

## Sec's Report

Here we are again a month into the New Year, last year seemed to drag for a while then rushed through and Christmas was upon us. We hope you all had a nice Christmas, and were able to welcome in the New Year full of festive spirit. Our Christmas went off quite well; quiet, but enjoyable, New Year's eve was much the same, although we spent it alone. Lil and I thank you all for the many, many cards we received, Lil has written down all the names, so it looks like we will have a hefty postage to replying to them all. But we do appreciate receiving them, for one thing it lets us know that you are still with us, that is also why we remind you about your subs, when we receive them we know you are at least still with us, it is worrying when we do not hear from you. S/m Harold Taylor sent me such a good electronic card (E Mail) that I had to buy the set up for my computer, some of you will have been sent the cards and seen them, of course you have to be on the internet to get it. If you would like to see them for yourself there are samples on the web site named below.  
[www.jacquielawson.com](http://www.jacquielawson.com) Go to that site and see for yourself, at £4.50 I thought it was well worth a years subscription I paid.

Our own web site is receiving quite a few visits, two or three more shipmates have enquired about the association, they were sent joining forms, but we are yet to hear from them. Neil asked if I had seen another Phoebe web site on the net, I found it, but have no idea who it is who placed it on there, any offers?

Lil and I have sent in our forms for the new Pension Credit scheme, don't know if we will get any extra, but it is worth a try? The forms are a bit daunting at first glance, and one may need help filling them in. When we phoned for it, a nice and understandable clear speaking young lady helped us, she took all our details then sent us the forms to sign, I had made a couple of mistakes which had to be rectified, and now they are on their way back. We are not worried if we don't hear for another couple of months, as payments will be back-dated to 6th Oct, it would be nice if we get a large cheque back. Don't be afraid to apply for it, all us old fogies are entitled, its better for us to have it than let that Brown bloke

have it! *(It only took a week for the results to be returned, I did not expect more than a couple of quid, but we received a cheque for **over £200**, which was the amount owing after being back-dated to 6th Oct, All I can say is, go for it, we got it, so could you!*

I could not get hold of the entertainer we had in Bournemouth so I have asked the hotel to lay on entertainment for the Saturday. I have had quite a few members send or phone for a place on the coaches, we have nearly filled one of them, but we hope there will be more of you sending us the form, or phoning, even if you do not want to go on the trip, let me know if you will be at the reunion, it is one way of knowing how many will be there. As far as I know there is no cut-off date for booking into the hotel, I should think it will be okay right up to the week before as we will be the only ones staying there, and there are 60 or so rooms, but try and book earlier if you can, just in case.

*(Sunday 25th Jan. I phoned the hotel yesterday regarding rooms. There are no more double rooms to be had, but there are some twin rooms left, not sure how many now, so if you have not booked, do so now, and don't forget its 2nd April to 5th, I made a mistake on the booking form, and put 3rd/6th April).*

Everyone got a brochure of the Eden Camp; I think you will agree it will be worth visiting. S/m Sid Hall tells me there is a covering of snow in Scarborough at the moment; hope it is gone by April?

S/m Ron Gill says he is gradually getting better, he can do a bit more now, take it easy Ron, we will come and see you on our next trip to Cornwall. Still in Cornwall, my daughters cottage at Crowes-an-Wra (on the A30) is nearly ready to take in B&B, so if you want a reduced rate let me know, but you will need a car to get around, its only 5 miles from Lands End.

I have not had a reply to the note I put in the last newsletter to our NZ shipmate, Wynne Denney, we hope you

are ok mate; get in touch please. I have not had any reports lately of any one being on the sick list so I will tell you how I am doing. My flu jab seems to be keeping any colds at bay, no news from the hospital yet regarding a knee op on the left knee, now my right one has caught up, making it very difficult to climb stairs, but somehow I get up them, although I have to have a squirt of my angina spray half way up. Glad to say that Lil has not had any recurrence of her angina attack, and appears to be quite well, her diabetes has not got any worse either.

We did not finish the year too well, at the beginning of December my garage was broken into. I was at one time a ardent classic car renovator, during that period I built up a large assortment of good makes of tools, most of them laid out on wall boards around the garage walls, there were also trolley jacks and power tools, and boxed socket sets, the whole lot was taken, all I was left with was a few old spanners in a broken tool box. When I assessed the cost it came to over £800 at the old prices.

I claimed on our insurance for that sum, not expecting them to pay out so much, and thought I would get someone come and inspect the break in, but all I got was a form to fill in of what was missing, I was amazed when the AA insurance got all the tools replaced within a couple of weeks, and even more surprised to find they had replaced nearly everything with the Britool make of tools, I set to work looking up the price of these tools on the internet, just to see how much they were, it came to over £1800. One torque wrench was priced at £190. As I do not do any repairs or re-builds now, I was hoping they might refund the cost instead? But apparently they do not do that now, they just replace with new items to the same, or better quality. But it was a nice present, to get two days before Christmas, although I am still waiting for the trolley jacks.

A couple of years ago S/m Silvester McDonald in USA said I should write my life story, my son said so too, so I started on it and got quite a few pages done (54) before getting tired of doing it, so I saved it to a disk on my computer, yesterday my son asked if it was finished? "You're joking" I

said, but I got up early this morning and started writing to the disk again, after about two hours I had 68 pages completed, I packed up then for breakfast, and saved it to the disk, then shut down, now I can't open it, so all that work was for nothing. Computers are okay until you do something wrong, and realise you have not saved anything, then you find you have lost everything, its so frustrating I feel like throwing the computer out. But all is not lost, my son was able to recover the disk on his computer, so I can carry on if I decide to. I don't think I will get round to publishing it though, I am just doing it for something to do "in my spare time!" (84 pages done now).

