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CHAIRMAN'S DIT OCTOBER 2008

Most months I enjoy the challenge of getting thoughts on paper with the aim of writing, what I hope is an interesting Chairman's Dit. Accepting that the article may not satisfy every readers taste, I nevertheless remain committed to the task of producing a piece of prose suiting as large an audience as possible. It is said that Writer's Block is a phenomenon involving temporary loss of the ability to begin or continue writing, usually due to lack of inspiration or creativity. This loss of inspiration can happen in almost any way, the condition is exacerbated the closer one gets to a deadline. And so it was for me as I struggled to find words for our September Newsletter, try as I might, the words would just not flow. And to top it all during my trip to South Wales I could not gain access to a computer,

so, at that point, I threw in the towel. Therefore I cannot allow writers block to prevent my Chairman's contribution to the October newsletter, especially as it is our one hundredth edition.

Working on the principle if my maths is correct the year of the launch was the significant year of 2000. Namely the year when our planet was saved through the diligence of the computer industry from the deadliest of bugs the Millennium Y2K. August 2000 brought two submarine events into focus. The first was the raising of the Confederate submarine H L Hunley that had rested on the seabed for 136 years. The second incident was the sinking of the Russian submarine K-141 KURSK with the loss of 118 sailors. KURSK is our stark reminder of the dangers that are ever present in the world of submarines, a world that has been and remains a big part of our lives.

Continued on Page 2





Earlier this evening I sat with the rest of the branch committee during our mid monthly meeting where we discussed the minutiae of branch business, and aspects of the wider National Association picture. In light of a discussion, on the fate of a fellow branch that once was very strong, but who are now in serious talks about possibly folding. I reflected on our current fortunes. We have a strong, active, and growing membership a dedicated committee a good and expanding programme of social events and a new home now based in the Royal British Legion.

I reflected that we must not rest on our laurels, so I set-up a mini- brainstorming session on my computer and compiled a short list of possible things to do:

- 1) Formulate an ongoing membership recruitment plan
- 2) Set up a Ladies Section
- 3) Formulate a Friends of the Branch Section
- 4) Explore ways of conducting our business even more smoothly
- 5) Expand our Welfare Section
- 6) Find even more excuses for "Up Spirits".

As a Branch we have progressed very well during the first one hundred copies of our newsletter let us raise the bar even higher during the publication of the next one hundred newsletters.

Regards Jonsey

David Letterman's Top Ten Reasons Why Golf Is Better Than Sex...

- 10) A below par performance is considered damn good.
- 9) You can stop in the middle and have a cheeseburger and a couple of beers.
- 8) It's much easier to find the sweet spot.
- 7) Foursomes are encouraged.
- 6) You can still make money doing it as a senior.
- 5) Three times a day is possible.
- 4) Your partner doesn't hire a lawyer if you play with some one else.
- 3) If you live in Florida, you can do it almost every day.

- 2) You don't have to cuddle with your partner when you're finished.

And the NUMBER ONE reason why golf is better than sex...

- 1) When your equipment gets old you can replace it!



The Editor

Well here we are 100 editions on from when I first volunteered to do this way back in the year 2000, I have attached the 1st edition at the back to give an insight on firstly its content but it also gives an overview of what was happening with in the branch and how some of the major submarine events of that period were coming together.

In putting this edition together I am reminded of the help that is given by branch members on a regular basis in putting articles forward for inclusion in our Newsletter. I am also grateful to the ladies and others that have contributed over the years.

It is also appropriate that I thank Barrie Downer as he kindly completed a number of Editions when I stood down as Editor for a short period a few years ago.

A number of world events have happened in the submarine world since the first edition, so what follows is a quick over view of some of them.

The loss of the Kursk on August 14th 2000 with 118 Russian sailors lost in the disaster.

We had the honour of showing the world how to celebrate during the Submarine centenary celebrations in Barrow during the week/end 4th May to 7th May 2001.

The reactivation program of the upholder class boats for the Canadians took place, Sadly in October 2004 fire aboard HMCS Chicoutimi ex HMS Upholder took the life of Lieut.

Chris Saunders whilst the sub was on its maiden voyage from Faslane, Scotland, to Halifax.

A terrible Incident occurred on HMS Tireless in March 2007 in which 2 young sailors lost there lives Leading Operator Maintainer Paul McCann and Operator Maintainer Anthony Huntrod, I am sure we can all remember the fund raising events organised by the crew of HMS Astute.

As appropriate stories on UK boats commissioning or decommissioning have also been carried in the news letter along with the HMS Astute launch on 8th June 2007.

As you can see I have made some changes firstly to the front page of the News letter and to the overall layout of most pages adding more colour giving a more professional look and feel. Please feel free to comment or if you would like to see any changes to the current format.

I hope from time to time to be able to get a Guest writer to contibute a story to our Newsletter and this month I was able to get the Editor of the Evening mail hope you enjoy his dit.

I have also persuaded a none submariner to put together a submarine related crossword, he has not got the submariners lingo, swagger or Beer handling sorted just yet so please be patient with him, hopefully we will publish a crossword every 3 months.

Putting the newsletter together on a monthly basis can be difficult and time consuming so if you feel you are able assist then please drop me an E-mail.

Lastly for me the most difficult item that appears in the news letter are the Obits of branch members that have crossed the bar and since the first edition I think I am correct in saying that 22 Branch members have departed.

Gone but not forgotten.

Ben Britten



Ron Hiseman



Barrow-in-Furness
Submariners
Association Web Site
www.submariners.co.uk

In 1997 the Branch decided that it would make a bid to hold an event in Barrow to support the Centenary of the Submarine Service. Whilst the centenary committee got on with the business of gaining support for the event, little interest to start due to the millennium, the Chairman Ken Collins was working with a lad looking for a short-term project for his degree course. Ken persuaded Ian, now known as Merlin that setting up a web site to support the event would be a good idea. Ian agreed not realising that short-term meant 11 years and still on-going.

I think all will agree that the Centenary was an outstanding success and this success would not have been possible without the web site. The site publicized the event all around the world and allowed us to keep our guest, from whichever nation, up to date with the events progress.

