



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



The Semaphore Circular

No 671

The Beating Heart of the RNA

July 2017



The swirl of the pipes on a fine Sunday morning in Perth as the Perth City Pipe Band lead the RNA to the Church service at St Johns Kirk. The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed the National Standard is wearing a mourning silk in respect of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in London on the previous evening.

This edition is the on-line version of the Semaphore Circular, unless you have registered with Central Office, it will only be available on the RNA website in the 'Members Area' under 'downloads' at www.royal-naval-association.co.uk and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec.

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Glossary of terms

NCM	National Council Member
NC	National Council
AMC	Association Management Committee
FAC	Finance Administration Committee
NCh	National Chairman
NVCh	National Vice Chairman
NP	National President
DNP	Deputy National President
GS	General Secretary
DGS	Deputy General Secretary
AGS	Assistant General Secretary
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
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Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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Dear Shipmates

It was a red letter day for the Royal Navy this week, with the sailing of HMS Queen Elizabeth from Rosyth for Sea Trials. Our NP sent a note of congratulations to the First Sea Lord, in his response Admiral Jones said that despite millimetric lazer technology, Captain Jerry Kyd the CO had confirmed the clearance under the Forth Rail Bridge with his 1830 sextant!

The date of the Ship's entry into Portsmouth is not yet public knowledge for a range of good reasons (wind and tide being two – and sea trials being another!). I have met with the QE entry team and **they have promised plenty of places for veterans** to witness at the old HMS DOLPHIN or South Railway Jetty. I **will** have a last minute call for standard bearers to play a **prominent part** in the welcome. . If you are interested please let Nigel or Andy know and we will be in contact when the date firms up – (notice might be quite short).



Quote from National Standard bearer
'Which way do I go now?'

A big Bravo Zulu to the Scottish Area and Perth branch for a superb conference. Full details in the Circ, but a great day for all.

There are some important events coming up and I would draw your attention to:

- The 2018 Standard Bearers competition will be in HMS COLLINGWOOD on 12 May.
- The Biennial Parade on 10 September at the Cenotaph
- The Welfare Seminar 20-22 April 18, Stoke on Trent.

The good news is that the LIBOR busses are now nearing completion and I have arranged insurance. They will be delivered to Portsmouth and it is planned that all 3 will take part in the Biennial Parade, with the hosts taking the buses off to their new homes afterwards, and available for use. The arrangements will be published next month and directly to branch secretaries by email. The key points are drivers age 30 to 70, but insurance for older drivers may be arranged directly with the insurer. UK only, but trips to Eire and Northern Europe are subject to individually arranged and paid for insurance. The buses have a capacity for driver plus 8 passengers and can also be configured to take luggage/goods if seats are removed. The wheelchair lift has a 300Kg capacity which should be good enough for any chef or someone on a scooter.



We have decided to dedicate the buses to modern Naval heroes and holders of gallantry medals. I have to do a final check with the RN, and will let you know the names next month.

Thanks to demand we have **two new items** for you. The RNA poppy pin and a wonderful figure of the Naval Service Memorial Sailor produced by the sculptor, Graeme Mitcheson. The figure would make a perfect thank you gift for a retiring branch official, or someone with good taste!

Photos in the Circ. If you pick up the figure from Central Office you can save £5 postage. A saving of £25 on Arboretum or Naval museum prices!!

The booking form for the Dublin 2018 Conference is attached to this Circular. This Conference is going to be a highlight, with a great hotel right by the sea, Irish hospitality and a tour of the Guinness factory at some stage.



I would like to say a huge thank you to Aldershot branch who have donated £10,000 to the Central Charity Fund as part of their management of a large legacy by S/M Tom Watson. The presentation photo is with S/M Ray Pullen from the Branch. Also a big thank you to Riyadh branch who have donated £5,000 this month.

On an admin note I draw your attention to the note regarding claim forms for Delegates for Conference. Forms **must be** with us by 31 July at the latest, no exceptions I'm afraid.

We are now starting in to the summer leave period, when we may have fewer staff members in Central Office than you are used to. Remember that we only have 4 full time staff (plus Chrissie as our S&O administrator), so answering the phone or sorting slops or membership issues may take longer than usual. I'd ask for your patience and forbearance please.

I have a few remaining RNA leather bound new testaments from the Church service at Perth. If any Shipmate is interested in having one, please let me know.



Finally, a unique picture of your GS in a kilt for the first time! a big thank you to Bob Coburn for organising it. Very comfortable item of clothing I have to say, especially when the sea breeze is coming in! (Note Andy is pressing me to say if I was a true Scot, or not. Suffice it to say I maintained standards as a senior naval officer!)

Kindest regards from me and all at Central Office

Paul

1. ★ Conference Report 2017 – Perth

The Association met for its annual reunion at the Station Hotel Perth from Friday 2 June to Sunday 4 June. 250+ Shipmates booked into the Station and Queens Hotels or made their own arrangements. Everyone met on Friday night for the informal reunion with many old friends meeting up. The Perth and Kinross Sea Cadets did a very smart sunset, which was much enjoyed. We were joined by Rear Admiral John Weale OBE, FOSNI, who met many shipmates. The bars were long closed when the Deputy National President, S/M Cdre Mark Slawson eventually arrived at 1.30 am after a 13-hour flight from Southampton! (Well OK he got the flight times wrong!!).



The National Council had a good set of meetings on the Friday and the Central Office team were able to set up the Conference Room on Friday afternoon, which was a big help – allowing Michelle a welcome lie-in. After the usual 10-course cooked breakfast, the Conference got underway promptly at 1000 with 69 delegates registered for attendance. The Conference room was perfect, being roomy and well-lit. Bob Coburn marched in the National Standard and Rev Ian Wheatly opened with a prayer and a brief reflection on the day ahead.

The Provost of Perth Councillor Dennis Malloy opened conference and welcomed the RNA to Perth.



Cllr Malloy has only just been elected as Provost and is the first Conservative for 20 years. The National President took delight in telling us that the Provost was an accomplished Ballroom dancing instructor and that we were only his second gig in his new role!



Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, Rear Admiral John Weale OBE, provided the keynote speech. He covered the role of Scotland in shipbuilding, the fact that a third of the RN was in Scotland. He praised the RNA for its work with Shipmates and Oppos, mentoring and acting as Ambassadors for the RN in regional and local communities. He took Conference through the present commitments of the RN – especially how busy the Russian Navy is keeping us. He talked, as Rear Admiral Submarines (the second of his 3 jobs), with pride of the 350th deterrent patrol with 48 continuous years – and 2019 as a special year. He covered the great success of the Type 45 radar and command systems and the propulsion get well programme that is progressing satisfactorily. He looked forward to the dawn of a new carrier age and force generation by Carrier Group (a mix of T45, T23, SSN and AOR). The RN is already cutting steel for the SSBN successor (Dreadnought) and the 4th Astute is in the water (HMS AUDACIOUS).



He mentioned the many manpower challenges of developing sufficient quality, trained personnel. He asked the RNA to help engage with the younger generation to encourage recruiting. Admiral Weale enjoyed accepting a decanter of Pusser's Rum as a thank you for giving his Saturday up.

The National President made his address to Conference. He mentioned that the RNA has had a busy year, in particular the progress of Project Semaphore aiming to connect digitally isolated naval veterans – inviting each branch to find 3 candidates, the benefits of bringing families closer together and broadening the horizons of those coming into the programme are marvellous. The fitting of Pembroke House was a particular highlight. He reflected on the LIBOR minibus project for socially isolated veterans and bringing veterans together. He announced that we hoped to have all 3 buses at the Biennial Parade. He covered other initiatives such as the Branch Secretaries Guide, trademarking of the RNA logo, and co-investing with the RNRMC to get better returns and lower fees. He finished with 'You have a great story to tell our local community .. so lets go out and recruit'. He answered one question about providing a draft advert for use in Local Papers. GS then read out the letter from Her Majesty and other supporters.



So S/M Ivan Hunter the new Chair of the Standing Orders Committee got us going with the approval of the standing orders for Conference

We got on with the President's Prizes With 6 Area winning the Tasker Bowl, 3 Area the Sword; Newton Abbott the Brigg's Dirk, City of Edinburgh the Rose Bowl and Torrevieja and Riyadh the overseas certificates. Well done to all!

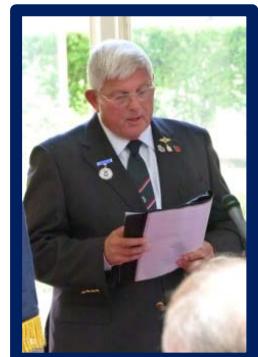
The Chair of the SOC announced the fact that there were 69 delegates and the results of the elections.

Area	NCM	DNCM	
2	Allen	Cox	SOC Election (Supervised by NC)
5	Hammond	-	2 places available
6	Ridley	-	S/M P Harries
7	Williams	Warner	S/M T Howard
8	Godwin	-	
9	Crawford	-	
10	Wright	Simmons (For one year only to balance elections)	
11	McQueen	Rooney	
Scotland	Irvin	McPhillips	



The Hon Treasurer then took us through the Accounts for the 2016 Financial Year (not repeated here since the Accounts have been sent to branches). Uniquely there were no questions. Delegates appeared content with a sound financial performance underscored by good legacy income and investment performance.

The National Chair made his annual report of the NC to Conference, covering the details of 2016 and a bit of an update for the first half of 2017. He thanked the Scottish Area for hosting an excellent Reunion and Conference. He reflected on the good numbers of on-line joiners and a reduced rate of membership loss and announced that the National Council are setting a branch recruiting and retention group. He encouraged shipmates to support



the Jutland Wood Project. He also covered the success of the Shipmates and Oppos programme, as well as Central Office Open Days. He was most complementary about Central Office and the support they provide. Again, no questions at the end of the presentation. The General Secretary gave an update on Project Semaphore and on the LIBOR buses, supported by Sarah Clewes and Branch Support Officer Alan McGrath. Alan mentioned the difference that going on-line has made to two of his candidates saying that the difference is heart-warming and heart-breaking too. The GS showed a video of the wheelchair ramp in operation on the first bus – and announced a ‘Name the Bus competition for Conference’.



Warrant Officer 1 Andy Stevenson gave a brief presentation on the great work of the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity, encouraging members to engage and contribute. The RNRMC is the RNA's preferred charity



After a soup and sandwich lunch provided by the City of Perth we moved onto the motions before Conference. The first three NC motions went through quickly and on very large majorities. One resolved a voting anomaly that had occurred last year, the second regularised the practice of branches using members from other branches as their delegates and finally a tidying up on the appointing of MA to Area committees and as delegates. The NC withdrew Motion 4 which looked to lower the age of AM below 18, but after a GS brief on the requirements of Safeguarding etc to manage children the motion was dropped.

There were 3 branch motions. The first invited NC to review the arrangements for Conference and with NC support went through on the nod. Motions to put a discussion period into Conference and to allow postal voting for AGMs both failed. A motion of urgency to hold the 2019 Conference in 6 Area was passed.

Raffle results:

1 st	Runcorn Branch	3 rd	Huddersfield Branch
2 nd	S/M Coulston	4 th	Newark Branch

Rum Raffle

1st S/M Reed 2nd S/M Clarke 3rd S/M Champion which raised £2,000 for the Jutland Wood Project.



Thirsty delegates repaired to the bar after the Conference was closed. The Gala Dinner followed, which was a first class buffet, with S/M Jimi Tubman winning the ‘Name the bus competition’ for his idea of modern naval heroes. Dancing and frolics followed and a late night for many (including our beloved National President).

