



PERISCOPE VIEW

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President: Commodore Jim Perks CB

**The Newsletter of the Barrow-in Furness Branch of
The Submariners Association**

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COVER PHOTO: HM NAVAL BASE CLYDE – AN AERIAL VIEW

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

WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL

EDITORIAL

Hello Everybody,

Welcome to 2024 and to your January Branch Newsletter. Apologies for late delivery but things have been a bit hectic! Hopefully you all had a Very Merry Christmas and that Santa was good to you and yours. The Branch Christmas Party on 23rd December and the DTS at Seaweed Corner on 30th December brought 2023's Social Whirl to a conclusion. We can now look forward to the K13 Weekend at Faslane on 26th to 28th January to be quickly followed by our 'First Footing' Visit to Morecambe on Friday 2nd February – might as well start the year off as if we mean it! Don't forget that if there is anything you think might be added to the social programme for 2024 get your ideas to Alex as soon as possible to see whether they might be included in his planning.

The Secretary Report updates you all on recently received correspondence from the SA Committee – not so much from National this month but they are keen to get a good 'turn out' for the AGM & Family Weekend in Belfast in March and the Menu Choices and Booking Forms were in December's Newsletter and have been circulated again by Email and a quick turn round is needed to avoid disappointment.

Hopefully you didn't forget about the change of date for the January Branch Meeting. If you were sat by yourself in the Concert Room on 2nd January – you did! - but, never mind – if you go to the Legion again next Tuesday 9th January we will all be there!

See you all next Week!

Best Regards

Barrie

A Message from your National Chairman



Christmas



is gone!



New Year



is here.

It's a time to celebrate



. What better way than booking that Family Weekend in Belfast!

Stay in a five-star hotel, meet old shipmates, spin dits the wife has heard a

700

times before, buy your old buddies a wet and all at a heavily subsidised price!!



Last chance saloon

. I have to return unused rooms to the hotel so get your booking forms in asap.



Can I also have **ALL** those that have booked and not sent me their menu

choice in by Friday 12 January or I

will have to choose for you!! Also Jim McMaster has to print the tickets and he does have a busy schedule



By Editor. Please see the Meal Choices and Booking Forms included later in this Newsletter!!!

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hello Everyone

Happy New Year to all our Branch and Associate Members.

With the party season ending it is time to get back to normal business. The Branch Subscriptions are due, so if you have not yet paid then please do so as soon as possible.

Our meeting this month will be held on the 9th of January, and we are expecting several of the 'building boat' crew to attend. John Rennie will also be present to continue his work on the Barrow Maritime Museum Submarine Project.

If you have any items for this year's AGM then please forward them to me in writing by close of play at the 6th February meeting.

1. Emails from National Secretary, where necessary attachments have been forwarded to Members.
 - a. Veterans' ID Cards can now be requested from the Gov.UK website. Please see the link below to apply. https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hm-armed-forces-veteran-cards-will-officially-launch-in-the-new-year-following-a-successful-assessment-from-the-central-digital-and-data-office?fbclid=IwAR0Vp4vH_D7kQUr6N96pgKEz5zZteXeCPgNj2wVHLt8SGEbPqGxjBUcQW8M
 - b. Roy Morden has resigned from the committee as Membership Secretary for personal reasons.
 - c. Ian Fowler has decided to step down from the SAC.
 - d. Request by the National Chairman for those planning to attend the National Reunion and Family weekend in Belfast to return their accommodation and dining requests as soon as possible. Full details have been circulated to members.

2. Other Branches and Organisation
- a. The K13 Memorial Weekend.
The West of Scotland (WoS) branch, with the support of HMS NEPTUNE and Helensburgh SCC will be holding its annual K13 Remembrance weekend on 26 – 28 January 2024. Full details have been circulated to members.
- b. HMS/M Truculent Memorial Service
Medway Towns Submariners Association is holding its annual HMS/M Truculent Memorial Service Saturday 13th. January 2024 and for January 2025 the 75th. Anniversary. For full details please contact Derek Grant by Email d.grant384@btinternet.com or 'phone 01634 717384.
Full details have been circulated to members.
- c. Request for help.
I'm hoping you can help me; my father was on the starboard crew of HM Submarine REPULSE (2nd Commission), he is 88 years old and unfortunately has terminal prostate cancer. I was hoping to try and get hold of a photo with him in it. I was born in Helensburgh in 1968 so it would have been round about that time. His name is Anthony Keech. If you cannot help me to make an old man happy maybe you could point me in the right direction.
Yvonne Day, Rosieday1@virginmedia.com
- d. Could the Submariners Association or any other navy networks you are a part of would care to support us? We are asking anyone and everyone we know to buy the single, Light a Candle by Band in Dystopia, on Amazon or iTunes for 99p and stream the track if they can. All proceeds we receive will go to local charities, Barrow Foodbank, Mind-in-Furness, Furness Homeless Support Group, and St Mary's Hospice. Through this project, we are raising money for local causes and telling a much-needed positive story for Barrow. Link to buy the mp3 on Amazon or iTunes here: <https://linktr.ee/lightacandle>
John Rennie

