



**President: John Andrews**  
 2 Thespian Street Flats, Aberystwyth, SY23 2JP  
 Tel: 01970 358095 Email: babsjo2@hotmail.com

<b>Chairman</b> Mick Martin 2 Essex Avenue Rowanfield Glos GL51 8A 01242 693334	<b>Treasurer</b> Anthony Hockenhull 1 The Slip Brixworth Northants NN6 9HS 01604 947417 tonyhockenhull@gmail.com	<b>Secretary</b> Michael Flanagan RBL Croft Hall 13 High Street Edenbridge Kent TN8 5AB 07583983402 mike345201@gmail.com
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### **MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER**

Dear All,

I have finally found the time to do the newsletter after a busy and hectic couple of months at work, and with the help of a friend managed to centralise the logo etc but still needs a little fine tuning please note Tony's new email address and my new postal address. My sincere apologies for the lateness of this newsletter but was waiting for the details for the AGM and as our President explains in his report the reasons, Thanks as always to John for all his hard work. I will keep this very short this time and make it up in the July newsletter, enclosed is the Presidents report, and details of the AGM weekend and hope to see as many of you there as possible. As I set the printer going for this I'm trying to get ready for a stocktake in the morning(10<sup>th</sup>) and to start packing for 2 weeks in Tenerife flying out on the 18<sup>th</sup> so busy busy also stops me from getting bored.

Kind Regards

Mike



# ***HMS Gambia Association Annual Reunion and AGM 2018.***

***Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018***

***3 \* TLH Carlton Hotel, Torquay***

## **Friday**

15.00 – 16.00 Arrive by car, taxi, train etc at the Carlton Hotel where the accommodation has already been prepared for your arrival. All accommodation has en suite facilities, colour TV and tea and coffee making facilities. Lift available to all floors. Onsite parking.

19.00 Dinner is served in the Restaurant.

Rest of the evening socializing in general and enjoying the entertainment in the Starlight Ballroom at the Derwent Hotel (Part of the complex).

## **Saturday**

08.00 – 9.30 Breakfast is served in the Restaurant

Time 0930 - Day tour - Round Robin tour. The coach will depart the Hotel to catch the steam train at Paignton at 1030 to Kingswear where you will catch the foot ferry to Dartmouth. Free time in Dartmouth until 1245 where you will catch the river cruise to Totnes Quay. The coach will pick you up from Totnes and return to the hotel.

1830 Pre-Dinner sparkling wine reception in the Madison Suite followed by your gala dinner at 1900 in the Madison Suite followed by entertainment.

A raffle will be held during the evening please bring a prize.

## **Sunday**

08.00 – 09.30 Breakfast is served in the Restaurant.

09.30 Church Service of Remembrance in the Madison Suite.

Tea & Coffee is served before our AGM commences at 10.30

10.30 AGM in the Madison Suite

Free time to explore Torquay or make use of the many & varied options within the TLH group of hotels such as live entertainment, swimming pool or spa.

19.00 Dinner is served in the restaurant.

Rest of the evening socializing in general and enjoying the entertainment in the Starlight Ballroom.

## **Monday**

08.00 – 09.30 Breakfast in the Restaurant and depart after a wonderful weekend.

We wish you a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you again soon.



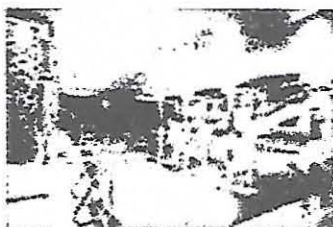
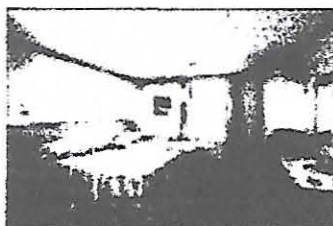
# HOTEL INFORMATION



The Carlton Hotel  
Belgrave Road  
Torquay  
Devon  
TQ1 3BR

- 55 Bedrooms
- Lift to all floors
- Pool

All rooms have ensuite bathroom,  
Tea & Coffee making Facilities,  
TV & Direct Dial Telephone



## Carlton Hotel Torquay

As part of TLH Leisure Resort, Carlton Hotel guests can enjoy an outstanding range of leisure facilities, together with nightly dancing and entertainment.

