

Submariners Association

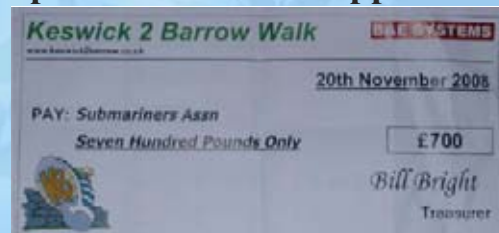
newsletter

Barrow-in-Furness Branch

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Alan Jones
Peter Lorking
Colin Taylor**Chairman's****December Dit**

It's that silly season HO! HO! HO! when everything gets tied into an ever-increasing spin and we all find ourselves chasing silly deadlines because there are only XXX days to the day. Currently I am trying to find where on earth in the Bermuda Triangle known as our loft, have I buried my Santa Outfit ready for this year's command performances at several Primary Schools. I am currently gathering bits and pieces together to decorate the tree we have entered as part of our 45th Anniversary in the Dalton and Askam Tree Festival. I need to get the Christmas card print run completed before our December meeting. Plus address my monthly Nemesis namely putting together the Newsletter Dits. Out of the blue I received a telephone call from Dave Parsons to say there was no representative to attend the Keswick to Barrow (K2B) Presentation Evening. So it became a case of dropping everything, finding best Bib and Tucker and as you can

see Below we were awarded £700 for the support given by our volunteer Stewards. Our many thanks to those who gave up their time to support the



walkers: runners: and wheel bound participants, who incidentally raised a record £206.000. I was very chuffed to report to a very full Hawcoat Sports Club what Barrow Branch had achieved (The Sea Cadet Sash) with our previous award money. Needless to say there is now a clarion call for volunteers on May 9th 2009. Three days time at Roose Cons will be the last scheduled event on our social calendar. This is a good time to reflect and thank Colin our Social Secretary for all of his efforts, in what is, at times a thankless task chasing around for names and sometimes cash, for the hat full of events, he has co-ordinated these past twelve months.

Continued on page 2





The draft Social Programme 2009 has now been published within the newsletter. As always if anyone has any ideas how we may improve or add extra events then please contact either Colin or any Branch Committee Member. Without singling any Individual Committee member I remain convinced that the strength of our branch is our large membership coupled with the dedicated Committee team. Who willingly give up their time to attend the extra mid monthly gatherings. But also have to rob the Piggy Bank to find extra money for those medicinal slurps that are a vital component of minutiae examination of our minutes and agenda. Talking of minutiae we have examined the Branch Web page and some details, namely mug shots are non-existent. Unless you have a strong objection to having your photograph published then the Committee will be contacting all members in the New Years to see if we can make our records as complete as possible. Talking of New Year this is a good time for me to wish You and Yours the best for the festive season and may 2009 be a good one.

Regards
Jonsey



Social Scene December 2008

Hi Folks, November was a busy month Social wise with the Ladies night dinner at the Lisdoonie on the 7th which in the end was well attended and the feedback I have received is that you all enjoyed it. My thanks go to Dave Barlow for his fine speech, Fiona for replying on behalf of the Ladies, and also to our other guests the Mayor and Mayoress of Barrow and to all who attended and supported the evening.

This was swiftly followed by the Remembrance Day parade and our own remembrance at the Harbour, again it was very well attended, and thanks to Tracy and Leon for hosting us at the Harbour.
As I write this dit the Christmas

Social should be in full swing, unfortunately I cannot attend as I am working, but I have left it in the very capable hands of Jeff Thomas and Jan Mead, I hope you all had a good time and a great start to your Christmas Festivities.

I have produced a Social programme for 2009 and it is attached to this news letter. Looking at it, it has a very International flavour this year with trips to Bangor Northern Ireland for the National Conference weekend in March, the Submariners Spring cruise to Bruges and the opportunity to visit Gibraltar with our friends from KORBA. Of course we have the usual socials of the Annual Dinner, BBQ and Ladies night as well, and I will probably throw in a couple of quizzes and a brewery visit. One thing I would like to do is organize a good old fashioned "Chara" trip to the Seaside like what I heard they did in the olden days (I'm far too young to remember those!!)

We kick off the New Year with a first footing visit to our Oppo's at the Morecambe branch on the Friday 2nd January and our first monthly meeting will be on January 6th where the Ladies are also invited to attend.

We are also thinking about a Burns night do and giving a farewell to the lads of Astute who have supported the branch for a few years, details to follow if organized.

As you will see it is a very varied programme with something for everyone and I look forward to seeing more of you at Socials next year bring your friends as well, it will help take your minds off the credit crunch, the bad weather and for some of you something to do between your holidays away!!

