

Some messages of Appreciation sent to our Reunion Chairman Clive Bradbury.

Dear Clive

Just a short note to express my and my wife Lesley's very sincere thanks to you and the committee for the superb event over the last few days. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, and it was so good to renew old friendships. We hope you and your colleagues can now relax somewhat and look back on a great occasion!

Sincerely,

Brian Cushing



A fantastic 3 days!

I cannot imagine the amount of time and effort that went into providing us with such a memorable event, and I offer my heartfelt thanks to the organising committee. The speech by HRH The Princess Royal was both interesting and I felt personal and I wonder if Richard Pocock's speech could be transcribed into the Dogwatch, for those that were unable to attend, as it certainly was very amusing and brought back many memories.

Despite the iffy weather, I believe that we all had a great time reminiscing and drinking Portsmouth dry with old friends not seen for 50 years. I'm sure that we've all vowed to keep in touch until the next reunion.

Chris Hanagan

I've been promised that Richards speech was going to be recorded so I hope was HRH's...

Richard was superb down here threading the three ships together and the life we followed in the British Merchant Navythat was.

Glad it all went off so well for the committees and all ...I can understand how much went into it

Barnsey

Dear Clive and Roger,

No doubt you are being overwhelmed but here yet another message of thanks and congratulations to you and your team for arranging the magnificent event.

A small eyebrow was raised when the bargirl at the RN & Albert Yacht Club said the freebe Soft welcoming drink was water only but on the other hand the champagne the previous evening was so generous in quantity (and enjoyed), the humour of the situation was accepted.

Matt Carrell reminded me with photo evidence that he and I won the tilting the bucket at the 1950 Sports day. We therefore both avoided the water on that occasion.

On a sad note we had been on tenter hooks about attending as my younger brother was seriously ill. We arrived home Friday afternoon to hear he had died that morning - obviously waited for the Cathedral service.

With kind regards from John & Shelagh Longstaff.

All,
Just back in Padstow after what was an amazing 3 days ... my heartfelt thanks go out to all the organisers and wives, chaired by Clive Bradbury, for a magnificent event the likes of which we will be unlikely to experience again ... so THANK YOU. [Please cascade to the Committee].

And special recognition for Pastor Paul Whittles [1962] for attending as his late, and very dear wife Jean would have wished to have done ... courage in adversity ... our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Great to see so many OW friends ... here's wishing you all a safe return home ...

Aye,
John H.

It comes as no surprise to me that this reunion was amazing. Knowing many of the individuals behind the planning just confirms that. I just wish I could have been there but there you go, we do not always get what we want.

Richard Pocock did an outstanding job in NZ at the reunion there so no question he would at this event. Clive Bradbury is excellent on his feet and a good organizer so you were in good hands. There would have been many others who also contributed as takes many people to stage an event like this and the unsung heroes who do not get the high profile as the ones up front and centre. Congratulations to all and delighted it went well. Barnsey played a pivotal role at the NZ one so give him much credit for that. I was Pococks "Boy: as in batman my first term as he was SCC of Main Division. I can tell you he was great and probably the best if the bunch back then. Treated me very well.

Dave Farley 58-60

Dear Clive

I am in the process of disposing of all the paperwork and thought I would send you this message to thank you, your committee and helpers very much indeed for a superbly organised series of events. My enjoyment of the occasion far exceeded expectation and meeting quite a number of my contemporaries for the first time in over 50 years made me realise why I enjoyed nearly every day of my time on the ship.

Many thanks again

Malcolm Wallington

Dear Clive & David

The dust has not yet settled but I'm sure you will find life somewhat an anti-climax for awhile after all the activities this week and indeed the last couple of years....sit back and enjoy!

Once again, on behalf of Barbara and myself our very sincere thanks for having us as guests at your 150th Anniversary, we really appreciated (myself as GBOBA) attending a most memorable occasion. It was good to meet the representatives of the other Colleges, plus of course their ladies and I hope this will be the start of a stronger link between OW & GBOBA, indeed all the Associations. Meeting others from SA together with a couple of past shipmates came as a bonus!

So, once again our thanks and I look forward to meeting with you both in the near future.

Best wishes to Angela & Eileen from us both

Yours sincerely, Ted Fisher

Arrived home 2030 yesterday having circumvented flooded railway lines and despite two broken down trains after an excellent three days, I would also like the chance to read Richard Pococks speech again. Very many thanks to all involved in the planning and execution of the Reunion.

Alasdair Mcculloch

Having safely returned to Devon, I can now reflect on what must be one of the great events of my entire life. The efficient organisation of all the events could not have been improved, it was impeccable. From the outset, receiving our welcome packs, right through to the final reception and lunch at the yacht club, everything went like "clockwork". The name labels with the pocket at the rear was inspirational, and allowed everyone to have everything to hand when required.

The "sea time" we enjoyed brought back happy memories - in particular for me - as I was in the "Vernon" Squadron for nine months in the '60's doing R.N.R. training. The icing on the cake was the meeting with the ORIANA, and having her former Captain, Colin Campbell on board our vessel at the time was fantastic.

At the conclusion of the beautiful service in the Cathedral, Clive Bradbury summed up the event, thanking everyone who had contributed so much, to make the event such a resounding success. However - inadvertently, I am sure - he overlooked one person, with his team, and that was Brian Beale, who had produced a magnificent second edition of "The Photographic History" ably assisted by Malcolm Borland and Colin Steere. Those of us who were presented with the book as part of the "Welcome Pack" will treasure the book and the memories that it evokes, not only of our times in the ship, but of the 150 event.