Regards

David A J Smith, Branch Secretary

SOCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

Hello Shipmates.

Socials:

We had our Christmas party on Saturday 23rd December at the Legion. This was well attended and those attending brought plenty of Christmas Fare – Sausage Rolls, Quiches, Mince Pies, Cakes etc. – more than enough to go around. We finally topped off the year with another DTS at Seaweed Corner on Saturday 30th of December, kicking off at 3pm with chips butties and the first drink on the social fund!

Alex is organising another trip to the Forum 28 to watch the Crooners; a comedy with lots of music from the likes of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin etc. Hopefully all those hoping to join us then please tell Alex as soon as possible as he is getting a block booking so we can all sit together.

Very soon Alex will be putting together the Social Program for 2024, if you want anything added or have any suggestions then now is a very good time to get them to him.

Yours Aye, Barrie – for Alex

JANUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 9 th Jan
K-13 Weekend Faslane	26 th -28 th Jan
Committee Meeting	As Required

FEBRUARY BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 6 th Feb
Morecambe First Footing	Fri 2 nd Feb
Committee Meeting	As Required

MARCH BRANCH CALENDAR

Branch Meeting	Tues 5 th Mar
Forum 'Crooners'	Thu 7 th Mar

Committee Meeting

As required

JANUARY BRANCH BIRTHDAYS

L. (Lou) Budden	02/01/1971
K (Kate) Pearson	02/01/1947
D. (Danny) Cargill	06/01/2001
R.S. (Bob) Sherriff	10/01/1949
P.C. (Peter) Hearn	22/01/1957
I.W. (Ian) Moore	29/01/1948
P (Piya) Das	20/01/1987

Happy Birthday All!!

DISCLAIMER

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SUBMARINE COMMISSIONING CREW LISTS

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

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

REMEMBERING FORMER BARROW BRANCH MEMBERS - JANUARY

Morris Voce	1982
James G W Tiffney	1993
George Green	2007
Peter Bell	2007
Brian Kerr	2008
J S Hards	2010
Leslie Willcox	2012
Colin Lee	2015
Ted Budgen	2016
Norman Hart	2017
Frank Pretty	2019
Thomas S Fell	2020
Richard Watling	2020
Ian Hugh Pirnie	2022

RESURGAM

NEWSLETTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the Newsletter - then ring Barrie Downer on 01229 820963 or, if you wish to send me an article, my Postal Address is The Firs, Dundalk Street, Barrow Island, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 2RZ. You may also send your contribution by e-mail to me on frozenorth55@gmail.com. Come on – every Submariner has a story to tell – some more than one! Let's see yours in print!

Constructive suggestions about the Newsletter are also very welcome. The Newsletter will be published in the last week of each month i.e., the last week in January 2024 for the February 2024 Issue. Please ensure you have any information with me by the 15th of the month to ensure its inclusion in the next issue. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition – keep them stories coming!

SUBMARINE & SUBMARINER LOSSES OF WWII JANUARY 1944

No Submarines were lost in January 1944, but two Submariners were killed in accidents. The first was:

A member of the crew of **Submarine HMS P556** who died on 28th January 1944. He was:

Stoker Petty Officer Arthur E Edwards, MiD C/KX 80308

Arthur Edwards was born on 22nd December 1911, and he was the son of Henry and Alice Edwards. Having served for a number of years in the RNVR, he signed on for twelve years with the Royal Navy on 25th March 1930 and volunteered for service in Submarines in 1933. Arthur Edwards served on both Ships and Submarines, including the Battleship HMS VALIANT, the Cruiser HMS SUSSEX and Submarines L56, SWORDFISH, SNAPPER, L27 and P556. In January 1941, he was awarded a Mention in Dispatches for his actions during

an attack on an escorted enemy supply ship. Arthur Edwards was killed in a Battery explosion on 28th January 1944 onboard Submarine P556 whilst alongside at HMS DOLPHIN and all others onboard at the time were injured except one. Thirty-two-year-old Arthur Edwards was the husband of Marion Margaret Edwards of Barnes, Surrey and father of Marion Alice Edwards. He was buried in the Bebington Cemetery on the Wirral in Section A (C of E) in Grave No. 208.

NOTE 1: As stated above the remainder of the crew who were on board P556 at the time were injured except for **Stoker Ernest P Small D/KX 8689** and it was he who provided the above information about Arthur Edwards.

NOTE 2. One of the others injured was Frank Heywood who was born on 26th July 1921. He was

injured in the explosion and, it is understood, that both his legs were broken. He is reported to have died in 1974 at the age of fifty-three.

NOTE 3. HMS P556 was originally an American 'S' Class Submarine 'lend/leased' to the RN. After the Battery Explosion the submarine was 'laid up' on the mud flats at Porchester where she remained abandoned for many years until she was removed during the construction of the M271. For many years afterwards, as many of you might remember, the hulk was a fixture at

Harry Pound's Scrapyard visible to all driving into and out of Portsmouth until she was finally broken up.

The second Submariner lost was based at the Submarine Depot **HMS ELFIN** at Blyth. It is reported that he died in an explosion on 30th January 1944 although where and how the explosion took place has not been established. He was:

Engine Room Artificer 4th Class Lawrence Gilbert P/MX 636477.

Faslane Naval Base Prepares For Major Expansion

From the UK Defence Journal

By George Allison - December 15, 2023

Faslane is undergoing a significant expansion, with personnel numbers set to increase by nearly 40%, as revealed in a recent report by The Lochside Press.

This expansion includes plans for new infrastructure to support the forthcoming Dreadnought-class submarines. The base, located on the Gareloch, has seen all its 2,602 cabins built within the last two decades. However, an additional 1,025 cabins are now being planned to accommodate staff relocating to the Clyde for the new Royal Navy Submarine Training Centre, slated to open in 2025.

Commander Peter Noblett, executive officer at HM Naval Base Clyde, shared these updates with the Rhu and Shandon Community Council. He highlighted that many current buildings at the base are "nearing the end of their serviceable life" and will be replaced in the coming years. Commander Noblett also noted the need for "additional infrastructure work around jetties and docking facilities" to support the new Dreadnought submarines. He expressed optimism about local economic benefits, citing "plenty of employment opportunities within the base, ranging from multi-million pound project managers to part-time catering and cleaning staff."

"HMNB Clyde is looking forward to an extremely busy couple of years in terms of base infrastructure. As most of you will know the modern HMS NEPTUNE was opened in 1968 to base the new RESOLUTION Class Polaris submarines, so consequently a lot of the infrastructure dates from the same period.

Whilst all current accommodation (2602 cabins) has been renewed over the last 20 years or so, there is still the need to build more accommodation to house the additional personnel that the Royal Navy Submarine Training Centre (RNSTC) will bring North from Torpoint in Cornwall when it opens fully towards the end of 2025. New accommodation of 1025 cabins will be built to cater for this increase. There are also many buildings in the working areas of the base which are nearing the end of their serviceable life; consequently there will be a lot of building work over the next few years replacing those buildings.

Finally the introduction of the new DREADNOUGHT class Trident submarines within the next 10 years will require additional infrastructure work around jetties and docking facilities. The good news for the local economy is that there are plenty of employment opportunities within the base, ranging from multi-million pound project managers to part-time catering and cleaning staff. There will undoubtedly be a huge demand for hotel accommodation for all the additional contractors."

In related news, figures uncovered by Deidre Brock, MP for Edinburgh North and Leith, reveal that over 6,000 people are currently employed at Faslane and Coulport. These figures emerged following a series of questions Brock posed in Parliament about employment at HMNB Clyde.

James Heapey MP, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Ministry of Defence, provided detailed responses, indicating that a significant portion of the personnel at these locations are Scottish taxpayers. Specifically, 38.4% of uniformed Royal Navy Service personnel, 91% of civilian employees who are not contractors at Faslane, and 88% to 89% of uniformed contractors at Faslane and Coulport are Scottish taxpayers.

