

EXETER WHITE ENSIGN CLUB

CLUB

THE QUEEN

GOD BLESS HER



NEWSLETTER

Date.....-June.....2013

Dear Minister,

I'm in the process of renewing my passport but I am at a total loss to understand or believe the hoops I am being asked to jump through.

How is it that Bert Smith of TV Rentals Basingstoke, has my address, telephone number and knows that I bought a satellite dish from them back in 1994, and yet, the Government is still asking me where I was born and on what date ?

How come that nice West African immigrant chappy who comes round every Thursday night with his DVD rentals van can tell me every film or video I have had out since he started his business up eleven years ago, yet you still want me to remind you of my last three jobs, two of which were with contractors working for the government?

How come the TV detector van can tell if my TV is on, what channel I am watching and whether I have paid my licence or not, and yet if I win the government run lottery they have no idea I have won, or where I am and will keep the bloody money to themselves if I fail to claim in good time, do you people do this by hand?

You have my birth date on numerous files you hold on me, including the one with all the income tax forms I've filed for the past 30-odd years. It's on my health insurance card, my driver's licence, on the last four passports I've had, and all those stupid customs declaration forms I've had to fill out before being allowed off the planes and boats over the last 30 years, and all those insufferable census forms that are done every ten years and the electoral registration forms I have to complete by law, every time our lords and masters are up for re-election.

Would somebody please take note, once and for all, I was born in Maidenhead on the 4th of March 1957, my mother's name is Mary, her maiden name was Reynolds, my father's name is Robert, and I'd be absolutely astounded if that ever changed between now and the day I die! I apologise Minister. I'm obviously not myself this morning. But between you and me, I have simply had enough!

You mail the application to my house, then you ask me for my address. What is going on? Do you have a gang of Neanderthals working there? Look at my damn picture. Do I look like Bin Laden? I don't want to activate the Fifth Reich for God's sake! I just want to go and park my weary backside on a sunny, sandy beach for a couple of week's well-earned rest away from all this crap.

Well, I have to go now, because I have to go to back to Salisbury and get another copy of my birth certificate because you lost the last one. AND to the tune of 60 quid! What a racket THAT is!! Would it be so complicated to have all the services in the same spot to assist in the issuance of a new passport the same day? But nooooo, that'd be too damn easy and maybe make sense.

You'd rather have us running all over the place like chickens with our heads cut off, then find some tosser to confirm that it's really me on the goddamn picture - you know... the one where we're not allowed to smile in case we look as if we are enjoying the process! Hey, you know why we can't smile? 'Cause we're totally jacked off! I served in the armed forces for more than 25 years including over ten years at the Ministry of Defence in London.

I have had security clearances, which allowed me to sit in the Cabinet Office, five seats away from the then Prime Minister while he was being briefed on the first Gulf War and I have been doing volunteer work for the British Red Cross ever since I left the Services. However, I have to get someone "important" to verify who I am --you know, someone like my doctor... who, before he got his medical degree 6 months agoWAS LIVING IN PAKISTAN !!!!!

Yours sincerely, An Irate British Citizen

A Boulton 535

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE 2013

Sunday 2nd June	Bingo tonight
Monday 3rd	Line Dancing from 19:30
Tuesday 4th	Euchre in the evening. Jazz club in the Mountbatten Lounge and the Ukelele band in the Wheelhouse.
Wednesday 5th	Bingo tonight
Thursday 6th	A.M Wrens & British Legion meeting pm.
Friday 7th	Club night with quiz Treasure chest and meat raffles.
Saturday 8th	Dancing to "Just for the Record "D.Day" themed Evening so wear your red white and blue tonight with a buffet at £1-50 per head.
Sunday 9th	Bingo tonight
Monday 10th	Line Dancing tonight 19:30 -21:30
Tuesday 11th	RAF meeting am-Guards meeting pm; Euchre in the evening.
Wednesday 12th	Bingo tonight
Thursday 13th	Royal Marines meeting this evening
Friday 14th	Club night with quiz Treasure chest and meat raffles. Buffs meeting in the wheel house.
Saturday 15th	Small party am. Dancing tonight to Sounds Easy, long time favourites of the Saturday night dancers.
Sunday 16th	Lounge booked 09:00-10:00 for meeting. Bingo tonight
Monday 17th	Line Dancing tonight 19:30 -21:30
Tuesday 18th	Euchre in the evening and the Ukelele band in the Wheelhouse.
Wednesday 19th	Bingo tonight
Thursday 20th	Nothing yet scheduled for this evening

Friday 21st	Club night with quiz Treasure chest and meat raffles
Saturday 22nd	Dancing tonight with RIO, a favourite theme tonight so get on your cowboy / girl clothes and enjoy a great evening.
Sunday 23rd	Bingo tonight
Monday 24th	Visit at 16:00 from the Yaroslavl Twinning association in the presence of the Lord Mayor. The Association entertains in their own special way so come along and have an interesting and enjoyable hour or so. Line dancing may be a little late tonight.
Tuesday 25th	Euchre and skittles in the evening. NB Committee meeting tonight 19:30 prompt.
Wednesday 26th	Bingo tonight.
Thursday 27th	Police Association meeting Club open as usual Members meeting 20:00 Families need.Fathers evening meeting.
Friday 28th	Club night with quiz Treasure chest and meat raffles. Buffs meeting in the Wheelhouse
Saturday 29th	Club music with Malcolm tonight from 20:00
Sunday 30th	Bingo tonight.

Dear Members

Here we are heading out of the spring and the first shoots of new growth are showing through in the gardens but there is still the chance of frosts etc. Not too dissimilar to the Club really as the work your chairman, committee officers and the committee members have been doing are now showing signs of paying off and the finances are looking healthier now than for a very long time.

The numbers attending for the various activities continue to increase slowly but surely, this continuing trend month on month is extremely encouraging and augers well for the future. But there is still a long way to go and with your continued support the future looks very much brighter so give yourselves a big pat on the back as you have earned it. The use of the club facilities by other Organisations also continues to grow and this too is very welcome.

At the April Committee meeting it was reported that once again the locking system on the entrance door had been broken. It is thought that this is probably due to members and / or their guests wedging the door open for various purposes. This practice also led to an incident during the month when a person who was not a club member came into the club with her dog; entered the Mountbatten Lounge and tried to get to the Wheelhouse before going through the main hall to the toilets. She eventually left after some 10 minutes in the club. Security at the club is paramount so if you do wedge the door open (you are asked not to please) then be sure you check on any person passing you to gain access.

Since the last newsletter the Committee has increased by 2 with Mike Amor and Mervyn Strudwick both volunteering to assist where needed; welcome to you both.

This month saw the passing of Graham Dower, a founder member of the club and until ill health interceded was a regular attender. After the service at the Crematorium the family held a private wake while the club hosted a wake for those that came back. Up spirits and a eulogy by Reg Greenham took place. On a related matter, our thoughts are with Roy Pike and Ivor Blaker both of whom are experiencing significant ill health difficulties at the time of writing. We wish them both our hopes for a speedy recovery. It was also good to see May back in the club after a prolonged illness and we trust that all that is now behind her.

Following the previous invitation to make suggestions which you feel may be of benefit to the club and / or of interest to the members a proposal to set up a skittles league has been received. If you are interested a list has been started and you will find joining details on the notice board.

The table top sale took place on the 25 May when goods donated by members and others were offered for sale in aid of the Club funds. At the time of writing £300-00 had been raised and a donation of £50-00 has been made from those funds to Hospicare so once again a big thank you to all concerned.

It would not be right to leave this without a great big thank you to Marion, Shirley, Jen and all the others who gave up their time to make this event the success it was.

To conclude this month's newsletter, could I advise you that the Christmas Draw tickets will go on sale shortly and your support for this big fund raising event, which has always been terrific, would be welcome once more.

Until next month.....

<http://exeterwhiteensignclub.co.uk/>

FIENDISH

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DIFFICULT

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The Loss of HMS *Royal George*

THE SINKING OF THE *ROYAL GEORGE*

The *Royal George* was built at Woolwich Dockyard and was launched on the 18th February 1756. She was a 100 gun first rate ship of the line. She was present at the battle of Quiberon Bay and the 1780 Battle of Cape St Vincent under Admiral Rodney (known as the 'Moonlight battle').

In August 1782, she was the flagship of Rear-Admiral Richard Kempenfelt and her Captain was Martin Waghorn. On the 29th August, she was laying off Spithead Anchorage, near Portsmouth, awaiting stores. At seven o'clock in the morning, stores tenders arrived, also carrying dockyard plumbers and shipwrights who were coming to begin work on a cistern pipe to provide water for the washing decks. To do this, a hole needed to be bored into the side. The carpenter requested for the ship to be heeled (leant slightly to one side) and orders were given for the lower deck larboard guns to be run out and the starboard guns pulled back to the combings. Unfortunately, this did not give a sufficient heel, so the upper deck and three of the middle deck guns were run across and shot rolled to larboard to give enough list for the work to take place.

After breakfast, Captain Waghorn was on the upper deck when the carpenter announced that the ship appeared to be settling into the water. The guns were ordered to be run in and the weather side guns were run out in order to right the ship. Drummers were ordered to beat to quarters. Minutes later, the ship sank with no warning, not heeling over at all.

No accurate number is available for the amount of people who were drowned in the disaster because of all the extra dockyard workers and visitors to the ship, such as women and children visiting the men. It is claimed that over 300 people survived, but figures for those lost range from 900 - 1200. Admiral Kempenfelt was among those lost, although Captain Waghorn was among those rescued.

At the court-martial regarding the loss of the ship, a survey of the ship revealed that several beams and timbers were rotten and it was given that the most likely cause of the sinking was that part of the frame of the ship gave way under the stress of the heel.

Some parts of the ship were salvaged later, including the bell which hung in the cupola of the church in Portsmouth Dockyard (now St Anns.) and other materials from later salvage attempts were made and sold as relics.

EXETER WHITE ENSIGN CLUB

"TOGETHER FOR MUTUAL SUPPORT"



**SUPPORT
YOUR
CLUB.**