A wonderful Church Service followed on Sunday morning at St Johns Kirk with 22 standards parading, behind the Perth Pipe Band who were marvellous.

The Lord Lieutenant and Provost joined us and Rev Ian Wheatley gave a brilliant sermon – many saying this was the best service for years – with the Kirk’s choir providing both an Introit and an Anthem. A leather-bound RNA New Testament was presented to all. A Salute by the VIPs and parade to the



Black Watch memorial and the National President's traditional end of Conference chat completed a marvellous weekend.

2. ★ Project Semaphore iPads - Update

Dear Shipmates,

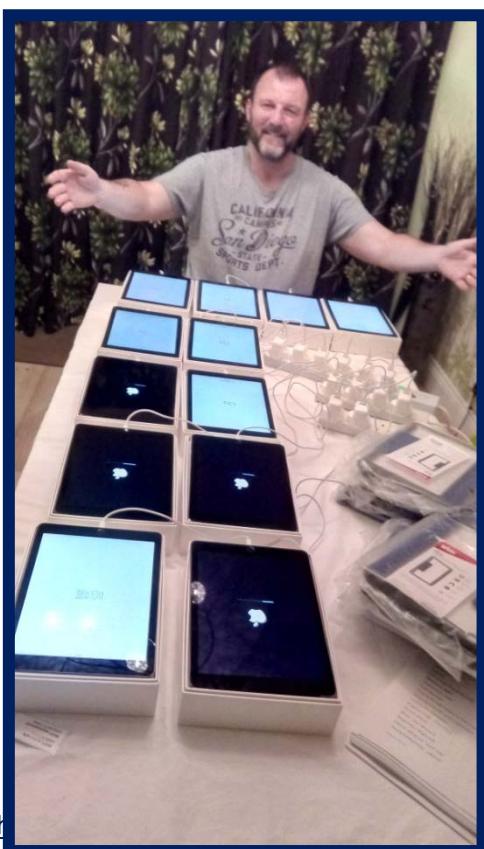
With over 200 applications for iPads this Project has made a significant impact to many already. I am receiving many great stories on how individuals are using the iPads to benefit their lives including: Google translate when learning a new language, email and skype for keeping in touch with family and friends, the camera for capturing moments to share, watching speedway, filling the void a dearly departed has left, scrabble and many others.

Sarah Clewes has been out and about again this time she has visited the Royal Star and Garter care homes in Surbiton and Solihull and in the north Alan Magrath has been visiting the care home Broughton House. Both Sarah and Alan we met with great interest and they supported Maritime Veterans getting online through the iPad.

Picture: Sarah at Royal Star and Garter during iPad training.



Gary Daisley, from RNA Rayleigh, has been doing an amazing job in Area 5 delivering not only training to his local candidates but he has provided training to a new Volunteer in the Norwich branch which allowed the issue of many more iPads to that area. I cannot thank the volunteers enough for all their hard work and dedication to this project without which this Project just would not be the success it is. It is a huge challenge to provide training and support on a full national coverage and I recognise many of our volunteers are travelling a considerable distance to provide support.



Picture: Gary Daisley preparing for a group iPad issue and training session.

As a reminder the eligibility criteria is: to be a Maritime Veteran, over 65 years old and digitally isolated, which not actively online or access to personal IT and able to have enjoyed the benefits this can give. Furthermore, something the Project had not considered as an eligibility but had to be clarified, as a candidate you must be resident in the UK. All the eligibility criteria have been set by the funding provider. Any queries please email me on sarah@royalnavalassoc.com or write to the RNA HQ.

I look forward to receiving further news of our candidates online. I urge all Branches to share the benefits of this amazing Project and look out for eligible Shipmates who we can assist.

Sharon Brown, Project Manager, Project Semaphore.

3. ★ RNVC Series - Commodore Augustus Agar VC DSO Royal Navy

Augustus Willington Shelton Agar was born in Kandy Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and was sent back to Britain to be educated at Framlingham College in Suffolk. He joined the RN in 1904 as a Naval Cadet Officer and completed his training at BRNC, which was still the hulk HMS Britannia. On completion of training he served in a variety of ships ranging from the battle ship HMS Prince of Wales to Torpedo Boat 23. He remained in the Navy until 1946. During his service career he was awarded a Victoria Cross and DSO.

During the early part of the First World War he saw service in HMS Hibernia in the Dardanelles during the ill fated Gallipoli Campaign and joined HMS Iphigenia as Executive Officer which was deployed to Murmansk in March 1917 at the start of the Russian Revolution, the ship operated out of Archangel. It was a difficult and occasionally dangerous mission which occupied the *Iphigenia* until the end of February 1918, when worsening conditions and a hostile Bolshevik government prompted a withdrawal. The British were able to take away with them a number of Russians fleeing the Bolsheviks.

Agar then served in Coastal Motor Boats during the later part of the war. These ships weighed in at 5 tons and were 44' or 45' feet long compared to the average WW1 destroyer weighing in at 1,100 tons. They were extremely shallow drafted and could operate close inshore their primary weapon system was the torpedo. They could also carry mines. Agars' CMB was involved in the Zeebrugge raid. In late 1918 he volunteered for an operation involving CMBs, which because of their utility, were ideal for ferrying British agents back from Russia.

Agar set up a small base at Terijoki, just inside Finland and close to the Soviet frontier. From here he undertook a top secret and dangerous mission to retrieve Paul Dukes, a man he knew only by the MI6 codename ST-25, from the coast of the Bay of Petrograd. The last British agent left in Russia, Dukes had been infiltrating the Bolshevik government for some time and had made copies of top secret documents. A master of disguise, he was known as "The Man with A Hundred Faces", but his resources had run out by this time. In order to spirit Dukes away, Agar's boats had to cross Bolshevik minefields and pass by a number of forts and ships guarding the entrance to the Bolshevik naval base at Kronstadt and to Petrograd, now St. Petersburg.



Also operating in the eastern Baltic Sea was a Royal Navy detachment of light cruisers and destroyers under Admiral Sir Walter Cowan. Though technically not connected, Agar regularly reported to Cowan and received assistance from him. Cowan's mission was to keep the sea lanes open to the new republics of Finland, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, which were under threat of being overrun by Soviet Russia.



On their missions Agar and his crews dressed in civilian clothes to maintain the fiction that Britain was not involved. They had a uniform on board in case they were in danger of capture. Without the uniform, they could be shot as spies. Agar felt that his small force should be doing more than acting as a shuttle service. The Bolsheviks had seized much of the Russian fleet at Kronstadt, and Agar considered these vessels a menace to British operations and took it upon himself to attack the enemy battleships.

He set out with his two boats, HM Coastal Motor Boat 4 and another, on 17 June 1919. One had to turn back before completing its mission, but Agar continued into the bay. The battleships were not in the harbour though. CMB4 penetrated a destroyer screen and was closing on a larger warship further inshore when CMB4, whose hull had been damaged by gunfire, broke down. She had to be taken alongside a breakwater for repairs and for twenty minutes was in full view of the enemy. The attack was then resumed and a Russian cruiser, the 6,645 ton Oleg was sunk, after which Agar retired to the safety of the open bay under heavy fire. For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross and was promoted to lieutenant commander on 30 June 1919.



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Not satisfied with being awarded the VC on 18 August 1919 he was involved in a second action which resulted in the award of a DSO

4. ★ RNA Poppy Badge

By popular demand and Available Now! The New **RNA Poppy**. Please note the 'safety' type pin so you don't lose it. The photo opposite shows the pin in all its glory and scale against a standard RNA badge.

Costing £1 each or 50 pence each if you are a Branch buying them in bulk orders of 30 or over. The prices include postage and are designed to allow you to make the profit from selling them on. Suggested price is £1.50.

Orders with cheques etc to Nigel in Central Office as usual. Also if you don't do cheques and you want to pay by card just give Nigel a call on 02392 723747 or we can arrange a BACS transfer.



5. RNA and Naval Associations Biennial Parade – 10 September 2017

The RNA / Naval Associations Biennial Parade will be held at Whitehall on Sunday 10 September 2017. The Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Jonathon Woodcock OBE has confirmed as the Guest of Honour and the VIP party will include the Minister for the Armed Forces, Rt Hon Mike Penning MP, Flick Drummond MP, (Portsmouth South), Captain Andy Jordan ADC Royal Navy, Commanding Officer HMS Collingwood and Mrs Gillian Molyneux and her daughter Bethany, Mrs Molyneux is the widow of Lt Cdr Dean Molyneux who was killed whilst serving in HMS Astute.

It is envisaged that over 500 personnel both Veterans and Serving will be on parade. As well as representatives from the many naval associations, including from Belgium and the Republic of Ireland. Trainees from HMS Sultan and HMS Collingwood will parade, as will members of the Sea Cadet Corps. Music will be provided by the volunteer band from HMS COLLINGWOOD.

The programme for the day is as follows:

- 0900 RNA Central Office staff on site, meet with Met senior officer.
- 0910 Set security points
- 0915 Civil Service Club opens for coffee and toilets (80 metres from Coach parking)
- 0930 Parking for coaches and minibuses in Whitehall Place (pass required from Central Office) All coaches + Cars to be clear of Whitehall Place by 1300.
- 0945 All Vehicles to be parked,
- 0950 Whitehall Place and South Whitehall closes.
- 1010 **Standard bearers brief by NCA**
- 1025 Parade musters and is briefed by Parade Commander.
- 1040 Parade steps off, from Whitehall Place
- 1055 2SL, Min (AF), Flick Drummond MP, Capt Jordan, Capt Towell Mrs and Miss Molyneux +, VIPs join the parade
- 1100 Service starts, 2 minute silence
- 1102 Service at Cenotaph led by the Chaplain of the Fleet
- 1127 Parade steps off, review by 2SL
- 1140 Parade addressed by NP/2SL
- 1146 Issue of Standard Bearers 'Tots' outside Civil Service Club
- 1147 Bar opens in Civil Service Club – 2SL and VIPs meets Shipmates
- 1200 Sandwiches and Chips served at no cost to participants
- 1200 Parking restrictions restored in Whitehall Place



Dress Will be uniform for those serving and RNA / Association rig with medals or equivalent for everyone else, polished shoes. Berets for standard bearers and optional for marchers. Standards should wear the NSM pennant (if entitled).

Briefs Standard bearers should note the early brief for them at 1010 in Whitehall place by the National Ceremonial Advisor.

Security. **Very Important - Everyone attending should ensure they carry photo ID and their RNA membership card.**

Band The band will be the Massed Royal Navy Volunteer Band.

Wreaths. Any branch, Area or individual may lay a wreath during the ceremony, please let Nigel know if you would like to.

Mobility. The march is of the order of 450 metres there and 450 back with just over an hour on our feet. Those with mobility issues should make their way to the front of the FCO where an area will be reserved

** Parking Details will be advertised once confirmed with Met Police.

6. ★ A puzzle to test you!

Thanks go to Shipmate Ian McQueen for this little brain tester.....



Answer at the rear of Circular.....

7. November Cenotaph Remembrance Parade 12 Nov 17 –Ticket Allocation



Shipmates who would like to attend and march at the November Remembrance parade at the Cenotaph are advised that once again enhanced security measures will be in place. This will involve the Met Police conducting individual security checks on all participants. Therefore Basic Personal Information will be required in advance for each applicant and ticket holders will need to bring photo ID and a document showing proof of their address for access to the parade at Horse Guards via manned Police entry points. Disabled shipmates are

reminded that this year they can be accompanied on the parade by their carer. However the carer's will be subject to the same security procedures and must forward their details to Nigel.

