

The HMS Exmouth 1940 Association

Founded 2001



Dear Sir / Madam

7th August 2005.

With just three weeks to go before our memorial weekend, I am now in a position to advise those of you who are making the journey to Wick, the details for the forthcoming event.

On behalf of your three committee members, please accept our apologies for leaving it to the last moment. However, it probably will come as no surprise to you, if I was to report that a lot of work has been going on behind the scenes liaising with those parties who are playing their full part in helping and organising the various aspects of the weekend.

The attached programme is self explanatory, however should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself on 023 9250 3534, Sue on 01843 604816 or Alex on 01851 850301, and we will do our best to answer them. NB: Evenings would be best to contact us as we all work full time, with Alex working shifts and Sue trying to squeeze a family break before the end of the month.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask, as it would be helpful, if you could each prepare and bring with you a name badge for the weekend. A simple badge/ sticker (perhaps with photo of your sailor) detailing name and relationship to your loved one (or interest). This will give others an idea of your identity, as it worked extremely well the last time we all met up.

I would also like to advise our members of the following. After / during the church service, as is usually the case, there will be an opportunity to make a monetary donation in the church collection. It is proposed that any amount raised will be split between two worthy causes. As a small gesture of our enormous gratitude to the people of Wick for their continued generosity, support and understanding, half of the sum raised is to be donated to the LOCAL Wick lifeboat fund. The Wick lifeboat crew made great efforts to get to the scene, albeit to no avail, in 1940. It is proposed that the other half be donated to the Church itself. This will go some way to offset the costs incurred in acting as our hosts for the weekend. We hope that people will give generously to these causes.

In addition to the memorial plaque, we propose to leave in the Church the photographs of the ships crew we have collected over the past four years. We feel that this can only add to the experience of those who pay a visit to the Church in the years to come. In addition, we are indebted to Ms June Dear from Greasby on the Wirral, who attended The Stanton Road primary school when the pupils wrote as pen friends to the crew of the Exmouth. She recently met up with an old school chum who has since emigrated to Australia, and when she relayed the story of our Association her friend kindly sent over, for our safe keeping, an original HMS Exmouth cap tally (the ribbon worn around a sailors cap) that had been given to her by her sailor pen friend and she had kept all these years.

Thank you June, this link back to our ship will be on show over the weekend, and again it is proposed to leave it in the Church along with the photographs.

All that remains to be said is, to those who are travelling '*have a safe journey and see you there*', and to those who, for whatever reason, cannot make the journey '*you will be our thoughts throughout the weekend*'. We will endeavour to put a report of the weekend out at the earliest opportunity.

Chairman: Mr David Ellis 54 Redhouse Park Gardens, Gosport, Hants PO12 3EQ

Secretary: Mrs Sue Eastwood ~~25 St Peter's Court~~ Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BE

Treasurer: Mr Alex Morrison 6 Melbost Borve, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RR

ANCIENT LIGHTS
PIER APPROACH