This data underscores the substantial local employment impact of the naval bases, with a total of 4,583 Scottish taxpayers among the 6,068 civilian and military personnel working at Faslane and Coulport

UK MoD seeking two Floating Docks for Clyde Naval Base

HM Naval Base Clyde is home of the UK's nuclear deterrent fleet, the Vanguard-class ballistic missile submarines.

Richard Thomas, November 10, 2023



A Vanguard-class submarine undergoes maintenance at HM Naval Base Clyde at Faslane (Photo by ANDY BUCHANAN/AFP via Getty Images)

The UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) is looking to obtain two Floating Docks and associated infrastructure to be located at Clyde naval base, home of the UK's nuclear deterrent and the Vanguard Class SSBNs.

In a 7th November Notice the MoD stated that following completion of a period of market engagement with industry, the Authority intends to formally commence a procurement for the Additional Fleet Time Docking Capability (AFTDC) programme.

The MoD stated the purpose of the Prior Information Notice (PIN) "is to invite industry to participate in market engagement events" to be conducted by the AFTDC joint project team, which will "progressively mature in detail", prior to the commencement of a future procurement.

An MoD spokesperson told 'Naval Technology' that the AFTDC programme was "looking to enhance the out of water submarine maintenance capability and meeting future demand for submarine maintenance at His Majesty's Naval Base Clyde."

Market engagement 'Event 1' was planned for 7th December 2023 and will be a virtual briefing to industry participants who have registered to be involved in market engagement, where background on the AFTDC programme will be provided. The event will be followed up with further market engagement events focussing on one-to-one discussions between the MoD and industry.

THE AUKUS PROGRAMME

By Simon Fell

Member of Parliament for Barrow & Furness & Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for AUKUS

The rationale for the AUKUS partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States is a simple one: it adds resilience to what is the relatively fragile business of submarine manufacture; it enables and supports a tilt towards the Pacific for Britain and the US while bolstering Australia, and it offers a force multiplier on emerging military technologies such as hypersonics, AI, cyber and quantum.

It also, for Barrow & Furness, the constituency I have been fortunate to represent since 2019, presents both opportunities and risks. The opportunities are obvious and were heralded when the announcement of AUKUS was made in September 2021. Pillar 1 of the programme - submarine manufacture - is leading, alongside the requirements of the Dreadnought programme, to an increase of 7,000 jobs in Barrow and a significant increase in defence spending. The steady drumbeat of work in the submarine programme as the shipyard closes in on delivery of the final two Astute boats, continues with Dreadnought, and now pivots to SSN-AUKUS, has marked a turnaround in outlook and activism by BAE in Furness.

After a period of introspection, there is now a very clear direction at BAE - from the top down - that the quality of the work in the shipyard rises and falls with the fortunes of the town. The shipyard now sponsors schools, sports teams, and local charities. And, in a move that symbolises its new outlook perhaps more than anything else, is creating its new training facility in Barrow's struggling town centre. Gone - or going - is the fortress mentality where you are either in or out, and employee or not, and in has swept a view that the shipyard is the town, and the town is the shipyard.

Of course, the two are intrinsically linked - indeed, Barrow's beating heart since it was formed some 180 years ago has always been its industrial base. From the export of iron ore to the production of steel, railways, and latterly shipbuilding, Barrow's growth comes from that industry - its population growing from 143 people to over 47,000 in under 40 years.

That initial growth saw the creation of much of the iconic civic centre of Barrow that we know today - the long boulevard of Abbey Road, the public baths, schools, town hall, civic buildings, and the company housing on Barrow Island - built at breakneck pace through the paternalistic tendencies of the captains of industry who profited from the labours of this new town's citizens. Many of those buildings are still in place and are much loved.

The new era of prosperity that Barrow is leaning into offers a similar opportunity for civic renewal. As the local MP I have been pestering anyone who would listen for much of the last three-and-a-bit years, and plenty who didn't want to, that Furness was badly in need of an industrial strategy to support the submarine programme.

My logic went thus: Dreadnought (this was pre-AUKUS) will result in thousands more jobs being created; Barrow does not have the homes to support that influx; if those homes were to be created and each were to have two cars, our roads would become a car park; we have neither enough school nor hospital and GP capacity for numbers of that scale; significantly increasing the size of the shipyard will require moving considerable amounts of freight on those same roads so we need to electrify our railways... and looming on the horizon is the very real (likely, I believe) chance that we will soon see new nuclear at Sellafield. Should this happen, we will face those same challenges and pressures only a few miles away, making delivery of the national endeavour even harder.

