

HMS Caprice (World Cruise 1968) Association



2006 Reunion

May 2022



Issue No 76



The cover shows a group photo from the 2006 reunion. We were all a bit younger then and some faces are no longer with us.

Apologies for the delay in issuing this newsletter.

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Time for Change

Regretfully we have concluded that the Association cannot continue as it has done for the past 27 years. Things move on and it is best that we face up to reality.

Phil Evans founded the Association in 1995 with the primary aim of holding reunions and keeping its members in touch. Phil and Jackie Evans ran the Association for 10 years before handing over to Graham Latter and Harry Hobbs. After Harry sadly crossed the bar John Bishop took over as

membership Secretary managing members subscriptions.

As the Association grew not all members opted to attend reunions but most have kept in touch and paid their subs. We both feel it is the right time to adapt the way we operate.

WE ARE NOT WINDING UP THE ASSOCIATION
- far from it.



Future Main Reunions

In a survey we did in 2020 29 members indicated they would try to attend reunions. However it has now become apparent that our traditional package style reunions are no longer viable as we cannot muster anything like that number.

Chester 2020 was of course cancelled due to COVID. However, the Chester 2021 reunion had to be cancelled simply due to lack of support. Just 8 members (and guests) signed up after Gordon Duffy had put in a lot of effort to organise it.

There are a number of factors that may explain this:

AGE & LOCATION - We are all getting older and many cannot travel long distances. Our members are spread over the UK. The Tamworth option is as central as you can get.

COST - £300-400 for two for a weekend is not cheap (and never has been) although they were good value. Not all members are on generous Navy or Public Service pensions.

COVID – It appears that some folk have become paranoid about mixing in groups. If Boris has achieved nothing else he has certainly terrified half the population!

Gordon Duffy and Bob Mason are attempting to provide a hybrid alternative for future reunions. Details are on the following page.



2022 Reunion at Tamworth June 3rd and 4th

Meet at the Tamworth RNA club on the Friday evening at 1900 for an evening of games and general socialising along similar lines to previous Tamworth reunions, food will not be provided for this occasion.

On Saturday an evening meal has been organised at Christophers Restuarant which is adjacent to The Peel Hotel in Aldergate Tamworth, this is a very central location and a short walk from the RNA club. This has been arranged to be at 1730 for 1800 and will be a hot buffet.

Entertainment follows at the RNA club at 2030 and members will be required to make their own way to the venue, tables will need to be vacated at the Restuarant by 2000. The whole event has been organised for minimum formality and thus the dress code is smart casual. The cost of the meal is £19.25 per head including gratuity and also covers the entertainment at the RNA. There are places still available, late bookers may contact me on 01386 422325

Attendees will need to book their own accommodation.

The RNA club will be celebrating the Queens Jubilee on the Sunday morning, all will be welcome to join in.

Gordon Duffy



Newsletters

This will be my final newsletter. Since the Association was formed 76 Newsletters have been published.

Phil & Jackie Evans compiled 38 and I have published 38 since working with the late Harry Hobbs and John Bishop.

Each one involves 20 – 25 hours of work to compile, print and distribute.

There is only so much that can be written about the cruise of 1968. With a few honourable exceptions we get no input from members and frankly I have had enough.

Each newsletter costs around £280 for print and postage costs.

Graham Latter





Association Funds & Subs

The bank balance will be approximately £1500 after paying for this newsletter.

Since the bulk of our expenditure has gone into Reunions and Newsletters we no longer require any further subs.

**So you can now cancel your annual standing order
WE CANNOT DO THIS FOR YOU**



The bank balance will remain as a Trust Fund to be used for:

- Website maintenance costs
- Welfare Issues e.g flowers for ladies suffering from illness.
- Naval tributes for Crossing the Bar
- RNA Tamworth donations

Any paid up member who wants a refund please contact us ASAP.
Paid up members can claim an amount of approximately £20 (Total in fund divided by number of paid up members at that time).



Association Services

Website - www.hmscaprice1968.org.uk

Our website is kept fully up to date and you can view newsletters online. It has had nearly 29000 hits to date and has attracted many new members. There is also a good picture archive of the Caprice from 1942 to 1979, and up to date Association & Reunion News.



Database

We maintain a database of members contact details on the website members page although phone numbers are not shown. Contact us by e-mail if you are trying contact an oppo. Remember to let us know if you change any details.

Crossing the Bar



The Association can offer some help if a Naval send off is required for members, including loan of a White Ensign Drape, the Association Standard and procedural advice. It is essential we be given as much notice as possible.



Veterans who have served for 22 years or have a campaign medal, irrespective of rank, are entitled to the services of a Marine Bugler, free of charge, at their funeral. This is subject to operational commitments and availability. We can enquire on your behalf.





