

THE BOND

NEWSLETTER of the FEDERATION of CUSTOMS & EXCISE and REVENUE RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATIONS and the RETIRED MEMBERS SOCIETY of the RCSL

APRIL 2009

VOLUME 13: ISSUE 5

EDITORIAL.

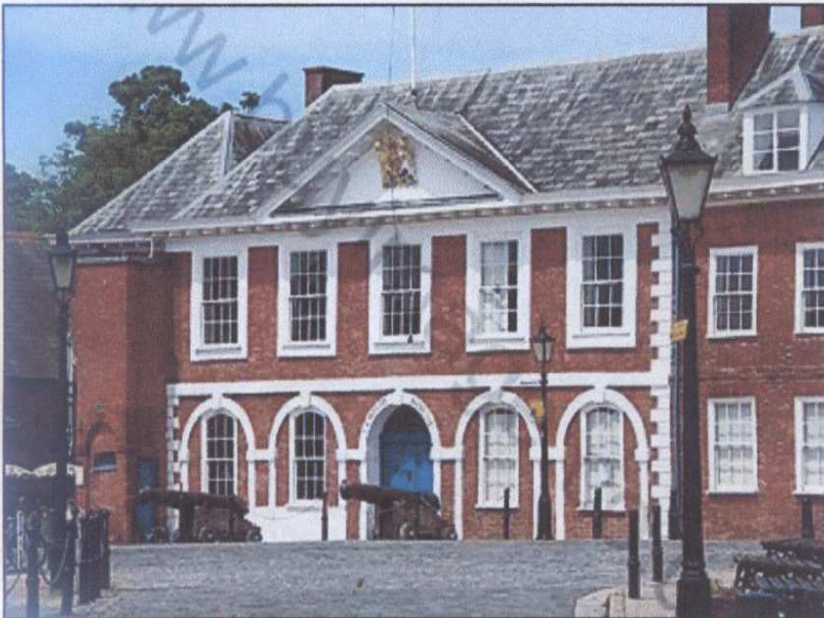
Some of you may be aware that Ivor Davis of Gravesend offered to take over the Editorship of THE BOND, when David Taylor resigned. He has invested considerable time and effort for which we are very grateful, but a combination of I.T. problems and an extremely busy calendar with the “Secretaryship” of several retired Associations have proved trying. So with Ivor's agreement I have taken over the role. I have embodied along with the FoCERRSA and RMS business items 3 items on OLD Custom Houses and 2 obituaries he had produced. An historical note on Lewis Payne will appear in a future edition.