All Shipmates hoping to march in the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph **must** forward the following details to Nigel at Central Office (HQ) – nigel@royalnavalassoc.com by **Friday 1 September 2017**

Title/Rank, First Name (**This must be the name on the photo ID**), Last Name, Date of Birthday (DD/MM/YYYY), Place of Birth, First line of address, Town, Postcode, Service number (Where applicable)

Finally, Individually **Named** tickets will be despatched in October and Shipmates should be aware that there will be a **compulsory 'no ticket no entry'** policy in operation on the day.

8. ★ FINANCE CORNER

Dear Shipmates,

Michelle is on well deserved post-Conference leave. The main Message is for Conference Delegates who want travel costs refunded under the Pooled Fares Scheme. Claim forms **MUST** be with Michelle by 31 July absolute latest (not posted, but arrived). GS will not approve claims after that date, since we have to draw the line to work out pooled fares for the termly accounts.



Please sort out with your Conference Delegate asap.

Final point, the passenger rate on Conference claims are only for other Delegates, not observers, your toy boy or mistress, the dog etc.

9. Guess Where? An Establishment



This month can you name this establishment? As it is difficult I have provided a then and now photo. Remember no hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!

The answer will be in next month's edition.



Last month's answer: Was relatively easy and a number of Shipmates e-mailed in with the answer including; Derby Allen (first), Bobby Thorne, George Shelton, Keith Jones.

It was of course HMS Vernon with Gunwharf Quays in the background.

10. ★ Joke – Ride me funky Moped!



An elderly man, looking about 100 years old, and on a Moped, pulls up next to a doctor at a street light. The old man looks over at the sleek shiny car and asks, 'What kind of car have you got there, young fella?'

The doctor replies, 'A Ferrari GTO. It cost half a million pounds' 'That's a lot of money,' says the old man. 'Why does it cost so much?'

'Because this car can do up to 320 miles an hour!' states the doctor proudly. The Moped driver asks, 'Mind if I have a look inside?' 'No problem,' replies the doctor. So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Then, sitting back on his Moped, the old man says, 'That's a fantastic car.... But I'll stick with my Moped!'

Just then the light changes, so the doctor decides to show the old man just what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 160 mph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer. He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly WHOOOOSHHH Something whips by him going much faster! 'What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari ?' the doctor asks himself.

He presses harder on the accelerator and takes the Ferrari up to 250 mph. Then, up ahead of him, he sees that it's the old man on the Moped! Amazed that the Moped could pass his Ferrari, he gives it more gas and passes the Moped at 275 mph. He's feeling pretty good until he looks in his mirror and sees the old man gaining on him AGAIN!



Astounded by the speed of this old fella, he floors the accelerator and takes the Ferrari all the way up to 320 mph. Not ten seconds later, he sees the Moped bearing down on him again! The Ferrari is flat out, and there's nothing he can do! Suddenly, the Moped plows into the back of his Ferrari, demolishing the rear end. The doctor stops and jumps out and unbelievably, the old man is still alive. He runs up to the banged-up old chap and says, 'I'm a doctor.... Is there anything I can do for you?'

Wait for it.....

The old man whispers, 'Unhook my braces from your side mirror'

11. ★ Naval Service Memorial Figurine

Graham Mitcheson, the sculptor of the Naval Service Memorial, has produced a miniature figurine of the Sailor (approx 9" high) who sits adjacent to the NSM. The figurine is now on sale at the National Arboretum, where it is on sale for £95. However Shipmates may purchase the figurine at a discounted cost of £75 (including Post) from Nigel at Central Office. Nigel can be contacted at nigel@royalnavalassoc.com

Or by telephone on 02392 723747.



12. ★ North Korean Medal Presentation Divisions!

The photo below shows a medal presentation in progress at an undisclosed establishment in North Korea. I will leave it up to you to draw your own conclusions.....

One Shipmate, using a disguise although a member of a branch from 4 Area with a softly spoken west country accent quietly suggested to the MOD that there may be an extremely easy way of defeating the Korean Forces, if it came down to it, by pointing a 'giant magnet' at them !



13. ★ RNA Tartan Tie or RNA Tartan Bow Tie



Some Shipmates may have missed the opportunity to purchase your very own RNA Tartan tie or bow tie.

So if you missed out at Conference here is another chance for you to obtain one of these unique pieces of clothing.

Available from Central Office for the special price of .

Tartan Tie £12.00

Bow Tie £11.00

(Prices include Post and packaging.)

14. Northern Ireland Veterans' Association – Service of Remembrance 16 Sep 17

NIVA Admin Mike Sangster would like to advise Shipmates that this year's service will be held at 11.30 on Saturday 16th September 2017 at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

The service will commemorate and remember all those who lost their lives in service of the Crown as a result of the conflict in N. Ireland. The service will be followed by a parade down to the Ulster Ash Grove for the laying of wreaths. Following the laying of the wreaths, there will be a 20 minute pause before the parade forms up for the return march to the visitor centre during which the guest of honour will take the salute.

The service is open to all, and all Associations are welcome to parade their standards. It would be appreciated if Associations arranging for groups of their members to attend could notify us of numbers and confirm if their standard will be parading. We look forward to welcoming you to our annual memorial service.

For further information please visit our website at: www.nivets.org.uk

15. Motorfinity Partnership



Shipmates should be aware that the Royal Naval Association and the Conference of Naval Associations (CONA) are delighted to appoint Motorfinity as their exclusive motoring partner offering discounts on cars,

commercial vehicles and motoring related products such as used cars and motorcycles for the benefit of members. Motorfinity works with all of the top motoring brands in the UK offering great offers and discounts which are easily accessible.

- **Save £1,000s** on your next new car
- **All models** available from leading manufacturers
- Motorfinity only works with **manufacturer approved suppliers**
- All finance options are available including **cash, Hire Purchase (HP) and Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)**
- Part exchange service
- **No fees** or charges for using the service

Take a look at some of our offers and submit your enquiry online at the dedicated Royal Naval Association website – www.motorfinity.uk/rna

Motorfinity - Hot off the press.....

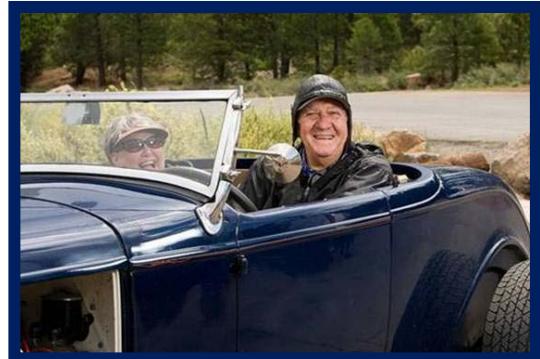
This month we are launching our deal of the month which is the Nissan Juke. We recently partnered with Nissan UK to promote their nationwide scheme for Military and Police personnel. Customers are able to simply submit an enquiry and their local dealer will then call them to arrange a test drive and process their discounted order. The discounts are great and are coupled, should the customer wish, with a PCP offer which is often supported with a deposit contribution from Nissan in addition to the discount. Win-Win!

16. ★ Joke Time – Married Life

After being married for 50 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Fifty years ago we had a cheap house, a banger for a car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white Tele, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 23-year-old girl.

Now ... We have an £800,000 home, a £50,000 car, a nice big bed and a large-screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 73-year-old woman. It seems to me that my wife is holding up to her side of the bargain."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 23-year-old girl and she would make certain that I would once again be living in a cheap house, driving a crap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.



Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve an old chaps problems!

17. ★ HMS Ganges Association – Solent Division – Combined Services Annual Church Service

The Solent Division of the HMS Ganges Association are holding their annual church service this year at St. George's Church at Portsea, commencing at 1200 on Sunday the 16th. July 2017.

For the past two years we have encouraged other associations to join with us and it is now called the "Combined Services Annual Church Service". All standards welcome. It is an informal

service and is officiated by The Reverend Belinda Davies, Vicar of St. George's Church and Collin Noyce our own Padre.

After the service we meet up at the RNOC/RNA in Lake Rd., Portsmouth for a refreshments, a chat and a bit of "lamp swinging", it gives us a chance to talk to those who attended the service and any idea's they may have to improve it

Interested persons are requested to contact myself, Bob Campbell of the Solent Division of the HMS Ganges Association by telephone on (023) 8073 4915 but preferred email me at gangesbob@hotmail.co.uk (I am a little hard of hearing but not an insurmountable problem)

18. Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day – 3 September 2017

Seafarers UK have launched a 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day' campaign which Branches and Shipmates may wish to participate in on 3 September.

With the support of the Merchant Navy Association and the Federation of Merchant Marines, Seafarers UK is promoting the campaign to 11,500 local councils this year. But it's not just councils that they want to take part. Any association or organisation that wishes to get involved will be welcomed – the more the merrier!



As Merchant Navy Day this year falls on a Sunday, the day of the MNA's National Service at Tower Hill, they are encouraging local civic flag hoisting ceremonies and events to be held on the preceding Friday, with Red Ensigns flying over the whole weekend.

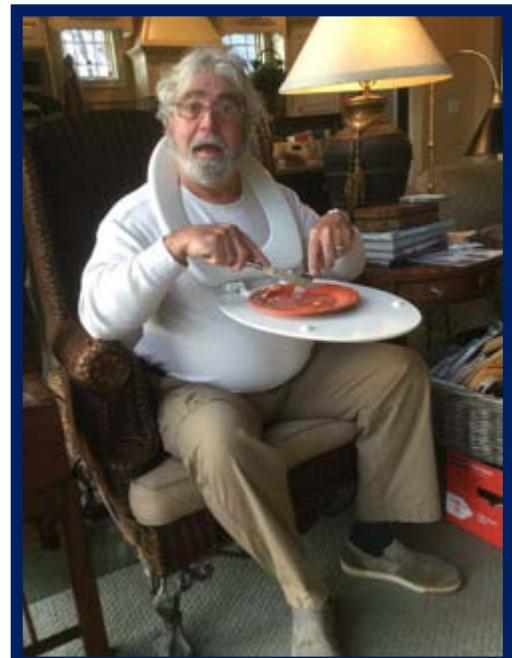
For further information please contact Nick Harvey, Seafarers Campaigns Manager, on 020 7932 5969 or nick.harvey@seafarers-uk.org or follow the links below;

<http://www.merchantnavyfund.org/merchant-navy-day>
<http://www.merchantnavyfund.org/dl/MerchantNavyDay2017Flyer.pdf>

19. ★ Design of the Month

Just received in from in Area 2. A Older Shipmates eating appliance, probably as effective as 'dog trays' How clever are some of their Shipmates?

Bet that you cannot come up with something equally imaginative. How cool is this....



20. ★ Veterans Medical Assistance – trouble with knees and things.

Shipmate Glyn Jones (Hon Sec Mansfield and District Branch) has forwarded the following information for Veterans who need orthopaedic assistance.

I thought this might come in useful for all our Veterans who have need of new hips and/or knees...

Trouble with knees and things..... Did you know.....

As a veteran, you can ask for a referral to a specialist Orthopaedic clinic at The Robert Jones & Edith Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7AG. There is a specific Veterans Clinic run by Lt Col Carl Meyer, an Army Reserve consultant surgeon who also works with 202 Field Ambulance and Reserve Hospital.

A friend applied for a referral on 16 March, this year, and on 3rd May, a week ago, had a hip replacement, a total of just over 6 weeks. Lt Col Meyers specialises in hips and knees. If you don't mind a few days away from family, He can assure you it's more like an hotel than a hospital, and the foods really good. Having a long wait ahead of you at your local GP and hospital, this might be the way to go to achieve a much quicker result.