We have all come away with marvellous memories of a truly great occasion, having met up with friends last seen many years ago, and picked up where we left off then! I wish all of you from the far corners of the globe a safe return home, and enjoy the memories as I will.

Bon Voyage.

David Dornom (Fore Starboard 1950-51)



Clive,

May I send my congratulations to you and your team for organising such a wonderful and memorable event. Sufficient to say that those three days will remain in my memory (and, I suspect, many others too) for many years to come.

I do hope that you are now able to take a rest from what must have been a very hard slog- but what a great result.

Best wishes from Glen and myself- Garry Dadds

Dear Clive

I hope you are lying in a darkened room having a well deserved rest. You and your sub-committee did a superb job organising our reunion and you should feel very proud of yourselves; thank you very much.

Best wishes

Geoff Stokes

Hi Clive,

A note to say a very big thanks to you and all of your committee who organised such a splendid reunion. The arrangements and execution of them were impeccable. Liz and I had a great time and we know that everyone else did too. It was incredible to meet up with so many friends from 51 years ago !

Also, a big thanks to your wife Sarah who must have had a lot to put up with !

I hope that you enjoyed your sail.

With best wishes,

Clive Godderidge

Dear Clive

I regret that I am the culprit that ended up with the wrong jacket on leaving the Royal Albert Yacht Club. I did not discover this until I got home whereupon immediately contacted the Club, but only an answerphone the other end. It took three calls but eventually they rang me back Saturday, and I left my phone number should anyone enquire. They

came through this morning with the answer and I contacted the owner immediately and arranged return of the jacket. I had been desperately concerned on Friday that, in all that wind and rain, I had left someone without a coat. I was infinitely relieved to find that she had a second jacket in their boat as you can imagine! My many apologies to everyone for causing such a nuisance.

I am letting you know that all is well because I have spoken with Ray Newbury this morning and he said that he had made enquiries with you during the Yacht Club Rendezvous.

What a simply wonderful occasion the WORCESTER Reunion was, and an absolute miracle of organisation. I so much enjoyed it

With kindest regards to yourself and Sarah.

Marjorie Blyth



Clive!

I wanted to thank you for all your hard work to get the reunion organised in such a wonderful way. It really was a momentous occasion and I congratulate you and your 'team' on producing a reunion of all reunions!!

Juliet and I were sorry have missed the cathedral service but my mother of 95 is fading rather and it was an opportunity to head up to Alton and see her before wending our weary way back home through Friday afternoon westbound traffic. I spoke to Ray Tilley the next day and he said it had been a moving service. Actually the 'Memorabilia Museum' was moving as well and I do hope a stable site is found so that we can visit it and spend longer looking at 'stuff'!

Maybe once you have recovered from your hard work you can join the Government and sort that out too!!

With our best wishes and thanks,

Peter (56!!) and Juliet Freat

Dear Clive,

I must just write to thank you for all the hard work you and your sub committee put in organising the OW reunion. I have rarely been to anything which was so well organised. It was a great occasion which I, and my guests, thoroughly enjoyed.

Many thanks

James Boxer (62)

Dear Clive

I should like to thank you and your colleagues for the massive amount of work you have done over the past few years on behalf of all O.W.s. There is only one word to describe last week's Reunion: Brilliant!

Everything was organised down to the last T, and it went off without a hitch. Every detail had been attended to and nothing had been omitted. The arrangements, the written material and the events were all impeccably organised. What else can I say? I have just noticed that even the meal tickets were printed with an O.W. theme. The Photographic History is beautiful. Last night I spent an hour leafing through it in bed before going to sleep, and without hesitating, I can say I shall value it to the end of my days.

The Guildhall dinner was an incredible occasion that I shall also always remember, and I know that Jillie feels the same about it as I do. Getting Princess Anne to be the Guest of Honour was both a great coup and a great success. She is clearly a very able lady. She gave her full attention to everyone at the pre-dinner meeting, and during her after-dinner speech displayed a profound knowledge of the sea and maritime matters.

Above all, the meeting allowed Old Worcesters to meet and greet one another and share their life experiences. I met about a dozen chaps with whom I was on the Ship, and it was a joyous occasion. Among them was the priest Ian Stewart. I loved his naval version of Psalm 23. Would it be possible for you to send me his e-mail address so I can ask him for it, although alternatively, if other people want a copy, perhaps it could be printed in the next edition of the Dogwatch?

Please convey my thanks to all colleagues who contributed so much to the occasion.

With best wishes to you and Sarah.

Douglas Model

Dear Clive,

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

May I paraphrase " Never in the field of maritime reunions was so much owed by so many to so few"

Our thanks to you and your committee and families for ensuring such a memorable occasion went off so smoothly, without a hitch. You are now all entitled to a very well earned long non-interrupted rest!!!!

Should you all at sometime in the future decide you want to do something similar again - may I suggest you form a political party to organise the running of this country efficiently - you are guaranteed all our votes!!!!

Again my warmest thanks to you all.

Kindest regards

John Haigh

47 - 50

Clive and Sarah

What can we say, other than absolutely marvellous . You and your various teams are to be congratulated for putting together such an awe inspiring reunion which will be long remembered for all of those managing to attend. Even the weather was shall we say semi reasonable for yet another English summer!!

