

Towards the end of summer Dave Salisbury organised a summer draw

The draw was held Saturday 2nd August at 16.00hrs and I would like to thank all those who attended and a great afternoon was had by all.

The first prize of £150.00 went to Len Dodwell



The second prize of £100.00 went to Gordon Evans, winning ticket drawn by Sue Blackburn (He was at the draw see pic above)

The third prize of £50.00 went to Harry Elderfield

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the members who bought tickets to support the association and to those who made donations in lieu with a special thanks going to John Hagues from South Africa who made a magnificent donation. We raised £410.00 profit for the association, after costs and prizes were taken in to account this will help with the running costs of the association and costs incurred when organising the yearly reunion. Once again a big thank you to all who contributed.

Dave Salisbury Vice Chairman & Fund Raiser

Visit our Slops Shop at [www.hms-dido.com/Slop\\_Shop.htm](http://www.hms-dido.com/Slop_Shop.htm), Caps, Polo shirts, Lapel pins, mugs and Association Ties all unique with our crest.

I have a very good agreement with a web hosting company. If anyone is interested in web space drop me an email with your requirements and I will enquire for you. If required the company will also build your site.



## Newsletter number 4

August 2008

### Apologies

I must first of all apologise for the lateness of this publication. There has been lots to do since our last get together in Chatham, more about these items later in the letter, and as such I haven't been able to put aside the week or so that is needed to write this until now. But as our committee has now grown, hopefully this shouldn't re-occur.

### Committee Members

Mike England...President  
Ralph Price...Chairman  
Colin Bates...Secretary  
John Bouchier...Membership Sec  
Dave Salisbury...Vice Chairman  
Alan Pickthorne... Asst Sec/PR  
Dave Eivers.....Welfare  
Bill Matthews...Archivist  
Neville Saunders...Editor

### AGM

We held a very successful AGM at Chatham, the minutes have now been completed and are available on the members area of our website, if you don't have access to the Web and would like a copy of the minutes, please get in touch and I'll post you a copy.

### Website

Once again can I remind you to log onto our website and check your profile. If you don't login every month or so your account becomes inactive. If you can't log in drop me an email so I can reactivate your profile, and please ensure your contact details are correct and up to date. This is the only way we can stay in touch

Some of the items that your committee are working on at the moment include, working on the next three years reunions, (next years destination still to be decided), 2010 visit to Gibraltar and our celebration year 2011 when we return to Bolton. Fundraising by way of the Summer Raffle. Working with BlackCat Productions to complete the DVD and negotiating for more artefacts, more on this item later.

## Chatham April 2008



This years event was held at the King Charles Hotel, Gillingham. They served us well throughout the weekend. Our thanks go to Debbie Degiorgio and her staff, everything went very well. Shep Woolley once again entertained us after our dinner with his unique naval related humour, he was followed by a duo who had the dance floor packed towards the end of the night. Our numbers, once again, increased to a reputable 96, and as you will see by the testimonials on the following page, a good time was had by all.



Mike England accepted our Association Standard on behalf of the Association



On Saturday morning, we boarded buses and went to the Historic Dockyard museum at Chatham, where we presented a display of Dido memorabilia and news items, some of these dating back to the 19th century, and as you can see, the Deckplate from the cruiser. These items will be on permanent display in the museum, and hopefully we will add to these as more become available. All of these items are assets to our association, and we retain the right to repossess these at any time.



Presentation of watercolour painting of HMS Dido and Display to Victoria Barlow, Collections manager of Chatham Dockyard

### Snippets

The DVD that was filmed during our weekend at Chatham, should be available in the not too distant future. I have to get some addition material to them and that should be it. I will let you know when it is available and of course how much it will cost.

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It was decided at the last committee meeting that we, as an association would join the Federation of Naval Associations. There is an annual fee of £10 and the benefits that membership brings seem to be well worth while. Neville Saunders has agreed to be our delegate.

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### Sponsors

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As usual, although Dave Salisbury has done a sterling job fund raising, we could still do with more sponsors,, we currently have 4. Sponsorship pays for postage, stationary, and web hosting. Avon Boating supplied us with the bare life ring. Running the Association costs money, your subs go a long way but committee members still put their hands in their pockets to pay for fuel/travel, accommodation and meals when they attend the committee meetings . And don't forget the visits that have to be made to various places on behalf of the Association

The appropriate steps have been taken to regain ownership of the Ship's Bells and Battle board, be it either temporary ownership or permanent. It is now in the hands of the Town Council to decide. If we do succeed in getting the items, they will be placed on display at Chatham dockyard and retrieved for display at our reunions, except for Gibraltar, unless anyone wants to pay the excess weight charge.  
Any volunteers??