What is it? A service for military veterans to have their hip or knee arthritis assessed and, if appropriate, have joint replacement surgery and is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer, Military Consultant Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Surgeon at Oswestry's specialist orthopaedic hospital. Lt Col Meyer is an Army Reserve officer who has been on three tours to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. He is an Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon with 16 Medical Regiment, 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital.

◆Who is it for? Anyone who has been in regular military service, including national service.
◆Where is it? The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH), Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7AG ,and is a centre of orthopaedic excellence specialising in lower limb replacement surgery.

◆When is it? Outpatient clinics are held fortnightly at RJAH. (Normally on a Wednesday)
◆How do I obtain an NHS referral ? Through your GP - Ask to be referred to the VETERANS' HIP & KNEE SURGERY SERVICE at Oswestry - And ask your GP to make a named referral to Lt Col Meyer. Contact information Email: rebecca.ann.jones@rjah.nhs.uk Fax: 01691 404067 Tel: 01691 404344

Your records at your GP needs to be annotated with the NHS issued codes for military/veterans, take photocopies of your red discharge book, because he will ask for proof that you're a veteran.

*Lt Col Meyer wants to "do" more operations for veterans, but he has two problems,
1; finding the patients, he knows that we are out here, it's letting us know he's there for us, and*

2; getting the money from the NHS, but, the more ops he does the more money they will give him, therefore the more ops he can do. So, come on, I've had 3 enquiries so far, there must be more than us 3. If you are members of other military Facebook sites please, please, please copy and paste to these pages and let as many veterans know about this brilliant service that's just for us. It's about time us vets got something back for our years of loyal service.

<http://www.rjah.nhs.uk/Our-Services/Orthopaedic-Surgery/Veterans-Clinic.aspx>

RNA Longcast

2017	
30 Jun	Open Day
01 Jul	RNA Dublin Summer BBQ
27 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Stowmarket
11 Aug	Open Day
18 Aug	FAC
19 Aug	AMC
01 Sep – 31 Oct	Possible arrival window of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth - TBC
06 Oct	Open Day
09 Sep	National Council Meeting – Victory Services Club
10 Sep	Biennial Parade
29 Sep - 02 Oct	CONA Cruise (Liverpool –Dublin- Bristol)
30 Sept	Chichester Branch 70 th anniversary event
11 Oct	Sea Farers Service St Pauls Cathedral (Ticketed entry only – requests for tickets to Nigel by end September please)
20 Oct	RNA Dublin- Trafalgar Night Dinner
21 Oct	RNA Chard -30 year Commissioning Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – Cenotaph Parade
17 Nov	FAC
18 Nov	AMC
25 Nov	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Royston RNA (Eternit Sports & Social Club)
09 Dec	National Council Meeting
2018	
03 Feb	Area 5 AGM / Quarterly – Southend RNA Club
16 Feb	FAC – SOC Meetings
17 Feb	AMC
10 Mar	National Council Meeting (Trustee Report/Motions for Conference/ Annual Financial Forecast)
05 May	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
18/19/20 May	Londonderry Branch Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration 2018
12 May	National Standard Bearer Competition – HMS Collingwood
8/9/10 June	RNA Conference - Dublin
8 Jun	National Council/AMC/FAC/ SOC Meetings
04 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
17 Aug	FAC
18 Aug	AMC
08 Sept	National Council Meeting (Election of NCh/NVCh – motions action)
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – RBL Club Rayleigh
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
08 Dec	National Council Meeting (Budget)

D'ye hear there'.....

News from around the Areas and Branches

- [RNA Area 8](#)
- [RNAChatham](#)
- [RNA Stowmarket](#)
- [RNA Scottish Area](#)
- [RNA Wansbeck](#)
- [RNA Area 6](#)
- [RNA Newbury](#)
- [RNA Spalding](#)
- [RNA Rayleigh](#)
- [RNA Aldershot](#)
- [RNA St Neots](#)
- [RNA Area 2](#)
- [RNA Lee on the Solent & Stubbington](#)
- [RNA Cardiff](#)
- [RNA Stowmarket1](#)
- [RNA Bude](#)
- [RNA Dagenham](#)
- [RNA Plymouth Branch](#)
- [RNA Chard Branch](#)
- [RNA Chichester Branch](#)

RNA Area 8

The Area 8 Committee would like to introduce a “Well Being Event” in the form of an Area 8 Uckers Competition, with the intention of it being an annual event and a chance for Area members to get together for a social and some exciting Uckers.

To alleviate inconvenience for branches with travel, the competition will be a one day knock out team event and consist of 2 players in each team, at a cost of £5 per team, and each branch can enter a maximum of 2 teams. Initially there will be no singles matches played. The team entry fee will be used towards funding the trophies. Refreshments will be available for players and spectators at a cost of £2 per head, excluding drinks, which will be available at the bar. The dress code will be casual rig. A raffle will also take place, to which branches will be expected to donate a prize. If there is a shortfall of money raised from the refreshments and the raffle Area 8 will fund the difference so that the hosting branch will not be out of pocket.

The event will take place on Saturday 8th July and Birmingham Cotteridge Branch have offered to host this first match as they have a large room available which is ideal to accommodate a number of games being played at the same time. The timings will be as follows:

- 1) Meet and greet between 1100 – 1200
- 2) Lunch served between 1200 – 1300
- 3) Competition starts at 1330

Please do your best to come along with a team or simply to support those playing which should be a very enjoyable social event. To enter please forward the information below with your cheque made payable to RNA Area 8, and post to the Area 8 Hon Sec, S/m Margaret Trigg, Ashgrove, Bromsash, Herefordshire, HR9 7PL. To help with the organisation can you please let

the Hon Sec know either by the next area meeting on the 17th June or at the latest by Friday 30th June.

Branch/Branch Contact Name/ Contact Tel No / Email address /No of Teams / No of approx Spectators /

(By Ed No note if Fleet Arm Arm Rules apply, or suck backs and blow backs allowed and the penalty for an 8-piece dicking)

RNA Chatham Branch

A service and parade, organised by the Royal Naval Association in partnership with the Universities at Medway , will take place on Sunday 10 September, marking 100 years since a fatal bombing raid took place in Chatham Dockyard killing 131 naval men. The service and parade will take place at the Universities at Medway campus.

Those attending will include The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle; the Rear Admiral John Kingwell CBE, OBE, Deputy Commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies; Mayor of Medway, and senior representatives from the Royal Navy and other armed services and organisations.

Music will be provided by The Royal Marines Collingwood Band, with the parade featuring, Serving RN Personnel, RN Veterans, Merchant Navy Personnel, Standard Bearers and cadets, amongst others. There will also be wreath laying, planting of Crosses and , the reading of names of those who died in the tragedy and hymns.

On the night of 3 September 1917, there were 698 men either asleep or resting in their hammocks in the Drill Shed, which formed part of the Royal Navy's HMS Pembroke barracks at Chatham. The Drill Shed was often used as a temporary overflow dormitory when the barrack accommodation blocks were full. The men lost their lives when the building was bombed by German Gotha airplanes. It suffered a direct hit as the planes dropped nearly fifty bombs over Gillingham and Chatham. Contemporary accounts tell a terrible story: many were fatally injured from the explosion, with some victims being cut to pieces from the falling pieces of glass from the roof.



The attack was one of the first night-time bombing raids in the history of warfare. The hands of the clock in the tower were frozen at 23.12, marking the exact time the bombs hit the building. Today, the building is known as the Drill Hall Library: a state-of-the-art learning resource centre and one of the showpiece buildings of the Universities at Medway campus, serving the students of Greenwich, Kent and Canterbury Christ Church Universities.

Any Shipmate/Branch who would like to attend should contact Shipmate Chris Stout, Secretary, RNA Chatham, at jim@baydrift.com . The ceremony will take place from 11am. The public are welcome to attend and watch the service and parade from a designated position on Central Avenue, on the Medway Campus.

RNA Stowmarket Branch

On Friday 16th June, over a hundred-people attended a Service of Commemoration at Stowmarket's St Peter and St Mary's church to mark the end of the Falklands War thirty-five years ago in 1982. The war, which saw 74 days of bitter fighting to re-take the islands after Argentine had invaded in a dispute over sovereignty, resulted in 255 British servicemen, 3 Falkland Islanders and 649 Argentine servicemen killed in action. There were an additional 777 British and 1,188 Argentine non-fatal casualties.

Attending the service were a small group of Falklands War veterans, who found themselves amongst a naval task force dispatched to the South Atlantic to engage the Argentine Navy and Air Force before the successful amphibious assault could take place. Pete Chivers, who was with the Royal Navy, gave the first reading, with Lidda Luxton, a Falkland Islander who now lives in Stowmarket, giving the second reading.

Following the service, the congregation, along with twelve ex-service association standard bearers, escorted by sea and air cadets, made their way to the town's Memorial Gates to lay wreaths and observe a minute's silence. Stowmarket born Nick Huffee laid the South Atlantic Medal Association wreath, which was particularly poignant as he was serving on *HMS Glamorgan* during the conflict when it was hit by an Exocet missile, killing thirteen member of the crew.

Lidda Luxton, who during her time on the Falklands hosted many veterans visiting the islands on personal pilgrimages, said a few words about the continuing gratitude felt by islanders to all those who had sailed 8,000 miles to the South Atlantic and unselfishly liberated the islands from its invaders and uphold its right to self-determination. From the sea came freedom.

A buffet was then held at Stowmarket's Royal British Legion Club where a candle was lit to remember "Absent Friends" before Councillor Dave Muller, Stowmarket's Town Mayor, spoke about his own personal recollections on having seen the task force sail from Portsmouth in 1982. Proceeds from the sale of remembrance booklets and a raffle raised over £500 for the South Atlantic Medal Association charity, which continues to care for veterans of the war and their families.

The picture shows Falkland Islander Lidda Luxton (front and centre) with veterans of the Falklands War at Stowmarket's Memorial Gates. To the far right is Stowmarket Town Mayor, Councillor Dave Muller with his wife Lois.



RNA Scottish Area



The Scottish National Armed Forces Day was held in Kings Park, Stirling and besides the National Standard Scottish Area was joined by the Scottish Area Standard. Shipmates from Forth Valley, Rosyth & West Fife and the Forth Valley Submariners Standards were also on parade.

The Captain and some of the Ships Company of HMS Forth and also the Provost of Clackmannanshire, who partook of a tot of rum with the shipmates, visited during the day.



RNA Wansbeck Branch

Wansbeck Branch held a dinner to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the end of the Falklands War, which was attended by Veterans and Shipmates from the Branch. The dinner was held in the Anglers Arms, Guidepost in Northumberland on 14 June 2017.

Some of the members were unable to attend, but those who did enjoyed a very good meal. One feature of the evening was the vacant chair draped with the Union Flag for absent or lost companions, which was the toast of the evening.



RNA No 6 Area

On Sunday 4th June 2017, shipmates from Huntingdon and St Neots branches, No 6 Area, manned a charity stall at the Shuttleworth Fly Navy Airshow, Biggleswade. The day began with S/Ms Karl Webb and Pete Aston from Huntingdon Branch, and S/Ms Mike Milne and Tony Webley from St Neots Branch setting up the joint stall in the VIP aircraft display area – complete with a Merlin HM2 from HMS Northumberland.



As this was a dedicated Navy air show, the team were collecting specifically for NAVY WINGS, whose aircraft collection comprises the aircraft of the Royal Navy Historic Flight (RNHF) and the Fly Navy Heritage Trust (FNHT).