Well that's about it for this month, just to say have a great Christmas and a happy new year (I'm working both, but some ones got to keep the lights on) See you all in the New Year.

Colin Hutchinson
Social Secretary

Village People

A Village woman comes home and tells her husband, 'Remember those headaches I've been having all these years? Well, they're gone.' 'No more headaches?' the husband asks, 'What happened?' His wife replies, 'Margie referred me to a hypnotist & he told me to stand in front of a mirror, Stare at myself and repeat,

' I do not have a headache '
' I do not have a headache '
' I do not have a headache '

Well, it worked! The headaches are all gone.' Well, that is wonderful' proclaims the husband. His wife then says, 'You know, you haven't been exactly a ball of fire in the bedroom these last few years, why don't you go see the hypnotist and see if he can do anything for that?' Reluctantly, the husband agrees to try it.

Following his appointment, the husband comes home, rips off his clothes, picks up his wife and carries her into the bedroom. He puts her on the bed and says, 'Don't move, I'll be right back.' He goes into the bathroom and comes back a few minutes later and jumps into bed and makes passionate love to his wife like never before. His wife says, 'WOW! - that was wonderful!' The husband says, 'Don't move! I will be right back.' He goes back into the bathroom, comes back and round two was even better than the first time. The wife sits up and her head is spinning ' OH MY GOSH ' She proclaims.

Her husband again says, 'Don't move, I'll be right back.' With that, he goes back in the bathroom.

This time, his wife quietly follows him and there, in the bathroom, she sees him standing at the mirror and saying.

'She's not my wife '
'She's not my wife '
'She's not my wife ' .
'She's not my wife '

His funeral service will be held on Saturday.



SUBMARINER IN SPACE PART 1



Cape Cañaveral, FL (AHN) NASA says post-launch data and an early check of the space shuttle "Endeavour", launched last November 14th, show no problems.

NASA's 27th mission to the International Space Station (ISS) will deliver a much needed expansion and allow astronauts to carry out repairs during the 13-day mission.

Led by STS-115 veteran Christopher J. Ferguson, the STS-126 crew consists of five male and two female NASA astronauts. One of them, Mission Specialist Capt. US Navy Stephen Bowen, was selected by NASA to venture into space after proving himself with the U.S. Navy submarine force.

Upon completion of his submarine training, Capt Bowen spent three years attached to USS PARCHE (SSN 683), then completed qualification in Submarines aboard USS POGY (SSN 647), attending the MIT/WHOI Joint program in Ocean Engineering, he reported to USS AUGUSTA (SSN 710) for duty as the Engineering Officer.

During this "SSN tour" he qualified for command SSN's. In 1997 he was in the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as Office of Plans and Policy and worked on the USSOCOM Future Concepts Working Group. In 1999 he was the Reactor and Propulsion inspector for the Navy's Submarine Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). In May 2000 he became the first Executive Officer of the Pre-Commissioning Unit VIRGINIA (SSN 774) the first of the new VIRGINIA Class submarines.

NASA EXPERIENCE: Bowen is the first Submarine Officer selected by NASA in July 2000 as a mission specialist. Follow-

ing the completion of two years of training and evaluation, he was initially assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Station Operations Branch. Bowen is assigned to the crew of STS-126 targeted for launch at 13-14 of November 2008.

From November 14th and during 13 days mission, "Endeavour" is moving around earth space coupled with the ISS and some "Dolphin" from there is calling to Earth: "Houston....submariner calling from Space Sea".

PART 2

On completion of Submarine Training Stephen Bowen spent three years attached to USS PARCHE (SSN 683) and qualified in Submarines on USS POGY (SSN 647). After attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/WHOI Joint program in Ocean Engineering he joined USS AUGUSTA (SSN 710) as the Engineering Officer. During this tour he qualified for command of nuclear powered submarines. In 1997 he was appointed to the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) in the Office of Plans and Policy and worked on the USSOCOM Future Concepts Working Group. For 9 months in 1999 he was the Reactor and Propulsion Inspector for the US Navy's Submarine Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). In May 2000 he became the first Executive Officer of the Pre-Commissioning Unit VIRGINIA (SSN 774) the first of the new VIRGINIA Class Submarines.

Stephen Bowen is the first Submarine Qualified Officer to be selected by NASA (in July 2000) as a mission specialist. He reported for training at the Johnson Space Center in August 2000. Following the completion of two years of training and evaluation, he was initially assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Station Operations Branch. Bowen was assigned to the crew of the STS-126 (Space Shuttle Endeavour) launched into Space in

November 2008. Endeavour carried into space a cargo of a reusable logistics module holding supplies and equipment essential to sustain a crew of six on the International Space Station, including additional crew quarters, a regenerative life support system, and a Resistive Exercise Device (RED).

