

I apologise for the newsletter being late this month, but as the reunion is taking place from the 2nd - 5th April, I thought I would include the reunion report, instead of waiting until the June issue. The response to the venue has been very good for the location; I hope no one experienced any difficulty in getting to it, like speed traps etc? They are well known in this area. Some members who had already booked into the hotel have had to cancel, mainly to do with health reasons, I hope those who had hospital appointments were treated quickly and successful, and others who were taken badly have recovered. I think I was lucky with my hospital date, they actually phoned to ask when I wanted to go in! Naturally I said after the reunion, and got an April 14th appointment, the operation to be carried out on the 15th. (Providing there is a bed available?).

Well the Budget came and went on Tuesday, nothing much was gained as usual, and as usual what was gained went back into the coffers. The £100 Council Tax rebate per household for the over seventies was but a drop in the ocean, and was soon cleaned out with the increase on petrol and diesel, for the moment I am a pipe smoker, so there is another payment being gathered in, but I was relieved to see I would not be paying £1,000 a year car tax on my old Sierra, I thought I might have to resort to a bicycle, but as Lil cannot ride a bike and I don't fancy one with a side-car, that's a non starter.

I had a blurb arrive today about a Commemoration Service of the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII, it will take place on Horse Guards Parade, 10th July 2005 there is a form to fill in naming those wishing to attend, but as the form must be in no later than 30th March 2004, it would seem impossible for us to comply, however if you are a member of COBSEO (Confederation of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations), you may not be too late to apply to COBSEO if you do it now??

Here are new members for your members list:-

199	Brember, Peter	LAEM	1984/86
200	Garthwaite, Donald	CPO	1967
201	Hendry, Ronald	A/B	1943/44
202	Walker, David	A/B	1987/89

There are other ex-shipmates that have applied, but we have not yet had their joining forms returned. Our old friend Jimmy Dunlop has decided to resign his membership, because of his continuing ill health and disabilities. I will miss his funny notes and phone calls. Jimmy thanks all shipmates who have shown him kindness and concern and sends his best wishes to all members.

Please treat this as urgent:- S/m Roy Fisher has decided to have his foot straightened, this is a painful operation and he will need four months convalescence to recover. During this time he will be unable to care for himself, he will therefore require a convalescent home to go to, does anyone know of such a place in, or near, Manchester. Please get in touch with me or S/m Neil Avery. Roy

Some time ago I was asked to find out how shipmates who wished to be buried at sea could obtain the details to have their wish fulfilled. One of my RNA shipmates was buried at sea and I obtained the following from his daughter: First contact the Naval Chaplains Office, Portsmouth, the telephone Number is (02392) 722915, and contact Ms Lisa Passett. The burial arrangements include a service in St Anne's Church and an entry in the Book of Remembrance. No more than four family members can go out on the boat for the burial.

Several shipmates cancelled their trip to Scarborough because of the time it took to get there. It is inevitable that journeys to reunions do take some members a long time, especially non car drivers, but I am afraid wherever we hold a reunion it will mean some one has a long journey to make, the majority of members want reunions near to the sea! For one thing there are often more attractions and places of interest in such places. It would be marvellous if we could find a place that has all the attractions, enough to make it a permanent spot for reunions, plus of course a good hotel at a reasonable price. Next year we are going south, (not Bournemouth)! Two shipmates in the southern area have already looked at two hotels on our behalf, these will be put before the committee at the AGM, and there will be more about the outcome of this meeting later in this issue. Hotel prices rise each year, some have two or three different rates according to what time of year you visit, our visits are around spring time. March and the first part of April is often a winter price, but around Easter prices go up. So far we have been lucky in obtaining discounts at all our hotels, but that is only possible if we can promise a good turn out. Take our hotel in Scarborough, £83 for three nights Half Board, car parking free, another ships association I belong to is going to Scarborough in October, the price at their Town Centre hotel is £190 for three nights Half Board, and £5 per day for car parking, a vast difference in price. Next year I think prices will be approx £160 pp HB for 3 nights, by negotiating we will try for a discount between 20 - 40%. Our main negotiating point is the number of rooms that we say we may need. That is why I ask you to inform me of your intention to attend ASAP. I just need a provisional figure to work on, you can cancel any time after a price has been agreed on.

Main Account Sept 2003/April 2004

Balance as at 25/04/03:- **£1603.31**

	Income	Outgoing
May 2003	590.35	695.05
June 2003	43.83	55.00
July 2003	69.21	177.50
Aug 2003	507.95	50.00
Sept 2003	131.14	62.97
Oct 2003	227.50	72.81
Nov 2003	36.00	174.00
Dec 2003	60.00	10.00
Jan 2004	5.00	00.00
Feb 2004	46.00	72.46
Mar 19 th 2004	<u>36.50</u>	<u>35.56</u>
	£1753.48	£1405.35

*Association Accountancy
Books are available for
inspection*

Balance at 25/04/03	1603.61
Income 2004	1753.48
	3357.09
Outgoing 2003/04	1405.35
	£1951.74
Balance as at 31/03/2004	£1951.74

Welfare Fund Sept 2003/April 2004

Balance as at 10/04/03:- £94.68

	Income		Outgoing
May 2003	100.00	Aug 2003	25.00
Interest	00.42	Sept 2003	29.50
Sept 2003	00.12	Dec 2003 and	
Jan 2004	00.00	Jan 2004	89.25
	£100.54		£143.75

Balance bt fwd	94.68
Income 2004	100.54
	195.22
Outgoing 2003/04	143.75
	51.47
Balance as at 31/03/2004	£51.47

It could only happen in the USA

This is a true story and was the 1st place winner in the recent Criminal Lawyers Award Contest.