We have been invited to attend several council events through the course of the next year at Bolton. As these invites come through I will let you know via email as early as possible, anyone wishing to attend any please let the Association Secretary know.

### Bolton 2011 Update

The initial contact with Buckingham Palace has now been made regarding our 2011 reunion at Bolton. As expected their reply was of a negative nature, but I have yet to approach the Lord Lieutenants Office of Lancashire. We have agreed that the reunion will take place over the Veterans day weekend, and as such we will lend our support to that.

### A point to ponder over

At the AGM next year in Plymouth, both the Chairman Ralph Price and the Secretary Colin Bates will be standing down as their term of three years has come to an end.

Anyone who would like to stand for these offices, please notify the Secretary.

It is also time to start thinking if you have any items to be included on the agenda for our next AGM. We do need to know at the latest 6 weeks before the reunion weekend.

I know it seems a long time in the future, but your committee is pulling all the stops out for the next 3 reunions, and time soon passes

## Reunion Testimonials

First of all Anne and I would like to thank you for a most enjoyable weekend at Chatham. Every thing from the food and accommodation to the entertainment and dockyard visit was excellent value, well done to you and the committee  
*.lan*

Thanks for organising a great weekend in Chatham. We realise that there must have been a lot of hard work getting everything sorted out. Viv and I both enjoyed it and hope to go to the reunion again next year.  
*Nick & Viv Harvey*

Cracker of a weekend. Anna and I looking forward to the next one.  
*Bob Blackburn*

Once again I put fingers to keyboard to rain many many thanks upon you and all the committee members for organising a great weekend. We are already looking forward to next year and maybe I will bring the bottle of bubbly I won in the raffle with me so all can have a tot, that's if there is any left?  
*Dave Salisbury*

Hi Colin, Many thanks for a really great weekend, cant wait for the next one, it is going to be difficult to keep up to this standard but I am sure you will try. All the very best,  
*Des and Chris Cage.*

Well you all did it again, what a great weekend my wife and I have just returned from, meeting up with friends and making new ones, and its all down to you all on the Committee, Our thanks go out to you all, and we look forward to next year.  
*Well done all. Roger and Liz Carash*

Congratulations to everyone that contributed to a very enjoyable reunion last weekend. The work put in by the committee was evident by the way everything went off without a hitch. I can assure you it was much appreciated.  
*Bryan Magnus*

What a cracking reunion in Chatham this weekend. Well done to all those involved in the organising, it was brilliant.  
*Roy Baylis*

I am so sorry that I dashed off so early on Sunday to catch my train, that I was not able to say goodbye to you. Thank you so much for organising a BRILLIANT weekend, I enjoyed it very much. I will put Mrs Heather under a three-line whip to attend next year!  
*Steve Heather*

Thank you again for the thoughtful way you organised this event and the attention to detail, which can be the difference between a huge success as ours has been , or another reunion with another a box to ticked off.  
*Phil Thompson*

What can we say FANTASTIC THANK YOU

*Steve Hawkshaw* 3



On one of our frequent visits to Bolton we were invited to view some “Dido arte-facts” that had been found in Lutterhalls museum warehouse. These were transported by security and placed on display for us to view in the Mayors Parlour.



Bells from both Frigate and Cruiser, along with the Battle Honours board from the Captains flat aboard the Frigate, and a mast head ensign

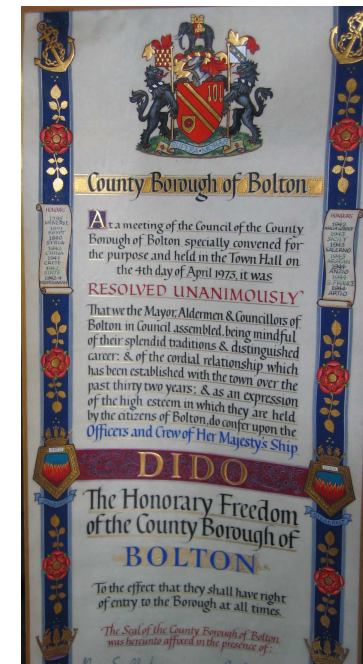


Battle Honours plate from the Cruiser

While we were there we presented a large photograph of the last HMS Dido to the Mayor of Bolton, this is now framed and currently hangs outside the DIDO cafeteria in Bolton Town Hall



There were many more items which included an original life ring from the cruiser and many many photographs and records of both our ships



1972 Freedom Scroll