Once the event was over Ian was asked if we could keep the site going, to which he agreed. Ian started his own business and that meant that the site had to have some commercial income for Ian. We advertised for sponsors and Gwen stepped forward to pay for the site. Gwen was instantly raised to Admiral of the Fleet for her generosity. Unfortunately Gwen passed away last year and the Branch will always owe her a debt of gratitude, may God rest her soul.

After a couple of years Ian sold the business and brought the site back under his control and has run it free of charge. Last year he celebrated 10 years of hosting the site and the Branch rewarded his efforts.

The web site has gone from

strength to strength and has helped resolve a great many questions, ranging from can you recognise this boat to do you know where I can contact people. For the first type of question I must thank our two historians Dave Tull followed by Barrie Downer. They have been a tower of strength and so far I don't think any question has phased them, although I know some have taken a lot of digging, but I don't believe anybody has been disappointed.

Last year Ian revamped the site giving a clean fresh look and since then we have had over 538000 visits with over 3 million pages viewed. We have a respected site around the world and have collected some good awards for the site. Please continue with your support and any new dits are greatly appreciated. To all out forum members and visitors thank you for your efforts you keep the site alive and fresh.

Finally the greatest thank you goes to Ian who without his skill and enthusiasm this site would have folded many years ago.

Ken Collins



100, Not Out and still going strong!

Time passes so quickly, it is unbelievable that this is the 100th edition of our Branches Newsletter and has been going since the year 2000.

It was thought back in those dark and dingy times that the easiest way of communicating with members was by a newsletter, as so much was being planned around that time, especially functions like the Submarine Centenary and it would help keep the membership aware of the state of play. It became so successful that the Website published it and still does monthly and I believe read by many, nationally and internationally, which is a great accolade for our Editor in

Chief Ben Britten who throughout those years has skillfully produced every edition, and a great vote of thanks should go to him for the professionalism and dedication he has shown for all those years.

The Newsletter is used as you know by many members from the Chairman, Secretary, Social Sec, Treasurer and anyone who has a message to get across to the fraternity and is a comfort I believe to the Wives of members who have gone on their last patrol, just to keep the bond going. It has been used for dits, adverts and sadly a reminder of those who have crossed the bar elsewhere. I personally have had BZs from people as far afield as Australia and the USA who view this publication as a submariner's edition of the Navy News and look forward with anticipation for the next edition. It has grown in stature over recent years to incorporate factual escapades of the brave men who have performed heroic acts over the last century to ensure freedom and democracy for us all (present Government excluded) and incorporates news from Barrie when the freedom of information act timeline expires.

I hope we are all around when the 200th edition hits the street and wish all contributors happy writing.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in writing "The Word".

Kindest regards to all

Ken Collins Past Chairman





Barrie Downer



The Secretary's Dit

This year, 2008, is/has been a year of significant events. It is, as I am sure you are all aware by now, the 45th Anniversary of the founding of the Barrow in Furness Branch in 1963 which we marked by hosting the National Council Conference in March and the National Draw in July and by our own 45th Anniversary Dinner in April. Originally a small Submarine Old Comrades Association Branch with eighteen Founder Members the Barrow Branch is now one of the larger Submariners Association Branches with one hundred and seventy four members.

2008 is also the 90th Anniversary of the RAF – formed from the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service on 1st April 1918. On that date some 55,000 Naval Officers and Ratings went from the Dark Blue to the Light Blue together with many Naval Air Stations, several hundred aircraft and many airships. But enough about the Crabs!

22nd September 2008 also saw the 65th Anniversary of the successful 'X' Craft Attack on the TIRPITZ in Kaafjord with Victoria Crosses awarded to Lieutenants Donald Cameron and Basil Place. I'm sure there are a few other Anniversaries this year as well but three is enough to get on with for now!

And now October 2008 sees the 100th Edition of the Barrow in Furness Branch Newsletter which you are now reading.

We have to thank Ken Collins and an earlier Branch Committee for starting off our Newsletter nearly eight and a half years ago in 2000 in advance of the 100th Anniversary of the Submarine Service.

The Newsletter at that time was a much smaller version at four

pages than the 10 to 12 pages we are used to having now.

Ben Britten has edited nearly all of the subsequent Newsletters and we have to thank him for carrying out what can sometimes be an almost thankless task. However, often despite a regular shortage of suitable and, more often, late receipt of 'copy' the Newsletter has always appeared on time and with interesting stories. For our 100th Edition Ben has devised the revamped format which you can now see and this will help to keep our Newsletter in the forefront of the other Newsletters produced by many other Branches of the Association. It also keeps our Newsletter as a worthy compliment to the Branch Website and both inform our Branch Members and visitors to our website of the goings on in the Barrow Branch.

Still back to more mundane and routine Branch matters. Thanks to all those who have supported the efforts to move the memorabilia from the Harbour and get it up on the walls at the RBL. I know the move from the Harbour after such a long time has been a bit of a wrench for some Members but, I suppose it was inevitable given the increase in Membership. There are still some things at the Harbour but these will stay there until after our Submariners Remembrance ceremony on Sunday 9th November.

The last weekend in September saw the visit to Barrow of the REPULSE Reunion Association with their Meet and Greet at the Lisdoonie on Friday 26th September followed by a tour round the DDH on Saturday morning and their Dinner on Saturday evening.

The Sea Cadets have now received their new Drum Majors Sash which has now been paid for. The Cadets received it in time to show it off at the National Band Competition in Plymouth in August where it received much favourable comment.

The Barrow Sea Cadet Band was judged the best 'Drum and Bugle' Band at that competition which is just and well deserved reward for all their hard work on practice nights.

We will have the opportunity to formally present the Sash to the Cadets in October at one of their Tuesday Meetings.

October will be a busy month with the National Reunion in Nottingham on the first weekend followed by two Trafalgar Night Dinners to choose from. There is the 'Men Only' Dinner on the Sealandia organised by HMS ASTUTE Ships Company at which our own member Paul Douglas will be a key Guest and then there is also the Sea Cadets Trafalgar Dinner at the Lisdoonie to which you can take your wives, girlfriends or partners (or all three if you are feeling flush) and get a chance to see the prize winning Sea Cadets 'Drum and Bugle' Band in action and get to see their new Sash.

One thing for you all to think about I know the Nations Council Conference in Ireland next March seems a long way off. However we need to think about the business of that Conference now.

