



# Member's Profiles



*This is the second of what I hope will be a series of members telling us a little about themselves. Harry Hobbs and myself have bared our souls and Peter Fowler has promised us the next one. So let's have some more of the same - don't be shy!*

## Graham Latter

I was born in Croydon during an air raid they tell me (could explain a few things!)

After my Father left the Army we moved to Margate, Kent where I spent my childhood. In **1955** I went to Canterbury Technical School, which was a good grounding for life as a Tiffy.

Joined up in **1959** as an Artificer Apprentice. After 16 months at **HMS Figsard**, Torpoint and over 3 years at **HMS Caledonia**, Rosyth spent the final training term in **1963** with **HMS Wizard** attached to the Dartmouth Training Squadron. This was the start of some very good travel opportunities I had with the RN as we visited Bermuda, the East coast of USA, Canada then into the Great Lakes (we were the first warships to transit the St. Lawrence Seaway).

In late **1963** joined **HMS Loch Fada** in the Far East as an ERA3 where I gained my Boiler Watch keeping ticket.

Next onto **HMS Tiger** in **1964/65** going all round the Med and up to Norway. Visited Hull and met my future wife Jean! Drafted to **HMS Ark Royal** in **1965** where I hated the big ship environment. Went through Suez and did a Beira Patrol. By now an ERA1 I spent a year ashore in Plymouth at **HMS Drake** refitting her (or rather patching up the rusty bits & pieces) in **1967** and managed to get a weekend in Hull every week for a year.

In September **1967** suddenly got a crash draft to **HMS Caprice** in Portland at the start of the work up - talk about being thrown in at the deep end! Caprice was a breath of fresh air after the Ark as I was in charge of my own part of ship and at sea as Chief of the Watch below with no Engineering Officers to spoil the fun and middle watch catering activities.



**THEN**

**1968 - a rare pic in No 6s  
(mostly in overalls!)**

After the World cruise of 68 I married my wife Jean in Jan **1969**. I jumped at the



opportunity of 2 years **Married Accompanied in Gibraltar**, refitting first the **Cavalier** then the **Caprice**. Got to Gib on **Caprice** (being towed – memorable trip during which we nearly lost the tow and managed to flood a messdeck with FFO). Our daughter Brenda was born in RNH Gibraltar in 1970.

In **1971** left the RN and started work on **Hull Fish Dock** as an Engineering Supervisor on Trawler maintenance and repair. Our son Roy was born in Hull 1973. By **1975**, having effectively lost the Cod War the Hull trawling industry was beginning to collapse.

Joined **Birds Eye** in **1975** as Engineering Services Supervisor responsible for Steam and Refrigeration plant

In **1979** started work as a **Technical Author** preparing manuals for Power Stations. In 1980 went back to Birds Eye Walls as a **Technical Author** to prepare manuals for a new factory building. At the end of this fixed term contract I set out on my own as a **Self-Employed Technical Author** working from home. Since then I have prepared hundreds of manuals for Engineering Companies and Food Factories, in particular for Unilever's Ice Cream Division.

More recently I have branched out into Website and Graphic design work. I have set up and run 8 Websites (including the Caprice site).

Our daughter Brenda went to the University of East Anglia studying languages, followed by a year teaching English in Japan. She has lived in the USA since 2000 and now is in Washington State USA with a baby son Nathan – our first (and only to date) grandson.

Our son Roy did an Electrical Apprenticeship with the Royal Engineers, went on to get his green beret and served with 59 Independent Commando Squadron RE attached to the Commando Brigade. After some time as an Army Diver and self-employed Personal Trainer he emigrated to Canada and is currently serving with the Calgary Fire & Rescue Service.

**Likes** – Wine, Good Food, Travel and.... Rum

**Pet Hates** - Noise, Political Correctness, Selfish People, Jack Dustys who hate Tiffies

## NOW



At the 2007 Reunion