Paul Houghton Hon Sec FoCERRSA & Editor

Gravesend Custom House



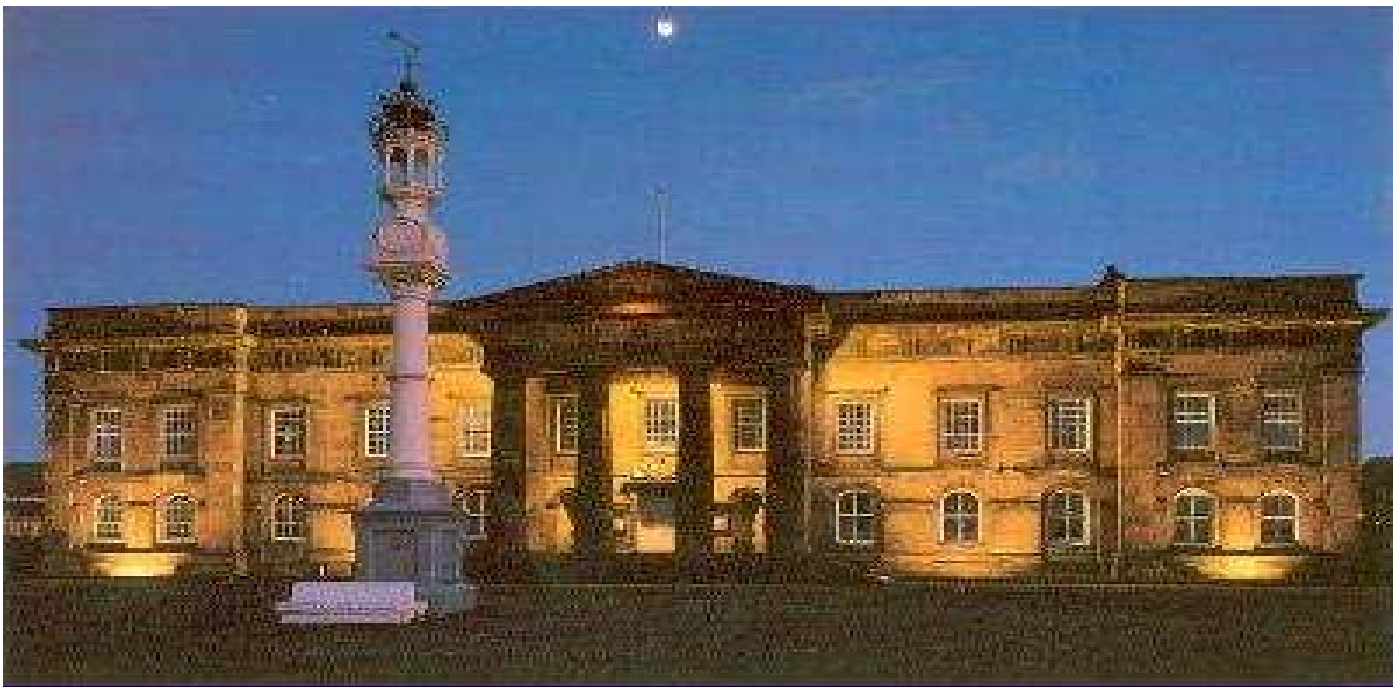
This is another historic building constructed in 1815. It has a very interesting structure which is far too intricate to detail here but I hope to do more about this later and maybe produce a DVD . **Ivor Davies**



The beautiful **Exeter Custom House** as I saw it some years ago. It is, of course, now deserted but not, as yet demolished. I did hear that it was to be converted into a museum of local art and object to do with fishing, model boats and even some full size fishing boats with perhaps some Customs & Excise memorabilia. Let us hope so? So many have been sold off as private houses or turned into flats and thus lost forever. **Ivor**

Greenock Custom House

Pictured below and by night is the very beautiful little Custom House at Greenock which I visited two years ago. I was - irrationally - surprised that it looked just like a miniature of the Custom House, London. It had a smaller but very similar Long Room with a Front Desk, complete with brass reading lamps thereon, for the agents to present their Reports and Entries and a Cash Box for payments. None of which are now in use. But there were staff at desks behind the counter. It did not appear to be much different from the old days. Within the walls and between the windows were the cupboards which in times past con-



tained the very large box files - common to all Long Rooms - in which the multitude of different file copies of documents were stored. The building contained a small but comprehensive museum on the first floor with by a very pleasant and helpful Curator.over

However the most impressive thing about the whole building was the entrance hall which very high and included the first floor balcony. All of which were carpeted with a blue carpet which had the crown and portcullis badge of the department - eighteen inches or two feet square all over it. It was very, very beautiful.. I was sad to leave that House knowing that it was so far away from home that I would probably never see it again! *Ivor Davis*

OBITUARIES.

With sadness we now report the passing of a number of colleagues :-

John Dickerson 1932-2009

John died on January 25th following a recent recurrence of a previous illness. Born in Glasgow in 1932, John joined the Customs Service after completing his National Service in Egypt. He served as a Waterguard Officer in Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Cyprus before being elevated to the Investigation Division. From the ID he transferred to Heathrow CIU before his final official move to Surveyor, Weymouth Customs.

