

Obituaries 2024

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Richard Hewitt The sad news has been received from his wife, Wendy, that Richard Hewitt died on 29 December after a long illness. He was 68 years old.



Wendy has written as follows:

“Richard, affectionately known as ‘Dick the Wizz’, or ‘the Wizz’ at sea, loved his time at P & O. He started his career on ORIANA in 1978. For him P & O combined his love of working in his chosen field - hospitality, with being given a wonderful opportunity to see the world. His favourite ship was SEA PRINCESS where "in his words" he practically took up residence for many years as Crew AP. He met Wendy Hart, his future wife, when they both worked in the Purser's office on ORIANA in 1982 when it was Australian cruising.

Richard left the sea in 1985 and married Wendy in 1986 and they enjoyed 37 happy years together. His hospitality career thrived and he held various operational management positions in the leisure industry throughout his career.

Richard lived a busy and happy life and always said his family was his most important achievement. He leaves two sons and one granddaughter. He also passed on to his family his love of the Lake District which, despite having visited Suva 97 times, remained to him and to us the best place in the world. Richard will always be remembered as a gentleman, a man of few words with a dry sense of humour. Richard was always interested in people and what they were up to and made the very best of what life offered him.”



Kenneth Richard (Dick) Bull More sad news from Australia. I have been advised that Richard (Dick) Bull died on 5 January in Gosford, NSW, after a long illness. He was 76 years of age.

Dick joined P&O in 1963 as a Purser Cadet. His first ship was 'IBERIA' and he subsequently sailed in a number of P&O and Princess ships as he moved up through the ranks, achieving the rank of Purser in 'PACIFIC PRINCESS' in 1975.



He left the sea in 1982 after getting married and he and his wife Anne-Maree moved to Australia where he joined the Hotel Operations Department of P&O Cruises in Sydney. He then became the Australian representative of the Princess Cruises catering concessionaire which involved him spending four months a year in Vancouver storing the Princess ships cruising to Alaska.

After the catering concession ended, he continued to work in industrial catering, a highlight of which was managing the catering arrangements at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006.

Desmond (Des) Keany News has been received from Ireland that Des Keany died suddenly on 17 January in Buncrana, County Donegal. He was 81 years of age.

Des joined P&O in 1971 and initially he was a 3rd Storekeeper but later became an Assistant Linen Keeper. He sailed in 'ARCADIA' (1), 'ORIANA' (1) and 'CANBERRA' until leaving in 1990.

Bryan Ronald Norman I have received the sad news from his brother, that Bryan Norman died in hospital on the 25th January following a stroke. He was 70 years of age.

After attending Catering College in Carlisle, Bryan joined P&O in 1974 as a Junior Assistant Purser and in the years that followed he sailed in 'Canberra', 'Uganda', 'Arcadia', 'Oriana', 'Sea Princess' and 'Pacific Princess'.

A highlight of his career at sea was when he was the Senior Assistant Purser of 'Uganda' during the Falklands conflict in 1982.





By the time he left P&O Princess in 1992, Bryan had achieved the rank of Deputy Purser.

After leaving, he decided to go to University where he successfully took a degree in History, a degree in English, a master's degree in Computer Studies and also obtained a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE). He then became a lecturer in the further education colleges in Sheffield and taught Information Technology to GCSE and A Level students, continuing in this role until his retirement four years ago.

David Stott I have received the sad news that David Stott died on the 31st January after a long illness at the age of 69.

After attending Catering College, David joined P&O in 1973 as a Purser Cadet but was promoted to Junior Assistant Purser before being appointed to sea in 'ORIANA'. He subsequently sailed in 'ISLAND PRINCESS' and 'PACIFIC PRINCESS' when these ships were first acquired by P&O and he remained with P&O Princess until the late 1970s by which time he had achieved the rank of Deputy Purser.

He then joined Canadian Pacific as a Purser in cargo ships for a period before finally leaving the sea.

Ashore, he and his partner Clive, ran the 'Fig Tree' Restaurant in Hove for three years before acquiring the 'Crossways Hotel' in Wilmington, East Sussex. They continued to run the hotel for the following thirty years until it was sold last year.



