

*HMS Phoebe
Association
Newsletter
June 2005*



Reunion Dinner
Saturday 14th May 2005
Prince Regent Hotel
Weymouth

2005 Reunion Report

Lil & I returned home from the reunion yesterday at 2 pm completely exhausted, we just flopped out for a couple of hours before we unloaded the car, then it was off to bed nice and early. This morning, after a refreshing shower, we were ready to start work again, me on this newsletter and Lil on the accounts.

I cannot think of anyone who did not enjoy this last reunion. Lil and I were a bit apprehensive about the accommodation, when we visited the hotel a couple of weeks ago we could not view any of the rooms, so did not know what shipmates were in for, but I think, like us, most were surprised at the size and layout of the rooms and their decor, furniture, etc. I cannot fault our room which was a Family 4 type, it was huge, we got lost in the enormous king sized bed, but I think we were treated a bit special being the organisers, for we had a very nice basket of fruit and a large packet of Thornton's chocolate biscuits, the grapes made quite a difference to the morning after effect. The lift was a bit rickety in as much that when it stopped on the downward run it was so sudden your trousers rose up a couple of inches, but if you bent your knees a little before it stopped it was not too bad. There were no complaints regarding the meals, we thought they were quite adequate in their quantity and quite appetising. The staff were very good and worked hard to please. A lot of members asked me if there would be a collection for the staff, but we do not do that, if one wished to give a gratuity, the usual thing was to leave one on your table after your last meal, but this hotel had small baskets with a notice on saying it was for staff gratuities, the only thing they were on the sideboard in the dining room and not easy to see as the head waiter and Maitre de stood in front of them, but I did see a few fiver's in them when I put mine in.

The entertainment was supplied by an agency, they were told exactly who we were and what we wanted, Saturday and Sunday was good entertainment, Friday was not. I told the hotel manager we were not very enamoured of it, even the group themselves said they were the wrong type for what we wanted, but they did manage to play for a couple of dances. Friday night is mostly spent swinging the lamp, so only ask for background music which can be danced to after the chatting has finished.

The weather turned out to be terrible on Saturday - gale force winds and rain all day. The coach left on time for the visit to the RNAS Museum, but for ages there were just 50 going, we had their names on the list, the coach was a 53 seater so there were 3 places left, they were taken up on Saturday morning, but the coach ended up with 54 people aboard and two members who had reserved a long time ago left standing on the pavement, this was not fair on them. Next time we will make sure only those who are on the list get on the coach. The outing turned out quite well, when it was known it was the HMS Phoebe Association visiting the man in charge of the air station, Admiral Lochran who had once been the Captain of the frigate Phoebe, spent half an hour talking to everyone, he may visit the TS Phoebe for their Trafalgar Night Dinner.

Because we had to conform to the award requirements we made Dinner on Saturday a more formal event. Seated at the head table was, Chairman Ian and Mrs Jeanette Gough, our guests Lt Paul & Mrs Julie Budden, (CO of TS Phoebe) S/m Stuart & Yvonne Bundy, S/m Roy & Lilian Pavely and Chaplain Ray Merrick. Nelsons favourite grace was said by Ray and dinner commenced.

After dinner there was dancing and the raffle, the evening finished at about half past midnight, although I understand the bar stayed open until after 2am when the last customer was persuaded to stop singing and go to bed. The next morning we held a short commemorative service at the war memorial opposite the hotel, it was a brilliant sunny day although the wind was still a bit strong and too gusty to parade the Standard.

A wreath was laid to commemorate the 60th Anniversaries of VE & VJ Day after which shipmates and friends encoached for Cheddar Gorge. I don't think anyone went down the caves, it was a bit expensive at £11, although I now understand this £11 ticket covered you to visit all the attractions in the Gorge as often as you liked for one year. A few shipmates had departed for home on Sunday, so there was not so many in the ballroom that night, the entertainment was the best of the three nights, The music and themes were super, those holding up the bar missed a great treat. Monday morning was time to say our good byes. Lil and I are sorry if we missed you to say good-bye, we had so much to pack up and put in the car. Our thanks to Mike & Ernie for the help they gave carrying the stuff down the back stairs to the car park, and not forgetting Peter and David Grahame who did so much to help us when we arrived, I felt pretty awful not being able to assist. There were a lot of people saying this was the best reunion so far, if I had been able to make the bar more reasonably priced no doubt it would have been, but the free drink was gratefully received. The bill for the toast and all the free drinks, etc, came to £525.60 which is not too bad for the 115 in attendance, and the bar prices. Did anyone else notice that each bar person had a different idea of the prices to charge. I brought my own bottle of rum so I was not aware of this until told on Monday?

Once again your generosity overwhelmed us. We had two raffles, and loads of prizes, so many prizes were coming in we had to ask you to stop bringing them, if we had not, the raffles would have been going on for hours. The first raffle on Friday evening brought in £218.50 The second raffle on Saturday evening brought in £325.00 making a Grand Total of £543.50 Providing you keep paying your subscriptions on time and with the raffle money added, we do not envisage an increase in subscriptions for some time to come.

After the AGM a suggestion was made that small amounts from the welfare could be given or loaned to members who happened to be a bit short of cash and needed a quick boost. This has always been one of our proposals but until now we have never been able to implement it. But with the receipt of some

terrific donations received for the welfare fund during this reunion we can now bring it into force. If at any time you find you need a quick boost, be it for rent, poll tax, heating, or maybe your health, any reason at all, you need only to contact the Treasurer, it will not go any further than that:-

It is your money make use of it.

The Treasurer - HMS Phoebe Association - 3 Bridge Close - Didcot - Oxon - OX11 8DU. Tel:-01235 211501.

NB:- If anyone who travelled by Coach or Train to Weymouth still have their receipts or tickets it is too late now to claim a rebate, the grant has been used up (Sec)..

A date for your diary. Bournemouth, Sunday, November 13th.

Remembrance Day. It would be nice to see a few more members join the ones who always attend our service, last year we were outnumbered ten to one. There are a few hotels that are close by to stay at on Saturday night. I shall be looking into them for prices and facilities, (Bar etc). We know most of you will be attending your own town service, but do give our service a thought, (it does not last long), if enough attend we could even have a mini reunion on the Saturday night?? B&B is about £25/30 pp, we get free parking in the Town Hall underground Car Park.

It was a revelation to see so many new faces at the reunion and a special thanks to those new members who showed up. I reckon to know most members by name, but there is always one or two I forget, S/m Bob Taylor's turn this time, it took me two days to find out, then it was his wife who told me. S/m George White is a marvel, he drove some of the way down to Weymouth, and we saw him dancing on quite a few occasions, made me feel really jealous, I only managed a couple of turns round the floor. Good on yer George.

Looking for information on two shipmates from the past:-

Joseph Bates - 1941/45 a gunnery rating. Either RN/ RM Harold Taylor needs any information you may have. Harold's address is in the Associated members list.

Bernard Phillips - believed to have been the SBA aboard the Frigate from 1968 to 1971, any info you may have please send to me, or email to:- davidh_phillips@yahoo.co.uk

The TS Phoebe Sea Cadet Trafalgar Night Dinner will be held on Saturday 15th October, any members wishing to attend are asked to phone Ernie Clewes ASAP : He will give you all the details. This is always a good venue and regularly attended by shipmates, but it would be nice to see a few more attend.

There is limited accommodation at the hotel or there is other B&B accommodation nearby.

Lil and I will be House sitting for a month from late September to end of October down at Lands End, but we will still be going to the Trafalgar Dinner. The October newsletter will be a bit earlier, and you will have to 'hang-fire' on your phone calls to us for that period, but still send your subs/mail to our address. I will give you the actual dates nearer the time. I will also give you an emergency phone number in case anything important comes up that needs Lil's attention or mine.

I asked S/m Harold Taylor if in his endeavours of wood turning if he could make a Gavel and Hammer, (I think they are the right words) for the Chairman etc to use at meetings. He has produced a lovely set that any auctioneer would love to have. Thank you "H" they are perfect.