This unique venue is in a level location, within a few minutes' walk of Torquay's sea front and close to the attractive harbour and town centre. This stylish hotel has a warm and friendly atmosphere and boasts some of the best views across Torbay.

On-site facilities include indoor swimming pools, with a poolside sauna and spa pool plus 32 work-station gym. Luxury health and beauty spa for the ultimate in holiday pampering. 2 outdoor pools and spacious sun terraces. Arena Games with 10-pin bowling, 5 snooker tables, American pool, table tennis, internet café and more. Spa breaks a specialty.

*Full colour Hotel Brochure available on request*

Isle of Wight Tours Ltd  
3 New Road  
Lake  
Sandown  
Isle of Wight  
PO36 9JN

Phone: 01983 405116  
Fax: 01983 405584  
Email: [enquiries@iowtours.com](mailto:enquiries@iowtours.com)

All information is for guidance only and details are subject to change without notice



# HMS Gambia Association Reunion & AGM Booking Form

ALL HOLIDAYS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE TIME OF BOOKING.  
SPACE IS NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL THE NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT IS PAID.

At the

## 3\* TLH Carlton Hotel

Torquay

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September to Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Holiday includes: -

3 nights half board en-suite accommodation

Entertainment Nightly (Private entertainment Gala Night)

Gala Night Dinner Saturday night with sparkling wine reception  
with a glass of wine and a glass of rum included

Saturday Coach Tour for the Round Robin including Train, Ferry & Boat  
trip around Dartmouth & Totnes

Sole use of function suite for AGM, Gala dinner & Church Service

Parking available at the hotel

### 3 nights, 4 days £249.00 per person

Gala Dinner only £38

Weekend Reunion Package Only - Your association has decided to subsidise each  
member and their partner by £50 per person so if you are a member please indicate  
below if we need to invoice you for £249 per person or £199 per person for the reunion.

I am a member please invoice me for the subsidised rate of £199

Yes / No Delete as applicable

#### Personal Details

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone Number including Dialling code.....

Email Address.....

#### Your Party

Total Number of Persons.....

Names of other guests on this form;.....

Rooms required: Double.....Twin.....Single.....Family.....

Special requests such as diet, walking difficulties etc. ....

All prices are inclusive of VAT @ 20 %.

Cheques payable to Isle of Wight Tours Ltd

Please return this form with your remittance to: Isle of Wight Tours Ltd,  
3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 9JN. Tel: 01983 405116

A non-  
refundable  
Deposit of  
£10.00

Per person is  
required with  
this booking  
form.

#### Travel

#### Insurance

We recommend  
that Travel  
Insurance is  
taken. IOW  
Tours Ltd can  
arrange this for  
you ring for  
details  
\*\*\*\*

Due to the new  
laws in Data  
Protection. If you  
would like to pay  
by Credit or Debit  
card, please ring  
the office with your  
card details or you  
can pay into our  
bank direct details  
below:

Please put your  
Postcode as  
reference against  
bank payments:  
Natwest Bank  
(Newport IOW  
Branch)

Sort Code:  
54-41-31

Account No:  
20770499





## HMS GAMBIA ASSOCIATION

### President's report.

My first move is to apologise for the delay in getting the newsletter out to all our members and friends. This has been caused by problems from two directions: my health has not been too good over the past few months and IOW Tours have been suffering from a staff shortage due to illness. Bunny, who has looked after us so well on quite a few reunions, had a bad fall and has broken her ankle. It had to be pinned and she really is "hopping about on one leg." This has meant other members of staff have been attending to her outside jobs and thus the office has been shorthanded. However we now have the planned reunion for September.

This brings me to the next point which I had hoped would never happen but time has caught up with us and age has taken its toll. This reunion will be the last one of our Association organised by IOW Tours as we just cannot get the numbers to make it viable. We have known for some time this was going to come to pass but it is very sad that the time is now. If we wish, in future, we can organise informal reunions where those who wish to can meet up and swing the lamp over a dram or two but it will be organised by our own guys and gals. This will mean someone taking on the job of organising the weekend and co-ordinating it all.

