these events will rely on all Branch Members being involved not just the usual suspects.

This is our chance to show the whole of the Submariners Association what we at Barrow can do - so come on in and give us a hand.

After last months bonus from the Keswick to Barrow Walk Committee a donation to Branch Funds of £700 we have just had another donation this time of £150 from the Ambleside Lunchtime Dining Club which was suggested to that Committee by the wife of our Member

Tom Wilson who as you will recall hasn't been too well of late. Both donors have been sent letters to formally thank them for their generosity. And now some National Business.

Although there are no proposals from the Barrow Branch for the National Council Conference we do need to know how to instruct our Delegate John Hart to vote on the proposals from other Branches

At present there are three from the Lincoln Branch which we mentioned at the December Meeting. To remind you these are:

(a) That the status quo of Stag Dinners be maintained for the Submariners Association Annual Reunion. (It is reiterated that this is for the dinner only. The rest of the weekend can be celebrated by whomsoever and in whichever manner they desire.)

(b) It is proposed that the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool be adopted as the venue for the annual reunion for the next three years, i.e. 2009, 2010 and 2011, or until the Naval Bases are able to host the Association.

(c) That the Association acknowledges the companionship of the Associate Members by approving a suitable badge of recognition for them to wear. If approved, designs to be forwarded to the NMC who will make the final

Have a think about these three proposals and whether you personally are for them or against them.

We will have a discussion about them first and the Committee will give their advice on them and, when we come to vote on them as a Branch you will know which way to vote!

Back to Branch business and we all need to start to think about the Branch AGM which, this year will be held on Tuesday 1st April (I kid you not!).

This is your opportunity to raise and discuss issues that you think are important to the running of the Branch and to elect or re-elect various Members of the Committee. Committee Members due for election this year are the Chairman, the extra Committee Members and our National Delegate for the 2009 National Council Conference John Hart is of course our Delegate for 2008.

Fancy yourself as the Chairman or as an extra Committee Member? Then put your name forward and don't forget to get yourself some one to 'Nominate' you and 'Second' you as well!

As a precursor to the AGM the Committee have decided that the next Committee Meeting on 15th January will be an open meeting to which you are all invited to come to let us know about your thoughts on the running of the Branch and how we might improve things or to confirm if you are happy with the way things are being done. You may all have seen John Houlding's recent thoughts on the subject which suggests a few ideas to consider.

On the good news front we have some more new Members on the way including Bruce Russell from HMS AMBUSH and with more 'Ambush's' due to join in the next few months we may get a few more.

All new Members are very welcome. Dissemination of information (Meeting Minutes, Branch News Letters and the 'In Depth' quarterly News Letter) via the BAE system is still possible but we have given an undertaking that we will only send out data prepared outside 'working hours' and that we should remind anyone with a BAE Address that they should not download it during working hours. I still need updated E Mail Addresses and, in sending out various items I still have a number of E Mail addresses which either don't work or which will not allow me to attach Newsletters, minutes etc. Please check your computer

settings to make sure you can receive multiple address E Mails and large attachments. For Members who have only given me your work 'E' Mail addresses (mainly people from the Yard) are requested to advise me of your home 'E' Mail Addresses so we can continue to keep you all fully informed – and also make sure your employers rules allow you to receive personal E Mails. Have you changed your 'E' Mail Provider recently please let me know how to get hold of you!

Don't forget that we also need your up to date Postal Addresses and Phone numbers.

These will only be held by the Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Member and will not be released to anyone else without your permission! That's all from me for now! See you all at the January 2008 Branch Meeting on Tuesday 8th January (the second Tuesday this time but for one Meeting only) at 2000 at the Harbour of course!

Bombers Lament No. 1

The following was received from an anonymous source I cannot vouch for the validity of the stories quoted!. Now that my signature on the 'Official Secrets Form' has expired, I can tell you Diesel Submariners in our midst what we in the Bombers had to endure and put up with, keeping you safe from the 'Red Hordes' on our Patrols!!

For a start we had to bring our Number One's on board for the Patrol Mess Dinner. For those without ties an enterprising 'Tiff' had a good deal going 'Tots for Ties' made of cardboard and black masking tape!!!. Talking of food, a mutiny started brewing halfway through the patrol, with the galley running out of chips. But some quick thinking 'Tiff' had thought ahead and loaded an empty Missile Tube with sacks of potatoes. Unfortunately the tube was pressurised by mistake during an early morning WSRT and so it was cheerio to chips.

We did however end up with a Missile Tube full of potato mush which, when drained and filtered of bits left us with a passable gin!!!!!! Sandy Bottoms! So it was back to the chef to manufacture chips out of 'Pom' which turned out to be square and greenish and not very tasty. At the time a film was being showed called 'Soylent Green'. It's about the old and dead being fed into a vat and turned into square green food tablets we never

did find that ex Diesel POME who wouldn't change into whites after 1800!!!!!

Talking of films, just when things were getting interesting off went 'Action Stations Missile'. I'm sure the 'Sparks' in the W/T Room had a direct line to Northwood and let them know the moment the leading lady started to disrobe! This didn't affect most of the crew as they had been taking their 'Bromide' but it did affect a certain 'Tiff' as he didn't take sugar in his tea!!

Then to cap it all someone was nicking all the last pages of the Wilbur Smith novels in the library and then trying to sell them for 'Tots'.

Bombers Lament No. 2

As with Bombers Lament No. 1 the following was received from the same anonymous source again I cannot vouch for the validity of the stories quoted!

I can remember when computers first appeared in the Bombers and they had to be used to communicate with shore instead of the old trusty phone. The letter 'O' caused the most trouble with a few of the 'cock ups' listed below.

1. The caterer ordered ten cases of cabbages and a whole train load of one hundred arrived on the jetty.

The 'scrubbers' worked overtime on that Patrol I can tell you!!!

2. The canteen manager thought he had ordered ten boxes of Mars Bars and only one turned up hence a fight to get the last one!

3. Several accidents happened on one Patrol and our 'Surfacing Report' requested one ambulance to be on the jetty on arrival alongside.

When we arrived every ambulance in Dumbarton had turned up. The wives and families and brass were waiting for us wondering what disaster had occurred. One other event which comes to mind was when we decided to have a social 'mid Patrol' to raise spirits and in order for a bar extension we had to invite the Skipper who duly turned up. After a few hours the XO arrived with an 'Eyes Only' for the CO in the form of a piece of folded paper which he duly presented. After a few more hours the two of them were singing arm in arm and

passing a certain 'key' between them arguing on who was to have it next!!

A few hours more and a phone call from the Control Room from the OOW asking when he was getting relieved as he wasn't quite sure of where we were.

Which only goes to prove the point that no-one knew where a Polaris Boat was when on Patrol!! Note that the piece of folded paper was blank!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Open Forum

For those who read the news letter from cover to cover including all the boring bits you may have read my article in the December issue which mentioned an 'open forum' type gathering for anyone who had anything to say about the good and the bad regarding the way the branch is organised and coordinated of all members. I gave a host of brainstorming thoughts in the article which may or may not have prompted some of you to think of something you have been intending to bring up but somehow the opportunity has not arisen.

Now is your chance I have agreed with the branch committee that I can hijack the date of their January committee meeting for this open forum gathering.

The date is Tuesday 15th January, only one week after the rescheduled branch meeting now on Tuesday 8th January. If you have something you would like to have said but for any reason you can not make it to the Harbour on 15th January please phone, write or e-mail me or any of the branch committee (contact details in the news letter) and your point will be brought up on your behalf.

As vice chairman I will run and co-ordinate this meeting on behalf of the committee and provide notes which will be attached to the minutes of the January meeting and the February news letter.

I would like to start at 1900 so please arrive in time to fill a glass prior to this time.

I have contacted the hosts and arranged that any dominos, darts, crib matches will be convened at the other end from our normal meeting area. That's it have a think, check your diaries and attend or put pen to paper and I look forward to a good turn out.

Happy New Year
John Houlding

Barrow Branch

BARROW-IN-FURNESS

SUBMARINE OLD
COMRADES ASSOCIATION
&
SUBMARINERS
ASSOCIATION

A BRANCH HISTORY

By

Barrie Downer – Hon. Secretary

The Inaugural Meeting of what became the Barrow-in-Furness Branch of the Submarine Old Comrades' Association (SOCA) was held at the Bay Horse Inn at Hawcoats, Barrow-in-Furness, on 14th May 1963. Fifteen of the eighteen Founder Members of the Branch were in attendance and these were Engine Room Artificer J G Jackson, Able Seaman (ST) J R Ogden, Engine Room Artificer R W Moody, Leading Stoker F E Webb, LME R W Burns, Able Seaman W H Pope, Stoker 1st Class T Hill, Petty Officer L W Malkin, J Burlinson, Able Seaman R Lightfoot, Leading Seaman W M McCall, M(E) W P Lorking, Chief Electrician G Cubiss, DSM, Chief Petty Officer F Wright and Leading Stoker J Greenwood. The three unable to attend were F A Rewell, J Lothian and L Pattison, DSM, BEM. The Officers elected were:

Chairman:

Mr J G Jackson

Secretary and Treasurer:

Mr J R Ogden

At the Second Meeting on 4th June 1963 action was put in hand to join the National Association and Mr Peter Scott-Maxwell, DSC, was elected as President of the Branch. By the Third Meeting there were thirty one Members and the Meeting was attended by the, then SOCA National

Secretary, Bill Sadler, and four Members of the crew of the Nuclear Submarine HMS VALIANT, then building at Vickers. In September 1964 the President resigned, but continued as a Vice President and a new President, Captain (E) L F Ingram, was elected at the October 1964 meeting.

The Branch continued to run successfully until New Year 1967 when some difficulty arose over the monthly Meeting venue, and a new Meeting place was sought. On 25th January 1967 a Meeting was held at 'The Knights of St. Columba Club' in Dalkeith Street. This was followed by a gap in Meetings until the AGM on 4th April 1967, which was held in the 'Theatre Bar' in Cavendish Street, and this continued to be the venue until September 1967 when the first Meeting was held at the 'Harbour Hotel' on The Strand.

The Barrow Branch appears to have been a very sociable Branch and the first recorded visit by another Branch to Barrow was one by the Bury Branch in May 1973. When one of the Founder Members (Mr W H Pope) died he left a small bequest to the Branch and with the proceeds a cup was purchased (Mr Pope's Pot) to be competed for by Branch Members in a darts competition.

A close liaison was maintained with the crews of building Submarines with several launches being attended by Branch Members and, in April 1974 the Branch was invited to visit the CPO's Mess at HMS NEPTUNE and this visit appears to have taken place in August 1974.

With regard to social events, there was some excitement at the Annual Dinner Dance in 1975, which led to the expulsion of one Branch Member resulting from his conduct at the dinner! No names - no pack drill!

Captain Ingram stated his intention to retire as Branch President in May 1978 and Commander Jim Jones was invited to take over the Presidency from April 1979.

The integration of the Branch into National (Annual Reunions at HMS DOLPHIN) and Local events had built up over the years and by 1982 there was also a close liaison with the Barrow Sea

Cadets, the Royal Naval Association and the crews of the building Submarines at Barrow.

After many happy years of holding Meetings at the 'Harbour Hotel', a change of venue became necessary in February 1987 and Meetings were then held at the 'Duke of Edinburgh Hotel' in Abbey Road. By the 25th Anniversary in May 1988 the Branch had 77 members and attendance at the monthly Meetings averaged 17.

A further change of venue was necessary in late spring 1990 and the June 1990 Meeting was held at the 'Crow's Nest' on Ferry Road, Barrow Island.

A Social Evening on 8th June 1990 coincided with a visit to the Branch by the National President, Rear Admiral Whetstone, who was in Barrow for the Commissioning of the 'First of Class' of the new 'Conventional' Submarines HMS UPHOLDER. Jim Jones gave up the President's post in March 1991 and it was then agreed to abolish the post of President altogether although this appears to have been a short-term decision and the post of President was later re-established. By April 1993 the Membership had increased to 91, with an average Meeting attendance of 23, with good attendance at both Local and National functions. Another move of venue from the 'Crow's Nest' to the 'George' on Walney Island took place in December 1993, and several Meetings were held there before a happy return to the 'Harbour Hotel' in May 1994. The Branch ventured abroad in 1996 with a visit by several members and wives to the Charlestown in the United States and to USS YORKTOWN.

Another overseas visit took place in late 1998 when several Members and wives visited the Vancouver and Toronto Branches. In March 1999 a visit to the Tasmania Branch was mooted and in April 2000, three Members and their wives visited Australia.



In May 1997 the Branch first heard of a proposal to change the name of the Association from the Submarine Old Comrades' Association, and some considerable concern was expressed.

About the same time there was the first news of a Centenary Celebration of the Submarine Service in both Barrow and nationally; there was great enthusiasm for this and a Barrow Committee was formed!

After all the discussions and concerns raised and argued locally and nationally the proposed name change from the Submarine Old Comrades' Association (SOCA) to the Submariners' Association (SA) took place in 1999 and the first Barrow Branch Meeting under the new name took place on 4th May 1999.

At this time Branch Member, John Houlding, was the National Secretary and he travelled to many other Branches nationwide to explain the reasons behind the change of name from the SOCA to the SA. During 1999 and 2000 planning for the Barrow Submarine Centenary celebrations continued in earnest with more and more Association Branches and local Organisations promising support.

