



A FAMILY has been reunited with a slice of a town's sailing history.

Naval officer Trevor Kirton made a special trip from his home in Coventry to Rhyll to show daughter Sarah the part she plays in its sea-faring heritage.

As Seaman AB FC1 Gunnery Rate, Trevor was Direct Controller onboard the HMS Rhyll, which was commissioned in 1960 and served in the Far East, Mediterranean and East Africa.

Sarah was christened on board HMS Rhyll in 1972 and her name is engraved inside the ship's bell. The bell is now kept at Rhyll Town Council's Wellington Road offices where it is on loan from the Royal Navy. A model of HMS Rhyll is also kept in the council chamber.

Trevor, wife Carole, son Ashley, Sarah, and granddaughter Ella returned to the town to be reunited with the bell.

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Helen Windus, Rhyl Town Council's Deputy Town Clerk, said: "Trevor was delighted to see the bell again and to show Sarah the part she plays in the ship's history. Apparently Trevor used to clean the bell and even braided the rope on the bell's clapper so he was pleased to see it as it was. It was a historical moment for the family."

HMS Rhyl returned to UK waters in 1967 and in 1982 was deployed to the United States and West Indies. She eventually returned to Portsmouth where wear and tear to her hull was discovered. The ship was taken out of service in 1983.

Cap: Sarah with the christening bell that bears her name.

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