Stephen Bowen was born on February 13, 1964 in Cohasset, Massachusetts. He was graduated from the Cohasset High School in 1982. He gained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering at the United States Naval Academy in 1986. He also holds a Degree of Ocean Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which he gained 1993. He is married to Deborah (nee Alden) and they have three children.

Letters

Dear Sir,

Please find attached to this mail, a photograph of the very latest Submariners Association Embroidered Crest. It is mounted in a Mahogany style frame and is completed by brass corners. The quality is superb and will almost certainly become an "antique" of the future. The whole plaque is made here in Scotland by Ensign Motifs.

The brass tally can be inscribed with your branch details or even the purchasers details i.e. CPO A Brown HMS Vanguard 2008 and all within the price of £45.00 plus postage.

If the branch organised a bulk purchase of 20 pieces the cost would be discounted to £35.00 each.

They would make great gizzits for visiting members and trips or a really quality piece on the wall at home. If you would like to discuss other crests, please call. (See image on Back page)

Regards,

Tony (Brum) Page
Ensign Motifs
Tele; 01436842581



Barrie Downer



Well here we are in December where does all the time go? What have we done in the last Month? On Sunday 2nd November the National Submariners Remembrance was held at the Submariners Memorial on the Embankment in London. Branch Member Dave Barlow was their in his role as National Chairman and Branch Member Dave Smith laid a wreath on behalf of the Barrow Branch.

Following the November Branch Meeting on 4th November we had the very sad duty of attending the Funeral of our late good friend George Meadows on Friday 7th November. I don't think I have seen the Chapel at Thorncliffe quite so full I'm not sure that there were any empty seats at all there was a big turn out of George's family and friends and a very good turn out of Branch Members. Ginge Cundell paraded the Branch Standard and our Members attending formed a Guard of Honour.

At the request of the Family I was asked to read the 'Submariners Prayer' and also the short poem 'Sunset and Evening Star'. George's wife Pam was most appreciative of the Submariners support so thank you to all who turned out on a cold November Day. Several of us went back to the Michaelson Hotel afterwards at the family's invitation.

Friday 7th November was a very busy day as in the evening Dudley Davenport paraded the Branch Standard at a Festival of Remembrance in the Coronation Hall at Ulverston. The same evening nearly eighty Members, wives, girlfriends, friends and guests attended our Ladies Night Dinner Dance at the Lisdoonie. Our Main Guests were Councillor Dave Roberts Mayor of Barrow and Pauline Coates his Mayoress and Dave and Fiona Barlow Dave again in his role as National Chairman. Dave proposed the Toast to the

Ladies and Fiona gave the Response. Dancing was to Midnight Express who were very good as always although it was notable that this year we didn't get our usual extra songs from Tom Homewood (Dave Barlow's brother in law) who was not able to attend the Dinner Dance! Our other Guests at the dinner were Ian and Ann Hilbeck – in recognition of Ian's sterling work on the Website and Leon and Tracey from the Harbour in recognition of all their support to us over our (and their) time at the Harbour and also to wish them both the best of fortune in the future.

Sunday 9th November and we were all back on parade again at 1015 for the Annual Remembrance Ceremonies. Once again Branch Members provided a very good turn out and once again we had one of the biggest platoons on parade. The overall numbers on parade this year seems to have been greater than in previous years and there was also large numbers of members of the public watching the parade and the service at the Cenotaph. Especial thanks are due to the Co-op Funeral Services who provided a car to take some of our members who were unable to march to the Cenotaph and then back to the RBL afterwards.

Our Submariners Remembrance at the Harbour was well attended including ASTUTE and AMBUSH and HMS WALNEY Crew Members as well as the usual team. 'Up Spirits' followed as usual but this was our last Submariners Remembrance Ceremony at the Harbour and, from next year, it will be at the RBL. Thanks are due to Tracey for providing the Hot Pot after the 'Up Spirits' for those who needed to take on solids!

Saturday 22nd saw members back on 'parade' this time providing Stewards for the switching on of the Christmas Lights by the 'Hairy Bikers' in the Town Hall Square. There were seven of us wearing the Submariners Association yellow

jackets and another two Members wearing the Rotary yellow jackets! No reindeer to look after this year! I see the Evening Mail reckons there were some 3,000 people watching the events and the 'Switch On' there certainly were a lot of people mainly children there! Thanks to those who turned out on what was a very cold afternoon but at least it was dry!

