

Members of  
The Submarine Association  
The City and Serving Community  
The Submarine Officers' Association  
Serving Submariners  
The Friends of the Submarine Museum

12 January 2012

*Dear Fellow Submariner,*

### **THE ROYAL NAVY SUBMARINE MUSEUM IN 2012**

As many of you will know, the Royal Navy Submarine Museum is going through a period of substantial change brought about by 2 main factors. The first of these is the process of integration with the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN). The Submarine Museum became part of the NMRN in April last year and the Fleet Air Arm Museum and Royal Marines Museum are also now incorporated into the National Museum. But there is a long way to go before full 'convergence' is achieved. There are many benefits to be gained from becoming part of a larger organization where economies of scale and best practice can be brought to bear effectively. But inevitably there will be some loss of autonomy too although Submarine Museum trustees worked hard to ensure that the essential characteristics of the Museum will be preserved.

The second driver for change is the very substantial project that is now underway to preserve the Museum's main attraction, HMS Alliance. Sir Tim McClement and his team did a fantastic job of raising over £6m to pay for conservation work (and we are most grateful to those of you who have supported this effort) which will take about 2 years (expected completion is autumn 2013). We still need to raise about £420k by the end of next year and fundraising is still a major preoccupation. The Alliance Project is managed and funded separately from the museum although of course has a direct impact on the museum's activities. For example, Alliance is expected to be closed from late March for about a month (whilst the fin and casing are removed for refurbishment) and again for the first 3 months of 2013. Up to date information is posted on the Museum's website and we will shortly establish a webcam so that you can see what is going on.

As part of the refit of Alliance, the museum is engaged in a major campaign of volunteer involvement, updating the interpretation of Alliance and other artifacts, improving access, provision of education and learning and a campaign to engage the people of Gosport (many of whom have relatives that have served in submarines) in the museum's activities. We are also working to improve the commercial performance of the museum.

### **CORPORATE FACILITIES AND SHOP**

The museum has excellent (and unique) corporate entertainment facilities that can be provided at discounted rates to ex-submariners. In addition, the museum shop has been relocated and is restocking with a wide range of attractive goods from jewelry to submarine badged clothing (sweaters, fleeces etc), books etc. Purchases can be made on line by clicking on the link <http://www.submarine-museum.co.uk/planning-your-visit/gift-shop-a-coffee-shop-/online-shop>. Details of corporate facilities from Andrew Poole on 02392510354x238.

### **FUTURE CITY AND SERVING EVENT**

In addition, I would like to offer the Museum as a venue for a future **City and Serving** event. This would be a break with tradition but would encourage West Country and South of England submariners to join in and, of course, the Londoners can travel as easily by train to Portsmouth as the rest of us do at the moment! Perhaps we should look for a Friday night and invite partners too. That would be really radical!

### **SUMMARY**

These are exciting times for the museum – your Museum. Whilst the work on Alliance will mean that some visitor services will be disrupted in the next 18 months or so, we are very much alive and kicking. I enclose a programme of events planned for 2012 which I hope you will take a moment to look at. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events or just visiting with your family. I want to develop the Museum as a focus for veteran and serving submariners - but I will need your help to do that!

All the very best for 2012.

*Chris Munns*

## 2012 ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

We are putting together a programme of activities to raise money for the Alliance Appeal and support the museum's efforts to generate more income and engage its supporters. Activities planned for next year include:

- 16 March      1900 - **Submarine Movie Night** – 'Above us the Waves' starring John Mills. Fish and chip supper with glass of wine. Tickets £15.00 Rig – submarine sweater or equivalent. Bookings through Rosie on 02392 510354 X244 or 02392 545034.
- 29 March      **'Horrible Science'** exhibition opens. An exhibition for families that is based on the well known 'Horrible Science' theme and books developed by author Nick Arnold. Admission included in museum admission ticket.
- 31 March      **'Falklands 30 – War Patrols'** exhibition. We are looking for personal accounts of those that served in submarines in the South Atlantic between 1 April and 14 June 1982. Letters, photographs, other memorabilia, all welcome. Admission included in museum admission ticket. If you have something that you would like to include in the exhibition, please contact [debbie.corner@submarine-museum.co.uk](mailto:debbie.corner@submarine-museum.co.uk) or call 023 92510354 ext 234.
- 22 April      **London Marathon.** A team of 5 (injury permitting including myself) will run for the Alliance Appeal. If you can sponsor us [by following this link](#) or by sending a text to 70070 quoting SUBS46 with the amount you would like to sponsor
- April – July      **'Third Thursday'** talks. As the name implies a series of talks on the third Thursday of each month starting at 1900. £8 per head including wine. Further information [here](#)
- Thursday 19 April - **Dickie Burston**, Submarine Rescue expert gives a talk on Escape.
  - Thursday 17 May - Back by popular demand Vice Admiral **Sir Tim McClement's** HMS Conqueror's 90 day war patrol 4 April – 3 July 1982
  - Thursday 21 June - Falklands Conflict - a fascinating talk by Jeff Tall.
  - Thursday 19 July - Eric Tales of the Sea. A very funny one man show by ex submariner **Glenn Barrack** now a successful comedian. **"A quietly wonderful show" The Times**

Save money & reserve your seat by joining our TT Talk Club! 2012 Summer TTT Season ticket (entrance to all 4 talks) £20 pp. Details from Bill Sainsbury on 02392545034.

### **14 JUNE GREENWICH PAINTED HALL DINNER.**

A Fundraising event to raise money for the Alliance Appeal and to commemorate the end of the Falklands Conflict. Sir Tim McClement will give his account of HMS CONQUEROR's war patrol as the after dinner speech. This will be a top event with tickets £200 each. An ideal event to entertain corporate guests. Book through Rosie Munns on 02392 510354.

### **13 SEPTEMBER VICTORY GUN DECK DINNER AND CHARITY AUCTION.**

This will be the third dinner and auction that we have held in board HMS Victory. Another top event and corporate entertainment opportunity that has proved hugely enjoyable in a unique setting. Tickets £200 each. Book through Rosie Munns on 02392 510354.