The year 2000 brought the sad news of the KURSK disaster and the Branch was heavily involved in raising funds for the dependants, and was supported in this by many local Organisations. In the same year the Branch reached the magic figure of 100 members, and by March 2001, the Membership had increased to 119. After all the planning the Barrow Submarine Centenary weekend was a great success and included the granting of the 'Freedom of Barrow in Furness' to the Submarine Service.

There was much coverage in local and national press and the Branch Committee received many letters of congratulations for their efforts. The Barrow Branch continued to thrive and lent a helping hand in the setting up of the Northern Ireland Branch. In recent years there have been more overseas visits to the Canada (East Coast) Branch in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and to Northern Ireland, and

visitors have been received (and entertained) from many UK Branches.

More sad news arrived in 2007 with the loss of two Submariners in an accident in Submarine HMS TIRELESS under the Arctic Ice. This time the Barrow Branch was glad to be able to assist the crew of the new Submarine HMS ASTUTE (building in the Shipyard) in raising funds to support the families of those lost in TIRELESS.

In 2008 a Barrow Branch Member (Dave Barlow) holds the post of Submariners Association National Chairman (in his second Term) and another Branch Member (Barrie Downer) is in his first year of a three year Term as a Member of the National Committee having originally been co-opted onto the NMC in 2006).

The Branch is now in its 45th Anniversary year.

And there are now 160 active Branch Members (almost a 33% increase in three years) with an average of 37 Members attending Monthly Branch Meetings. Several special events are programmed to recognise the 45th Anniversary and these include hosting the Submariners Association National Council Conference at the Barrow Town Hall in March, a 45th Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Lisdoonie in April and hosting of the Submariners Association Annual Draw at the Vickerstown Institute in July.



First Footing Morecambe Branch

Friday 4th January saw a party of nine Barrow Branch members led by our President, John Hart, travelling to Heysham for our traditional "First Foot" visit to our nearest Submarine fraternity neighbours. We of course took with us the mandatory bottle of spirit but left out the traditional coal and bread.

We were, as expected, made most welcome by all and enjoyed the casual but professional approach to their meeting format. The Morecambe branch President stated that they look forward to our visits always but particularly this first footing visit which encouraged them to continue with their activities over the coming year.

We were invited to join them for a number of their forthcoming social events. Colin please note! They are planning a repeat of their "Sods Opera" which last year was enjoyed by all who attended, I believe there are some photos on the Barrow branch web site courtesy of Ginge Cundell. Date and Venue to be sorted yet but they will let us know. Also after their very successful visit to Crew last year for an old fashioned lads run ashore at Scouse Bruchez hotel, they intend to repeat this event and have invited us to consider joining them. As stated it is a stag run and the cost is reasonable at £20 B&B at Scouse's place. It is for one night only and is currently planned for Friday 11th April 2008. A list will be circulated at the meeting on Tuesday 8th if you miss that contact Colin or any of the committee as soon as you can.

We were also very happy to meet up with Mary Wetton who has now moved to that area to be near her son and his family. Mary is doing well and send her best wishes to all the branch. She also gave us Harry's Blazer with badge for anyone who would like it. It is a 46 chest I'm told but it will be available for anyone to try on at the next meeting.

A number of our friends at the Morecambe branch are now intending to join the parties for the Annual Executive Council Conference in March this year,

which as you all know is being hosted by us in Barrow.

We drank our fill and said our goobyes and bid farewell once again to Morecambe. Thanks to Kev for very competently driving on this occasion your efforts are very much appreciated, we will make sure some one else takes a turn next time.

It was almost a pantomime touch as we got back to Barrow as the clock struck 12 but it was too late for us, we had already turned into frogs, but at least we were happy. All we can say is role on the next visit and some of you other members should think about joining us.

