

# THE KEDGE ANCHOR

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| From the Quarter-Deck | 2  |
| Forthcoming Events    | 5  |
| Book Notes            | 7  |
| The Ditty Bag         | 9  |
| Collector's Corner    | 11 |

## Special points of interest:

- The 1805 Club and Bronte, p.2
- Rediscovering Nelson, p.2
- Mountbatten Prize, p.2
- Captain Young is Found, p.3
- New Acquisitions at RNM, p.4
- Copenhagen Papers, p.4
- Complete Navy List, p.5
- Nelson Collection at Lloyd's, p.5
- 1805 Club AGM p.6
- Books: *Nelson's Fleet at Trafalgar*; *Age of Sail*; *Fall of Toulon*; *Soldier of the Raj*; *Young Sea Officer's Sheet Anchor*; *Enemy at Trafalgar*; *Rum, Sodomy and the Lash*; etc.; p.7-9
- HMS Victory Shop and Bosun's Book Shop p.9
- The French Victory at Trafalgar p. 9-10
- Nelson Obelisk at Felton, and the NRP p.10-11
- Spiro Sale at Christie's p.11
- 'The Defining Moment' p.11

## THE CHAIRMAN'S DISPATCH:

# THE 1805 AND 2005

In the last *Kedge Anchor* I outlined some of the impressive events currently being planned nationally and internationally to mark the anniversary of Trafalgar in 2005.

So: what is The 1805 Club going to do?

The Council has been working hard on our plans over the last few months and we can now announce the main features of our 2005 programme.

## Projects

*The Trafalgar Captains Project* will be our main initiative for 2005 and the years immediately following. We are most grateful to the devoted "Band of Brothers" who have located and recorded most of the graves and monuments and, thanks to their efforts, we have identified ten that are in need of restoration. We are now preparing a bid to Heritage Lottery Fund and other grant-making bodies to raise the funds to carry out the work. Additionally, we are planning a book that will feature brief biographies of all the Trafalgar admirals and commanding officers, and details of their graves and monuments. This will be supported by a new section of the Club's website and by specially produced educational material.

## Publications

*The Trafalgar Chronicle*: there will be a special 2005 edition featuring articles by leading historians, most of whom are members of the Club. It will be a much bigger edition than usual and we have set aside a sum of money to enable us to blossom into glorious colour!

*The Battle of Trafalgar*: we will publish the latest in our very successful series of "Nelson's Battles" monographs, and I am delighted to be able to tell you that one of the country's leading naval historians, Dr Michael Duffy of Exeter University, has agreed to write this for us.

## Events

*The 1805 Club Dinner*: October 2005 will be somewhat "crowded", so instead of holding the Club Dinner close to Trafalgar Day as usual we have decided to hold it on **13 May 2005**. The date has been chosen to coincide with the bicentenary of the start of Nelson's famous chase to the West Indies in May 1805, and we will be using the dinner to highlight our *Trafalgar Captains Memorial Project*. Moreover, as a special "bonus", we have been given permission by Second Sea Lord to hold the dinner on board HMS *Victory*. We are indeed grateful to be accorded this rare honour. You will receive full details, and an invitation to apply for tickets, later in the year.

*The Trafalgar Night Dinner – Greenwich*: the main national dinner on 21 October 2005 will be held in the magnificent surroundings of the Painted Hall in Greenwich. We have managed to negotiate priority booking for 1805 Club members and you will very shortly receive a joint letter from the Director of the Greenwich Foundation and the Chairman of the Official Nelson Commemorations Committee (me!) inviting you to apply for tickets.

*Joint event with The Nelson Society*: we have been discussing ideas with our sister society for a joint event in 2005, to give all our members a chance of meeting and sharing our experiences as

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## CHAIRMAN'S DISPATCH -continued from front page-

"Nelsonites". We hope to be able to announce the date and details in the next *Kedge Anchor*.

\* \* \* \* \*

As this is my last "Chairman's Dispatch" I would like to thank all members of the Club for their support and encouragement over my five years in office.

Thanks to the hard work of a small but devoted band of people, it has been a period of remarkable growth that has seen the Club increase appreciably, both in numbers, and in reputation and stature. I believe that we can look forward to 2005 with confidence, knowing that "The 1805" will be playing an absolutely central role in the year's events.

My very warmest good wishes to you all,

*Colin*

