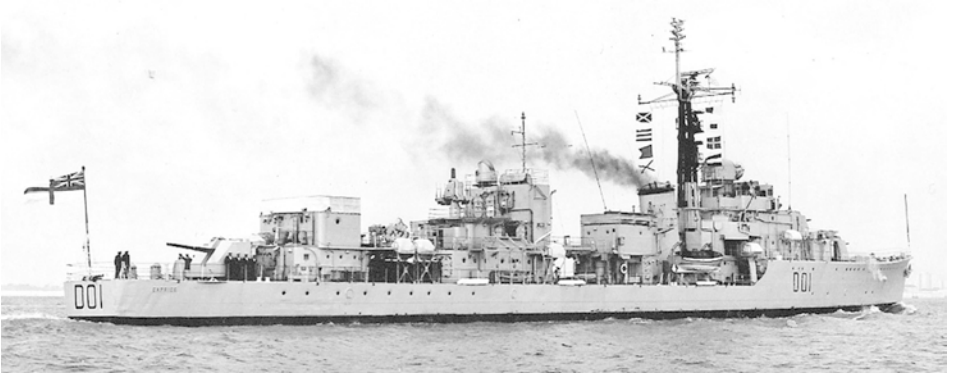




HMS Caprice (World Cruise 1968) Association



Newsletter

Aug 2011



Issue No 55



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The front cover picture was obtained by John Bishop and shows Caprice as a training ship in 1971. Apparently she was renowned at the time for her Black Smoke emissions - but then she was a **real steam ship** unlike most of the diesel/gas turbine vessels of that time!

Welcome to new members **Bert Greenough** and **Bob Hosford**.

Bert Greenough was an ERA3 onboard in 1968. He now lives near Doncaster and is coming to the Lincoln reunion (see pictures on page 3).

Bob Hosford was an LSA onboard in 1968. He now lives in Des Moines, Iowa, USA and hopes to attend next year's reunion at Portland as he has relatives in Weymouth.

Members past and present now number 85 - we will get to the ton yet!

Our best wishes to **Diane Hughes** who is currently recovering from an operation. Dave and her are not sure if they can make the reunion this year.

By the way the round tables for this year's Reunion dinner will only be seating 8 so most of the dozen or so members who asked to sit next to John Bishop are going to be disappointed! Although we try to seat folks where they ask, if you cannot hold your oppo's hand during dinner there will plenty of time afterwards!

Graham Latter

Association Website



www.hmscaprice1968.org.uk

Our website is kept fully up to date and you can view newsletters online in colour. It has had over 9000 hits to date and attracted many new members. There is also a very good picture archive of the Caprice from 1942 to 1979 up to date Association & Reunion News and a new slops page.

These 1968 photos have been sent in by Bert Greenough



MEs Robbie Roberts & Dave Silva, LME Bretnall and ERA3 Bert Greenough having escaped from one of the black holes for a breather on the quarterdeck. Taken in August 1968, somewhere in Far Eastern waters.



Bert Greenough and Wayne Mobley down in the mess deck whilst in Singapore. Its not known who the goon is in the background but it WAS tot time!



2011 Reunion at Lincoln

The 2011 reunion is at **Bentley Hotel at Lincoln** on the weekend of 30 September/ 1 October 2011. Any members who **have not booked** in and require accomodation should contact us ASAP as the hotel is no longer holding any further rooms for us. **PLEASE DO NOT** attempt to book with the Hotel direct - they will only accept bookings via the Association.

Each member attending will be receiving a Caprice 1968 momento from the Association

Routine For Reunion Weekend - Do not forget to bring along a raffle prize, wrapped in brown paper! The wackier the better! Fancy dress and head gear have proved popular at recent reunions - and the unfortunate recipient usually feels obliged to try them on!

Friday Night - Hot Buffet will be available in the Crystal Suite from 1900 to 2100. An informal evening for some general swinging the lamp . Instead of a Quiz this year John Bishop will be running a **TOMBOLA** so buy some tickets and we will see how it goes.