I haven't had any reports on the HMS RENOWN Association Reunion which was held in Leicester on W/E 21st to 23rd Nov 2008. Did anyone go? If you did can we have a report for the January Newsletter?

The Christmas Social will be at the Roose Cons on Saturday 29th November. Usual routine bring a plate, bring a prize for the Raffle, bring yourselves and bring your guests. There will be a small charge - as usual but it's for a good cause and you will enjoy yourselves - as usual!

A bit of late news! Alan Jones had a short notice phone call last week inviting him to go to the Vickerstown Institute on Thursday evening. It was for the 'divvying up' of the proceeds from this year's Keswick to Barrow Walk. The Branch has again been allocated a sum of £700 rather surprisingly as we got £700 last year as well.

We will now need to decide what to do with this very unexpected boost to the funds but we have plenty of time to think about it! Now back to Branch business once again. On 1st January 2009 your annual Subscriptions become due. We have already received the Membership Cards for next year from the National Membership Secretary (and a nice mauve colour they are too!) so as soon as you are paid up you can get your new Card.

The Treasurer will be glad to receive you cash as soon as you are ready to pay – so give him a surprise and pay him at the December Meeting!





On the subject of Subscriptions:

DUES – SUBSCRIPTIONS

I wonder why the short word
 “Dues”,
 Makes a hardened submariner
 quake in his shoes.
 It has four little letters, though
 nothing to fear,
 Yet it requires more letter-space
 year after year.

So what is involved with this
 word ?.
 Whenever it’s mentioned not a
 sound can be heard.
 Those drinking rum or a bottle
 of beer,
 hear the word, choke and run
 in great fear.

There’s no problem with ‘dues’
 to the loyal few,
 Who year after year pay on the
 date dues are due.
 Thanks to those men, our bills
 are not overdue,
 and never have so many owed
 so much to so few!

How about youare you due
 to?

First reminder! No one has yet
 made any proposals for items
 for the Agenda at the 2009
 National Council Conference!
 The December Meeting is your
 last chance as we need to get any
 items to the National Secretary
 by 31st December and we need
 another Branch to ‘Second’ any
 items!

The 2009 National Council
 Conference next March is being
 hosted by the Northern Ireland
 Branch in Bangor. All those
 travelling to Ireland should have
 received details of the Hotels
 and accommodation arrange-
 ments but you do need to book
 for yourselves if you haven’t yet
 done - so you need to hurry up
 as the hotels are filling up fast!

The Branch is investigating the
 possibility of a Coach to take all
 members across to Ireland
 which could be cheaper and
 easier than everyone making
 their own arrangements. More
 details to be advised! By the way
 we need a new Delegate for the
 Conference as John Hart has
 indicated that he won’t be
 available for Bangor! Bob

Palmer has volunteered but we
 need to vote on that at the
 December Meeting!

Another Reminder! If you are
 looking for some good
 Christmas presents the
 Submariners Association DVD
 is available from the Secretary.
 It only costs £10.00 - £11 if you
 want me to post it to you. Cash is
 fine or Cheques (made out to the
 Submariners Association) to me
 if you want a copy! So come on
 get your money out the DVD
 runs for about 48 minutes and is
 good value you might see some
 old chums on it Bill Butters was
 one of those interviewed!

Most of you will notice that next
 years Social Programme is
 published in this Months
 Newsletter. Colin, the rest of the
 Branch Committee and the
 National Committee have
 managed to arrange a very full
 programme of events catering,
 hopefully, for all tastes although
 the fine detail of some still need
 to be confirmed.

We have arranged the Branch
 events to be de-conflicted for the
 National events as far as
 possible so, for those of a
 Sociable inclination, you should
 be able to attend everything!
 There will also be some of the
 smaller events this year
 Quizzes and Brewery runs but
 these will be arranged at shorter
 notice. Hopefully all will be able
 to attend all or some of these
 events. Remember that these
 functions are arranged for your
 benefit so please support the
 Social Team as much as you can.

That’s the end of this
 Transmission. ‘Over and Out’
 but I will see you all at the
 December Branch Meeting on
 Tuesday 2nd December at the
 Royal British Legion at 2000 so
 don’t be late and remember to
 bring a Submariner friend as all
 new Members are very welcome.

There will be an ‘Up Spirits’
 after the meeting in Memory of
 our late Member - George
 Meadows.

A Happy Christmas to you all!