Patricia Fisk The sad news has been passed to me by Pam Blackley-Goble, that Patricia Fisk died on Tuesday 19th March, at the age of 81. She had been in a care home since last summer.

Probably better remembered as 'Tricia', 'Trish' or 'Fisky', she joined 'CANBERRA' as a Junior Woman Assistant Purser in 1967, and later served in 'ARCADIA' and 'HIMALAYA', finally attaining the rank of Senior Woman Assistant Purser.



After leaving P&O she worked, firstly for KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and, subsequently, BSkyB.

Captain Edmund (Eddie) Carr I have received the news from Captain Stan Bowles in Vancouver BC, that Captain Edmund (Eddie) Carr died on the 13th February at the age of 90.

Stan writes as follows:

“Edmund (Eddie to his friends and colleagues) was born and raised in England but educated at schools in both England and, due to wartime evacuation, in Ireland.

He attended the School of Navigation Warsash in 1950 and was accepted by P&O S.N.Co. for an apprenticeship. Upon completing his apprenticeship with P&O in 1954, he obtained his 2nd Mates Certificate in London, and joined the New Zealand Shipping Company (NZS), a sister company to P&O.



At NZS as 3/O he did a spell on the Cadet Ship "Rakaia" and voyages on the 'MANZ' Run to the US and then obtained his 1st Mates Certificate in London in 1957. Promotions followed to C/O then passing Masters in London in 1960. He became engaged to his future wife Helen, who lived in Adelaide, and decided to swallow the anchor and emigrate to Australia.

After a five-year spell as a Stevedoring Supervisor with the Adelaide Stevedoring Co. he moved into the Surveying business from 1968 - 1977 as the State Manager of Cargo Superintendents Co. (A' Asia) an International Cargo Inspection & Surveying business - an organisation representing many Maritime/Insurance companies etc.

In 1977 he joined the Marine Surveying Co. of J.M. Taylor & Associates and in 1980, he took over the business under his own name which he continued until his retirement in 1999.

At the time of his “official” retirement he held the following appointments: -

Principal Australian representative for International Cargo Gear Bureau of New York;
Nautical Inspector to Bahamas Maritime Authority;
Nautical Inspector to Barbados Ships Registry;
Acting Surveyor to International Ship Classification Society Nippon Kaiji Kyokai, Japan;
Non-exclusive Surveyor to International Ship Classification Societies: Germanischer Lloyd, Hamburg, Germany, Registro Italiano Navale, Genova, Italy. Bureau Veritas, Paris, France. Korean Register of Shipping, Korea.

Captain "Eddie" Carr crossed the bar on 13th February 2024 and will be remembered as a very efficient & likeable operator by those who knew him.”

Captain David W Sims I have received the news from Don Chapman, former Radio Officer who lives in Canada, that Captain David Sims died on the 1st March in Queensland, Australia, at the age of 97.

Don has sent me a summary of David’s career that David himself wrote in 2007 when he was 82 and I quote it here below:

"I served with P&O from the mid-1950's until 1970, initially as a Radio Officer in COROMANDEL, IBERIA, MALOJA and MANTUA, both maiden voyages/fit-out, then in CANBERRA as Senior 2nd R/O (fit-out and maiden voyage) with Don Chapman (Spy 2nd R/O).

Then to CHUSAN as 1st R/O. Then changed over to Deck Department to gain seetime, finally obtaining 2nd Mates/1st Mates Certificates and sailing in PATONGA as 2nd Officer.

Left P & O in 1970 and returned home to Australia. Gained Foreign-Going Master's Certificate and sailed in command of several vessels on Australia/Pacific run (a big let-down after P&O!)

Ended up my working life as General Manager/Director of an international Australian shipping company.

Now retired to a rural 50 acre property on the Atherton Tableland in Far North Queensland.... can still read Morse at 30 wpm!"

Don has informed me that he subsequently moved from the road that was named after him - Sims Road in Kalunga, to Herberton in North Queensland, where he was the custodian of their local museum.

Graeme Beattie Wright - 'Jock' 'Jock' as he was affectionally known lost his health battle on the 12th of March 2024 at the age of 62.