Saturday - Full English Breakfast in the Restuarant. Day free to explore Lincoln.

Saturday Evening - 1800 - Meet at Bar for drinks. Please be seated in Diamond Suite for 1830. Raffle prizes to be placed on the table indicated. Welcome Speech (VERY brief) followed by "Up Spirits" from Association Rum Tub - ladies will be served a choice of drink. Loyal Toast followed by Dinner. Buy your Raffle tickets. After dinner the Raffle will be followed by a disco.

Sunday Forenoon

After breakfast 1000 - AGM (short & sweet for any drips or suggestions!).

Members attending 2011 Reunion from far & wide

Graham & Jean Latter
 Brian & Pat Hobbs
 Roy Johansen & Lorraine Emerson
 Gordon & Linden Chapman (USA)
 Colin & Carol Bond (USA)
 John & Jean Bishop
 Dave Jennings
 Gordon Duffy
 Bert & Liz Greenough
 George & Pat Kirby
 John & Lynda Kennedy
 Rob Wilkinson (Spain)
 Malcolm & Pat Hawley
 Brian Turner
 Trevor Cole

Alasdair & Margaret MacFarlane
 Roger & Jennie Rivett
 Derek & Sue Crowley
 Keith & Rita Vaughan
 Brian & Eleanor Watson
 Lonnie & Shirley Skeet
 Wayne & Myra Mobley
 Dave & Linda Silva
 Phil & Jackie Evans
 Bob & Fran Logan
 Graham & Jean Wood
 Peter & Christine Coombes (France)
 Dave Cromack
 Tony Vanson



The following reunion “regulars” have sent their apologies for not being able to attend this year’s reunion due to holiday arrangements but all hope to make Portland in 2012.

Mike & Sue Smith **Colin & Sue Gannaway**
Arthur Ginn & Ann Davis **Mark & Valerie Ruddle**
Bob & Donna Mason **Frank Moore**



2012 Reunion in Portland

We have re-booked the Heights Hotel at **Portland** again for next year’s Reunion for the weekend of **5th/6th October 2012**.

Routine as for last year, with possibly a Fleet Review on Friday night!

Mark this date - it should be a good one.



Caprice History Book

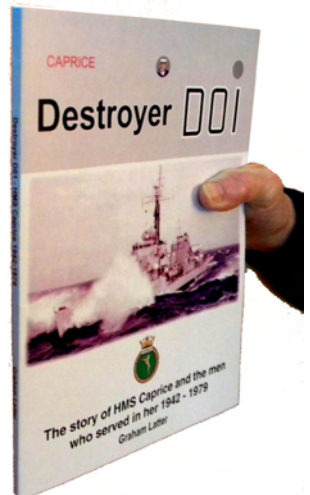
We have now sold over 67 copies of the ship’s history book. It covers the complete history of HMS Caprice from when it was laid down in 1942 until when she was finally scrapped in 1979.

Its 93 pages with over 130 photos and diagrams also describe the destroyer’s Machinery, Armament, Sonar & Radar and the two major modernisations it underwent whilst in service.

See slops page to order a copy

From Admiral Sir Ian Garnett KCB

"Thank you for your copy of the book about HMS CAPRICE which I found utterly facinating and much enjoyed reading."
 The Admiral is Chairman of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and has asked Graham Latter for proposals about a similar book for HMS Cavalier.



We
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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 were 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



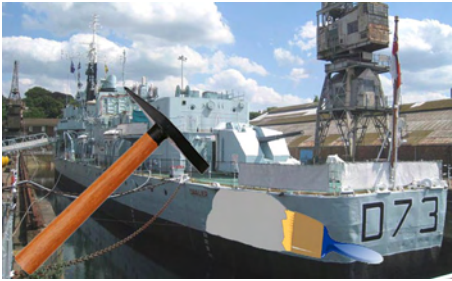
Battlefield Tour

We have had a letter from the British Legion offering the Association a group booking for a battlefield tour, (for example the D Day beaches in France). Association member Lonnie Skeet has been on several of these and says that they are good value and very interesting. If there is sufficient interest we will see what we can come up with, possibly in Spring of 2012. Please let us know if you are interested.

