

HMS Argonaut Association
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Dear Shipmates,

I am writing to inform you of a few changes to the structure of the HMS Argonaut Association.

For those of you who don't know, I took over the role of secretary in 2005 at the request of the then Secretary Eric Jones. At the time, there were no other volunteers for the role and the Association was looking like it was going to have to be closed down. When I took over in 2005 the Association had no website and reunion attendance was at an all time low due to the reluctance of Leander members to attend a reunion in Portsmouth.

In 2007, the reunion was attended by around 100 members, many of whom attended the Falklands memorial I arranged for earlier that day. The reunion was attended by John Phillips, a hero of the conflict who helped disarm the two bombs onboard the Argonaut whilst down south in 1982.

With a professional looking website, members now have access to more information than ever before and many have been reunited with their shipmates around the world via the website.

The HMS Argonaut brass crest and battle honours have been re mounted in a presentation box and I will be re mounting the miniature medals soon to compliment this. Thanks to my father who offered his time and skills in doing this free of charge.

The Association has also been able to help the family of one of our casualties in the Falklands Ian Boldy, by funding the cost of having his name added to a memorial plaque. Something his widow could not fund without the help of the Association.

In 2008 Emma and I find ourselves in different circumstances having both changed jobs and being in the middle of relocating to the Midlands. This has made it very difficult to run the Association to the high standards that I and you would like.

I have asked other members if they would like to take on the responsibilities of Secretary and though many members have offered their full support no one can afford the time to do the role so I find myself in the position of continuing to the best of my ability, committing as much time as I can to ensure that the Association survives.

Brian Leyland has been a great support in scouting for reunion venues and in encouraging support for the Association and attendance at the annual reunion. Brian will continue in this role as Vice Secretary of the Association.

Dave Townsend has also stepped up to the plate. Dave has kindly volunteered to write the newsletter so I implore you to let him have as much material you can about your time in the navy and on board Argonaut I will be setting up an email address to make it easy for you to send Dave stories. I will, of course, be passing on the mountains of information I have. With increased printing and postage costs, the ultimate goal for the newsletter is to be able to email it to as many people as we can. This is, of course, a long process and your help would be appreciated.

Please see below the structure of the Association and responsibilities:

Adam Phillips	Secretary	Financial – Reunion – Memberships – Records
Brian Leyland	Vice Secretary	Reunion
Emma Phillips	Treasurer	Financial
Dave Townsend	Editor	Newsletter
All Members		Recruitment – Reunion attendance

As part of the on going gathering of information and opinions of Association members please take the time to answer the questions below and post them back in the envelope provided.

Personal Information

Name:

Rank onboard Argonaut:

Date onboard Argonaut:

Rank on leaving the Navy

Branch

Service Number:

Other ships served on:

Honours & Medals awarded:

Email address:

Would you like to receive the newsletter via email: **Yes** **No**

Telephone Number:

Postal Address:

I receive frequent requests to publish member names on the website to enable shipmates to re-establish contact, one to one or at the reunion. Do you agree to your basic personal details being published on the website (no contact details will be published)?

Yes **No**

Reunion

Where would you like the reunion to be held?

Plymouth **Portsmouth** **Other (please specify)**

Is accommodation onsite important? **Yes** **No**

What type of meal do you want? **Buffet** **Sit down**

What price do you think is a reasonable price for a ticket? [2008 cost £17]

£10 **£15** **£20** **£25**

In what month should we hold the reunion?

The above information is important for the Association so it can update its records [in light of a massive loss of data due to a hard drive failure] if you no longer wish to be part of the Association or to receive the newsletter then please let me know so we can take you off the circulation list.

The 2009 reunion is being planned as you read this letter so we need your feedback ASAP. It will not be held at the Royal Fleet Club this year as the accommodation is not to the standard I or other members would like and the feed back I have received would suggest a more central city location would be preferred.

Activities to encourage more members and attendance at reunions:

To help with membership and reunion attendance I will be issuing posters in the coming months for you to put up in local shops, Post offices, RNA and British legions around the country. Please help us get more of your shipmates and families involved in the Association by displaying posters and making contact with your fellow shipmates to encourage them to become members and to attend the reunion.

The success and survival of the Association is down to you!

For those members that are users of the internet and the many social networking sites, I have just created a HMS Argonaut group on facebook so please join this and catch up with old shipmates.

The Argonaut website www.hmsargonaut.co.uk will soon have a members list. I have been asked to post a ships company list from 1982 this unfortunately will not be viable due to the data protection act.

A new contact email address has been set up due to the amount of SPAM email being received it is now contactus@hmsargonaut.co.uk please feel free to contact me via this new email address.

I would like to thank those shipmates that have been supportive over the past twelve months and look forward to a successful year ahead for the Association.

Yours Aye

Adam Phillips - Secretary