Barrie Downer

A Christmas Toast

To Crews who sail Men of War
 and those that build them on
 the shore,
 Men in Freighters, men in
 Tankers,
 Men in ships financed by
 Bankers,
 Ships Designed for extra speed,
 Slow ships, fast ships, ships
 which need radar screens for
 times of fog,
 Ships with records on the log,
 Ships which sail on Christmas
 day torn by wind and washed
 with Spray,
 Ships in Hardour, ships at Sea,
 Ships which carry oil and tea,
 Ships importing meat and
 grain,
 Ships which bring us home
 again,
 Ships with masts Aloof and tall,
 Mastless ships and ships quite
 small,
 Motor ships and Ancient
 steamers,
 Ships conceived by daring
 dreamers,
 Ships of orthodox design,
 Ships which often cross the line,
 Ships which ply on coastal
 waters,
 Ships with ice upon there
 quarters,
 Submarines down in the deep,
 to guard our shores a watch to
 keep,

To all who sail , and those who
 build, ships of any kind, we’ve
 filled our glasses, now here come
 the toast.

WE Wish each one of you a most
 Happy Christmas and New Year.
 Much to please and none to fear,
 good health, much wealth, good
 times, good sport.

God speed, good luck. Come
 home safe to port.





Bangor March 2009

As the year draws to a close we need to get the detail sorted out for the trip to Bangor Northern Ireland on the occasion of the Submariners Association National Conference. We currently have a party of around 36 from the Barrow Branch and of those 20 are looking to travel by coach on Friday 27th March crossing via Stanraar leaving Bangor on Monday morning in good time to catch the return ferry.

Some are travelling by car (6) and others are yet to make up their minds (10).

The advantages of the coach are, door to door travel without having to park at airports and no check in early for flights. As the group travels together so the weekend starts on the coach. Also we don't have to rely on hospitality of the NI Branch to try and organise transfers from the Belfast Airports to Bangor on arrival and departure thus easing the burden on our friends.

The Cost is yet to be finally decided as it will depend on the cost of the Ferry Crossing and of course on the final numbers on the coach.

We have Jim Halliwell joining the coach from Morecambe, and if you have any pals from other branches who wish to make it up to Barrow or on the route from Barrow to Stranraar and travel with us the more the merrier.

It is never too late to make up your mind to join us for this trip, which promises to be an excellent weekend, so for those still thinking about it and any new members who would like to join in please make your minds up and contact John Houlding for the details of hotels and accommodation in the Bangor Bay area. Once you have accommodation just let me know and book your seats on the coach.

Don't delay – do it today



Gibraltar March 2009

March is a busy month but don't forget we have an invitation to join the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association Barrow Branch on a 7 day trip to Gibraltar between 6th and 13th March 2009.

Costs :- Flights £171 per person; Accommodation £45 per room per day; Airport transfers for up to 6 people £120 return.

For further details please contact our committee or the local branch D Of L committee.

Chaplains Dit December 2008

Wearing my serious Chaplains hat for but a few moments, I am very much aware that we are approaching the season of heightened emotions, and differing beliefs. Christians will view these next few weeks through the filter of Charles Wesley's words and I quote *"Our God contracted to a span incomprehensibly made man"* Others will hold opposing views and that is an acceptable consequence of living in a free multi faith society.

The commonality that links us all is that we all can feel sadness: happiness: and fear in equal measure and Christmas more than any other season has the ability to Intensify these emotions.

As a believing Christian it is Gods Love that underpins my rationale for understanding the events surrounding Christmas. Some people will be sad because they have lost someone or something therefore things can never be normal again, but time and Love will find them a new normal. Some are fearful of what the future may hold but love and time will support them whilst they hang on.

Happiness is self evident, and it is what Christians believe God wants for all of His created order. It is said that a picture paints a thousand words therefore I have included the above image from the biblical based film "The Nativity" plus two extra images to help reflect on these things.

Continued thoughts and prayers for 2009.

Regards
Jonsey



Debbie Yarra an American artist and photographer said of this image that she had taken it three days before Christmas 1999. She had been in her garden in Cathedral Valley Colorado shooting without filters straight into the sun. The resultant one time image of a star (our sun) passing across the heavens she has never been able to replicate.





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 November to have 'Crossed the Bar'



West of Scotland Branch
&
Honorary Vice President
Submariners Association
7th November 2008
Michael Charles(Mike) Henry



Captain
Aged 80

Submarine service 1948-1974

Tactician(48), Seneschal(49), Alcide(49-53), Trespasser(51), Seascout(53), Talent(53-54), Trenchant(54-55), Tiptoe(55), Seraph(56-57), Trump(59-60) and Resolution (66-69)



Non Member

19th October 2008

Frank E Walker
Able seaman (HSD)
D/JX 203112

Submarine service 1945-1951

Turpin, Aeneas, SeaDevil



Australian Branch
(Founder Member)

14th November 2008
W A (Bill) Hat, MiD

Engine room Artificer
C/MX 76119
Aged 87
Submarine service 1941-1946

Clyde & Spark



Victoria Branch
SAA

November 2008
W E (Bill) Curtis
Able seaman (ST) & EM(ST)
Submarine service 1940-1949
Seraph, Vox, P52, Alaric & Alliance.

