



## ASWI CHAIRMAN NEWS LETTER 2011

5 December 11

Dear Members

As we approach the end of this year I thought it fitting to send out a seasonal message and of course point out all the positive issues and events that have occurred this year.

Firstly, it was with great regret that I had to make the decision not to hold an annual dinner and dance in 2010. Financial constraints and ever decreasing numbers of members and guests at our annual get together are making the organisation of this event increasing difficult.

Not one to give up however, I was assured by a large majority of members from all areas of the country (in particular a fact finding visit to the Guzz area in Feb this year) that we should make every effort to hold our historic annual event, bearing in mind all the constraints of cost and travel etc.

Consequently I have the absolute delight in reporting that this year's annual Dinner and Dance held on the 15<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Hotel Balmoral in Torquay Devon, was nothing more than a complete success.

The association members and guests (some 48 in total) who attended the weekend event enjoyed excellent food, great company and of course at a very reasonable cost. A special mention must go to our Web master, Bob Burton, for his illustrious efforts in negotiating with the hotel and ensuring the weekend ran extremely smoothly.

Plans for 2012 annual reunion AGM and Dinner and Dance are well under way and will be published on our website once venue and date are known.

Portsmouth area members and guests have enjoyed a busy year of social events throughout 2011. Regular monthly socials, in particular, the popular American Supper and Raffle nights have ensured numbers attending have averaged over 20 per function. The raffles held this year have raised £248, which will provide funding for the now postponed Christmas Supper evening that was to be held on Fri 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 11, but will now be held on Fri 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012 as a Valentines Supper evening. Please see the Web site for all other socials and events throughout 2012.

We also attended and thoroughly enjoyed a joint social at the club house in July this year, where members from the GI's, ASWI's and Ganges associations enjoyed a superb HOG Roast and live entertainment.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Rankin, the GI's Club House manager and bar man, for unwavering support and enthusiasm at all our social events.



I'd like to pay particular thanks to the association committee members who I haven't mentioned so far, namely Pete Hill, Andy Gleave and Bill Bailey for their continued efforts in our endeavours to provide the service that our members are accustomed too.

It would also be remiss of me not to mention the support we enjoy from the members wives; all of who do so much to help maintain the symmetry within the association, doing so much to help at our social events.

I'd like to dwell a pause of two marching paces and remember those who crossed the bar in 2011 – Absent Friends.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Yours Aye

Peter