Grahame was born on the 5th of January 1962 in the Camelon area of Falkirk, Scotland. His father, Bill worked for the Falkirk Aluminium works and his mother, Rita worked at the Nobel Ammunitions Factory.



At the age of 12 he showed an interest in the sea and joined the sea cadets through until he was 16. He served his apprenticeship from 1978 until 1982 at the Carren Iron Works. On completing his apprenticeship, he joined Shell tankers as a Mechanic.



In 1985 he served one month as a Senior Mechanic onboard the QM2, then joined P&O/Princess as a Senior Mechanic onboard Royal Princess.

He was promoted to an Officer in 1989 and continued his career with P&O/Princess/Cunard until his recent retirement.



He served on many ships within the fleet, across the various brands.

While serving onboard the P&O ship Victoria he met Sarah who was to become his wife in 2008.

William Archie Bishop It has been reported that Archie Bishop died on the 8th February at the age of 86.

In 1952, Archie joined the Thames Nautical Training College, HMS Worcester. Two years later, aged 16, he joined P&O as a Deck Cadet and remained at sea until 1960, by which time he had become a Third Officer.



He then joined Holman Fenwick Willan as an articled clerk and was sponsored for six years' part time study of maritime law at Guildford Law College. By 1988, he was senior partner in HFW.

He also became a lecturer at the International Maritime Law Institute in Malta and was considered to be an expert in cases involving salvage after disasters at sea. During his distinguished career, he played a central role in the development of international maritime salvage law and practice.

Mrs Elaine Buy (Burton) The sad news has been received from her daughter Fiona, that Elaine Buy died on the 16th March at the age of 87. She was in a nursing home when she passed away after an extended stay in hospital.

Elaine Burton began her career as a dance teacher at the Esme Preston Dance Academy in Devon until an opportunity arose for her to join an entertainment show in Amsterdam. She performed in TV shows

as an actress, singer and dancer for around three years until she decided to apply to join P&O as a Social Hostess.

Her first ship was 'ORONSAY' in 1966 and it was there that she met Jim Buy, Purser. They were married in Sydney in 1968 and they had two daughters, Elizabeth and Fiona.

Sadly, Jim died in 1997 and in the years that followed she reconnected with an old colleague, Paul de la Motte Harrison and they became companions during their final years, enjoying many cruises and holidays together.



Captain John Charles (Charlie) Carr News has been received that Captain Charlie Carr died suddenly on the 5th April at the age of 67.

After attending Fleetwood Nautical College, Charlie joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary as a Deck Cadet in 1974. He subsequently sailed in a number of their ships, achieving the rank of Second Officer in 1984.

In 1982, he served in the Falklands aboard R.F.A OLN A, but was appointed there after the conflict had ended.



In 1996, he left the R.F.A and joined P&O Princess, his first appointment being as Second Officer of ORIANA. In the years that followed, he moved up through the ranks and became Staff Captain in 2002 and Captain in 2006. He retired from the sea in 2015, his last command being VENTURA.

From 2015 to 2017, he spent a period as Fleet Captain and he also taught at the Simulator Centre in Almere in the Netherlands, before fully retiring.

Unfortunately, his body has still not been released by the Coroner, so his wife, Karen has decided to proceed with a Celebration of Life Ceremony which will be held on the 4th of June. Please see the attached details and if you plan to attend, please let Karen know as indicated. His eventual cremation will be private.

