



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



The Semaphore Circular

No 685

The Beating Heart of the RNA

December 2018



***HMS Victory, with HMS Queen Elizabeth and a Type 45
enjoying wintery conditions***

**WISHING ALL OUR READERS A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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

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Glossary of terms

| | |
|-------------|---|
| NCM | National Council Member |
| NC | National Council |
| AMC | Association Management Committee |
| FAC | Finance Administration Committee |
| NCh | National Chairman |
| NVCh | National Vice Chairman |
| NP | National President |
| DNP | Deputy National President |
| GS | General Secretary |
| DGS | Deputy General Secretary |
| AGS | Assistant General Secretary |
| CONA | Conference of Naval Associations |
| NCBA | National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor |

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to the Dec Circular and our last of the year and my last one ever! We are expecting the HMS Queen Elizabeth to be returning to Pompey in mid-December following very successful F35 trials in the Western Atlantic. HMS DIAMOND has returned following a very successful deployment that included operations in the Med. Also, this week the HMS PRINCE of WALES has started her main diesel engines for the first time, up in Rosyth where she is fitting out.

We have welcomed the IMC Executive Council to Semaphore Tower for their annual meeting. We had a very moving service on Spitbank Shoal (about 2 miles out of the harbour), taken by the Chaplain of the Fleet. We scattered paper petals in remembrance of shipmates, poppy petals for the RN and dark and light blue for forget-me-nots and cornflowers for French, Belgians and Germans.



A huge thanks for branches and shipmates who contacted us for crosses in our Field of Remembrance – we had a great display for the NP to show HRH Prince Harry. It was great to see so many shipmates there. I had the great privilege of marching with the RNA platoon this year, under the capable direction of S/M Bob Coburn. We were at the head of the march this year which made it even more special. The new GS Captain Bill Oliphant marched with us and enjoyed a brew or 3 in the Civil Service Club afterwards.



Don't forget to keep an eye and ear out for those who might be feeling lonely over Christmas and why not give them a ring – or better still share a tot!

I am delighted to report the appointment of S/M Nick Purkis as our new Chair of the Standing Orders Committee and advisor on Rules to the National Council. He will continue to be advised and supported by our NCBA-emeritus and Life Vice

President), S/M Ivan Hunter. His CV is in the Circ and you will see he is a very well qualified person for the job.

A reminder that the Open Days are in the Longcast and to book up with Nigel. It's a real highlight to see the new carrier from the water – but, of course, no guarantee that she'll be in!

Don't forget the Jutland Wood Planting event on 16 March 19 at Langley Vale, where we aim to plant Jutland Wood. I've asked COLLINGWOOD and SULTAN for Part 2 sailors to come and the Sea Cadets have asked how many minibuses they can park! More details in the New Year, but plan for an 1100 start and to wear warm clothes and wellies.

Some important matters of business:

- There are important forms on the attached file for:
 - Branch motions with a deadline of **15 February**. This will be the last warning before the deadline.
 - NCM and DNCM election forms for Areas 2,6,7,8,9,11 and Scotland, **deadline 15 February**.
 - Nomination forms for Standing Orders Committee. Members still **urgently** required for the Feb meeting.

- Diaries are selling well please contact Nigel. We have sold all this year's Christmas cards, but still have a few of last years at a reduced price.
- Michelle has covered the annual returns in her section, they are attached for you to complete, also downloadable from the website.
- We have run out of the subsidised beret badges, full price now available.
- Due to the Central Office closed period 21 Dec to 2 Jan, there won't be a January Circular.

Captain Bill takes over on 8 Dec as the new GS. His e-mail is bill@royalnavalassoc.com. I will be around until the CO closed period on 21 Dec, drafting the annual trustees report. So please use his e-mail for GS business after the 8th.

This is my 87th and last Circular. I have enjoyed writing this Circular introduction over the years and feel it is the closest I get to communicating with the RNA across the Board. It has been a great privilege and honour to be the GS of the RNA and 10 times more fun than I thought possible. A huge thank you to all those who have hosted me, chatted to me and supported the various projects that we have worked on together over the last 8 years and 7 months. Thanks also to the many NCMs I have worked with and our inspirational National President, Adm John. As GS I work particularly closely with the National Chairs and I have been so lucky to have had Chris Dovey and Keith Ridley in those positions, two hard-working individuals, tireless in their advocacy for the RNA.