H.M.The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



To have served for 70 years, with rarely putting a foot wrong is a remarkable achievement to those of us to who she was ultimately "The Boss".

It is a feature of Britain's (unwritten) constitution that our armed forces swear allegiance to the Crown NOT any politician. If it came to the crunch between the Queen and a Prime Minister we can guess what side they would come down on! Unlike the USA where the Commander in Chief is an elected millionaire politician.

UKRAINE

The civilised world has been horrified at Russia's brutally attempt to conquer Ukraine.

However it appears that the Russian military is not what it was cracked up to be as the pictures of wrecked tanks show.



Any army that rapes and kills is obviously ill disciplined – in the British forces that would be a court martial offence. It also appears that they do not have a strong NCO structure – in the UK it's the Sergeants and Chiefs who run the show effectively.



It is to be hoped that the Western powers and NATO will have learned the lesson that years of cuts to our armed forces by all political parties have left them severely depleted.



*Thank
you*

To Phil Evans

Who founded the Association in 1995 and to Phil & Jackie who piloted it for the first 10 years organising reunions and preparing and distributing newsletters. Only those who have done this know what a huge amount of time and effort goes into this.

To the late Harry Hobbs

My late pal who gave me tremendous support when I took over and set up the accounts, which have kept us financially healthy ever since.

To John Bishop

For his support and maintaining the paid up members list.

To all Those members

Who have sent in articles and profiles
Have loyally paid their subs by standing order
Have come to reunions and given their support such as selling raffle tickets and setting up the venue.

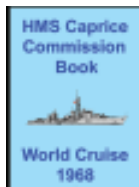
To Jean Latter

for proof reading all our newsletters



Publications

Commission Book



Although many ships produced Commission Books to record their commissions for some reason ours never got round to it!

We have sufficient information and photos to produce a belated one but it would be a formidable task, so no promises as to when it might happen!



Work is underway on a book about the activities of the black gang in destroyers entitled Watch Below. As well as explaining the Engine & Boiler Rooms it describes many of the night watch antics the department got up to!

If anyone has any recollections or other info you might like to be included contact Graham Latter.



History Book

The third issue of the Caprice History Book has been updated and reprinted with over 100 pictures, many now in full colour.

Cost to Association members is £15 including P&P to UK (normal price £17).

Note that book payments are made to G. Latter NOT the Association.



Past Reunions

Since the inaugural meeting in 1995 the Association has held a reunion in many locations

From 2014 we also introduced the Tamworth weekends at RNA Tamworth



1996	Tamworth	2008	Bristol
1997	Tamworth	2009	Chatham
1998	Tamworth	2010	Portland
1999	Tamworth	2011	Lincoln
2000	Chatham	2012	Portland
2001	Southsea	2013	Lincoln
2002	Maidenhead	2014	Edinburgh
2003	Maidenhead	2015	Portsmouth
2004	Bournemouth	2016	Dawlish
2005	Bournemouth	2017	Lincoln
2006	Bournemouth	2018	Portsmouth
2007	York	2019	Bristol



HMS Caprice (World Cruise 1968) Association

www.hmscaprice1968.org.uk

The Association, founded in 1995, is open to all who served on **HMS Caprice** at any time during her memorable **World Cruise in 1968**.

Membership Secretary *John Bishop*

43 Woolwich Close, Bursledon, Southampton SO31 8GE
 jb@hmscaprice1968.org.uk Tel 02380 403 921

Website & Records *Graham Latter*

62 Mill Rise, Swanland, East Yorkshire HU14 3PW
 gl@hmscaprice1968.org.uk Tel 01482 632 276

Reunion Organisers - Gordon Duffy & Bob Mason

Next Reunion is at Tamworth June 3-5th 2022

Tamworth RNA - Bob Mason

Absent shipmates who have crossed the bar...

Ex Association Members

AB (QA2) John Dunn RO2(T) Dave Windsor ME1 Bob Harris
 L.Sea Mick Walsh AB Dougie Richardson LCEM Danny Smith
 L/Sea Brian Watson Surg. Lt Richard Couch Lt. Peter Fowler
 RO2(G) Greg Farmer RO2(G) Dave Jennings POEL Syd Pawley
 LREM Chris Davis AB(G) Dennis Friedl POSA(V) Brian Hobbs
 POME Harry Winterbottom Cdr Tim Bevan LME Derek Patchett
 AB David Cummings ChGI George Kirby

Ex Crew Members

LRO(G) Ali Dow RO2(G) Dave Matthews ChME Nick Carter
 CEA Don Farrow CERA Paul Hockey PO Writer Dave Walters
 ME1 Don Swain Lt. Peter Higgs AB Michael Nightingale
 POME Bill Burgess Chinese Laundryman Lou Moon Chuk



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
 We will remember them*