

## From the Editor



The newest "Titanic" memorial in Southampton is this one which was installed in the docks by ABP, with the help of the British Titanic Society, during 1993. Shown above are the then Harbour Master, Captain Malcolm Ridge, "Titanic" survivor Miss Millvena Dean and Canon Stef Roberts at the small dedication ceremony at which your editor was also present and took this photo. Miss Dean is now one of only two remaining survivors of the disaster. The stone and plaque, a memorial to the passengers and crew, was originally positioned on the seaward side of Ocean Gate (the ABP office block) at 45 berth, overlooking the Ocean Dock from where the Titanic sailed. Members of the public were afforded access but the open dock was deemed to be too much of a hazard and a couple of years ago the memorial was moved to just inside No.4 Gate, on the left.

In this edition, on page 6, I have elaborated on Reg Kelso's previous report on the Volumes of the Roll of Honour that the Club now has in its possession, in the expectation that they will now be afforded the dignity and respect that is their due.

Well, that's enough of memorials to be going on with for the time being. I would dearly like to bring you something a bit more modern as I fear we are in danger of getting bogged down in the past. I can, however, only work with what I am given so this is really another re-working of that well known editors' refrain, "Give me some copy. Please!"

On the following page you will find the first of the personal letters that Ian Thomson's great grandfather wrote home to his wife while he was master on the tea clipper "Skawfell", and which I intend to present to you as an occasional series. First to be presented to you, not the first that he wrote home, if you get my drift. I hope that you will find them as interesting as I do, with their almost Dickensian flavour. This one is dated 1863, six

years before the launch of the "Cutty Sark", and already the freight rates are starting to waver due to the high tea prices.

Reg Kelso has also come up with a slightly later tale of shipwreck and hardship in the sailing ship days but I shall hold that one over until another time, otherwise you will be getting too much of a good thing.

I have filled in the back page with a gentle tale of yesteryear (only 55 years old, this one) from Past Captain Gordon Renshawe (1987). It has been in my "pending" file for a couple of years and I thought that I had already used it here. It appeared in "Sea Breezes" in July 1981 and I am trusting that the copyright still rests with Gordon and that he won't sue me. I'll have to take my chances with the picture.

Our [www.cachalots.org.uk](http://www.cachalots.org.uk) web site is up and stumbling, if not exactly running. I try to keep it updated when I can but I have little idea of how, or even if, it is being received. Perhaps I should try and install one of those little counter thingys to record how many "visitors" the site has had, but then that might depress me. We still intend to install a members' only section when time allows. If you have any constructive comments, please don't hesitate to give me a nudge.

As far as the electronic version of this newsletter is concerned, I have now come across a great little tool that facilitates sending large files painlessly over the internet. It is a free application called Pando and it was featured in issue 237 of "Computer active" magazine. Basically, I download the complete, original "Cachalot" file to Pando and their server sends it on to you, prompting you to download the required software first. The whole thing only takes a few minutes on broadband and you will get the original version in all its glory and in colour to boot.

It's really easy and seems to work well. As well as testing it with the previous edition I have also successfully downloaded a video clip from my niece in California.

Send me your e-mail address and give it a try, or, you can download the Pando package from [www.computeractive.co.uk/2183223](http://www.computeractive.co.uk/2183223)

Finally, I am loath to report it, in case it deters you from visiting the Club, but the parking fees have gone up in Southampton (again!) College Street has gone up from 80p an hour to £1, an increase of 25%, and Platform Road from 90p to £1. The wardens are quite zealous, Ian Odd was fined because his ticket was upside down, presumably having blown that way when he shut the car door. Please don't let this corporate extortion stop you from coming in to enjoy the company anyway.

Ed