D-Day Landings in Normandy



HMS Cavalier Working Party



The Association maintains links with the Cavalier Volunteers, who have done a fantastic job in assisting with the renovation of the Cavalier in Chatham. If you can still wield a chipping hammer or paintbrush or whatever, why not spend a day or two at Chatham sometime? Perks include a tot and access is often possible to parts of the ship not open to the public (elf & safety), and to those fit enough. Please let us know if you are interested.

Limp-Wristed Salute



This picture should be enough to send Rip Kirby into an apoplectic G.I.s fit!

Even though the guy is a MERCHANT Navy Captain you will have seen similar examples of it in the RN, mostly



we have to say, with junior officers – maybe they were not as terrorised by GIs as ratings were during basic training. Here is how it should be done.



Slops

All profits go to Association funds
Please make out cheques to *HMS Caprice 1968 Association*

Book - Destroyer D 01

**The Story of HMS Caprice and the men
who served in her 1942-1979**

Normally £12 per copy but discounted for Association members and contributors to £9.50 per copy plus £1 P & P. Multiple copies cost £9.50 per copy plus just £1 P & P for the package.

Enamelled Crests

Badge with a brooch pin
£4.50+£1 P&P



Tie Bar
£5.50 + £1 P & P

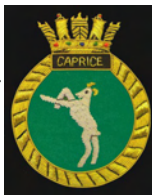


Cufflinks
£7.50+ £1 P & P



Blazer Badges

Very smart gold wire blazer badges (8 cm wide)
£11.50 Plus 50p P&P



Polo Shirts



Embroidered Crests

Embroider Caprice Crests (6.5cm wide) onto any garment of clothing for just £7.10 Just send us your shirt or whatever and we will do the necessary.



Sizes available L & XL
£16.50 Plus 1.50 P & P



Treasurer's & Spirit Room Report

FINANCES - Our bank balance remains very healthy at around £1,100, despite some recent acquisitions costing £300 (all will be revealed at the reunion!) and purchase of rum stocks. We also have £200 lodged as deposits for reunion bookings. Book sales (currently at 68 sold) and slops revenue have helped to boost the funds.

RUM - Stock is sufficient for next two reunions notwithstanding leakage!

Harry in the Spirit Room

BZ - To Roy Johansen for yet another donation to the Association. We recently gave permission for a printer to reproduce his painting of HMS Caprice for which we received £25 copyright fee.



Association Membership

We do not have many rules but thought it is timely to spell out what we mean by membership.

Full Membership is only open to any person who was on board Caprice at any time during the world Cruise of 1968 (there are no exceptions to this – its what make the Association special) UK members subs are per annum for the seeable future and payment by Standing Order is preferred. If after repeated requests a member remains in arrears with subs we stop sending out posted newsletters – they will still be shown on the members list unless they specifically ask to be removed. Currently 4 UK members are in this category.

Honorary Membership - Persons who have given outstanding service to the Association and all deceased members widows or next of kin. Honorary Members receive posted Newsletters, are very welcome at Reunions and pay no subs.

Overseas Members - From now on all paid up overseas member will receive posted Newsletters (unless they specifically request not to). Subs can be paid by:

UK Bank account (if they have one) Standing Order

PayPal – contact G. Latter

At reunions if they can attend

In US \$ notes (if they trust the post!)

Life Membership Option £50

Please DO NOT send foreign cheques – the banks will snaffle half their value!



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**.

An annual subscription of £12 is payable in January.

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The 2011 Reunion Dinner is on 1st October, 2011 at the Bentley Hotel, Lincoln

The 2012 Reunion Dinner is on 6th October, 2012 at the Heights Hotel, Portland

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

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

also - 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*