A Robin for 10 Area

I am so proud of the RNA and what it does, evident every month in our ever-growing branch news section. We don't own the RNA either at Central Office, NC or Branch level – we keep it in trust for the young sailors that Andy and I see every week and who deserve to have a vibrant RNA for them – including our young sailors (both male and female), RFA and Reserves, so I echo and support the National Chair's comments about recruiting and welcoming all to our wonderful Association.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Central Office team and goodbye from Paul

Sailing into the Sunset



Chairman's chat

Dear Shipmates,

The 'Bridge Lookout' has reported that the Festive Season is just over the horizon and a Captain's Barge is insight, shortly to come alongside. As the end of the year approaches, we will sadly be saying farewell to Paul Quinn. Since taking up the post of the Association's General Secretary at the National Conference held in Ouistreham, France in 2010, Paul has strived relentlessly to give the RNA a high profile not just throughout the naval service, but with the MOD, numerous charities and industry. His midas touch has resulted in the association gaining financial support from the Aged Veterans Fund, Greenwich Hospital Trust and RNRMC just to name a few. During his tenure, Paul has sought and gained over £1.5 million in grants to support the numerous projects he dreamed up and to pay the salaries of the 5 staff that run the projects. He has created an amazing network of contacts the RNA can call upon for advice and support. Paul has been the driving force behind both CONA and the IMC and is well respected by both. Despite working a very busy day, Paul has always found time to give advice when asked, and not just within office hours. In achieving so much for the association, Paul has been fortunate to have a dedicated team in Central Office to support him. On behalf of the Association I thank Paul for his loyalty, dedication, hard work and relentless pursuit in furthering the name of the RNA. As we say farewell to Paul we say a BIG hello to Bill Oliphant who has just retired from the Royal Navy after a 35 year career who we have been most fortunate to recruit as our new General Secretary. Bill's last appointment was as Captain of HM Naval Base Portsmouth, a mammoth task with a mega amount of responsibility. Welcome Bill, the membership looks forward to meeting you in the coming year and I wish you every success in your new role. At the time of writing, Bill has been sitting in on committee meetings and getting out and about meeting members of those institutes who support the RNA with funding. Bill will assume his new job as the Association's General Secretary after the 8th December National Council Meeting.



At the September National Council Meeting I was privileged to be re-elected your National Chairman and S/M Paul Stephenson was re-elected as your National Vice Chairman, both for a third-year term. At the same meeting we welcomed the newly elected National Council Members; S/M Stuart Maclean, (No 3 Area) and Arthur Gutteridge BEM (No 4 Area). Visits to meet Area Committees, Delegates & Shipmates around the Areas continue. I have found it interesting how the various Areas structure their meetings most of which involve a social aspect. My thanks to Shipmates of No 4 Area who made my wife and I welcome at Dorchester in September and I look forward to visiting No 9 Area on 1st December at Lincoln and No 12 Area in early January. How time has flown by since this time last year, where has the year gone? Reading through the Semaphore Circular each month gives a good indication that Branches have been having fun times, be it fund raising or living life to the full enjoying social events. Looking through the various Facebook sites it has been heartening to see so many Branches Flying the RNA Flag, having fun and enjoying themselves at so many events be them fund raising, but more recently, Trafalgar Night Celebrations. Keep it up. During the period of Remembrance, it was heartening to see the

dedication and good work of Branches paying their respects at the numerous parades & services held throughout the country. On Remembrance Sunday I was most privileged to represent the Association at the Cenotaph in London where I laid a Wreath on behalf of all Naval Veterans.

As mentioned in Chairman's Chats, the initiative by Paul Quinn and introduction of a Minor Grant Scheme funded from the Branch & Club Support Fund has proved a great success with the initial allocation of £7500 having been almost expended by the 2nd week of November. To ensure that no Branch misses out this year, Paul requested an increase to the allocated budget which the Finance Administration Committee approved with a further £2500 being allocated. Just to remind Branches, the General Secretary is authorised to make grants up to a maximum of £250 to assist with, but not restricted to; recruitment publicity, purchase of a Gazebo, entertaining veterans to a lunch or tea party etc. Applications & administration of the scheme have been kept to an absolute minimum. A simple email to Paul setting out the reason for the application is all that is required.