Throughout the day, the team were visited by members of the public, but also from the RN support teams, pilots, and even the CEO of NAVY WINGS, Commodore Jock Alexander who was accompanied by Rear Admiral Keith Blount from the FAA. Being a naval event, all former and

serving RN personnel were offered a tot of Pusser's Rum, not surprisingly, this went down a treat with all our visitors.

During the afternoon, S/Ms John Gibbs and Jayne Miller from St Neots Branch joined the team to lend a hand with manning the stall.

The aircraft displays were enjoyed by all, the VIP tent had a number of celebrities, including Dragons' Den entrepreneur Nick Jenkins, who came over to chat with us after hearing that S/M Pete Aston was on the stall (Pete's sister works with the Dragons).



One of the last displays was a Sea Fury, this was special to members of Huntingdon Branch who had recently lost their former President, S/M Graham Holt. Graham had flown over 20 aircraft types in the RN, one of his favourites was the Sea Fury. It was a special moment when the announcer told the crowd that the Sea Fury display was being dedicated to Graham in his memory. Thank you Shuttleworth and NAVY WINGS.

At the end of the day, shipmates were surprised at being presented with a bottle of beer each, a specially brewed bottle of 'Winkle Brown. As the stall was de-rigged and shipmates headed home, we knew we had a successful day, and had raised over £550 for NAVY WINGS, and of course promoted the RNA and No 6 Area in doing so. BZ to all those shipmates that took part.

(BZ from Central Office staff too!)



RNA Newbury and District Branch

On Tuesday 30th May 2017, several members of the Newbury and District Branch of the Royal Naval Association attended the garden party at Buckingham palace. This garden party was hosted by the Not Forgotten Association and His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales KCVO (Prince Harry), who was the Royal Representative. The music was by The Band of The Corps of The Royal Engineers. The Branch members attending were, Bob McGuinness (Branch chairman), Alan Marshall (Branch President), Stuart Telford Branch Treasurer and his wife Lynn (associate member), Pat Watson (past area representative) and Tony Toms (past chairman of area 6, Reading member, but now a member of the Newbury and District since Reading folded).



There were 6 members out of a total of 13 active members, a good turnout. This was a most enjoyable day out and would recommend this to all branches. It is one of those quintessential English afternoons. Sitting on a manicured lawn eating sandwiches (with the crusts cut off), listening to a rather good band. More importantly, a good opportunity to talk with the current serving Sailors.

As two shipmates wore Dolphins, several other wearers stopped for a chat as they were doing the rounds. Alan is a former Royal Marine, several of the uniformed booties stopped and listened to some of his experiences, especially as he wears not only a WWII medal but the old red and white Naval general service medal with three bars. A really good day out.

RNA Spalding Branch

On Tuesday 20th June, a Royal Naval Contingent from the Joint Electronic Warfare Operational Support Centre based at The Air Warfare Centre RAF Waddington supported their RNA colleagues from Spalding. As tradition permits the RN led the towns Armed Forces Day parade, which also included a RAF Contingent (It was a week day!), Local Ex Service Associations and the local Army Cadets (between 80 to 100 in all) to the centre of the Market Place where most of the stall holders had covered their stalls in bunting and flags,

The Right Reverend John Bennett gave a short service and prayers, followed by a rendition of "Bring him Home" from Les Misérables by the local singer Craig Delaney. When the song was completed, the Parade was marched the half mile or so (giving a salute en-route to TAKU Bridge, Which commemorates British Submarine HMS TAKU that Spalding adopted in WW2), to Spalding's St Mary and St Nicholas Church where refreshments were supplied.



This is the second successful year that representatives from the Senior Service have participated in this event thus raising public awareness of a continued Naval presence within the region.

The serving personnel said that, It was both an honour and a privilege to participate in such momentous occasions and reaffirm our Naval connections with the town. It is testament to the character of the town's residents in their resounding support of the Armed Forces and something which made Spalding Shipmates immensely proud.

RNA Rayleigh Branch

Courtesy the Rayleigh Rooving Reporter Shipmate Gary Daisley (Rayleigh Hon Sec)

Shipmates from Rayleigh Branch visited HMS Belfast on 28 April 2017. It is said that the 'luck of the Irish' was to be with the crew of this ship from the Belfast shipyard from which she takes her name. Having been nearly destroyed by Germany's first 'magnetic mine' off Scapa Flow in November 1939, she later returned to active service and saw action escorting Arctic convoys, the Battle of North Cape (assisting in the destruction of the German battleship Scharnhorst) and took part in Operation Overlord supporting the Normandy landings.

The IWM museum ship has many historic displays on-board and Shipmates could have spent many more hours seeing them all, but eventually the call of the pub 'The Horniman' was just too great and the promise of a cold beer and a hot lunch got the better of us. The coach back to Rayleigh was full of talk of what we had seen and the personal memories of those who remembered those times.

A cracking day out. With special thanks to Wally Filby (HMS Belfast ships company 1962-63), Kevin Price (Ex-RN Gunner and IWM Volunteer) and Mike in the Radio Shack for the RNARS as GB2RN from whom we were entertained with many tails and anecdotes.

The photo shows the Rayleigh boarding party; (left to right) shipmates Gary Daisley, Joan Crick, Lilly & Harry Irons, Phil & Lynne Edwards, Cliff Severn, Alan White, Les Holyome, Trina Sandbrook, Terry Barker, Alma Walton, Mike Sandbrook, Jim Hammond, Ray Fenn, Pat Hammond, Mike Burnham and Tony Reekie prior to boarding.



Branch Shipmates; Ray Fenn, Mike Sandbrook, Dave Bishop, Phil Edwards, Jim Hammond and Tony Belford joined the Castle Point Mayor at the Council Offices in Kiln Road, Thundersley on Monday 19 June for the annual flag raising ceremony in support of Armed Forces Day.

The Royal Artillery Association provided the traditional gun salute and the Mayor hosted a reception for Veterans and other guests in the Council Atrium after the ceremony.

There was also a collection in Remembrance of the 88 men of the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment who fell at Gueudecourt on 12

October 1916, to provide a donation to help fund the Memorial Plaque Appeal to be placed in the Garden of Remembrance in Northern France.

RNA Aldershot Branch

Aldershot Branch will be commemorating the death of the tot in Aldershot Conservative Club on Friday 28th July 2017. Free 'Tot', Grub and a Disco what more could you wish for. Free car parking at rear of club all shipmates very welcome. For further information contact Ray Pullen 07983 151011.

RNA St Neots Branch

On Friday 16th and Saturday 17th June, shipmates from St Neots & District Branch held a successful fundraising collection in the foyer at Tesco superstore in St Neots.



As well as being a financial success, the branch had a lot of interest, and respect, from members of the public and Tesco's management staff. There was plenty of comments on how smart the shipmates were in their blazers and proudly displaying their medals -- a credit to the RNA and St Neots Branch.

On the recruitment front, application forms and RNA hats were dished out with enthusiasm. Although both days were extremely hot, shipmates remained standing their watch in full rig.

The photograph shows local children wearing their RNA hats (with the kind permission of their parents to use for RNA PR). BZ Shipmates

RNA Area 2



This year's competition was held at St Raglan's primary school gymnasium in Bromley Kent on Saturday 27th May, and was organized by shipmate Steve Susans, former nation standard bearer, and the days parade commander. There were six competitors that included shipmate Dave Corrigan from Bletchley & District in Area 6. The three out of area Judges were shipmate Tony Avery, Ron Smith, and Stan Wright.

A very high standard was set by the first competitor and eventual winner Steve Champion from Maidstone branch. Following the competition, we retired to T/S

Narvik Bromley's meeting place for the results and awards.

Open Competition; 1st Dave Corrigan, Bletchley & District, 2nd Steve Champion, Maidstone and 3rd Colin Rickard, Paddock Wood.

Most improved Matelot - John Cooper, Maidstone.

Area Novice - Alan Oliver, Ashford.

Area competition: 1st -Steve Champion, Maidstone. 2nd - Colin Rickard, Paddock Wood.

3rd - Christine Sandman, Chatham.

Well done to all who took part Steve has already carried the area standard at the national conference in Perth Scotland.

RNA Lee on the Solent and Stubbington Branch

Lee/Stubb Branch hosted the First Lieutenant, Lt Cdr Tim Leeder RN and four senior members of HMS Dragon ships company at their June monthly meeting held at the Court Barn Conservative Club Lee on the Solent.

Lee Chairman S/M Andy Christie and Branch President S/M John Lavery welcomed the chaps onboard. (Photo opposite)

Tim and his team; Lt Dave Savin (DWEO), Lt Dane Smallbone (DIO), WO1 Ned Cole (EWO) and CPO Ginge Hilton provided an excellent brief on Dragons recent deployment and a look ahead to the future, which Branch members really enjoyed.



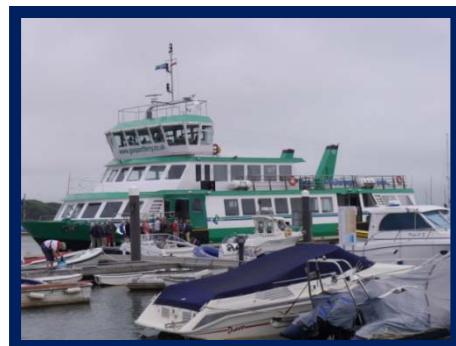
They managed to successfully survive some tough questioning from Shipmates in particular from S/M Jan Edwards, a former Lt Cdr and sea goer, on how female personnel are fairing onboard!

Tim related how wonderful it was to report that the one of the ships female leading hands, who is a brilliant example to other female sailors throughout the Fleet, was one of the best boat handlers he had come across and was exemplary during recent Operations in the Mediterranean whilst dealing with very difficult rescues of migrants in stormy conditions. He also highlighted that Commander Eleanor Stack

was now Commanding Officer of a sister ship HMS Duncan.

For Presidents Day 2017 Lee/Stubb Branch went 'Cruising' lovely day was had by all with plenty of lamp swimming and BZ to S/M Rod Phillips for volunteering to 'Lifebuoy Spook'! We even had an accompanying aquatic friend watching over the branch in the form of a 10' Dolphin. (aka Flipper)

(The photos below HMS Gosport Ferry, S/Ms Andy Christie, Kate Webb, John Lavery, Gillian Coulton and Jan Edwards enjoying the Lymington ambience)



RNA Cardiff Branch

Members of the Cardiff Branch were pleased to host the First Sea Lord at Armed Forces Day in Caerphilly. Sharing a tot was the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Philip Andrew Jones KCB and Commodore Jamie Miller CBE, the Royal Naval Regional Commander (Wales and Western England). The First Sea Lord met members of the Branch including the Branch President S/M Peter Machin and the Branch and Area 7 Chairman Shipmate Andrew Clark.



The picture above shows the First Sea Lord and Commodore Jamie Miller sharing a tot with the Branch and bottom left - First Sea Lord, Commodore Jamie Miller, S/M Peter Machin President Cardiff RNA and Andrew Clark Cardiff RNA and Area 7 Chairman

RNA Stowmarket Branch



Stowmarket RNA marked its first year of existence by presenting a cheque to Newmarket Sea Cadets to help them in their fundraising efforts for much needed equipment. This is just one of the various causes that the branch has supported over the past twelve months.

Originally commissioned with just seven 'shipmates', the branch now boasts twenty-three members, who between them have served in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force, or have an interest in the Royal Navy. During its first year, members of the branch have taken an active role in not only supporting the town and other ex-service associations at various events, but also successfully hosted various social events to raise money for naval charities and local worthy causes.

Force, or have an interest in the Royal Navy. During its first year, members of the branch have taken an active role in not only supporting the town and other ex-service associations at various events, but also successfully hosted various social events to raise money for naval charities and local worthy causes.