The finale in that really exquisite Cathedral really hit a high spot and so correctly signed off with your own very well chosen words.

Here's wishing you a well deserved and happy sailing season

Sincerely with all very best wisshes Mike and Ann Smith

Clive,

Your triumphant delivery of the OWA's 150th. will follow you to the grave! ... it really was a masterpiece and greatly enjoyed by all.It was always going to be the case that we wouldn't meet everyone but my word,what a rich gathering of 'old salts'.I never cease to be amazed at where the 'Worcester' mob got to!

So ... thanks again ... sincerely ...

John Hinchcliffe

Dear Clive,

I am writing to thank you and your committee for a most memorable three days.

It was good to meet so many old friends who you hadn't seen since leaving the Worcester.

The organisation was spot on and the catering was excellent.

Thank you again.

MIke & Christine Tolman



Good morning all,

Thanks for your email David, Toni and I are in US and won't be home for another few weeks. We did enjoy the reunion and cannot speak highly enough of the way it was organised and run. It gave Toni an insight into my school days! I found it very emotional looking back on the good and bad days, but as was said, for so many to turn up for the reunion, the ship holds a special place in our hearts. I'm pleased the service raised so much - I for one, was proud to be a sidesman even though it was due to David Dowden's illness.

I'm looking forward to seeing lots of OWs in Brisbane next year.

Cheers,

Keith Broderick

Clive – a belated thank you for such a splendidly organised and pleasurable event. My congratulations to all of the team that put so much into the reunion. It was truly memorable and very much appreciated. As an afterthought – will you be selling copies of the videos that were displayed or the photographs put on the screen during the dinner. They were really wonderful and a very nice touch. It was a delight to meet with you and to see, 60 years on, so many of our fellow cadets. It's amazing how everyone was still so recognisable!

Kind regards

Archie Bishop

Clive, back home in Canada after an uneventful flight but very tired after all the travel. Just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the reunion and how very impressed we were with the splendid job by you and the other volunteers. Looking forward to downloading some pictures when they come on the web.

Peter Stow
Nova Scotia

Clive, Just a short note to commend you and your organising team for an outstanding three days.

The organisation was exemplary and we thoroughly enjoyed all the events.

Kind regards, Robin Cornish

Dear Clive,

Very many congratulations on the outstanding success of the 150th celebrations!! It was a moving, wonderful and positively unforgettable experience to have been part of and we know how tireless you were in the organisation of every last little detail! You must be highly relieved that it is all over and that everything went so smoothly without a single hitch!

One of my favourite memories will be your enactment of a day on Worcester on the dockside at Gunwharf Quays on Wednesday evening! It was extremely moving and gave a further insight into life onboard especially to wives/partners who had not experienced it and a delightful little reminder to those who had!!

The dinner on Thursday evening was very special indeed, made even more so by the presence of H.R.H who was very relaxed and who made such an excellent speech! Richard Pocock's speech was a triumph too! I was sitting next to him and I asked him to write it out (he'd used rather scrappy notes) so we can all benefit from what he said and to retain it as a record to show children/grandchildren! Hope he does so!! The memorabilia was amazing too. Michael Wheeler did a great job there and I only wish there were a permanent exhibition but realise how difficult that would be to organise!

I guess you and Sarah both now need a holiday! She, of course, has been involved in the background and also deserves much credit for her patience and help in maintaining the home fires while you were so busy!

Much love to you both,
Vivienne

Dear Clive

Wow!

Wasn't that a great reunion? Mulling on the three days events while I was stuck in traffic driving home, my thoughts were that it could not have been done better. The organisation was brilliant all along and I certainly have no cause to even consider anything went wrong for me.

I was pleased to meet up with three old friends from my class so for me after 44 years it was great.

My thanks to you and your committee, for the hard work you did over the last few years. Rest assured, you all should be so very proud. There is so much I could say but I just wanted to send you my sincere thanks first.

With grateful thanks

Jonathan Challacombe

Clive,

I must apologise for not having contacted you sooner to express both Liz and my thanks for such a successful and memorable Reunion.

We thoroughly enjoyed the three days and did appreciate all the hard work, years of time and commitment you and 'your Team' put in to making it such.

I am sorry that I did not return your phone call, shortly before the Reunion, about the seating arrangements - we did enjoy our table and it was good to meet up with David Glennie after 52 years - but I did not get the message until we

returned home this week as we had left over a week before Portsmouth started!

Trust despite some strong winds you have been able to get across the Channel and are enjoying a well earned sailing holiday.

Perhaps we can meet up when you are next in Suffolk.

With very best wishes - and from Liz .

Thank you again.

As ever

John Bubb



Dear Clive and Roger

My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed our three days in Portsmouth at the Worcester Reunion.

It was wonderful seeing all my old shipmates and hopefully we will now keep in touch.

I would like to thank you both and everybody else who were involved for all your evident hard work for organising such a varied programme of events.

Again many thanks

Kind Regards

Michael and Tricia Burton-Hopkins

Dear Clive,

June and I would like to thank you and your committee for making the 2012 reunion such a memorable occasion.

We thoroughly enjoyed all the events. The whole reunion was extremely well organized. We fully appreciate the time and effort given to produce such an outstanding Rendezvous. Meeting up with old shipmates, especially from overseas, will always be a lasting memory.