In his younger days John enjoyed fly fishing, rowing and dinghy sailing and in preparation for his retirement he purchased a 31ft sloop, Lesley Jane, which heralded a sixteen year love affair with sailing. John approached this project with his customary thoroughness and became a highly accomplished yachtsman.

Many were the friends and colleagues who admired his seamanship as well as enjoying his generosity, his companionship and his dry wit as they crewed for him in the waters around Weymouth and on his regular trips to France and the Channel Islands.

John was a much loved husband, father, grandfather and brother. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and colleagues, and, of course, by his devoted wife, Moira, to whom we all extend our most sincere condolences. **Bryan Liddle February 2009.**

Mike Moffatt, PO,

Mike Moffatt, PO, died on 17 January after a short illness, and his funeral took place from St. Luke's, Wincanton, on 30 January. Many colleagues will remember him from his spells at Southampton (twice, I think), Enniskillen, Avonmouth and Heathrow (at least twice). Additionally, during his Enniskillen tour, he spent some time in North Africa! He was a radio specialist, in the Class Z reserve, and the REME thought he might help in resolving the Suez difficulty. I well remember that we poured him on to a train one afternoon in Enniskillen - and 48 hours later he was in Libya. In retirement, Mike was a well-kent face around Wincanton and I spent some happy hours with him and his drouthy neighbours, though, latterly, mobility problems restricted his activities. His wife, Anne, predeceased him by about a year. RIP. **Gerry Lynch**

Britain's least known cross-country champion remembered at last after more than 80 years.

Lewis Payne was the winner of the International cross-country championship in 1927 and died in 2008 at the age of 100. Yet despite his long life he remains one of the least known of Britain's athletics title-holders of the 20th Century. *Full article in a future edition. PJH*

SPORTS DIARY Events for your Diary 2009



Date **Event**

Contact

23 and 24 April 2009 CSSC Men's Hancock and Evans Hockey, Nottingham Adrian Sims

Tel: 01384 576356

21 May 2009 RCSL Football National Cup final, Rushden and Diamonds FC Paul Barnes

Email: paul.barnes@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

22 May 2009 National Team Walk, Peak District Phil Pearson

Email: Philip.pearson@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

4 June 2009 CSSC Beach Volleyball, Brighton Beth Earwicker

Email: beth.earwicker@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

5 June 2009 RCSL Beach Volleyball, Brighton Beth Earwicker

Email: beth.earwicker@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

12 to 14 June 2009 Snowdonia Challenge Plus, Snowdon National Park Dave Airey

Email: dave.airey@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

8 to 11 July 2009 National Tennis championships, West Hants Tennis Club, Bournemouth
Nigel Daniels

Email: nigel.daniels@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

16 July 2009 National Sports Day, Blackpool – please link to: http://core3.hmce.gov.uk/others/rcsl/sportsdays/national_sports_day_2009.asp Andrea Scott-lewis

Email: andrea.scott-lewis@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

3 September 2009 Lupton Cup football, Largs, Scotland Ron Barrie

Email: ron.barrie@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

10 and 11 September 2009 Outdoor Bowls Championships, Llandrindod Wells
Brenda Bird

Email: brenda.bird@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

17 and 18 September 2009 CSSC Games, Loughborough Andrea Scott-lewis

Email: andrea.scott-lewis@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

25 September 2009 National Individual Walk, venue to be confirmed Terry Dillon

Email: terence.dillon@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

8 October 2009 National Swimming Gala, venue to be confirmed Denise Spencer

Email: denise.spencer@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk

World Police and Fire Games 2009 – Vancouver

RCSL members competing in the Games this year may require letters of accreditation at the event, so participants are invited to contact **Andrea Scott-Lewis**: andrea.scott-lewis@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk tel: 020 8370 7491 to arrange for these to be issued. **Ruth Tupper**: ruth.tupper@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk tel: 01895 817351 will also be purchasing merchandise and co-ordinating a list of participants to meet at the opening ceremony.

Thank you **Andrea**

7th Annual Golf Day for the Centenary Shield



Morley Hayes (where the sun always shines!)