RNA Bude Branch

With the kind permission of the owner (Paul) of Fairfield Country Rest Home, Launcells, Bude and Manager Helen, the Bude Branch had the pleasure of installing a young Ash sapling within the proposed new "Remembrance Area". The 'rememberance area was in memory of Lt. Richard "Dick" Thomas who was a highly respected Branch Member and also for some years a resident at Fairfield.





On the assigned day (24th June) the Rain Gods decided to assist and it was a tad drizzly - hence a somewhat misty camera lens!

Pictured from Fairfield Staff are C/A Paula, Senior C/A Jo and C/A Vanessa. From R.N.A. are A/S/M John Bosworth (digger), S/M Bob Gelder (Hon. Sec.) and S/M Godfrey Harrison (Vice Pres.)

It is to be hoped that in years to come that both residents and relations will have a peaceful area to sit and reflect within the very well-kept grounds of Fairfield.

Dagenham Branch

On 13 May 2017 Dagenham Branch held an evening of 'fun and frolics' (Ooh Matron!) in support of the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity. The event was held at the Dagenham and Redbridge FC function room where Shipmates, friends and family gathered to enjoy an evening of music, dancing and of course a few sherberts.

A 'pussers' version of tombola was held complete with RN number calling '2 and 6 was she worth it 4/5 engage etc.... it was even better fun as the guests didn't have a clue what was going on!

Everyone enjoyed a sumptuous buffet provided by S/m Pat Callender (no not collinder!) and DJ in the house S/M Reg St Pier. It was all topped off with a tot of pussers what more could you ask for.

Oh and the Branch raised £670.00 for the RNRMC. BZ the Daggers.



RNA Plymouth Branch

Plymouth Branch will be holding its 11th Biennial Trafalgar weekend in the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay over the weekend;

Friday October 13th – Monday October 16th 2017

2 Nights. Dinner/Bed/Breakfast £124
3 Nights Dinner/Bed/Breakfast £180

Saturday Night Formal followed on Sunday by a Church Service Sunday morning. For further details please contact : Sue Gutteridge E. suzanne5571@virginmedia.com T. (01752) 849176

RNA Chard Branch

Chart Branch are holding their 30th Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner on Saturday 21 October 2017. Area 4 members are cordially invited to join Chard Branch at the Shrubbery Hotel Ilminster TA19 9AR 1900 kick off.

The Guest of Honour is Shipmate David White MBE MSM, President of 4 Area. The cost is £25 per person (including Tot Time) with entertainment provided by Jaycee's 'Golden Oldies' Disco. Overnight accommodation at the Shrubbery Hotel is £80 per double ensuite room including breakfast.

Places are limited to 150 on a first come first served basis the booking form can be found at the rear of this edition.

RNA Chichester Branch

Chichester Branch is organising a celebration of the 70th Anniversary of our foundation in 1947. Which will take place on the evening of September 30th 2017. The venue will be the Assembly Room, Chichester Council House, North Street, Chichester.

It's going to be a major celebration for us. Our 60 odd members are determined that it will be a notable affair, especially as this is clearly the year of the Royal Navy. The Lord Lieutenant of West Sussex will be attending, as will be Captain Readwin RN Mine Warfare and Patrols etc. and the Mayor of Chichester. The Chichester Harbour and Selsey Sea Cadets will be making a significant contribution, and music will be provided by the Chichester City Band. The Royal Navy Presentation Team will also be our guests for the evening as will representatives of HMS Hurworth, our affiliate ship.

Answer to Brain Puzzle

Doh!

How easy was that....



CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Graham Holt – Huntingdon and District](#)

[William Bannerman – City of Glasgow](#)

[Herbert Lowe – Bolton](#)

[John Powner – Stafford](#)

[William John Henry Andrews – Southend](#)

[Keith Morison - Ashford](#)

Graham ‘Brutus’ Holt - Huntingdon & District Branch

On Friday 26th May 2017, shipmates from Huntingdon & District Branch received the sad news that our Life Vice President, shipmate Graham Holt, had ‘Crossed the Bar’ early that morning.

Graham joined the Royal Navy in 1947 as an Instruction Officer but was drafted to RAF Syerston, the Naval Air Fighter School, for Flying Training in 1952. Graham flew over 20 aircraft types in the RN, one of his favourites was the Sea Fury. Graham’s final draft in the RN was a NATO post in Kiel, Germany as Air Plans, COMNAV BALTAP. Graham left the RN on the 31st January 1976.

Graham and his wife, Dawn (former PO WRNS) joined the Bridport Branch of the Royal Naval Association. Both were active members and highly thought of at Bridport. Graham was Branch President and after moving to Cambridgeshire, was made a Life Vice President of Bridport.

After joining Huntingdon & District Branch, Graham and Dawn continued supporting the Royal Naval Association in branch and area activities. Graham organised the planting of a Royal Oak to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar (at Hinchingbrooke House in Huntingdon).



Graham was Vice President of Huntingdon Branch from 2010 until 2012 when he was elected Branch President (sadly after shipmate Chris Thomas had Crossed the Bar). During his time as President, Graham was the shipmate we all looked up to when hosting our Annual Dinners, BBQs and local events when we needed a speech or a toast (especially when toasting the Immortal Memory at our annual Trafalgar Night Dinner).

During the Branch AGM in 2016, Graham was delighted when shipmate Dawn Holt was elected Vice President — making them a double act of President and Vice

President. Towards the end of 2016, sadly Graham and Dawn made the decision that due to their poor health, they wished to resign their positions as President and Vice President. This decision was reluctantly accepted by the branch members, but Graham was not to get away with things that lightly, during the 2016 Trafalgar Night Dinner, Graham was made Life Vice President of Huntingdon Branch.

On Sunday 4th June, shipmates Karl Webb and Pete Aston manned a joint charity stall at Shuttleworth for a Fly Navy event to raise money for the Fly Navy Heritage Trust. Graham was a member of Shuttleworth and with his links as a pilot during his time, spent many a day visiting when he was able. One of the last aircraft to carry out a display was the Sea Fury; the announcer informed the crowd of Graham's passing and that this display was being dedicated as a tribute to Graham. Thank you to all at Shuttleworth for paying your respects in this way.

And so, family, friends, and shipmates gathered together on Thursday 8th June 2017 to pay our final respects to our former President. A church service took place at St Mary Magdalene Church in Brampton. Graham's coffin was led into the Church following shipmate Bill Small who Paraded the Branch Standard. Shipmate Bill Small took up his post as Graham's coffin was placed at the front of the church. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Jason Taylor, who began with a welcome and a prayer. This was followed by shipmate Karl Webb, President of Huntingdon & District Branch, reciting Lord Tennyson's Crossing the Bar, as a tribute from the Branch. Dave Appleby then gave a family tribute to Graham, recounting many stories of a proud husband, father and grandfather.



The final part of the Service was the Commendation, Committal and Farewell. Between the Commendation and Committal, two Royal Marine buglers, Cpl Bugler Joanna Barnes and Bugler Lisa Pessoll, sounded the Last Post to mark the start of one minute's silence.

After Reveille was sounded, the service concluded with the Final Blessing. Graham's coffin was carried out of the church to 'Life on the Ocean Wave'. Dawn and Graham's family waited outside of the church to thank all those who had attended, and invited them to the Black Bull, one of Graham's favourite pubs, for the wake.



Graham's grandchildren had placed a photo montage on display for all to see, and the staff at the Black Bull (and Samuel Pepys) provided some Pusser's Rum for all to toast one of their 'favourite and dearly loved friends'.

Although a sad occasion, it was a good time to remember Graham and the life he had. He was proud of his family, his naval career, and his friends. Rest in peace Graham, you will be sorely missed.

William Bill Bannerman – City of Glasgow

William (Bill) Bannerman crossed the bar on 30 May 2017. Bill was born on 21 March 1925 and served in the Arctic convoys and in Submarines. He went to Russia three times to receive his medal from the Russian Government. He was a member of the Masons for over 60 years and a long term member of the British Legion. Most importantly Bill was a founding member of the City of Glasgow RNA. He will be very much missed by the Glasgow Shipmates.

Herbert 'Bert' Lowe – Bolton Branch

It is with great sadness that Bolton Branch report the "Crossing of the Bar" of Shipmate Herbert (Bert) Lowe on Saturday 10/6/17. Bert served as a Seaman in the Royal Navy between 1941 and 1946. He saw service in HM Ships Searcher and Douglas.

Bert was married to Eva who sadly passed away in 1992 and is survived by his two sons Brian and Graham. After leaving the Navy had a long and illustrious career with Burtons the tailors where he worked for 41 years. He was awarded the Burma Star during his Naval Service and proudly served as Chairman of the Bolton Branch of the Burma Star Association.

Bert was a former Chairman of the Branch and will be greatly missed by all S/Ms at Bolton Branch.



Keith Morison - Ashford Branch

It is with great sadness that Shipmate Keith Morison, a member of Ashford Branch recently crossed the bar. S/M Keith was a stalwart member of the branch who will be much missed.

He was the Social Committee member responsible for organising social events, transport, fund raising, and also a member of the Ton Class and HMS Ganges Associations.

Amongst the ships he served on were HMS Maryton and HMS Grafton, a Veteran of Brunei patrols, he was a holder of the Pingat Jasa medal. Calm seas Shipmate



William (Bill) John Henry Andrews – Southend Branch

William John Henry Andrews (known as Bill) crossed the bar on 01 April 2017 aged 96.

At 14 he joined the Post Office as a messenger boy. He knew London and all its back alleys better than anyone. In 1940 he gained a Post Office First Aid Certificate and that perhaps proved significant when he was called up in the same year to do his bit for King and Country because, as a first aider who could swim. He was drafted as a Sick Berth Attendant in the Royal Navy.

Bill was to join the Walmer Castle, a rescue ship, which was an unarmed merchantman that followed a Convoy, picking up survivors. But appendicitis stopped his joining and as it happened the Walmer Castle was sunk on its first voyage - 11 crew and 20 survivors were lost.



He met Elsie Alexandra Watson, a WAAF from Liverpool and the love of his life. They married on 26 June 1943 and had 69 happy years together.



He took part in the D Day landings in June 1944 in a Tank Landing Craft and afterwards was drafted to the Zamalek, another rescue boat, which was the most successful of all the rescue boats, escorting 68 convoys and saving 667 men. Bill had been seconded from the Royal Navy and a few years ago he was proud to attend a ceremony to receive the Merchant Navy Medal for service in WW2 . Xmas 1944 he returned from the Glasgow to Halifax convoys to Liverpool where he first met his 6 month old daughter, Wendy.

He was then drafted to HMS Liverpool on a Mediterranean duty. He visited Malta and in Naples was ashore when approached by two men in black coats with suspicious bulges in their top pockets, asking if he would sell them penicillin. He did his duty, ran fast back to the ship and never went ashore again!

The Royal Naval Association became an important part of Bill's retirement - he joined the Southend Branch and as Chairman he enjoyed working with others to build up the Club and to be part of the Choir, together with Elsie. The Choir gave regular concerts and Bill soloed as Flanagan in "Underneath the Arches" which was a highlight all over south east Essex. He will be missed by everyone.

John Powner – Stafford Branch

John Powner crossed the bar on Saturday 27 May 2017 following a fairly long illness. He was a Korean War Veteran having served for two and a half years on HMS Comus throughout the war from 1949 to 1951 and of course was a dedicated member and secretary of the BKVA as well as the RBL.

