



SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION DOLPHIN BRANCH

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Spring 2014 Newsletter

Spring at last, the warmer weather does wonders for old bones, the only bugbear is that she who must be obeyed will find me plenty to do in the garden.

The NCC conference and re-union was a good weekend although the attendance was disappointing. More about the weekend can be found in 'In depth'.

I am in the process of arranging a Branch Social to take place in Southsea on a Saturday afternoon in November. It would help if members could let me know if they would be interested in attending.

The VC Blue Plaque bought from branch funds will be unveiled at Portsmouth Grammar School at 14:00 on Saturday 20th September. The plaque commemorates the exploits of Lt. Norman Douglas Holbrook VC (9th July 1888 - 3rd July 1976) who was educated at the school. If you will be attending let me know for catering purposes please.

We welcome Margot Grosse Randshuizen, the widow of branch member Gordon Grosse who crossed the bar in October last, as an associate member of the branch.

On Wednesday 18th of June Epping Town Council, Epping Forest Museum and St Johns Church and the British Legion have organised events to mark the 70th anniversary of the loss of HMS/M SICKLE which was the last Royal Naval Submarine to be lost in WWII.



- A one day exhibition of the history of the Sickle to be held at Epping Hall.

- A memorial service to be held in St Johns Church.

- Providing a permanent memorial plaque for the men of Sickle, to be placed in the Garden

of Remembrance at St Johns Church with the Civilian Memorial so that respects can be paid each and every Remembrance Sunday.

The people of Epping, Harlow and villages raised £176,000 to sponsor the vessel, which was commissioned in December 1942. Sickle spent most of her active service in the Mediterranean.

The German Navy has recently appointed its first female submarine officer, it appears.



Janine Asseln, 27, serves as the 4th watch officer on the Type 212 U31 submarine, the newspaper Bild reports. She was appointed in January, but reportedly first had to earn the respect of her fellow crew members. "Of course they poke you a little bit and check whether you can do the job," she says. As the only female member of a 28-strong crew, Asseln shares a bunk bed with a male colleague. "Everybody has their own sleeping bag," she says, demonstrating there is a curtain that can be drawn for privacy.

German women have only had full access to military careers since 2001, after a constitutional ban on serving in armed units was repealed.

Bild notes that Norway already has a female submarine commander. But it adds that in a few years, Janine Asseln may follow suit in Germany.

The first Royal Naval female Submarine Officers are undergoing training now.

An Irishman got off a train with a face as white as a sheet. A friend asked him what was wrong.

"Travel sickness," said the Irishman. "Whenever I travel by train, I always feel sick when I sit with My back to the engine."

"Why didn't you ask the person sitting opposite you to change places?" Said the friend.

"I thought of that," replied the Irishman, "but there wasn't anybody there."

An old sailor went to a brothel and chose a girl. As they got down to it, he asked: "How am I doing?"

"Three knots," she replied.

"Three knots? What do you mean?"

"You're not hard, you're not in and you're not getting your money back."