



# SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION DOLPHIN BRANCH

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## Autumn 2014 Newsletter

The oldest member of the association, Connell Percy (Con) Thode OBE Lt Cdr RNZNVR (Ret), has sadly crossed the bar on

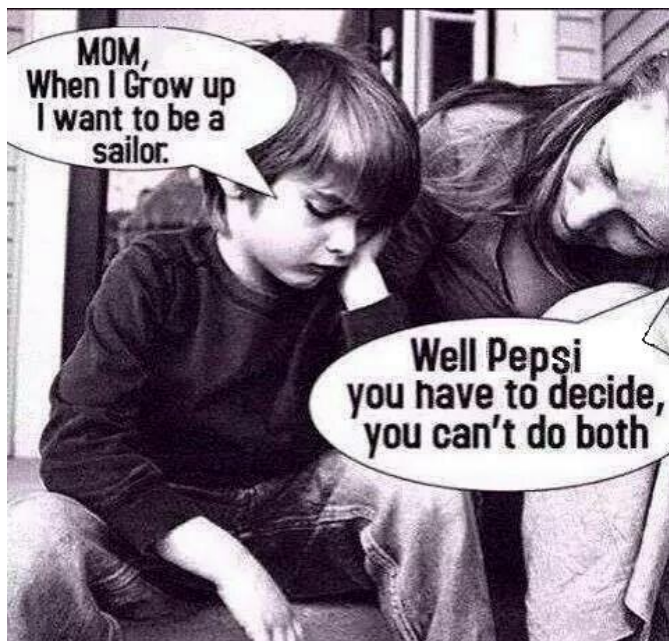


October 9<sup>th</sup> aged 103. Con was the Patron of the New Zealand branch. He served in submarines from 1941 to 1945 in Proteus(41-42), Torbay(42), H28(42), H50(42),

Ultor(42-43), Tuna(43), H33(43)(CO) & Scythian(43-45)(CO). He is pictured on 11<sup>th</sup> March on the occasion of his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday with his card from the association.

The Blue plaque in memory of Lt Cdr Holbrook VC, paid for by our branch donation, was unveiled on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. A full report is in the latest 'In Depth'.

The social at the Sir Loin of Beef in Southsea on 15<sup>th</sup> November has been cancelled due to lack of interest.



Can I remind you that your 2015 subscriptions are now due. £12.50 for UK residents and £7.50 for overseas residents. Please make your cheques payable to Submariners Association-Dolphin Branch. Those of you who pay by standing order please check that you are paying the correct amount. Quite a number are only paying £9.

Can I also remind you of keeping me up to date with your contact details. I am increasingly getting correspondence returned marked 'Not Known' and emails bounced because of an incorrect email address.

### **Society of Friends of the RN Submarine Museum Summary of 64<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

1. Jon Westbrook (JW) took over as chairman of the committee.
2. The AGM had taken place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Paul Hoddinott had stood down as Chairman. Paul had spoken with Mr Keating of the Helensburgh Submarine Museum about writing an article for "All Round Look" and establishing links between the Friends of the two museums. Stefano Mannucci (Liaison – Submarine Command / serving submariners and RN Submarine Museum) undertook to liaise with Bob Seaward (Friends representative in Scotland) and Mr. Keating.
3. It was agreed that the Friends would lay a wreath at the museum during the Remembrance Day service.
4. It was agreed that membership cards should last five years before renewal.
5. Isabella Stagg introduced herself as the new Museum Operations Manager.
6. Since Alliance had reopened were up (75097 compared to 250951 for the same period last year. The numbers were greatly enhanced by the "All Attractions" Ticket issued by

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard which included a return boat trip across the harbour. Due to this increase of visitors it had not been possible to operate the normal guided tour routine (every 15 mins. a guide with up to 25 persons on 40 min. tour through Alliance) and a free flow system had to be implemented ( groups of visitors let onto the boat every 10 mins. with guides stationed in various compartments)

7. The museum budget is being cut by 10% and as a result the Friends would endeavor to financially support gardening costs.
8. A letter of thanks had been sent from JW to Sir Tim McClement for his sterling services as Chair of Trustees of the Submarine Museum. Sir Tim had expressed his thanks and gratitude.
9. The Treasurer presented the accounts to date and advised that there was just over £37K in the bank, which, after allowing for the £8K reserves and £11.5K already committed this left £17.5K available for the Museum. There was discussion over what Museum projects the NMRN should fund and what projects the Friends provide to place “icing on the cake”  
Because the new NMRN was a new organization and it appeared that there were now at least two sources of bids to the Friends for funds; from the NMRN curatorial staff (displays and artefacts) and from the Museum Operational Manager (onsite operational projects). It was agreed to invite Bob Mealings (NMRN curatorial staff) to the next meeting in order to clarify this matter.
10. The annual report to the Charity Commission had been submitted and can be viewed on the website. Charity No. 1046251.
11. Deadline for “Harbour Stations” contributions was agreed as 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
12. The 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 was agreed as the spring committee meeting date.
13. The 2015 ASGM date was set as Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2015.
14. There are 666 paid members and 10 outstanding queries to resolve.
15. It was agreed to increase annual membership subscription to £20 minimum
16. The new Friends brochure has been finalized and number to be printed along with associated costs are ongoing.
17. Changes to the Constitution were agreed and an updated version will be sent out with calling notices for the 2015 AGM.
18. Following Museum projects were reviewed –
  - Artefact storage boxes - £1000 no longer required
  - Memorial book - £1500 ongoing.
  - VC exhibition - £5000 ongoing
  - Photo album – no longer required
  - Boats in action – on hold awaiting safety clarifications.
  - Learning / Outreach community engagement- declined as outside Friends remit
  - Exhibition First in Last Out WW1- £9250 – awaiting justification from NMRN as to why Friends should provide costs.
  - Poppy Display - £4000 – NMRN had declined the project. Two committee members to establish project viability since doubt expressed whether Tower of London poppies were frost proof.
19. The Friends website will be modified to invite contributions re submariner’s stories and memorabilia.
20. No meeting date has yet been set for the next NMRN Members/Friends Working Group.
21. It was agreed that more needed to be done in order to recruit new and younger members, such as providing for family, school and corporate memberships. This work ongoing. However, it was agreed that additional pop up banners to encourage new members were required. The structure of the membership survey had been completed and a form will be sent out with Harbour Stations in October. There will be three methods of response covering email and hard and soft copies. Analysis of results will be available for the spring meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015.
22. The Vice Chairman (Jock McClees) had talked to the SMCC when they visited the museum on 21<sup>st</sup> July and will endeavor to speak to future Perisher courses when they visit the Museum.
23. Date of next meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015

David Ottley (SA Representative on RN Submarine Museum Friends Committee)

09.10.14