



Newsletter – Volume 3 - No 3 – September 2009.

**Opening Comment:** - So what happened to the ‘Mediterranean Summer’ the weather people promised us back in the spring? I guess they got that about as right as the terrible winter they said we were going to get back last autumn! However, spring was pretty good and June was very nice indeed, but apart from the occasional nice day now and again, well to say the least, I was not impressed. However, here’s hoping everyone has been busy doing nice things and hoping also that vacations have been enjoyed; take care and see you around,  
*yours aye,* **Terry.**

**Reunion 2010:** - This is a timely reminder for those wishing to attend our next reunion that it might be advisable to get their booking in.

As advised in the last newsletter booking arrangements are as follows: -  
over the weekend - Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

At the “Best Western Mollington Banastra Hotel”

Parkgate Road, Mollington, Chester. CH1 6NN. Tel – 01244 851471.

The agreed price is £80 per head for two nights and £120 for three. Bookings can be made for - single – double or twin-bedded rooms and reserved by either providing the hotel desk with credit card details – OR – by posting a cheque amounting to 10% of your weekend total. An e-mail address is available for confirmation purposes - [reservations.mollington@brook-hotels.co.uk](mailto:reservations.mollington@brook-hotels.co.uk) – (Jo Adamson).

I have been asked the reason why a booking form has not been sent out this year. I know this has been the norm in the past, but to have these printed and sent out with every newsletter, it was considered a somewhat unnecessary expense. It is hoped that this arrangement is suitable and convenient to all concerned.

**Secretary’s Report:** - Hello all, sorry to have to start on a low note (*I am an ex RM bugler!*) but I have to report that we were unsuccessful with our application for a Lottery Grant. There were several areas in which we did not qualify, but the main one appears to be that we meet *regularly!* Should any members wish to see the reply from the Lottery fund and you have access to e-mail, I am quite happy to send you a copy. I have not received any correspondence since the last newsletter, however the

Sub-committee met recently in Portsmouth to discuss the response and I am about to make enquiries with Chester RNA about suitable entertainment for our next gathering. I hope you are all making bookings at the "Mollington". I am going to make enquiries about a tour of Chester's Wall, which I hope will be of interest; no prices as yet. It would be nice to get some feedback from those who might be interested in this? I look forward to your comments either by snail mail, e-mail or phone.

**Tony M.**

**Chairman's Corner:** - With July now in the past and the last summer Bank Holiday rapidly approaching, it all means that 2009 is on the wane. So, I hope like me, you are looking forward to next year's reunion in Chester. At the committee meeting held in Portsmouth on the 28<sup>th</sup> July, it was discussed where to possibly go in 2012 – ***we really do need to think ahead in regard to these arrangements!*** One or two venues were suggested, but they do need further investigation. If anyone out there has any ideas at all that they think might just suit our requirements, do please let Tony know.

I made contact with the Russell Court Hotel in Bournemouth, a town that did seem to be popular the last time we held one of our reunions there and was informed that they have 60 car parking spaces, that they do waitress service and entertainment can be arranged. At the time of contacting them, the last weekend in April 2012 was still available, but it was too early to be able quote a price. When the 4th Destroyer Squadron held their do here, they found it reasonable. We must bear in mind though that 2012 is Olympic Year!

In June, seven Ceylon members including David Scott, our president, were present at the 21<sup>st</sup> and final 'RN Korea Ships Reunion', held at the RNA Club in Leamington Spa. It was another happy occasion, albeit a sad one in that we may never again meet up with some of those shipmates from other ships of that fleet, some of whom we have known for many years now. I've since learned that the "Whitesand Bays" have held their final get-together.

Do you recall that at our 2008 AGM I mentioned about the "Newfoundland" people asking if we would be interested in joining them to form a "Colony Class Cruiser Association"? - obviously none of the other 'Colonys' were interested either. Then I saw in the July edition of the Navy News, that the 'Newfoundlands' had held their ***final*** meeting this year. They had been going strong for over 50 years, with more than 300 members! The ship was in service for 17 years. Let us hope that our association will continue for many years to come and not likewise fall by the wayside.

Although the navy is getting much smaller, it was a big day in Portsmouth in July; the new Daring (D32) was commissioned, a rare occasion these days! She is the first of a class of seven, but I wonder how long it will be before the 'powers-that-be' decide seven is too many?

I received a telephone call from Frank (Pony) Moore, Boy Bugler '50/52, who informs me that he is considering joining the association. I feel sure some of you remember him well.

I think maybe that is enough from me for now, so I leave you with a couple of little thoughts: -

1. A smart man is one who has never let a woman pin anything on him since he was a baby!
2. An usherette is a girl who is paid to put a man in his place!