RAN service 1950 - 1956



Dolphin & Southampton
Branch

November 2008
John (J) Belton-Perkins
Chief Radio Supervisor
P/JX 890290
Aged 73
Submarine service 1953-1975
Selene, Scythain, Subtle,
Talent, Tally Ho, Tactian,
Ambush, Tiptoe, Aeneas & Artemis



Merseyside Branch

21st November 2008
George Marr
Matelo Torpedo
Aged 87
Submarine service 1940-1946
FFS, Surcouf, Invisible & LA Chandiere

A Diesel Submarine Stoker's Lament

When diesels ruled the sea

One time when at 'harbour stations' The donk shop began its routine The turning gear moving the engines Making sure they were ready for sea.

When diesels ruled the sea

When given the order 'start engines' The diesels began their duet With 'full ahead both' the next order .A course for the ocean was set

When diesels ruled the sea

No matter the mood of the ocean The diesels got on with their task With the powerful thud of their rhythm What more could a diesel man ask.

When diesels ruled the sea

The comforting throb of the engines Like a drum and a march with no end Tirelessly working for twenty four seven On the road with no turning or bend.

When diesels ruled the sea

When cruising the depths with the dolphins Down where the mermaids sing Both engines now still and resting In respect to Old Neptune the King.

When diesels ruled the sea

I still miss my life in the Andrew Though I finished my twelve long ago And often said 'roll on my dozen 'What a great life it was, now I know.

When diesels ruled the sea

And when the time comes to 'cross the bar' At the Pearlies or portals of Hell I'll shout out aloud, at the top of my voice I'M A SUBMARINE STOKER, CAN'T YOU TELL.

When diesels ruled the sea

So give me two donks for eternity I promise to tend them well A tot of rum at that time of the day And a bucket of diesel to smell.

When diesels ruled the sea

And when I embark on eternal patrol Along with my ship-mates of old I'll feel back at home where I've wanted to be A submariner, back in the fold.

When diesels ruled the sea

Continued on page 8





Let every man who stood in the
donk-shop Take heed of the
words up above And join me
back there with the diesels With
the sound and the smell we all
love.

When diesels ruled the sea

So to the end of the story When
the diesel electric was king Good
luck to the nukes and their
missiles But it's in praise of the
diesel I'll sing.

When diesels ruled the sea

Finished with main motors and
steering, fall out harbour
stations

*Embroidered Crest from
letters section on page 3*



DISCLAIMER

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the Submariners Association
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www.rnsubmus.co.uk

Members Birthdays
December 2008

L. Thwaites	02/12
P. Douglas	03/12
G. Livingston	06/12
D. Carter	12/12
M. Bown	15/12
M. Dack	17/12
K. Collins	19/12
D. Taylor	23/12
N. Morrison	27/12
S. Doughty	28/12
C. Lee	31/12
T. Pyne	31/12



Christmas Tree Festival 2008

If you want to see our
tree Duddon Road
Methodist Church is
open between
1500hrs 1800hrs
For the weekends
leading up to Christmas.
8th & 9th December.
15th & 16th December.
22nd & 23rd December.



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
December for the January 2009
issue please try and have any
information with me by the
15th of each month.
Thank you to everyone who
contributed to this edition.



Editor

May I take the opportunity to
thank all those who contributed
to the News letter throughout
2008 and for your support, may
I also wish everyone a Merry
Xmas and a Happy new year.

Regards
Ben



SOCIAL CALENDAR 2008 - LOOK AHEAD

December	January 2009	February 2009
2nd Monthly meeting 16th Committee Meeting	2nd First footing Mcombe 6th Monthly meeting 20th Committee meeting 23/25th K13 Memorial W/E	3rd Monthly meeting 17th Committee meeting 20th Blackpool visit



ASTUTE MESS DINNER



I hope I speak for all the Barrow branch members who were lucky enough to attend when I say: "What a great night we had on the occasion of the Astute Crew Trafalgar Night Mess Dinner". Sincere thanks are extended to our hosts for the kind invitation and for the tremendous welcome we were afforded; the friendships which were made, renewed or continued on the night; the venue on the SS Selandia was spot on; for the menu a great choice well prepared and presented; and for the wine and port which never seemed to stop flowing.