Essentially, if the Government wants us to be able to maintain CASD, and build good products to time, and to budget, then it needs to roll the pitch so that Furness is in a position to deliver, rather than attempting to do so with one arm tied behind its back. Just as I felt I was gaining traction with the Prime Minister and the Defence Secretary, the AUKUS partnership was announced. With that announcement, the pressures I mentioned above increased several fold. Dreadnought is a national endeavour. SSN-AUKUS is an international one that we cannot allow to fail. As a result, Team Barrow was born.

Launched at the behest of the Prime Minister and led by the Cabinet Secretary (the most senior civil servant in the country), Team Barrow brings together some of the most senior civil servants from across Government, the local council, BAE (and me!) to plot what needs to be delivered and who will be accountable for doing so to deliver on these two huge projects. Nowhere else in the UK has this kind of attention - and it is a huge opportunity for Furness that we do. As ever, the devil will be in the details, but I am in the fortunate position to prod, jostle and nudge Ministers between meetings and, so far, things are progressing well.

In Parliament I co-chair the AUKUS All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). APPGs are essentially coalitions of the interested and must be cross-party to exist. John Spellar (a former Labour defence Minister) and I are building up a group that currently consists of the MPs of Devonport, Barrow, and Derby, and a few significant interested others, to include those who have major supply chain or skills interests. Our job is to educate parliamentarians on the task ahead of us, to improve our challenge, ensure a deep knowledge regardless of what happens in upcoming elections, and to build links with our counterparts in the US and Australia.

AUKUS, of course, is not just about boats, but a long-lasting tilt towards the Pacific and the deep integration of the defence and intelligence infrastructure of three nations. Pillar 1 is of huge interest to Barrow, Devonport and Derby, but it is Pillar 2 where some of the longest-lasting impacts will be felt. As an APPG, we need to understand this, challenge it, and ensure that we are holding the executive to account, and providing a degree of stability in a three-way relationship buffeted by challenging electoral cycles.

As part of this, in Westminster I spend a good deal of my time meeting defence companies, ministers and government officials, technology firms, educational establishments, and a plethora of think tanks, to gain knowledge and to begin to draw together a coalition of interested parties. It is early days but we are making good progress. For a project that will last decades in delivery and run far longer in operation, it is essential that we understand the scale of opportunity, and the risks inherent in AUKUS.

Which neatly brings me to my current assessment. In late October I visited Washington DC to discuss aid, diplomacy, migration, and defence with Congressmen, Senators, and the US civil service. Earlier in the year I was in New York with the Home Affairs Committee to explore issues pertaining to policing and law enforcement. In both cases I left with a very clear view: the special relationship, as we like to call it, now has a third partner. This is no bad thing, and we should embrace the opportunities that come with it.

The other message I left with is that our friends and partners in the US are firmly of the view that after a Cold War dividend which we all enjoyed, we are now in a space dominated by conflict and competition - a rising China that seeks to expand its influence territorially, technologically, and through trade; a destructive Russia; instability in the Middle East; overarching issues that transcend borders like climate change, pandemics and migration; and technological advancements which will impact the daily lives and work of citizens as well as democratic systems and warfare.

Geopolitical volatility that may seem far away threatens our national security, prosperity, and way of life at home. New alliances such as AUKUS and GCAP (the new air platform shared between the UK, Japan and Italy) enable us to far more aggressively lean into those threats and make the structural changes in our defence and foreign policy establishments required to do so.

Australia, the US and the UK are old friends, bound by their liberal democracies, shared language, values and cultures. But we are also starting out on a new relationship, and so these early months and years are delicate and fragile. The work being

undertaken in Barrow through AUKUS should serve not only to make us all a bit more secure, but also to provide resilience to a fragile submarine programme, cement trust amongst partners that the other strands of the partnership will reap rewards and enable a transformation for the wider community in Barrow & Furness. It is a bold, innovative programme, and one that rises up to the unprecedented challenges that we face in the world today.