Any items you wish to see raised as Resolutions at that Conference must be discussed and agreed at Branch Level previously and advised to the National Secretary by the end of the year. So get your thinking caps on and let the Committee know of any proposals as soon as possible.

That it from me for this issue I'll let you get on and enjoy the rest of the Newsletter let's hope we are all still around for the 200th Edition!

WHY

Why do Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?



Guest writer



Jonathan Lee

Editor
North West Evening
Mail

SUBMARINES and submariners are synonymous with Barrow-in-Furness.

On arriving in the town for the first time there are two things which strike you.

Firstly the tree-lined broad avenue of Abbey Road which sweeps majestically from the approach from Dalton all the way to the heart of the town beneath the impressive BAE Systems shipyard, now bedecked with a huge Love Barrow banner.

Secondly, you are welcomed into the town with a sign which proclaims Barrow as the home of submarine building. Barrow is rightly proud of its submarine expertise.

Like many new to the town, I was no submarine expert. But after meeting BAE Systems Barrow boss Murray Easton on day two of my new role as editor of the North West Evening Mail newspaper I immediately took on board the significance, both of the cutting edge technology going into the Astute first of class nuclear submarine being built and the shipyard's history. Compare, for example, the size of Astute with the first submarine to go to sea from Barrow and the difference in scale is obvious. Models in the shipyard emphasise the point.

But it isn't until you are standing perched on a walkway high above Astute that the true scale of the engineering project hits home.

Huge banners proclaiming the importance of the workforce doing their job, also remind you of what's at stake here. It is literally life and death.

This was illustrated when a reader of the Evening Mail, and a parent of a submariner, wrote to the paper to say that it was the engineering skills of BAE

systems workers who saved their son's life when a submarine struck the bottom of the Red Sea. There's nothing like a personal perspective to bring home what's at stake.

There's also nothing like experiencing life inside a submarine first hand for giving you a sense of what it must be like to live and work aboard.

I was privileged to be given a tour of Astute in the dockhall. The first impression was it's no place for a 6ft 3in, slightly overweight 41-year-old! Just getting up and down the stairs required a feat of athleticism!

But the most lasting impression was the cramped conditions in the living quarters. I take my hat off to the 18 men who can live in such close proximity for weeks on end and keep their mind on the task of defending the nation.

It was interesting to hear from my tour guide that the advances in modern technology have helped the men's leisure time.

I was told that once the submariners' lockers would have been stuffed full of books. Now an Ipod does the same job, providing all the entertainment the servicemen need.

That tour alone gave me a taste of how rightly proud Barrow is of its submariners and its submarines.

As for a taste of submariners' cuisine and customs. I was lucky enough to sample the results of then Astute captain Mike Walliker's culinary skills at a special charity dinner.

Captain Walliker was one of two guest chefs at the summer celebrity chef event at the Waterside Hotel in Ambleside on the shores of Windermere.

It was a wonderful occasion. Not least for finding out more about Captain Walliker and his family and the food traditions of the Royal Navy.

It was that night that I learned that submariners all around the world have a different name for chicken thanks to "Norman" the seagull's sudden disappearance from the Barrow docks.

When the long-standing seagull was nowhere to be seen, and the

meal on the submariners' plates resembled some sort of fowl, the name "Norman" for chicken was born.

I'm told submariners' names for other kinds of food wouldn't look well in print!

So there you have it. Barrow is hugely proud of submariners and its submarines. The town and submarines are inseparable. Almost 5,000 workers at the Barrow yard, and more jobs to come, are testament to how fundamental the shipyard's fortunes are to the future of the town.

BAE Systems' huge Love Barrow banners are a massive statement of the fact that the two's fortunes are so intertwined.

The Evening Mail is proud to play its part in the future of the town and the shipyard. And the paper fully supports all the work of the submariners association.

We are more than happy to provide articles for the newsletter. And long may the strong links between our institutions grow and prosper for all our benefit. And for the benefit of Barrow.

Jonathan Lee
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North West Evening Mail
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Last of the Submarine V.C.s



Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the life of



Ian Edward Fraser

VC DSC.RD& Bar JP

1920 - 2008

11th September 2008
St James Church New Brighton

Barrow in Furness Submariners Association was well represented at the above service for Lt Cdr Ian Fraser VC DSC RD&Bar.JP.

Fiona & Dave Barlow, John Hart and Lilian & Ken Collins made the trip to the Wirral to give our respects on this very sad occasion.

The Church of St James was packed to the gunnels and the Vicar remarked he would lock in the congregation until Sunday as he had never seen it so full.

HMS Astute, RASM and a lot of Naval Officers attended along with a host of civil dignitaries. The Grove House Hotel was the venue after the service and John Hart was discussing Ian with one of his sons when he remarked that his favourite tie (Barrow Centenary) was worn on his last patrol.

We Will Remember Them.

Cenotaph

Parade in London

message from Andrew Morgan

Sorry it's late but I've been waiting for confirmation from the RBL with ref to No's allowed to attend. Now it's all sorted we have been allowed 48 tickets so anyone wanting a ticket please send a stamped addressed envelope to me @ the address below:

Andrew Morgan, 224 Heritage Park, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0DU.

As soon as I get the tickets they will be sent out to all concerned. Can we please make a special effort to attend if you live near or in the area as the more that attend the better for the Submariners Association.

Yours Aye
Andrew

Terry Spurling's Smile Corner

Sign on a plumbers truck 'don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber'

Sign on a Septic Tank truck: Yesterdays meals on wheels.

Sign on a maternity room door Push Push Push.

Anagram of Mother in Law

WOMAN HITLER

Anagram of Monica Lewinsky

NICE SILKY WOMAN



Social Scene

October 2008

Hi folks, well it's been a very quiet month social wise with no events to report on in September, other than we had the Ladies visit the monthly meeting at the beginning of the month. It was a good turn out on what was a horrible night weather wise.

Planning is well underway for the Ladies night dinner which is being held on Friday 7th November at the Lisdoon Hotel. I attached a dinner list to last months newsletter but to date have only 40 names for the night. I have attached another list this month, I will be on holiday the week before the dinner so I really need the numbers confirmed by the 27th October so that I can get everything organized before I go away, so the final cut off date is 25th October. The cost of the night is £26.50 per head which includes 5 courses including half a bottle of wine per person and entertainment, so please get your names and money to me as soon as possible, bring your friends for what is always a good night out.