Best wishes

from

Neville Wright

Clive , Olive and I arrived home a few days ago after a good flight to Toronto and now that jet lag has subsided and 254 e-mails

deleted or answered I wish to make a few remarks.

Firstly may I add to what others have said, the event was superb, the organization and attention to detail amazing !

Staying at the RMC I was up and down to the memorabilia room often (you

passed it on the way to the bar !) and invariably Colin Steere was there , even on the last day he kept saying he was on his way but still working away at 5.30 !!

The lowering of the Ensign and last post at Gunwharf Quay brought me to tears and on our final day (Sat) when coming down to breakfast where during the week the RMC foyer was alive with people and chatter ... there was nary a sound and it suddenly struck me that it was over and as before we were scattering to the four corners of the world !!?

So sad but what fantastic memories , thanks to you and the committee for a truly memorable event .

I hope my old shipmate Colin sees this (he of no e-mail !?)

Cheers to all,

Peter Hooker 45-47



Dear Clive

On behalf of my wife and self I must congratulate the Committee for the 1st class organisation and the work involved in making a wonderful three day event of such a high standard. Met several old friends, one or two I had not seen for 55 years.....Thanks again.

With very best wishes

Dudley R Botting (1950)

Dear Clive

On behalf of myself and Ann may I say a very big thanks for the excellently organised event in Portsmouth.

We did not attend on the last day as I had a "funny turn", an on-going problem with the heart. Now settled down thank goodness!

It was great to see to see so many familiar people after so many years and we were amazed at the diverse lives we have all led since Worcester days.

Please pass on our congratulations to the Committee, we look forward to the next time.

Kind regards

Mike & Ann Hawker

Hi Clive,

We are now back in the Baltic approaching Samsø in gorgeous wx. We write to express our thanks to you and all your committee for such a splendid do, the effort that went into it we can only imagine, but a great success and a great time had by all. If you make it to the Baltic do let us know, if not see you at the AGM in Jan.

Love to Sarah

S&N

Sim Rendall

Dear Clive

I am taking the opportunity to write to you to say how much my daughter and I enjoyed the Old Worcester reunion dinner. I have to say that everything was very well done, the speeches not too long, entertaining and chiming very well with the occasion, the food and drink excellent.

It is to be regretted that I was unable to attend any of the other events, but work commitments of both myself and my daughter, who very much wanted to accompany me, and the logistics of getting her too and from Reading, where she lives and works, were rather too fraught.

However I have been able to re-establish contact with some of my near contemporaries, ex-Swire people, with a view to attending, a local reunion in the South (Kent?). It was a little disappointing, from my point of view that there were no others from my term, Michaelmas 1966 the last of the 13 year old intake. But as you have hinted at in a previous communication, we are the youngest and most probably still having to work.

Once again very well done.

Regards

Derek Tew.

Dear Clive, we would like to thank you and the entire reunion committee for organising such a superb event. A lot of work had clearly been done on every single aspect of the arrangements resulting in the most memorable three days. O W's and guests alike could see why we are who we are, thank you again.

Bob and Dinah Eaton.

Dear Clive

Please don't think this note of appreciation is an after thought but we have only just arrived home from our extended trip to the UK.

Carolyn and I would like to thank you and the committee most sincerely for the excellence of the organization and depth of programme for the Worcester event. The whole 3 days flowed flawlessly and made for a memorable and happy occasion. It was a pleasure to meet up with old friends and to share our different experiences over the past 50 or so years. The variety in the group was remarkable but most striking was the affection we all had for the ship and what it stood for.

Very many thanks and my best wishes
yours sincerely

Peter Parson 51-53

Dear Clive,

We send our most heartfelt thanks to you and to all concerned in organising the wonderful rendezvous at Portsmouth. The dinner was superb, as was the service at the Cathedral and the lunch. We were unable to attend the other functions but have heard how enjoyable they were.

The exhibition, too, was wonderful. The work involved was an enormous undertaking - please, please convey our thanks to all concerned.

We met many old friends which was such a joy.

Our kind regards,
Jack and May Harris

Dear Clive,

This is just a note to congratulate you and your team for a splendid celebration of 150th anniversary of the Ship.

Everything was so well organised, with the possible exception of the weather, but that failed to dampen our spirits and quite obviously everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were impressed by everything you all had done to make the three days such a success.

I'm sure the privilege of having the Princess Royal, as principal guest, was appreciated by everyone and quite a coup, especially in this Jubilee year. Hilary and I thought she was great.

I enjoyed your article on Worcester's Polar Heritage and was interested to learn more about OW's, other than Bowers, who have had such an impact in the region. They were a tough lot.

I hope you enjoy your rest from all the organisation until, no doubt, you take on something else.

With Best Wishes to you and Sarah,

Richard Gage. 58-62



Old Worcester's can be Proud of the Committee for organising a historic event in such a Grand style. Advance information preparing all OW's for the travel, hotel and other details pertaining to the event was conveyed in clear and concise fashion. This information was a great help in our own planning During the 3 days, each event was executed and conducted brilliantly. The catering arrangements were superb on every occasion.

The Solent Cruise, the concert, Lunch at Boathouse No 7 in Dockyard, the Colours on Gunwharf Quays, the Guildhall Dinner, The Cathedral Service and finally the Reception and Buffet at Yacht Club - each event was brilliantly managed and proved a source of pleasure and joy to us all.

