



## ***Mayor and Mayoress visit HMS Tamar in Falmouth***

In this year of Covid a civic visit is a rarity. So, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October it was with some excitement that Mayor Bert Biscoe and Mayoress, Sue, having been ceremoniously piped aboard, visited the Royal Navy's newest ship, HMS Tamar. After a cup of tea and discussion the couple were escorted all over the ship, from engine room to bridge, by its officers.

The invitation occurred because, on its launch, the ship was affiliated to Truro, and this was the first contact between the town and HMS Tamar, which is in Falmouth for fitting out prior to deployment.

Resident Naval Officer Falmouth, Lt Commander Trevor Brookes, told the Mayor that the relationship between the dockyard and the Royal Navy is developing well. The Mayor welcomed this and that the presence of grey ships in Falmouth meant that Cornwall's investment of EU Structural Funds in skills development is now bearing sustainable fruit.

Bert Biscoe said:

'Sue and I were made very welcome by the officers and crew and we got a very strong impression of two things – firstly the confinement of everything – below deck a naval ship is incredibly well organised, and secondly by the commitment, dedication and good cheer of everybody we met.'

In a small ceremony on the bridge the Mayor and Lieutenant Lucy Robus, Executive Officer (2<sup>nd</sup> in command) exchanged gifts. The Tamar plaque will hang in the Mayor's Parlour. Bert and Sue Biscoe gave an inscribed wooden plate which was turned specially for the occasion by Truro craftsman, Barry Pettit.

In closing the visit Bert said that, now Truro is affiliated to HMS Tamar, as wives and children in fishing villages around Cornwall always did when a storm was in the air, would leave a candle in their windows to guide their menfolk safely home, so HMS Tamar could rest assured that a candle will be constantly alight for them on Truro's window sill.

**ENDS**

Presented by the Mayor of Truro 2020/21, Bert Biscoe, on the visit of our affiliated ship, HMS TAMAR to Falmouth – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020, to Lieutenant Lucy Robus, Executive Officer (2<sup>nd</sup> in command).

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