



Website - <https://we-remember-submariners.com>

Registered as a Charity in England and Wales- CIO Reg No 1176446



We Remember Submariners Newsletter January 2018

Firstly, on behalf of the trustees and myself, We Remember Submariners (WRS) would like to thank you for your continued and generous support, not only over the last year but since our inception.

The last year has been very busy time for us here at WRS. We have been working very hard applying for Charity status. As you can imagine this has not been easy and has produced many interesting challenges. However, we can report all the hard work and effort has now paid off and we were accepted by the England & Welsh Charity Commission on the 22rd December 2017. Now the real work has just begun.

ARA San Juan

With the tragic loss of the ARA San Juan in November, we have seen a lot of support and decided to commission a special one-off Remembrance Pin. This is now available with; all profits being donated to the Families of the ARA San Juan Crew. The pins will remain available via our Website shop, whilst we still have stock. Any additional donations made when purchasing a pin are included.



If you have ordered any if these pins like all orders if not paid for they will not be sent.

I am led to believe that all orders which have been paid for have been posted.

To date we have raised just over £4,000 which is rising slowly as demand has slowed down.

Annual Pin Pledge

At our annual conference the decision was made to change the dates for the Annual Pin Pledge. The 2018 Pin qualifying dates are 1st July 2017 - 31st December 2017 and all following years will now run from the 1st January - 31st December. The 2018 Pin Pledge list is now closed and the 2019 one is open.

We are still working on the design for the 2019 Pin and as soon as we have decided it will be put on the Website.



2018 Pin

The 2018 pin will be available for sale from 1st August. As in all other years for those that have pledged a payment, an email will be sent in June / July detailing how to pay for your 2018 Pin. If you did not manage to make the pledge list, we will be selling them from the Website shop as normal

The Gold Poppy on our Annual Pin

This is to clarify the about the Gold Poppy on our annual Pin. The qualification for Gold Poppy on our annual Pins are.

Any Serving UK Submariner or any Pledge Retired Submariner Who Cross the Bar during the current Pledge year, will qualify to be represented as a Gold Poppy on that Pin.

For Example, we are now in 2018 and have opened the Pin Pledge for 2019. So, during 2018 if you fill the qualification as above you will be represented on the 2019 Pin with a Gold Poppy.

Therefore, it is important to make sure your annual Pin Pledge is made as early as possible as soon as the new year Pin List has opened.

Gift Aid

Now we have Charity Status we will be able to claim Gift Aid on various items, Pledged Pins and some items in the shop, so long as you are a UK Tax payer. We will be asking for your support in completing required documents as we work with HMRC, as we will be able to claim back up to 4 years' worth of gift-aid. All monies to benefit those we support.

Voting members

In accordance with our terms of reference with the charity commission we need to have voting members to assist the trustees and ensure we run the charity in a fit and proper way. We will shortly be advertising for volunteers to become voting members, we are looking for people who have some experience in website administration (Joomla) and social media, finance and accounting or admin experience. If you feel you have the necessary skills, please contact the chairman for an informal chat.

Rugby Shirts

With thanks to Steve Thorpe and Terri, we have launched the WRS rugby shirt, these are now available to pre-order from the shop, and should be available for delivery at the start of April. We have tried to keep the cost down whilst still adding to our finances to assist worthy causes.

On-line shop

We will shortly be going live with a new payment method, which will be able to take card payments from yourselves without having to leave the site, which has caused some confusion over the past year and we apologise for this.

Some photos from 2017



Website

During this time we have developed a new Website with better functionality, which is now the front door for ALL Pin Pledges and although challenging at times, we believe this is the correct way forward and in line with our Charity requirements and are currently working on ways to make it easier to pay on-line directly at the shop.

Reported Website problems

I can assure you that the website was not having any problems when we made the 2017 Pin or the ARA San Juan Pin available in the shop. However, the only problem found was to do with your address as shown on the [My Pin Pledge](#) page after you logged on. This was caused by Webmaster creating an indexing error when changes were made to simplify the Pin Pledge Process.

So, We would urge you all to log onto the [My Pin Pledge](#) and check your address, and if needed select the Edit Profile Link and update it.

WRS are fully aware we have a lot of support from those who are not familiar to using the Internet and Websites and/or email systems. We do ask where possible you get your family members to help and assist you in such matters. Our webmaster is happy to help anybody who are having troubles, but most of your question may be answered on the Website's [FAQ Page](#). The Webmaster is very busy working extremely hard on our behalf, on new and better functionality for the Website which should in turn improve this, so if you can sort it for yourself, then it will give him more time for this work. That said please do contact him via email support@we-remember-submariners.com and not through the Facebook pages as he cannot see every post or comment and is very happy to assist.

We have also been able to bring back the online shop, which has done very well in the short time in which it has been live along with a new product the Challenge Coin. We are looking at potential new items. So if you have any suggestions then please email the Shop on shop@we-remember-submariners.com and we can assess these suggestions.

The Website is going to be further developed and it is the intention of WRS to make this the method of displaying what we are all about and what we have been doing (which has been quite a lot during the year).

Facebook

WRS is now a Charity and not a Facebook Group / Page, although we will maintain a Facebook presence, we have made a lot of changes to the Terms and Conditions (T&C's) of both our Facebook pages WRS & Friends of (FOWRS), which are continually being developed. Due to these changes we are asking all our supporters of both these pages to check and make sure they are a member of both as well as updating yourselves of these changes regularly.

The WRS page is and will be a Condolence, Funeral notification and Memorial Remembrance (where WRS was represented) page only. From time to time we may post an informational message, but this will be removed when no longer required.

All anniversaries for Remembrances and general notices including Pin information, etc. are to be put up on the FOWRS Page, along with questions you may want to ask.

In line with WRS making the Website the main source of information, a lot of Facebook posts will simply let you know that there has been an update and further information can be found on the Website. There are two main reasons for this, one to avoid additional work and replication. Secondly, we want the whole world to be able to see what it is we are doing because not everybody wants to be on Facebook.

Support provided during 2017

During the past few months we have made a couple of small donations from people who have sought our help. One of which was the second world war veteran that was beaten up in his own home. We have rehoused an electric scooter with a retired submariner after its previous owner sadly passed away. We have placed three benches in park areas which that have a naval or submariner attachment.

In the new year we will be launching a Bursary scheme for sea cadets to undertake a week's sail training. This is going to be called the Keith Bishop Memorial Bursary. We are also asking for anybody that believes that they have a good cause that would benefit from our support and we will be looking to identify three more suitable locations for benches for the coming year. As you can see there are a lot of things that will be happening.

Please do contact us by email if you have any suggestions or ideas. All contact details can be found on the Website.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Regards

Nigel Mellor

Chairman We Remember Submariners

<https://we-remember-submariners.com>

A Few Of Our Brothers who crossed the Bar in 2017



25/09/1944 - 01/08/2021



Keith was a Trustee of WRS and a very good friend to many.