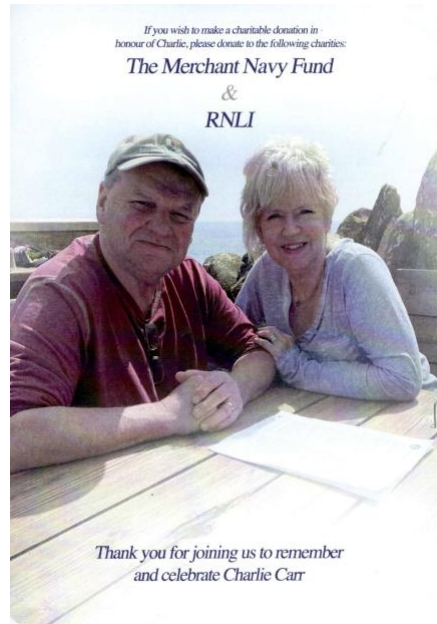
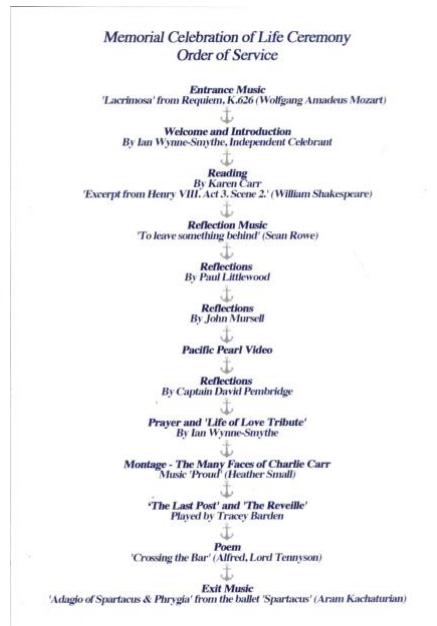
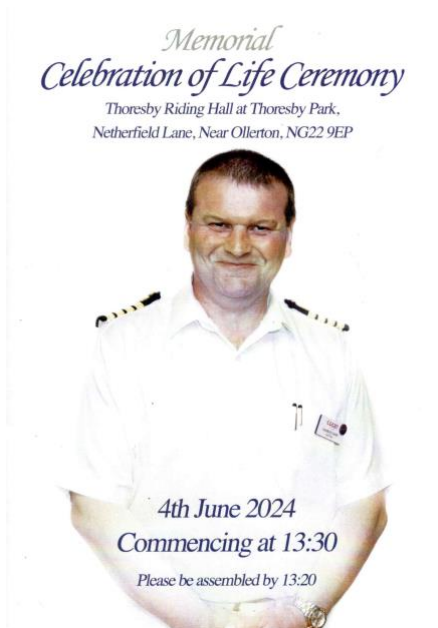


Memorial Celebration of Life Ceremony

followed by hot & cold buffet and hot & cold refreshments – including bar.
If you feel inclined, wear a splash of something bright – as a reflection
of our dearly loved Captain Charlie Carr (John Charles Carr).



RSVP as soon as possible: ccmemorialcelebration@gmail.com



Mrs Angela Larvin I have received the sad news that Mrs Angela Larvin died suddenly in her home in Spain on the 13th May. She was 76 years of age.

As Angie Cassidy, she joined P&O Princess in 1977 as a Social Hostess/Entertainment Officer. She had previously worked for Cunard in Liverpool and for a clothing company in Blackpool.

She sailed with P&O Cruises in ORIANA (1) and SEA PRINCESS, but will mainly be remembered for her time with Princess Cruises throughout the late 1970s and 1980s.



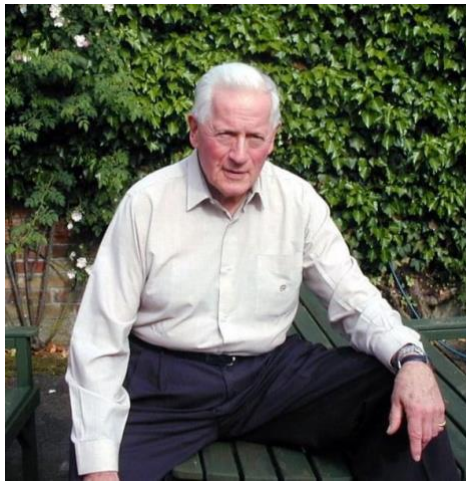
In 1978 she married Mike Larvin, Cruise Director, but he sadly died several years ago.

After leaving the sea, Angie ran a successful business in Blackpool selling jewellery until her retirement.

Michael John (Mike) Miles News has been received that Mike Miles died on the 17th May at the age of 91.

After completing his National Service in the Royal Air Force, Mike joined P&O as a Junior Assistant Purser in 1953.