Wishing you well,

***Yours aye,***

***John.***

**Reminder from Treasurer:** - There are yet just a few people who have not renewed their subs for this year, due as from 1<sup>st</sup> May. For these members I would ask that you send your remittance as soon as possible as we do like to keep things tidy! – looking forward to hearing from you,  
*regards* *Andrea.*

**Sick List:** -

I have been contacted by Mrs Pat Hull, wife of Jim Hull, second commission RM Cpl, who informs me that poor Jim is not at all a well man, not only does he suffer from Parkinson's but is also severely debilitated by dementia. Surely one of these afflictions is more than anyone should have, but a double whammy is too much? Jim is right out of it at times, but he does have his moments and is most fortunate in having a very caring family. Jim's sister is Peggy Spencer, who some of you may recall was a dancer of some fame. Jim would love a short note from some of his old friends and would even welcome a visit if anyone can make that. Pat recently said to me, "I cannot believe how fast this terrible disease has taken over Jim's life, but we soldier on and do all we can for him. We have 3 children: one in the USA, one in Peterborough and one at Chelmsford, which is near here. They are all very supportive but unfortunately two of them are rather a long way away and it mostly falls to the one nearby."  
*Terry.*

**Crossed the Bar:** - Joan received a letter, obviously in response to the delivery of the last newsletter, re the passing some time ago of a shipmate. His wife Pauline apologised for not having informed us sooner and went on to say that Cecil Porter, an A/B from the first commission died at the age of 83 on the 13<sup>th</sup> February this year. He very unfortunately suffered from Alzheimer's for five and a half years and it is saddening to know of so many of our friends who have been hit with this awful affliction.

Dyllis Blackburn, Brian's wife sadly passed away on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of April after a brave fight against cancer. Dylis and Brian have been stalwart supporters of our association and always attended our reunions; this is the reason that they were not with us at the Kistor last April; they were very much missed.

**Surfer's Section:** - I have had three enquiries via the ship's website, which goes to prove that people out there do look at it! I reproduce them as follows: -

1. On Wednesday 22nd July the following was received from Mr Steve Drew it really does show just how much comfort can be gained from such an organisation as ours: -

"My father, Dennis Drew, served as a stoker in HMS Ceylon during the war years. He passed away last Saturday and I found myself looking at your web site as a means of consoling myself. He was an active member of the Birmingham Nautical Club and proudly wore his blazer badge to the end. In fact it is my mother's wish that he be dressed in this for his funeral.

I have many childhood memories of his stories of his time in the Ceylon; I believe these were probably the happiest times of his life. I'm sorry to trouble you with this mail but it has helped me to feel a little closer to him at this time.

*Regards,* *Steve Drew'.*

2. On the 11<sup>th</sup> August I was contacted again re another old ‘Ceylon’ who has passed on, here is the message I received in respect of this: -

“Dear Sir. I am writing to you in the hope that you may assist me in the search for photographs that the crew of HMS Ceylon took of a ship they built of stone at Trincomalee, in memory of a fellow shipmate, Michael Barker (my uncle). I know that photos did exist, as members of the family recall my gran having some. The High Commission in Sri Lanka kindly sent an armed guard several years ago to the naval cemetery with a photographer who took photos of this grave. My gran never got to visit the grave and my mother was advised last year not to go. However since then things have changed over there and we are hoping to try again next year. If you require anymore information I will try and get it. All I can tell you is that it was whilst the ship was on tour to Korea back in the 50’s. The date of his death I can get, but if you have listings of her crew, you might find out more than I can without stirring memories for my mother. I hope you can assist me in my quest in search of these photographs.

*Regards, Mike ( Michael).*

3. I am writing on behalf of my mother who is trying to find information on an old friend of hers who served as a stoker on HMS Ceylon during 1946/47; his name was Denny Manning and his home town was Aldershot. He used to visit my mothers grandparents in Erdington and my mother’s name at the time was Barbara Law. If you have any information that may help us in our search I would be very grateful. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you. N. Kingswell

*Regards, Ron Boniface.*

**Snippet from Brien Harrison:** - Brien whilst in London on one his many little ‘jaunts’, was on the underground and started reading a copy of their freebie – ‘The Metro’. A little item caught his eye because of our stay at a certain hotel recently. It was headed – ‘Tourist Couple Love British Seaside’ and said, ‘A Dutch couple who have spent their summer holidays at the same British hotel for 20 years are to renew their vows there. Rene and Matjam Weemering-Peggeman first visited the Kistor Hotel in Torquay, Devon, on their honeymoon in 1989. “We love the people”, said Rene, 58’.

“That’s all Folk”, Happy reading and good health to all,

*Yours aye Terry.*

Printed by Howlett Reprographics – North Baddesley – SO52 9FX.  
Written & Produced by Terry Randall (‘50/’52)