I was not able to attend the Colony Class get together in Bristol but have had really good reports on the weekend. It seems about 100 people attended and found the hotel, the food and the organisation excellent. Half a dozen of our members enjoyed the weekend and congratulated Alan Waite for organising such a good weekend. This annual event may well be a way forward for us and I personally am very happy to see our Ship remembered in this way as part of the Colony Class..

Tony and Cath came down to Aberystwyth for the Borth RBL annual ANZAC dinner and paraded our Standard and the New Zealand Ensign. The evening went really well and the lady Colonel from the Australian Army gave a very informative talk about the importance of ANZAC to the Aussies and Kiwis. She had obviously done her research because she found details of some local men who had emigrated to OZ and then came back to fight in WW1. One chap who had been wounded at Gallipoli was recovering down in Dorset when he was given leave to visit his family in Barmouth. Problem was that he was adrift returning from leave and got 7 days jankers and lost 11 day's pay, discipline was hard even in those days. Unfortunately we didn't win on the raffle.

The following Saturday I took the ensign and the RBL Standard to the ANZAC parade in Cardigan and my friend Ceredig a 91 year old WW2 navy veteran laid our wreath for us. Our member Richard Watson was Parade Marshall and he contributed a wreath which was laid by the Aberystwyth RBL member Mrs Joy Evans. We all had a cuppa and homemade Anzac biscuits afterwards in the Bowling Club thanks to Chris Watson. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> year that the ceremony has been held in Cardigan and Gambia has been there for most of them which definitely keeps our connection to the RNZN alive and makes me very proud of our association and our members.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you that can make it in September and am sure we will have a damned good weekend.

Go steady my friends and take care. "Group up and full ahead both" for September though!!



SICK BAY. I did have a letter from John and Brenda Poole and from the letter I don't think they will make the reunion, much as they would like to. If you read this we send you our very best wishes. Margaret Hughes, the widow of our long-time chairman Brian, had a bad fall at home and lay undiscovered for quite a while. She was taken to hospital and after a period there went for respite to a nursing home. While there she had assessments as to what would be the best care package to enable her to live at home again but became ill. Her son, David, wrote to me last week to say Margaret was very ill with pneumonia which she developed whilst back in hospital. Treatment had not been too successful but she is now on high powered anti-biotics and will hopefully recover. We all hope you have a full and speedy return to good health Margaret. I believe Stuart Wallace is struggling with severe arthritis so as we all know what that is like I think. We wish Stuart and any of our members who are unwell, some relief too. My own health is deteriorating and I am slowing up a lot. The chemotherapy caused side effects and as a result I am on a different regime which is causing its own problems. However I can still get about and do stuff so it isn't too bad.

I have no other news from the members or friends at the moment but if you should have any news please let me know.

Aye yours John.

#### SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

As you will see from the enclosed material our reunion is now finally sorted for September and we will be in Torquay. It has been a great problem this time to sort it all out but I am sure the outcome is a good one. The hotel has many good reports on the internet and with the other three hotels offering free use of their facilities it should be really good. At our 2017 it was agreed that we subsidised the 2018 reunion to the tune of £1,500. As a result of long discussions and negotiations we have reached a decision. Each member and their spouse will receive a discount of £50 on the cost of the weekend, really as a reward for all the support they have given over the years. Working on attendance at the reunions over the past 3 years I assume that we will have a maximum of 26 or so members coming. Should we reach the unlikely figure of 30 attending that will use up the £1,500. If we get more than 30 I will have to pass the hat round or win the lottery???? The trip organised for Saturday is a whole day one and having looked it up it seems to me to be a really good day out. Any attendees who are not members or spouses will pay the full cost. The four hotels in the group allow us to use their facilities whilst we are there pools, spas and entertainment if you do not wish to take advantage of what is on offer in our hotel. All meals will be in our own hotel. I have contacted the local RNA and hope that their chaplain and some of their members will attend the church service on Sunday morning.

We will have decisions to make at the AGM and I hope they will go well and be accepted on a democratic basis.

I ask all of you to make this final HMS Gambia Association formal reunion a very special one and look forward to seeing you in Torquay.

Aye yours John