



HMS Penelope Association 37th Reunion Report

16^h – 18th February 2024

Carlton Hotel Blackpool

The Penelope Association held its 37th Annual reunion at The Best Western Carlton Hotel in Blackpool over the weekend of 16-17th February 2024.

There was a visit to the Blackpool Sea Cadets on Friday evening with the Cadets putting on displays for the Association members present. The Association awarded a prize to the top Cadet of the year of a week on the ship TS Royalist.

The Association held it's AGM on Saturday morning at the Best Western Carlton Hotel.

Later on Saturday, a memorial service was conducted by the Rev'd Canon Dr Simon Cox RNR at the Fylde Arboretum to mark the 80th Anniversary of the sinking of the Cruiser HMS Penelope and a wreath laid on the HMS Penelope plaque.

In the evening we had a Gala dinner at the Carlton Best Western hotel where the guests included the Mayor of Blackpool Councillor Mayor Gillian Campbell, the Rev'd Canon Dr Simon Cox RNR, Sea Cadet CO Kay Jackson and several members of the Sea Cadet Unit. The Association

President Cdre Paul Sutemeister opened the evening and the Rev'd Canon Dr Simon Cox RNR gave grace, a candle was then lit to absent friends. The Hotel laid on a fantastic 3 course meal which was followed by a Rum Tot to toast King Charles III. After an entertaining raffle we retired to the bar where a few dits and general chat ensued before bed.

On Sunday morning the Sea Cadet unit hosted the Annual Remembrance Service again taken by the Rev'd Canon Dr Simon Cox RNR. Mayor of Blackpool Councillor Mayor Gillian Campbell, Cdre Sutemeister and members of the Association attended.

After, we returned to the Best Western Carlton Hotel for a buffet lunch. The afternoon was free time.

In the evening, everyone retired to the bar area where Leo Whisstock hosted a game of play your cards right and Mike Bee conducted a short quiz before more dits, chat and some farewells before bed.

I would like to thank outgoing Secretary Paul (Harry) Harrison for organising the reunion weekend especially as we moved Hotels this year.

I have now taken up the position of Association Secretary for the coming year and look forward to working together with the other committee members.

Moving forward the 38th HMS Penelope Association reunion will take place over the weekend 14-16th February 2025 and again will be held at the Carlton Best Western Hotel 282 North Blackpool FY1 2EZ.

The hotel have given the price for arriving on Friday 14th February for the three nights DBB the rate of £141.50 per person based on a standard room. For an upgrade to sea view there will be an additional charge of £15.00 per night and this is subject to availability. Please book early to avoid disappointment

For those not staying at the Best Western Carlton Hotel the cost of the Gala dinner will be £26.50 per person.

To book, contact the Carlton Hotel direct, mentioning that you will be with the HMS Penelope Association.

Web: bwblackpool.com

Email: reception@bwblackpool.com

Telephone: 01253 628 966

John Swaysland.

HMS Penelope Association Secretary.

Telephone: 07712152101

Email: swayse1961@gmail.com