



The Semaphore Circular

No 683

The Beating Heart of the RNA

September 2018



The Lamp Light of Peace at rest at the beginning of its 100 day journey in commemoration of the ending of WW1 in the Royal Naval Museum Portsmouth. The LLOP arrived in Portsmouth, escorted by the Chaplain of the Fleet, Reverend Martyn Gough Royal Navy, Shipmate Keith Ridley, RNA National Chairman and WO1 Paul Jackson after a blessing in Westminster Abbey. The LLOP was welcomed by the National Standard, carried by Shipmate David Corrigan, the National Merchant Navy Standard, 15 RNA Standards and 45 Shipmates.

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

Daily Orders (follow each link) Orders [follow each link]

1.	Vacancy – Chairman Standing Orders Committee
2.	Field of Remembrance
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4.	RNVC Series – R/Admiral Robert Sherbrook VC
5.	Early Doors Joke – Russian Couple
6.	Charity Donations
7.	Guess Where?
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9.	Joke Time – Sunburn!
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11.	Assistance Please – Shipmate Colin Welborn
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14.	Assistance please – Kings College London
15.	Joke for the Road

Glossary of terms

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

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to our September Circular. It's been a busy few weeks for the Central Office team, but I've been off on leave in the Lake District, visiting the ~~sunny~~ stormy harbour of Maryport. It was good to see the HMS Queen Elizabeth sailing safely for her fixed wing trials in the Western Atlantic. Having been fully certified for rotary aircraft, the time has come to try out our new fast jets, the F35 (Lightning 2) or Sea Lightning as Admiral West likes to call it! Let's wish them the best of luck.

A huge thank you and BZ to all those who made the Royal Navy's temporary custodianship of the Lamplight of Peace such a success. Please read Andy's great article. This was our first gig with the new Chaplain of the Fleet, Rev Martyn Gough (soon to be a venerable). Our beloved National Chairman gave a moving speech in Westminster Abbey on the RN's contribution to the 1WW. The National Museum of the RN hosted the Lamp in their gallery and provided a rum-soaked breakfast buffet for the participating shipmates. So many thanks to the great turn out of standard bearers and shipmates, it really showed the Army and the RAF how it can be done!

An important date for the diary. After marvellous support for the Jutland Wood, the time has come to plant it! Shipmates, families, cadets etc are all warmly invited to the planting event on 16 March 19 at Langley Vale. The Woodland Trust provides guidance and equipment, and we'll put on a buffet and a tot. We'll provide more details in due course but get booking the LIBOR bus to come and join in the fun. We'll be inviting our Phase 2 friends from COLLINGWOOD and SULTAN and the Sea Cadet HQ. Let us know in good time if those who can't walk 500 metres over rough ground want to come and we'll hire a 4x4 for the day. Royal Marines can do the Commando Crawl.

We are coming up to the Remembrance season. We have a bid in the Circular for branches to review placing a cross in our Field of Remembrance plot at Westminster Abbey. As the senior association we get pride of place, but only a few crosses, which are dwarfed by the Merchant Navy, Royal Marines even the WRNS! Please consider having a cross placed in our plot. We have a lovely mini-Service after the senior Royal has visited our plot and you are welcome to join us. Nigel is the contact for tickets.

Some important matters of business:

- We have now put the dates of the Open Day into the Longcast, so please start booking up with Andy and Nigel, good chance to meet the new GS and have a great day out. Made event better by the fact that our lift is now working!
- Christmas Card order forms are at the back of this Circular, get ordering!
- There won't be an October Circular, due to staff leave, so next edition will be November.
- We'll be having our branch motion forms in the Nov Circular, so if you want to raise anything at Wyboston Lakes, please start the ball rolling in the branch.

The National Council has decided that from 1 January 2020 that the RNA will move to metal beret badges. This allows easier transfer for those who are members of more than one association, and also aligns more closely with the Royal Navy. We have been working with Forever Jack on adapting the design of the 10 Area badge and we have now taken delivery of

our first 1,000. The NC has decided that there will be a free issue to all Area and Branch Standard bearers and that SB should wear the metal badge from 1 January 2019. Those Areas and branches with an appointed Deputy SB may also apply for a grat issue. The remaining 700 or so badges will be available at the highly discounted rate of £2.00 plus postage. Subsequent orders will be at the cost price plus postage of about £4.50. Non standard bearer members may continue to wear the cloth badge until 1 Jan 2020, but then must move across. Applications for the badges to Nigel please.

The Chair of the Standing Orders Committee and National Advisor on the Charter (NCBA), Shipmate Ivan Hunter BEM, has expressed his intention to retire due to ill health. This is a very important, independent appointment that supports the democracy and integrity of the RNA Conference and our Royal Charter. The NCBA sits on the National Council, but not as a trustee, to advise on Charter and Rules matters – and is the National President's right-hand man at conference. NCBA attends the AMC and FAC as business dictates. If you are interested, please give me a ring or send me an email. Applications by **5 November** please to me at paul@royalnavalassoc.com

Captain Bill Oliphant will be arriving at Semaphore Tower on 7 November to start training and handover – assuming the duties after the National Council meeting on 8 December. I will be remaining for a couple of weeks to write the annual report, as best I can, and go on leave and draft as the Central Office shuts for Christmas on 21 December 18.

Finally, I had a wonderful visit yesterday to the Royal Alfred Seafarers home at Esher in Surrey. The Project Semaphore Team have issued 9 iPads and I had the pleasure of meeting some of the candidates who have benefited. It was humbling to hear the difference it makes to them to be on line for the first time. A great reminder of this Project. We have:

- Issued over 670 iPads to date (Aug 18)
- Reached Shipmates from 114 RNA Branches
- Collaborated with over 50 services related Charities and organisations
- Engaged with 10 service specific Care Homes and Housing
- The Project is managed by a team of 3 but supported by over 65 Volunteers and Ambassadors.



The GS trying to work out how to transfer photos from a phone to the iPad! Note highly amused learner

*Thanks and best wishes from
the Central Office team*

Paul

1. ★ Vacancy Standing Orders Committee Chairman and National Charter and Bye-Laws Advisor

Shipmate Ivan Hunter BEM is retiring as the Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee and National Charter and Bye-Laws Advisor after the next National Council meeting in September. Applications are therefore sought from suitably qualified Shipmates to apply for the above positions.

Shipmates who may wish to apply for this vacancy, in the first instance should apply to the General Secretary by 01 October 2018.

2. ★ Field of Remembrance – Thursday 8 November 2018



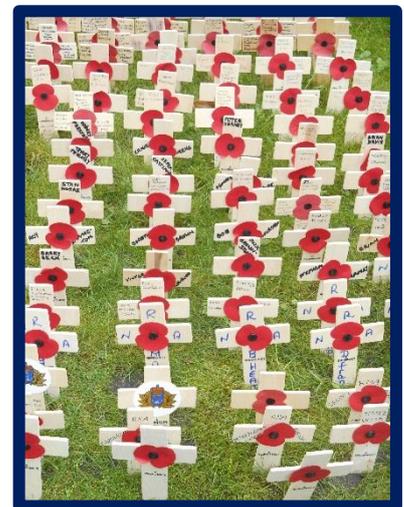
Given the cost of travel to London and increased security in recent years it is sad to report that fewer and fewer branches have purchase a Cross to be placed in the Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey or attend the short memorial service.

The placing of crosses is a unique opportunity for all RNA Shipmates, Area, Club or Branch to join together in one RNA act of remembrance in a modest sign of Remembrance commemorating those sailors who have fallen, have served and are still serving our country.

The RNA is very honoured to have the Chaplain of the Fleet conduct a short memorial

service annually before a potential VVIP visit to the gardens. This year sees the new Chaplain of the Fleet, Rev'd Martin Gough RN conduct the service and it would be lovely see as many Shipmates as possible attend. If you are planning to attend you will need to bring your ticket, a form of ID and have entered the garden gate by 1015 and then proceed to muster at the RNA plot.

Shipmates/ Branches wishing to attend or purchase a cross to plant on the day should contact Central Office (Nigel) by Mid October please forwarding your details and ticket requirements. Alternatively, If you would like a cross placed in the garden then please forward details of what you would like transcribed on to it and Central Office will arrange for the cross to be planted. The crosses cost £5 each payable to Central Office.



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).

3. ★ Lamp Light of Peace

Shipmates will be interested to know that a parade took place in Portsmouth Naval Base on Sunday 05 August 2018 to welcome the Lamp Light of Peace (LLOP). The LLOP is being passed between the RN, Army and RAF in commemoration of the ending of hostilities in WW1. The LLOP was blessed at Westminster Abbey on 04 August 2018, 100 days before the 100th anniversary will be celebrated. The blessing was attended by the Chaplain of the Fleet Reverend Martin Gough, WO1 Paul Jackson and the National Chairman, Shipmate Keith Ridley who then transferred the LLOP back to Portsmouth where it resided in St Annes Church overnight.



On the morning of the 5th The National Standard, being carried by Deputy National Standard Bearer, Shipmate Dave Corrigan the National Merchant Navy Standard and 15 other Standards along with 45 Shipmates from various branches in N0 3 Area including Shipmate Gordon Williams, NCM 7, who had driven down from the valleys mustered ready to receive the LLOP.

The LLOP arrived by Pilot boat accompanied by the Chaplain of the Fleet, WO1 Jackson and the National Chairman. The LLOP was welcomed by

the Deputy General Secretary S/M Andy Christie and Captain of the Base, GS (Elect), Captain Bill Oliphant Royal Navy and the National Standards.

The procession crossed the road, which was lined by Shipmates to the Jutland Museum where a short service of welcome was held. The parade formed up and escorted the LLOP to its final destination next to the gun of HMS Lance, which fired the first RN shot in WW1. On completion the Royal Naval Museum very kindly provided bacon butties and plenty of rum for all those involved in the parade.



Shipmate Mick Arnold MBE and his wife S/M Jean has driven up from Dorset to pay their respects as they both had relatives who served in WW1.

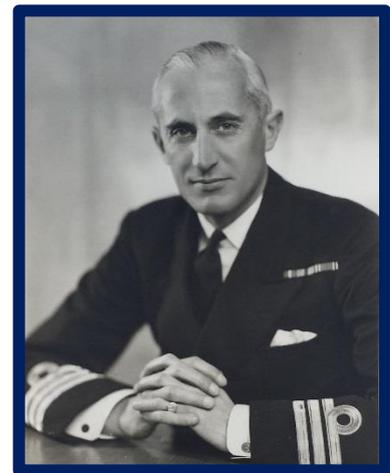
Jean's Father was living in Talbot Woods (part of Bournemouth) when war was declared. In the second week he travelled back to Lichfield (Staffs) so that he could join the South Staffordshire Regiment. Serving in many areas he saw action at the Somme, being awarded the DCM for taking command after the officer had been killed and captured the two machine guns that had been holding up the advance. (These two guns are now in the Regimental Museum Lichfield) at the same time he also captured a high ranking German Officer (Who objected most strongly to being apprehended by a subordinate officer).

At that time Jeans Father was a CSM. Following this campaign, he served in Arras, St Quentin Canal Hindenburg Line right through to Passchendaele and on to the end. He was wounded three times, Gassed three times. Finishing as a WO1 leaving the Army on the outbreak of WW2. Also Jeans Great Uncle served as a Stoker on HMS Queen Mary, which was sunk at Jutland.

Mick's second Cousin by Marriage, Private Ernest Barratt VC aged 22 years, was killed, in the Ypres area and is buried in Essex Farm Cemetery, the site where "In Flanders Fields" was written. He was serving in the South Staffordshire Regiment, and was awarded the Victoria Cross "Although mortally wounded remained in post whilst his comrades fell back"

4. ★ RNVC Series – Rear Admiral Robert St Vincent Sherbrooke VC CBDSO DL

Robert Sherbrooke was born in Nottinghamshire, on 08 January 1901 and attended the Royal Naval Colleges of Osborne and Dartmouth and joined the Royal Navy in 1917 as a midshipman aboard HMS Canada. He was promoted to Commander in 1935 and served in the Aircraft Carrier HMS Courageous. His wartime commands were all Destroyers.



In December 1942 in the Barents Sea off North Cape Robert Sherbrooke found himself in Command of HMS Onslow and a number of other Destroyers escorting an important convoy JW 51B heading for Russia. Significant German Forces were deployed to engage this convoy they included; the Pocket Battleship Lutzow and the Cruiser Hipper. The Germans managed to attack JW 51B several times but were forced back. During the action Sherbrook was seriously injured resulting in him loosing his sight. However, he still managed to take command of HMS Onslow and the other escorts until the convoy was out of danger. For his valour he was awarded the Victoria Cross. His citation dated 12 January 1943 read as follows;

*The King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Victoria Cross, for valour in the defence of a convoy to:
Captain Robert St. Vincent Sherbrook DSO Royal Navy*

Captain Sherbrook in HMS Onslow was the Senior Officer in command of the Destroyers escorting an important convoy bound for North Russia. On the morning of 31 December, off the North Cape, he made contact with a greatly superior enemy force which was attempting to destroy the convoy. Captain Sherbrook led his Destroyers into attack and closed the enemy behind a smoke screen to avoid the threat of torpedoes and each time Captain Sherbrook pursued him and drove him outside gun range of the convoy and towards our covering forces.



These engagements lasted about two hours, but after the first forty minutes HMS Onslow was hit and Captain Sherbrook was seriously wounded in the face and temporarily lost the use of one eye.

Nevertheless, he continued to direct the ships under his command until further hits on his own ship compelled him to disengage, but until he was satisfied that the next Senior Officer had assumed control. It was only then that he agreed to leave the bridge for medical attention, and until the convoy was out of danger. His courage, his fortitude and his cool and

prompt decisions inspired all around him. By his leadership and example the convoy was saved from damage and was brought safely to its destination.

After the war Robert Sherbrook was promoted Rear Admiral and in 1958 became High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire. He crossed the bar in his home town of Oxtor aged 71 on 13 June 1972.

5. ★ Early Door Russian Couple Joke.....Sorry

A Russian couple was walking down the street in St. Petersburg the other night, when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining," he said to his wife.

"No, that felt more like snow to me," she replied. "No, I'm sure it was just rain, he said."

Well, as these things go, they were about to have a major argument about whether it was raining or snowing. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them. "Let's not fight about it," the man said, "let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing."

As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?"

"It's raining, of course," he answered and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!"

Wait for it, (again apologies....) To which the man replied.....

"Rudolph the red knows rain dear!" I did apologise.....

6. ★ Charity Donations

Central Charities

RNA – Wrexham	£100.00
RNA – Orkney	£50.00

Naval Service Memorial

K Ridley	£61.00
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In memory of the late

Wilf Richards	£30.00
Frederick Wilfred Sollis	£20.00
Reg Rendall	£1,000.00
John Urmson	£250.00

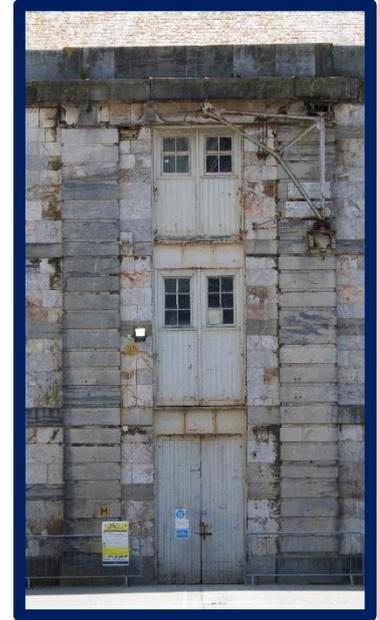
7. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

This month can you name this former establishment? This is very hard. However, I'll bet on of our Shipmates will recognise it! Remember no hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!..... Good Luck this is very difficult ...

The answer will be in next month's edition.

And so, the answer to the August 'Guess the Establishment'..... It is the ex HMS Gannet next to Prestwick Airport in Bonnie Scotland. Which used to be HMS Wagtail – RNAS Ayr.

Well done to Shipmate Alan Biggs for guessing where correctly.



8. ★ Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Portsmouth Historic dockyard are running a number of events over late summer and Autumn and Winter please see the list below.

Trafalgar Night – 19th & 20th October - £95pp

Due to popular demand, a second date has been added for this historically significant evening. A traditional naval celebration commemorating Nelson's famous victory. Watch the parading of the beef with tradition drummers and join the Captain in a port toast to the memory of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson. Plus enjoy sea shanties as you dine. Book tickets today at historicdockyard.co.uk/events

Pickle Night – 2nd November 2018

HMS Pickle, the small ship in Nelson's fleet, was dispatched to Britain to bring news home of the great victory at Trafalgar, and the great loss of Lord Nelson. With entertainment and traditional Georgian mess, come on board and remember this momentous day in true nautical style. Book tickets today at historicdockyard.co.uk/events



Deck the Decks – 8, 14 & 15th December 2018

Put on your party cap and join us aboard the HMS Warrior for a nautical Christmas extravaganza. See the ship dressed for the festive season whilst enjoying your three-course square meal.

Capture your Yuletide memories in in our photo booth, enjoy the live entertainment, and dance the night away with our disco. Book tickets today at historicdockyard.co.uk/events

Burns Night – 25th January 2019

Put on your kilt and come aboard for this evening of traditional food and entertainment to celebrate the life of famous Scottish Poet, Robert Burns. The originator of the New year's anthem Auld Lang Syne, Burns is one of Scotland cultural icons. Then finish the evening by dancing along to a Ceilidh band. Book tickets today at historicdockyard.co.uk/events



Sea Shanties – 29th March 2019

Enjoy a unique dining experience, eating at sailors' mess tables, surrounded by all the fixtures and fittings of Warrior's massive gun deck. However, you certainly won't be napping in the hammocks as an evening of singing and entertainment will have you 'reeling around the wheels'. Book tickets today at historicdockyard.co.uk/events



9. ★ Joke Time - Rude Warning.... Sunburn Joke

A guy visiting in Hawaii fell asleep on the beach for several hours and got a horrible sunburn, specifically to his upper legs. He went to the hospital and was promptly admitted after being diagnosed with second-degree burns.

With his skin already starting to blister, and the severe pain he was in, the doctor prescribed continuous intravenous feeding with saline, electrolytes, a sedative, and a Viagra pill every four hours.

The nurse, who was rather astounded, asked, 'What good will Viagra do for him, Doctor?'

The doctor replied, 'It won't do anything for his condition, but it'll keep the sheets off his legs.'



10. ★ One of a Thousand good RNA Deeds a day



Shipmates will have seen previous articles in the newsletter concerning Cdr Jane Allen's Solo Round Britain Charity Coastal Walk, (Victory Walk). As she passed through the East Coast earlier this year she met with RNA Skegness branch. Branch Chairman S/M John Thwaites kindly agreed to adopt the Victory Walk as a partner for their fundraising efforts at the resorts holiday sites.

Our photo shows John and his daughter, Hon Sec S/m Gill Thwaites spending the evening persuading holiday makers to part with some of their beer money in support of a raffle. With nearly £500

already raised and 2 more events to go we would like to send a huge Thank You to John and Gill.
BZ

If you would like to support our Victory Walker please visit victorywalk17-18.uk or to donate Virginmoneygiving.com/victorywalk17-18



11 ★ Assistance Please – Shipmate Colin Welborn

Central Office received the following e-mail from Shipmate Colin Welborn, who is an HQ Roll Member, asking for assistance please.

My Dear Friends,

*As you may be aware I was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2017 - one of 10,000 every year in the UK. It did not respond to treatment and I had a **Da Vinci Robotic Cystectomy** in Mar 18. Yes - thats bladder, prostate and lymph nodes. The surgery was conducted at QA Cosham, a European centre of excellence, and trains surgeons in these procedures. The Robot was bought by public donations - the Rocky Appeal.*

Jess our daughter is running a marathon across 3 Countries in October 2018, see poster below , to raise money in order to purchase a mini laser for Portsmouth QA Hospital (@£5,000). This will be used to treat those in the Urological flexi clinic who are not fit enough for major surgery: it is minimally invasive thus avoiding many other complications in vulnerable patients especially secondary infection.

The details can be found at this link : <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jess3countries>

We recognise that there are many calls on all of you to support charities and that we all have views on which ones we choose to support, we should be grateful if you would at take a look at the weblink above and consider a donation towards making our initial target.

Many, Many Thanks. Love and Big Hugs,

Colin, Jo and Jess

PS Am back in the gym, plus Pilates and swimming but long dog walks await !

12. ★ Unashamedly Shep Woolley Shanty Party

Shipmates may wish to know that Shep has organised another fantastic 'Trafalgar Shanty Party'.

This year's extravaganza will be held on Sunday 21 October in the Square Tower Portsmouth.

Superb value at just £17 it includes stacks of shanties and a Rum & Jack Tar Supper.

1930 – 2200 Doors open 1900. For more info Shantynights@gmail.com or 02392 754559

Shep Woolley's Shanty Party

TRAFALGAR 2018

SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER

Square Tower Old Portsmouth



023 92 754559
Info - Shantynights@gmail.com

13. ★ Whisky Barrel Clock

Shipmates may be interested in the Whisky Barrel Clock that is made by S/M Fiona Laing, who is a former Wren.

The clocks can be made to order with any Ships Crest or RNA Branch. Details can be found at this link;

<https://www.facebook.com/heathercottagecrafts1/>



14. ★ Assistance Please – Kings College London

Central Office received a request for assistance from Hannah Harwood a research assistant at Kings College in London for which Shipmates may be able to assist. If anyone would like further specific details/ information of the study please contact Andy at Central Office

Good morning,

I am contacting you from the King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College London. We are conducting some research investigating links between military service-related mental ill-health and the risk of developing dementia in older UK military veterans.

We would love your support with passing on information about our study to help recruit participants if possible. We are seeking male UK military veterans (minimum two years' service as a regular) aged over 65 years, either with or without a diagnosis of dementia.

It would be great to discuss the study further with a member of your team; I am happy to send more information and advertisement materials if you are able and willing to advertise the study by any means available to you.

We look forward to hearing from you!

*Best wishes,
Hannah*

**Hannah Harwood
Research Assistant**

HALO and MIDST projects, King's Centre for Military Health Research, King's College London
2.17 Weston Education Centre, Cutcombe Road, London SE5 9RJ hannah.l.harwood@kcl.ac.uk
+44 20 7848 0267

15.★ Jokes for the road..... Al la the two Ronnies...

A man was arrested yesterday after falling into a combined harvester whilst trying to steal it....
He's due to be bailed tomorrow!

New on the market are Viagra Tea Bags. They don't improve your sex life but they do stop your digestives from going soft!!!

RNA Longcast

2018	
07 Sept	CONA 'Clear Lower Deck' - Annual Conference event, Royal Maritime Club
08 Sep	National Council Meeting
15 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Dorchester
05 Oct	Open Day
21 Oct	Trafalgar Day
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – Rayleigh
07 Nov	Captain Bill Oliphant arrives for handover as GS
08 Nov	Field of Remembrance – Westminster Abbey – Sunday rehearsal
11 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – NCh to lay wreath DGS as wreath bearer 100th anniversary of the Armistice for 1WW Battles Over commemorations nationally – many RNA taking part
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
23 Nov	IMC Executive Council Portsmouth and WW1 commemoration
08 Dec	National Council Meeting. Captain Bill Oliphant assumes duties as GS.
13 Dec	Battle of the River Plate Day
21 Dec	Captain Paul Quinn goes on leave and draft, rest of staff have party!
22 Dec to 2 Jan 19	Central Office Christmas closed period
2019	
02 Feb	Area 5 AGM & Quarterly - Harwich
15 Feb	FAC
16 Feb	AMC
16 Mar	Jutland Wood Planting – Langley Vale
16 Mar	National Council Meeting
04 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich
18 May	Open Day – Central Office
7-9 Jun	Conference – Wyboston Lakes (Area 6)
7 Jun	National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings
8 Jun	Main Conference Day – Gala Dinner.
21 Jun	Open Day – Central Office
26 Jul	Open Day - Central Office
03 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Rayleigh
16 Aug	FAC
17 Aug	AMC
30 Aug	Open Day - Central Office
07 Sep	National Council Meeting
08 Sep	Biennial Parade - Whitehall
11 Oct	Open Day - Central Office
02 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
07 Dec	National Council Meeting

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Lee on the Solent and Stubbington](#)

[RNA Rayleigh](#)

[RNA Aldershot](#)

[RNA Bloxwich](#)

[RNA Portland](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Stowmarket](#)

[RNA Bracknell](#)

[Area 12](#)

[RNA Chatham](#)

[RNA Tyne](#)

[RNA Dublin](#)

[RNA Riders](#)

RNA Lee on the Solent and Stubbington Branch

Shipmates from Lee/Stubb attended the August Branch meeting to welcome the National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally, to their base at the Court Barn Conservative Club in Lee on the Solent. Shipmate John was on a 'top secret' visit, which saw him surprise Branch Treasurer Shipmate Steve Webb with the presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation.

Steve who is a founder member and has never served in the RN! was 'volunteered' on day one of the branch commissioning by the Hon Sec, his wife Kate and Father in Law, Vice Chairman, Soapy Watson BEM!.

The photo shows S/M Steve being presented with his certificate by the National President.



RNA Rayleigh Branch

The Rayleigh Branch 'massive' attended Central Office Open day in June during their two day exped to Portsmouth. This is one of the highlights of roving report Rayleigh Hon Sec Shipmate Gary Daisley's dispatch!

Our first day started with an early minibus pickup for the journey down to Portsmouth. We had a few delays on the M25, arriving approximately 1100 and were met by S/M Bob Jones from RNA Portsmouth who works as a guide on HMS Warrior. After obtaining our day tickets we boarded HMS Warrior and were greeted with complimentary tea/coffee and biscuits while Bob Jones spun a few dits on the history of HMS Warrior. We then had a guided tour of the ship whilst Bob told us some very interesting facts about the Warrior such as; she never actually saw action and although she went a long way to making sailing ships redundant as she had both engines and sail, she soon became obsolete herself due to the fast inventions and changes in ship design at the time.

On completion of our tour on HMS Warrior, we entered the public areas of HM Dockyard Portsmouth and 'bomb-bursted' in all directions so everyone could see the attractions they wanted to see; HMS Victory, the Mary Rose, M33, Action Stations and the Museum. We all met back at the minibus at 15:00 to travel to our accommodation.

Some of our group stayed in the Royal Maritime Club, whilst the remainder stayed in the Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess HMS Nelson. Both groups made the most of the evening but surprisingly all ended up in the bar area where many dits were spun into the night. (What no Pussers!)



On the second day we arrived at Semaphore Tower at 11:00 and we were greeted by the Central Office team with tea/coffee and sandwiches whilst introductions were made. We then received a brief on the current state and achievements of the RNA from General Secretary (GS) Paul Quinn. We were then invited to take a boat tour around the dockyard areas. The boat tour was very enjoyable as the weather was very warm and the new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth was alongside and stole the show as the star attraction for many. GS Paul gave us a running commentary on the historical features of the dockyard, the surrounding areas and ships alongside. The boat tour took about an hour and was very much appreciated by the whole group, I think even those who were not ex-Navy seemed to spring sea legs. When we came alongside to disembark everyone had smiles on their faces as they had thoroughly enjoyed the tour.

We thanked our hosts for their hospitality and said our goodbyes as we knew we had to contend with the M25 again on the way back.



Operation 'Sweet Pea' update - Shipmate Iain Hendry reported that "all is fine at the memorial venue, with much less to do compared with last year. Peter and Fran Theobald who own 'The Living Memorial' at Rettendon, have planted out much hardier plants which are well spaced out. The lack of rain has kept the weeds down and unless we get a lot of rain, I will not need any work parties in August."

Iain made his report whilst sitting on the Frank Paxton memorial bench, under the shelter in a very calm setting listening to Talk-

Sport radio. Alright for some, eh?

Annual Sea Service - A very warm welcome was extended to all and sundry at the parade and service on Sunday 15 July at RNA Maidstone. Everyone sweltered in the heat and a wonderful buffet was provided at the end of the parade. The bar staff at the club worked tirelessly to help quench the thirsts of the participants.

The day concluded with the Sunset ceremony and an inspection of the troops by Vice Admiral McAnally.

Games Night 27 June -

Shipmate Dave Smith recently treated Rayleigh Branch members to a taste of a Cine Racing evening. Even though there was no money changing hands or shirts being lost, the thrill and excitement of a 'day at the races' lead to raucous shouting and encouragement of the horses, as we had each received a number of 'free bets' to help us cheer on our randomly selected steeds. Winners of each race were treated to chocolate and snacks.



Between races, members were selected by a raffle ticketed lottery to take part in the higher/lower card game by shipmate Eddie Dray, with a cash prize eventually being won.

The taster evening was put together and run by S/Ms Dave & Eddie to give members an insight ahead of the planned Race Night on Friday 31 August and Games Night on Friday 9 November. Hopefully, the next horse I back won't be another three legged donkey!

RNA Aldershot Branch

I am sure Shipmates would like to know that Aldershot Branch are holding several events this year at the Aldershot Conservative Club, Little Wellington Street Aldershot GU11 1PE for which they would very much like to invite shipmates from other Branches to attend;

The 2018 Banyan Party - Friday 31 August 2018

- BBQ, Entertainment and a free TOT – Bring your loudest shirt, shorts and Flip Flops Tickets £6
- Top of the Bill is the Unashamedly brilliant Shep Woolley (Still sounds good for 80!)

Flight Deck – Horse Racing Night - Friday 23 November 2018

- Doors Open 1900 First Race 2030 - Free Entry & Free TOT, Disoc and Bar open until 2359

For further details of any of the above events please contact Eddie Toyne 07986 691060 or Mick Mills on 07956 078671

Aldershot have had a busy summer.....



Aldershot's hectic schedule started in June with a very memorable trip. Members of the Branch found themselves on a minibus at the unearthly time of 0800 on a Saturday morning, heading towards Chatham Dockyard. A great day had been planned with the assistance of Chatham RNA and the early start meant we were going to make the most of the day. A smooth journey around the M25 saw us arrive spot on time. You should expect nothing less with a Joss on board. We had a very warm welcome from Chris, Tim, Spike and Roger from the Chatham RNA who very kindly said they would show us around the dockyard.



After a quick cuppa we ventured into the dockyard and for some in the party it was the reliving of their past. The day in the dockyard was fantastic, who would have believed that rope making could be so interesting, and it was! We even saw a few of our members breaking a sweat to make a bit of rope of their own. We followed this up with a guided tour of HMS Cavalier expertly led by Tim. Many lamps were swung and many dits told as memories were triggered by walking through the messdecks and across the upper deck. The ship has been lovingly restored

and is a credit to the team that have undertaken this task. After lunch we visited the submarine HMS Ocelot which was another informative visit. It makes you realise why submariners got extra money and, in my opinion, they are welcome to it. At the end of the day and at the request of a few shipmates we drove around HMS Pembroke which is still looking impressive, although now it is a site of the local universities.

We then ventured onwards to a very social get together with more members of the Chatham RNA Club. An enjoyable day was had thanks to our hosts and it was only brought to a close because our minibus driver had a deadline to meet. Arriving back just after midnight we had all had a wonderful day in the dockyard but there's still more to be seen so I am sure we will be back next year and have another catch up with our new friends at Chatham RNA



Meanwhile on the same day back in Aldershot, those who remained at home had a slightly shorter bus trip. They attended the Victoria Day parade around the town and travelled the mile and a half route through the crowds, making the most of the open top bus, as they waved to the crowds who always love to see the veterans.



At the end of June we sent a motely crew to visit the RNA HQ in Portsmouth. The trip around the harbour was complemented with a drop of rum and gorgeous weather, almost as if the HQ staff had booked it. After a short social gathering the team headed home. For some unknown reason they had to have a quick replenishment stop at the Jolly Farmer in Blacknest which was a great conclusion to a day out that is recommended to all.

Armed Forces Day saw our Branch Standard marching alongside the RBL Standard and RAF standard as they led the parade through the town. At the drumhead service one of crowd took what for us is a contender for our photo of the year. Our Branch Standard coming up from the dip in full flight!



Mid July and we were off again on our trips. This time it was to "Care Ashore" for a skittles night. We were also joined by RNA Horsham. The venue near Cranleigh was lovely, tasty food, a great bar and a beautiful view. The competitive skittles match saw Aldershot just lose overall to the Care Ashore and Horsham team. However, with 21 members in attendance I think the Aldershot team won the post-match drinking session.



The end of July saw the Branch hold their annual Death of the Tot Night. It is always great to bring some naval tradition to the home of the British Army! It was also fantastic to be joined by some of our Shipmates from Bracknell, Basingstoke and Woking who took up the open invite and the free tot!

After being entertained by the local TS Swiftsure Sea Cadet Corps Band the night progressed to the commemorative service for the Tot. The procession of the coffin, appropriate words from the Sky Pilot and hymns sung by the Branch choristers all added to the occasion (which was more of a sods opera than a service). The RNA paper gizzit hats were worn by all, including the roughy, toughy Paras, they had no choice if they wanted their free tot.

A jackspeak quiz and disco rounded off the evening and another excellent occasion finished as the bar was closed.

Our busy year continues with our banyan at the end of August with Shep Woolley entertaining the masses, which I am sure we can report on in the next Semaphore.



RNA Bloxwich Branch



RNA Bloxwich Branch travelled to Llandudno to visit their shipmates. The welcome was outstanding and there was no mention of reduced rations or Black Tot Day! The Pussers flowed freely and everybody had a great evening. Some Shipmates even managed to visit the Llandudno Camera Obscura, which is looked after by volunteers, including Shipmate Matt Shields, the following morning, which was obviously an eye-opener!

A great weekend enjoyed by all.....thank you Llandudno.

RNA Portland Branch

RNA Portland Branch manned a stall at the Southwell Street Fayre, Portland, on Saturday 4th August 2018 and were pleased to have beautiful weather following the previous week's wind and rain at another Fete!

The Photo show the "Portland press gang" waiting for the paying public to arrive. A very respectable sum was raised for Branch funds.

Our thanks to Alex Oswald, Chairman and Rich Gray from Portland Branch for forwarding the article.



RNA St Neots Branch

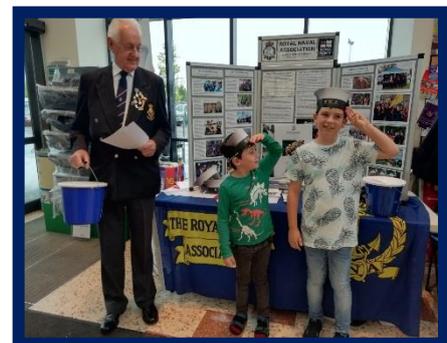


St Neots Branch held another successful day raising funds at Morrisons Supermarket in Camborne Cambs. The funds collected moved the Branch's target for good causes significantly forward for the year.

It was also school holidays so there was lots of interest by children in the stand, which meant that there were lots of sailor hats to be seen floating around the store.

Of especial importance was the advertising and handing out of leaflets for a fund raising Royal Marine Band concert in September, to be held in St Neots. (The band is RM Collingwood Band who are based in HMS Collingwood, Fareham)

The concert is being organised by S/Ms Keith Ridley and Tom Mumford. S/M Maureen 'Red' Ridley is already planning the catering for all those hungry bandsmen.



RNA Stowmarket Branch

"Operation CODEBREAKER" Report received from S/M Pete Chivers.

Armed with crosswords and various other puzzles, at the end of July, a combined Task Force of 32 shipmates from Stowmarket, Ipswich, Colchester and Beccles branches, all from Area 5, let slip their moorings and sailed for a run ashore at Bletchley Park, the central site for British codebreakers during World War 2. What proved to be a beautiful day throughout, saw our hardy

sailors arrive alongside and split in groups, which meant that they could each 'bimble' at their own pace around the attractions. (Or, as some did, immediately find the bar!)

The Mansion and lake proved a perfect setting for the tour (though we forget our beach towels for a bit of fun lakeside), with everyone kept entertained throughout the day. In the visitor centre were the decoding machines – all incredibly complicated (for the gunners in particular), and in the Mansion was Commander Denniston's



office and library, exactly as they were in WW2. Of particular interest was Hut 11 and 11a, showing the challenge of solving the Enigma and the creation of the Bombe machines, which were mostly operated by Wrens. And Hut 8, which was the German naval Enigma codebreaking hut and where Alan Turing had his office. It's incredible to think that those who worked there, never told family and friends of the work they were undertaking.

Having accounted for all hands, everyone re-embarked on our "Pussers" bus and headed back to Stowmarket RNA's HQ1 for a lovely evening meal and a few wets. The evening saw the holding of defaulters for two shipmates who were absent at the bar when the group phot was taken. Having [not] listened to their calls for clemency, the Coxswain's punishment was for the two to sing "I'm a Teapot" to everyone present – with of course accompanying actions for the hard of hearing. This brought the house down, and the look on the faces of non-RNA members of HQ1 was priceless!

A great day out, and one that proves that branches, big and small, can together really enjoy themselves. Here's to the next run ashore."

RNA Bracknell Branch

Bracknell Hon Sec June Boddrell forwarded an interesting concerning 'on goings' in deepest Berkshire!

Talks at our monthly meetings this year have covered such topics as Crop Circles, Shaka Zulu, the Battle of Mers el Kebir and the work of the excellent Accessible Boat Club (which supports disabled and disadvantaged adults and children to experience life afloat). Now S/M's enjoyment of the "words of wisdom" from our speakers has been greatly enhanced thanks to a very generous donation of £200 from the Branch & Club Support Fund Scheme that enabled us to purchase a new sound system with microphones. We were most impressed by the positive and speedy way in which our application was dealt with by the General Secretary and our friends at Semaphore Tower.

This friendship was renewed in August when a group visited Portsmouth for the RNA Open Day; a splendid opportunity for a good chat with fellow S/Ms over the food and drink provided, to enjoy the lofty view (this time featuring the new eco-friendly Isle of Wight ferry), to load up with slops as required, to groan at Andy's joke, and to tour the harbour seeing HMS Queen Elizabeth and the trouble-stricken new HMS Forth. Moreover Two S/Ms travelled north in April to attend the very

useful RNA Welfare Seminar. We were also delighted that three of our officers have been awarded Certificates of Appreciation.



In December of last year a very intensive campaign of collecting outside two local branches of Tesco resulted in nearly £1500 being raised for our eight nominated charities – like other Branches we found the kindness of shoppers most heart-warming: there is no doubt that the sight of the familiar uniform, badges and medals results in an outpouring of interest and generosity from passers-by, while the gift of cardboard hats proved a great draw (and not only to children!).

We have established and strengthened a link with the very successful Maidenhead Sea Cadets, and Shipmates were delighted to be invited to attend their Prize-giving ceremony earlier in the year – it was a real joy to see the pride that these smart youngsters took in their Unit as well as the enthusiasm with which they all jumped into the Thames afterwards! A report provided by their CO is now a regular feature of our Branch meetings.

Our Branch Standard was one of those paraded in June at the 36th Anniversary Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College – very moving as always. The Standard has also been paraded at four funerals.

Our annual St George's Day Dinner was a great success, as you can see from the photo above, and planning is underway for our Trafalgar Day Dinner – always a popular event. Also still to come this year are a trip to the FAA Museum at Yeovilton; a Skittles Evening; supporting Poppy Day collections; the local Remembrance Day Service; and another three days collecting for our nominated charities outside Tesco.

Finally, three years ago our Branch was near to "foundering", but we now feel that we can face the future with renewed confidence.

Area 12

Shipmates further to the article in last months Semaphore Circular, may like to know that during BoA 2018 a young lady called Rachel Cochrane from BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) spend time interviewing some people and putting together a piece for BFBS. Please see the link below. Clicking on some of the photographs will start the interviews.

<https://www.forces.net/radio/battle-atlantic-northern-irelands-crucial-contribution-wwii>

RNA Chatham Branch

Last year Chatham Branch commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Drill Shed bombing which occurred on 3rd September 1917. Tragically the bombing resulted in the death of 131 men.

The Branch did not want to leave this to history, so Shipmate Dennis Potter decided to chronicle the incident by creating a DVD of the tragedy and add an additional DVD of health care at the time and today's approach to the injuries sustained. After gaining permission from former

Chairman the late Tug Wilson, Dr Susan Plummer Medway Campus Director , Canterbury Christchurch University S/M Dennis got underway last November.



It has taken a substantial effort from Chatham members and their partners in terms of input and guidance from the original idea to writing the script, composing the music, providing props, costumes, etc to the completion of the DVD's.

Much assistance and help from the CCCU's Videographer, Sam Davies who has done an excellent job, the Local Sea Cadet Unit and The Historic Dockyard Chatham have been involved. So, on behalf of the Universities of Medway and the RNA Chatham Branch, We are very proud to show you the result of our efforts;

The first is attached here, It contains details of the bombing and the commemoration.

<https://youtu.be/u4IreCgc-0Q>

Additionally, the second DVD shows how medical Staff would have treated the injured back in the day and how they would be treated today,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZmass42BJI&feature=youtu.be>

RNA Tyne Branch

Members of RNA (Tyne Branch) were honoured to attend a special event for the North East Branch of the Submariners Association on Saturday 21 July 2018, hosted by HMS Calliope in Gateshead.



Their oldest member, George William Crawley Esq. was made a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur by Brigadier General Herve Bizeul on behalf of the President of France. The Order of Legion d'Honneur is the highest order of merit for military and civil merits; foreign nationals who have served France or the ideals upheld may receive this honour.

George joined the Royal Navy in 1941 shortly after his 17th birthday and trained as a signalman. Serving on HMS Rodney up to 1943, he saw service in various operations in Africa and throughout the Mediterranean including the relief of Malta and Operation Torch - the invasion of Italy.



Towards the end of 1943, George was drafted onto submarines with a two-day 'crash course' at Gibraltar after which he served with various submarines including HMS Uproar, HMS Universal, HMS Ultimatum and also the Free French submarine Curie (which had originally been a British submarine, HMS Vox). One of George's memories of the Curie was the mascot on board - a dog called Radium, named after the substance discovered by Marie Curie.

George was involved in many other naval operations up to 1945-6 and returning home, served with the home fleet. Whilst based at HMS Elfin, Blyth's depot ship, George met his future wife Freda. They married in August 1945. George was discharged from the Royal Navy in 1946 and settled in North East England, where he has been ever since.

The Presentation event at HMS Calliope was attended by George's family and many others including the Leader of North Tyneside Council Cllr Tommy Mulvenna, Vice Admiral Simon Lister, Captain Edward Ahlgren, Submarine Veterans from the north-east of England, serving Submariners from HMS Vengeance and HMS Victorious, serving members of HMS Calliope, members of HMS Calliope Association and Royal Naval Association (Tyne Branch).



“Of all the branches of men in the Forces, there is none which shows more devotion and faces grimmer perils than the Submariner; great deeds are done in the air and on the land, nevertheless nothing surpasses your exploits.”

Winston Churchill 1943

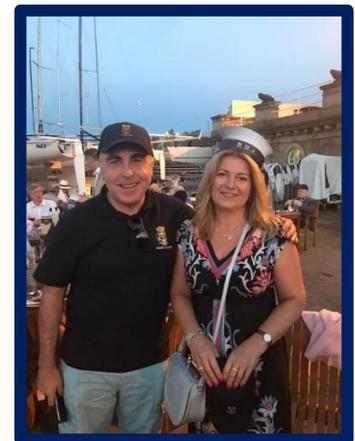
RNA Dublin Branch

On Saturday 14th July, the Dublin Branch held its annual summer BBQ at the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. As with Conference, the gods had blessed us this year with fantastic weather, which added to the atmosphere and allowed members to remain outside well into the late evening.

Although numbers were a little down this year, due to the RNA Conference and the Branch's recent event at Beaulieu House, nonetheless a great time was had by all.

At the BBQ, we were very sad to say farewell to the British Defence Attaché to Ireland, Colonel Max Walker and his wife Caroline. Max is proceeding on draft during September. The Branch presented him with an RNA Hip Flask filled with Pusser's Rum. Whether he was being generous, or the thought of drinking an entire hip flask of Pusser's was too much for a member of the Army, we will never know, but Colonel Walker offered everyone at the BBQ a tot of the rum.

We were also delighted to welcome H.E. The British Ambassador and his partner, as a guest, once again at this year's BBQ.



Area 12



The attached photograph shows the Area 12 stand at the Portrush Air Waves Air Show which was held on Saturday 01 and Sunday 02 September.

Unfortunately, the only ex Fleet Air Arm aircraft on the program was a Sea Fury who failed to appear due to poor weather in England.

However despite the disappointment plenty of good 'PR' was happened and a good time was had by all the Shipmates & Royals who manned the stand.

RNA Riders

Hon Sec Roslyn Hastie-Murray has kindly provided updates of Riders Branch 'Happenings'

Following the National Council Meeting where the status of the Royal Naval Association Riders Branch was confirmed just prior to National Conference in Dún Laoghaire, the Committee and members have been busy making the most of the summer riding weather and opportunities to promote the RNA and recruit for the Riders Branch (see the other reports).



We have plans to meet as a Branch at the Ride to the Wall (RTTW) event in October. Our December meeting will be in Scotland, hosted by Forth Valley RNA, fitting in alongside the Scottish Area meeting on the Saturday with social events planned for the Friday and Saturday evenings and a ride-out for Riders Branch members.

We are seeking other venues for our 2019 Branch meetings around the UK, particularly in the midlands, south and west UK and including Wales. If your Branch would like to host us for a Saturday meeting with a social

on the Friday/Saturday evening, please contact me to discuss further - sec.ridersrna@yahoo.com.

Recruitment into the Riders Branch is steadily increasing both for full membership for those new to the RNA itself and for those who want to take on a second membership for the Branch fee of £3.00 and keeping their full membership with their original Branch.

The Facebook Group, Royal Naval Association Riders Branch, continues to attract a great deal of interest which is followed up for actual membership - this is proving successful for both aspects of membership.

We now have a website of our own – www.rnariders.org.uk - for those who do not wish to use Facebook. In early stages as yet, with more development in progress. Hopefully, Central Office will add this as a link onto their Branch website to make the Riders Branch more visible to those accessing the main RNA website.

If you would like more information about joining the Riders Branch, please contact me through either of those routes (Facebook or website) or directly by email to sec.riders@yahoo.com

Northern Area - Armed Forces Day in South Tyneside took place on the sea front at South Shields. The Parade was led by a cavalcade of over 500 motorbikes of all kinds, ending their Ride from Sunderland and along the coast. This was followed by a military parade involving 205 Battery RA (V), local cadet units and veterans. An inspection of troops by the Deputy Lieutenant and short service of remembrance was followed by a family fun day with a variety of entertainment, music and charity stands. Roslyn (Hon. Secretary) represented both RNA Tyne and Riders Branches and David (Riders Standard Bearer) flew the RNA Riders flag alongside the local RBL Riders. Our Chairman, Bernie, attended a selection of events in Scotland:



Armed Forces Day Edinburgh Sat 30th Jun:- Excellent day with plenty of sunshine and lots of entertainment with quite a bit of interest in the Stall, which had both the RNA (City of Edinburgh & Riders Branches) and the Association of Wrens in attendance. Poppy Scotland's Amy Hawthorne provided musical

entertainment over the afternoon and the ladies from the Association of Wrens brought their usual charm along to entice the public into the Stall.

West Lothian's AFD closely followed on the next day, this time in the afternoon at West Lothian Civic centre with plenty of stalls and live music to keep everyone happy along with the glorious weather (unusual for Scotland, 2 days running lol). Over both days, we raised over £88.00 😊



MCN Scottish Festival Sat 21st/Sun 22nd July turned out to be an excellent weekend with over 100 Trade stands and several Bike Manufacturers present

showing off their new models with the opportunity to take them for a test ride. Indian Motorcycles had a massive marquee with a replica of Burt Munroe's Indian along with a couple of leather sofas to sit back and enjoy looking at the replica of the Fastest Indian.. We were in amongst the Bike club's all wknd making friends with the Paramedics and Firemen from Bikers Down. With live entertainment both Saturday and Sunday afternoons and Saturday night's band Dirty Harry (Blondie Tribute Band). It wasn't long until she had them dancing on the tables, definitely a weekend to remember. Raising over £40.00 over the weekend.

Bikers' Cove RNLI Fundraising Bike Show Sun 5th Aug:- Another excellent day promoting the RNA and the Riders Branch after being invited to attend by Scotland's Newest Best Bikers Café in Scotland. Over 2,000 bikers and members of the public enjoyed the live music from Whumph, with Muddy Beach Custom's supplying the Trophies. Along with a Harley Davidson being raffled off (Tickets 10.00ea), the winner was chosen and called at 4.00pm to be notified of his win.

Midlands Update

Our RNA Riders Treasurer, Alan Johnson, has been busy in the midlands of the UK, flying the flag for the RNA and the Riders Branch in particular.

Activities started off with a little Ride organised by the Iron Butt Riders and the Royal British Legion on 16th June. Starting at half 05:30 at the Squires café, just off the A1. Headed over to Bangor, south through the drizzle to Haverford West, Exeter and onwards to Southampton. Followed the coast road to Bournemouth and up through the Dartford tunnel. A gentle ride around East Anglia before nightfall and finally getting back to the Squires Café in the early hours. This is called the "Iron Butt" for a good reason. In 24 hours a route of 1026 miles is to be covered. I managed this with a safety margin of just under four hours.

The following weekend a totally different challenge was undertaken with a Ride to support Macmillan Cancer Support. The starting point for this was the South Stack Lighthouse on Anglesey. About 120 bikes turned up for this which set out when the sun touched the sea. With two fuel stops along the way we reached Skegness to gather on the beach to watch the sun rise. A good ride through the night of 260 miles.



The following weekend was Armed Forces Day, 30th June. Although there were many events going on around the country I went a few miles down the road to the National Memorial Arboretum. Starting at the Tamworth RNA Club where we were very kindly fed bacon butties. A BZ to the Tamworth Branch for hosting the start of the day. Heading off to the NMA on a boiling hot day, a lot of activities were going on. A cheque was presented to the Arboretum from the Ride to the Wall for £150,000. This is the highest single donation this special place gets. On the first Saturday in October, thousands of bikes descend on the NMA to pay their respects to the names on the Wall who lost their lives in active service. It was good to meet fellow member of the RNA Riders Branch, Tony Hendra and members of the Redruth & Camborne RNA Branch when they stopped at Burton whilst visiting the NMA. There are more exciting rides coming up soon to spread the word of the Royal Naval Association and the Riders Branch.

CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[John Bruce Whale](#)

[Fredrick 'Tug' Wilson](#)

[Maurice Henry Goodridge](#)

[Francis Edward Peter Watts](#)

[Peter George Longhurst](#)

[Michael Andrews](#)

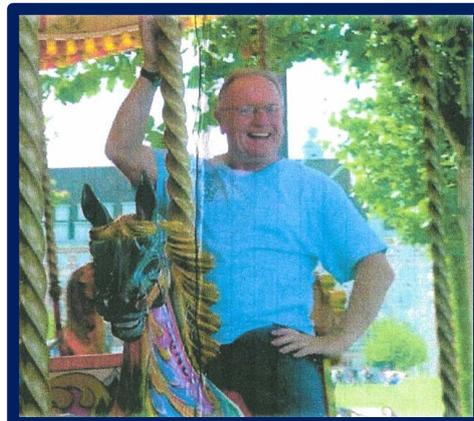
[Maurice Fullerton](#)

[Norman Summerhayes](#)

John Bruce Whale – Bude Branch

Bude Branch deeply regrets to report that our Shipmate ex-RM Lt. Pilot crossed the bar, 28 July 2018.

John served with 848 Squadron onboard HMS Bulwark (67/68 commission) but also found time to be a key member of the ship's musical group "This 'n' That". His Crematorium funeral was held at Glynn Valley, Bodmin on Tuesday, 14th August when Bude Branch were pleased to provide a Guard of Honour on arrival of the cortege. John was an enthusiastic, polite and highly respected member of the Branch whom we did not know for long enough in his battle against cancer. Such was John's sense of humour, that his Music on Exit was "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life - Monty Python, which naturally elicited a whistling accompaniment from the Bude Branch members - greatly appreciated by Sandy and family, apparently!



He did, however, achieve a summer award for "Banyan Dress" recently when he appeared wearing a re-designed floral curtain, tatty shorts, flip-flops and outrageous headgear. We was rewarded with two coconuts, a banana and bottle of Tiger! We are going to miss John. Any ex-shipmates of his wishing to contribute to the retiring collection; please donate in his memory to N.D. Hospice, NDDH, Barnstaple, N. Devon.

'Tug' Fredrick Wilson – Chatham Branch

Shipmate Tug Wilson, the immediate past Chairman of RNA Chatham Branch, crossed the bar at the age of 77 on 4th August 2018 after a short illness. Born the eldest of nine children, Tug joined the Navy at the age of 15 at HMS Ganges in 1956 and left after 30 years' service as a CPO Clearance Diver.



On leaving Ganges in '57, Tug was sent to HMS Dryad to train as a Radar Plotter (RP) and joined his first ship HMS Sheffield later the same year. After Sheffield, he went to sea on HM ships Plover, St. Brides Bay and Decoy and then in 1964, after qualifying as a general small ship's diver, he applied to become a Clearance Diver. After training at Vernon and a year in the Command Bomb and Mine Disposal Team, he was drafted to Singapore where he served for two years with the Fleet Clearance Diving Team. This was a married accompanied draft and a particularly happy time in Tug's life.

On returning to the UK and a year in Devonport, he was back at sea in HMS Bildeston for 2 years before a short stay in the Cochrane Diving School as an assistant instructor. He returned to Vernon for the CD1 course and then back to Drake Diving School as an instructor.

By 1972 Tug was a Petty Officer and drafted to the Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal School (DEODS) at Chatham. This was to be the first of four spells at this establishment. Here he instructed British and foreign students of all services in Explosive Ordnance Disposal techniques and equipment. After two years he was back at sea as Cox'n of HMS Bildeston, immediately followed by a stint as Cox'n of HMS Kirkliston.

After that it was back to DEODS Chatham for the second time until, by then a CPO, becoming Cox'n of HMS Maxton. From 1980, for the last 5 years of his naval career, Tug was back for the third time at DEODS Chatham with both instructing and administrative duties. After leaving the Navy in 1985, Tug ran a gun shop in Rochester until giving it up to return to DEODS for the fourth time, this time as a civilian responsible for the management of the school's stock of explosives. He continued to work here until he eventually retired.

In his retirement, Tug was an enthusiastic member of Chatham Branch eventually becoming its' Chairman. He also was elected Chairman of RNA Area 2, a post he held until forced to step down due to failing health. During his tenure, the Area hosted the RNA National Conference in Folkestone.

There will be no funeral as Tug willed his body to medical research but to give his family and many friends the opportunity to pay their last respects and celebrate a life well lived, a memorial service will be arranged for a future date. Tug was a larger than life character who will be greatly missed.

Maurice Henry Goodridge – RNA Rockingham Branch

Shipmate Maurice crossed the bar on 7 December 2017 at the grand old age of 96.

In addition to being a member of RNA Rockingham Branch in Western Australia, he was also believed to be a member of the RN Patrol Service Association in Lowestoft, Suffolk.

It is known that Maurice was a PO Engineman (Service Number: KX1162060) who served in HMS Fratton and his 'Mine Sweeping' career included escorting convoys duties in HMS's Rudilais, Casewell and Edwardian.

Apparently, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren loved to listen to his stories of his time in the Royal Navy. His enthusiasm for Naval service must have been infectious, as his son John served for many years in the RAN and his grandson David is still a serving member of the RAN. After his cremation, following his wishes, Maurice's ashes were committed to the sea off the coast of Rockingham, Western Australia.

Peter Watts - RNA Worthing Branch



Shipmate Peter crossed the bar 13 July 2018 aged 93.

Peter joined the Royal Navy on the 30 July 1943 at HMS RALEIGH as a "Y" scheme. After passing out of HMS RALEIGH, he served in HMS Loch Ailort, HMS Armadillo.

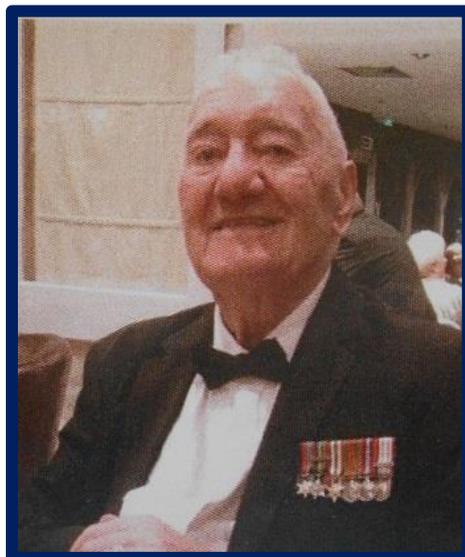
Peter then served with the Royal Navy Marine Beach Commando in Cochin, Madras, Bombay and Singapore, before serving in LCTs. Peter left the Royal Navy in as a Sub Lieutenant in 1946. Peter joined the RNA in Cornwall in 1986 before

moving to Worthing.

Peter Longhurst – RNA Worthing Branch

Peter joined the Royal Navy in 1943 as a boy signaller at HMS SCOTIA. On completion of training he served in a variety of ships and shore Establishments; HMS Barle in the Mediterranean and Pacific Fleet, HMS Stork (Fishery Protection), HMS Cygnet (Fishery Protection), HMS Vengeance (Home Fleet), HMS Adament (Reserve Fleet), HMS Warrior, HMS Michael (Far East) and shore bases Mercury, Collingwood, Southwick, RNB Portsmouth and HMS Sphinx. Peter also served on SS Strathmore and SS Empress of Australia. Peter left the Royal Navy as a Yeoman in 1952.

Peter joined the Royal Naval Association Worthing Branch in 1989 becoming the Branch Social Secretary organising many interesting trips and Trafalgar Night Dinners and then became the Branch Vice President until he Crossed the Bar July 2018. Peter leaves his wife Rita, son and daughter in law and grandchildren. He will be much missed.



Mike Andrews – Worthing Branch

Shipmate Mike crossed the bar 18 August 2018, aged 87.



Mike joined the Royal Navy at HMS St. Vincent in 1947 before being drafted to HMS Wrangler as a junior seaman, HMS Solebay then to RNH Chatham where he transferred to the medical branch as an SBA.

Mike then served in HMS Alert, HMS Berry Head, HMS Cumberland, HMS Ganges, HMS Simbang as Families medical, before joining up with 848 Squadron, 66 Flight Army Air Corp Neesoon Garrison. RNH HASLAR, HMS Exmouth then back to RNH HASLAR where Mike was medically discharged in 1962.

Mike was a member of the Royal Naval Association Tonbridge Branch before joining Worthing Branch in 1989, there he became the Branch Treasurer also Social Secretary before Mike and his wife Julie decided to settle down in Puy Neuville Dieppe France, there Mike took up his passion of painting, where many of his paintings were shown in Dieppe art galleries. Mike remained a member of Worthing RNA promoting the Royal Naval Association in and around Dieppe, he attended all Memorial Parades around France where it was noted by the local Military Associations and the Mayor of Dieppe that there was a uniformed Englishman laying poppy wreaths and posies at all the Monuments.

Mike then approached Worthing Branch to join him at the Dieppe Raid Remembrance Service held annually on the 18/19 August, this was taken up by the Branch and each year the Branch travelled to Dieppe to take part. Mike was approached by the President of the local French Parachutist Association to join them in the Remembrance Services. Once the paras found that

Mike was also a parachutist and on checking his log Mike was invited to join the Union Nationale de Parachutistes Section 761 Rouen-Dieppe. Mike soon became involved with the paras and took part in many Remembrance Services laying a Royal Naval Association wreath at each Service. The Mayor and council of Dieppe were so impressed by the work that Mike done in Dieppe they also honoured him with certificates of appreciation. Many of the French Parachutistes became honorary members of Worthing Branch and at one time there was over 200 honorary members around the Dieppe Area. In April 2018 Mike was in bad health and he Crossed over the Bar on the 18 August 2018.

Mike's funeral was held in Dieppe at the Town Centre Protestant Church on the 23 August and was attended by 6 members of Worthing Branch, The Branch Standard was present as was the Sussex Combined Ex-Services Standard and five French Parachutistes Standards. Over 100 English and French Ex-Service and serving attended the funeral as well as local civilian dignitaries from Dieppe. Mike leaves his wife Julie, Son Kevin and daughter in law Tracy, 2 step daughters Sarah and Sally.

Maurice Fullerton – Limavady Branch

Shipmate Maurice crossed the bar 13 August 2018 aged 88.

CPO(CA) Maurice Fullerton completed 22 years' service in the Royal Navy in two stretches. Firstly he served from 1949 to and then from 1962 until 1975. He served in many ships and shore establishments including; HMS Royal Arthur, Ceres, Sea Eagle, Drake, Daring (1st Commission) Acute (Algerine Class) Pembroke, Victorious, Caroline, Berwick, Nubia, Victory, Dolphin, Gannet.

Maurice was a member of RNA Limavady.



Norman Summerhayes – Southend on Sea and Area 5

Shipmate Norman crossed the bar 25 July 2018 aged 93 years.

Norman was a Founder Member of Southend on Sea Branch where he had held various positions over the years since its commissioning in 1979.

His love of music and dancing led him to take an active role in his early years in the Social Events of the Branch. Southend having their own Club there was always visiting S/m's.

Having become an Area 5 Committee Member in 2004, he went on to become the Area Treasurer a position he held for ten years before sadly ill health forced him to stand down.

His funeral took place on Thursday 15th August with a good turnout of S/M's which included the Area 5 Chairman, Secretary and Standard.

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 Co-op Funeral Service – contact Central Office.

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 0800 827168

Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service
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



- Discounts on a large range of new Cars www.motorfinity.uk/rna

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.

Algerines Reunion 3-10 September 2018

The Algerines Summer Reunion is arranged at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island from Monday 3rd to Monday 10th September for an amazing £235. Tasty and varied food menus each day, excellent Entertainment from the new team and a chance to meet up with familiar faces.

For those interested in a weekend break from Friday 7th to Monday 10th September, the price is £123. Please call George Patience, Reunion Organiser on 01456 450659 to book or get more detail.

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

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



Semaphore Circular is extremely grateful to Mike Crowe of RN Shipmates who has forwarded the RN Shipmates 'Reunions' section from their website <http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk/reunions.php> where you will find specific contact details.

ASWI Association – 29 September 2018

ASWI will be holding dinner on Saturday 29 September 2018 at the Royal Beach Hotel in Southsea PO4 0QJ. Accommodation is at a special rate. Please contact the hotel direct for your room booking. The dress code is; Gents: Black Tie, Mess undress, NO1's (Medals as appropriate) Ladies: Long ball gown or a knee length dress

Weekend package, Friday & Saturday bed & breakfast	£160.00 per twin/double room (two sharing)
Saturday only bed & breakfast	£90.00 per twin/double room
Saturday only bed & breakfast	£70.00 per single room
Gala Dinner	£40.pp Inc. Wine and Port

Programme / Time table

Friday evening

Arrival as required
Informal evening meal
Lantern swinging in the bar

Saturday

Day at leisure

AGM

1845 Reception Members and guests arrive

1920 Hands to Dinner.

2130 Raffle.

2359 Finex

For full menu and booking form please see ASWI website. Payment to be made to the association treasurer.

Royal Naval Writers Association – 12 October 2018

131st Reunion Dinner will be held at The Royal Beach Hotel Southsea on Friday 12th October 2018; see www.rnwa.co.uk. All serving and ex-serving 'Scribes' (member of the RNWA or not) together with 'oppos & guests' welcome. For further information or details contact the RNWA Secretary, Les Heyhoe, email: les@heyhoe.com / Mob: 07950 934888 or 023 9235 7181

GOH for 2017 was 1SL – 2018 GOH TBA.



Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC
First Sea Lord & Chief of Naval Staff
with Les Heyhoe OBE RNWA Secretary & Membership
RNWA Reunion Dinner 12/10/2017 UJC London

Type 21 Club Reunion – 12/13 October 2018

The Type 21 Club reunion will be held over the weekend 12/13 October 2018. Friday night meet and greet - Saturday at the Royal British Legion Crownhill PL6 5DH. Cost £22 subject to final confirmation.

Full Details will be confirmed in due course or on the web site at www.type21club.org or Contact Paul Gower PRO Type 21 Club, email type21clubpro@gmail.com

Survey Ships Association – 26-29 October 2018

The **Survey Ships Association** will be holding its twenty-fourth reunion at the Holiday Inn, Hull Marina on the w/e of 26th to 29th October. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, e-mail: secretary@surveyships.org.uk, or telephone 023 9232 4795.

HMS Mohawk Association – 2 November 2018

HMS Mohawk Association will be holding a reunion in Plymouth on the weekend of 2nd November. Please contact IOW tours for information. We would also welcome anyone who served on any Tribal Class Frigate.

HMS Relentless Association – 2-5 November 2018

The annual Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association will take place over the weekend of Friday 2nd – Monday 5th November 2018 at the Aztec & Spa, Bristol. All ex-Rusty Rs welcome. To book, or for further information, please contact IOW Tours (info@iowtours.com - Tel: 01983

405 116). Alternatively, contact the Association Secretary (Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk - Tel 02392 599 640).

HMS Trafalgar - (November 2018)

TRAFALGAR REUNION (TRAF BASH) - 9th NOVEMBER at the PLYMOUTH HOE CLUB

Russ Morris and myself (Pitt.k) would like to invite you to a one-off reunion of the **TRAFALGAR SHIPS COMPANY** (STAG ONLY) who served on board from build to the DED or thereabouts. There are plenty of very nice hotels and some not so very nice hotels very close to the venue and I leave that for you individually to sort out please.

The venue is a small club on the Hoe and very informal, but I would ask if you could please be smartly dressed. The address is Plymouth Hoe Club, 1-2 Osbourne Place, The Hoe, Plymouth, PL1 2PU. And this is on the west side of the Hoe.



Commodore Martin Macpherson OBE (ret) has indicated that he would be delighted to attend and meet up with some of his old ships company.

The Club will be open from 1300 ish, but I would suggest coming along between 1800 to 1900. A wholesome buffet will be provided at 2000 and at a very reasonable price of only £8.00. An early response would be appreciated so that we have an idea of numbers attending.

Cheques can be made out to MW PITKEATHLY and posted to Mr MW PITKEATHLY, HMS COURAGEOUS EXHIBIT OFFICE, N193, DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE, PLYMOUTH, PL2 2BG. Or bank transfer the £8.00 to MW PITKEATHLY Sort Code 56 00 63 Account 02946750. If you use a bank transfer, ensure that I am aware who is crediting the account please.

If you wish to participate, please complete the form below and post to the above address or email to me pittskimmerkiller@blueyonder.co.uk

If you are still in touch with others of that period who served on board TRAFALGAR can you get the word out to them, please.

As and add on, if you are interested in a tour of Courageous which is berthed inside the Naval Base, please indicate on slip below. Tours will be PM on the 9th and AM on the 10th. Details to follow and you will be given separate instructions for those interested. Also trying to get a tour of HMS Bulwark which is berthed alongside for a year or two.

Application Form below;

.....Detach.....
 FIRST NAME.....LAST
 NAME.....
 NICK NAME.....
 DATE YOU JOINED H.M.S TRAFALGARAND
 DRAFTED.....
 RATE OR TRADE ON
 BOARD.....
 I AM / NOT INTERESTED IN A VISIT TO HMS COURAGEOUS AND HMS BULWARK. If interested, please take some sort of photographic I.D with you such as a passport or driving license please. Please remember that you need to be relatively fit and agile to negotiate the ladders and hatches on board.
 MY DOB(required for security on entry to the dockyard)
 Enclose a cheque for £8.00 for the big eats and entry please.

HMS Loch Fada F390

HMS Loch Fada Association F390 will hold their 22nd Reunion & AGM at the Cedar Court Hotel, Huddersfield from 11 to 15 April 2019. This will be our 3rd 4 day reunion after the great successes of our 1st two.



Friday Coach outing to 'Last of the Summer Wine' country

Saturday 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner

Sunday Coach outing to York

Bookings & Arrangements are being made through IofW Tours; email iowtours.com Tel 01983 405116 or F390.sec11@virginmedia.com or F390 Sec, 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3ND

August 17th	WRNS 1966	barbaracotton46@btinternet.com	RMC Portsmouth
August 31st - Sept 3rd	H.M.S. Diana Association	kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk	Grantham
September 8th	The Fisgard Association	https://www.thefisgardassociation.org/	Royal Beach Southsea
September 15th	HMS Ark Royal Association	https://www.hmsarkroyalassociation.org/	Still and West Old Portsmouth
September 21st - 23rd	H.M.S. Protector Association	Dougatspindriff@aol.com	Hadleigh Hotel Eastbourne
Sept, 21st - 24th	H.M.S. Ulster Association	ulster@candoo.com	Hallmark Midlands Hotel Derby
September 21st	RNCCA	honsec@rncca.com	Rob Roy Hotel Aberfoyle
September 21st	H.M.S. Tiger association	turbine52@gmail.com	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
Sept 28th - Oct 1st	R.N.E.W.E.B. Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Hallmark Hotel Preston

Sept 28th / 29th	H.M.S Caprice 1968 Association World Cruise	gl@hmscaprice1968.org.uk	RMC Portsmouth
September 29th	Royal Navy Stewards Past and Present	shugstero1@yahoo.co.uk	Plymouth
September 29th	BRNC Dartmouth September 1978 Entry	brncclassof78@gmail.com	BRNC Dartmouth
October 5th	H.M.S. Lowestoft Association	ian@hmslowestoft.co.uk	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 5th	H.M.S. Troubridge Final Commission	Romft1@gmail.com	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 6th	Royal Naval Patrol Service Association	hq@rnpsa.co.uk	Lowestoft
October 8th	Bay Class Frigates Association	Doug Turk	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Naval Writers' Association (RNWA)	les@heyhoe.com	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Navy Photographers Association	http://www.rnpa.org.uk/	Plymouth
October 13th	Type 21 Club Association	davidwoollard813@btinternet.com	Crownhill RBL Plymouth
October 14th	H.M.S. Neptune Association	www.hmsneptune.com	National Arboretum Alrewas
October 20th	H.M.S Nubian	robertholland54@btinternet.com	Caledonian Hotel Rosyth
October 26th - 29th	HMS Eagle / HMS Yarmouth / HMS Undaunted but open to all	alan666@blueyonder.co.uk	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
November 9th	H.M.S. Intrepid Association	andywalmsley_uk@yahoo.co.uk	Liverpool
October or November	H.M.S. Endurance Association First Commission 1968 - 69	jansbolt@btinternet.com	TBA
2019			
April 26th - 28th	Royal Navy Safety Equipment & Survival Association	gordon.parkes7@btinternet.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Sept. 7th - 10th 2019	847 NAS H.M.S. Simbang 69 -71	cliff.jones1948@gmail.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
December 2019.	H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans	malcolm.collis@gmail.com	Trip to South America

Swinging the Lamp – September 2018



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1812	Boats of <i>Bacchante</i> cut out the French <i>Tisiphone</i> , two gunboats and all seven of a convoy in the Canale di Leme
2nd	1974	Lt HRH The Prince of Wales RN, having returned from the Far East in the frigate <i>Jupiter</i> , joined RNAS Yeovilton for helicopter flying training before joining 845 NAS in <i>Hermes</i>
3rd	1939	<i>Plover</i> laid first British minefield, off the Bass Rock in the Firth of Forth, and remained in commission for thirty-one years.
4th	1861	Royal Warrant required the forfeiture of the VC awarded to Mid E. St J. Daniel in 1854, he having been 'accused of a disgraceful offence' and 'having evaded enquiry by deserting from Our service' – the only naval forfeiture of the eight to date.
5th	1914	Launch of <i>Ark Royal</i> , laid down as collier at Blyth and purchased in May for conversion to carry seaplanes. Renamed <i>Pegasus</i> in December 1934, she became a catapult ship in 1941 and was sold in October 1946. The only carrier designed to carry sail, she had a mizzen to help keep her head into wind.
6th	1993	HM The Queen approved the eligibility of all ranks of the armed forces for appointment to the Distinguished Service Order
7th	1807	Admiral James Gambier (<i>Prince of Wales</i>) received the surrender of the Danish fleet at Copenhagen. Seventy Danish ships surrendered: 18 ships of the line, 10 frigates, 16 corvettes, 26 smaller vessels
8th	1943	Italy surrendered after three years and three months of hostilities and most of her fleet passed into Allied control.
9th	1754	William Bligh, future Captain of HM Armed Transport <i>Bounty</i> , <i>Director</i> (64) at the Battle of Camperdown and <i>Glutton</i> (56) at Copenhagen, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, born at Plymouth.
10th	1862	Britain's first timber-hulled ironclad, <i>Royal Oak</i> , launched at Chatham. She carried 25,000 sq ft of canvas, and her reciprocating engines, powered by 20-psi steam, drove a 19ft-diameter hoisting propeller.
11th	2006	Fleet submarine <i>Sovereign</i> , Cdr S.R. Drysdale RN, Britain's oldest operational submarine, paid off at Faslane after thirty-three years' service.
12th	1920	The Nab Tower, a 9,000ton concrete and steel structure designed as a permanent link in the anti-submarine barrage in the Dover Strait but incomplete when the war ended, was towed from Shoreham by two naval tugs and sunk off Portsmouth as a replacement for the Nab lightvessel. The structure settled with a 1.5 degrees list to the S.W. A workforce of 3,000 men had been secretly drafted-in for the construction project which cost £ 1,250,000
13th	1782	Repulse of the Spanish attack on Gibraltar, all ten Spanish battering ships being destroyed. Seamen from <i>Brilliant</i> reinforced the garrison

14 th	1939	So long as hostilities last, the use of the Blue Ensign, whether plain or defaced, and the defaced Red Ensign by merchant and other private vessels is to be discontinued. – AFO
15 th	2009	Frigate <i>Iron Duke</i> , Cdr Andrew Stacey RN, On anti-narcotics patrol in the Caribbean, intercepted a fishing boat carrying 5.5 tons of cocaine reported to be worth £ 240 million on the street. This was the ship's third major drugs haul in three months
16 th	1719	<i>Weymouth</i> and <i>Winchester</i> destroyed two Spanish warships (one the ex-British <i>Greyhound</i>) and a battery at Ribadeo, and captured a merchantman
17 th	1879	Battleship <i>Agamemnon</i> launched at Chatham. She and her Pembroke- built sister ship <i>Ajax</i> were plagued with erratic steering and considered 'the most unhandy capital ships ever to fly the White Ensign – Oscar Parkes.
18 th	1900	War Course for Captains and Commanders, later the Senior Officers' War Course (SOWC), established at RN College, Greenwich. Capt H. Moore, Captain of the College, became the first Director
19 th	1944	<i>Terpsichore</i> , <i>Troubridge</i> and <i>Garland</i> (Pol) sank U-407 off Crete (36.27N, 24.33E). Last enemy submarine to be sunk in the Mediterranean in Second World War.
20 th	1799	<i>Rattlesnake</i> and <i>Cameleon</i> fought the French <i>Preneuse</i> in Algoa Bay.
21 st	1944	10 th Submarine Flotilla disbanded. White Ensign hauled down at HMS <i>Talbot</i> , Malta
22 nd	1812	<i>Saracen</i> captured the French privateer <i>Courrier</i> 7 miles S.E. of Beachy Head
23 rd	1977	Frigate Complex at Devonport Dockyard, originally known as Leander Frigate Complex, developed over No. 2 Basin and enclosing Nos 5, 6 and 7 Docks, opened by Dr David Owen. <i>Galatea</i> docked as demonstration of facility.
24 th	1850	Rum ration halved by withdrawal of evening issue.
25 th	1761	Dr Cuthbert of the Royal College of Surgeons appointed to analyse water at Weovil or Weevil Yard. Ships' cisterns were lead-lined to protect the wood, which was unfortunate for those who drank the contents.
26 th	1827	HM King George IV granted to the Royal Marines the globe for their badge and his cypher for their colours
27 th	1914	Allied forces captured Duala, Cameroons. Ships: <i>Challenger</i> , <i>Dwarf</i> . Niger Flotilla: <i>Ivy</i> , <i>Porpoise</i> , <i>Remus</i>
28 th	1652	Admiral Robert Blake (<i>Resolution</i>) defeated the Dutch fleet under Vice-Admiral de With (<i>Prins Willem</i>) off the Kentish Knock. Ships: <i>Andrew</i> , <i>Diamond</i> , <i>Garland</i> , <i>Guinea</i> , <i>Nightingale</i> , <i>Nonsuch</i> , <i>Pelican</i> , <i>Resolution</i> , <i>Ruby</i> , <i>Sovereign</i> , <i>Speaker</i> , <i>Vanguard</i> , <i>Triumph</i> , <i>Foresight</i> , <i>Lion</i> , <i>Advice</i> , <i>President</i> . Battle Honour: Kentish Knock 1652.
29 th	1758	Horatio Nelson born
30 th	1998	<i>Dolphin</i> , the home of the Royal Navy's Submarine Service for nearly a century, paid off and closed 1 April 1999. Training task transferred to <i>Dryad</i> and <i>Raleigh</i>

2019 Diaries

The 2019 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)

Contact telephone number.....

Card holder's address of different from delivery address

Address

.....

..... Post Code:.....

The 2018 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 **HMS Victory** 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:.....

RNA Conference 2019 Wyboston Lakes Resort

7th to 9th June 2019 (Friday to Sunday)

3 Days
from
£259 per person
Half-Board
Includes Gala Dinner



Wyboston Lakes is close to St Neots, the largest historic market town in Cambridgeshire with its roots in the 11th Century. If you are out and about there is a range of shops, both independent and national, with a Farmers Market on Saturday 8th, and attractions around the town including a Town trail and walks along the Great Ouse.

Directions to the hotel

By Rail

The nearest rail station to Wyboston Lakes is St. Neots, on the First Capital Connect on the Great Northern Line, a 48 minute journey from London King's Cross. St Neots Train Station is only a 10 minute taxi drive away.

Road : from North or South

Leave A1 at A428 junction (signposted Cambridge) just South of St. Neots. From North, take third exit at roundabout. From South, take fourth exit at roundabout (back towards A1). Entrance to Wyboston Lakes is 60 yards on the left.

Road : from East

A428 (from Cambridge and M11) before A1 junction, take first exit at roundabout. Entrance to Wyboston Lakes is 60 yards on the left.

Road : from West

A421 (from Bedford), join A1 North. Leave at A428 junction (signposted Cambridge) just South of St. Neots. Take fourth exit at roundabout (back towards A1). Entrance to Wyboston Lakes is 60 yards on the left.

By air

Both Luton and Stansted airports are approximately one hour's drive away.

Accommodation

The Woodlands Event Centre,
Wyboston Lakes Resort,
Great North Road,
Wyboston
Bedfordshire
MK44 3AL
www.wybostonlakes.co.uk

The centre is a purpose-built venue which has 120 en suite bedrooms with flat-screen television with Freeview channels, limited free Wi-Fi, laptop safe, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer and toiletries, trouser press, ironing station and bathrobe.

What's Included:

- ✓ 2 nights dinner bed & breakfast
- ✓ Conference on 8th
- ✓ Gala dinner on 8th
- ✓ Optional insurance £12pp (non-refundable)

To book please complete and return a copy of the attached booking form with your deposit.

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office issues essential travel advice on overseas destinations. Please have a look at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. Advice can change so please continue to check until you travel.

Tour details are subject to change and have been arranged in conjunction with **just for groups!**

The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PL
01603 886740 www.justforgroups.co.uk



The RNA Conference Friday 7th – Sunday 9th June 2019

The Woodlands Event Centre, Wyboston Lakes Resort, Great North Road, Wyboston, Bedfordshire MK44 3AL

The centre is a purpose-built venue which has 120 en suite bedrooms with flat-screen television with Freeview channels, free Wi-Fi, laptop safe, telephone, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer and toiletries, trouser press, ironing station and bathrobe.

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By air

Both Luton and Stansted airports are approximately one hour's drive away

Places of interest in the area

Bedford – www.visitbedford.gov.uk

Bedfordshire is a ceremonial county of historic origin in England that forms part of the East of England region. With a history spanning more than a thousand years in a trail leading around the Castle Mound, Castle Gardens and the River Great Ouse.

Bletchley Park www.bletchleypark.org.uk

During World War II, Bletchley Park was the site of the United Kingdom's main decryption establishment, the Government Code and Cypher School where ciphers and codes of several Axis countries were decrypted, most importantly the ciphers generated by the German Enigma and Lorenz machines. It also housed Station X, a secret radio intercept station.

In addition to the National Codes Centre, Bletchley Park houses the National Museum of Computing.

Cambridge is a university town and the administrative centre of the county of Cambridgeshire. It is home of the world famous University, carols in King's College Chapel and punting on the River Cam.

The university includes the renowned Cavendish Laboratory, King's College Chapel, and the Cambridge University Library. www.visitcambridge.org

Duxford : Imperial War Museum www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford

The Imperial War Museum has an extensive collection covering all aspects of 20th and 21st century conflict involving Britain and the Commonwealth.

Knebworth House is famous worldwide for its rock concerts and as the home of Victorian novelist Edward Bulwer Lytton.

The current residents are Henry Lytton-Cobbold and his family.

The house is open to the public together with its surrounding gardens and grounds. The grounds include an adventure playground, mini railway and dinosaur park and play host to various events including classic car rallies, the annual Salvo Fair of architectural salvage and, since 1974, major open air rock and pop concerts. www.knebworthhouse.com

Peterborough Cathedral is one of the finest Norman buildings surviving in Europe today and was voted as a top 10 UK Landmark in a 2007 Fujifilm users' poll. The cathedral is in the centre of Peterborough city with a large pedestrianised shopping area and indoor malls. www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk
www.visitpeterborough.com

Shuttleworth Museum www.shuttleworth.org

The Shuttleworth Collection presents five decades of transport history in Britain from airplanes to road vehicles.

The collection houses a number of vintage and veteran cars. Events include model-flying days, and once a year, there is a special flying day for schools in the area.

Wimpole Hall is a country house begun in 1640, and its 3,000 acres of parkland and farmland are owned by the National Trust and are regularly open to the public.

Set in an extensive wooded park, this is a magnificent 18th-century house, with fine interiors; perfect for a day of exploring. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate

Wrest Park www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wrest-park

This is a wonderful 90 acre historic landscape and French-style mansion, which will take its rightful place amongst the country's great garden attractions.



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

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

Prices:	1) 7 th -9 th June (Fri-Sun)	2 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast, includes Gala Dinner: £259 per person _____
	2) 7 th -10 th June (Fri-Mon)	3 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast, includes Gala Dinner: £388 per person _____
	3) 6 th -9 th June (Thu-Sun)	3 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast, includes Gala Dinner: £388 per person _____
	4) 6 th -10 th June (Thu-Mon)	4 Nights dinner, bed and breakfast, includes Gala Dinner: £519 per person _____
	5) 8 th -9 th June (Sat-Sun)	1 Nights Gala Dinner, bed and breakfast: £149 – SRS £40* per person (limited availability)
	6) 9 th June (Sat)	Gala Dinner only, no accommodation: £45 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 (SRS) of £40pppn will apply.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Depart</u>	<u>Accommodation Type</u>		
			<u>Day</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Twin</u>	<u>Single occupancy</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Special Requests: (Not guaranteed) including special needs/mobility issues, accommodation, parking and dietary requirements.

Lead Name Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Tel. Number: _____

Email: _____

Cheques payable to "Just for groups!" Non-refundable £35 per person Deposit.
If you wish to pay by credit or debit card please be sure to provide a telephone number so that you can be called for payment to be taken once your Booking Form has been processed.

Deposit: _____ @ £35per person = £ _____

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

Note: Final Balance Payment: Is due on or before 12th April 2019

Holiday Insurance: Full details of our optional Holiday Insurance will be provided for your consideration once your application has been processed.

Data Protection: We never share your details with any third party and process all your details in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and General Data Protection Regulation 2018.

PLEASE 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