I would like some feedback on whether you would like me to organize a Valentines weekend as we have had in the past. I know some of you are not keen on Blackpool but at the end of the day the Blackpool hotels do organize special Valentine weekends with cabaret and Valentines dinners. If you have an opinion on this I would like to know as soon as possible to enable me to organize it.

After the Ladies night the last social function of the year will be the Christmas social at the Roose Conservative club on December 6th Unfortunately I am working every weekend in December so will not be able to attend, I believe Jeff Thomas kindly volunteered to organize this social and I will be passing the list round at the October meeting.

Colin Hutchinson
Social secretary.



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 September to have 'Crossed the Bar'



**Merseyside Branch
(President)
1st September 2008
I A (Iain) Fraser VC, DSC
Commander
Aged 87
Submarine Service
Aug 1981 to Dec 1946
P35, H28, H43, H44, SAHIB
and X Craft**



**Central Lancs Branch
(Former President & Life-
Member)
12th Sep 2008
Bruce Collins MBE MiD
Lieutenant Commander
Aged 89
Submarine Seivice
Nov 1941 to Sept 1951
Upholder, P31, P35,
Tradewind, Seawolf,
Sportsman, Seanymp, Thule,
Tabard, Thermopylae, Token
& Astute.**



**Non Member
20th Sep 2008
Philip Albert Earl
RO2
Aged 73
Submarine Service 1955-159
Alliance, Scythain & Solent**



**N on Member
Submarine Coxswains
Association
September 2008
J E (Jim) Jenks
Chief Petty Officer
Coxswain
Aged 63
Submarine Service 1963-1991
Astute, Truncheon, Odin,
Opportune & Churchill twice**



**Non Member
(New Zealand)
September 2008
Roger Matthew Hall
M(E) 1
Aged 76
Submarine Service 1957-1960
Solent (1957)
Telemachus 1958-1959**



**Blyth & Wansbeck &
Scotland North East
September 2008
I.D (Ian) Shepherd
LME
P/KX 898118
Aged 75
Submarine Service 1955-1960
Sentinel,Sturdy,Totem,
Thermopylae & Talent**

CHAPLAINS DIT OCTOBER 2008

Currently there are some of our members traveling through difficult waters - some more that difficult than others and finding catchall words for all seasons are not always easy . As what may bring comfort to some will cause distress to others.

That is the fine line that all Chaplains have to tread at times.

This month I have found this reading "Encouragement" that I hope will find a resonance with

some of you. I must admit it has given me some food for thought.

Do not think of what you do not have; instead appreciate what you have and can still have. Do not think of things lost; instead, value what you still have and may yet find. Do not cry over spilled milk; instead, rejoice in what was left. Do not think of what you are not; instead, be humble with what you are and can still become. Do not think of what others say you are; instead, concern yourself with what you affirm to be. Do not think of the hours and days past; instead, look eagerly to times that are yet to come. Do not think of what you failed to do; instead, think of those that you were able to do and can still best do. Do not think of mistakes committed; instead, count the things you did right. Do not think much of the pain you have caused; instead, plan for ways to make amends. Do not think of the sufferings you now bear; instead, look to the comfort when relief draws near. Do not consume yourself with thoughts of what could have been; instead, marvel at what has become and will become. Do not be anxious to attain greater happiness; instead, content yourself with the little things which bring you bliss. Do not aspire to fill your cup at once; instead, have the patience to do it little by little. And, if by chance you fail, do not fret over the empty part on top; instead, celebrate the space filled up. Do not condemn nature when it is at its worst; instead, think of the times when it was at its best. Do not blame luck for things you miss; Instead, learn from things in which you have been remiss. Nor should you curse luck or others for life's misfortunes; instead, accept them as part of life. I say then, live fully, die a little, learn much but question less. Have just enough but give much more, be contented each time to crave much less. Doubt less and affirm a lot, understand more, and be understood less. Worry a little but hope you must, accept all, resist the least. For all things happen, in due time they must."

P.E.Calleja



HMS Talent

NO vessel in the Senior Service pushed the limits in the past 12 months more than HMS Talent.

And so it was that men of Talent earned the coveted award for broadening the RN's understanding of modern warfar and the technology behind it.

Her impressive year began with a Submarine Command Course (better known as Perisher), testing not merely the mettle of budding nuclear boat commanders, but also testing digital cameras for her periscope.

Team Talent found some flaws with the new camera system, offered advice and feedback to the experts and, as a result, led to better periscope photography throughout the entire Silent Service.

She wasn't done there, however. After Perisher came a deployment east of Suez the first time a submarine fitted with Sonar 2076 had headed that way.

The sonar is fitted to some T boats and all the Astute class and allows submariners to track potential targets at even greater ranges.

The sonar operators on Talent provided hour after hour of recordings from 2076 to allow scientists and experts back home to better understand the relatively-new system, while their shipmates provided every possible tactical opportunity to test the sonar to its limits.

The net result is that the manual for the sonar's use will be far more comprehensive and accurate.

And the net result from all of Talent's activities, said the RN's Commander Operations Rear Admiral David Cooke, was that the boat had "set a standard in

tactical support which is beyond that experienced from a submarine-sized unit in any one calendar year.

He continued: "Many programmes have been as varied and busy as Talent's, but few have produced the tangible contributions to tactical development that have had such a direct impact on front-line operation capability."

That earned the submarine the MBDA Trophy for Warfare Development sponsored by the defence firm of the same name.

Rear Admiral Cooke presented the trophy with Captain Rupert Best, director of the Maritime Warfare Centre, and representatives of MBDA to Talent's CO Cdr David Lightfoot aboard the boat in Devonport.

"The crew embraced the changes and, as a result, have made a real difference in the way we and the Royal Navy operate.

"To stay at the forefront of maritime warfare we must develop, trial and exploit the latest technology. The importance of conducting trials cannot be understated."



HMS Sceptre

Spirits and a 4900 ton submarine have been lifted at Babcock Marine on the clyde.

One of the last two Swiftsure class nuclear powered submarines in the fleet, HMS Sceptre entered the shiplift ahead of Schedule and budget.

The nine month Revalidation assisted Maintenance Period (RAMP) has involved some 70000 hours of labour.

The early reactor compartment inspections and a routine replacement of 120 cell submarine main battery have

been completed

Also one of the three capability upgrades has been finished, with the other two well advanced.