Full credit to Brian Beale for preparing the Special Book on HMS Worcester

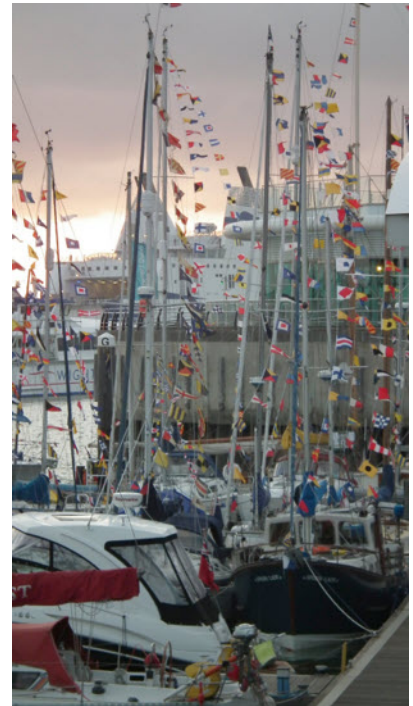
It is a brilliant production and a source of many nostalgic memories.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all Committee members who provided all OW's with the opportunity to meet up with their term mates and to share in the happiness and joy of the occasion

Joan and I enjoyed the great occasion. Meeting up with my term mates from 60 years ago was a great pleasure. Memories of this Reunion will remain with me for ever.

Once again I must say that the Committee deserves great praise and full credit for the superb effort , Brilliant organisation and for making the 2012 Reunion such a Resounding Success.

Capt.S.H.M.Jaffrey
1952-1954



Finally back in San Francisco away from the rain.

I think it is for the attendees to thank you Clive, and your Team for a great event and great organization. Everyone I have spoken to thought it was a real "BLAST". I found it particularly enjoyable touching base with all those friend who I have not seen or heard from in years.

Again Many Thanks to you all
Ray Tilley 55-57

Clive,

Jean and I have just arrived back in "Oz" and are preparing to re-enter real life after a magical trip.

The highlight was, of course, The Reunion, and we would like thank yourself, the committee, and all involved in making it such a memorable occasion. We greatly appreciate the amount of planning and work that you all put in to it. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to all involved.

Yours sincerely,

Peter and Jean Hay. 55-57

Good morning Clive,

Many thanks for the update on the Portsmouth 2012 Reunion. Our thanks to you and the Committee and all the others involved in making the Reunion such a memorable occasion for all of us. Also a big thank you to Brian Beale for all his hard work in compiling 'HMS Worcester - A Photographic History' - it was looked at by two of my grandchildren when they came to lunch on Sunday. I think that they were quite impressed !!

Kindest regards,

Adrian Dann (1949)

Hullo Clive,

Thank you for the message. May I add my thanks to the Sub-Committee for arranging such a splendid event. The organisation of it for you all was a very major task and extremely well done especially the Daily Orders which detailed in minute detail what was happening, where we were supposed to muster and at what time. A first class class publication. The Church service on the final morning I found quite emotional at times especially the hymns which in true Worcester tradition were sung with great gusto. I don't suppose the Cathedral roof had experienced such uplifting singing for a long time. The collection sum was excellent and a true reflection of the feeling that we all enjoyed for such a wonderful three days. Again many, many thanks for everything.

I would appreciate it if you could send me Brian Beale's EM. I am glad you have conveyed your thanks in the message below on behalf of everyone as I don't remember him being acknowledged during all the thank you's that occurred during the speeches. I would like to send my own thanks and also give him some information regarding two of the photographs which may be of interest although I don't suppose the book it will ever be printed again.

Thank you again

With my very best wishes

Mike Foden '51

We have not stopped talking about the excellent time we had in Portsmouth and feel amiss that I had not sent a personal thank you to all the organisers.

The 'orders for the day' were ideal to cover the activities available. Visiting HMS Victory and HMS Warrior came a bonus with every other step bumping into an OW and even not knowing them having a quick chat and a friendly handshake.

I personally was very pleased to meet up with Captain Mike Smith, my boss when working with him for Vlasov.

Many many thanks for the hard work to organise the 150 anniversary in such a splendid way.

Kind regards

tom sparks (1962)

Dear Clive,

Many congratulations to you and your Committee and all those associated with the OW Reunion.

It was a splendid affair much appreciated by all those present.

It surpassed everyone's expectations due entirely to the efforts of yourself and your team.

It will be long remembered and the subject of much enthusiastic conversation.

Well done!

Regards Neil Harrison 58-61

Greetings Clive,

My wife and I have just returned to Australia and we want to congratulate you and all your team for a truly wonderful and very memorable reunion. The logistics of the whole event is mind boggling.

We both had a fantastic time and was great to catch up with old UK compatriots.

Please pass on our congratulations to all involved on something that will be remembered for a very long time.

Well done!

Regards,

Keith & Toni Peggram 49-51

Clive

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you and the 'committee'.

We thoroughly enjoyed the three days at Portsmouth and it was so good to catch up with old friends and colleagues.

I am keeping some fellow AOW members informed on how things went (they couldn't make it) and I am glad to see a post Reunion news letter is being posted soon. They have also enquired on the availability of Reunion merchandise and hopefully these will continue to be available for the short term at least.

Thanks again for a great event. I should think you are ready for a well deserved 'break'.

