



## Trevor Cole

I was born at an early age in Sunderland and went to Cowan Terrace School (it's there no more). After leaving school I had a couple of labouring jobs until I was 18 then joined the Navy. Trained at **HMS Raleigh** then onto my ship **HMS Keppel**. Did Icelandic Patrol and got lots of fish off the trawlers so we got fish every day and meat on a Friday! I still like fish.

After the Keppel in Sept 1963 went to **HMS Ausonia** in Malta a sub depot ship (converted P&O Liner) moored at Manoel Island. This was a good draft, we very rarely went to sea and we were moored not far from Whitehall Mansions where the Wrens kipped. Needless to say we stalked them to get invites to the BBQ's and dances. This also included the RAF and Pongoes events. I was "24 about" on the machinery, so did not have to be back onboard early. Then the **Ausonia** was brought home to be scrapped.

Next ship was **HMS Reclaim** a sub recovery vessel. Spent most of the time round the top end of Scotland – a very relaxed mode. So relaxed the 2-ringer Doc used to go ashore with his shotgun and shoot our meals. Did some deep dives off a wreck off Tobermory. Then we went to the South of France off Le Lavandou just down from Toulon, where we went for our diving air. The BBC and Jacques Cousteau came onboard.

After Reclaim joined **HMS Plymouth** and went to the Far East, doing a Beira patrol on the way. We stopped a tanker, the Joanna V, who ignored the skipper and went in and I believe is still there today (they did not want the oil as all the oil for Rhodesia was coming up from South Africa by road). After Beira Patrol we went straight to Singapore (no Mombasa visit - something to do with L.O.A.)

We did a patrol off Borneo (Grey Ghost), as we were the only one with a doctor onboard, who was in much demand. Minesweepers were doing the damage – we saw plenty of native canoes on derricks leaking like colanders and we tended the injuries.

After returning to UK I did the diesel course at Sultan then flew out to Mombasa in December 1966 to join the old **Caprice**. The ship had broke down on Beira patrol so we were billeted in the Sea Breezes hotel, where we arrived in the afternoon and by 1800 were sitting in the British Empire Bar being served lots of beer by the "hostesses". **HMS Caprice** eventually came in and half of the old crew left for home and we joined. We eventually left for home calling at Aden, where others and I went up country to the



Me and "Pricky" Price in Terror 1968



Radfan. That is where three of our crew were injured (Described in the Caprice History Book). I was on a lookout point and saw the explosion but did not realise what had happened. We went to the funeral of the guardsmen in Silent Valley that had been killed - very heart-breaking. Alongside the camp they had a runway and you were sitting quietly up on the lookout point when the RAF Lightnings screamed along the runway at about 3 metres. They call it showing the flag - I called it Crappo le Pantaloons (French I believe No. 1). We left Aden for home with an Army intelligence Pongo and two cannons, which had been captured from the Turks in 18 o' plonk, and were strapped to the Iron Deck. After we left the Suez Canal we hit a violent storm and the cannons went over the side! Also, just to rub it in, the Pongo's kit was in the Tiller flat and was ruined by seawater during the storm. Back to Blighty for a refit and that is when the rest of you joined. You all know about the rest of the commission - I left **Caprice** in Puerto Rico as I was getting married and the ship was getting later and later getting back to UK.

After **HMS Cochrane** with a mobile FMU I left the Navy and joined the **Police Force**, did 28 years, getting divorced in that time.

By now I was getting near retirement and living on my own, to occupy myself I took up sailing. I had met a retired prison officer in the same circumstances as me so we started sailing together. We crossed the North Sea a few times and into the canals of Holland. We got more adventurous had a 3 month trip through the Dutch canals and up to Germany via Heligoland (interesting) then through the Kiel Canal into the Baltic. We visited various Islands then back through Denmark to the North Sea and home. The next trip was



### On a Caribbean Cruise

smooth, 5 months this time, dropping the mast and going through Holland, Belgium and France coming out into the Med at Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône. Left the boat out there and flew home. Then disaster! My mate met a woman he has since married so I've had my nose pushed out. Now I just go travel cruising etc. - spending my pension.

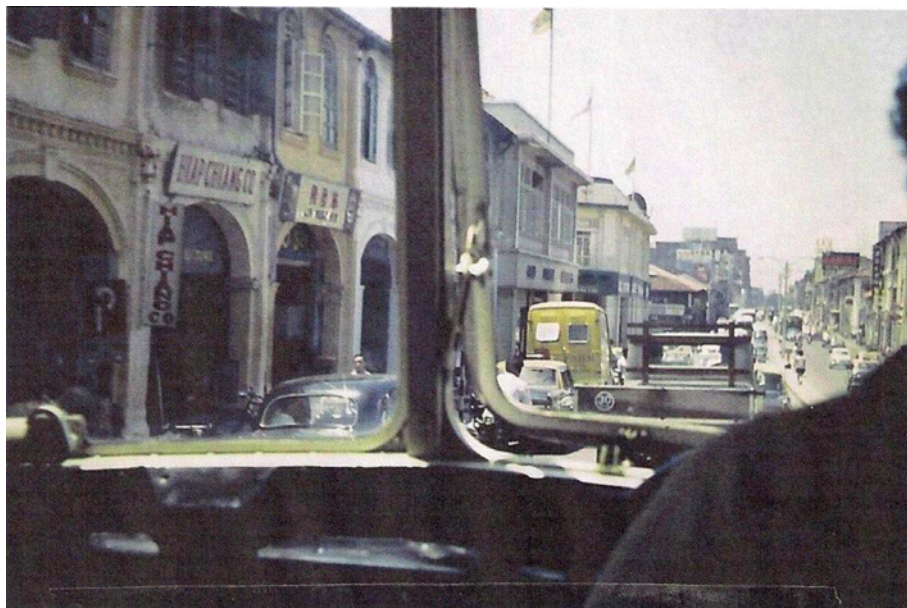
*Likes* Travelling, London Shows and riding my bike (better than sex - it's a better ride and you don't have to kiss and cuddle it for 20 minutes after).

*Dislikes* Politicians, the Law Society and Politicians.

Trevor Cole has unearthed these pics of Singapore in 1968



Nee Soon Village



Bus from Sembawang arriving at Orchard Road