Of serious concern is it has come to my attention that there is a Branch which will not allow females to join the Association as Full Members, nor accept applications for Associate Membership, be the applicants, male or female. **This practice is to STOP NOW.** I strongly advise the Branch Committee concerned to read the RNA Royal Charter, Rules & Byelaws as a matter of urgency and to accept applications from those I have mentioned. Our newly appointed National Recruitment & Retention Officer, S/M Gareth Booth has been busy conducting a survey and communicating with NCMs and Branches following which Gareth has submitted a very interesting report to the Association's Management Committee on his findings so far. I cannot stress the importance of giving Gareth your full cooperation when he seeks information. Gareth is no stranger or an outsider to the Association as he is the Chairman of Merthyr Tydfil Branch. Recruitment of new members must be a priority for all members, not just Branch Committees. As I have previously mentioned, if only 25% of the membership recruited just one new member each we would grow the membership by over 3000 in a year. There are 1000's of potential recruits out there. Remember - always carry a membership form in your pocket (obtainable from your Branch Secretary or Branch Membership Secretary). The distribution of iPads under Project Semaphore continues with over 730 having now been issued. Sarah Clewes continues to be kept busy with the Project moving around the country setting up workshops for iPad users along with her colleagues Julie Royston and Alan McGrath up North. As a reminder when spreading the word about this great project, remember that Non-RNA members may also qualify for an iPad. Candidates simply need to be a naval veteran 65+ who does not have access to a computer and are digitally isolated. If in doubt about someone qualifying, please contact CO. To our serving Shipmates in the Fleet, which includes the Royal Marines, all Shore Establishments and Naval Units, please let Andy Christie andy@royalnavalassoc.com at Central Office have any dits you have, or better still submit news from your Ship or Establishment for inclusion in the Association's Semaphore Circular as we want to hear from you. To those on Deployment may you have safe passage and a safe return. In closing, my wife Maureen and I wish you all a Happy Festive Season and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I would like to ask you all to spare a thought over the festive season to remember all service personnel and support staff who will be on duty protecting our great nation, parted from their families and love ones.

Yours aye, Keith Ridley

1. ★ National Charter and Bye-Laws Advisor (NCBA) and Chair of Standing orders Committee

The National Council are delighted to announce that they have appointed Shipmate Nick Purkis as the new NCBA and Chair of the SOC in supersession to Shipmate Ivan Hunter BEM.

Nick joined the Royal Naval Reserve at HMS PRESIDENT in London in March 1998. Initially serving in the Ops HQ Branch, Nick moved to work in the NCAGS Branch before retiring from the RNR in March 2011, following a change in civilian job which took him to live in Dublin, Ireland.

During his RNR service, Nick served in HMS SHETLAND and at FOST OPS in Plymouth, as well as on exercise at HMNB CLYDE and PJHQ NORTHWOOD. Nick also served as a member of the RNR Recruitment Team at HMS PRESIDENT for over five years and in 2000, was awarded the Guinness Shield for Service to the Unit.

In his civilian life, Nick has spent over twenty-six years working in the financial services industry. Much of Nick's career has been in the Insurance Industry. In his current role as a Senior Risk Manager for the World's largest vehicle leasing company, Nick oversees a team of over 200 risk managers based across 20 Countries globally and is the Group Head of Insurance Risk. Nick has received a number of Industry awards for his work in Risk Management. In 2018, Nick completed a LLB(Hons) degree in Law with the Open University. Nick has served as the Secretary of the Dublin Branch of the Royal Naval Association since 2014.



In 2015, Nick was elected Deputy National Council Member for the RNA Area 12 (Ireland). In 2017, he received the RNA's Certificate of Appreciation from H.E. The British Ambassador to Ireland and was the first full member of the RNA to be so awarded. In 2018, Nick was appointed to serve on the RNA's Standing Orders Committee and was Chair of the organisational committee for the RNA National Conference in Dublin.

In 2000, Nick served as Chair of the Advisory Committee to H.M.'s Opposition in both Houses of Parliament on the Armed Forces Discipline Bill. In 2014, Nick was also appointed as a member of the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee for Northern Ireland, by the UK Minister for the Armed Forces. He was re-appointed to this role in Summer 2017.

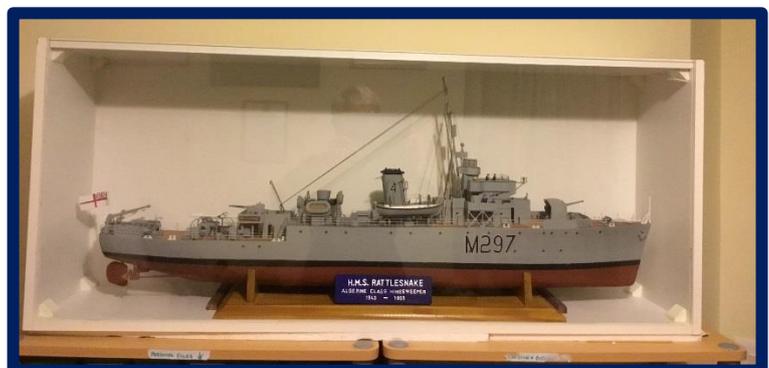
2. ★ Assistance please – Model looking for nice home and loving Shipmate!