Best Regards

Richard Curtis (1963)



Clive,

May I also add my thanks and congratulations to yourself and the committee for all the excellent arrangements during those three days. It was nostalgic, fun, and surely likely to increase support for future activities now that old friendships have been rekindled.

Please convey my thanks to all concerned and hope to be seeing many old friends again in the near future.

Kind regards

Mick Boulton 59-62

Clive:

I just wanted to add my congrats. to the many I'm sure you had re the 150th bash . Portsmouth 2012 goes down as one of my life's memorable & happy events. So great to chat again with those fellows from long ago. You, the committee & all others involved did a fantastic job. Listening to Richard's superb speech made me feel both fortunate & proud to be an OW. Many thanks & cheers to all,
Peter & Lorrie Church 55-57



Hi Clive

We have returned home after our tour of the south coast. A somewhat wet affair to say the least.

May we add our congratulations along with all the others for your excellent arrangements for the reunion.

The whole event more than lived up to expectations and it was great to meet up with fellow cadets from the past.

Best wishes

Graham & Patricia Blackler (57)

Hi Colin,

First of all a huge THANK YOU for your contribution to making our Portsmouth reunion such an outstanding event.

Notably, your updating of the website leading up to the event, and the updated attendee list kept us all excited.

Your backdrop of images during the dinner I thought was a great idea and added to the occasion, especially for our wives, for who a lot of this was all new, and it helped to make our recollections a reality for them. Thank you once again.

Now it seems that your task is not over, as according to Clive Bradbury's last e-mail you are starting again, and compiling a post reunion photo record.

Well all my photographs have been put onto a CD which I have sent my close buddies, and I am sending you a copy as well.

To try to make your task a little easier I have made a written list of the photo's and who is in them and where they are etc.

Now my daughter will send you the CD and the list in a couple of days, because I am delivering a ship in the Baltic and a bit out of the loop. I hope that there may be something among them that may be of use or interest to you, but I am sure that you will be snowed under with material and I wish you luck.!!!

Near the merchandise section at the Maritime Club, there was a video being shown on a laptop, and Bob Baldwin was taking names of who might be interested in it, and I think he said it was something to do with you, but I am not sure what it was all about. Anyway I put my name down, and would be pleased to hear if anything is available.

Thank you for your wonderful work and hope that what I sent will be of some use.

Best regards,

Charles Talbut 59-62

Dear Clive,

I apologise for the tardiness of this note of appreciation for your and the Committees tremendous effort and drive organising the 150th anniversary reunion, but we have been abroad since that event and rather consciously averting our gaze from computers.

The whole three days was absolutely splendid, great fun and moving. I personally had a slightly sleepless night after watching the film of life on the Worcester 1962-64(my dates) and seeing myself 50 years ago and while watching it standing unknowingly next to two others who also featured in it. Once I had realised that I used to have a 28 inch waist and a lot of black curly hair and now have a 40 inch waist and a bit of grey hair round the edges, and that they had decayed in equal measure, we all recognised each other.

The whole event was splendidly organised, I could not detect a single glitch(you may have a different story) and we both thoroughly enjoyed it all. THANK YOU.
With Best Regards,

John and Rose Levick. (Mizzen Port, 1962-4)

I have received a letter from Tony Maskell (51) in Australia with the International Code of Signals two flag signal 'BZ' for all involved in the organisation of the Reunion . To save risky and possibly hazardous trips to your lofts to dig out your old Worcester Signals books, you may wish to click on the website link below.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bravo_Zulu

He has only just arrived back in Australia and in the letter praises the organisation and all aspects of the reunion which both he and his wife thoroughly enjoyed.

Tony's wife, Mary, would like to pass on her warmest thanks to the three ladies who manned the Help Desk at the RMC for their help and support when she was sick, especially the night of the Guildhall Dinner.

He also mentioned that he took about 350 photos during the Reunion, a selection of which Colin Thurlow would, I am sure, be happy to include in his Reunion Website. Apart from the 80+ e-mails of congratulations and thanks that I have received on behalf of the Reunion Committee and all involved with organising the event, I have also received almost 30 letters which I intend to put into a folder and bring to the next Council meeting and the AGM next year.

Amongst them was this charming poem from Ian Walker's (55) wife, Maggie, which I think is worthy of inclusion in the next 'Dog Watch'.

Our thanks to you and all your crew
You really knew just what to do
To bring us all to celebrate
This very, very important date.

Six hundred came from far & wide
And gathered together with such pride
In Worcester who had shaped their lives
Numerous Old Boys bought their wives.

Us ladies too rejoice with you
And saviour all the things we do,
We wish for many years to come
Our friendship will continue on.

regards to all

Clive Bradbury



Dear Clive,

I feel rather ashamed that I haven't expressed my congratulations on a master piece of organisation by you and the other members of the committee before now.

My wife and I enjoyed the whole experience, meeting old friends and renewing so many old acquaintances, in fact three days full of pleasure and no responsibility, many many thanks once again.

I am now stimulated to try and organise an OW get together here in Spain.

Regards Basil Hobbs 1956

Old Worcester's can be Proud of the Committee for organising a Historic event in such a Grand style.

Advance information preparing all OW's for the travel, hotel and other details pertaining to the event was conveyed in clear and concise fashion. This information was a great help in our own planning

During the 3 days, each event was executed and conducted brilliantly.

The catering arrangements were superb on every occasion.