The dinner layout and management of the night and of ourselves as guests, to maximise the number of serving members from both Astute and Ambush we were able to meet and chat with, was superb.

The guest speakers were also very good with Cdr Paul Douglas giving the traditional Trafalgar touch and Cdr Ian Roberts and Frank McAvennie who brought a great mix of humour to the evening which was in totally in keeping with the electric atmosphere.

The Mess President HMS Astute Senior Rates Mess, Key Mullen and all mess members are offered our hearties thanks for such a great evening. Our very special thanks must of course go to WO Coxn John Hendren who spent a great deal of time and effort with the Royal Mint to arrange a very special gift for all those attending the Dinner in a specially minted, Trafalgar Five Pound presentation coin. Now a valued possession for me and I trust everyone again lucky enough to be there. Also of course for so capably manoeuvring us all through the multiple logistical table changes and introductions we made throughout the evening. Well Done (BZ) The night did not end on the

Selandia, there was no midnight liberty boat to take back to base though I recognising my lack of capacity and ability to remain in a vertical condition did not accept – everyone was invited to continue with the soirée at "The Keys". I challenge any of our members who carried on to provide any memories of that part of the night for the next issue.

Footnote: It was such a good evening that I for one would welcome future dinners on a similar arrangement to be arranged by ourselves in the future where we can hopefully return the hospitality of the serving submariner contingent in Barrow.

Do I hear a vote of support out there?

John Houlding
Vice Chairman

The Duchess of Cornwall visits
HMS ASTUTE

HMS ASTUTE was proud to host its Lady Sponsor, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall yesterday on the 21st October 2008.

This visit to Barrow coincided with the re-launch of HMS ASTUTE a few days previously, marking a major milestone in ASTUTE's progress towards sailing for sea trials and starting the process of acceptance into the Fleet.



One of the Ship's Company honoured to meet the Duchess was Tactical Systems specialist AB Paul Havelock. After the event he said:

"Her Royal Highness was very interested in how the Ship's

Company worked onboard, and cared a great deal about us as individuals. It was very satisfying to be able to demonstrate to her how capable HMS ASTUTE is and how enjoyable it is to work onboard."

This was followed by a tour of the submarine which allowed the Commanding Officer, Commander Mike Walliker OBE RN to display the technological advances which will make HMS ASTUTE the most advanced submarine in the Fleet.



For his exceptional personal efforts in the production of HMS ASTUTE's medical facilities on board, Her Royal Highness and Surgeon Rear Admiral Raffaelli (Naval Director Medical Personnel) presented Warrant Officer Medical Assistant James Drew with the 'Man of the Boat' award.

With the tour of HMS ASTUTE complete, the Duchess then met the families of the Ship's Company and some of the BAe Systems staff who have all supported the hard work to date. Chief Petty Officer Ian Wharrie was introduced to Her Royal Highness with his wife Kerry, and two children Max (aged 6) and Oskar (aged 5) who had travelled up from Birkenhead for the day:

"It was a really enjoyable day, and a fantastic chance for my family to see HMS ASTUTE and be a part of the Royal visit. The Duchess was very approachable and friendly, and spoke to my children about their school which they were very excited about."

Her Royal Highness was then hosted by the members of the Wardroom of HMS ASTUTE and HMS AMBUSH for a Trafalgar Night dinner, held at Holker Hall, the residence of Lord and Lady Cavendish.

Several representatives from HMS ASTUTE's affiliates also attended the dinner.





Solve the festive submarine crossword?

We hope you enjoyed last month's submarine-wordsquare. If any of it proved tricky, the solution is at the foot of the page.

This month we return to a crossword for the festive edition with 15 clues to solve, all with strong submarine links.

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

Your crossword clues

DOWN

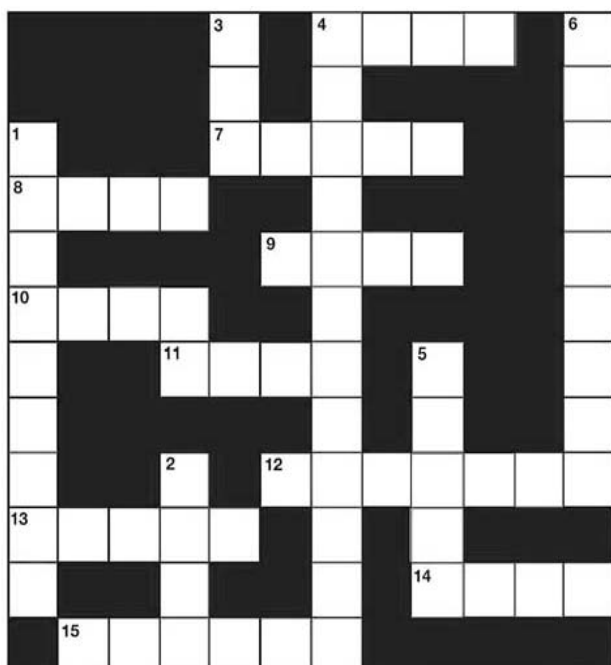
- 1: Navy officialdom, sounds like counting
- 2: Something to fly
- 3: Invisible danger to life