Rolls-Royce in Cardiff Hub Plans as part of huge Australian Nuclear Submarine Programme

Aerospace and defence giant Rolls-Royce is looking to establish a hub in Cardiff to support the delivery of a new multi-billion-pound next generation nuclear submarine contract for Australia that promises to create thousands of new jobs. In March it was confirmed that Rolls-Royce Submarines will provide reactors to power new attack submarines as part of the tri-lateral agreement between Australia, the UK and the US - to so called AUKUS programme. The UK Government has awarded BAE Systems a £4bn contract to cover development work up to 2028, allowing it to start detailed design work on the submarines, which the Australia government have commissioned as a bulwark against what is seen as growing Chinese military power in south east Asia.

Giving evidence to the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee interim chair of Great British Nuclear (GBN) Simon Bowen, confirmed that Rolls-Royce is looking at investing in the Welsh capital. He added that the wider nuclear sector in the UK, with new nuclear power stations and a portfolio of small modular reactors (SMRs), have the potential to create more than 200,000 new jobs.

GBN was set up by UK Government as an arm's length body responsible for overseeing delivery of new nuclear projects, including the competition for the delivery of SMRs, which Rolls-Royce is a bidder for. While not specifying the potential number of new jobs that could be created through a dedicated hub in Cardiff as part of Roll-Royce's role in the AUKUS contract, Mr Bowen told the cross-party committee of Senedd members: "You may well be aware that Rolls-Royce Submarines are in conversations with Cardiff Council and Cardiff University about setting up a hub, so that we can bring the engineering to the people as opposed to shifting them.

"So, leave them where they live, and love living, and have grown up, and bring the engineering to them. Anything we can do to encourage the council, the universities, to grow that capability and create a hub of excellence and a hub of capability in the engineering sense would be really important and very, helpful."

Rolls-Royce was asked to comment. Any new operation for the company, which has its HQ in Derbyshire, would require a secured site with good transport links. One potential long-term location is the proposed Hendre Lakes business park at St Mellons on the outskirts of Cardiff, that will be integrated into a planned new station on the South Wales to London mainline.

The business park and £120m Cardiff Parkway station projects have been developed by Cardiff Parkway Developments. The Welsh Government has a minority 10% equity stake in the business, in which financial services giant Investec has the biggest equity interest. The Hendre Lakes scheme could see up to 900,000 sq ft of new office, retail and leisure space developed over the long-term. Both projects were called in by the Welsh Government last year. An independent inspector's report has been completed, but has yet to handed over for consideration to Welsh Government ministers by civil servants. A decision is expected up to January 4th. On the job creation potential from new nuclear projects, both defence and civil, Mr Bowen said they were "breathtaking" while noting the challenge of ensuring a supply of required skilled workers.

The chairman said: "I sit on the cross-government nuclear skills taskforce that was set up a few months ago because of the scale of the issue. This is not just a civil nuclear issue, it is a civil and defence issue, because the defence programme is growing so rapidly. Many of the skills, probably up to 80% that we'll need in the build phase are not nuclear skills, and you're competing with other infrastructure programmes."

He added: "Over the next 15 years, numbers vary from an extra 150,000 to 250,000, maybe up to 40,000 new engineers in the next five years. So, the numbers are enormous. The main areas that we're focused on are PhDs, graduates and apprentices, and there's going to have to be substantial investment to grow the capability across the UK in all three of those areas to probably double, if not treble, the number of PhDs and graduates particularly, and at least double the number of apprentices that we need to be developed.

"So, that's a huge opportunity for the education establishments in Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, and then where we might place the apprenticeship schools. So, anything we can do to encourage the universities to take on more graduate places, and for the Welsh Government and the UK Government to fund that -and that will come as part of our report - will be really important. "The key change is going to have to be, very collaborative as opposed to people working in silos, and there will be a charter that will come out as part of the nuclear skills taskforce that people sign up to work together, and what I would do is encourage Welsh companies, Welsh education departments, and the government, to absolutely embrace that and be part of it. " So, it is a very big challenge that we've got on our hands, but we will not solve this by working in opposition to each other; it's got to be a very collaborative effort across the whole of the sector."

SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION

AGM & FAMILY WEEKEND 2024

The SA Family Weekend (including the AGM for 2024) will be held at the Stormont Hotel Belfast on Thursday 21st to Monday 25th March 2024. The AGM will be on Saturday 23rd March.

General

The address of the hotel is the Stormont Hotel Belfast, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3LP.

BLUE LIGHT CARD

A card with a massive network with discounts for Serving Personnel and Veterans. I believe that Stena Line Ferries have a substantial discount on ferries between Cairn Ryan and Belfast.