A Charlotte, N Carolina, lawyer purchased a box of very rare and Expensive cigars, then insured them against fire among other things. Within a month having smoked his entire stockpile of these great cigars and without yet having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the lawyer filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the lawyer stated the cigars were lost "in a series of small fires.

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason: that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The lawyer sued ... and won!

In delivering the ruling, the judge agreed with the insurance company that the claim was frivolous. The Judge stated, nevertheless, that the lawyer held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure them against fire, without defining what is considered to be unacceptable fire, and was obligated to pay the claim.

Rather than endure lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the rare cigars lost in the "fires."

NOW FOR THE BEST PART ... After the lawyer cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of ARSON!!!!

With his own insurance claim; and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the lawyer was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and was sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine.

Tuesday 6th April (0700)

I started early this morning to try and get the newsletter finished and sent before I go into hospital. I was due to go in next week, but now I am to go in on 7th April and he operated on the following day, if all goes well I should be home by the 10th. (Sunday) It was touch and go whether I would have the op, as I was diagnosed to have Diabetes, but I am a border line case, so its ok. Our apologies to everyone we did not say good bye to on Monday morning, we

decided to leave early to miss the traffic, if we had got held up in a jam I may have missed my hospital appointment, as it was we arrived an hour and half early, and the doc was an hour late, I was with her all of two minutes? The reunion was a great success, everyone enjoyed themselves, the entertainment was different from our normal venue, a bit of dancing but a lot of singing and laughter, especially on Sunday night when the comedian took the micky from some of us, Daphne and her sister were dying with laughter. The trip to Eden Camp went down well, I had a wheelchair to get around in, although it ended with me pushing Lil around in it. One slight mishap, we thought we had the coach full when we left then some one said Dave and Moreen Williams was missing, we had only gone a short way down the road and had to go back, I suppose it was my fault as we did leave a few minutes earlier that we said we would, however it caused a laugh.

After the trip we had the AGM, a full report will be published, probably in the June issue, but for now, the main subject was next year's reunion. The committee had met on Friday night to discuss next years venue, two places were discussed, the Isle of Wight and Weymouth, after a long and varied discussion, it was decided that Weymouth would be the next reunion venue. The hotel is the Prince Regent on the sea front, it has 60 car spaces on site also on street parking, at the moment it will be £86 pp for two nights BB&D (Half Board) and £42 pp for the extra night, (£128 pp for 3 nights). Lil and I will make an appointment to visit the hotel and talk over our requirements, if, when we go there, we can give them some idea of how many rooms we would require we may be able to obtain a discount, especially if we can fill the place. For some, Weymouth is a special place in memory, (it is for me after spending four nights in a police cell for something I definitely did not do), and we expect a good result in the number of rooms required, I am not sure but I think there are fifty rooms all en-suite. Just in case we do take all the rooms, I will see if there is a overflow hotel associated to the Prince Regent that is near by. As aforesaid I would like to go there with a rough idea of rooms required, I know it is more than a year hence, but can you phone me and let me know if you would be, or may be going. I will be immobile for six weeks after my op so I wont be going down there until about the middle of May or later.

One other item that was top of the agenda was the sponsoring of S/m Dick Randell in his Classic Car drive for the Macmillan Cancer Trust, an auction of two 1ltr bottles of Pusser's Rum and a special hip flask of the same brought in £100, the association added another £70 and this added to a private donation of £30 brought the total to £200. A cheque for this amount will be forwarded to the fund forthwith. Our thanks to all who took part in the auction and special thanks for the private donation. The weekend was a great success for our funds too, the raffles and sale of slops realised a grand total of £586. For the first time since we formed, our combined funds have now reached £2,000. Which reminds me that next year it will amazingly be our tenth reunion, surely something to celebrate??. Not too many way-out suggestions please! Perhaps we could knock a few pennies off the price of drinks at the 10th reunion?

Bob Hobbs phoned to ask if I would thank everyone who phoned or sent cards to him, he is a bit sore but responding to treatment well and pleased to be at home.

A shipmate from Canada, Eric Carman, A/B, 1946/48, and his wife Vera came and stayed at the hotel for the reunion; they were over here visiting their daughter in Shipley, Yorks. They knew the reunion to be in Scarborough, but not the hotel, so they spent a couple of hours on Friday going to various hotels until they eventually arrived at the right one. They met up with a couple of 46/48 shipmates and also made a few more friends during the week end. They are now fully fledged members and their details for your Members List are as follows:-

203 CARMAN, Eric& Vera A/B 1946/48

If any other shipmates knew Eric, please get in touch with him, he also has an email Address:- < Paulcarman@aol.com > They returned to Canada on Tuesday morning.

The Officers and Committee members all stood down at the AGM.

All Officers and Committee Members except S/mates:- Pat Willoughby, Laurie & Mary Bagness were re-elected. S/m Ian Gough moved up to become Chairman, and S/m Neil Avery was elected Vice Chairman, no new committee members were required.

Association Officers: - S/m Ian Gough - Chairman, S/m Neil Avery - Vice Chairman. S/m Roy Pavely – Secretary, Lilian Pavely– Treasurer.

Committee Members: - Mrs Lillian Beckerton, S/m Bob Hobbs, S/m Bill Grahame. S/m George White, Mr Ernie Clewes (TS Phoebe). Mr Mike Fox (TS Phoebe).

NB. Associated Members elected onto the committee will assume Full Member status for the duration of office.