



2nd Annual Reunion, Newsletter

April 2007

Membership update

Since Bolton last June our numbers have increased to a reputable 175. But this is still not enough, considering our ship was in commission for around 22 years, that roughly calculates to around 2600 ex-Didodeans.

We have members who have now moved to fields afar i.e. USA, South Africa and Singapore to name a few. One of these has vowed to continue coming to our reunions as long as possible and if it had not been for a change in personal circumstances the

Sponsorship

To continue in the way we would like to become accustomed to, for instance reunions in places like Gibraltar or even further afield sponsors would be more than welcome, so if any of you know of anyone or company that would be interested in getting their name advertised via our newsletters, reunions or website why not give them a call. We currently have two sponsor, one for cash and one for website hosting.

Some members who have registered on the website have changed their email address. Please can you ensure that your profile is correct and up to date. The website was first setup with the idea that ex-crewmen would be able to contact each other. Your details are kept secure and as some members will tell you your personal information on is not passed on without prior permission. You must login once a month to keep your account live.

If you have trouble logging in drop me an email.

Or better still become a paid up member. £10.00 joining fee and then £5.00 annual

Portsmouth April 2007



As those of you that joined us in Portsmouth will know everyone enjoyed the weekend from, the civic reception on Friday night to the Banquet at Portsmouth Guildhall on Saturday night. When talking to Fred & Margaret (Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth) as they wished to be called, they said that it was the best weekend they had in many years, and would welcome us back at anytime in the future. Once again Shep Woolley was our entertainment on Saturday night, he said that he has played at many reunions but had never played at one that had the Mayor present twice. This shows how special our reunions have become. The committee will strive to continue this in years to come.

We had 5 crewmen along with their friends from the WWII cruiser, and members from the following Frigate commissions 1963—1965, 65—67, 67-69, 70—72, 72—74, 79—81 and 81—83. Some of these were sole representatives from their commissions. Everyone is made welcome On our weekend



Even our cruise on Saturday morning which a few were not looking forward to admitted they also had a very pleasant morning cruising around. Towards the end of the cruise when we sailed around the obsolete fleet, and see ships from our era in that state was enough to bring a tear to any RN veterans eye.



Presentation of watercolour painting of HMS Dido to the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth

Reunion Testimonials

Thank you and all the committee for a really lovely weekend ,it was great seeing old Pompey again Audrey and I look forward to whets in store for next year. Great to see you both again.

Dan Elgie

First, many thanks for a wonderful weekend at Portsmouth. I felt very humble to be with such great people. The Committee clearly put a lot of work into organising a very successful event so congratulations to you all for a job well done.

Bernard Newton

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the rest of the committee for a job well done that enabled us all to have a fantastic weekend, can you please pass on my thanks to all involved.

Dave Salisbury

Hi Colin, Many thanks for a really great weekend, Chris and I had a fantastic time. I really appreciate all the work you have done to make things go so smoothly, the committee are a great team and work together so well.

Des Cage

We both wish to thank you and the Committee for all the hard work you have put into this year's reunion. Well done to you all, and look forward to the next one.

Roger & Liz Carash

Fantastic event in Pompey (and I'm saying that as a Guzz rating!). This is a very special association - you should be enormously proud of your achievement in creating this band of brothers that spans not just commissions and generations, but ships too! God bless you.

Robert Black

APARTMENT DUQUESA



"My wife and I have recently purchased a brand new 2bed/2bath apartment located in the charming Puerto de la Duquesa on the Costa del Sol (Between Marbella & Gibraltar and at the heart of the Duquesa 18 hole golf course)

Full apartment details and appropriate links for flights, car hire etc.. can be found on our website" www.apartmentduquesa.com

By Alan Robins (Radio Operator on the Dido 1967-69)

Alan Robins (Ex CRS) Tel: 01234 391518 Mob: 07867 821080

****10% discount for DIDO associate members****

When our ship was finally sold off to the antipodean allies in 1983, to help bolster our countries coffers it was a sad day. The only saving grace was finding out that she had been saved the disgrace of being sunken as a reef in 1995 but was towed to the Philippines where she had her boilers removed, and then onward to Goa where she was scrapped and recycled

The Association is all about keeping the ship alive through your memories. There are a number of members who have either decided that a reunion is not their thing for various reasons and have not committed themselves in the past for various reasons: - "I will not know anyone," "No one will recognise me," "my wife/partner will be bored," "We will have to dress for the Gala dinner and I do not own a black tie," and I would like to leave my Navy days behind me. I can see how these things can effect your decision but I can promise you one thing, you will be recognised even if, like the rest of us, you have gained a few pounds and the old hair parting has grown wider. Wives and partners are always made welcome and in fact "gel" very quickly and new friends are made for life. The dress code is always smart casual but if you like to wear a dinner jacket you will not be alone. Do we want to leave our past (Navy days) behind us, I think not. We all went through a lot together and have something civilians cannot understand, true team spirit.

Anyone who has attended our last two reunions will tell you everyone is made welcome. Our wives/partners or even families stood by and supported us. We feel it is about time to show them what was special about our ship by making them welcome.

We developed team spirit long before it became the "in" phrase within industry. Sailing backwards and forwards for five weeks on Beira patrol, the only entertainment was deck football with a football filled with sand to stop it going out of play over the side and deck hockey, that great game where you give jolly Jack a stick, a rope puck and no rules after Tot time is a recipe for disaster as it proved with many injuries and old scores settled.

The DIDO was without doubt the best ship and crew I served with in all my 12 twelve years in the mob. For this reason about 20 months ago I started the association. I then set about contacting my old friends, things escalated very fast, I was then getting request after request to organise a reunion, it started as a 1972 – 1974 commission reunion, that didn't last long, and the rest as they say is history.

These are some of the reasons Ralph, John, Mike and I are driven on to get everyone together, not to recreate those days but to listen to your stories and experiences because they should not be lost to time but enjoyed by everyone. So when the application form drops through your door don't put it in the pending tray, fill it in and get it posted. You haven't got to be there for the whole weekend, it's your choice but the Gala dinner is a must.

Thanks to input from Des Cage