Regards
John Houlding Vice Chair

Lord These Departed shipmates with Dolphins on their chest are part of an outfit known as the best. Make them welcome and take them by the hand you'll find without doubt they are the best in the land. So heavenly father add their names to the roll of our departed shipmates still on patrol let them know that we who survive will always keep there memories alive

The names of those members reported in December to have 'Crossed the Bar'



Non Member

Dec 2007

Peter G Matthews
M(E)1

Submarine Service 1963-1967
AENEAS
(1964 - 1966)



Non Member

March 2007

Frederick Joseph Dent
Ordnance Artificer
Submarine Service 1969-1982

Valiant, Churchill
& Others



Birmingham Branch

25th Nov 2007

Steve Constance

Engine room Artificer

P/MX 503434

Aged 87

Submarine Service 1943-1946
Proteus & Seascout



Gosport Branch

Dec 2007

J A (John) Wilson

RO2

P/JX 920130

Aged 70

Submarine Service 1957-1966
Acheron, Auriga, Odin
Totem & Tiptoe



Gosport Branch

Dec 2007

W (Wilf) Oldham

Engine room Artificer

1st Class

P/MX 50355

Aged 89

Submarine Service 1942-1962
Varangarian, Virulent,
Tactician, Turpin, Sirdar,
Slueth, Talent, Solent, Totem,
Artful & Ambush



Peterborough Branch

Dec 2007

C R H (Charles) Clark

Petty Officer (UW1)

Aged 84

Submarine Service 1948-1963
Sea Scout, Thule, Thorough,
Tactician, Telemachus,
Finwhale, Anchorite
And
Ambush



Bury Branch

Dec 2007

J K (Jack) Heys

LEM

P/MX 863097

Aged 77

Submarine Service 1950-1960
Affray, Scythian, Sanguine,
Sea scout, Tapir, Tabard,
Taciturn And Tiptoe

Newcomen Society lecture

"The Newcomen Society lecture on 15th January 2008 is entitled "The Ill-fated K Class submarines of World War 1", and is being given in Room O27 of the Portland Building of Portsmouth University at 6.30 pm. I hope some of your members may be sufficiently interested to come along, if so they will be made very welcome."

Reunion



April 2008, HMS Courageous Society at the Holiday Inn hotel Newcastle Airport April 4th - 6th. Details and application for membership from the secretary M.K. Pitkeathly, 28 home park rd, Saltash, Cornwall PL12 6BH or see the website <http://www.hmscourageous.co.uk> or tel 01752 849326





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Colin Taylor

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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 January for the February 2008 issue please try and have any information with me by the **15th of each month.** Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.



www.rnsubmus.co.uk



Members Birthdays

January 2008

B.Cable	02/01
A.Greenwood	02/01
S.Cook	02/01
A.Cundell	08/01
D.Burnside	09/01
D.Bryne	10/01
B.Sherriff	10/01
T.Nolan	12/01
B.Kerr	21/01
H.Sibbit	21/01
P.Hearn	22/01
A.Hines	22/01
G.Meadows	23/01
R.Dixon	25/01
P.Harrison	25/01
B.Reed	27/01
I.Moore	29/01
S.Campbell	30/01
L.Willcox	31/01



Submarine Memories



Subsunk or in this case, Smashex87 saw HMS Sealion play the starring role as a Submarine in Distress in an exercise in Whitsand Bay off south Cornwall. Search ships and rescue helicopters took over to locate the submarine and submarine specialists were rushed to the scene to bring the boats crewmen safely to the Surface. This was the last major act in the Submarines history as HMS Sealion last of the Porpoise class, returned to her Gosport home at HMS Dophin Wearing a decommissioning pennant after 26 years in Royal Navy service.

Barrow - in - Furness
Submariners Association
Social Calendar 2008



Jan	4	Fri	First footing visit to Morecambe Bay branch		Morecambe
	8	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
	22	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
	26/28	W/E	K13 memorial Weekend		HMNB Clyde
Feb	5	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
	19	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
Mar	4	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
	18	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
			Annual SA Conference		Town hall
Apr	1	Tue	Annual General Meeting	1930	Harbour
	15	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
	26	Sat	45 th Annual Dinner Dance 1930	1900 for	Lisdoonie
May	6	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
	2/3	Sat	Army/Navy Rugby F U via Leicester		Twickenham
	15/22	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
Jun	3	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
	17	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
Jul	1	Tue	Monthly Meeting (Social Ladies)	2000	Harbour
	5	Sat	National Draw and Barbeque - Barrow		Barrow
	17	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
Aug	5	Tue	Monthly Meeting Loss of Rum Ration	2000	Harbour
	19	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
Sep	2	Tue	Monthly Meeting (Social Ladies)	2000	Harbour
	18	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
Oct	7	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
		W/E	SA Reunion		TBA
	24	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
Nov	19	Fri	Trafalgar Ball	1930	Lisdoonie
	4	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
	7	Fri	Ladies Night D/D (Black Tie)	1900	Lisdoonie
	9	Sun	Remembrance Parade	1015	Barrow
Dec	18	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
	2	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	Harbour
	6	Sat	Christmas Social	1930	Roose Cons Club
	16	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour