

Association News

Dear Friends

Please check your name and address details, as these are what we have recorded on our membership database. If we have made a mistake, or you change address at some point in the future, please contact Sue (our Secretary) who will amend the records. Also, if you have an E-mail address, *please* let us know, as this will help things enormously with future communications, and save the association money on postage!

Why 1940 in our title? To any outside agency this readily identifies OUR *Exmouth*, as with naval tradition, a ships name is sometimes "handed down" through the generations, as is the case with *Exmouth*. There was a ship of the same name at the turn of the last century and as recently as the 1970's. Details on these two may form the basis of a future article in a newsletter, is there any Naval Historical buff's out there who would like to submit some copy for future use? It would be most welcome, please send for the attention of the Chairman, as the extent of my knowledge is a memory of me standing in Pompey dockyard as a young Junior Stoker looking at the (70's) version tied up alongside and finding my memory drifting back to OUR ship and a grandfather who served aboard her also as a stoker.

Where did she get her name from? Contrary to most peoples belief, she was not named after the Devon town bearing her name but I believe after an Admiral Pellew who was the first Viscount Exmouth, can anybody out there throw any more light on this and tell us some more about our Admiral?
Again copy to the Chairman please.

This leads me onto a more serious question of "What is it you want from your Association?" You have read our stated aim on the front page of this newsletter, does it go far enough for your own requirements? Please write and tell us as we want the Association to be run on democratic lines and your own views are very welcome.

Situations Vacant.

In the intervening weeks since the memorial weekend we believe that to help expand the Association and to encourage wider participation, three voluntary vacancies have been identified and we would very much welcome people coming forward with the relevant experience, and / or enthusiasm to take responsibility for various functions in the Association. Applications to Sue please.

Archivist: There was a great deal of material on display at Wick which included details of various members of the crew along with photographs, details of the ship itself and all manner of related items. It is felt necessary that somebody be solely responsible for the safe storage and cataloguing of these items in a way in which they can be called upon should the requirement arise for various articles, exhibition etc.

Project Co-ordinator: The Associations stated aim is to provide a memorial plaque in the church in Wick. A dedicated co-ordinator is required to drive this project and be responsible for sourcing a supplier and investigating the costs involved

as well as taking an active part in raising awareness and funds for this project. An element of research is also required to ensure the accuracy of the roll of honour.

Public Relations Officer: This post holder would be responsible for collating a database of all media contacts as well as having the ability to write articles for possible publication with the aim of furthering the awareness of the activities of the Association.

In addition to the above we would welcome any practical assistance you can offer the Association. The membership is spread far and wide and we would like to tap into any resources you may have to offer for the good and benefit of the Association. Can you organise any fund raising events to help boost our coffers and make the dream of a permanent memorial in the church a reality?

The Personal Touch

For future publications of this newsletter we would like to include your own memories, and stories, of your relative who served aboard OUR *Exmouth*, no matter their content. Many human life's stories could no doubt be told if the truth was known and this will serve to record the exploits of OUR men. How did your relative come to serve in the Navy? How long had he been aboard the *Exmouth*? How did he win his gallantry medal? What sporting exploits was he famous for? Tell us and we will publish in a future newsletter.

What's in a name?

We would welcome your comments on what future editions of the newsletter should be titled. It will always be the mouthpiece of our Association, but perhaps a more fitting title should be used, how about "Stand easy", naval terminology for a break from routine, a tea break, a time to catch up on events with your oppo's. Write in to the chairman with your own idea and we will adopt the most suitable to OUR ship.

Church Service Donation;

Those of us who attended the service at the Old Parish Church may have come away from Wick a little confused or concerned as to who and where your donation was going. Well I am very delighted to report that Rev Stevie Thomson has informed us that over £1,500 was collected during the service, a fantastic sum by anyone's standard, and that on this occasion the church are donating ALL the money to our nominated charities on the day. Therefore a massive £750 is being given to both the King George's Fund for Sailors, and the Wick RNLI.