He was instrumental in organising the presentation of the Korean Ambassadors Peace Medal to BKVA members from all over the midlands by the Naval Attache Captain Seungeon Ji from London's South Korean Embassy whilst he was still very ill (*John is in the photo below seated at the left at the front of the recipients (not in the wheel chair)*)

John held most offices of the Stafford RNA branch including Vice Chairman, Chairman, Secretary and more recently Welfare Officer. John was a stickler for getting things done in the ‘correct’ way!



Away from the RNA John spent a lot of his time and energy organising and collecting for various charities including SSAFA, the RBL poppy appeal, Donna Louise Childrens Hospice, New Life Childrens charity and others if asked.

He was also on the committee of and a great supporter of the TS Superb Sea Cadets in Stafford. He will be sorely missed by his fellow Shipmates.

RNA Members Benefits

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Shortcast

Note from the CONA (Conference of Naval Associations) Secretary -

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £1,600 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.

HMS Iveston – 01 July 2017

Portsmouth - for further details contact shaunmckeever@yahoo.com

Type 42 Association - 22 Jul 2017

The Type 42 Association Reunion 003 will be held at HMS Excellent on 22 Jul 2017. Open to all who have served on a Type 42 Destroyer, Discounted tickets for all fully paid up association members, new members can sign up to the association via the website.

BGM Start 1230 hrs Finish 1345 hrs
Reunion Start 1400 hrs, Finish 2100 hrs
HMS Excellent, Sports Field

Tickets: Members £10 + 1 Guest £10 & Non Members £30
For Info email: chairman@type42association.co.uk For tickets email: deanpulлом@yahoo.co.uk

Web site: www.type42association.co.uk click on forum or visit our Facebook page Type 42 Association

HMS Active (Falklands Conflict 1982) – 4/5 August 2017

Plymouth - for further details contact jameschapman375@btinternet.com

HMS Illustrious Association – 8-10 September 2017

The HMS Illustrious Association will be holding the 2017 reunion in Portsmouth over the weekend of 8-10th September 2017. Further details are available on the website www.hmsillustriousassociation.com

BRNC Class of Sept 1977 (40th Anniversary) – 9th September 2017

BRNC Dartmouth – for further details contact garygduffield@gmail.com

HMS Ark Royal Communicators (1973-1977) – 15/16 September 2017

London - for further details contact jsmith@greenford5fsnet.co.uk

HMS Ajax & River Plate Veterans Association – 29 September - 02 October 2017

The 2017 reunion will be held at the Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford over the weekend 29th September to 2nd October. Memorial service around our memorial at the NMA on the Saturday, Reunion dinner on Saturday evening, AGM Sunday morning with optional trip to Shugborough House. Contact us for further details (malcolm.collis@gmail.com or via the website <http://www.hmsajax.org>) where additional information can be found.

Hot off the press.....

HMS Ajax & River Plate Veterans Association - 2019 Trip to South America - The association is planning a trip to Uruguay, Argentina and Chile in December 2019 to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the River Plate that took place off Uruguay and the 1939 Chilean earthquake which devastated Concepcion (Ajax and Exeter went to give assistance). Contact us for details (malcolm.collis@gmail.com or via the website <http://www.hmsajax.org>) where additional information can be found.

HMS St Vincent Association - 06/09 October 2017

The annual reunion will be in the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea over the weekend 6 / 9 October with the AGM on Saturday in St Vincent, transport is included. For further details and for booking contact IOW Tours on 01983 405116 or email enquiries@iowtours.com or ring Soapy Watson on 07786 565485 **or 01329 310078**

RN Electrical Weapon Engineering Branch Association – 13-16 October 2017

Coniston Hotel Sittingbourne - for further details contact enquiries@iowtours.com

HMS Arethusa Association – 13-16 October 2017

HMS ARETHUSA Social weekend - October 13th to 16th 2017 at The Risboro Hotel, Llandudno. Details and booking forms from - IOW Tours Ltd.

HMS Relentless Association – 24-27 November 2017

HMS Lowestoft Association - 20/22 October 2017

The HMS Lowestoft Association will be holding their reunion weekend on 20/22 October 2017. The reunion will take place at Sketchley Grange Hotel and Spa, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3HU. All who served in HMS Lowestoft are most welcome. For bookings please contact; Isle of Wight Tours Phone No. 02983 405116 or ian@hmslowestoft.co.uk

HMS Mohawk Association – 20-23 October 2017

The HMS Mohawk Association are holding their annual reunion in Lytham St Annes during the weekend 20/23 October 2017 all former 'Mohawks' and anyone who served in a Tribal Class Frigate are very welcome to attend. For further information please contact Derek O'Malia at Dhom48@yahoo.com

Bay Class Frigates Association – 23/25 October 2017

Tillington Hall Hotel Staffordshire - for further details contact enquiries@iowtours.com

Survey Ships Association – 27/30 October 2017

The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty-third reunion at the Novotel, Nottingham on the w/e of 27th to 30th October. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, e-mail: secretary@surveyships.org.uk, or telephone 023 9232 4795.

HMS Relentless Association – 24-27 November 2017

HMS RELENTLESS Association. 75th Anniversary Reunion to celebrate the first commissioning of HMS Relentless will be held at the Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford, November 24th-27th 2017. All ex-Rusty R's welcome but numbers are limited so call Isle of Wight Tours Ltd asap on 01983 405116 or contact HMS Relentless Association Secretary 02392 599640, email secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk.

My thanks go to Shipmate Mike Crow from RN Shipmates for providing details of reunions.

Swinging the Lamp – July 2017



Date	Year	Entry
1st	2007	The 'R' in the uniform lace of RNR officers abolished following the decision to remove all distinguishing Reserve markings from the uniforms of personnel liable for mobilisation for operations. Stand fast officers holding Honorary Commissions.
2 nd	1960	'Within a period of fifteen days no fewer than five new ships were accepted from their builders. The most notable, HMS <i>Lion</i> , the second Tiger-class cruiser, was commissioned at Wallsend-on-Tyne on the 20 th of the month. On the same day, the second Brave-class fast patrol boat HMS <i>Brave Swordsman</i> , was handed over by her builders [Vospers] at Portsmouth. Earlier in the month the Navy had received

		HMS <i>Lincoln</i> , fourth of the Salisbury-class of aircraft direction frigates, and a boom defence vessel, HMS <i>Layburn</i> . Two days after the acceptance of the <i>Lion</i> , another Whitby-class frigate, HMS <i>Londonderry</i> , joined the Fleet at Cowes' – Navy magazine, August 1960. (Ed Note- Very similar to today really!)
3 rd	1797	Bombardment of Cadiz. Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson's boat action with Spanish gunboats at Cadiz. Bombs: <i>Stromboli</i> , <i>Terror</i> , <i>Thunder</i> . Covered by: <i>Emerald</i> , <i>Terpsichore</i> , <i>Theseus</i> . Troops: Royal Artillery.
4 th	1940	VC: A/LS Jack Foreman Mantle in <i>Foylebank</i> , sunk by German aircraft at Portland.
5 th	1969	Frigates <i>Arethusa</i> and <i>Mohawk</i> , with Royal Marines embarked, arrived in Bermuda on a routine visit coincident with start of a three day international Black Power conference held in the island.
6 th	1917	Destroyer <i>Itchen</i> sunk by U-99 70 miles E. of Pentland Firth.
7 th	1961	Submarine Command received the Freedom of the Borough of Gosport. Four hundred officers and men marched through Gosport with bayonets fixed and bearing, for the first time, the Queen's Colour of the Submarine Branch presented by Her Majesty in 1959.
8th	1944	Light cruiser <i>Dragon</i> (Pol) damaged and minesweeper <i>Pylades</i> sunk by German one-man submarines in Juno area, Seine Bay. <i>Dragon</i> became blockship. Operation Neptune.
9 th	1917	Battleship <i>Vanguard</i> , 4th BS, Grand Fleet, destroyed by magazine explosion at 2320 while at anchor in Scapa Flow; 804 men lost.
10 th	2005	The first RN service in the old but refurbished Royal Dockyard Chapel at Pembroke Dock since the yard closed in 1926, conducted by The Rt Revd Bishop Ivor Rees, of the RN Association, and the Revd Michael Brotherton RN, Chaplain of <i>Ocean</i> , to mark the sixtieth anniversaries of VE and VJ Days.
11 th	1935	Admiralty Fleet Order No. 1684. 'The order to "Splice the Main Brace" is to be regarded as authorising the special issue of a ration of one eighth pint of rum to each officer or man of or over 20 years of age who desires it. Officers and men under 20 years of age may receive a special issue of one-twentieth pint lime juice and 1 oz. sugar, and a similar issue may be made to other officers and men who do not desire the rum ration. No money in lieu is allowable. The issue of the special rum ration is to be made under the general conditions laid down in <i>King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions</i> , Art.1827, Clauses 2 and 3, except that the time of issue may be arranged as considered desirable.'
12 th	1776	Capt James Cook sailed from Plymouth in <i>Resolution</i> on his third and last voyage of exploration to the Pacific. <i>Discovery</i> sailed on 1 August.
13 th	1860	Pte John Dalliger, RMLI, hanged at the yardarm of wood screw gunboat <i>Leven</i> in Talienshan Bay, China for attempted murder of his captain. Last hanging at the yardarm. Second China War.
14 th	1974	Carrier <i>Hermes</i> and frigates <i>Andromeda</i> and <i>Rhyl</i> evacuated British subjects from Kyrenia, Cyprus during Turkish invasion.
15th	1944	Liberator E/206 sank U-319 off S.W. Norway (57.40N, 05.00E).
16 th	2003	Anglesey, Island-class fisheries patrol vessel, entered Portsmouth for the last time to pay off after twenty-four years' service. She had steamed 644,000 miles since joining the Fleet in 1979.
17 th	1944	Liberator U/86 sank U-361 (68.36N, 08.33E). Catalina Y/210 sank U-