Originally scheduled to end in January, hard work on the workers behalf has enabled the docking period to be brought forward by 4 weeks.

Furthermore, Babcock Marine insists that "all involved are working hard to achieve an early completion"

All secondary and combat weapons systems work is progressing to plan, including the process of coverting the forward fridges to a more enviromentally freindly alternative. Other defects have been attended to as part of the work package.

The RAMP is being conducted Clydes "one base one team initiative".

HMS Sceptre's RAMP marks the end of an era.

It is the last to be conducted on a Swiftsure class submarine her sister HMS Superb is the only other of the class in Commission and it is the last planned docking of a Swiftsure class SSN in the ship lift

Did you ever stop and wonder.....

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these pink dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out?"





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 October for the November 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.



DISCLAIMER

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www.rnsubmus.co.uk

Members Birthdays
October 2008

M. Mailey	02/10
W. Gentles	02/10
D. Young	14/10
M. Willey	16/10
C. Jones	17/10
C. Taylor	17/10
I. Aiston	18/10
A. Stevens	18/10
B. Russell	20/10
L. Carr	25/10
D. Morris	26/10
T. Coop	27/10
E. Skelton	30/10

New serving member

TIM FRY
Joining in
September

A warm welcome to you

Sea Cadets

Jason Zaccarrini and the Drum Major will visit the Branch Meeting at about 2045 on Tuesday 7th October so that Branch Members can view the new Drum Majors Sash.

Also there will be space for 10 - 15 of us to visit the Sea Cadets HQ at Dundee Street on Friday 10th October at 2000 for a formal hand over of the Sash to the Sea Cadets. Let me know if you would like to go and well also raise it at the Branch Meeting to get the numbers up.

The rig for this event will be blazers and ties.

Letters

Mary Wetton sent in a letter wishing everyone well and to inform the branch that she has now moved from Penrith to Morecombe.

Mary also wrote the following Poem for Harry on his first Tour at sea on the Tule after they had married.

Thoughts of you

While sitting in the firelight
glow I think of how I love you
so

I long to feel your gentle touch
slow tighten to a lovers clutch

Your whispered love against my
ears

Are all the word I long to hear
To lay at least in your embrace

When sleep comes at last with
wordless grace

I gently smile and think soft
warm lips

The flesh so firm upon your
hips

The column of your neck so
long

Your hands that have a grip so
strong

For all those things I long and
ache

Without you dear my heart
would break

So take me in your arms I
emplore

And say your mine for ever
more

Mary Wetton

SOCIAL CALENDAR 2008 - LOOK AHEAD

October

- 7th Monthly Meeting
- 19th Trafalgar Ball
- 24th Committee Meeting

November

- 4th Monthly Meeting
- 7th Ladies Night D/D
- 9th Remembrance Parade
- 24th Committee Meeting

December

- 2nd Monthly meeting
- 6th Xmas Social
- 16th Committee Meeting



SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION BARROW-IN-FURNESS BRANCH NEWS LETTER



CHAIRMAN: K COLLINS

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Issue 01 July 2000



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A Few Words from chairman Ken Collins

May I as Chairman of the Barrow branch of the Submariners Association welcome you all to the Inaugural edition of the Branches newsletter. This publication has come about by the sheer hard work and enthusiasm of one of the newest members to our Association, Ben Britten. I would ask each and every member to give Ben all the help, support and assistance with regards to articles, dits and any other worthwhile anecdotes which could amuse, interest, enrage or assist other members of the Branch. The Branch as you are all aware holds a high profile, not only locally but within the Submariners Association and boasts two members of the National Executive, the Northern Representative Trevor Gale and of course our very own Social Secretary and National Secretary John Houlding. We as a branch attempt to forge new ties where we can and continually strive for the betterment of the Association this being achieved through a tremendous amount of hard work and conviction.

A special mention must go to Ian "Merlin" Hillbeck on the fantastic contribution he has made to building and running what has become one of the most admired websites on the Internet with a Submarine Theme.

Ian who is not a member of the Branch, donates a significant amount of time and effort to this site and its associated links and on behalf of the Branch I would like to thank him.

The Centennial in 2001, will not only be a milestone in the history of the Submarine service and the Town, but a tremendous honour for the Branch. It is fantastic that the branch is associated with, and assisting in this initial event of the year and it instils even more pride knowing we are leading from the front, with of course the emphasis being placed on the Branch to make it a function to remember. Once again all the members help and assistance would be greatly appreciated and desperately needed. I thank you all, for the support you have shown in the past and for all the hard work that the Branch officials and centennial volunteers contribute and hope that more will assist us in the coming weeks and months to make it a "Night to Remember". Yours aye Ken Collins

NATIONAL CHAT LINE

As we now have the National Secretary in our ranks, he has agreed to put an article explaining what is going on in each issue. So here goes:

At the last meeting in April the National Management Committee (NMC) talked about the London branch proposal which, although defeated, held some valid points on the need to improve communications. The NMC agree they need a closer interface with the membership, but also that branches need to build closer relationships. The post conference dinner was a first small step in improving the accessibility of the NMC to members and the ladies and went very well. This was followed by the first of regular articles in the Submariners News (June Issue). The committee have also agreed that their regular planned July meeting should be combined with the National Draw, which is also in July.

Continue on Next page.....

In this Issue

Intro By Ken Collins.
The National Scene.
Sports Scene GOLF.
The Social Scene.
On the Web.

Word from the ED.
New Members.
Old Ship Mates.
Birthdays.
Contact ED Info.

THE EDITOR

So from next year wherever the Draw is held the NMC will meet and join Association members for the draw later. On the matter of branches building closer relationships, a paper has been prepared and distributed to all branch secretaries outlining this concept but more about that from John Hart after the branch have read and discussed it fully. The next, July, meeting of the NMC introduces and welcomes Cdr Chris Reynolds who has been nominated by FOSM to represent the interests of the serving submariner members. FOSM has been invited to accept the position of Honorary Vice President of the Submariners Association during his term of office as FOSM in accordance with the new Constitution, which you should by now all have copies of. We already have received written proposals to amend the new Constitution at the next Council Conference. Both are sensible and are not unexpected. Finally, don't forget the NMC now needs volunteers nominations for new members to meet the new Constitution. There is no need to wait until the call for nominations comes out prior to next conference, think about it now and if you are interested ask the branch to nominate you NOW. That's all for a first attempt from me John Houlding - National Secretary

It was nice to see Bob Palmer back on his feet and at the June meeting after a serious illness.

