

## Benefits of Joining the TON Class Association



TCA is about maintaining friendships between former shipmates and keeping alive that special “Spirit of the TONs” that distinguished life between all ranks and specialisations in those jaunty little ships.

We do that in several ways: via our quarterly magazine TON Talk, our Website and Facebook page, plus we hold a Reunion each year in October, together with regional gatherings from time to time for a wet and swinging the lantern.

We have also published three books and four monographs on TONs and our Slops Chest sells items of TCA-badged clothing and other souvenirs.

**Our Magazine** includes dits from our experiences of serving aboard TONs in younger, more carefree days, items of historical interest concerning mine counter measures, the ships and equipment used in times past, developments in the fast-moving modern robotic technology of MCM and news of the modern MCM force.

Recent back numbers of TON Talk can be read on our website.

**Our Website** covers the story of our Association and brief histories of each Coastal and Inshore Mine CounterMeasures Vessel, together with other items relevant to the Association, such as links to related websites and newsletters.

**Our Facebook** page is a closed group, with access limited to members of TCA; so no spam, adverts or inappropriate messages. It is a very useful channel for informal exchange of news and views or photos and an ideal way to make contact with former shipmates.

**Our Photo Archive** contains over 1000 photos of TONs and their ships’ companies, covering all aspects of their activities from fitting out at Diligence to deployments round the world. We can provide jpg images of most ships.

**And the cost ? A mere £15 per year – What a bargain !**

*We welcome as Associate Members those who served in subsequent classes of MCMVs; Rivers, Sandowns and Hunts, plus the wider community of OPVs and the new grouping of PUXD, who continue the role of the TONs in MCM, coastal patrols and Fishery Protection.*

### Whatever happened to Old Chalky ?

TCA is frequently asked if we can help trace former shipmates, but regrettably, TCA does not retain crew lists of TONs.

Some 35 - 40, 000 men served in TONs throughout the 40-year life span of those 118 ships, and that would be an enormous database to compile, plus it is doubtful whether, and where, we might find manning records after all this time.

However, if you would like to tell us the name(s) of the sailor(s) you are looking for, we could check if he/they are members of TCA and put you in touch.

Also we could put a note in our magazine TON Talk and on our Website and Facebook page, asking him/them to contact you. We regularly do this and it often works - but no guarantees are claimed ...

TCA has members in 24 countries round the world and our magazine regularly receives information about them from places far and wide.

**To join TCA** just go to the Membership section of our website [www.tcaminesweepers.co.uk](http://www.tcaminesweepers.co.uk) and either join on-line, or download a Membership Application Form and send it to Membership Secretary Dennis Cook at the address indicated. ***We look forward to welcoming you.***