During the years that followed he sailed in a number of P&O ships and by 1960, he was Senior Assistant Purser of CHUSAN where he met his future wife, Lauria Gibson, who was a Woman Assistant Purser on her first voyage to sea. They married shortly afterwards. Sadly, Lauria died some time ago.



He was promoted to Deputy Purser in 1961 and to Purser a few years later.

In 1972, he was Purser of SPIRIT OF LONDON for the maiden cruising season from Los Angeles to Mexico.

Mike left P&O in 1974 and subsequently had a very successful career in the double-glazing industry until his retirement.

Nick Green I have just received the sad news from his wife Diane that Nick Green died suddenly in his home in York on Tuesday 11th June 2024. He was just 64 years of age.

Nick joined P&O/Princess Cruises in 1977 as a Deck Cadet before qualifying and joining Canberra as a Third Officer in July 1982 for the post-Falklands MOD refit, subsequently serving on Sea Princess amongst other vessels. Nick left the company in the late 80s but continued to work in the maritime industry for the rest of his career.

Funeral arrangements are yet to be made but further information will be made available once known.



Vivian Williams The news has been passed to me by Carola Ingall, that Vivian Williams died on the 15th May at the age of 89.

Carola has written the following tribute to her friend:

“The sad news has been received of the death in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, of Vivian Williams, née Holmes, after a short illness, just missing out on her 90th birthday by six months.

Vivian was born on Merseyside, where her father was a Pilot. Sadly, he was killed in a fall between ships while she was still at school.

Vivian’s seagoing career began with Cunard where she served as a Lady Assistant Purser on board both QUEEN MARY and QUEEN ELIZABETH. Subsequently she joined P&O as a Woman Assistant Purser, her first ship being CANBERRA for the maiden voyage in 1961. She then left the Company for a short while to live in Australia, where she worked in the film industry but had to return to England to care for her mother when her grandmother was killed in a car accident.



Later Vivian rejoined P&O at sea as a Social Hostess/Entertainment Officer, where she was very popular, with her joyful outlook on life and cheerful “bouncy” personality.



During her time with P&O she also sailed in ARCADIA, ORCADES and ORIANA.

Vivian married Bill Williams, the Personnel Manager for the P&O Cruises shore staff in London and Southampton, and they had a very happy marriage for many years until his death. At first, they lived in London where she worked in Parliament, including being assistant to Michael Foot, Leader of the Labour Party and Leader of the Opposition. They got on extremely well and she was very fond of him, despite their conflicting viewpoints. Bill and Vivian moved to Winchcombe in Gloucestershire, during which time she joined GCHQ and became Personal Assistant to the Director.

All her life, she was huge fun to be with, very entertaining company and a loyal friend.”

Colin Rann News has been received from his wife, Cheryl, that Colin Rann, the former Chief Printer of ‘CANBERRA’, died unexpectedly in hospital on the 26th April at the age of 88. The funeral took place on the 30th May.



Ivor Young News has been received that Ivor Young died in California on the 21st August. He had been seriously ill for some time with COPD.

Ivor joined P&O as an Assistant Engineer Officer in 1973 and was appointed to 'NEVASA', remaining with that ship until it was withdrawn from service in 1974. He then sailed in 'ISLAND PRINCESS' and 'PACIFIC PRINCESS' during which time he met his future wife, Linda and he left the company to get married and emigrate to the USA.



Steve Borrill News has been received from Western Australia that Steve Borrill died suddenly on the 30th August at the age of 71.

The following tribute has been received from his daughter Lisa:

"Steve Borrill

Engineer Officer 1974 – 1976

It is with much sadness we advise the P&O community of the sudden passing of Steve Borrill, aged 71.



Steve's time at sea was the highlight of his life. He met his wife Jen on a Mediterranean cruise on Nevasa, and experienced an attack by pirates on the Nevasa scrap run to Taiwan. He sailed to Australia on Oriana for the summer season and took leave in Perth to see Jen and explore the south west of Western Australia. After returning to UK, Steve & Jen married in Scunthorpe and settled in Perth in January 1977.