Retired Staff are invited to take part in the competition for the

CENTENARY SHIELD 1903/2003

which has been arranged for Monday 15th June 2009 at Morley Hayes, Morley Derbyshire DE7 6DG, on the A608 just north of Junction 25 on the M1. It has its own helicopter pad and can be viewed at

<http://www.morleyhayes.com/static/manor.htm>

Also invited this year are R&C Sports Club Members who are due to retire in 2009/10.

Tee times will be from 1000 hrs and a green fee of £18.00the same as last year is anticipated....but could be a £1 or so more.

No formal catering arrangements have been made but there is an excellent "Roosters Bar" which provides light snacks and full meals.

*Retired Members Society of The R&C Sports & Leisure ASSOCIATION will give support for **travel/accommodation/green fees** to RMS Members in accordance with their guidelines. (See the web pages for details. www.focersa.org.uk link to RMS.) If you are interested in playing, please contact me early. I need to have "firmish" numbers by late March so would appreciate early entries. If you enter by post could you note the envelope clearly GOLF, please. If you require overnight accommodation I can supply you with local tourist information.*

Paul Houghton 1 Lawn Ave, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2PE Tel:- 01332 552293

e-mail :- pauljhtigger@yahoo.co.uk

The Annual General Meeting of The Federation will be held on Tuesday 5th May 2009 1800 hrs at the Lansdowne Hotel, King Edward's Parade, Eastbourne, the room will be advised on arrival. In accordance with Rule 13 D notice of motions for the AGM and nominations for office shall be submitted in writing to reach the Federation Secretary 28 days before the AGM together with the name of the proposer. Notifications required by Rule 13 C have been sent (2nd Januray 2009). Notifications of the Agenda etc required by Rule 13 D will sent W.C 13th April 2009

P J Houghton Secretary.

Reports

Chairman's Report -2008/9

For all CERSA members 2008 was a particularly sad year with the sudden death of Ron Sanders. For Sheila our deepest sympathy in her tragic loss. For us we have lost a father figure and it is an end of an era.

This era is marked not only with the loss of Ron but the ageing and mortality of our membership. This I think can be seen by the reduced numbers who went to the Windermere Reunion in 2008 and for Eastbourne even fewer have booked. While for some this may be because they have been to these venues before, for many it is because of the distance they have to drive that prevents them from attending. For this reason I and Paul Houghton are looking at venues in the Midlands and shall report our success if any at the Eastbourne AGM.

Finally as announced at last years AGM Tony Cross Rudkin and I will not be standing for office in 2009/2010 and here it is fitting that I ask all of you to recognise the outstanding work that Tony has done over more years than I care to remember in keeping FoCERSA together. I trust that there will be volunteers to take our places.

Peter Trevett, Chairman

Secretary

Communications

The June BOND carried reports of the Windermere Reunion and minutes of the Focersa AGM (*Thank you Dave Taylor THE BOND Editor. Dave has now resigned. His Role has been taken over by Ivor Davis whose details are on the web page.*)

.In May the Focersa leaflet was updated distributed in June with the BOND. Copies were provided for Pre-retirement Courses.

Significant activity has been relayed to the CERSA reps and others by e-mail.

The Web pages have been maintained on a regular basis and the BOND has carried other items.

Correspondence / Committee Meetings.

No significant items. Routine correspondence has been dealt with on receipt.

The Officers have consulted but no meetings required.

Our thanks are due to the Department for its continued support and particularly to John Gunner and the Repro Unit and Zila Siddiqui at NDSC for printing and distribution services and updating the circulation lists.

On the personal front, if re-elected at the 2009 AGM I will serve only for one further year with the new Officers. A handover of both the Secretarial duties and Web page maintenance

can then proceed. The issue of a new web name can then be decided and will conveniently coincide with the web name renewal date.

P J Houghton Secretary.

02/01/2009

Treasurer's Report and Accounts.