		347 off Narvik (68.35N, 06.00E); Flt Lt John Cruikshank RAFVR received eighty wounds in the attack: VC.
18 th	1833	HRH Princess Victoria, in Portsmouth with her mother, HRH The Duchess of Kent, for the launching of the brig <i>Racer</i> , went on to visit her first warship, HMS <i>Victory</i> . ‘All the ladies partook of the beef and potatoes, served on wooden platters, and drank of the grog’ – <i>The Times</i> .
19 th	1944	Submarine <i>Resolution</i> paid off at Faslane.
20 th	1915	Second and last use of a decoy submarine in anti-submarine operations. Trawler <i>Princess Marie Jose</i> (sailing as <i>Princess Louise</i>) in Fair Isle Channel, with submarine C 27 (Lt-Cdr C.C. Dobson) in submerged tow, encountered U-23 (Oberleutnant zur See H. Schulthess) which opened fire. The telephone link with C 7 failed but she slipped successfully. Her first torpedo passed astern but a second sank U-23. These decoy operations were planned and mounted in strict secrecy; trawlers and submarines berthed well apart and left port independently. However, the U-23 survivors were not segregated from other German prisoners and internees and the project was fatally compromised.
21 st	1995	Rear-Admiral John Tolhurst, Flag Officer Sea Training, hauled down his flag at Portland and embarked in the frigate <i>Argyll</i> , the last ship to leave Portland before the closure of the base. The last ship to do OST at Portland was <i>London</i> . Sea Training HQ transferred to Devonport where FOST flies his flag in <i>Drake</i> . DCI(RN) 266/95.
22 nd	1903	Opening of first Royal Navy School of Music.
23 rd	1941	The first RN operation in the Arctic after the German invasion of Russia. Heavy cruisers <i>Devonshire</i> (flag of Rear-Admiral W.F. Wake-Walker) and <i>Suffolk</i> , carriers <i>Victorious</i> and <i>Furious</i> with six destroyers sailed from Scapa Flow to attack German coastal shipping between Kirkenes and Petsamo, the centre of a nickel mining area. Force was located by aircraft and surprise was lost. No shipping found and torpedo bomber strikes launched against port installations. German fighters over Kirkenes and AA fire destroyed eleven of twenty Albacores from <i>Victorious</i> , and Swordfish from <i>Furious</i> found Petsamo harbour empty. A disappointing operation but the minelayer <i>Adventure</i> with a cargo of mines was safely passed through to Britain’s new Russian allies in Archangel. Wake-Walker’s ‘bruised and frustrated force’ returned to Scapa Flow.
24 th	1704	Capture of Gibraltar by Admiral Sir George Rooke (<i>Royal Katherine</i>) and the Prince of Hesse-Darmstadt. Ships: <i>Berwick</i> , <i>Burford</i> , <i>Dorsetshire</i> , <i>Eagle</i> , <i>Essex</i> , <i>Grafton</i> , <i>Kingston</i> , <i>Lenox</i> , <i>Monck</i> , <i>Monmouth</i> , <i>Montagu</i> , <i>Nassau</i> , <i>Nottingham</i> , <i>Ranelagh</i> , <i>Royal Katherine</i> , <i>Suffolk</i> , <i>Swiftsure</i> , <i>Yarmouth</i> . English and Dutch Marines. Battle Honour: Gibraltar 1704.
25 th	1956	Egyptian President Nasser announced the nationalisation of the Suez Canal.
26 th	1913	HM King George V presented Albert Medals to Chief Stoker W. Lashley and PO T. Crean, in addition to the Polar Medal, for their service in Capt Robert Falcon Scott’s Antarctic expedition.
27 th	1973	Fleet Laundry Training Unit at <i>Drake</i> closed due to lack of use following the employment of Chinese laundrymen in home waters. DCI(RN)T.238/73.

28 th	1963	Frigate <i>Leopard</i> seriously damaged in collision with South African minesweeper <i>Pietermaritzburg</i> during Exercise Capex off Cape Point near Simon's Town.
29 th	1943	Submarine <i>Trooper</i> sank the Italian S/M <i>Pietro Micca</i> in Otranto Strait (39.45N, 18.25E).
30th	1963	Minister of Defence, Peter Thornycroft announced in the House of Commons that Britain was to build a 50,000 ton aircraft carrier and that 'agreement had been finally reached between the Royal Navy and the RAF on the question of a common aircraft'. She was to be named HMS <i>Queen Elizabeth</i> . (Ed Note – Only took 54 years !!!!!)
31st	1951	<i>Vidal</i> , surveying ship, launched. First small ship designed to carry a helicopter, and first with cafeteria messing and the last surface ship built at Chatham Dockyard.

The RNA Conference

8th-10th June 2018

The Royal Marine Hotel - Dún Laoghaire, Ireland



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION

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Dún Laoghaire the 'Gateway to Ireland'

Dún Laoghaire (pronounced Dun Leery) nestles on the east coast of Ireland, about seven miles (11km) south of the capital Dublin. Its focal point is a splendid harbour and the town is surrounded by spectacular rolling hills. Its easy access to Dublin city and transport links nationwide makes it an ideal place from which to extend your stay should you wish to explore more of the magical Emerald Isle!

Dún Laoghaire has always been a 'Gateway to Ireland', and gets its name from the Irish translation Fort (Dún) of Laoghaire. It was once the seat of King Laoghaire, the ancient High King of Ireland before the Vikings sailed from Scandinavia and established themselves in Dublin.

In 1821 it was renamed Kingstown by King George IV of England, to honour his visit to the town that year, until 1921 when it reverted back to the ancient Irish name Dún Laoghaire. Often referred to as 'Dublin's Riviera' due to the spectacular landscape, today it's better known as 'Dublin Bay's Cultural and Leisure Waterfront Experience'.

The harbour, one of the largest in the country, is notable for its two granite piers. The East Pier was featured in the 1996 film Michael Collins, where Liam Neeson (as Collins) and two of his co-stars are seen walking along a seaside promenade, which is actually the Dún Laoghaire East Pier. A band is seen playing in this film scene, which is the actual bandstand on the East Pier.

Dún Laoghaire has one main shopping street, George's Street, where you will find an array of shops and some traditional Irish pubs where the Guinness is always allowed to settle before being served – it's well worth the wait!

Why not sample a pint yourself? Look out for our organised visit.

All in all Dún Laoghaire is the perfect base for the 2018 Conference and Reunion and for those who would also like to extend their stay and explore more of the Emerald Isle.

The National Maritime Museum of Ireland

The venue for our 'Sunday Service' is ideally placed in the museum which is housed in Dún Laoghaire's 180-year-old Mariners Church, adjacent to the Royal Marine Hotel.

The museum's greatest artefact is probably the building itself as it is one of a few custom built places of worship for seafarers remaining intact in the world to-day.

Should you wish to visit the Museum privately the museums guides will take you on an enthralling voyage with stories of discovery, heroism, war and disasters at sea. You will learn about maritime history, exploration, navigation, radio, nature, and wildlife and view art inspired by the sea. www.mariner.ie



Travelling To Ireland

Group Packages – Combine Conference with a holiday in Ireland by coach! The CONA Holiday Service can provide special packages by coach for any branches wishing to travel (perhaps with other branches to fill the coach) to Ireland as a group. Packages for groups can be ‘tailor made’ to include extended durations in order to explore more of Ireland on an included excursion programme and with a choice of alternative hotel accommodation options.

For further details contact the CONA Holiday Service groups team at: conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk or phone: 0844 264 2122 and ask for Maureen or Harold.

Alternative Accommodation Options For members unable, or not wishing, to stay in the Royal Marine Hotel we have a limited number of alternative Bed & Breakfast options in Dún Laoghaire and at other locations along the convenient 703 Aircoach Route* (*see below). For the current list of alternative Bed & Breakfast options please email: conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk and in the subject line heading put ‘ RNA 2018 Alternative B&B Options’

By Stena Line Car Ferry - From only £189 return www.stenaline.co.uk/ferries-to-ireland

Exclusive car ferry rates have been arranged in conjunction with Stena Line providing savings in the region of 40% on full published fares when booked through the CONA Holiday Service: The return car ferry fare is £189 for a vehicle* and driver with additional passengers charged at £25 per person for the return journey.

Available Routes: Holyhead to Dublin or Fishguard to Rosslare

If you would like further details please complete the section below:

Please send me the special ‘Stena Line Car Ferry Booking Form:

I would like details for the: a) Holyhead to Dublin route or b) Fishguard to Rosslare route

The special booking form will be forwarded once the 2018 Timetables are available and it will include details of both outward and return sailing times and will also allow for extended pre and post stays in Ireland. Passengers travelling by car will need to have the correct change (in Euros) for road toll bridge charges – Applicable 2018 toll bridge prices will be provided with your final travel documentation. (Currently they are approximately €1.75 per journey)

* Denotes that Vehicle Conditions apply and access to these exclusive Stena Line Car Ferry rates are only available when booked through CONA

AirCoach to the Royal Marine Hotel from Dublin airport For passengers arriving by air into Dublin Airport there is a convenient direct-link Aircoach service (Route 703) from Terminals 1 & 2 that drops-off and picks-up directly outside the Royal Marine Hotel. This is a regular hourly (around the clock) operated service and the journey to/from Dublin Airport takes approximately 45 minutes. 2018 timetables and prices (current return fare is €16) will be provided with your final travel documents. www.aircoach.ie

By Air For those wishing to fly to Dublin* the CONA Holiday Service will be pleased to provide prices for return flights on application. Prices can be provided for all available routes.

Dart Out & About – Explore Dún Laoghaire and Dublin In Dublin, the electric rail system called the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit) is a quick and easy way to get around Dublin. The DART runs every 5 minutes during rush hour periods and every 20 mins during the day from Dún Laoghaire to Dublin with the station conveniently situated a short walk from the Royal Marine Hotel. www.irishrail.ie/about-us/dart-commuter

Photo Identification, Passport and Visa Requirements For holidays outside the UK a full 10 year British passport is recommended with at least six months validity after your date of return to the UK. A full passport is required for all holidays that include air travel within the UK and Ireland. For passengers travelling by ferry the current advice provided by Stena Line states:

British or Irish citizens travelling on our Stena Line Irish Sea routes do not need a passport to travel to Britain or Ireland but are advised to take a form of identity. A driving licence, citizenship card or utility bill will usually suffice. A birth certificate will provide adequate proof of identity for a child to travel on our sailings.

Remember that the name on your passport must match the name on your booking, otherwise you may not be able to travel and your insurance may be invalid. Holders of non-British (Full) Passports may be subject to differing visa requirements and you are advised to consult appropriate embassy to seek clarification.

Please note: Carriers by sea and air may change their procedures without notice and It is your responsibility to obtain the correct documentation to travel as full cancellation charges will be levied if you fail to do so.



RNA 2018 BOOKING FORM

8th- 10th JUNE (Fri-Sun) IRELAND



Conference of
Naval Associations
Holiday Service



At the Royal Marine Hotel - Dún Laoghaire

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY POST/EMAIL USING THIS FORM – NO TELEPHONE BOOKINGS (Unless 8 weeks prior to travel)

Please note the first person listed in the ‘Accommodation Requirements’ should be the **Lead Name** on the Booking Form to whom all correspondence will be sent.

Prices:	1) 8 th -10 th June (Fri-Sun)	2 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £339 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2) 8 th -11 th June (Fri-Mon)	3 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £438 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3) 7 th -10 th June (Thu-Sun)	3 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £508 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4) 7 th -11 th June (Thu-Mon)	4 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £607 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5) 9 th -10 th June (Sat-Sun)	1 Night Gala dinner & breakfast: £179 <input type="checkbox"/> Single room supplement £39 per person	

Accommodation Requirements: (The first person named should be the “Lead Name” to whom all correspondence will be sent)

Note: *A limited number of rooms are available for Single occupancy without supplement. If singles are over-subscribed a supplement may apply and you will be advised at the time of booking if applicable. (A single room supplement of £39 applies for Saturday night only bookings)

1	Title	Initial	Surname	Arrival Day	Depart Day	Accommodation Type:			
						Double	Twin	Single	Other
2									
3									
4									

GALA DINNER ONLY Booking (No Accommodation). I wish to reserve tickets for the Gala Dinner at £49 per person

Special Requests/Mobility Issues: (Not guaranteed) including accommodation and parking, special needs and dietary requirements etc.

Transport options Please see page 3 for special transport and group travel options.

Lead Name Address: _____

Optional Insurance: We can provide comprehensive insurance cover for a premium of £35 per person. Full details will be provided for your consideration once your application has been processed and accepted.

Post Code: _____ Tel. Number: _____

CHEQUE/DEBIT CARD Payments CREDIT CARD charges may apply. If you wish to pay using a credit/debit card then please call 01603 886742

Email: _____

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

Just for Groups! The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PL

Cheques payable to “Just for groups!” Non-refundable £35 deposit for accommodation or £10 per Gala Dinner Ticket only bookings

Tel: Admin 01603 886742/Sales 01603

Deposit: _____ @ _____ per person = £ _____

886740 Email: sales@justforgroups.co.uk

Lead Name Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

www.justforgroups.co.uk

Note: Final Balance Payment: Is due on or before 12th March 2018

Tel: Admin 01603 886742/Sales 01603

886740 Email: sales@justforgroups.co.uk

www.justforgroups.co.uk