He had wonderful memories and valued the friendships he made. He established the website

‘Seadogs Reunited’, which led to many happy reunions, including one in Perth which he organised with over 40 ex P&O officers attending.”



Prior to joining P&O and going to sea, he served an apprenticeship at the Scunthorpe Steel Works as a fitter and turner.

In Australia he had a varied career including having his own business, a mobile service in hydraulic hose/valve repairs. His clients were councils, construction companies and anyone with mobile equipment/hydraulic components. He worked as a maintenance manager in the mining industry for a while, then at the Vines Golf Resort. His final job was as Warehouse Manager at a specialist lamp supplier. Here he used his computer knowledge and expertise to completely upgrade and modernise their inventory and stock control systems.

He also founded the ‘Seadogs Reunited’ website which he operated for several years. The website brought many people back together and in touch again.

Peter Croucher The news has been passed to me by Rai Caluori, that Peter Croucher, former Cruise Director, died on Monday the 30th September at the age of 73. He had been ill for some time and was in a Care Home.



Peter initially trained as a Chef before becoming a Disc Jockey and it was in this capacity that he joined P&O in 1973. He sailed in CANBERRA, SPIRIT OF LONDON and ORIANA as a Disc Jockey before becoming an Entertainment Officer in 1983. He then joined Princess Cruises and during the years that followed he sailed in most of the Princess ships as an Entertainment Officer, Assistant Cruise Director and eventually Cruise Director in 1990/1991.



In 1999/2000 he decided to take early retirement and he left the company.



Steve Beswick I bring the sad news that Steve Beswick, former Bar Services Manager, has died.

Ian Wynne-Smythe has written to me about him as follows:

“Steve (Bez) Beswick

The sad news has been received that cancer has claimed a much loved and respected seafarer, way too soon. Steve Beswick passed away in the early hours of Monday 14th October 2024, aged 59 years.

Prior to joining CANBERRA as a Public Room Steward in 1989, Steve had been a civil servant in Blackpool, close to where he lived in Clevelys, although having been born in Warrington. Growing up in a hospitality environment it was perhaps inevitable that he was soon promoted to Assistant Bartender in CANBERRA and to Bartender in ORIANA, where he assisted in the set-up of the bars during the build, and served throughout her maiden season in 1995.

He continued his service, setting up the ‘second’ ARCADIA in 1997 and shortly afterwards was promoted to Bar Services Manager in VICTORIA in 2000.



He lent his ‘not inconsiderable’ experience to the role of Bar Services Manager serving in OCEANA and BRITANNIA, having also returned for spells in the second ARCADIA, ORIANA and AURORA during which time he mentored many in his team who have continued his legacy within P&O Cruises and other companies. He enjoyed time in the third ARCADIA prior to



supervising his last cocktail party in AURORA in 2020 before officially leaving the Company in January 2021, following the industry disruption caused by the pandemic.”

David Adams I have received the sad news that David Adams died of leukaemia on the 8th October at the Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truliske, Truro. He was aged 81.

After attending the Southampton School of Navigation at Warsash, David joined P&O as a Deck Cadet in 1961. His first ship was ADEN.

During the years that followed, he served in a number of the P&O cargo ships and passenger ships including ARCADIA and ORIANA, obtaining his Master’s Certificate in 1970.

After a period as Nautical Adviser in the London Head Office, David left P&O in 1972 and subsequently had a distinguished career in the shipping industry until his retirement.

Ross Sinclair I bring the sad news that Ross Sinclair, former Finance and Development Director of P&O Cruises, died on the 21st October at the age of 83. He had had a stroke on the 17th September from which he never recovered.

Educated at Kings College School Wimbledon, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1965. He spent five years with Coopers & Lybrand as a Management Consultant before joining the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company in 1971.

He was appointed Financial Controller to the P&O Passenger Division in 1974 subsequently Finance Director P&O Cruises Ltd which managed

Worldwide cruising operations, tour, travel and holiday operations (including Princess Cruises in USA & Swan Hellenic).



He was appointed General Manager Fleet in 1980 and was responsible for overall control of CANBERRA, ORIANA and SEA PRINCESS.

In 1982 he reverted back to Finance & Development Director until he left in 1986.