Welcome Back Bob

Year 2000 Submarine Command Golf Championship

The Submarine Command Golf Championship is held every year and is historically rotated around the 3 Commands. Even though the Portsmouth Command no longer exists Lt Cdr Brian Burgess RN Retired agreed last year to organise the Portsmouth event for this year.

In 1995 ex-submariners were invited to participate for the first time due to the falling number of golfers serving in the Submarine Service. Barrow-in-Furness branch of the Submariners Association has sent members every year and has been very successful. In the first year Mac McDonald won the inaugural ex-submariners trophy and we have had a couple of seconds since. In every year at least one member has come away with at least one prize.

This years event was held at the Petersfield Golf Club and two members of the Barrow Branch attended Dave Parsons and Ron Hiseman. George Hockey, steward of the Dalton Conservative Club and an ex-Coxswain also went down. The weather forecast was not good with sunshine and showers predicted and when we left we had some usual Barrow liquid sunshine. However on arrival the day before and on the day of the competition it was glorious sunshine through out and rain again for travelling back. Someone on high was smiling on us. George and I played a practise round on the Wednesday to find our way around the course, which was definitely a good move.

Thursday the day of the championship was an early start, at the course by 0715 ready for two rounds. The course, whilst not particularly long, was a good test of our golfing prowess as the scores proved, mine over the three days being 69, 78, 110. Dave upheld Barrow's tradition by getting a two on a par three and receiving some golf balls so at least we came away with something.

Apart from the golf one of the main reasons for attending is meeting old faces and spinning a sea story or two and there were plenty flying around that night.

Next year is the Centennial Golf Championship to be hosted by Devonport and it is hoped that it will be held over two days at St Mellion playing both the old course and the Nicholas course.

On a sad note Brian Burgess said that this is probably the last time the Championship would be held in the Portsmouth area and all present said it would be a sad loss.

Welcome to the first edition of the Submariners Association (Barrow-in-Furness) Branch news letter. My name is Ben Britten and I joined the association in April. On hearing that the association was keen to get a news letter going I promptly decided to volunteer. My aim is to keep all members of the branch up to date with the current news and views at local and national levels. I very much hope to publish a news letter once a month, this will depend on you the members and how well the news letter is received, also on how much information is forwarded to me for publication. Ken Collins our Chairman has in his introduction explained what info we need to continue Publishing but it is worth repeating. If you have a story to tell or just wish to write a Historical feature or write about something that happened during your career in the submarine service or may be you just have information you feel should appear in the news letter, all will be most welcome. You will find information on the back page on how to contact me. I very much look forward to hearing from you and to reading your Dits and stories.

New Members

We have 4 members who joined the Branch Since the AGM



**Chris Brown
Joined in April.**

**W. Walker Joined
in April**

**Ben Britten
Joined in May**

**Edward Anderson
Joined in June**



**A very warm
welcome to all**

Recent Events

So far this year we have :-

Visited our friends at the Lunesdale branch with the ladies for a very good social evening. Many thanks to both Margaret Hart and Billy Cole who did so well with the singing. We did it our way and won.

Went to Blackpool for the best attended Valentine weekend yet. It just gets bigger and hopefully better. Although this year the package was excellent value for money there were a few 'minor downs'. Shona and I are actively searching for alternative venues for next year.

Visited the Central Lancs branch at Leyland where the lads were made very welcome at the RNA club where they meet.

In April we held our Annual Dinner Dance (the editor and Clarice's first introduction to us). The Service was a vast improvement on last year and the music was good as well. The social secretary had a few 'minor downs' on this occasion, his legs went a bit wobbly but it was his birthday.

Coming Shortly



After a relatively quiet period July starts to hot up: -

1st July we host the Submariners Association Annual Draw at the VSEL Sports & Social Club. We have visitors coming from all over the country so please support this one.

22nd July sees our Annual Barbecue again at Vickerstown Institute. This is a very popular event so get your tickets early and spread the word. Although a bit further on we need to advertise the proposed trip to Germany to visit our counterparts, the U-Boot Kameradschaft in HAMBURG. This is planned for departure on Thursday 31st August to arrive home on Monday evening 4th September. Contact the Social Secretary quickly.

In The Pipeline

November 10th - Black Tie Dinner Dance at the Lisdoonie, followed by the usual Remembrance Parade and Social on the Sunday 11th.

November 25th - Blackpool branch's Christmas do is early this year. They enjoyed their visit to ours so much they have even booked the same group Natural from Barrow. I propose we go down in force, and perhaps by coach to save on costs. But you will have to decide very soon if you want accommodation.

December 09th - Our own Christmas do at the Roose Conservative Club, again getting more popular each year.

More details about these events in the next issue.

S.A. REUNION 2000 Almost on the social scene, but more branch related. The reunion this year will be held for the first time at Faslane. It promises to be a good weekend with many old shipmates getting together to spin a yarn or two over a tot (or two). The branch secretary is collecting names and details of accommodation requirements so if you are not down for it yet - be quick.

Sad, Sad News

Tommy Topham passed over the line on Thursday 11th May 2000 while promoting the Association in a way that he always did. He was in Devonport, at HMS Raleigh, presenting a commemoration stone to the new Submarine School. Tommy, a long serving member of the Association and of the Committee, will be greatly missed.

Ray Fulton (Leading Steward) passed over the line on Sunday 21st May 2000. Ray was a member of the Australian Branch and served in Upstart, Seraph, Tiptoe, Tactician and Thorough.

Our thoughts and sympathies are passed to both families.

On the Web

I Woz Mugged!

by Ian (Merlin) Hillbeck
It started innocently enough a few casual encounters with a new work colleague; an office re-organisation and I had a new desk buddy called Ken Collins. "Chairman of the local Submariners Association, how interesting... natter natter... Part Time Web Designer... blah.. blah... Centennial Committee... natter natter... Have you met my friend John Holding?" my new compatriot and I were getting along nicely. The trap was set! The actual springing of the trap was subtle, so subtle that my recollections of it remain hazy to this day. Needless to say I ended up "volunteering" to create and maintain a web-site on behalf of the branch and help promote the 2001 centennial events for free, gratis, nothing.

