



THE H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION

(Official Website www.hmshood.com)

Message from the Chairman

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with much regret I have to report the death of two of our members. On 9th January Jack Kiddle crossed the bar after a short period in hospital at the age of 89. He was buried on 20th January at Netherhampton Church. His close friends Dick and Betty Turner and myself, representing the Association, attended his funeral service, which was held at St Mary & St Nicholas Church, Wilton. Jack was a stoker in Hood from 1935 to 1938 and was discharged from the Royal Navy in 1947 as a Leading Hand after 12 years service. Jack had been an active member of the Association since its inception in 1975. He will be sorely missed.

Felix Neville-Towle, who only joined the Association in July last year, passed away on 1st December at the age of 85. He served in Hood as a midshipman from January to July 1938. Felix had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for service in HMS Vesper in October 1942. He retired from the Royal Navy with the rank of Commander after 33 years service. In the past, Felix had attended several of the memorial services at Boldre Church. Keith Evans, our Vice-Chairman, represented the Association at his funeral service at St Leonard's Church, Bursledon on 9th December.

Our AGM and Reunion Dinner will take place on 21st May this year. The Guest of Honour this year is to be Frank Pavey. Last year the Dinner was attended by almost 90 participants, slightly up on recent years. I would like to see even more attending this time. We have maintained the price of tickets at £18 per person by increasing the subsidy from our funds. Please make every effort to attend.

Although our Treasurer, Nobby Clark, is now almost fully established back in his house after repairs following the fire, his computer is still not operational. As a result, Keith Evans has volunteered once again to deal with all Reunion Dinner Ticket sales. An application form for tickets is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please return it to Keith at the address shown, and **NOT** to Nobby, along with a S.A.E.

God bless you all,

Peter Heys

Membership Renewals

May we remind you that membership is due for renewal on 1st May. Current members who have not renewed their membership by the end of May are not included on the membership list. Consequently, they will not normally receive future communications. The membership fee remains at £5 per year for UK residents and £10 for members living abroad. If you are purchasing Reunion Tickets you may send your subscription and Membership Card for endorsement to Keith Evans. Otherwise, they are to be sent to our Treasurer, Ken Clark, at the address on the back of your Membership Card and do not forget to enclose an S.A.E,

Important Events for 2005

- **Boldre Church Service:** will be held at 1100 on Sunday 15th May.
- **AGM/Reunion Dinner:** 1600/1830 on 21st May at Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth.
- **Memorial Service:** will be held at 1100 on Sunday 22nd May at St George's Church, Portsmouth.
- **Remembrance Service:** will be held at 1045 on Friday 11th November at the Naval War Memorial, Southsea.

Dates for your 2006 Diary

- Boldre Church Service: 28 May.
- AGM/Reunion Dinner: 20 May.

Clay Pigeon Shoot for the HMS Hood Memorial Trophy

In September last year, HMS Sutherland made her annual visit to Loch Eriboll and the 2004 competition for the HMS Hood Memorial Trophy took place onboard. Once again, the Durness/Laid team won by a narrow margin. Further detail can be seen on the Laid website at laid_residence@europe.com or by the link with our own website.

Following the competition, HMS Sutherland was presented with one of the two framed prints of HMS Hood by Simon Attack donated for the event by this Association. The second framed print of HMS Hood is on display, together with the HMS Hood Memorial Trophy, at the Durness Tourist Information centre.



The competing teams for the HMS Hood Memorial Trophy

Naval Review at Spithead 28th June 2005

The gathering of ships from many Nations at Spithead is in celebration of the Bye-Centenary of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson's victory on 21st October 1805. This rare spectacle of Warships at anchor will be well worth seeing as another occasion may not occur again for many years to come, if ever. Her Majesty The Queen will review the ships during the afternoon by sailing up and down between the lines.

There are two other events taking place at Portsmouth around this time, Drum Head on 29th June, an opportunity for veterans and old comrades to meet, and the International Festival of the Sea 30th July – 3rd August.

Friends of The National Maritime Museum Greenwich

This is the World's largest maritime museum and a treasure house of our island's seafaring heritage. This year they are having an exhibition commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, this is the first exhibition to explore together the lives of two dominant leaders and adversaries, Horatio Nelson and Napoleon Bonaparte. The exhibition opens from 7th July to 13th November 2005. Like all such establishments they desperately need financial and volunteer support, if you wish to become a Friend, make a donation or require more information please contact Keith Evans, you have his details, or the museum on 020 8312 6678 / 6638 or write to:- Friends of the NMM, Greenwich, London. SE10 9NF

V E Day Celebrations

The BBC are in the process of producing a programme called 'We'll Meet Again' which will be broadcast on 2nd May

Anyone who wishes to forward items for future editions of the Newsletter please send to Derick Collins, 6 St James Way, Birtton, Aylesbury, HP22 5ED. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated.