



**BARROW-BUILT:**  
The Holland 2  
submarine

# Lost submariner honour

**FURNESS submariners are going ahead with plans to honour one of the first British men to die in the service.**

The Barrow-branch of the Submariners Association has voted to fund a headstone for the grave of John Henry Curtis, who drowned in an accident in Barrow docks in May 1902.

The headstone will be unveiled and dedicated at a ceremony at the graveside on Saturday, October 23, during the special weekend to mark the 50th anniversary of the launch of Britain's first nuclear submarine, the *Dreadnought*.

Articles in the North-West Evening Mail archive of the paper's predecessor, the North Western Daily Press, helped submariners prove their theory that Mr Curtis was an early submariner.

The newspaper said the 33-year-old stoker had been assigned to the Holland class Torpedo Boat No 2.

The Holland boats were the first Royal Navy submarines and were all built in Barrow from 1901.

Mr Curtis had lain in an unmarked grave in Barrow's Thorncliffe Cemetery before he finally came to the notice of the Submariners

**By JOHN SIMPSON**  
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Association. The leading stoker drowned in the docks while walking the gangplank between the quay and Britain's first ever submarine support ship, *HMS Hazard*, moored in Devonshire Dock in May 1902.

Submariners Association member Terry Spurling said: "Thanks to the archives at the Evening Mail we know without any doubt he was a submariner."

"Although it was a long time ago he was part of the submarine service, and as far as we are concerned he has lain in an unmarked grave for 108 years which is a very long time to be unrecognised. We think it is incumbent on us to raise a headstone to commemorate him and make sure his name is listed."

The stone will mark the fact Mr Curtis was a submariner. The dedication is likely to include an honour guard and a salute with a naval bosun's pipe or whistle.

The Submariners Association is still trying to trace any descendants of Mr Curtis, who was from Cornwall.



**REMEMBERED:** Terry Spurling and Barrie Downer of the Barrow-in-Furness Submariners Association, at the unmarked grave of John Henry Curtis

## Grants for area's budding writers

PEOPLE who want to follow in the footsteps of one of Millom's most famous sons could receive a helping hand.

The Norman Nicholson Memorial Fund provides grants to residents in Copeland wishing to embark on a literary career. As the fund is limited, grants are likely to be modest.

If you think you are eligible, write with details of your request to: The Trustees, Norman Nicholson Memorial Fund, Millom Council Centre, St George's Road, Millom, Cumbria. LA18 4DD

For more information, phone 01229772340

## Forest weekend

THE Forestry Commission will be holding a special weekend celebrating sustainable forestry. The event is due to take place in the Yan in Grizedale Forest on September 25 and 26. Visitors will have the opportunity to handle rare animals including a tarantula, bullfrog and cockatoo and go on special trails and watch foresters demonstrate the tools of their trade.

## Speed help

KIRKBY Civilian Speed Camera Group is looking for new members. Training is provided and takes about an hour. Anyone interested in getting involved in the group can contact Councillor Michael McPherson on 01229 889382

## Rainbows return

ST LUKE'S Rainbows will be resuming meetings tomorrow. Meetings take place in St Luke's Institute, Haverigg every week. Old and new members are welcome. For more information phone Pat Cobban on 01229 774433.

## Castle tours

TOURS of Sizergh Castle and Gardens are due to take place on Wednesday. The event will allow guests to see the past, present and future of gardening at the castle along with handy tips. Tours run all day and cost £3 per person.

## WI meeting

THE next meeting of Broughton Women's Institute is due to take place on Thursday. The meeting will run from 1.30pm to 4.30pm in the Rankin Room in the Victory Hall in Station Road, Broughton. New members are welcome.



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### OPEN DAY Wednesday 15th September 2010

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