This is my sixth and final Report. I am not standing for re-election next April. By then I will be aged 77, and think it is time a younger person took over.

This last year has continued to be one of financial stability for the Federation. The National Deposit Friendly Society has continued to advertise in the Bond. Their adverts have now contributed £150 to our funds. The Retired Members Society of the Sports Club considered that they were unable to affiliate to the Federation, but made a donation of £25.

The problems connected with financing the Reunion continued at Windermere. That we made a profit of £45-53 was due to a magnificent response to the raffle. The major difficulty is the financing of two coaches for the trip. Coach costs have risen, and the need to accommodate all those who wished to go meant that a large loss was inevitable on that item. At the AGM it was agreed that the Eastbourne Reunion should run one coach only, on a first come first served basis.

I propose that the affiliation fee for 2009/2010 remain at £25. Accounts for the year ended 30/9/08 have been examined by the appointed examiners and certified as satisfactory. A copy of the accounts will be published in next February's Bond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Bown and Les Ashplant for their unfailing good humour, despite my foibles, and their excellent efficiency, during my treasurership

A. Cross-Rudkin,

Hon. Treasurer,

30/12/2008

2010 FoCERRSA REUNION.

For 2010 we are moving back North and a return to the **Raven Hall Country House Hotel, Ravenscar, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 0ET (Close to Whitby), Tel 01723 870353** for the 3 nights **Monday 12 April to Thursday 15 April**. I have reserved the whole hotel, which is 45 double and 7 single rooms at **£53.50 per day for dinner, bed and breakfast**. Those of you who went there in 2007 will remember the superb position and the splendid food, in my opinion the best we have had. The impressive cliff top mansion enjoys breathtaking views over Robin Hood's Bay. With 100 acres of award-winning grounds and battlements and their own challenging 9-hole cliff-top golf course on site. Extensive sports and leisure facilities including: heated indoor swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium, games room, two all weather tennis courts, putting green, croquet lawn and crown green bowls. Initially as we are reserving the whole Hotel we were only prepared to hold the rooms until 30 June, but I now have agreed 30 August so **I strongly advise members to book as early as possible**. I am sure that many rooms will still be available well into the Autumn and I shall keep in contact with the Hotel. When Booking please quote reservation number 53017 and FoCERRSA, or Customs and Excise, a deposit of £40 per person is payable. For those wishing to stay on the the Sunday or Thursday evenings the same rate will be available. Double rooms occupied by a single attract a supplement of £15. **All reservations will be acknowledged in writing**

FEDERATION OF CUSTOMS & EXCISE

AND REVENUE RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATIONS

ACCOUNTS 1ST OCTOBER 2007 TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 2008

INCOME

	£ 2007/8	£ 2006/7
BALANCE B/F	1490.77	1418.65
DONATION	25.00	25.00
AFFILIATION FEES	300.00	300.00
ADVERTISING	150.00	nil
REUNION (WINDERMERE)	408.29	nil
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	2374.06	1743.65

EXPENDITURE

CHAIRMAN	NIL	NIL
SECRETARY	17.08	16.17
TREASURER	5.70	6.76
HONORARIUM	200.00	150.00
BOND EXPENSES	50.00	50.00
WEB COSTS	NIL	23.49
STATIONERY	NIL	6.46
WINDERMERE REUNION	362.76	nil
BANK BALANCE	1738.52	1490.77
	-----	-----
	2374.06	1743.6

A.CROSS-RUDKIN,
HON. TREASURER.
02/10/2008

WE HAVE EXAMINED ALL THE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS AND ARE SATISFIED THAT THEY
CORRECTLY REFLECT THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE FEDERATION AS AT 30TH
SEPTEMBER 2008

L.ASHPLANT

HON EXAMINERS

P.BOWN

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TREASURE	TONY CROSS- RUDKIN	25 BERTRAM DRIVE NORTH, MEOLS,	0151 632 5612

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