



**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**



# The Semaphore Circular

No 674

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

November 2017



*Our three LIBOR busses in n Portsmouth with HMS Queen Elizabeth in the background before dedication at the Biennial and dispersing to their home ports*

*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](http://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

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

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Central Office Staff – (L to R) Nigel, Michelle, Paul, Chrissie and Andy

### Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /  
Circulars / Code (shipmate)

### Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

RNA Central Office,  
Room 209, PP70,  
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HM Naval Base,  
Portsmouth  
Hants PO1 3LT

## *Dear Shipmates*

Welcome to the November Circular, this is a bumper edition – our biggest yet with lots of branch news, Central Office dits and preparation stuff for the End of Year and next Year's Conference. Now that Andy is back from leave the groan-worthy jokes are back!

First off, we are all getting used to Queen Elizabeth in the Dockyard – we had our last Open Day of the year and the Shipmates got a great view of the size and look of our biggest ever warship. She sails for the second phase of build sea trials very soon and is out until early December when she is back in to commission and become HMS Queen Elizabeth. So have a look for the Open Days next year – no guarantee of course that QEZ will be in – she has her first of class flying trials and meeting up with her F35 aircraft in the USA later in the year.



Taken by GS during our last Open Day

Most important of all may I ask that you **start to book your accommodation** for the Dublin Conference. The hotel will start the release of rooms we have reserved very soon, and you may miss out on being in the Conference Hotel and the great deal CONA travel has done. This is a very nice 4\* hotel and makes a nice 'treat' visit. If you would like details of B&B options that CONA Travel have arranged nearby then email [conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk](mailto:conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk) . Their great brochure also has details of ferries etc.

Can I ask you please to get cracking on other preps for Conference particularly:

- Delegate registration forms – attached
- Election forms for NCM/DNCM and SOC members – attached.

Remember the deadline for branch motions is 16 February 18.

A huge thank you to all the Shipmates who turned out for the **Biennial Parade**. A great day, I have written a report for you to see what happened. The higher levels of security did not get in the way too much, and the new arrangements means we can tighten the timings next time to reduce the 'standing time'. It was such a privilege to meet 3 highly decorated gallantry award holders for the dedication of our LIBOR buses. The buses are now in Base Port (like QEZ) so please book them and get them on the road – details in the circular. The National Chairman covers the CONA cruise, which I hear was made very special by a great comradely effort by Dublin Branch – BZ to them!!

As we approach the season of **Remembrance** there are some details to take account of please:

- Field of Remembrance tickets are being issued now.
- You must have a ticket for the Cenotaph to march – please talk to Nigel.
- Don't forget your RNA poppy pin – they have sold really well. Nigel will get them to you in time!
- Standard bearers should wear the cloth beret badge, other shipmates may wear either cloth or metal beret badges.
- Don't forget that this is a great time to be commemorating a shipmate with the Jutland Wood. Details at: <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/jutland/>



Nigel is looking forward to your orders for our excellent QE **Christmas cards** and the **2018 diary** with the Royal Yacht featured.

**Project Semaphore** – bringing digitally isolated veterans into the wonderful on-line world is moving along very well and this month we have seen our 400<sup>th</sup> iPad go out. The Project Manager's report makes very encouraging reading. She is looking for dedicated volunteers for this important work to form part of her A-Team. Please give her an email if you are interested.

We don't need Computer geeks (not that anyone in the RNA can be a geek), since total experts can forget how hard it is to start, so a reasonable working knowledge of Google, emails and Skype/FaceTime is a great starter for 10. This is all about getting lonely and isolated people back in contact with friends and family and looking up old ships and shipmates. I was at a Conference this week and learned that being lonely has the same health effect as smoking 15 cigarettes a day!

Please see the article about Cdr Jane Allen who is walking around the UK for Naval Charities – she may be passing your branch – she needs parking for her motorhome – water (and I suspect a tot would go down well!!) Please be in contact or through Central Office.

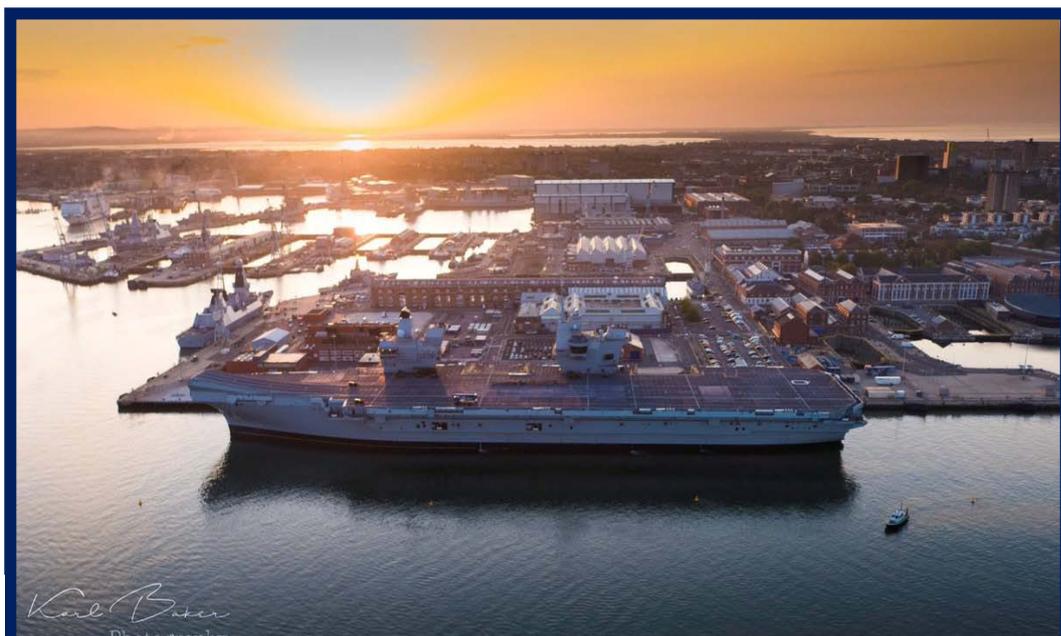
Our beloved **Hon Treasurer** S/M Ray Barraclough is standing down after 30 years service in that role at the Dublin Conference. The National Council will be looking to appoint a Hon Treasurer in his place. If you would like to learn more please give the GS a ring, or to put yourself forward please email GS with your CV and reasons for wanting to take on the role.

On that subject, I have informed the National Council that **I intend to retire** in September 18 after the post- Conference NC meeting. The search for a new GS will start in the New Year.

Finally, the National President and the Second Sea Lord signed our new Collaboration Agreement and Charter. The Charter is new and is a one-page summary of the relationship between the Royal Navy and the RNA and is available on the website. Feel free to print and have at your meeting venue.

*Kindest regards from me and all at Central Office*

*Paul*



Credit Karl Baker

## Chairman's chat

As mentioned in my last Chat, sadly in July & August two former National Officers Crossed the Bar, S/M Paul Harries and S/M Dick Ascott, who were followed shortly after by S/M Nobby Clarke BEM. Pre-arranged leave prevented one or other senior RNA Officials attending all three funerals. In August our National President, General Secretary, Michelle Bainbridge and I attended the funeral of S/M Dick Ascott former NCM for No 5 Area. This was followed in September when I represented the Association at the funeral of S/M Nobby Clarke BEM, a National Life Vice President and long serving former NCM for No 6 Area. We also said goodbye to S/M Paul Harries former NCM for No 7 Area and the former National Clubs Advisor. All three Shipmates gave long and loyal service to our Association and were all given a good send off.



Late July my wife Maureen & I took to the sea again having picked up the cruising bug last year. Life afloat this time was 15 days cruising to Norway, Iceland, Faroes and the Shetlands. None too sure why those of you who have done fishery protection complained about roughers as the seas were like a mill pond!

This was followed up with the 4 day CONA/RNA cruise from Liverpool across to Dublin and Cobh (nr Cork) and into Avonmouth. Again the sea was unusually calm with a slight swell. I have often heard of the MV MARCO POLO and this was our first time on it. What a wonderfully kitted out ship and to a very good standard. Before we set sail, our Shipmates of RNA Dublin Branch



issued an invitation to us CONA/RNA Shipmates to join them at Ryan's Bar and to dispose of 100 pints of Guinness supplemented with a buffet. Approximately 30 of us from the cruise met up and the Dublin lads were intent on us drinking the Black Stuff which they kept feeding us. We did not disappoint them. To S/M Paul Stephenson and the Shipmates of Dublin Branch, on behalf of us who thoroughly enjoyed your hospitality, our sincere thanks for a great get together.

How delightful and informative it was to meet up on the cruise with S/M Andy Dodds, Chairman of RNA Hinckley Branch and his Mad Hatters on the cruise. The latter remark relates to the fact that they carry a whacky hat everywhere ready to wear when challenged. No hat, then you buy the round. A great bunch of younger Shipmates who fit the RNA's

Strategy of 45+ target group. Well done Andy, keep up the good work.

A recent visit to RNA Huntingdon Branch proved that the Online joining system works as I was delighted to meet one such new comer to his first meeting. Well done S/M Karl Webb and his crew. It is very important to follow up all such referrals from the Online joining system. The early arrival of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH caused a major headache for many naval base staff, not least our own staff at Central Office. With summer leave in progress for CO staff, Andy Christie was run ragged sending out the invitations to those S/Ms who had requested tickets for the Friday arrival only for the Ship to slip in on the Wednesday. As you will have heard, the weather was more favourable for the Wednesday so many Shipmates who had made travel and accommodation arrangements were disappointed. Well done Andy, Chrissie Hughes and those who pitched in to help you. With regards HMS QE, it is BIG ! as depicted on the front page of the September Navy News.

September 10<sup>th</sup> saw the RNA, CONA, Belgium and Irish Naval Associations at the Cenotaph for the **Naval Associations Biennial Parade**. With some 700 on parade, the weather was kind to us. My thanks to the Massed Naval Bands from over the RN in England and Wales and the 2 marching Platoons from HMS COLLINGWOOD & HMS SULTAN. This major event showed that Naval Associations and the Royal Navy can still put on a great parade. Well done all concerned especially our General Secretary, Paul Quinn who spent many hours in the planning along with his CO Team all of whom gave up yet another of their weekends for us. On display and dedicated to modern times Gallantry Award Recipients, mentioned elsewhere in the circular was the 3 New Minibuses. The three citations when read out, brought a tear to an eye, as did the poem read out by young Beth Molyneux.

After the Parade, retiring to the Civil Service Club I met up with two lads from HMS MERSEY, AB (WS) Ryan (Errol) Flynn and AB (SEA) Mel Wrightson. Their Ship which was moored in the Royal Docks at East London along with HM Ships ARGYLL, CATTISTOCK and two University patrol boats. The visit was in support of the Defence Exhibition taking place. I am most grateful to Errol & Mel for arranging not only a Ship's visit for me, but to be welcomed aboard by their Commanding Officer, Lt Commander George Storton who was waiting on the Brow to greet me. We had both met last October at HMS COLLINGWOOD when he was attending the Commanding Officers course. Interestingly, he had noted the information given to him at that time by our General Secretary regarding the Shipmates & Oppos Programme which he had passed on to two of his crew who were leaving the Navy. Well done Paul Quinn and Lt. Cdr Storton. Many thanks to Lt. Cdr Storton for allowing me onboard and to Mel for the tour of the Ship, and for the hospitality given by his Shipmates for being allowed onto their Messdeck. The RNA bookmarks and wrist bands that I took onboard disappeared like hot cakes, but not too sure about the RNA application joining forms.

**Where are all those digitally isolated naval veterans hiding is the question.** Please do your best to find them as Sarah Clewes is waiting to dispose of the iPads. Please note you do not have to be a member of the RNA to qualify for an iPad, simply a naval veteran 65+ who does not have access to a computer or the internet. This includes those who served in the Merchant Navy and are in receipt of a veteran's badge. If in doubt as to if someone qualifies, please contact CO. Keep up the good work Sarah. For those of you who surf the RNA Facebook pages and our national website, you will have noticed changes taking place with fast responses on Facebook. We have Suzanne Morris to thank for that. Suzanne joined us this year with responsibility for media and is doing a great job in keeping both areas tidied up and responding to any queries raised on Facebook. Well done Suzanne.

To our serving Shipmates in the Fleet, which includes the Royal Marines, and all Shore Establishment and Naval Units, please let Andy Christie at Central Office have any dits you have, and there must be plenty, or better still submit news from your Ship or Establishment for inclusion in the Association's Semaphore Circular as we want to hear from you. Remember, you are Serving Members of this Great Association and we want confirmation you are out there. To those on Deployment may you have safe passage and a safe return. To those of us on land, stay safe and healthy and go grab a new member.

*Yours aye*

*Keith Ridley*



# 1. ★ RNA and Naval Associations Biennial Parade – Whitehall 10 September 2017

The RNA and many sister Naval Associations mustered in Whitehall for the Biennial Parade on Sunday 10 September. I am delighted to report that 700+ members paraded with a strong turn out from the Type 42 and Ganges Associations and the Irish Naval Association. From the International Maritime Confederation we welcomed a full minibus from our Belgian friends, with Cdr Maryse Bussel leading. We had 60 standards on parade which was very pleasing,



with National Standards from: the RNA; Association of WRNS; the RMA; the Merchant Navy Association, Type 42; and INA; Ganges and Belgium. We were also joined by 80 Phase 2 sailors from HMS COLLINGWOOD and HMS SULTAN.

We were led by the massed band of the Royal Naval Volunteer band service with 80 parading from many bands including Drake, Culdrose, Yeovilton and the Portsmouth establishments. As a former Volunteer

band player myself (Tenor horn) – I thought they were brilliant.

40 Sea Cadets from various units, including our old friends from TS Tormentor (Netley), handed out orders of service and formed a platoon in the parade.



The major change this year was the much higher level of security, responding to the terrorist threats. This meant that we had to gather at King Charles Street (KCS) – a safer muster point, with drop offs from Horse Guards Road. It also meant that we carried out a 'loop parade' back into King Charles Street, which was very popular with attendees. The security was very tight with Whitehall fully closed from 0600 and the first UK deployment of 'Talon' a huge netted stinger to stop vehicles in their tracks. S/M Soapy Watson helped to accredit association members through the security barriers with the final ID question 'What are the ingredients of a Cheesy Hammy Eggy?' Although the amount of barriers made it difficult to get to

the pub for a seaman like precaution, the understanding Met made allowances and adapted the security arrangements.