ACROSS

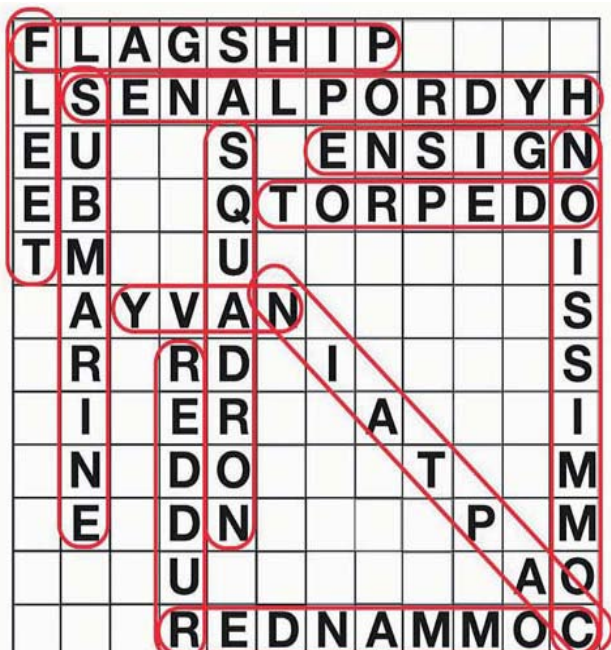
- 4: Can't go to sea without one, famous railway town
- 7: Method of detection
- 8: Leaving the surface
- 9: Bottom bit, sounds like a German waterway
- 10: Old fashioned measurement

- 4: Not nuclear when it comes to power
- 5: Something a gauge would tell you
- 6: Cops do this with crime, subs do it to opposing vessels

- 11: Speed to tie you up
- 12: Friendly, clever sea creature and submarine name
- 13: You won't fix a leak without these
- 14: Biggest part of submarine shares name with Northern port
- 15: Getting the message across



Last month's wordsearch solution



Last month's wordsquare words were

- 1. Commission
- 2. Ensign
- 3. Captain
- 4. Commander
- 5. Navy
- 6. Squadron
- 7. Torpedo
- 8. Hydroplanes
- 9. Rudder
- 10. Submarine
- 11. Flagship
- 12. Fleet



Barrow - in - Furness
Submariners Association
Social Calendar 2009



Jan	2	Fri	First Footing Morecambe Branch		Morecambe
	6	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	20	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
	23/25	W/E	K13 Memorial Weekend		HMâB Clyde
Feb	3	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	17	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
	20	Fri	Visit to Blackpool/late Valentines Weekend		TBC
Mar	3	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	6/13		KORBRA trip to Gibraltar		Gibraltar
	17	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
	27/29	W/E	SA Annual Conference		Bangor à I
Apr	7	Tue	Annual General Meeting	1930	RBL
	21	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	Harbour
	11	Sat	Annual Dinner Dance	1900 for 1930	Lisdoonie
May	2/3	Sat	Army/à avy Rugby F U via Birmingham		Twickenham
	5	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	8/10	W/E	Submariners Spring Cruise		Bruges
	19	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
Jun	2	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	16	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
	19	Fri	Cheese & Wine		RBL
Jul	3/5	W/E	SA Annual Draw		Portsmouth
	7	Tue	Monthly Meeting (Social Ladies)	2000	RBL
	21	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
Aug	1	Sat	Branch Barbeque		TBC
	4	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	18	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
Sep	1	Tue	Monthly Meeting (Social Ladies)	2000	RBL
	15	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
Oct	6	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	9/11	W/E	SA Reunion		à ottingham
	17	Fri	Trafalgar Ball	1900 for 1930	Lisdoonie
	20	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
ào v	1	Sun	Embankment Memorial Parade		London
	3	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	6	Fri	Ladies à ight D/D (Black Tie)	1900 for 1930	Lisdoonie
	8	Sun	Remembrance Parade	1015	Barrow
	17	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
Dec	1	Tue	Monthly Meeting	2000	RBL
	15	Tue	Branch Committee Meeting	1930	RBL
	19	Sat	Christmas Social	1930	Roose Cons Club