

THE CHAIRMAN'S DISPATCH

It is a very great pleasure to welcome this first Club edition of *The Kedge Anchor*. I say "Club edition" because, as North American members will know, the *Kedge Anchor* has already had a number of most successful editions on the other side of the Atlantic!

The brainchild, and very largely the personal creation, of our North American secretary Randy Mafit, it has already enjoyed considerable success among our North American members and was originally introduced as a "special" for them. However, Randy has very kindly been sending copies of the *Anchor* to all the members of Council. So when, late last year, our Newsletter Editor Michael Dalton was forced to retire, the Council unanimously decided to ask Randy if he would be prepared to allow the *Anchor* to transform itself into a newsletter for the whole Club. This, Randy has very kindly agreed to do - and the result is before you.

By the wonders of modern electronic technology, Randy is able to do all the hard work of editing in the States and he then transmits the result across the Atlantic for production and distribution. We will be appointing an Assistant Editor in Britain to handle the administrative work here but Randy will continue to run the *Anchor* in his own inimitable and entertaining style. All of us on Council are very grateful to him for agreeing to take on this extra load - and we would urge you to support Randy by sending him material for inclusion in the *Anchor*. It doesn't have to be a learned article - as you will see, Randy likes it to be a wide-ranging overview of worldwide Nelsonian news, rather than just the "house-magazine" of The 1805 Club. So if anything catches your eye in your local press do please send the details to Randy!

Can I also take this opportunity of drawing your attention particularly to the events of "Nelson's Tour 2002" which will be taking place from 20 July to early September this summer? Designed as a "trial run" for the big celebration currently being planned for 2005, these events commemorate the 200th anniversary of Nelson's remarkable tour to South Wales and the Midlands in the summer of 1802. Details appear in the brochure enclosed in this mailing and all events are open to members of The 1805 Club. However, the event of most interest to us is the first one, the special celebration at Merton Parish Church on Saturday 20 July. Organised by Bill White and Peter Warwick on behalf of The 1805, it is the first major public event the Club has run and the profits will go towards funding our projects. So it would be marvelous to see as many 1805-ers there as possible!

Colin White