The National Ceremonial Advisor, Shipmate Mick Kieran, briefed the standard-bearers on the changed routine. The Deputy National President Shipmate Commodore Mark Slawson gave the usual pre-march briefing! The band moved off to take up position to play. Followed shortly after by the parade taking up

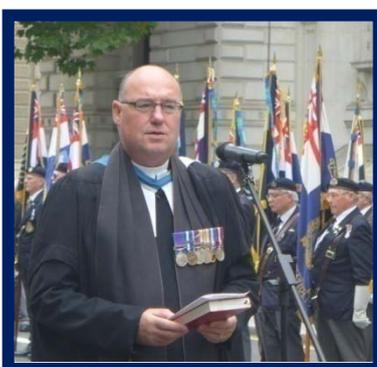
position around the Cenotaph. Once all was squared away, the VIPs marched on. We were very lucky indeed to have Vice Admiral Jonathan Woodcock OBE

the Second Sea Lord as the Reviewing Officer. We were joined by 3 holders of Gallantry awards for the occasion of the naming and dedication of our 3 LIBOR buses in their honour at the Service. They were Warrant Officer 1 (RSM) Matthew Tomlinson CGC, CPO Kate Middleton MC and Mrs Gillian Molyneux, wife of the late Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux GM, accompanied by her daughter, Bethany.



Other VIP guests were Captain and Mrs Philip Russell RN the Captain (Sea Cadets), The CO of HMS SULTAN, Captain Peter Towell and Lt Cdr Derby Allen RN representing the CO of HMS COLLINGWOOD and Mr Richard Tomlinson, Matt Tomlinson's Dad.

Our National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally welcomed everyone to the parade and thanked them for such a good turnout. The service of remembrance was then led by the Deputy Chaplain of the Fleet, The Rev Scott Shackleton. Our first time with Scott, who is a green-beret Chaplain and a dit-spinning war veteran. There was a chance for anyone to lay a wreath on the Cenotaph after the VIP party, and the chance to sing lustily to the usual Naval hymns,



brilliantly played by the Volunteer bands. Bethany Molyneux read her poem 'Why do you wear a poppy Beth?' in honour of her father. All agreed that it was, by far, the most moving part of the service.



The naming and blessing of the buses was also a key part of the service. The GS read the citation for each of the gallantry awards with the recipient by the minibus named in their honour. Each citation got a wonderful round of applause.



The Second Sea Lord addressed the Parade and commented on the importance of the work of the RNA in helping digitally isolated naval veterans (Project Semaphore), mentoring Phase 1 and 2 sailors and those leaving the Navy with the Shipmates and Oppos programme. He reflected on the RN and the new carriers and the RN as a force for good in the world. He particularly mentioned the Cenotaph as a place to remember yesterday's heroes; the gallantry award holders as today's heroes and the trainee sailors and sea cadets as the heroes of the future. He expressed his pleasure at the recognition of

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Kate, Matt and Ian in this modern way by the veteran community.

The Parade Commander then arranged the Parade for the March past, band leading, with the Second Sea Lord and gallantry Award holders taking the review/salute, on the steps of the Cenotaph under the White Ensign.



The Parade looped around the Women at War Memorial and marched past the Cenotaph to return to KCS. The LIBOR buses joined the review with some shipmates enjoying the ride and the applause of the general public.



On arrival in KGS the Second Sea Lord and National President signed the new Charter and Collaboration agreement between the RN and the RNA, before the NP congratulated the parade on an excellent event.

Shipmates then took the chance to look at the buses and meet the gallantry award holders. Everyone made their way up to the Civil Service Club for chips and sandwiches and a refreshing glass of lemonade (trainees under 18) or something a tad stronger. The

Second Sea Lord met lots of shipmates and trainees. We had a marvellous scrum in the Club, who did a great job in keeping the sandwiches and chips coming. Standard-bearers got their tot of course.



I cannot speak too highly of the Met Police for this parade. There was a lot of behind the scenes planning beforehand with a big effort by the Met counter-terrorist teams to keep us safe. It was such a privilege to have Kate, Matt and Gill with us (not forgetting Bethany!) – lovely, modest people who completely personify our values of Unity, Loyalty, Comradeship and Patriotism. It was also great to give Kate a lift to Portsmouth in her own bus!!



So, in summary, we had a marvellous day with very good support from across the RNA and our sister associations and IMC members – and a very kind turnout from busy VIPs (who all really enjoyed their day); the Civil Service Club did us proud and our new friends Matt, Kate, Gill and Bethany had a great day!

Paul Quinn OBE  
General Secretary



## 2. ★ 2018 Dublin Conference – Accommodation

\*\*\*\*\*Conference Count Down - 8 Months and counting\*\*\*\*\*

The 2018 Conference will be held in Dun Laoghaire near Dublin (pronounced Dun Leary) in the Republic of Ireland. The Conference and Gala dinner will be held in the Royal Marine Hotel, which is a 4 star hotel.



As Shipmates can see above it is only just 8 months until the next Conference so if you are thinking of attending as a Delegate or an individual member you need to consider booking your accommodation in the next couple of months.

So.....

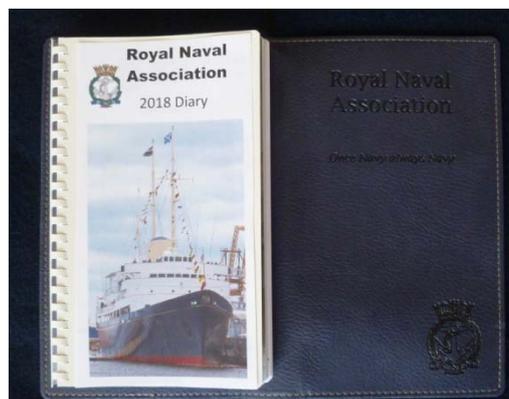
Shipmates are invited to familiarise themselves with the extremely comprehensive brief on travel to, and from Conference and the wide range of accommodation available which has been prepared by CONA Holidays UK.

It is attached at the rear of this edition of the Semaphore Circular. The brief also features a welcome to Ireland with stacks of ideas and what to do and where to go. The brief also contains the booking form and costs for accommodation and details of alternative hotels, Bed and breakfast options that cover a huge range of requirements. They even provide comprehensive insurance for a premium of £35 per person.

## 3. RNA Diaries 2018

2018 Diary order forms can be found at the rear of this edition. Due to a small 'hiccough' ( the printers in Italy forgot to attach the lovely photograph on the front page ).....Nigel promises the Diaries will be available from very early November.

As you can see in the photo the diaries this year will feature a lovely picture of the Royal Yacht taken by Nigel Huxtable personally in Leith Docks earlier this year. It brings back a few memories of what a beautiful ship she is. And a tear to the eye of the National Pres who used to be the Royal Yacht ~~Baggage Officer~~ Navigator – he has ordered 25 for his close friends.



(Note: Interesting chat DGS and GS about the spelling of hiccough – or hiccup. GS won this time!

#### 4. Project Semaphore iPad Update

Project Semaphore is not just about providing an iPad to eligible Veterans, it is aimed at addressing issues of social isolation. Being able to keep in touch with family and friends using Skype and Facetime has proved most popular. Having a common interest with children and grandchildren also means that family visits are longer whilst our aged Veterans learn new tips and tricks from IT savvy youngsters!

Dorchester RNA has found that inviting those who have engaged with Project Semaphore to attend their Monthly meetings an hour earlier, allows time to get help with iPads, learn from each and has got Members talking to fellow Shipmates in the Branch. I have attended two of their iPad meetings, to explain the Project and gather Application Forms and then to deliver iPads and work with Volunteers to set up the devices...thereafter the



Branch has become self-sufficient! The key to their success has been inviting members from nearby Portland RNA and together forming a network of new iPad users and those familiar with the Internet, to work together. Families are interested in this Project too and impressed how being

online has given their loved ones a new interest, "Dad (in law) still amazed by it all ..but we're going to stick to a few basics for now! His eyes lit up when we got into the website for HMS Sheffield (pre Falklands)". One to one support for those who cannot attend the Branch meetings can now be shared among a number of local Dorchester RNA members, rather than a few Volunteers trying to reach everyone.



The other Project Semaphore team members, Julie in the South West and Alan in the North would be delighted to support groups; please get in touch if you are able to find a good mix of IT savvy Volunteers and

new users (must be aged over 65 and have served in the RN or RM). Meet the Project Team [at this link](#)

I would encourage groups coming together, I know that other Branches hold regular iPad meetings and are seeing really positive results, not only in terms of iPad knowledge but also looking out for fellow Shipmates who are lonely and need to share a laugh, a dit or just have some company for a while.

Sarah Clewes Project Manager

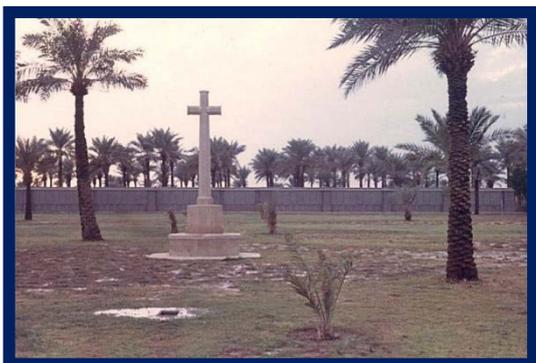
Sarah can be contacted by e-mailing [sarah@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sarah@royalnavalassoc.com) or writing to Central Office, Rm 209, Semaphore Tower, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth Hants PO1 3LT

## 5. ★ RNVC Series - Lieutenant Commander Edgar Christopher Cookson VC DSO Royal Navy

Edgar Cookson was born on 13 December 1883 in Tranmere Cheshire and died aged 31 in Mesopotamia on 28 September 1915 during an action which saw him being awarded a Victoria Cross posthumously.

*(Mesopotamia was a historic region situated within the Tigris–Euphrates river system, in modern days roughly corresponding to most of Iraq plus Kuwait, the eastern parts of Syria, Southeastern Turkey, and regions along the Turkish-Syrian and Iran–Iraq borders)*

During the advance on Kut-el-Amara on the 28 September, 1915, the river gunboat "Comet" had been ordered with other gunboats to examine and, if possible, destroy an obstruction placed across the river by the Turks. When the gunboats were approaching the obstruction a very heavy rifle and machine gun fire was opened on them from both banks. An attempt to sink the centre dhow of the obstruction by gunfire having failed and Cookson ordered the "Comet"



to be placed alongside so that he could jump onto the dhow with an axe and cut the wire hawsers connecting it with the two other craft forming the obstruction. Very sadly he was immediately shot and died within a very few minutes.

He was awarded the VC posthumously for this courageous action. He was buried in the Amara War Cemetery in Iraq.

*Footnote;*

*Sadly the cemetery has been vandalised over recent years. In April 2016, Martin Fletcher of The Times, reporting from Amarah, wrote that the cemetery had seriously deteriorated, with plaques falling from the memorial wall and the Cross of Sacrifice smashed. The perimeter wall and other cemetery infrastructure are also damaged. A man who described himself as the caretaker reported the cross being blown up one night in 2006. The CWGC commented that they had not been able to work in Iraq since 1991, but the cemetery would be restored when conditions allowed.*

## 6. Finance Corner

Dear Shipmates,

### **Branch / Area Year End Returns & Officers Information forms -**

Shipmates will find the appropriate forms at the rear of this Circular, along with your Branch / Area Officers Information. Forms need to be completed, signed and sent to Central Office by the 30 April 2018, either by email to:



[michelle@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:michelle@royalnavalassoc.com) or [rita@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:rita@royalnavalassoc.com) or by mail to RNA Finance Office, Room 209 PP70, Semaphore Tower, HM Naval Base Portsmouth Po1 3LT

**Pooled Fares**

Pooled Fares figures have now been authorised and will reflect in the next termly accounts, below are the breakdowns of the costs:

Perth 2017 Conference  
 76 Delegates of 277 branches attended the Conference  
 Total claims amounted to £9,895  
 Divide £9,895 by 277 = £35.72 which is the average cost for a medium branch  
 Large Branches pay a 1/3 more  
 Small Branches pay a 1/3 less

(Large branch over 30, small fewer than 15, medium in the middle)

**Termly Accounts**

I have a temporary person starting in November to produce the entire Branch accounts, any queries please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be more than happy to resolve any issues.

*Yours Aye  
 Michelle*

**7. Libor Minibuses are now available to borrow - Routine for borrowing**



The three Libor Minibuses are now alongside in their base ports; Portsmouth, Liskeard and Blackburn.

listed below are the points of contact for each bus sponsor are;

- |                    |   |                    |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Portsmouth;</b> | e-mail <a href="mailto:andy@royalnavalassoc.com">andy@royalnavalassoc.com</a>         | phone 02392 720782 |
| <b>Liskeard;</b>   | e-mail <a href="mailto:warwickbelfitt@btconnect.com">warwickbelfitt@btconnect.com</a> | phone 01579 346606 |
| <b>Blackburn;</b>  | e-mail <a href="mailto:belfastblues_812@icloud.com">belfastblues_812@icloud.com</a>   | phone 07964 721849 |

Central Office are very keen that the buses are loaned out and on the road rather than parked up in their base ports doing nothing so have deliberately tried to keep rules to a minimum So in no particular order .....

They are free to loan. Insurance, maintenance etc costs covered by Central Office.

The vehicle is supplied with a full tank of fuel and should be returned with a full tank of Diesel and AdBlue topped up if necessary and cleaned.

The loan is on a first come first served basis (Sponsor has final say!)

They are covered for insurance for drivers aged 30 to 70 (Insurance cover for over 70s can be purchased from the insurer dependent on personal circumstances. The Insurer will require two weeks notice for this to be arranged. Insurers contact details are available from Andy at Central Office). A very approximate cost for a weekend is £56 but very dependent on individual circumstance/health etc.

Only 8 passenger and the driver or up to three wheelchairs +3 carers +2 and one driver.

Roadside assistance is available.