The cost of the card is £5 for 3 years.

If you go to the website below their you will find details on how to obtain a card

www.bluelightcard.co.uk

BELFAST GLIDER

The hotel is located minutes from Belfast City Centre. Use the “Belfast Glider”

The service runs typically from 0530hrs until midnight, with a bus every eight minutes during peak times.

Dedicated bus lanes operate from 0700hrs until 1900hrs, Monday to Saturday. Standard singles cost £2.10 and returns £3.50. After that, every other journey on the Glider/Metro network is effectively free.

Free Car Parking is available within the grounds.

Accommodation

I have reserved Doubles/Twins/Singles to accommodate 180. All rooms are of the highest quality.

I cannot stress the point too much to BOOK EARLY! Bedrooms are accessed by lifts that are well maintained.

I viewed a selection of rooms and found them all to be clean, spacious and all had TV, Free Internet with Tea and Coffee making facilities.

Meals

The Thursday/Friday/Sunday/Monday evening meal will be from the “Set Menu” from their Banqueting menu.

Note: No Carvery on the Friday night.

Saturday afternoon sandwiches and will be at reduced rate of £12 pp between 13:00 – 16:00. Order through the restaurant

The Saturday evening **Reunion Dinner** will be a 3 course dinner:.

S1 Ham Hock Terrine

S2 Chicken Liver Pate

S3 Comber Potato and Leek soup

M1 Slow Braised Blade of Beef

M2 Roast Duck Breast

M3 Roast Cod Fillet

V Caramelised Leek & Celeriac Parcel

D1 Sticky Toffee Pudding

D2 Lemon Meringue Tart

D3 Armagh Apple Creme Brûlée

with 1/2 bottle of Wine per person and Port for the toast.

The Bar

I am still trying to negotiate a discount, but will not know until January 2024

Room Rates

Note all rates are per person

Make a long weekend off it with this discounted offer!

2 night package with discounts

Fri 22/Sat 23 Double/Twin DBB £88 per person

Fri 22/Sat 23 Single DBB £178 per person

Other nights without discount

Thu 21 Double/Twin £75 per person

Thu 21 Single £120 per person

Sun 24 Double/Twin £75 per person

Sun 24 Single £120 per person

Mon 25 Double/Twin £75 per person

Mo 25 Single £120 per person

Saturday night (Non Resident) Dinner

Sat 23 Dinner only £55 per person

All packages including Non-Resident Saturday Dinner includes your tot, 1/2 bottle of wine and port for the toast.

Entertainment

Irish Dancers

Disco

2 x 16 seater minibus available everyday between 09:00-17:00. To take guests to points of interests. A booking form will be held at reception.

SECURITY: NORTHERN IRELAND

Ladies and Gentlemen it would be remiss of me not to bring to your attention that the current threat level is set at "Severe".

Having logged in to GOV.UK an answer to the question is it safe to visit Northern Ireland: "Northern Ireland is extremely safe for tourists to visit. In fact, it has one of the lowest crime rates among industrialised countries. According to statistics from the U.N. International Crime Victimization Survey, Northern Ireland has one of the lowest crime rates in Europe."

Serving members should check with their security departments on restrictions.

SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION FAMILY WEEKEND 2024
21 March - 25 March 2024 Stormont Hotel Belfast

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V		
1	BRANCH:																							
2																								
3	Packages	A £88 Per Person	2 Nt Package - Fri 22/ Sat 23 DOUBLE/ TWIN DBB																					
4		B £178 Per Person	2 Nt Package - Frid 22/ Sat 23 SINGLE DBB																					
5		C £75 Per Person	Thu 21 DOUBLE/TWIN DBB																					
6		D £120 Per Person	Thu 21 SINGLE DBB																					
7		E £75 Per Person	Sun 24 DOUBLE/TWIN DBB																					
8		F £120 Per Person	Sun 24 SINGLE DBB																					
9		G £75 Per Person	Mon 25 DOUBLE/ TWIN DBB																					
10		H £120 Per Person	Mon 25 SINGLE DBB																					
11		I £55 Per Person	Sat 23 Gala Dinner only Non Resident																					
12	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	SELECT PACKAGE(s)																	Special requirements				
13			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I										Total	Deposit	Balance	Disabled or Who to share with in Double/ Twin
14			£88	£178	£75	£120	£75	£120	£75	£120	£55										Cost	Paid	Paid	Use extra sheet if required
15																								*WHAT IS YOUR BRANCH*
16																								
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25																								*SA Membership Number*
26																								*TSF Membership Number*
27																								CONTACT TELEPHONE No.
28																								Cheque number:
29																								Cheque date:
30		TOTALS																						Cheque amount:
31	All hotel cancellations , must be made to Iain Mackenzie as soon as possible and not direct to the hotel																							
32	Add any other supporting information or requirements on a separate sheet if necessary																							
33	Submit applications to Iain Mackenzie, Dolphin Cottage, 41 Grafton Road, Worthing, BN11 1QY . Telephone number 07403 433178																							
34	It is recommended that you pay by electronic/BACS: Sort code 60-13-15 Account No.52930645 put your membership number and 'BELFAST 2024 as a reference																							
35	PLEASE DONOT SEND CHEQUES UNLESS YOU HAVE TO - Make cheques payable to 'Submariners Association Reunion' and NOT to me																							

SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED IN DECEMBER 2023
(Information on Crossing to Bar taken from all available sources)

Reported via	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
Ex Gosport Branch	24th November 2023	Donald (Don) Wilson	Chief Petty Officer Coxswain	P/JX 863925	92	Submarine Service from 1951 to 1971 in ALDERNEY (1951 to 1952), AURIGA (1952 to 1954), SENTINEL (1954 to 1956), AMBUSH (1957 to 1958), TABARD (1958 to 1960), TOTEM (1960 to 1961), PORPOISE (1961 to 1963), ALCIDE (1963 to 1966), TRUNCHEON (1967), AENEAS (1967 to 1968), TRUMP (1968 to 1969) & OPPORTUNE (1969 to 1970)
Friend of SM Museum	29th November 2023	Richard John Campbell, OBE	Captain (Hon)	N/A	90	Submarine Service in ACHERON (1954 to 1956)
We Remember Submariners	1st December 2023	Albert Victor Pitt, MBE, MSM	Fleet Chief Petty Officer	N/A	87	Submarine Service including TRUMP & COURAGEOUS
We Remember Submariners	9th December 2023	Peter 'Rattler' (Mav) Morgan	UC	N/A	TBA	Submarine Service to 1998 in SPARTAN, SUPERB, SPLENDID & TIRELESS
We Remember Submariners	22nd December 2023	Mark (Paddy) Patterson	TBA	N/A	TBA	Not reported
East Kent Branch	27th December 2023	Robert M Fleming	Petty Officer Cook (O)	M972122L	82	Submarine Service from 1968 to 1981 in ACHERON (1969 to 1970), OCELOT (1971 to 1972), OTTER (1972 to 1973) & REPULSE (1979 to 1980)
Dolphin Branch	27th December 2023	Charles Frederick Thornton Poynder	Lieutenant Commander (X) (SM)	N/A	99	Submarine Service from September 1943 to April 1952 in UNBENDING (TO), SERAPH (3rd Hand), SCOTSMAN (3rd Hand), SCOTSMAN (IL), STATESMAN (IL 23rd June 1947), SENTINEL, SENESCHAL, SUBTLE, TEMPLAR & TOKEN
Non Member	28th December 2023	Michael Gerald Jones	Commander (X) (SM)	CO 14627B	TBA	Submarine Service from July 1968 to May 1991 in TIPTOE, ALCIDE (1968 to 1969), WARSPITE (1970), REPULSE (1971 to 1973), OLYMPUS (1974 to 1975), COQC (1976), WALRUS (CO 1977), REPULSE (IL 1978 to 1980) & RENOWN (CO 1983 to 1985)
Plymouth Branch	31st December 2023	Douglas C (Dougy) Stewart	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Artificer	D086013P	75	Submarine Service from January 1972 to October 1984 in SUPERB (1st Commission Crew on 13th November 1976), SCEPTRE, TIRELESS & TRENCHANT

Reported via	Date	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
We Remember Submariners	December 2023	David William (George) Cree	Chief Petty Officer Marine Engineering Mechanic	N/A	TBA	Submarine Service in RESOLUTION (S) (on recommissioning on 1st October 1984), RENOWN (P) on rededication on 21st November 1992 & VANGUARD
We Remember Submariners	December 2023	Michael (Mick) Chapman	Petty Officer (TS)	N/A	68	Submarine Service in ORACLE including 1990