While I am at it, Lil and I would like to thank all shipmates and friends for the accolades we have been receiving re the reunion, it is most gratifying to know that it was enjoyed by so many of you, like most of you have said, the hotel was great, the rooms mostly large and well laid out, boiling hot water gushed out as soon as a hot tap was turned, I wonder how long it will be before we get as good as or better hotel to stay in. Thank you all very much.

"Lil has just informed me that all train and coach fares, (Totalling £1100), will be reimbursed in full, and not, as I thought just a percentage. Which is good news

Message to all from Sharon Corbett (nee Pavely)

"Some time last year Roy, (my Dad), told me about the annual reunion and asked if I would like to join you all for the weekend. "Oh go on then", I said, and then thought how bad could it be, a couple of days away with a few old sea dogs!!!! (No offence meant)

Was I in for a surprise! Well I can truly say that I had an absolutely wonderful time. The Saturday meal and entertainment was superb – apologies to those of you who didn't win on the raffle, but needless to say I have a collection of empty wine bottles waiting go to the recycle bin and some rather nice smellies waiting to be used in the bathroom.

I was made to feel very welcome and not once did I feel left out. How nice it was also to put faces to names I had heard in conversations between Mum and Dad.

For obvious reasons I can't remember everyone's names, and that has absolutely nothing to do with the amount of alcohol consumed over the weekend. But for those of you I can remember – here's a few words:

Tadcaster Lady – It was lovely to meet you and thank you for the kind words

Mike Fox – you are one hell of a funny bloke – keep up the good work with the Sea Cadets!

Dagenham couple – If you should come to the Four Pillars in Sanford, Oxford, again give me a call and we'll meet up for a jar!!

Big Ian and Chris from Devon – Good luck with your venture in Turkey, hopefully will we you before you go!! (PS – t-pot and milk jug are in daily use!!)

George (AKA Dave Parry) – What happened to you on Sunday?? Saturday night too much for you?? (PS – my toe has healed perfectly!)

One-legged man in wheelchair – What happened to my dance?? Maybe next time.

Talkative bloke with his Dad – I have a spare child wrist strap for your Dad – where shall I send it?

Little Man with glasses (had a picture in your wallet of you with my Dad - in a bar in Malta) Now I know where I get my good looks!! What a catch!

Well, like I said there were, more of you there than I have named, and I'm sure I me most of you but my best wishes to each and every one of you and hopefully I shall sec you all at the next reunion.

Just in case you don't remember me – I'm the one that done a good impression of the Hunch Back of Notre Dame on Sunday!!

Best wishes

Sharon Corbett (Nee Pavely)

Editor: *Tadcaster lady* is Moreen Hall. *Dagenham Couple* are Jim & Janette Pounder. *One Legged Man* was Roy Fisher. *Talkative Bloke* was either David or Peter Grahame. *Little man with glasses* was Lou Collier

Reimbursement of 2005 reunion accommodation payments are now being made, so far we have just 4 members who have asked for this to be done, their cheque will be in with their newsletter. Anyone else requiring reimbursement please phone the treasurer ASAP: 01235 211501. Those who have agreed to leave their accommodation savings in the account can add to it if they wish. Members wishing to start saving for next year are welcome to do so. Members said doing this last year was a good idea.

All reunion savings received are paid into the Association Main account and entered into a separate ledger. You get a signed receipt for every payment made. If you wish to withdraw all, or part of, your savings at any time please give adequate notice to the treasurer. Lil Pavely. (Treasurer)

A number of members have asked if Liverpool could be looked at for the 2006 venue, I have begun to do that, but so far have not found a hotel suitable, most city centre hotels are big hotels, we would have to share facilities with other guests, they also charge per room per night and meals are paid for separately, ie Twin room £48pp, full English Breakfast £4.50pp Evening Dinner (A La Carte) £10 - £15 pp. For 3 nights it would be almost £200 per person. We will get some Brochures from up that way to see if there are any other suitable hotels, we may have to go in-land to get a reasonable price.

Since returning from the reunion S/mate Roy Addison has learned that he is to go into hospital for an operation sometime soon. For what ever it is Roy we wish you good luck and a swift recovery. We wish all shipmates and friends who are at present "under the weather" a quick recovery and a healthy future..



Chaplain Ray Merrick conducting a short service at Weymouth War Memorial