## 8. 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.

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 on 02392 723747



## 9. ★ Free Taxi on Remembrance Sunday

London's taxis are once again providing a **FREE TAXI SERVICE**, operating from **0800 to 1000** from various locations with a return for all those going to and from the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

The service receives no subsidy or sponsorship from TfL, taxi trade suppliers or organisations. It is provided by working taxi drivers using their own vehicles, supported by those Knowledge Boys and Girls studying hard to become taxi drivers, plus non working taxi drivers and their families acting as marshals, all giving their time to help on this special day. This is the taxi trade's way of making a small payment for the sacrifices made by so many of our armed forces on our behalf.

Drivers are once again giving their whole hearted backing to providing this service. The following points have already been identified as hub pick ups

Union Jack Club

Victory Services Club



Kings Cross (main line)  
Liverpool Street  
Paddington (main line)  
Fenchurch Street  
London Bridge  
Victoria (main line)  
Victoria Coach Station  
Waterloo (main line)  
Euston  
Marylebone

With wheelchair accessibility and the ability to take up to 5 persons at a time, the service should cater for all needs.

## 10. ★ Navy Deferred Pensions

Did you serve after 6 April 1975 and leave before you had complete 22 years service or Officers after 16 years service? If so, you are reminded that you may be entitled to a preserved pension from age 60. Read on.....



Prior to 6 April 1975 there was no provision for a preservation of pension benefits and service personnel who left the armed forces had to have completed 16 years from age 21 (officers) or 22 years from age 18 (other ranks). Those who left before that date without completing the above criteria, lost all pension entitlement. (This is very unlikely to change despite appeals to the Govt)

The rules changed on 6 April 1975 to provide for pensions to be deferred for payment at age 60 for all those discharged over the age of 26 with a minimum of 5 years service. On 31 March 1978 the age criterion was dropped and on 6 April 1988, the qualifying period was reduced from 5 to 2 years. Deferred pensions can be claimed at age 60 or at age 65 if your service began after 5 April 2006 and after that point. However, you can claim your preserved pension sooner if you become permanently incapacitated.

Service pensions are administered by Veterans UK but pension payments are made by Paymaster (1836) Ltd, the paying authority for the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS).

For further information For help and information on your armed forces pension please ring the Veterans UK on 0800 085 3600 or write to:

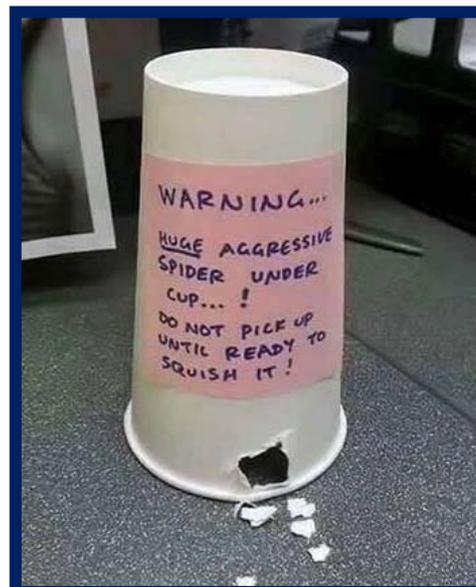
Veterans UK Pension Division  
Mail Point 480  
Kentigern House  
65 Brown Street  
Glasgow, G2 8EX

The form is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/service-personnel-and-veterans-agency-spva-pensions-forms>

## 11 ★ Found on General Secretary's Desk.....

One of the Central Office did their best to Halloween Prank the General Secretary with this bite, do you get it!

The GS stated he was a Submariner and didn't scare easily!!



## 12.★ National Council representative for HQ Roll Members

The newly appointed RNA Roll Members representative, Shipmate Darby Allen (NCM2) has forwarded a letter of introduction for your information

Dear HQ Roll Members,

My name is Victor (Darby) Allen and at the recent September National Council Meeting I was appointed to represent all HQ Roll RNA Members at National Council Meetings. Therefore in order that I can do my job effectively for you, I think it is important that you know who I am and how I may be contacted.

I live near Rochester and have been a member of Chatham Branch RNA since 2003, I am a member of both the branch and No.2 Area Committees and have been Area 2 National Councillor since 2015. I served in the RN Weapons & Electrical Branch for 1959 - 1982.

As a SSAFA Forces Help Case Worker, I have experience with Welfare Issues. Therefore when you have a need to contact me be it an RNA or Welfare matter, then please do so on the following media: Telephone 01634 685482 e-mail, [gubbyallen@btinternet.com](mailto:gubbyallen@btinternet.com) and I will do my best to assist you. Within reason I am prepared to travel should a need arise.

With kind regards to all HQ Roll Shipmates

Darby Allen (NCM 2)

## 13. ★ Joke Time - Laundry Name

Walking through Chinatown, a tourist is fascinated' with all the Chinese Restaurants, shops, signs and banners. He turns a corner and sees a building with the sign, 'Hans Olaffsen's Laundry'.

'Hans Olaffsen?', he muses. 'How in hell does that fit in here?'

<http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/>



He walks in to the shop and sees an old Chinese gentleman behind the counter.  
 The tourist asks, "How did this place get a name like Hans Olaffsen's Laundry?"  
 The old man answers, "Is name of owner".  
 The tourist asks, "Well, who and where is the Owner?".  
 "Me... is right here", replies the old man.  
 "You? How did you ever get a name like Hans Olaffsen"?

"Is simple", says the old man. "Many, many years ago when come to this country, was stand in line at Documentation Centre".

The man in front was big blonde Swede. Lady look at him and go.  
 "What your name? He say "Hans Olaffsen".  
 "Then she look at me and go, What your name"?

Wait for it.....

I say "Sem Ting".

**14. \*\*\*\*FINAL CALL\*\*\*\* Field of Remembrance - Wednesday 8 November 2017**

Any Branches wishing to place a cross in the RNA Garden of Remembrance or Members who want to attend the Field of Remembrance **please forward your details and ticket requirements to Nigel in Central office.**

Crosses can be place in the plot on behalf of a Branch or individual. These can be purchased from Central Office and will be placed on the day by those representing the RNA. Crosses cost £5 each.

Shipmates attending are reminded to bring a form of ID with you, and that you need to be enter the garden gate by 1015 and muster at the RNA plot. The Chaplain of the Fleet will conduct a short memorial service and a potential visit from a VVIP. The National President and General Secretary will be in attendance and he can be contacted on his mobile – 07850 646755 (if required).



**15. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment**

This month can you name this establishment?  
 Remember no hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!..... Good Luck

The answer will be in next month's edition.



And so to last month's 'Guess the Establishment'..... Our thanks go to Shipmate John E 'Bill' Bailey who wrote.....



*Here's one that I don't think will have many who know its location - the main gate for the Royal Naval Dockyard at Trincomalee. It's now the Naval Base for the Sri Lanka Navy.*

*It featured in 1942 when it was attacked by the Japanese; HMS Hermes, the first carrier to be sunk, was based in the Trincomalee harbour. The Brits left in 1948 / 49 and I don't think that many RN ships have*

*visited since.*

*Incidentally, the War Commission Cemetery at Uppuvali, about 3 miles up the road is stunning. It contains the remains of many nationalities who were assisting the allies, including a number of females who were in the nursing services. The cemetery is kept in impeccable condition.*

As A 'Brucie Bonus' this month there are two Guess the Establishments. Shipmate John Bailey also sent in another ex RN Dockyard entrance do you recognise it?



(Answer just before the Longcast)

## 16. ★ Naval Service Memorial Figurine

Graham Mitcheson, the sculpture 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 £90. 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](mailto:nigel@royalnavalassoc.com) Or by telephone on 02392 723747.



## 17. ★ Reunion Shortcast

Shipmates should be aware that the Semaphore Circular editorial team would be delighted to advertise details of any scheduled reunions.

If you would like your reunion advertised please forward the details to RNA Central Office by email to [admin@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:admin@royalnavalassoc.com) or snail mail Semaphore Circular, Room 209, Semaphore Tower, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LT.

## 18. ★ HMS Warspite Chapel Door



The chapel door of HMS Warspite which survived one of the greatest naval battles ever, Jutland, has been gifted to The National Museum of the Royal Navy where it is currently a centrepiece of a centenary exhibition about the battle that, for many, turned the tide of the First World War.

General Secretary of the Royal Naval Association (RNA), Paul Quinn OBE, generously donated the chapel door from HMS Warspite after he acquired it from a seaman's society hostel in Falmouth which was being demolished. The door is displayed alongside a holy bible, loaned by the Imperial War Museum to the National Museum for the duration of the exhibition, which is also from the chapel on board the ship.

Paul Quinn said: "I was very excited to save the door - it was such an amazing opportunity as HMS

Warspite was a particularly famous ship having seen so much action.

"I reflect how many sailors have gone through this door before they went into action and then once again after action thinking, I am still here."

Rebecca Drummond, Curator of Artefacts at the National Museum commented: "We are delighted to accept the RNA's kind offer to donate the chapel door from HMS Warspite to the museum. HMS Warspite was an iconic ship having seen action in both World Wars and earning more battle honours than any other single ship in British naval history, including Jutland in 1916. It is therefore fantastic to have such a striking item in our collection that enables us to tell the story of the ship and those who served on her."

HMS Warspite was a famous battleship whose distinguished service spanned both World Wars. She saw extensive action at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 and was heavily damaged in the course of the battle with 14 of the ship's company killed. She even escaped encounters with German U-boats on her way home and made it back to Rosyth for repairs. HMS Warspite also saw action throughout the Second World War including at the Second Battle of Narvik and D-Day, as well as serving in the Mediterranean Fleet and the Eastern Fleet.

*(Picture Courtesy of The National Museum of the Royal Navy)*

## 19 ★ OP FRANKTON COCKLESHELL HEROES REVISITED CHALLENGE 2017 BY EX SERVICE VETERAN AMPUTEES IN MAY 2017

This year, on December the 9<sup>th</sup>, in France, at Le Pointe de Grave, at the mouth of the river Gironde, a ceremony will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of one very special but small scale WW 2 operation, Operation Frankton. It was conducted under the Combined Operations Command of Admiral Lord Mountbatten. It involved 10 Royal Marines, specially selected, under Major Blondie Hasler. They were launched at sea 4 miles off the mouth of the river by the submarine HMS Tuna. They paddled by night, laying up concealed by day, the 70 miles to Bordeaux where the mission was to emplace limpet mines on shipping carrying stores for the German Occupation Forces. Only four men reached the target zone, six men died or were captured and executed, but the four who did reach the target succeeded in the tasks' mission. This single act proved a huge morale booster to the French people of Aquitaine, the first signal of a victory over their Germans. Only two made it back home, via escape lines into Spain, and Gibraltar and by air to England.



Mountbatten described it as *“The most courageous & imaginative of all the raids ever carried out by the men of Combined Operations. Winston Churchill is quoted to have commented “it probably shortened the war by 6 months.”*

Over the past 20 years a group of French Military Veterans, led by Francois Boisnier researched every aspect of the operation, the river and overland routes in, and out, where 2 of

the men drowned at sea, where others were captured, places and people who gave shelter & assisted the men. In 2002 Francois founded The Association Frankton Souvenir, a small but dedicated Franco British group which has since gone on to promote many activities, to keep alive memories of those brave young men of Op Frankton. In 2008-11 a British led project funded by public support, and created a fine permanent Frankton Memorial which stands at Le Pointe de Grave, the place closest to where the men, then at sea, were to be all together for the last time.

Op Frankton has also been remembered by many, over the more recent years by paddling, in groups, the 70 miles from the mouth of the Gironde to Bordeaux: Royal Naval & Marine cadets, Military officer cadets and youth organisations and by that, each learnt something more about Op Frankton, with that experience as a special memento.

In late May 2017, a small team of 12, 9 British men and 3 women (of whom nine were veterans of the Armed Forces) planned and undertook this Gironde Kayak expedition. Of special note of interest, three of the men were double amputees,



one a single amputee and one with a broken back and nerve damage. To these guys it was another real and special challenge, on water, in canoes. To them just one more to try and to succeed, and succeed they did.

The team comprised: Steve Beard, Leader of The Challenge and CEO of The Pilgrim Bandits Charity; Craig Howorth Ex RN, single amputee; Ben Parkinson MBE, Ex Para double amputee; Glyn Brackenbury, CEO of Skern Lodge Activity Centre, and Navigator; James McMullen Ex RN, Ed McMahon Ex RN and Army, broken Back and damaged nerves; Vincent Manley Ex Royal Marine Double Amputee; Adam Elcock Ex-Army ; Tyler Christopher Ex-Army Double Amputee; Jane Athorn, partner of James McMullen, Josephine Bush, Charity Trustee, and Sarah Holmes, Ex WRNS, and on her 2<sup>nd</sup> Frankton Gironde run, niece of Cpl George Sheard, one of the 10 Cockleshell heroes.

This Team had one cause in common to promote, “The Pilgrim Bandit’s Charity “, founded in 2007 by Steve Beard & a small group of Special Forces veterans, with the sole aim of using their unique training & experiences to help & to inspire wounded soldiers to live life to the full. This Expedition was to bring awareness of Op Frankton & to raise funds for “The Pilgrim Bandits”

Work Up and Training: The six canoes were purchased and donated to the Charity for the team by Duncan Bannatyne. The Training included a weekend of team building in both Devon and later



in Christchurch: stamina endurance, swimming, canoe drills, crew procedures including capsizes and team recovery drills. Swimming with no feet is something quite different! This energy laden programme really built the team and ensured best two man crew selections.

Off to France at the end of May. They had a small Base camp and support team, bearing in mind the wellbeing of the amputees who so readily undertook these challenges and the risks with determination and zest. The team covered the 70 or so miles in 4 days, and without any serious capsizes or other incidents

ever possible on water.

At the start of the expedition the team visited the Frankton Memorial and paid their tributes to ‘The Cockleshell Heroes’ as the men of Op Frankton became known and remembered to this day, & hopefully for another 75 years or more.

Sarah Holmes as the niece of one of the Cockleshell Heroes, and also the Hon Secretary of the Op Frankton Family’s Group had brought pebbles from Southsea beach, where the 1942 team trained, and placed two each day in the waters, and spoke a few words about each of the 10 men.

One should never forget the role taken Op Frankton, by the RN Submarine Service and HMS Tuna and her crew, which safely delivered the men on that December night in 1942 in the launch of Op Frankton, and also, the French citizens who gave help, food & support to the team, notably M and Mme Armand and Amelie Dubreuille, who gave secret refuge and sustenance to Hasler and Sparks for 19 nights in their farm, ever at risk of exposure and summary execution by the Germans would follow.

The photos attached illustrate this team of 2017, past their youth but ever full of determination. I invite all who read this, to consider making a small donation, of say, a Fiver, or a Tenner between two mates: Officers, NCOs & especially Junior Ranks, to reward this special amputee endeavour, and to boost the funds of The Pilgrim Bandits Charity, to expand the work and

training it provides for injured servicemen and women via their PILGRIM BANDITS website <http://pilgrimbandits.org>

A timely mention here too, of the Op Frankton 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremonies that are to take place in France this year between the Fri 8<sup>th</sup> and Sat 9<sup>th</sup> December in Bordeaux and Le Verdon sur Mer. If anyone is interested, they are invited to contact John Bell, who can give the details, at his base at RM Poole, via [Welfare@association1664.com](mailto:Welfare@association1664.com) –

Author: Sarah Holmes on behalf of The Expedition.

## 20. HMS Caledonia – The Apprentices Story 1937 - 1985

At an 7 Area meeting recently NCM 7, Shipmate Gordon Williams (Newport Wales Branch) won a raffle prize of a book, called ‘HMS Caledonia, The Apprentices Story 1937-1985’ at an Area 7 meeting . As an ex CPO Seaman he has stated that the book is not of any interest to him. So.....

If any Shipmate especially Artificers (He chose the word Tiff) would like this book please email Gordon at [.williams8@gmail.com](mailto:williams8@gmail.com) and he will pay for post and package , providing that you make a small donation to the RNA Central Charity.

## 21. Can You or Your Branch help

To mark her close involvement with the WRNS100 Project Group, and her forthcoming retirement from the Royal Naval Reserve, Jane Allen has decided to raise money for two naval charities by setting out on an epic maritime walk entitled the ‘**Victory Walk**’. Her anti-clockwise route around the coastline of mainland Britain is estimated to take a year and cover at least 5,500 miles.



Jane will start from Admiral Nelson’s flagship, HMS Victory, in Portsmouth, and finish there about a year later – hence the title Victory Walk. Her motivation for attempting this long trek is to raise money for two important charities close to her heart:

- The Women’s Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust (WRNS BT)
- The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)

During the walk Jane will be happy to try and meet up with any former Wrens along her route. She would be very grateful for any offers of a place to park her motorhome overnight with access to fresh water. To check her progress, please visit the WRNS BT website or Facebook page.

You can sponsor Jane on her Victory Walk by donating through the RNRMC Virgin Money Giving page ([uk.virginmoneygiving.com/rnrmc](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/rnrmc)); all donations will be equally split between the two charities.

For further information please contact Sarah Ayton at the WRNS BT. Tel 02392 655301.

\*\*\*\*\* Answer to ‘Brucie Bonus ‘Guess the Establishment’ in paragraph 11\*\*\*\*\*

**It is the Main Gate HM Naval Dockyard Bombay or Mumbai nowadays. For information Shipmate John took the photo 9 years ago in 2008.**

## RNA Longcast

2017	
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
08 Nov	Field of Remembrance
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
17 Feb	AMC
10 Mar	National Council Meeting
13 Apr	Open Day
20-22 Apr	Welfare Seminar – Stoke on Trent
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
18 May	Open Day
08 Jun	NC/AMC/FAC/SOC Meetings
<b>8/9/10 June</b>	<b>RNA Conference - Dublin</b>
29 Jun	Open Day
04 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
10 Aug	Open Day
17 Aug	FAC
18 Aug	AMC
08 Sep	National Council Meeting
06 Oct	Open Day
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – RBL Club Rayleigh
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
08 Dec	National Council Meeting

***D'ye hear there'.....***

***News from around the Areas and Branches.....***

[RNA Bury](#)

[RNA Harlow](#)

[RNA Reigate](#)

[Area 4 / RNA Portland](#)

[RNA Newport \(Shropshire\)](#)

[RNA Haverhill and RNA Royston](#)

[RNA Huntingdon and District](#)

[RNA Newport \(Wales\)](#)

[RNA Portland \(1\)](#)

[RNA Brightlingsea](#)

[RNA Chard](#)

[RNA Chatham](#)  
[RNA Portland \(2\)](#)  
[RNA Worthing](#)  
[RNA City Of Glasgow](#)  
[RNA Peterborough](#)  
[Area 12](#)

## RNA Bury Branch

Fundraising was on the agenda for members of the Bury branch of the RNA during September. A team competing in the annual Bury 10k run were raising funds for the local branch of SSAFA the armed forces charity. In excess of £470 was raised by the team who competed against the local ex forces veterans from the Army and RAF. A fun day out ended with the Navy coming a very close 2nd to the much younger Pongo's.

More funds were raised by Shipmates Gary Simmons and Jackie White, pictured opposite, who overcame their fears to abseil from the 128 feet high Peel Tower high above the town of Holcombe near Bury, on this occasion making the Army boys look like amateurs. Raising funds for Bury Gateway a charity dear to their hearts as some of the Gateway community help out at the local Veterans Breakfast Club with the tea and coffee.



(BZ from Central Office)

## RNA Harlow Branch



Harlow RNA have had a busy September on the 5th 7 members went to the National Arboretum where they were very impressed with the whole site. Unfortunately they we didn't see the NSM in it's full glory as the weather was against them. Unfortunately one shipmate was being transported in a Power Chair and one with a Rollator so progress across the grass was extremely difficult, made even worse because the grass had just been cut! However when the branch next visits it will hire the NMA buggies, luckily the 'land train' took us to parts that a certain beer couldn't have reached!

The 9th saw 9 members in relays collect outside our local Tesco's and raise £700 which will enable the branch to make some charity donations and help with their welfare work.

On the 25th there was an extended Branch meeting with a Buffet Lunch which was designed to enable attendance by members who found it difficult to come regularly, also Guests including the No 5 Area Secretary S/m Paulette Rose.

To finish the month on the 29th Harlow held it's Annual Coffee Morning in aid of SSAFA which raised £502.00 for the local Branch. Shipmates are now looking forward to October and the Mess Deck Supper.

## RNA Reigate Branch

Reigate Branch recently visited and paid their respects at Passchendaele. Please see the report below from Reigate Hon Secretary Shipmate Vic Gellett;

*At 0400 on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017, 14 intrepid explorers from Reigate Branch boarded a minibus. Our destination, the Battlefields of Flanders.*

*The excitement felt by everyone that morning was overwhelming, so much so that, by the time the minibus joined the M25,(just 3 miles into our journey), 13 of us were sound asleep! What seemed like a twinkling of an eye, but was, in fact, three hours we were on the ferry and heading towards Calais. There was a vicious rumour going round that this trip across the Channel would double my sea time! Half way across the channel we were given an indication of how amazing the weekend would be as we witnessed a breathtaking sunrise.*

*Once clear of Calais, we headed towards the Belgium border and to the town of Poperinge where we would meet our guide Paul. We had about an hour to kill prior to his arrival, so in good naval tradition we found ourselves sitting outside a bar sampling the local beverages. (Really!)*

*Paul arrived and explained that during the war Poperinge was used as a gateway to the battlefields of the Ypres Salient. It was used for the distribution of supplies, billeting troops, casualty clearing stations and for troops at rest from duty in the forward areas. Thousands of troops passed through this small town at some time of another. Paul led us to the Town Hall and into the courtyard, here, we were confronted with a sobering sight, 2 small cells and the execution post, details of three executions were there to be read. Crossing the Town square, we were taken to Talbot House, established by the Rev. Tubby Clayton in 1915 it was used as an "Everyman's Club", still run by British Volunteers' it is now a living museum.*



*Back on the bus and waving farewell to Poperinge we headed to Essex Farm Cemetery near Boezinge. During the war, the area was used as an advanced dressing station. It was here that John McCrea wrote the now famous war poem "Flanders Fields". We spent time wandering through the 1200 headstones within the cemetery.*

*"Would you like to see some original trenches?" asked Paul. Off we went to Kasteelhof't Hooghe a tranquil hotel situated on a busy road. In the grounds were a series of trench systems. Paul explained that the area was overrun by both sides during the war, and we were stunned by the piles of rusting ordnance scattered around the area. Paul told us that here the Germans used flamethrowers for the first time when re-taking the area.*

*We had been on the road for some 12 hours, time to head for Ypres and our Hotel. Situated in a side road just off the main square in Ypres and about 100 yards from the Menin Gate, we showered and changed. Our hostess explained that if we were to witness "Last Post" at the gate we should go early as it is always very busy. Taking her advice, we mustered at the Menin Gate at 18:30.*

*Busy was an understatement as coach loads of tourists were arriving by the minute and we were immediately swallowed up by the crowd seeking vantage points for the ceremony. An organiser from the "Last Post Association" beckoned us out of the crowd and asked if we would form up on the road at the east end of the gate once the road was closed. Instead of just witnessing the ceremony, we were to become part of it.*

*A once in a lifetime experience we will never forget. Ian Page, our Chairman was also invited to join the wreath laying party and he joined the local dignitaries and laid a wreath on behalf of the R.N.A.*

### DAY TWO

*Paul told us that we would be concentrating on the actions of the Royal Naval Divisions in 1917. We drove to Varlet Farm, owned by a friend of Pauls whose family had lived here throughout the First and Second World Wars. During the Battle of Passchendaele, the R.N.D captured the area of the farm and would then be part of the offensive to take the German lines. With the Belgium countryside laid out before us, Paul explained how the Divisions advanced up the incline towards the enemy, although the scene we were seeing looked so serene, he explained that in 1917 the area was nothing but brown mud, there were no fixed points of reference and the below the incline was a valley that was heavily fortified by the Germans and unknown by the British. As the Sailors and Marines advanced into the valley, they became stuck in the quagmire of thick mud they were unable to go any further, Faced with the previously unknown German fortified defences, they were quickly decimated.*

*We drove over to where the German lines were and could see for ourselves how this happened. Standing there in silence trying to take in what happened that day, one of our party produced a bottle of rum. Stood on the side of this quiet country road we had a tot and raised our glasses in memory of the fallen of the Royal Naval Divisions.*

*Back on the bus, Paul took us to Tyne Cot Cemetery. The final resting place for nearly 12,000 servicemen of the British Empire many of whom died at Passchendaele, we wandered among the graves finding several marked as "Sailor of the Great War" others had been identified. The fouled anchor, symbol of the Royal Navy engraved in the white stone, stood out among the thousands of Regimental emblems.*

*Our next stop was at a place called Hill 60. This was one of many places engineers dug tunnels under the German lines. The area is riddled with the remains of fortified pillboxes, as we followed the path we came across a huge deep crater created by thousands of tons of explosives were detonated underneath the German fortifications. We were later shown a memorial from the Great War that contained bullet holes inflicted during fighting in the Second World War.*

*Our time in Belgium was nearly at the end, just enough time to visit one more cemetery. We headed for the Lijssenthoek Cemetery and the Remy Sidings visitors centre. This area was used as a casualty clearing station and the final resting place for almost 11,000 from 30 nationalities.*

*Our Ferry beckoned, our time in Belgium was at an end, so many emotions felt in such a short space of time. Will we be doing it again? Absolutely.*

## Area 4 / RNA Portland Branch

The Portland Branch of the Royal Naval Association hosted the September 2017 No. 4 Area meeting at the Conservative Club Easton on the Royal Manor of Portland. The meeting was opened by the Portland Town Deputy Mayor, Councillor Charlie Flack (a former CPOMA and now a Portland branch member) accompanied by his wife Maria. Councillor Flack gave an abridged version of the history of Portland and both he and Maria remained with us until completion.



The Branch Standard was marched on by the Area Standard Bearer Ben Cartwright and Shipmate Chaplain the Reverend Geoffrey Walsh offered prayers. It was encouraging to see so many branches attending - AXMINSTER, BRIDGWATER, BRIDPORT, CHARD, CHRISTCHURCH, DARTMOUTH, DORCHESTER, FALMOUTH, FERNDOWN, FROME, LAUNCESTON, LISKEARD, PLYMOUTH, SALTASH, SOUTH BRISTOL, TORBAY, TORPOINT & RAME PENINSULA, WEYMOUTH, PORTLAND.

During the meeting the Area 4 President David White presented a cheque for £2,300 to Mr Geoff Robertson on behalf of Scotty's little Soldiers, a charity dedicated to supporting bereaved British Forces children. Geoff went to great lengths to enlighten us on the mission of the charity. Continuing the Charity theme - A presentation by Mr Tim Corke of the RNRMC outlined the work



done by the RNRMC and how as branches and individuals we can contribute. More info is available at [rnrmc.org.uk](http://rnrmc.org.uk) for those who dabble in the nether world of the internet!

DNCM Shipmate Gutteridge read a report of proceedings from the National council. The President then closed the meeting, but not before he had presented me with a £200 cheque for the Portland branch, are more than happy to host again as often as required.

It was pleasing to note that a number of branch shipmates attended evening social - AXMINSTER, BRIDPORT, CHARD, DARTMOUTH, DORCHESTER, TORPOINT & RAME PENINSULA, WEYMOUTH, FALMOUTH. With almost 30 raffle prizes on offer everyone had a fair chance of getting something to take home. The daytime raffle was a huge success with **another** 30 odd prizes not counting the rum raffle, which the Portland social secretary won!

Portland branch benefited greatly from the weekend's activity both financially and from publicity in the local area which is attracting new members who are keen to join in the fun! Finally, Portland Branch Chairman Dan Sherren said that without the support of the local businesses and community the success would have not been achieved, and wanted to thank all those who contributed to this event.

## RNA Newport (Shropshire) Branch

Jez Price, the RNA Club Steward and his partner Emma Fox have worked tirelessly raising funds for the Newport First Responders.



The culmination of these efforts came on the morning of Saturday 9th September 2017, when the First Responders commissioned a new Defibrillator at the RNA Club in Bellmans Yard in Newport. Besides the hard work from Jez and Emma it was the generosity of our members that resulted in not only the purchase of the Defibrillator but a cheque for the First Responders for £800.00.

The RNA has supported the town of Newport for well over 30 years, this has to be one of the proudest moments for our club members and supporters.

In the picture, from left to right Pete Bunting Chairman of Telford RNA, Bridget Bunting Chair of the Ladies Section, Russell Brookes, Newport First Responders, Emma Fox and Jez Price, Club Steward.

## RNA Haverhill Branch and RNA Royston Branch

On Saturday 7 October, RNA Haverhill Branch held their annual Trafalgar Night Dinner. An invite was sent to RNA Branches, an offer too good to refuse by Royston RNA who sent a small ship's company of 22 members.

An excellent night was had by all shipmates with entertainment provided by Tony Jacks, as can be seen in the photographs of the evening. BZ to Haverhill Branch for a great night, Royston are looking forward to entertaining Haverhill the next time round.



## RNA Huntingdon & District Branch

Seeing the Naval Service Memorial figurine advertised in the Semaphore Circular, and with Remembrance Day approaching, S/M Pete Aston proposed to the Branch that they purchase a figurine to be displayed at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in Godmanchester. Shipmates attend an evening Remembrance Service there every year, taking turns with the RBL and RAFA in leading the Act of Remembrance. This year it is the turn of Huntingdon Branch, and as the names of Godmanchester residents killed during the two wars are read out, S/M





Pete Aston thought it would be good to have a memorial figurine dedicated to the memory of five Royal Naval sailors whose names appear on the War Memorial.

With the full approval of Branch members, a figurine was purchased, it was mounted and engraved and finally presented to the Reverend David Busk on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October by S/Ms Karl Webb, Bill Small, Graham Murray, and of course, Pete Aston. BZ Pete, an excellent idea that will be a permanent reminder in the church of the Royal Navy's involvement during the World Wars and today by the RNA.

Photographs show S/Ms Pete Aston and Karl Webb, Reverend David Busk, and S/M Bill Small (S/M Graham Murray was duty photographer for the day), Close ups of the

figurine and inscription

Shipmates from Huntingdon Branch also have completed another series of community events over the last couple of months. On the 31<sup>st</sup> August, shipmate Karl Webb joined St Neots Branch who were manning their display stall at RAF Wyton's Families Day. As a local, S/M Karl Webb was able to direct all Royal Naval personnel to the stall to receive a tot of Pusser's Rum provided for by the shipmates from St Neots.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, shipmates Karl Webb and Graham Murray were invited by Ramsey's Town Mayor, Councillor Doug McIlwain, for Merchant Navy Day. S/M Karl Webb was also asked to give a talk on the relationship between the Royal and Merchant Navies during the First and Second World Wars.



On the 10<sup>th</sup> September, shipmates Karl Webb and Bill Small attended the RNA Biennial Parade at the Cenotaph. Bill paraded Huntingdon's Branch Standard, and Karl paraded St Neots Standard as S/M Keith Ridley was on duty as the RNA National Chairman. Shipmates had a great time in London, especially at the Civil Service Club

where they were able to catch up with old oppos from the RNA and Type 42 Association.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> October, Huntingdon Branch shipmates were invited to attend a Standard Dedication by Kimbolton Branch of the Royal British Legion. Representing Huntingdon Branch was shipmates Karl Webb, Bill Small and Graham Murray; S/Ms Mike Milne and Jayne Millar were also in attendance representing RNA St Neots Branch.

*Photographs above show:*

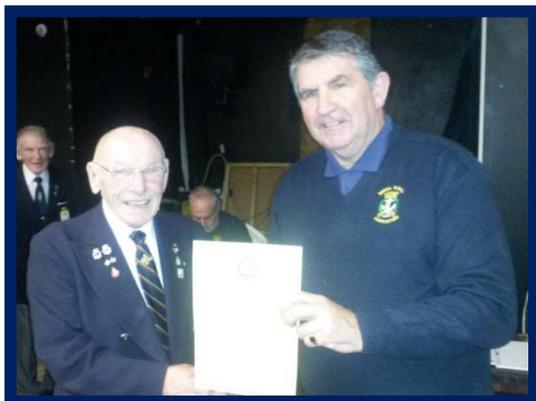


- *WO1 Bill Middleton, Command WO, Joint Forces Intelligence Group, receiving a tot of Pusser's Rum at RAF Wyton's Families Day.*
- *Shipmate Karl Webb addressing VIPs and residents at Ramsey's Merchant Navy Day Service.*
- *Shipmates Karl Webb and Bill Small with members of the Type 42 Association on completion of the RNA's Biennial Parade.*
- *Shipmate Bill Small with Huntingdon's Branch Standard during the Dedication of Kimbolton RBL's new Standard.*

## RNA Newport (Wales) Branch

Life Memberships were recently awarded by Newport Branch to two Shipmates;

Branch Vice Chairman Alan Williams and NCM 7 Shipmate Gordon Williams. Both were presented with their LM Certificates by the Newport Branch President Shipmate George Blackborow.



***(Editors Note; BZ and very many congratulations chaps)***

***( Doesn't NCM 7 look smart in his RNA casual rig!!)***

## RNA Portland Branch

Shipmates may not be aware of the tragedy that occurred in Portland Harbour on Sunday 17 September 1948 when 29 sailors from HMS Illustrious lost their lives..... Shipmate Maureen Sherren forwarded an article originally written by John Ellis to remind us.



At 2200 hours on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1948 in gale force winds and rain squalls, the Ship's liberty boat, a 36ft open motor launch (called a Pinnace) left Weymouth Pier to return to the 29,000 tonne Aircraft Carrier, HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, which was moored within Portland Harbour. The liberty boat was carrying 50 men; a crew of 5 and 45 liberty men who had enjoyed a few hours relaxation in Weymouth.

The boat headed out across Weymouth Bay, before passing through the northern entrance of the massive breakwater into Portland Harbour. Here, the state of

the sea became much worse and immediately the liberty boat was in trouble. As it began to ship water the sailors on board began bailing out the Pinnacle with their caps, buckets and anything which came to hand. Others attempted to keep the sea out by forming a breakwater with their bodies. Regrettably, all their efforts were in vain and the liberty boat foundered and sank some 50 metres astern of ILLUSTRIOUS.



Rescue boats were immediately launched from ILLUSTRIOUS and other naval ships in the harbour. The Weymouth Lifeboat also joined the search. Searchlights were trained on the sea, ropes and buoys were thrown from the Ship's side and men dived from the gangways to assist those trying to stay afloat. There was incredible bravery, strength, resolve, courage and character displayed that night. Despite all their brave efforts and that of the Weymouth Lifeboat, 29 of the 50 on board the liberty boat were lost; their average age was 23. Some of these men are buried in the Naval Cemetery in Portland; others went to their home towns. Wherever they lie we will never forget them.

Exactly 62 years later on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2010, a beautiful Memorial made locally in Portland of Portland Stone, was unveiled by the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE ADC. This Memorial, to commemorate those lost in the tragedy, was provided by the efforts of HMS ILLUSTRIOUS Association through the generous donations of Association members and other interested persons.



HM Lord Lieutenant of Dorset; senior Royal Naval Officers; relatives of those lost; four actual survivors of the Disaster; and members of the Association and the general public, attended the truly emotional and moving Unveiling Ceremony. Also present was a contingent of 29 sailors for the current HMS ILLUSTRIOUS, each representing a life lost. Those present watched the Royal Marines Band Beating Retreat, also a fly-past by a Seahawk and Swordfish of the Royal Naval Historic Flight. Additionally, two Royal Navy Lynx helicopters flew over the actual site of the sinking of the Liberty Boat and dropped a memorial wreath.

Footnote:

Each year since the Memorial Unveiling Ceremony in 2010, a service has been held at the Memorial on a Saturday as close to the Anniversary date as possible, to remember these brave sailors. In addition, we now also remember the founder and instigator of the Memorial, ex-Chairman of HMS ILLUSTRIOUS Association, JOHN ELLIS, who sadly died suddenly in November 2013. We also remember JACK CRANNY, local Historian, who died in 2016, who did so much to help John Ellis with the Memorial project.

Royal Naval Association Portland Branch Chairman, Dan Sherren said that we would ensure members of our branch and other Associations would continue to support this ceremony each year in the memory of those lost Shipmates.

## RNA Brightlingsea Branch

Brightlingsea Chairman Shipmate Bill Dobson called Central Office recently to say that the Branch was delighted to announce that the branch had formed another affiliation with a Royal Naval ship. They were so disappointed when their old affiliated ship HMS Illustrious was withdrawn from service and that would be it. However HMS Brocklesby is the newly affiliated ship with the Branch who are really looking forward to and excited about their new relationship.

Vice Chairman Ron Underwood for information forwarded a potted history of the branches affiliation with 'Lusty'.

*In the Navy News of March 2009 an article appeared under the heading 'Brightlingsea's Illustrious outing'. In the latter part of 2008 our branch had the honour of being affiliated to the senior Rates Mess on board HMS Illustrious. Three followed some memorable years of association with reciprocal visits until the ships decommissioning in 2014.*

*If I were to pick out our most memorable occasion over the years, it would probably our trip on 'Lusty' from Portsmouth to Rosyth and the first sight of her replacement HMS Queen Elizabeth. In the intervening years our branch has struggled to maintain an association with today's RN and it was not until recently that our attempts to fill the void has borne fruit. Today we are proud to say we have achieved our 2<sup>nd</sup> affiliation to an RN ship HMS Brocklesby a Mine Counter Measures vessel. To understand the relevance of this type of ship in our application one has to trace back the towns history relating to mine clearance back to the WW2.*

*In the early days of 1940 the East Coast was in the grip of the coldest winter for 40 years with the sea around Brightlingsea covered in drifting ice. German aircraft had been regularly overflying our part of the east Coast and the Thames estuary dropping magnetic mines. Heavy losses in coastal shipping resulted. So it was of the utmost urgency that counter measures should be put in place. To this end an experimental Minesweeping Flotilla was hastily assembled at HMS Nemo, Brightlingsea's Naval Base. It consisted of an odd assortment of requisitioned drifters and tugs under the Command of Commander Peterson from HMS Vernon.*



*The Flotilla operated what was known as the LL sweep, with two ships steaming in parallel towing long cables through which a powerful electric pulse was emitted creating magnetic field aster to blow at the mines at a safe distance. Obviously in these very hazardous conditions things didn't always go well and frequent explosions damaged these venerable old ships. Never the less out of all this an effective countermeasure to the threat of the magnetic mine was finally developed and approved by the Admiralty.*

*So that is the branches connection with the Minehunters of today as we look forward to the bond of friendship with HMS Brocklesby.*

## RNA Chard Branch

The Committee for Chard Branch Royal Naval Association announced, through the Branch Chairman and Standard Bearer Shipmate Malcolm Day, their intention to bestow upon their Vice President Shipmate Roy Lovell, the honour of becoming Branch President. Those members present at the September bi-monthly official meeting showed their agreement and pleasure of this intention. The honour was gratefully received by the surprised Roy who stated he was truly honoured and would endeavour to maintain the high standard that is expected of the role.



The nomination of Roy as President, in this the 30th anniversary year of the Branch, is most worthy in light of the fact that Roy, a local born and bred member, was instrumental in initiating Chard Branch Royal Naval Association. Roy along with other ex-Royal Naval locals talked about the instigating of a branch and due to Roy making the initial contact with RNA Headquarters, Portsmouth was put in the 'hot seat' after being 'volunteered' as Branch Secretary, a role he held for 27 years. On retiring from this post due to family commitments he was asked to take on the

role of Vice President, which he accepted, and has resulted in his continual support of both the Branch and the Royal Naval Association for the past 30 years.

The branch, as a result of his actions, was Commissioned on the 3rd of October 1987 and will be holding its 30th anniversary celebrations on Saturday 21st October, in conjunction with the Branch's annual Trafalgar Night celebration to be held in The Shrubbery, Illminster with members from across Area 4 Royal Naval Association attending to give support to this achievement.

Following the evening celebrations at The Shrubbery Chard Royal Naval Association members and their guests will be attending the Branch's annual Trafalgar Service in St Thomas' Church, Cricket St Thomas at 10am on Sunday 22nd October. Every year on this occasion the Chard Branch Standard is paraded at the church service, and this year members of other Area 4 Branches attending the Trafalgar Night and 30th Anniversary celebrations will also be presenting and parading their standards.

## RNA Chatham Branch

The deaths of 131 naval men killed during a bombing raid over Chatham during the First World War was commemorated in a special ceremony at the Universities at Medway campus. The service and Parade, organised by the Royal Naval Association in partnership with the universities, took place on Sunday 10 September, marking 100 years since the fatal raid took place,

Those who attended included The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'Isle; Rear Admiral John Kingwell CBE, OBE, Deputy Commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies; Mayor of Medway, LT Col Adam Foley RSME, Royal Canadian Captain M. Aucoin, Defence Adviser to UK, Professor Alan Reed Director of regional development (Kent / Medway) Jane Glew (Deputy Director of the School of Sports and Exercises Sciences,) Jack Harris (Bem) Life Vice President Area

Nos 2, and Branch President of Chatham Branch who laid a wreath on behalf of the RNA.

Music was provided by HMS Collingwood Royal Marines band with the Guard being provided by RNR Medway (Hawk ) Division, Commanded by Lt Cdr Tracy Peyman RNR ( HMS President) with assistance of Midshipman Charlotte Wood RN and Sub Lieutenant Andrew Saunders RN who took charge of the RNA Division. The parade featured serving RN personnel, alongside

RN / RNR Veterans, Merchant Navy Personnel, Standard Bearers, Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets, with a new Division of University staff from Rowan Williams Building Medical sciences department (Sue Division ).

The wreath's were laid, from descendants of those who died along with planting of crosses, and the reading of the names of those who died in the tragedy. This was followed by a march past.



A shipmate representing RNA Chatham, stated: "This is about paying homage to the men who lost their lives, those fatally injured, and the countless many whose brave actions attempted to save the injured personnel. Unfortunately their names will never be known, " It is also about remembering Chatham's heritage as a naval town, and showing the world how proud we are of our distinguished history, as it marks the centennial of the bombing, this ceremony gives us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pay our respects."



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.

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. The (DS 100 Committee) Chairman Tim Stopford , RNA Chatham , Secretary Chris Stout , Welfare Officer Dennis Potter , wish to thank our Chairman Tug Wilson and our Committee members, The Universities of Medway, Medway

(Hawk ) Division RNR HMS President and all contributors to this Parade. We paid homage to all those who lost their lives and those who were injured on that awful night , letting the world know that Chatham never forgets.

## RNA Portland Branch

On Sunday 10 September Shipmates attended two events which unfortunately coincided with the Biennial Parade in London.

The first was held at St Osmund's Church Osmington and was attended by members of Portland, Dorchester and Weymouth Branches. This was to re-dedicate a WW1 Memorial Parchment, which had been discovered in the church tower. The parchment is unusual as it lists not only those who lost their lives but everyone from Osmington who served in The Great War. The names listed are from Naval and Army and for those who served in the Royal Navy their names followed by the name of the ship on which they served.

As shown in the picture below nine Standards from the RNA and other associations also attended the service.



Also in attendance were Shipmates Keith Mullen from (Dorchester) and Alex Oswald (Portland)



The second service attended by Portland Branch members took place at St Andrew's Church, Portland. This was to commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the loss of life following a collision between the "AVALANCHE" bound for New Zealand and the "FORREST" bound for Canada off Portland Bill.



People in New Zealand were so shocked that they launched an appeal for a Memorial to be erected on Portland. This raised £1000 and it was decided to use the money to build a church.

A representative of the New Zealand High Commissioner also attended the service. Poinently during the service one of the candles which had been salvaged from the wreck of the "AVALANCHE" was lit.

The picture show Shipmates Charles H thompson and Alex Oswald with the salvaged anochor from the 'Avalnche'.

## RNA Worthing Branch

This year was the 75th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid (Operation Jubilee) 19th August 1942.

Shipmate Mike Andrews, who lives in Puys, attended the Night Vigil at the Canadian Cemetery just outside Dieppe, on the night of 18th August and took part in one of the Watches.

The next day he laid a wreath at the Canadian Memorial at Puys on behalf of RNA Worthing, of which he is a life member. He was assisted by Lt Carol Rogers RNR, Sea Cadets. During the wreath laying, the Canadian Military band in attendance played 'Eternal Father', the Mariners' hymn, which was especially moving. He was proud to lay his wreath alongside three Canadian Marines.



The Commemorations were especially poignant this year due to the hundreds of Canadian and French military participants, together with the four remaining veterans of the Raid and concluded with a magnificent parade along Dieppe seafront, which stopped at all the numerous memorials dedicated to individual regiments.



Mike was proud to be part of this parade, in his wheelchair, alongside the French Paras, of which he is an honorary member.

Mike has been attending these commemorations for the past 13 years that he has been living in France, but is finding it increasingly difficult due to his limited

mobility, but says he will never give up.

## RNA City Of Glasgow Branch

On the 7 September Shipmates from the Glasgow branch committee went to Arrochar to present two of our members, S/M Jannet Cummins with a bouquet of flowers from the Treasurer S/M David Carlin and the Chairman Kenneth McKinnon presented a bottle of Pusser's rum to S/M David Cummins on the occasion of their retirement from their duties as managers of the Arrochar Hotel.

They have given the branch very good service over the years on their yearly visit to commemorate Nelson's victory at Trafalgar and even allowed us to perform a few SODS Operas.

S/m David served on HMS Raleigh, Lynx, Cavalier, Albion and Pitrievie. We wish them well in their retirement and their move to the fair town of Oban.



## RNA Peterborough Branch

The Peterborough Branch of the RNA, would like to inform members that they have recently changed the site for their monthly Meetings, and now gather at the following venue :-

Peterborough Indoor Bowls Club  
Burton Street  
Peterborough  
Cambridgeshire  
PE1 5HA

These Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, commencing at 1930hrs, unless otherwise informed.

## RNA 12 Area

On Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd September Shipmates from Area 12 manned the recruiting stand alongside the RMA of Northern Ireland at the Portrush international Air Show.

Although it was quite windy, thousands of spectators turned out and we were treated to a spectacular show with such favourites as the Red Arrows and the Typhoon, among a host of other aircraft. All in all it was a successful day with some potential recruits showing interest. Unfortunately the weather took a turn for the worst on Sunday morning with lashing rain and gusting winds. We eventually managed to erect the Gazebo but it was a challenge to stop it taking off! So much so it nearly became one of the displays!

The bad weather resulted in spectator numbers being well down and the majority of the aircraft displays were cancelled, including the Red Arrows. Happily, the Typhoon, one of the favourites, arrived on time and gave a dazzling display of power and agility.



The weather settled down in the afternoon and the annual Remembrance Service was able to proceed. Standards were paraded on the beach and the dignitaries were assembled in front of them. The new Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland, Cdr Rob Milligan RN, represented the RN along with his Army and RAF counterparts.

The Last Post was accompanied by a Poppy Drop over the beach from a 'Huey' similar to the model used in Vietnam by the American Forces.

*(Thanks to S/M Robert Buchanan Chairman Area 12)*

## CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Richard \(Dick\) Ascott](#)

[Neville Burrows](#)

[Henry \(Harry\) Elms](#)

[Moiria Patricia Day](#)

[Percy Pollard](#)

[Jim McKay](#)

[Frank W Halliday](#)

### Richard (Dick) Ascott – Maldon Branch

S/m Dick Ascott "Crossed the Bar" on the 23rd July having been in hospital only a few weeks.

Dick was called up for National Service in 1956 as an Electrical Mechanic. Whilst at HMS Ariel in 1957 he transferred to the Fleet Air Arm later that year until March 1958 he served on HMS Ark Royal.

Years later Dick joined the Maldon Branch of the RNA Area 5 and became the Branch Treasurer, a position he held until his passing.

For 6 years he was the Area 5 NCM. He excelled in this role and did not suffer fools gladly. Anyone asking him his job description he would say "The Gofer between the Area and Central Office".

Earlier this year he was elected Area 5 Vice Chairman and a member of the Standing Orders Committee and would have given great support to his fellow officers, sadly it was not to be.

Shipmate Dick was a true gentleman who will be much missed by his wife Brenda and his family along with all his friends in the RNA family.



### Neville Burrows – Bury Branch



Very sadly Bury Branch have informed the Semaphore Circular that Shipmate Neville Burrows crossed the bar recently.

Neville was a larger than life character and a true gentleman who always had a cheery smile and a dit to tell.

He started his naval career as a boy seaman and finished his service as Master at Arms. He served in a variety of HM Ships and Establishments including; HMS Ganges, HMS Tamar, HMS Darke and also

served in HMS Letterston, HMS Ark Royal, HMS Hecla, HMS Liverpool,

He will be sorely missed by everyone at the branch meetings.

### **Henry (Harry) Elms - Shrewsbury Branch**

Shrewsbury RNA has lost one of the branches longest serving and founder members. Shipmate Harry Elms crossed the bar on the 11 July 2017 at the age of 95.

Harry and his family served the RN through two World Wars. He met his wife Joan, who was in the WRNS on a blind date and they were married for 74 years. They had five children Stirling, Gerald, Jan, Velma and David. Stirling completed eight years service as well. Joan's Father saw action at Jutland and lost her Brother in board the SS Aquila in 1941.

Harry had a hard upbringing in Newfoundland Canada where sadly his fisherman father was lost at sea before Harry was born. He worked as a lumberjack and fisherman. He was recruited under the Winston Churchill scheme, who identified candidates with exceptional small boat handling skills. Harry was decorated for his service on Minesweepers based at Scapa Flow and in the Northern Atlantic where he served with distinction in the Second World War from 1941 to 1946.



After leaving the service Harry's peacetime service saw him working for British Rail as a Foreman Tracklayer. He had a happy and active retirement which saw him spending time at his allotment with his Bees, fly fishing, golfing and Dancing keeping him occupied into his 90's. He is survived by 13 Grand Children and 21 Great Grand Children.

The will be much missed by his family and by his fellow Shrewsbury Branch Shipmates.

### **Moira Patricia Day - Portreath**

Moira Patricia Day crossed the bar at Harbour House Care Home; Portreath on 9 September 2017 aged 93.

Moira was the youngest of four daughters and found herself during WW2 in a WRNS uniform stationed one thousand miles from home struggling with the bitter weather and homesickness.

Leading Wren Haughie 45036 was stationed at HMS Sparrowhawk Hatston Orkney Islands, to which she made a special pilgrimage with her husband Ted. Events of WW2 had a profound effect on Moira and altered the course of her life.

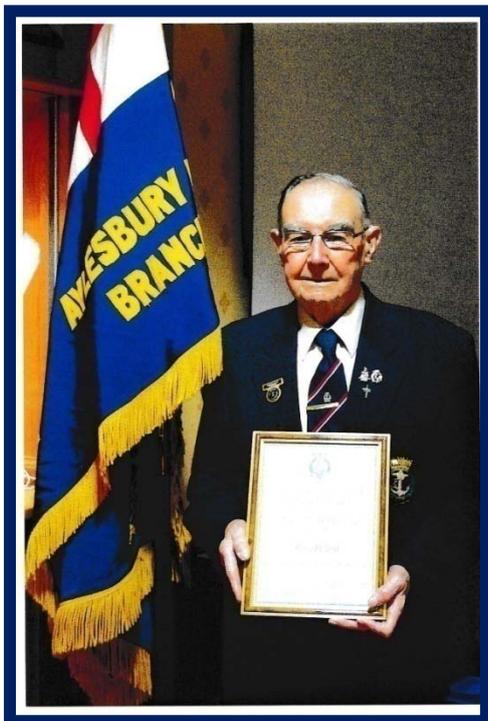


Following the loss of Ted she returned to Cornwall to live in Harbour House where she was very comfortable until she passed away.

Moira was much loved and will be sorely missed by her family.

### **Percy Earnest George Pollard – Aylesbury Branch**

Very sadly following a short time in hospital, following a fall, Shipmate Percy Pollard 'Crossed the Bar' in hospital on the morning of 30 September 2017.



Percy served in the Royal Marines, Service No. PLYX4251, from August 1942 to January 1955 achieving the rank of Sergeant.

During his service he served with 'Buckfast Force' in 1943 in HMS Renown, 3<sup>rd</sup> Commando 44 Brigade Royal Marines in 1944, HMS Defiance 1949, RM Barracks 1950, HMS Sheffield 1953-4, HMS Cleopatra 1954-5. He was awarded the Burma Star, Victory and Defence Medals, the Naval General Service Medal.

He initially joined the Aylesbury & District No.1 Branch in 1968 (at some point lapsed) rejoined in January 1980 and served with pride as the Branch Standard Bearer 1985-1999. He was then Branch Treasurer 2002-2017, Branch President 2006-2017. He was made a Life Member in February 2009.

He will be much missed by his fellow Shipmates in Aylesbury Branch.

### **Jim McKay – Huntingdon & District Branch**

Shipmates from Huntingdon & District Branch are saddened to report that shipmate Jim McKay Crossed the Bar on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Jim joined the Royal Navy in 1947 when he joined HMS Royal Arthur to train as a Sick Berth Attendant.

Jim served at HMS Gosling and HMS Drake until he was drafted to HMS Harrier in 1949, where he met Monica, a Radar Operator in the WRNS. Jim and Monica fell in love, got married and spent their lives together until Monica Crossed the Bar in 2015.

Jim left the Royal Navy in November 1949, his passion for the RN never left him. With Monica they joined the RNA and provided support and guidance to all newcomers during their active years. Sadly, Jim's health deteriorated



after the death of Monica, he spent his days at the Cromwell Nursing Home in Huntingdon, but even then, he maintained contact with his shipmates from Huntingdon Branch.



Shipmate Jim McKay's funeral took place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October. Shipmate Karl Webb, as Branch President, recited Lord Tennyson's Crossing the Bar during the Service of Thanksgiving. Rest in peace shipmate, you will be missed by us all.

Photographs show Jim, circa 1949 (bottom row, third from right), and in 2016 when he was presented with a commemorative coaster marking the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Huntingdon & District Branch.

### **Frank W Halliday – City of Glasgow Branch**

Glasgow Branch are sad to inform the RNA that Shipmate Frank W Halliday has crossed the bar aged 87

Frank joined up in 1947 and left the Royal Navy as a Chief Petty Officer after serving in; HMS Hart during the Malaya uprising and HMS Victorious and HMS Battleaxe during the Korean War 1945 – 51 and finally HMS Graham RNR 1963 -85.

He was founder of Graham Old Hands Association and Chairman of City of Glasgow RNA from 1996 until 2011. He was awarded life membership of the RNA and became Life Vice President of the branch. He will be sadly missed.

## RNA Members Benefits

### UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA. <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/news/323/members-holidays-service>

### Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

- Discounted Branch and House hold Insurance - 01323 744149  
<http://bit.ly/RNACona>

### Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Veterans UK [www.veteranfunerals.co.uk](http://www.veteranfunerals.co.uk) Tel 07889 009393

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- RNA member entry just £10 plus four guest at £10 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.

### Legal Services



Free 30 minute legal advice with Coffin Mew.  
[armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk](mailto:armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk) 0800 827168

### Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service  
[asec@arno.org.uk](mailto:asec@arno.org.uk) or 0207 4025231



*Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you. 0844 264 2122*

[conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk](mailto:conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk)



- Discounts on a large range of new Cars [www.motorfinity.uk/rna](http://www.motorfinity.uk/rna)

## 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 £2,400 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.*

### **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](mailto:secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk).

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

### **849 Naval Air Squadron Gannets - 26-29 April 2018**

849 Gannets are holding a reunion at the Hotel Mariners, Haverfordwest Dyfed SA61 2DU between 26 and 29 April 2018.

For further details please contact John Rawling at [jsrawl@aol.com](mailto:jsrawl@aol.com)

### **HMS Ganges Association - 13-16 April 2018**

The AGM and Reunion will take place at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island on the weekend of 13th to 16th April 2018. For more information contact IOW Tours, 3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, IOW, PO36 9JN. Email: [enquiries@iowtours.com](mailto:enquiries@iowtours.com) or Tel: 01983 405116. For details of membership of the Association please contact Ken Bushnell, Membership Secretary, 7 Rivers Street, Yew Gardens, Waterlooville, PO7 5FR. Tel: 02392 252812 or Email: [gangesmemsec@gmail.com](mailto:gangesmemsec@gmail.com)

### **Lascaris Malta Association – September 2018**

Lascaris Malta Association visited SS. Great Britain during their annual reunion visit to Bristol in September. If you would like more details of this association contact Pat Middleton at [patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com)



## Swinging the Lamp – November 2017



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1808	<i>Cruizer</i> fought twenty Danish gunboats and captured the Danish privateer <i>Rinaldo</i> 15 miles S.S.W. of Vinga Beacon, Kattegat.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1941	Submarine <i>Tetrarch</i> presumed sunk by a mine in Sicilian channel on passage from Malta to Gibraltar.
3rd	1981	English Harbour, 'Nelson's Dockyard', handed over to Antigua, though the White Ensign flies from a presentation mast on certain days.
4 <sup>th</sup>	1967	<i>Repulse</i> , second British Polaris submarine, launched at Vickers, Barrow, at noon on Saturday by Lady Zuckerman using a bottle of homemade elder berry wine. The tugs failed to hold the boat and she went aground on the Walney Channel sands where she was left high and dry until refloated at the next high tide.
5 <sup>th</sup>	1781	<i>Albemarle</i> (28), Capt Horatio Nelson, in Elsinore (Helsingor) Road, Denmark, 'fired nineteen guns it being Gun Powder Plot'.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1943	<i>Kite</i> , <i>Starling</i> and <i>Woodcock</i> sank U-226 in N. Atlantic (44.49N, 41.13W), and <i>Starling</i> and <i>Wild Goose</i> sank U-842 (43.42N, 42.08W).
7th	1994	Type 23 frigate <i>Richmond</i> , Yard No. 137, was the last warship to leave Swan Hunter Shipbuilders, Wallsend.
8th	1813	Boats of <i>Revenge</i> cut out a French privateer at Palamos.
9th	1805	Three days after the news of Trafalgar reached London, Prime Minister William Pitt, in his speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, said 'England has saved herself by her exertions, and will, I trust, save Europe by her example.'
10th	1811	<i>Skylark</i> and <i>Locust</i> defeated a French flotilla of twelve gunvessels off Calais and took a brig.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1918	Armistice signed by Germany ending the First World War. RN strength 37,636 officers and 400,975 men, excluding RNAS transferred to form RAF on 1 April 1918.
12th	1992	Plans to transfer RN Operational Sea Training from Portland to Devonport and the closure of Portland Naval Base by April 1996 announced by the Armed Forces Minister.
13 <sup>th</sup>	1941	<i>Ark Royal</i> torpedoed by U-81 off Gibraltar (36.03N, 04.45W) while returning from Operation Perpetual. Sank next day, and might have been saved by better damage control, from which many lessons were learned.
14 <sup>th</sup>		Fire in gas turbine room of guided missile destroyer <i>Fife</i> , Capt W.D.S. Scott RN, off Malta. Fire held one bulkhead away from the Seaslug missile magazine and the ship, in imminent danger of exploding, was prudently kept out of Grand Harbour,

		being held at anchor off Marsaxlokk. At same time the world's press was in Valletta to cover the arrival of the fleet carrier <i>Ark Royal</i> after her collision with a Russian warship off Crete on 9 November. A baptism of fire in all respects for the author of this volume
15 <sup>th</sup>	1939	Tanker <i>Africa Shell</i> sunk by German pocket battleship <i>Admiral Graf Spee</i> off Mozambique
16 <sup>th</sup>	1857	VC: Lt Nowell Salmon, AB John Harrison, Lt Thomas James Young and AB William Hall ( <i>Shannon</i> ) for gallantry at Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny. Hall was the first non-white and the first Canadian to gain VC. Young married the sister of Mid Boyes, VC.
17 <sup>th</sup>	2008	<i>Dragon</i> , the fourth Type 45 destroyer, launched by Mrs Susie Boissier, wife of Vice- Admiral Paul Boissier, Deputy C-in-C Fleet, at BVT Yard on the Clyde. The ship, which is affiliated with Cardiff, was launched with large red dragons painted on her bows
18 <sup>th</sup>	1861	Wood screw gunboat <i>Kestrel</i> defeated a superior force of Chinese pirates and dismounted the guns in their shore battery at Ching Keang, Chu san.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1941	<i>Sydney</i> (RAN) surprised by the German disguised raider <i>Kormoran</i> (Schiff 41) off the west coast of Australia. Both ships sunk. Wreck of <i>Sydney</i> found on 17 March 2008 in 2,470 metres at (26.14.37S, 111.13.03E), 250km S.W. of Carnarvon, W. Australia, 12nm from wreck of <i>Kormoran</i> , found a few days later. Battle Honour: <i>Kormoran</i> 1941.
20 <sup>th</sup>	1957	Anglo-French squadron cut the boom and captured the Argentine batteries at Obligado. British ships: <i>Gorgon</i> , <i>Firebrand</i> , <i>Philomel</i> , <i>Comus</i> , <i>Dolphin</i> , <i>Fanny</i> . French ships: <i>San Martin</i> , <i>Fulton</i> , <i>Expeditive</i> , <i>Pandour</i> , <i>Procida</i> . The Argentine <i>Republicano</i> set on fire by her own crew and blew up.
21 <sup>st</sup>	1652	Boats of <i>Leopard</i> , <i>Constant</i> , <i>Warwick</i> and <i>Bonaventure</i> cut out the Dutch (ex-British) <i>Phoenix</i> (38) at Leghorn. Admiral Cornelius Tromp, son of Marten, nearly captured.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1739	Vice-Admiral Edward Vernon ( <i>Burford</i> ) captured Porto Bello. Ships: <i>urford</i> , <i>Hampton Court</i> , <i>Norwich</i> , <i>Princess Louisa strafford</i> , <i>worcester</i> . Battle Honour: Puerto Bello 1739. See 12 November 1684, 19 October 1739, 21 August 1740, 11 April 1746.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1812	Lt Richard Stewart Gamage, First Lieutenant of the sloop <i>Griffon</i> , was hanged on board the ship at Deal for running through with his sword the undisciplined Sgt Lake of the Marines on 20 October. The last RN officer known to have been hanged rather than shot for a capital crime.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1950	The bell of the battleship <i>Queen Elizabeth</i> presented by Admiral Sir John Cunningham to the Baltic Exchange which had adopted the ship during the Second World War.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1977	Two frigates sailed from Devonport and reached a holding position in the S. Atlantic (40.00S, 40.00W) on 13 December to wait covertly during talks with the Argentine government over the future of the Falkland Islands. SSN <i>Dreadnought</i> deployed south on 21 November and patrolled the approaches to Port Stanley. Ships released on 19 December to return covertly to the UK. Operation Journeyman
26 <sup>th</sup>	1806	Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew's squadron captured the Dutch

		<i>Maria Wilhelmina</i> off Banten.
27 <sup>th</sup>	1916	R-9 made first successful flight by an RNAS rigid airship.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1983	<i>Fearless</i> , later supported by <i>Andromeda</i> and <i>Achilles</i> , relieved <i>Glamorgan</i> and <i>Brazen</i> off Lebanon.
29 <sup>th</sup>	1909	Battlecruiser <i>Lion</i> laid down at Devonport and Super Dreadnought <i>Orion</i> laid down at Portsmouth. <i>Lion</i> was the first battlecruiser with 13.5-in. guns and centre-line turrets, and the first warship to cost over £ 2 million.
30 <sup>th</sup>	1787	Nelson paid off the frigate <i>Boreas</i> (28) at Sheerness after three and a half years in the West Indies

## 2018 Diaries

*The 2018 diary will be available as the diary part only, price - £5.*

**Diary with the NEW dark blue crested cover, price - £8**

**By popular demand the address book is also available too. - £1 each**

***Orders should be sent to the address below and accompanied either by a cheque or card details.***

**To:** Royal Naval Association, Room 209  
 Semaphore Tower (PP70)  
 HM Naval Base  
 Portsmouth  
 PO1 3LT

### Order form

**From:** .....Branch/ Member

**Please provide** ..... **2018 RNA insert Diaries @ £5.00 each** £ .....

**Please provide** ..... **2018 Diaries with Cover @ £8.00 each** £ .....

**Please provide** ..... **Address Book inserts @ £1.00 each** £ .....

**TOTAL £.....**

Deliver the order to S/M.....

Address .....

.....

..... Post

Code:.....

Find enclosed a cheque to the value of - £ .....made out to The Royal Naval Association

**Or charge to my Credit Card/Debit Card;** the details of which are:

Card in the name of .....

Credit Card/Debit Card Number.....

Valid From: ..... Expires .....

Three Digit Security Code (where applicable) .....

Card holder's address of different from delivery address

Address .....

.....

..... Post

Code:.....



# The 2017 Christmas card

These are available with envelopes at **£5 for ten.**

Orders should be sent to HQ Semaphore Tower and be accompanied by a cheque or card details for the total value.

**From:** .....**Branch/Member**

Please provide .....Packs of ten **Queen Elizabeth** Christmas cards @ £5 per pack.

Deliver the order to

S/M.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Post code.....

Find enclosed a cheque to the value of - £ ..... made out to The Royal Naval Association

**Or charge to my Credit Card/Debit Card;** the details of which are:

Credit Card/Debit Card No ..... .

Card in the name of :.....

Valid From: ..... Expires .....

Three Digit Security Code (where applicable) .....

Card holder's address if different from delivery address

Address .....

.....

Post Code:.....

## Delegate to Annual Conference 2018 Dublin

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

- (a) **Each Branch which has complied with Rule 16(c)**, (*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the payment of subscriptions and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference.*) but subject to Rule 10(c), (*Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate*) and has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.
- (a) Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty four hours before the Conference.

<b>Branch</b>		<b>Area</b>	
<b>Name of Delegate</b>			
<b>Car registration</b>		<b>Passenger Name</b>	
Delegate's Address			
	<b>Telephone No</b>	<b>Post Code</b>	
<b>e-mail</b>			
<b>Number of Observers</b>			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			
Contact telephone No: (if not branch Hon Sec)			
Contact e-mail address			
<b>Name and Address for correspondence</b> (if not branch Hon Sec)			

**NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2017 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2018 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.**

A letter confirming a delegate's attendance will be sent prior to Conference. This letter should be brought to Conference to confirm eligibility to be a Delegate. There will be NO additions to the delegate list on the day.

**If you have not received confirmation one month before Conference please call Nigel on 023 9272 3747**

## Form C3

### APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL PERMIT FOR A REGISTERED ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION CLUB

(To be submitted to RNA Headquarters by 7 December 2017)

#### PART - The Club

Name of Club in full .....

Registered Number .....

Registered Office Address .....

Tel.....Post Code.....

Premises owned by : Club/Branch/Other.....

Club membership as at **31 October '17** : Life.....Full.....Assoc.....

#### ANNUAL PERMIT 2018

The undersigned **certify** that:

- The Club is registered with the FCA and has registered the annual accounts/financial statements.
- The Club is a going concern and solvent under the terms of the Insolvency Act 1986 and this is anticipated for the year of this permit application.
- The Club, at its AGM, agreed to abide by the Rules for Clubs laid down by the Association; reviewed its approved Bye-Laws and believes them to be current and appropriate.

Hon Secretary .....(Signed).....(Print name) .....Dated

Chairman..... (Signed)..... (Print name) .....Dated

Treasurer..... (Signed)..... (Print name) .....Dated

#### PART II - The Branch

The Committee of the ..... Branch of the Royal Naval Association has examined the above information and it is satisfied as to its accuracy.

The Committee hereby applies for the renewal of the Annual permit and undertakes to ensure all the conditions therein are complied with.

The present paid up membership of the branch is:

Life.....Full.....Assoc.....

Branch Hon Secretary.....(Signed)..... Dated

#### PART III - The Area

Number..... Area in which the .....Branch is situated recommends that National Council approves this application.

Area Hon Secretary ..... (Signed).....Dated

#### PART IV - The Council

This application is approved by the National Council, the Bye-Laws, if amended, are approved

On behalf of the Council.....(Signed) .....Dated

### Notes and conditions

- (a) Under Association Rule 11 the Council requires all Branches forming a club to register it and its name with the appropriate authority through RNA headquarters, and thereafter to apply for an Annual Permit
- (b) The application for the Annual Permit should be submitted by the Branch having first received the Area's endorsement, to RNA Headquarters by the 7 December 2017. If either the Branch or the Area cannot approve the application, it should endeavour to resolve the reasons with the Club, but failing this should report full details to the General Secretary with a copy to the Council member for the area.
- (c) RNA Headquarters will issue the permit dated 1 January of the following year as soon as practicable.
- (d) If the premises are not owned by the Branch it is a condition that adequate facilities are provided by the owner or lessee for the conduct of Branch business.
- (e) If the Secretary's address for correspondence is not the same as the registered office for the club, this should be shown after their signature
- (f) The conditions specified on the Permit as being accepted by the Club include the following:
  - 1. All members of the Club shall be members of the Association with not less than 20 Full and or Life members as defined by clause 7 of the Royal Charter.
  - 2. The Club will, in general, do all possible to further the objects of the Association and will support and encourage the work of the Branch with which it is associated.
  - 3. The Club will abide strictly by its registered rules which shall be those approved by The Council and accepted by the Licensing authority. Amendments to the Rules may only be made by the Council; they shall apply to each Club. Clubs are to use the registered Model Rules for the RNA, which ensures that they are always compliant with the Law and RNA Charter.
  - 4. Each Club shall review its Bye-Laws annually and submit amendments to the Council for approval.
  - 5 Two copies of the audited accounts of the Club shall be forwarded to the General Secretary each year.
  - 6 The Council shall be entitled to appoint a representative to inspect all documents, accounts and books of the Club on giving seven days notice.
  - 7 The Council and the appropriate Area Committee may from time to time pay a visit of inspection to the Club.
  - 8 The Council can give seven days written notice of cancellation of the permit, whereupon the Club shall thereupon cease to trade under the title of the "Royal Naval Association" and to use the RNA registered model Rules.