His next appointment was with the Sedgwick Group Lloyds Insurance Brokers, where he held a number of senior finance appointments and was Finance Director of Sedgwick Broking Services in 1995. His final appointment with Sedgwick was Managing Director at Sedgwick Computer & Network Services before retirement in 1998.



Michael Geoffrey Medicott I have received the sad news that Michael (Mike) Medicott died suddenly on the 5th December at the age of 81.

After graduating from Oxford University, Mike joined P&O as a Management Trainee in 1966 and was posted to Bombay for two years as a Shipping Assistant, followed by a further year in Tokyo. Upon his return he joined P&O Orient Lines as a Development Analyst before becoming Assistant to the Fleet Manager in 1973 and General Manager, Fleet in 1975. He then transferred to Marketing, becoming General Manager, Europe and later Director, Europe, from 1983 to 1986. During this time, he was also the Managing Director of Swan Hellenic and a Director of P&O Travel. Mike left P&O in 1986.



During the years that followed, Mike became a Board Member of a number of companies and organisations mainly in the Transportation and Care Industries. It is particularly noteworthy that he was the Chairman of the British Tourist Authority from 1986 to 1993 and was later a Vice President of Delta Airlines.

He was particularly interested in philately and was the co-author of a book about the philatelic history of Trinidad.

Jim Barnett Those who served with Cunard will be saddened to learn that Jim Barnett, former Chief Electrical Officer, died of cancer on the 12th December. He was 69.

After serving an apprenticeship as an electrician with British Coal, Jim joined Cunard in 1978. His first ship was CUNARD COUNTESS and he later sailed in QUEEN ELIZABETH 2, SEA GODDESS1 and CARONIA before joining QUEEN MARY 2, QUEEN VICTORIA and QUEEN ELIZABETH as they were being completed. He retired in 2016.



After retiring, he continued to work part time with Halcyon Marine during various Carnival refits.

Rod Mower Further to my message of the 31st December advising that Rod Mower, former Coxswain, had died on the 10th December, I have now received more information about Rod as well as his funeral details.

Rod went to sea as a Deck Boy in 1972 on board the Union Castle Line ship GOOD HOPE CASTLE, after previously attending the National Sea Training School at Gravesend.

He subsequently sailed in WINDSOR CASTLE, general cargo ships of Bowaters and Clan Line, bulk carriers of King Line, container ships of OCL and tankers of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, achieving the rank of Petty Officer, Boatswain's Mate.

In 1987, he joined P&O Princess as a Coxswain in ROYAL PRINCESS and during the years that followed he sailed in CANBERRA, SEA PRINCESS/VICTORIA, ISLAND PRINCESS, ORIANA (2), OCEANA and ARCADIA. His last ship before his retirement in 2018 was AURORA.



Captain Richard D Fennelow The sad news has been passed to me that Captain Richard Fennelow died on the 13th December at the age of 77.

Richard left school when he was 18 in 1965 after taking 'A' Levels. He then attended a Nautical Training College for 12 months before joining P&O as a Deck Cadet in 1966. His first ship was SOMALI and following appointments to STRATHCONON and ORONSAY, he was promoted to 4th Officer in CANBERRA in 1970.

During the years that followed, he moved up through the ranks, sailing in most of the ships of the P&O and Princess fleets and his first appointment as Captain was in 1996, when he took command of VICTORIA.

Richard's last appointment was to ARCADIA in 2005 following which he was obliged to take early retirement due to ill health.

In accordance with his wishes, there will be no funeral.



Hughie Taylor The sad news has been passed to me that Hughie Taylor, former Cruise Director, died on the 25th December at the age of 72.

Prior to joining P&O as an Entertainment Officer in 1980, Hughie had worked as a Pontins Blue Coat and as a Casino Croupier. He was also a music teacher.

His first ship was CANBERRA and during the following years and, as he gained promotion in the Entertainments Department, he sailed in SEA PRINCESS/VICTORIA, ORIANA (1 and 2), AURORA, OCEANA AND VENTURA before achieving the position of Cruise Director in CANBERRA.

He retired in December 2021, his last appointment was to AURORA.