Bugger!

Now anyone reading this may wonder, why do we need a web-site and what can it do for us? A reasonable question and I will try to answer it here. For the uninitiated the World Wide Web (www) is a part of the Internet which enables anyone with a computer and a little box of tricks called a modem to access pages of information on computers all around the world. Like Teletext on steroids. By having a presence on the web the association makes itself available to a global audience of comrades and potential members. It advertises itself and its cause and helps build lines of communication between similar organisations and other branches. The web site gives the branch the opportunity to give something back to potential sponsors in the form of advertising.

Submariners have always operated at the leading edge of technology and so it is fitting and not surprising to find submariners have a large and active presence on the web. Either that or they have too much spare time and like to play with all the new toys.

This is the nerdy bit now so pay attention.

Since the Barrow branch launched its site last July the site has been visited around 5000 times. After a slow start it has grown to the point where it now attracts around 900 visitors a month which is good for a site which caters for such a specialist audience. So what is it we've got on our site that brings in the visitors?

The sites address is www.submariners.co.uk and a full list of contents is beyond the scope of this article but some of the highlights are:

Ø A Centenary Section which details the events and the organisers with information for prospective visitors. It includes a forward from FOSM with local & national events calendars.

Ø The Branch Database gives details of every branch in the world along with a map to show the location of each branch meeting place. Potential members can print a membership form or enrol on-line and save the price of the postage. Many new members have already joined this way.

Ø A VC Page tells the stories behind the 14 Victoria Crosses won by members of the submarine service and the Tribute Page lists all RN Submarines lost to date and the circumstances of their demise.

Ø "Barrow Built" is a history of Barrow Submarine Building. This is quite a comprehensive work, which is nearing completion. This is probably the single most visited area of the site.

Ø A selection of relevant Submarine Articles from a number of sources. I'm always looking for contributions to this section so if anyone has a tale to tell please send it to me.

Ø A Forum where (and your getting ahead of me now aren't you) people can hold conversations with and seek information from the other visitors.

The forum is run by the barrow branch in collaboration with other UK Submarine sites in an attempt to promote a single UK submariners presence on the web. The site needs to constantly evolve to keep itself at the forefront of UK submarine web-sites. If anyone reading this would like to contribute an item to the site or would like more information they can get in touch via the chairman or by e-mail to

ian@submariners.co.uk

Shipmates

From Arnoud Boom Looking for Info on HMS ELFIN (web) e-mail boom@nioz.nl

I would very much like to hear from any of you, who knows something about the torpedo recovery vessel, special service vessel, tender, HMS ELFIN or later HMS NETTLE. This steamship was built in 1933 by J.S. White & CO. and went out of service in 1957. At this very moment ELFIN is being preserved in the Netherlands and is still sailing with the original machinery! The idea is to restore this unique vessel in original condition. Therefore I would like to hear everything you can tell me! Please look at the internet page for more info and pictures! HMS ELFIN/HMS NETTLE was assigned to various Flotilla's but served mainly at the Submarine Depot at Portland, with HMS Titania and during the war in Blyth at Submarine Base HMS ELFIN under a new name HMS NETTLE. In 1957 she was filmed serving as a decor piece at Portsmouth for the Film the Key. She also appeared in Janes Fighting Ships.

**Annual
Submariners Association
Barrow (Branch)
BARBECUE
Vickerstown Institute
Sat 22nd July 8pm £5
tele 01229 812593**

From Dusty Miller(web)
e-mail: [gmiller@mars.ark.com](mailto:gmillar@mars.ark.com)

I am trying to find some of my old ship mates I served with when I was in the UK. I served onboard the HMS Totem 1963 to 65. HMS Oracal 65 to 67. Then was on the comm crew of the HMCS Onandaga. If there's any one out there or should I say any one over in the UK or Aust that remembers me please drop me a E-mail. I am a member of SAOC west Canada Dusty.

July



Members Birthdays

M.Kirk 6th

J.Dixon 8th

G.Anderson 8th

B.Satterthwaite 20th

C.Hutchinson 22nd

D.O'Connell 23rd

R.Faragher 24th

J.Streets 25th

D.Wilson 29th

A.Jones 29th

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 or E-Mail : rbritten@totalise.co.uk. Ring for postal address. Items that have been taken from the submariners web site will be marked as (WEB). If that item requires a reply from a member and you do not have access to the Internet then please ring me on the number supplied above. 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 July for the August issue please try and have any information with me by the 15th of each month. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.

Ladies night Dinner Lisdoonie hotel 2008

Menu

To start choice of:

***Soup of the Day
Garlic Mushrooms
Chefs Pate Platter***

Main Course choice of:

***Poached Salmon with a Prawn sauce
Roast Beef/ Turkey with all accompaniments
and seconds***

Full choice of Sweets

Cheese and Biscuits

Port

Tea or Coffee with Mints

Choice of Red or White wine

SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION BARROW BRANCH

For: Ladies night Dinner Dance

Date; Friday 7th November 2008-09-22

Venue: Lisdoonie Hotel Barrow

Dancing to: Midnight Express

Cost / Dress: £26.50 / Black Tie

NAME	No Tickets	Garlic Mushrooms (GM) Soup (S) Pate (P)	Turkey (T) Beef (B) Salmon (S)	Wine Choice Red (R) White (W)

Please confirm numbers and menu choice to Social Secretary by October 25th. Cheques made payable to Barrow SA of course cash is acceptable.

Tables are 10 to a table; if you have any special dietary requirements please let me know.

Colin Hutchinson – 01229 474927



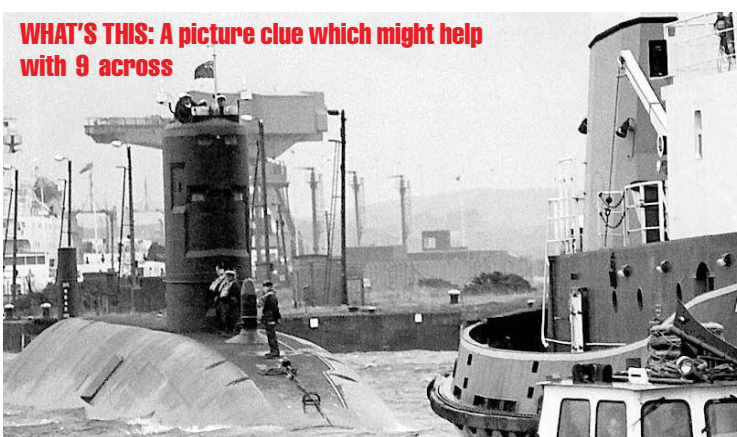
Can you solve the submarine crossword?

