



**Reunited:** Alan Slade meets former shipmate George Burt

## War veterans meet again 65 years on

TWO veterans who last saw each other at the end of the Second World War have been reunited after 65 years.

George Burt travelled all the way from Felixstowe in Suffolk to see Alan Slade this week in a touching reunion.

The two men reminisced, looked at old photographs and talked about what they have been up to since they served in the Royal Navy together.

It was Alan's son John, of Longwell Green, who managed to track down George, a surviving officer of HMS Lochy.

He typed the River class frigate into a search engine on the internet when trying to find out more information about it and stumbled across a radio interview with a surviving officer.

He tracked George down and put him in touch with his father and over the past two years, George and Alan have chatted several times on the phone.

The men served together on the frigate for two years.

Their service included being part of a team which ran the "Hunter Killer" group of ships.

Alan, who grew up in Knowle but now lives in Portishead, was a telegraphist, trained to intercept U-boat transmissions and locate them.

It was not until 15 years ago that he realised he had actually been involved in supporting an operation to gather information which was used at Bletchley Park for code breaking.

George, who signed up for action three years after the outbreak of war in 1942, started out as a sub-lieutenant based on the Sapphire at Harwich.

He then transferred to Aberdeen, where he served on the Lochy and was had numerous roles including pay master and anti-submarine control officer.

The frigate had 130 men on board, and 10 officers.

In 1945, when the war finished, George and Alan, both got off the ship at Colombo in Sri Lanka and that was the last time they ever saw each other.

George, 87, said: "I had no idea that anyone was still alive, so when I heard that Alan was I was thrilled. I was absolutely delighted to meet up, it has been quite an overwhelming experience."

Alan, 86, said the pair had talked several times on the phone, but was pleased they had finally been able to meet in person. "It has been an overwhelming afternoon, bringing back lots of memories," he said.

# Nikki collapsed... after finishing first aid class

## But teachers were there to save day

**Rachel Clare**  
r.clare@bepp.co.uk

**A BRISTOL woman who collapsed and stopped breathing minutes after completing a first aid course says she owes her life to two St John Ambulance trainers.**

Nikki Sell, 24, returned to the charity's Bedminster centre yesterday to thank Matt Stephens and Anne Wootton, who came to her aid.

Nikki, from Knowle Park, had popped to the toilet after successfully completing a three-day first aid at work course at the charity's Harry Crook Centre earlier this month.

That is the last thing she remembers until regaining consciousness.

Anne Wootton, delivery training co-ordinator with St John Ambulance, said: "Nikki had collapsed and fallen face down when someone found her and called Matt, who had been training Nikki for the past three days.

"At the time we didn't know her medical history.

"Matt assessed her condition and she was unconscious and breathing so we got her into the recovery position."

The pair continued to monitor Nikki as she lay unconscious and then Anne realised she had stopped breathing.

Anne said: "We turned Nikki on to her back to prepare her for cardio pulmonary resuscitation and as I tilted her chin back she took a massive breath and began to breathe again.

"She remained unconscious for quite a while longer and we had an automated external defibrillator - a machine that can restart the heart - ready in case she stopped breathing again.

"Eventually Nikki came round and she was taken to hospital by the ambulance we had called earlier.

"What we did, anyone can do and it wasn't just Matt and me - we worked as a team and other people got the ambulance, the defibrillator, a blanket and helped care for Nikki.

"All I did was keep Nikki's chin lifted and constantly check she was breathing, which anyone can do to save a life."

Nikki was taken to the Bristol

To order this picture, call 08444 060 269 and quote BRDB20101116C-003\_C



**My heroes:** Nikki Sell thanks first aid teachers Matt Stephens and Anne Wootton, who brought her round after she collapsed **Photograph:** Dave Betts

Royal Infirmary for tests before being discharged.

Two years ago she was diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect, which is a hole in the wall dividing the left and right ventricles of the heart, although it is believed she has had the condition since birth.

She now hopes her story will encourage more people to learn first aid.

"It is ironic that I collapsed in possibly the best place - if I had been in a place where no-one knew first aid I could have died," she said.

"Someone knowing first aid literally saved my life.

"I really hope that my story

inspires more people to learn first aid."

And Nikki says she hopes that her own newly-acquired first aid skills will be the difference between a life lost and a life saved.

● To find out more about life saving first aid courses in the Bristol area go to [www.sja.org.uk/training](http://www.sja.org.uk/training) or contact 08700 104950.

### YOUR SAY ONLINE

What do you think?  
Click on the 'Your Say' tab at [www.thisisbristol.co.uk](http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk)

## Drug dealers jailed after cannabis find

DRUG dealers have been jailed for nine months each for growing cannabis in St Phillip's.

Peter Barnes, 49, from Hillgrove Street, off Stokes Croft, and Paul Withers, 35, from Lockleaze were sentenced at Bristol Crown Court.

Barnes was also convicted of possession of a firearm and possession of crack cocaine.

Both men were found by police inside a cannabis factory on William Street in August 2009.

During a search of Barnes' property, 13 CS spray canisters were found and seized.

PC Stuart King said: "This result shows that we are bringing drugs offenders to justice at all levels.

"The message is that people who continue to make money from these crimes will be arrested and will be placed before the courts.

"I would like to thank those members of the public who assisted in this investigation by providing us with valuable information."

Anyone with any information on drug dealing in their area should call police on 0845 4567000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Take chance to quiz your MP

KINGSWOOD MP Chris Skidmore will be holding surgeries this month.

On December 3 he will be at the Emersons Green Village Hall, Emersons Way from 3.30pm to 5pm.

On December 17 he will be at the Kingswood Advice Centre, in High Street, from 3pm to 4.30pm.

Call 0117 908 1524 to book an appointment.



**Thursday 18 November**

**Construction & Engineering Open Evening**

Ashley Down Centre  
4.30pm - 7.00pm



**Saturday 20 November**

**Catering, Construction & Hair and Beauty Open Day**

Ashley Down Centre  
10.00am - 3.00pm

0117 312 5000  
[www.cityofbristol.ac.uk](http://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk)



**Town turns festive:** Actor Matt Kane is joined by raffle winner Sophie Bennett and mayor Chris Clifford to switch on the lights

## Actor leads town lights ceremony

YOUNG actor Matt Kane was in the spotlight in his home town when he threw the switch to turn on Thornbury's Christmas lights.

Matt, 19, a former student at the Castle School, plays Stephen Mackinnon in teen soap *The Cut*.

He was invited to launch the festive shopping season in the High Street by the volunteers who decorate the town with thousands of festive lights.

A draw to find someone to help

him - and raise some cash towards the illuminations - meant Sophie Bennett, 15, was also a VIP at last night's event.

The town's High Street was closed to traffic so families could enjoy a funfair, children's rides and stalls.

A Christmas market was also set up on The Plain, with Thornbury Castle Band playing, charities promoting their work and traders selling food and mulled wine.