Anybody who enjoyed the hospitality of the RNLI at Wick on the Saturday of the memorial weekend will know what a marvellous bunch of people they are, and most deserving of this donation. We have since learnt that as a result of our weekend they have set up a permanent display in their station dedicated to OUR *Exmouth*, which includes the original Log Book detailing the lifeboats launch on that fateful day in January 1940, refer to the picture section on the web site.

In addition, £85 was raised by the sale of poppies and remembrance crosses at Wick cemetery, and this sum has gone off to the Royal British Legion.

Well done to all concerned.

For sale

For those of you who attended the memorial weekend, you will recall the *Exmouth* Fleeces that the diving crew were wearing, which are now available to purchase (new ones, not those that were worn!!). They are quality Regatta brand and the computer programme to enable the ships crest to be embroidered on them has been of a considerable investment to the local businessman concerned, so please do not be put off by the price, wear OUR ships colours with pride.

Fleece with full length zip, navy blue with embroidered ships crest, please state size req. sml, med, lge & ex lge. £40 plus £4.50 P&P

Fleece with half-length zip, navy blue with embroidered ships crest, please state size req.

Sml, med, lge & ex lge. £40 plus £4.50 P&P.

Polo shirt navy blue with embroidered ships crest, please state size req, sml, med, lge, Ex lge. £18 plus £2.50 P&P.

Please make cheques payable to John Kemp (Draper)

Please send your order to J Kemp (Draper), 28 Albert Street, Kirkwell, Orkney, KW15 1HL Tel: 01856 873190 e-mail embroidery@johnkemp.co.uk

Note that orders must be received by the 1st December for delivery in time for Christmas.

Official Photographs of the memorial weekend.

Colour photo of the rev S Thomson and Commodore Sandford CBE with the Royal Navy poppy wreath inside the Old parish Church, Wick as published in the *Press & Journal Newspaper*.

8"x6" -£6 7"x5"-£4 Cheques payable to Mr C Grewcock.

Order from: Mr C Grewcock, The Old Schoolhouse, Duke Street, Sutherland, Scotland, KW10 6RP.

Please mention the Association when placing your order.

Further prints are available from Janet McDonald, who you may recall was the lady in the bright red jacket, she has a selection of over twenty pictures taken at both the cemetery and the church. Janet has asked that you contact her direct and she will describe what is available to you, colour pictures 8"x6" are priced at £5 each inc P&P. Tel 01955 602543. 8/10 Shore Lane, Wick, Caithness, KW1 4NT

Video of the memorial Weekend

The video is presented in a professional manner with an appropriate sleeve. It covers the graveside service, memorial church service, some underwater footage as well as extracts from the various speakers who gave presentations at the inauguration of the Association. Also included will be small sections of the photographic display in the church hall.

Cost £18.50 which includes P&P and a £1 donation to our fund raising.

Cheques made payable to Video Viewpoint.

Orders to Mr Colin Sinclair, Video Viewpoint, 19 Pennyland Drive, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7NZ.

Please include your phone number and e-mail address when ordering, please note that copies will be dispatched within ten days of receiving your order.

We have been asked that you place your orders at your earliest convenience, as Colin needs to gauge how many copies to make to satisfy demand.

To join the Association

Please send your name & address, telephone No, e-mail address if applicable and most important of all, your connection (if any) to the Exmouth.

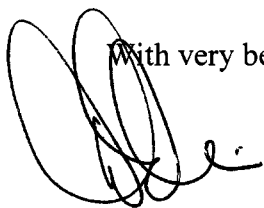
Applications are welcome from all interested parties. Annual subscription rates are £5 single and £8 for a couple. Cheques made payable please to "The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association" and sent to the Treasurer at:

Mr A Morrison, 6 Melbost Borge, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0RR.

Finally, and on behalf of Sue, Alex and myself, we would like to take this opportunity to be the first to wish you a peaceful Christmas. At a time of great uncertainty in the world due to recent events, we find ourselves, much like our loved ones over sixty years ago, brought together because of one ship - *HMS Exmouth*.

Let the spirit of peace and goodwill we experienced, over that never to be forgotten weekend, stay with us for evermore.

With very best wishes until we meet again.



P.S. please accept our apologies for the delay due to an administrative error! - we have learnt for the next time.