THIS is the first in a regular series of submarine-related crosswords compiled by Bill Myers who writes the Memories Pages for the Evening Mail at Barrow.

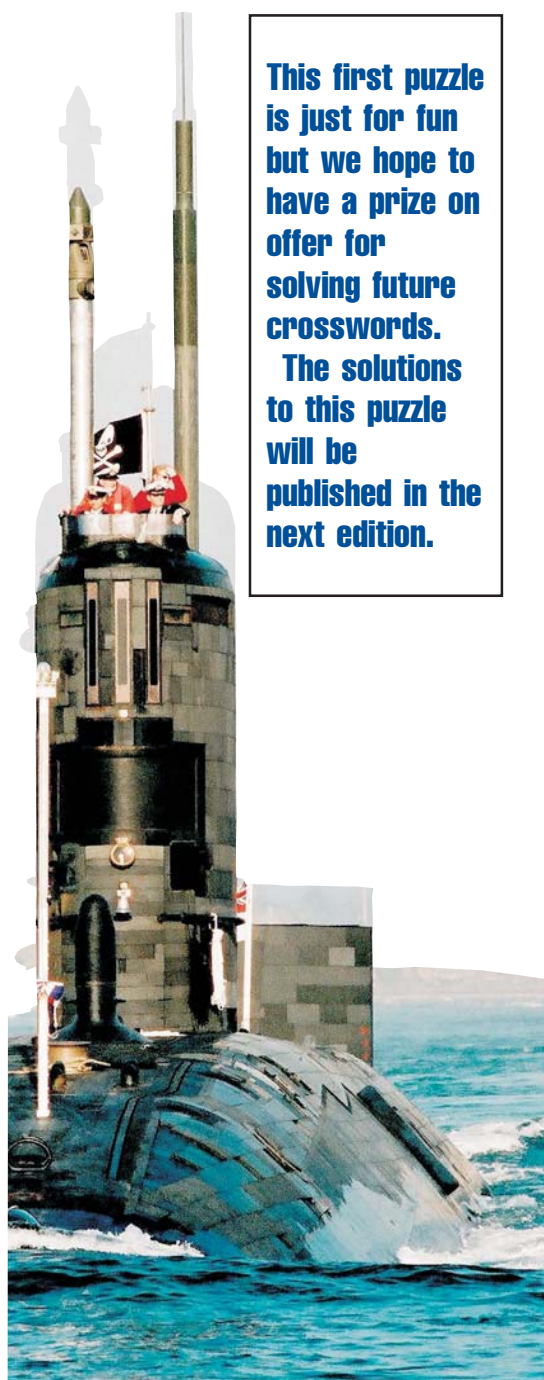
As this is the first attempt, he hopes you will allow a little latitude while he gets to grips with the finer points of squeezing submarine names and related words into a crossword grid.

All of the submarine names – there are nine of them – are Barrow-built.

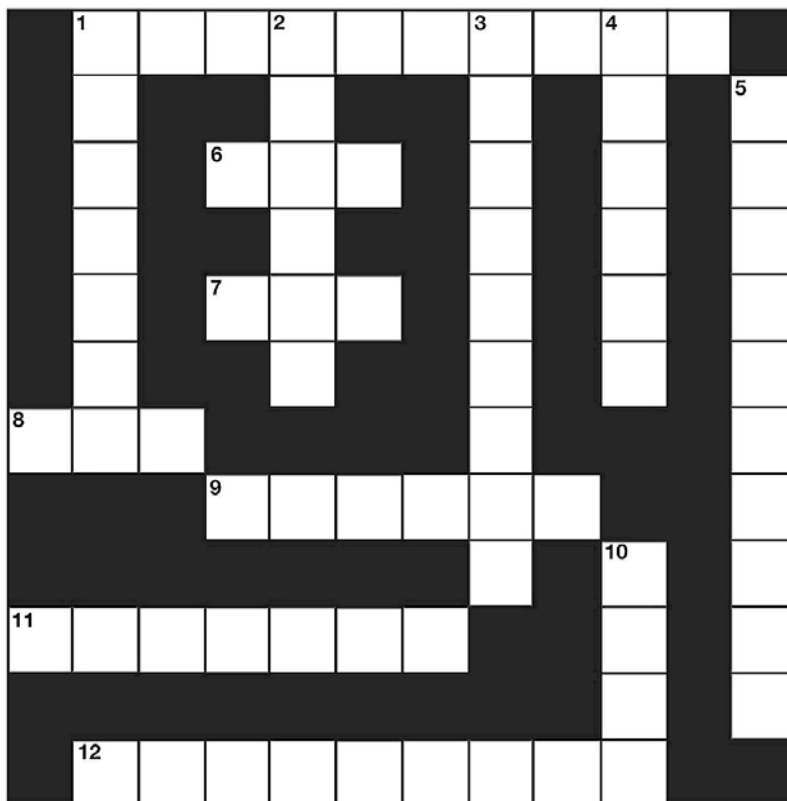
If you have any comments or suggestions on how this can be improved or developed, drop an email to Bill Myers at bill.myers@nwemail.co.uk



WHAT'S THIS: A picture clue which might help with 9 across



This first puzzle is just for fun but we hope to have a prize on offer for solving future crosswords. The solutions to this puzzle will be published in the next edition.



ACROSS

- 1. Argument brought to an agreement
- 6. Belongings stored on board, or half a chocolate biscuit
- 7. Essential requirement for a life under water
- 8. Abbreviated weapons rank
- 9. A special aptitude
- 11. Brave, like the movie star carrier pigeon
- 12. My name starts with V and offers a chance to get even

DOWN

- 1. To push away
- 2. Egyptian god of the Underworld
- 3. Cutting and incisive, like digging a hole
- 4. Submarine shares name with husband of Titania
- 5. Sub name starts with C and shows bravery
- 10. Time to go deep