The Solent Cruise, the concert, Lunch at Boathouse No 7 in Dockyard, the Colours on Gunwharf Quays, the Guildhall Dinner, The Cathedral Service and finally the Reception and Buffet at Yacht Club - each event was brilliantly managed and proved a source of pleasure and joy to us all.

Full credit to Brian Beale for preparing the Special Book on HMS Worcester. It is a brilliant production and a source of many nostalgic memories.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all Committee members who provided all OW's with the opportunity to meet up with their term mates and to share in the happiness and joy of the occasion

Joan and I enjoyed the great occasion. Meeting up with my term mates from 60 years ago was a great pleasure. Memories of this Reunion will remain with me for ever.

Once again I must say that the Committee deserves great praise and full credit for the superb effort, Brilliant organisation and for making the 2012 Reunion such a Resounding Success.

Capt.S.H.M.Jaffrey

1952-1954

On behalf of my Wife and I, I would like to offer my thanks to all those who made the reunion such a pleasure to attend and for it to be such a success. To meet friends I had not seen for over 50 years and to take up conversations as if it was only yesterday was a real pleasure. The reason I had not met so many of them for so long is because I live in York and all the luncheons etc. seem to be held in the south. I was surprised to meet many OW's who like me live north of Watford Gap. Would the committee consider holding a lunch/ dinner/ weekend in York? Like me one of the Worcester committee is a Freeman of York (I think Vice Chairman) and therefore the event could be held in Bedern Hall an ancient freeman's Guildhall. I could also arrange a guided bus tour of the city and possibly reduced entry fees to some of York's famous attractions. In the days of the wool trade York was one of the biggest busiest ports in England. I hope the committee will give this proposal some consideration and thank you once again for providing such a memorable event. Kind regards,

Roger Ellison (60-63)

My Dear Clive,

We arrived home a few days ago and by now are just about recovered from the effects of the dreaded jet-lag. The weather that greeted us was rather like that which we had left behind in UK - perhaps not quite so cold but just as wet! Never mind, the south of France made up for that!

Clive, I would just like to once again congratulate you and your team for the magnificent achievement in organising the Reunion. It really was quite splendid and we thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it. It was nice to round it off with the more informal yacht club event at Hornet.

May I particularly thank you for your efforts in making the contingent from 'down-under' feel so welcome - it was a nice touch and very much appreciated by us all.

I look forward to meeting you again in the not too far distant future - perhaps at an event in this part of the world!

Once again thank you so much,

With very best wishes,

Yours aye,

Alan Caradine (51-52)

15 July 2012

Dear Clive & Sub-Committee and all others involved

Many thanks for your follow-up email 9 July and for the information.

We have been away a couple of times since the event and am thoroughly embarrassed not to have come back before now to express our huge thanks for the superb Reunion.

The imagination, planning, organisation, attention to detail, implementation etc (including having the programme etc out 15 months in advance) were truly remarkable achievements - better I'm sure than a professional events company could lay on.

I can't imagine the work and time that was put in by all those involved and I would like to think that the Association would run to a celebration dinner or something similar as a token of appreciation.

The memories and friendships borne out of those formative years is another accolade to the Worcester - it was great to catch up with shipmates (some of whom not seen for a year or so) and perhaps re-ignite those contacts. Hats off also to the many overseas OW's who made such an effort to come.

Thank you all very much indeed for the really great Reunion which must have surpassed your every expectation.

Again apologies for this belated message.

Yours sincerely

Grant (& Elinor) Whillance (54).
Sidmouth, Devon.



Very belatedly, I am writing to congratulate you and all the O.W. Committee for such a well organised 150th Reunion, enabling me to share a Dinner with friends I had not met for 65 years.

In the Cathedral I sat beside a youngster of 66, a publisher. He commented that, following chats with many old friends, he came to the conclusion that Worcester not only produced many Masters, Pilots, Admirals and an Air Marshal, but also produced Vicars, Doctors and Lawyers. among other professions; making for a most interesting mixed gathering.

Thank you for your e mail of 9th July, which refers to a Reunion website. In this respect, I ask whether it is possible to, include the speeches made at the Guild Hall Dinner.

I enjoyed them all, so far as my ancient ears allowed; but was particularly impressed with Princess Anne's forthright address.

Thank you again for an excellent and successful Reunion

Best wishes, Michael Drew

Clive's reply

Dear Michael,

Many thanks for your kind note to the 2012 Reunion Committee which I have passed on to all members involved. The greatest satisfaction to be gained by any organisers of a social occasion, and especially a reunion, is that the participants renew old friendships, have time to meet up in both an informal and formal atmosphere and go away wishing the event was not finishing, having enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

From the many kind letters of appreciation received, I believe that we achieved this goal and this is the highest reward that any organiser can receive. So, on behalf of the 2012 Committee, thank you for your kind words.

We have enquired with the Palace for a draft of HRH's speech and regret that it is not available as she personalized the draft made for her and there is no recording of actual speech was made. Richard Pocock's speech was 23 minutes and is therefore too long to include and since much of it was humorous relying on delivery, pausing and innuendo, would not translate onto the written word so well. However I hope shortly to give you a link to the website where you will be able to see all the photos.

