



**1909 – 2002**

**SM2 SUNSHINE SQUADRON**

## **Newsletter 2017**

Gents,

Give yourselves a big pat on the back. From your generosity and your collective giving nature, via Door Entry Fees, The Main Raffle etc. you helped raise £831 - a big BZ to one and all, Thank you.

As you know, or may not know, I retain £100 of the takings to help kick-start next year's Reunion off, I have to pay for the Sunshine Squadron Website Domain and name [www.sm2sunshinesquadron.co.uk](http://www.sm2sunshinesquadron.co.uk) which is yours to post on; I also scour the charity shops to find three Main Raffle Prizes - the rest of the prizes are kind donations from yourself.

The 'Tips Bucket' yeilded £380 which is split evenly between the bar staff and the catering staff. Each year, the catering staff donate their share to the local children's hospice South West, so I buy them some sweeties etc; to nibble on.

This year I also purchased a Sweet Pea Hanging Basket for Debbie (Bar Manager) who has now left her position - she's helped us over the last 6/7 years or more and we wish her every success for the future.

I have an ongoing sale of nick-nacks to help boost the HMS Affray Memorial Fund which originally was to help the families of those who perished on the 16/17th April 1951. Since its' inception, Martin Allen the son of one of the crew (Bert Allen), who was landed on the day she set sail, has been instrumental in raising funds and to have Two Memorial Plinths positioned at the nearest point of land where she went down, and from where she sailed. This, I believe, is the only time this has been done.

If you cast your mind back to the landing site of the Gosport Ferry, 100 yards to the left hand side of there, that's where one Memorial Stone Plinth is sited - in sight of what was our Alma Mater (HMS Dolphin). The other Memorial Stone Plinth is on the Island of Alderney, being the nearest point of land to the Hurd Deep where she sank. Put this into your search engine:

<http://www.hmsaffray.co.uk>

Martin has ploughed quite a substantial amount of his own monies into the project and is currently writing a book on the Affray. My connection with him is that Bert, his father, became a friend of mine when he was President of the Essex Branch of the Submariners Association a long while back. Martin had Bert lined up to lay a wreath at the Alderney Memorial Plinth a couple of years back, but unfortunately, at the turn of that year, Bert sadly passed away.

The running total which I sent to Martin this month was £83.76.

There was a very generous donation from one of our Plymouth Branch Members also for £500.

This current raising of monies is to fund the cost of three Memorial Benches which should be completed in time for the November Ceremonies at Gosport. Each year sees 4 plus members of the Plymouth Branch of Submariners and the Branch Standard attend

the Annual April Anniversary. We travel the day previous to the Service, have a night out with like-minded friends from Pompey/Gosport (ex-crewmates) and attend the Service the day after, then come home.

So as you can see, a lot of good comes from the Reunion, worthy causes benefit, the RNBT, WRS (We Remember Submariners), Jeremiah's Journey for bereaved and grieving children, the children's Hospice South West and HMS Affray Memorial. Added to those, this year saw us donate £500 to Jack & Jill's Childcare - this is an organisation that caters to the needs of RN, RM and Veteran's children: [www.jackandjillschildcare.co.uk](http://www.jackandjillschildcare.co.uk)

We'll also be giving £100 to the Merchant Navy War Memorial Monument that is currently being sought for erection on the Hoe by 2018ish. The current fund is in excess of £150K

The other £100 will be part used for a Memorial board to be placed in the Submariners Corner of the Crownhill RBL with permission from the management to be sought yet.

I've also been talking with Grant Fox (Chairman for Plymouth Branch of the Submarine Association), he's also the lead organiser of the famed Diesel Boat Reunion. We're seriously considering the selling of WRS (We Remember Submariners) Lapel Pin Badges - this year's expected price of £6.00 per badge. This generates money for WRS who are seeking Charity Status later this year and who are really becoming monumentally important in sending wreaths to each and every member/ex member of the Submarine Fraternity that they are informed of from 'Crossing the Bar'. Each wreath plus package and postage is circa £30 - £40 I believe. They do a fantastic job.

If we do take this extra bit of work on, please can I ask you to help and support this very worthy Submariner related cause, thanking you in anticipation.

One last thing if I may. Have any of you given thought to arranging you and your wives (if applicable) funeral needs/costs to prevent your kids having to stump up from your 'Crossing the Bar' ?????

If the answer is No, and you would like some money saving tips, take a peep at this website: [www.oakfunerals.co.uk](http://www.oakfunerals.co.uk)

It also gives good advice on what to do if you have a sudden death on your hands. Lest we forget, death never occurs at a convenient time.

B. Dob.

## **POST PRINTING NEWS**

After a lengthy period of deliberation, I decided that it would be a little out of order to use some the monies raised at the SM2 Sunshine Squadron Reunion 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2017 for a Plymouth Branch purchase, so I've now changed the plan a little and have donated £231.00 to the Plymouth Merchant Navy monument Fund - signed for by their Hon Treasurer, Captain DS Fuller, 289 Fort Austin Avenue, Plymouth, Devon PL6 5ST.

I previously stated that the Plymouth Merchant Navy War Memorial Monument was being erected circa 2018 - I stand corrected.

Subject to Plymouth City Councils formal agreement and the necessary planning permissions, it is intended that the monument will be in place for the mayflower 400 commemoration in 2020.