

Some very exciting news.....

First things first,..... this newsletter has been addressed using the information of the member(s) listed on our database, in some cases, over 10 years old. Therefore I am aware that our details may not, in every case, be up to date. **Please accept our apologies** if you are not the intended recipient. We would welcome any feedback to update our records accordingly by either email or by sending this letter 'return to sender'. ***Thank you for your help in this matter; it would be very much appreciated.***

When our association was founded back in 2001, the intention was to act as a focal point for relatives, and interested parties, to garner information on the events surrounding the loss of HMS Exmouth and to organise events such as the unveiling of the memorial plaque in the Wick St Fergus Church. Also to ensure that floral tributes to the crew are placed every Remembrance Sunday at the town's war memorial in Wick, Caithness.

As the years pass by we have to look to the future and think how the memory of both the ship and her crew are kept safe for future generations. This has, of course, been achieved with the memorial plaque and our relationship with the church and its incumbent minister. However, I pleased to be able to report two further initiatives that will help cement our aim.

First, a local housing association, CAIRN, have recently refurbished some apartments in Wick and have kindly given us the honour of naming them 'Exmouth House' with a very nice plaque placed on the building (see website for photo). At the ceremony to unveil this plaque, we were represented by the Lord Lieutenant of Caithness, Ms Anne Dunnett. For our part, we arranged to have a young Cheery Tree planted in the grounds as a token of our appreciation. This gesture by CAIRN is very much appreciated by our association.

Second, and I believe this to be the most exciting news, we have agreed with Wick's own Sea Cadet Corp unit, T S Campbell, to forge a permanent link so as the young people of Wick, under the direction of their cadet instructors, will learn of HMS Exmouth and her crew, so their memory will live on, hopefully long into the future. I will add that already, and for some time now, cadets from the unit have kindly undertaken the task of laying the floral tributes on our behalf on Remembrance Sunday every November.

To formally launch our tie up with 'TS Campbell' we intend to hold an event in Wick on Saturday evening and Sunday the 22nd of June, this year. Please see over page for the planned programme of events. I bring this event to your attention as it may be an opportunity for those members who have travelled to Wick before, to return and meet old acquaintances, and for those members who have not had the opportunity to visit Wick, you may like to do so knowing that they you be in the company of like-minded people. Details are still being finalised, please feel free to ring me on 02392 503534, email me at the address below or drop me a line if you require further information. We do hope to see you there if you can make it. NB: Can I ask if you haven't already supplied a **copy** of a photograph of your relative for the album in the church (by the memorial plaque), please forward one to me, along with brief details on his background, and I will ensure it is placed in the album along with his ship mates.

Our website, www.hms-exmouth1940.co.uk is currently being updated, and it is our intention to get back on line in the near future, so as to post information regarding June's planned event. We urge you to visit this site (often) as I understood the more 'hits' on a website drives it up the search engine rating, making it more visible to new searchers. Please help in this matter.

Finally, I am calling upon our members to make a voluntary contribution to the association's funds. These cover the costs of photocopying, post, website, flowers, memorial trophy etc. NB: your committee are all (unpaid) volunteers who give their time freely whilst holding down full time employment. Cheques should be made payable to 'The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association' and sent to *Alex, ***Thank you in anticipation of your help in this matter.***

We very much hope to meet some of you again, or for the first time, in June. With best wishes to all;