<b>BRANCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017</b>			
RNA BRANCH .....		RNA AREA .....	
CHARITY NUMBER (If applicable) .....		ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	
<b>BRANCH FUNDS</b>			<b>£</b>
Balance B/Fwd. from 31 December 2016			See box 2 in 2015 returns
<b>Add: Difference of Income over Expenditure for Year (OR)</b>			See box 5
<b>Deduct: Difference of Expenditure over Income for Year</b>		(-)	See box 6
Balance C/Fwd at 31 December 2017		<b>TOTAL</b>	£ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Box 1

<b>LOCATION OF FUNDS</b>		<b>£</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Balance in Deposit Account		
Balance in Current Account		
Balance in other Bank Accounts		
Cash in Hand, including Petty Cash		
Loans (outstanding), if any		(-)
Un-Presented Cheques (Cheques written out 2017, cleared on Bank Statement 2018)		(-)
<b>Box 2 should agree with Box 1</b>		<b>TOTAL</b> £ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Box 2

**The Balance Sheet is a snapshot of the worth of the Branch at Financial Year End. It shows what the Branch owns (Bank, Cash etc) and what it owes (eg a Loan)**

**The Income & Expenditure Statements shows the main items in and out of the Branch accounts during the year.**

**Accounts scrutiny (by a competent person)**

I/We certify that:

- a. All Branch accounts and supporting records have been scrutinised and, as far as appears from my/our scrutiny of these, proper books of accounts have been maintained by the Branch.
- b. The above Balance Sheet and attached Income & Expenditure Account have been prepared from the books and records of the Branch, and according to the information and explanations given to me/us by Branch Officers, and in my/our opinion, these are in accordance therewith.

Signed.....

Print Name.....

Date.....



RNA BRANCH.....	
<b>ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL OF CHARITABLE GRANT DONATIONS RECEIVED AND EXPENDITURE PAID</b>	
<b>THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017</b>	
	£
<b>INCOME (Grants or donations received)</b>	
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	£

Box 7

<b>EXPENDITURE (Grants or donations made by the Branch)</b>	£
<b>TOTAL PAID</b>	£

Box 8

Name & Address of Branch Bank:

This form explains charitable activity during the year. This information is used in the report to the Charities Commission.

It is important that all donations are in accordance with the RNA's charitable objects.

All Branches should be individually registered with the Charity Commission if total annual income exceeds £5,000

If your Branch is currently a registered charity and your income from all sources is regularly less than £5,000, then you should de-register with the Charity Commission. <https://www.gov.uk/remove-charity-register>

Charity Commission Returns criteria Income:

Less than £10,000 – Annual update Report required (easy online form)

More than £10,000 – Annual Return required (complete form online & download accounts)

We certify that:

- a. The Balance Sheet and attached Income & Expenditure Account have been prepared from the books and records of the Branch; they are a true record of the Branch's financial activity during the year.
- b. All annual subscriptions and entrance fees due from Members for the year have been collected and sent to Central Office.
- c. If Income is less than £25,000 the accounts have been proved by a competent person who is not the Treasurer. Above £25,000 Charity Commission rules have been obeyed.

**Chairman** Sign..... Print Name.....

**Date** .....

**Secretary** Sign..... Print Name.....

**Date** .....

**Treasurer** Sign..... Print Name.....

**Date** .....

**One copy to Central Office and one copy to Area Secretary.**



# ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

## AREA BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

RNA AREA .....			
CHARITY NUMBER (If applicable) .....		ANNUAL ACCOUNTS	
<b>AREA FUNDS</b>			<b>£</b>
Balance B/Fwd. from 31 December 2016			See box 2 in 2015 returns
<b>Add: Difference of Income over Expenditure for Year (OR)</b>			See box 5
<b>Deduct: Difference of Expenditure over Income for Year</b>		(-)	See box 6
Balance C/Fwd at 31 December 2017		<b>TOTAL</b>	£ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Box 1

LOCATION OF FUNDS		£
<b>Investments</b>		
Balance in Deposit Account		
Balance in Current Account		
Balance in other Bank Accounts		
Cash in Hand, including Petty Cash		
Loans (outstanding), if any		(-)
Un-Presented Cheques (Cheques written in 2017, cleared on Bank Statement 2018)		(-)
<b>TOTAL</b>		£ <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> </span> Box 2

**The Balance Sheet is a snapshot of the worth of the Area at Financial Year End. It shows what the Area owns (Bank, Cash etc) and what it owes (eg a Loan)**

**The Income & Expenditure Statements shows the main items in and out of the Area accounts during the year.**

### Accounts scrutiny (by a competent person)

I/We certify that:

- c. All Area accounts and supporting records have been scrutinised and, as far as appears from my/our scrutiny of these, proper books of account have been maintained by the Area.
- d. The above Balance Sheet and attached Income & Expenditure Account have been prepared from the books and records of the Area, and according to the information and explanations given to me/us by Area Officers, and in my/our opinion, these are in accordance therewith.

Signed.....

Print Name.....

Date.....





Name & Address of Area Bank:

This form explains charitable activity during the year. This information is used in the report to the Charities Commission.

It is important that all donations are in accordance with the RNA's charitable objects.

All Areas should be individually registered with the Charity Commission if total annual income exceeds £5,000

If your Area is currently a registered charity and your income from all sources is regularly less than £5,000, then you should de-register with the Charity Commission. <https://www.gov.uk/remove-charity-register>

Charity Commission Returns criteria Income:

Less than £10,000 – Annual update Report required (easy online form)

More than £10,000 – Annual Return required (complete form online & download accounts)

We certify that:

- d. The Balance Sheet and attached Income & Expenditure Account have been prepared from the books and records of the Area; they are a true record of the Area's financial activity during the year.

**Chairman** Sign..... Print Name.....

**Date** .....

**Secretary** Sign..... Print Name.....

**Date** .....

**Treasurer** Sign..... Print Name.....

**Date** .....

**One copy to Central Office.**

## .....BRANCH OFFICIALS INFORMATION 2018

(Note: This Report should be forwarded to H.Q. with a copy direct to the Area Secretary after the Branch AGM - Bye-Law B8) and **not later than 30 April 2018**. It covers the reports to the National Council required by Bye-Laws B17 & B18. **One copy of the Annual Accounts & Report should also be sent to H.Q. Bye-law B19 (c).**

	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. SECRETARY</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. TREASURER</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. WELFARE OFFICER</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. PR OFFICER</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>STANDARD BEARER</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
Address of Meeting Place	
Frequency of Branch Meetings	
Name & Address of Branch Bank	

### OTHER INFORMATION

<b>PATRON</b>	Name:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Name:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Name:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>HON. CHAPLAIN</b>	Name:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>HON. MEMBERS</b>	Name:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>HON. MEMBERS</b>	Name:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b><u>CLUB OFFICIALS</u></b>		
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Name:	
	Address:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>HON. SECRETARY</b>	Name:	
	Address:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>HON. TREASURER</b>	Name:	
	Address:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
<b>OTHER APPOINTMENTS</b>	Name:	
	Address:	
	Tel / Mobile:	e-mail:
Any other useful information about Branch:		

**Signature of Hon. Secretary**
**Date**



# ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

## AREA Office Holders Information for 2018

Area No.....	
<b>CHAIRMAN</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. SECRETARY</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. TREASURER</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. WELFARE OFFICER</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:
<b>HON. SOCIAL SECRETARY</b>	Name: Address:  Post Code.....
	Tel / Mobile: e-mail:

*Note:* This Report (RNA Form 3) and one copy of the Annual Accounts (RNA Form 4) should be forwarded to the Council at Central Office, within 31 days after the Area AGM but no later than 30 April 2018.

**If any of your Area Office Holders change throughout the year, please send an update to Central Office.**

Signature of Hon. Secretary..... Date .....

## NOMINATION FORM

### ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 2018/2020 (Revised RNA Bye-Law 7)

**For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Areas. 1,3,4,5,10,12.**

Each Branch may nominate **one full or life member** from any Branch within its own Area, as a Candidate for election to the National Council, and **one full or life member** for election as the Deputy National Council Member **subject to the approval of the Branch to which both persons belong.** (See Note Below)

**Names of Nominees**

**NCM** ..... **DNCM** .....

**Proposed by** ..... **Branch** ..... **Area**

**Address of Nominee**

**NCM**.....

..... **e mail** .....

**DNCM**.....

..... **e mail** .....

**Brief history of nominees in the Association.** (Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

**NCM**

**DNCM**

Chairman ..... (signed) .....(dated).....

Secretary..... (signed) .....(dated).....

If the Candidate is **not** a member the proposing Branch, this section is to be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's **own** Branch.

Candidate's Branch ..... ..

We are aware of the above nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch) .....

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch) .....

**Candidate**

**I accept the nomination and promise to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and to sit on any Committees to which I may be elected.**

Signature of Candidate ..... Dated .....

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA HQ no later than **1600 16th February 2018.**

## PROPOSED MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

Proposals must reach The General Secretary by **1600 16 February 2018**

Name of Proposing Branch: .....

### Motion / amendment

### Explanation of the Motion / Amendment (To be included in the notes for Conference)

Hon Secretary .....(signed).....(dated)

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Name of Seconding Branch: .....

Hon Secretary .....(signed).....(dated)

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### Notes

- a. A motion is submitted in the name of a Branch. Secretaries of proposing and seconding Branches are **certifying** that the motion or amendment reflects the view of the Branch meeting (not a committee); and that voting was conducted in accordance with Rule 20.
- b. A separate form is required for each Motion or Amendment
- c. A manuscript copy is acceptable for additional Motions or Amendments if the printed form is not available.
- d. The Motion or Amendment should be as short and precise as possible avoiding ambiguity. A Motion should normally start with the word 'THAT'
- e. The explanation is to assist the scrutiny of the Standing Orders Committee in understanding the intention behind the Motion so that they may be able to consider its presentation so it can be improved and implemented as soon as possible (Conference Bye Law C4)
- f. Motions may be submitted at any time but must reach the General Secretary by **16 February 2018**.
- g. Motions of Urgency should reach the General Secretary not less than 48 hours before Conference. (In accordance with Conference Bye Law C6.) and include an explanation about the urgency.
- h. Amendments to Motions should also normally reach the General Secretary not less than 7 days before Conference. The provision for the submission of amendments during Conference is in the Conference Bye-Laws.
- i. Bye-Laws. A Motion to Conference may propose that a Bye-Law be set aside or it may ask the Council to consider making or amending a Bye-Law.
- j. The Branch Proposing a Motion **must** have it Seconded by another Branch before forwarding it to the General Secretary. (Conference Bye Law C3a)

## Nominations for Standing Orders Committee 2018

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Two members of the standing Orders Committee need to be elected/re-elected at Conference 2018. Those standing down are eligible to be re-elected.

Each Branch may nominate **one Full or Life member** as a candidate for election to the Standing Orders Committee, **subject to the approval of the Branch to which the candidate belongs**. A nil return is not required.

NAME OF NOMINEE .....

PROPOSED BY ..... BRANCH

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE .....

.....

.....

E mail ..... Post code .....

**Brief history of nominee in the Association.** Continue on separate sheet if necessary.

Chairman ..... (signed).....(dated)

Secretary ..... (signed).....(dated)

If the Candidate is **not** a member of the proposing Branch, this section must be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's **own** Branch.

Candidate's Branch .....

We support this Nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch) .....

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch) .....

**Candidate - I accept this nomination and undertake to attend as many Standing Orders Committee Meetings as is possible.**

Signature of Candidate .....

This form should despatched to be received at the Central Office no later than **1 April 2018** Nominations received after this date cannot be included in the Ballot.





# The RNA Conference

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June 2018



ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION

## The Royal Marine Hotel - Dún Laoghaire, Ireland

### A warm welcome awaits.....

Ireland is to host the 2018 RNA Conference and Reunion and you can be assured of a warm Irish welcome and great hospitality in the picturesque seaside resort of Dún Laoghaire.

Our base is the historic 4 star Royal Marine Hotel & Spa which affords magnificent sea views from its elevated position overlooking Dublin Bay.

The Royal Marine Hotel is regarded as one of the finest 4 star hotels in Dublin and has hosted many Heads of State, Kings, Queens and celebrities including 'old blues eyes' Frank Sinatra, Laurel & Hardy and Charlie Chaplin, to name a few. Queen Victoria also visited Ireland via Dún Laoghaire and enjoyed a 16 course breakfast in the hotel shortly after arriving! The Irish freedom fighter Michael Collins is also believed to have hidden out in Room 210 with his partner Kitty Kiernan.

It is a reminder of a bygone era while still adding everything that you expect to find in a luxury hotel of this quality offering 228 luxury bedrooms that have been updated with both contemporary and traditional furnishings & decor.

Many rooms also feature breath-taking views across Dún Laoghaire Harbour and Dublin Bay as does the outstanding Carlisle Conference Centre.

*The Royal Marine Hotel,  
Marine Road,  
Dún Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin, A96 KO63  
[www.royalmarine.ie](http://www.royalmarine.ie)*



### The hotel has a wide range of facilities and services:

- Hardy's Bar & Bistro •Dun Restaurant •Room Service
- The Historic Bay Lounge. •Relax Revive & Retreat in sansanaSPA •The Pier Health Club with 18m Pool, Sauna, Steam Room & Hydro Pool •The 750 capacity Carlisle Conference Centre

### The hotel provides the following additional services:

- Complimentary & Secure WIFI Services in all areas of the Hotel •Complimentary car-parking for all hotel residents and guests •Individually Controlled Air Conditioning in All Guest Bedrooms •Laundry & Dry Cleaning Services

Rooms also feature Laptop size safes, LCD TV, Fridge, Tea/Coffee Making Facilities, Ironing Board & Trousers Press

# 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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.





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.

<b>Prices:</b>	1) 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> June (Fri-Sun)	2 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £339 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2) 8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> June (Fri-Mon)	3 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £438 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3) 7 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> June (Thu-Sun)	3 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £508 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4) 7 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> June (Thu-Mon)	4 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast: £607 per person	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5) 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> 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)

	Title	Initial	Surname	Arrival Day	Depart Day	Accommodation Type:			
						Double	Twin	Single	Other
1									
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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Deposit:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ per person = £ \_\_\_\_\_

**Lead Name Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Final Balance Payment:** Is due on or before 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**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.

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

**RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:**  
*Just for Groups!* The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PL

Tel: Admin 01603 886742/Sales 01603 886740 Email: sales@justforgroups.co.uk  
www.justforgroups.co.uk