Would you please enter the following in your Members List:-

Associated member **Sue Will** has moved South now, her new address is (Removed for web security reasons)

A change of details also for **S/m Roy Turner** (Removed for web security reasons)

Would you also include his wife in the associated members list, as follows:

**191A—Turner Doreen. Address as member 191.**

**S/m Simon Fisher** has now returned to England after his sojourn in Espana. His address is now: (Removed for web security reasons)

**Delete:- S/m John Hann - resignation received Wednesday, 14 January.**

I am sorry to say that a phone call from S/m Sid hall this morning to tell that S/m Chris Adams had crossed the bar. Chris had been very ill for over two years and suffered much pain. Back in July S/m Chris phoned us, Lil spoke to him as I was not here, he told her then about his ill health, and said then that he wanted to leave the association because of it, but Lil talked him round. I asked in the next newsletter for some one to write, or phone Chris, S/m Sid and Moreen Hall took me up on it and got in touch with Chris, it made his day to have someone to talk too, we are forever grateful to Sid and

Moreen for keeping in touch with Chris, who was taken into hospital last Sunday 4th January and went straight onto oxygen, he was very poorly, his wife phoned the hospital later that day to be told that Chris had rallied a bit. On Monday morning she phoned again to be told that Chris was 'chirpy' and sitting up in bed, and not having to use oxygen, two hours later Chris died, we feel saddened at the passing of our shipmate, but at last the pains have gone and he can rest in peace. Chris will be cremated on Tuesday 13th January, we have no other details yet, but we hope to send flowers on your behalf, a letter offering our sympathy and condolence will be sent to his family. (CONFIRMED).

### **On the buses?**

Some good news for those who do their travelling by coach. This was purloined from the HMS Sheffield newsletter:-

The Government has announced the introduction of concessionary fares for the elderly and disabled traveller. From May 1st (unfortunately too late for our reunion), everyone over the age of 60 years, and all people who have local concessionary travel passes because of their disablement, will be able to get coach fares at half price participation in the scheme is voluntary, but National Express and other smaller coach operators have said they will be participating in the scheme. Two months earlier and we could have used this scheme to get to Scarborough cheaply.

But don't give up hope, I went to the National Express web site and found this advert:- ***If you're over 60 there's great news - you now qualify for 50% off travel with National Express on all standard fares! There is no restriction on how often you travel or where you go, you get a guaranteed seat and all your baggage is loaded on and taken off for you.*** This may be a longer way for you to travel but cheaper than rail??

I had a letter from S/m Ken Kent today. He spent Christmas at a hotel in Scarborough, and checked out the Rivelyn while he was there, he also found a decent pub named "The

Highlander", just two minutes walk from the Rivelyn Hotel, the beer is good, and they sell Pusser's rum as well as 52 different brands of Whiskey. Ken also informs me that if you catch the No 7 bus for the hotel ask to be put off at St Andrews Church. When in town the No 7 bus stop can also be found just past the Post Office in Aberdeen Walk off Westborough, (Main shopping street).

As this is the last newsletter before we attend the reunion may I remind you that I would like a call to say that you are going to the reunion, I have only had 24 so far, even if you are not taking the trip to the Eden Camp, please let me know. 01235 211501.

My e-mail address became overloaded with junk mail so I have changed it to: - r.pavely@ntlworld.com Please make a note of this new address all you IT addicts, if you send using my old e-mail address it will be returned to you as not found! So far I have not received any more junk mail.

Good news for me, my knee op has been listed for Feb/early March. I am hoping it will be in early Feb, apparently one cannot drive for 6 weeks after it. As Lil cannot drive, any volunteers for a lift to Scarborough.? ( Sunday 25th Jan. Mike Fox phoned a few days ago, telling him of our predicament he offered to fill the gap, then Ernie Clewes did the same, they have to pass Didcot on there way up from Bournemouth, so my thanks to both of them, lets hope they will not have to break their journey)

I am afraid this newsletter will not be very long, I am equally sorry that most of it has been about me, but there was little else to write about.

The Eden Camp trip has got off to a good start, 58 members so far; I am hoping that some more will tell me they want to go. Two coaches have been booked for the Saturday; they are 49 seat coaches, so there is plenty of room yet for more bookings.

They will be at the hotel for 10 am, and leave when full. I am sorry but they do not allow smoking on the coaches, but the trip to the Eden Camp will only take about 40 minutes. Lunch or snacks can be had in the canteen at the camp, the last time I went they were not expensive.

Just to remind you, if you are arriving by train and want to catch a bus to the hotel, it is a number 7 and leaves from the bus stop outside a travel agents down to the right of the station, about 300 yards. You should ask to be put off at St Andrews Church; the hotel is in a road on the side you get off the bus. (see map) I do not advise anyone to walk with their luggage, although the hotel is not very far from the station, it is up a hill.

Prizes for Raffles most gratefully accepted, please give to Lil.

Chairman S/m Pat Willoughby will be standing down, also after serving many years on the committee, S/mates Laurie & Mary Bagness, will also be standing down, Laurie was Chairman from 1999 to 2001.

This is all now, any interesting items for the newsletter would be most grateful, copy from Mag's, Papers and Books accepted.

**NB**

*A committee meeting is called for Friday evening after dinner, probably in the small no smoking lounge? Mainly to discuss the above and next years venue??.*

**STOP PRESS**

Belay the last pipe re double rooms:

Latest update received today is that there are 5 double, 7 twin and 8 single rooms available.

New Member:

**199 Peter Brember LREM 1984 - 1986**