

# HMS BARHAM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



HMS Barham

**President: The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Gainsborough**

HMS Barham Association on the web.  
www.watersideweb.co.uk/Barham

## *In this newsletter;-*

- Report of November 2005 Abbey Service
- Details of May 2006 Portsmouth Reunion
- Deaths since last newsletter
- New design for website
- New Survivor

## Who's Who in the Association?

Michael Stratton Brown—Chairman

Ray Oliver  
Treasurer

Mick Tapsell  
Secretary (Temporary)

Cecil Hall  
Bob Woodgate



Mick



Cecil



Bob

## New Committee members always welcome

Interested in joining the committee? Please let us know.

To contribute to this newsletter, email us on —  
info@watersideweb.co.uk or  
rfdoliver@hotmail.com

## Newsletter April 2006

### *Final Reunion Dinner*

This years annual reunion dinner, the 50th, will be a CELEBRATION DINNER to be held on Saturday *13th May* in the Royal Sailors Home Club, Queens Street, Portsmouth. It will again be held in the Nuffield Lounge (on the right of the main foyer).

The dinner will be preceded by a minutes silence in memory of those who cannot be with us, this will be followed by a toast to H.M.S. Barham for which a tot of rum will be provided for all male diners and a glass of sherry for each lady. Thanks to Peter Yuell's gift the dinner will again be free for survivors, previous crewmembers and one of their guests. For all members the cost

*We regret to announce deaths of the following.*

*Sidney Petherbridge— Treasurer of the Association*



Sidney

*George Elliot— Former Chairman  
George Oliver  
Gwyn Grogan  
Sandy Powell  
Mr Cochrane*



George

will be £10.00 and for others £32.00. If you wish to attend the dinner would you please complete the attached slip with your preferences and send to Ray Oliver by the 24th April. As we only have seating for 70

(seventy) persons please book early to avoid disappointment

### *Menu*

Galia Melon  
Or  
Homemade Minestrone Soup  
Roast Topside of Prime Beef  
With Yorkshire pudding, horseradish sauce and rich gravy made from the beef juices and served with roast and minted new potatoes and two seasonal vegetables.

Or  
Poached Salmon Steak  
A Salmon steak with a white wine, prawn and mushroom sauce. Served with roast and minted new potatoes and two seasonal vegetables.  
Old English Sherry Trifle Or  
Hot Dutch Apple Pie with Custard - Cheese and Biscuits  
Coffee and Mints - Wine and Port will be provided on each table. Vegetarians meals can be catered for.

## *This year's reunion dinner in Portsmouth to be the last—*

### Message from the Chairman

"I should like to record my thanks for all the letters of appreciation for the Newsletters and all those who write to keep me up to date with their affairs or sent me cards. I would like to end by thanking all those who have made donations including postage stamps particularly as small contributions although welcome may have not received personal letter in reply."

Yours sincerely,



*Michael Stratton Brown*

### New Survivor

Mr Keith Bennett attended the service in Westminster Abbey for the first time last year, with his son David. Keith is a close friend of Ted Sibley.



Keith Bennett

## After the May 2006 Dinner

Accommodation may be available at the club; prices for HMS BARHAM members have been negotiated with the Royal Sailors Home Club at a special rate of £28.00 per person. This includes a full English breakfast and use of all club facilities. At the time of arranging the dinner only 14 double/twin rooms were available. The membership number 2170 MUST be quoted at time of booking.

On the following Sunday 14th May it is hoped that as many as possible will attend the Morning Service in St. Ann's Church, in the dockyard at 1000 hours.

## HMS Barham Website—new!

The website has had a facelift and will be operating with super-efficiency thanks to the help of volunteer, **Andrew Gillespie**, Grandson of a survivor. Andrew responded to a request on the website for volunteer help and has put in a huge amount of time in re-designing the site, constructing a database where people can type in a crew members name and get information. Thank you Andrew for this valuable contribution. Please let us know your thoughts on the new look website.

## Report on last year's Abbey Service - 26th Nov 2005 - 65 attended

Our Remembrance and Wreath laying service in Westminster Abbey was held on the 26th. November at which some 67 (sixty-seven) replied that they would attend. This included 5 (five) survivors. We were directed to sit in the nave until called forward directly into the choir stall for choral evensong. We all listened to some excellent



Ben and Pam Tobin children of survivor Fred Tobin

singing by the choir and enjoyed joining in the final hymn "Eternal Father Strong to Save". Canon

## *hmsbarham.com*—new website address

Thanks to "new" survivor Keith Bennett's son, David Thurlestone we have secured a new and more memorable web address for the website. David has purchased the name *hmsbarham.com* and Andrew Gillespie has transferred the website to this address on the internet. Don't worry though if you are still using the old web address, [www.watersideweb.co.uk/Barham](http://www.watersideweb.co.uk/Barham)—Andrew has arranged that you will be automatically re-directed to the new one.



Andrew Gillespie

Robert Wright conducted the Remembrance service at which Mick Tapsell paraded the Association standard. The daughter of Fred Tobin laid the wreath. The service included a prayer for those of the Association who had died in the last year and ended with the poem by Alfred



Andrew Mowatt, his brother and cousin - Grandsons of Fletcher Evans.

Lord Tennyson "Crossing the Bar".

The wreath was again donated by Pat and Alan to whom our deepest thanks are given. Also

thanks must go to Peter Kemp-ton who each year fights the London traffic in order to deliver the wreath to Westminster Abbey.

After the service a few members of the Association retired to the Union Jack Club in Sandell Street, Waterloo, where we were made extremely welcome, it was very enjoyable to meet and socialise with a newfound survivor, Mr Keith Bennett, who attended the service with his son David Thurlestone.



The Chairman of the Association, Michael Stratton Brown and his wife, Anne with the book of remembrance

## *Changes in the Association*

With the loss of Sidney, the role of treasurer has been taken over by Ray Oliver our current secretary. Mick Tapsell has kindly "VOLUNTEERED" to act as a temporary secretary. One volunteer is worth ten pressed men as the old saying goes.

Our Chairman Michael Stratton-Brown and Ray Oliver have, with effect of the 25th February, become signatories of the Association accounts. The matters will be discussed, voted on and hopefully approved at the Annual General Meeting following the dinner. If any member of the Association has any reason for not approving these appointments or has any other item for discussion would they please state so on the attached voting slip.