Thank you again for your kind e-mail,

Regards,

Clive Bradbury



Clive, Chris & Roger (as well as the rest of the reunion subcommittee)

Just a note of appreciation for all the effort you put into the 2102 Portsmouth reunion, the location and events were all memorable

Expats such as I do not get to many of the annual festivities, I think the only other one I went to was on the "Wellington" decades ago

But this one was one in a lifetime and it was a thrill to be a part of it

It amazes me that a now defunct school ship with less than 250 cadets can provide so many inspirational memories and friendships

We enjoyed every minute

Sincerely

John & Audrey Vickers (58-60)

Dear Clive,

Firstly, my sincere personal thanks to you and all the Committee for the production of such a wonderful and memorable few days. The organisation, thoughtfulness and attention to detail, which was evident in every aspect of the programme, was outstanding.

Secondly, very many thanks for the link and the wonderful experience of looking through all the photographs. (...not to mention a rather unique picture of we 3 Adams together for once – something I have been trying to capture for years!!)



Very best wishes,

Paul Adams 61-64
Picture also [HERE](#)

G'day all,

After over 100 days away I've just logged into the email group again and note there seems to have been very little interaction recently, perhaps most things that had to be said were said at Portsmouth.

Presumably there have been a lot of accolades for the Portsmouth Organising Team and I'd like to add my belated congratulations, they did a magnificent job. It was a great reunion.

Mike Bartlett 1955-1957

And while I am on just my own thanks for an absolutely marvellous Reunion. It all went like clockwork which is a tribute to you and the Committee. No doubt it looked smooth but you were paddling like hell under the surface.

Thanks again for a wonderful experience

Chris Hogg
54-56

Hello Clive,

I'm remiss in not writing earlier to thank you and your great team for organizing and orchestrating such a grand Reunion event....

My only excuse is that I took advantage of the trip across the big pond to keep on going, and have only just returned to all the advantages of home. including an internet terminal. (My wife carries an I-Pad with her but, wisely, rarely lets me get my clumsy, inept fingers on it.)

You and your "Old Boys" team did a super job and we owe a sincere debt of gratitude to you all for the months of hard work that went into preparing for every event.... we can only hope you all had an opportunity to enjoy the party as much as we did. Congratulations, many thanks and very best wishes to all.

Terry Milne.
53-54



Clive,

I didn't get a chance to talk with you at the Re union but it will go down as one of the high lights of my life, thanks to the superb organisation and of course all the people who volunteered many many hours to make it so, weather wasn't much help tho. The venue was even more interesting to me as my mother, a navy brat, was brought up there. Even received music awards from the mayor at the Guildhall up on the stage where you were sitting. But as she said that was the old Guildhall before the raids during WWII. but I believe it was rebuilt with the same layout as before.

Best wishes

Peter Whitehead 53-56

Hi Clive,

Have at last returned home to Sydney after a tour of Eastern Europe. Connie and I just want to join the many others in thanking you and your committee for planning and organising such a successful Reunion. We thoroughly enjoyed every bit of it and it will remain one of the most memorable events that we have had the pleasure to attend.

Robin Ginzler (62)

Dear Clive

Have just arrived home, unpacked and settling back into normality after 7 weeks on the road. Our holiday has been one of the best we have had for years and one of the highlights was the "Worcester" Reunion. I would thus like to take this opportunity to add my comments to that of others and say that the whole thing was very well planned, put together and executed. You and the committee have to be congratulated on a first class job, a task that must have looked quite daunting when you sat down 2 years ago to start nutting it out. The things that really made that event were the Ladies manning the info desk at the RMC, the dinner photos being put on the web site, the memorabilia display and the transport arrangements. People of course make up the rest of it and catching up with ex ship mates some 50 years later is always going to be fun. A pity that the weather did not play the game. All in all a very good and enjoyable Reunion. Many thanks for the hard work and the time taken to put it all together. Anyway all the very best and congratulations for a job well done.

Best regards

Peter Marchbank (1960)



Finally - Some e-mails etc sent out by our Reunion Chairman reflecting enjoyment of the occasion

Dear Ian, Rob and Paul,

On behalf of the Reunion Committee and the Association, I would like to thank you all for officiating at our Cathedral Service which I think was one of the highlights of the Reunion.

We have received nothing but compliments and the vocal volume of the congregation when singing the hymns had the organist struggling to dominate. The turn out was exceptional and we virtually filled the Cathedral to capacity something that I understand happens rarely.

Huw Mosford's address went down well and he clearly knows with what mariners feel comfortable.

We particularly appreciate both Ian and Paul turning out in support in what was, in different ways, difficult and emotional circumstances.

So, thank you all again for your support and participation in what appears to be an overwhelmingly successful and enjoyable Reunion.

Kind regards,

Clive Bradbury

Chairman - Portsmouth 2012 Reunion

E-mail to Graham Pearson

Dear Graham,

On behalf of the 2012 Committee, the Association and particularly the OWYC, I would like to thank you for your participation in the Daily Routine of sounding the bugle for Colours and Sunset on Gunwharf Quays each day of the reunion. It

certainly added to the whole atmosphere of the event and I am told the Concert on Gunwharf Quays on the first night, when we re-enacted a day on the ship, bought tears to the eyes of a few of our members.

Even morning colours bought out a good crowd but the last sunset on the Friday night really bought out all the old lags, mainly I feel from the ribald commentary and good humour, direct from the Pub!!!

Graham, thank you again for helping give the Reunion such a great atmosphere.

Keep up the practice as we will be calling on you next time!

Kind regards,

Clive

