

HMS Phoebe

Association

Newsletter

April 2012



**Portsmouth Cathedral
WW2 Boy Seamen Dedication
March 18th - 2012.**

(John Vickers - Derek West - Lil & Roy Pavely)

By the time you get this edition it will be April, time seems to have gone by quite quickly since the last newsletter, probably because we have been a bit busy. I seem to lose count of what day it is, weekends used to mean so much when I was working, but now I take it as an ordinary two days and that is where I get mucked up. I am not a church going person and usually its not until 'Songs of Praise' comes on TV that I realise it is Sunday, and if we have a roast dinner I think its Sunday, but it could be Tuesday and probably is. I bet I am not the only one who has this trouble?



The post man delivered a letter from the Lottery Awards for All a few minutes ago. I looked at the envelope and had one of those "shall I or shall I not open it feelings". It took a moment to pluck up the courage, then spent a few extra seconds slitting the envelope open with a knife, gingerly opening up the folded letter what I was dreading came to light, our application had been turned down. The Awards for All has changed a lot since we had a grant in 2005, it certainly is not any easier, the wording when deciphered implied that our Reunion, Diamond Jubilee Celebration, and a visit to the Dockyard did not meet with the requirements of the Awards, perhaps if I had said we were of a ethnic majority we would have passed the muster. So! I'm sorry but you reunion goer's won't be getting a rebate this time.

Which reminds Lil to said the rest of your payments for the hotel will soon be due, dig out the piggy banks and get a cheque in ASAP.



On Saturday March 17th I went to Oxford to pick up S/m John Vickers from the station, he was travelling with us by car down to Portsmouth for dedication of the Plaque to the 534 Boy Seamen killed in WW2. We stayed overnight at the Holiday Inn Hotel, meals were costly and not much in the way of an English menu, so we went out and found a pub near Clarence Pier, When we left it was raining hard, which did not help us finding our way back to the hotel in the dark, after traversing various streets we went back to the Pub and searched again, actually we had passed the hotel a couple of times, but the heavy rain made it hard to see.

Next Morning it was a breakfast of two toast and marmalade for Lil and I (£6.40) then off to the Cathedral. We sat outside in brilliant sunshine, no wind and really warm, only a few ex matelos were there, then suddenly

there were hundreds of them, they seemed to come out of every street and converge on us.

We were wondering if there would be enough seats for everyone?

Derek West turned up with our Standard, then it was time to enter, we joined the queue and as we passed through the portal we were direct which way to go. We ended up in the first row at the side behind the choir, it took about twenty minutes to get everyone in and seated, there was not any pews that we could see that were not filled.

The service began, we had realised we were in for a long service when we were handed a service sheet in the form of a 20 page booklet. During the service being a bit Mutt and Jeff I could hear but could not fathom what was being said, anyway, towards the end of the service Holy Communion was taken, then at the rear of the Cathedral the stone was dedicated, we could not see what was going on there as there were lots of pillars in the way.

The service ended and the clergy and choir walked out. It had been a wonderful service and dedication, and surprisingly it took just over an hour.

The congregation went to view the Plaque, cameras flashing all over the place, then outside, as we left the Cathedral we passed between two rows of Standards, cameras out in force again. Our bright blue standard stood out well against all the other standards which were a dark blue.

There were refreshment laid on in Cathedral House, but there were so many making there way there we gave it a miss and went back to the car, just as I was about to put my scooter into the back of the car the heavens opened up and I got drenched it made me rush to get the car loaded, I got very much out of breath which brought on an angina attack, and it was about five minutes before I stopped breathing heavy and felt fit again.

We drove out of Pompey and had a good journey home, deciding to go straight to Oxford Station for John to catch his train to Doncaster.

We had hoped that other shipmates living close to Pompey would put in a appearance but it was not to be, however we were joined by Ramsgate RNA shipmates that Lil and I have met up with before.

Our thanks to Jim Reed the organiser of the dedication it was excellent. Our thanks to S/m John for travelling down from Doncaster to join us, and to S/m Derek West for parading the standard and turning out so smartly.

SILENT TELEPHONE CALLS:As a number of silent calls are caused by predictive diallers, if you don't want to get calls from sales and marketing firms, you can add your details to an opt out list run by the Telephone Preference Service (TPS). This makes it illegal for a company to call you for marketing purposes in the future. The TPS can be contacted at: www.tpsonline.org.uk (opens in a new window), or by telephone on: 0845 0700707 It takes about 28 days after you've registered before the service takes effect. If you are still getting calls after 28 days, you can complain to the TPS using the contact details above. *(I have been using this service for sometime now and it does work, although one or two do slip through especially the silent calls. I have now used the silent call complaint procedure so perhaps in a months time I wont be getting any more silent calls)?? Roy.*

Lil and I went off for the weekend to the Federation of Naval Associations reunion at Torquay. This was to be the sixth time we have represented our Association at these events and so far they have been most enjoyable.

We left early on Friday morning and got held up for a while at the roadworks on the A303, we made our usual stop when travelling that road at the Honiton pic-nic area, and arrived at the hotel at 1300 to find the hotel car park full, it had just enough spaces for 7 cars only? After a bit of a moan a hotel worker came and drove off and I grabbed the space. It was a nice hotel, very clean and well laid out as regards public spaces. Our room was on the ground floor, a family room and quite spacious, only one complaint, the TV was so old it steamed. Torquay is very hilly, and I mean hilly, not the place for the fainthearted. I had my small mobility scooter but there was no way it would climb up the hills so it meant visiting the town by car, and having to place a sand bag in my parking space to reserve it, and that worked all the weekend. I do not think Torquay would suit us for a reunion, most of the hotels have just small parking areas for about six cars and car parks are expensive. Amenities are limited too.

Postage is going up, each newsletter after this one will cost 50p to post. If you are on Email and you would like to help ease the costs by getting your newsletter by Email instead of by post send me an email at this address < r.pavely@ntlworld.com > saying yes to a newsletter. The newsletter will arrive as a PDF so you will need the free Adobe download to open it. An emailed newsletter will arrive long before a posted one. Occasionally it will have to be posted instead of being emailed.

PLEASE PAY THE BALANCE OF YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION ASAP.

All rooms have been allocated, some doubles will be in family rooms. Only 5 Singles, 1 Twin (Annexe), & 2 Family rooms are left.