Calm down Shipmates.....

Frome Branch, Hon Secretary Shipmate Keith Sanders was contacted by one of his members to see if anyone out there would like this splendid model which was made by her late Husband.

If you are interested, please contact S/M Keith on 07949 573666.

keithsanders61@outlook.com



3. ★ RNVC Series – Petty Officer Ernest Herbert Pitcher VC DSM

PO Pitcher was born in Mullion Cornwall on 31 December 1888. He joined the Royal Navy in Portsmouth aged 15 on 22 July 1903. He was serving in the Battleship HMS King George IV at the outbreak of WW1 and volunteered for Q ship service in 1915. His service was recognised over a six-month period when he was mentioned in dispatches then awarded a DSM and finally a VC.

He won the DSM whilst serving HMS Pargust when the ship sank UC-29 but was badly damaged herself. This action was worthy of a VC. The Admiralty decided that all the crew had acted with equal valour and invoked Article 13 of the VC Royal Warrant. Article 13 allows the Ships Company, by voting, to select one Officer and one Rating to receive the award. The 1st Lt Lt Ronald Stuart RN and AB William Williams were selected, and the rest of the crew were awarded either a DSO or DSM.



PO Pitcher was transferred, along with the rest of the crew to HMS Dunraven (Q-Ship) and on 08



August 1917 she engaged UC-71 in the Bay of Biscay. His role onboard was a 4-inch gun layer and he saw action early in the engagement when the U-Boat surfaced and attacked the Dunraven firing shells at her and damaging the after part of the ship which was now on fire. The Captain wanted to entice the U-Boat nearer and even though the risk of explosion aft was substantial, there was an armoury below aft, he was convinced that UC-71 would come close enough to let him have it with the fwd gun.

Just as the U-Boat closed the after armoury exploded blowing Pitcher and the remaining gun crew into the air, incredibly Pitcher landed on mock railway trucks made of wood and canvas, which cushioned their falls and saved his life. The action continued and despite Dunraven managing to fire two torpedoes at UC-71 she successfully got away and Dunraven was towed to safety but succumbed to the damage and sank the following morning with colours flying.

For this action the ships company were recommended for a VC and once again Article 13 was invoked resulting in Lt Charles Bonner and PO Pitcher receiving the VC. Petty Officer Pitcher received the medal from King George V at an investiture in Buckingham Palace on 5th December 1917. In a famous photograph of 1918, he was pictured between Queen Mary and Queen Alexandra, with the King on one side and the elderly courtier Sir Dighton Probyn VC peeping through the plant on the other side, shows him like a "fish out of water", his jersey awash with medal ribbons.

That same year, he married Lily Evers in Wareham and they went on to have a daughter, Ruth Mary Dunraven Pitcher. PO Pitcher also served in WW2 in shore establishments sadly in 1946 his health failed, and he contracted TB and passed away on 10 February 1946. His medals are on display in the IWM London.



4. ★ A Vintage Poem

I am sure this will dampen the corner of a few Shipmates eyes..... Our thanks to NCM 7.

Author unknown

I once looked out from the Tamar Bridge at the warships down below,
Ships of the modern Navy, whose names I did not know.
And as I stood and gazed at them on the water far below,
I saw a fleet of phantom ships and men of long ago.

The Rodney and the Nelson, the Valiant, Ramilies,
Repulse, Renown and Malaya, coming home from foreign seas.
I saw Revenge and Warspite, the ill-fated Royal Oak,
So many ships, their names made faint by shell and fire and smoke.
And some I see to harbour come as though thro' glasses dark,

The Barham and the Glorious, the Eagle and the Ark.
And then there comes the greatest, the mighty warship Hood,
Dark and grey and wraithlike from the spot on which I stood.
The big ships and the little ships returned for me to see,
there's the Glowworm and the Harding, the Devonshire and the Kent,

The Cossack and Courageous, the Suffolk and Ardent.
But mercifully hidden are the men and stilled their cries,
Now I can't see too clearly, must be the smoke that's in my eyes.
You don't know Shorty Hasset, he won the DSM,
He still fought on when Exeter was burning stern to stem.

Where now the Dodger Long and Lofty, where now the boys and men?
They are lost and gone forever; will we see their likes again?
I thought I saw them mustering on deck for daily prayer
and heard "For Those in Peril" rise on the evening air.
Then darker grew the picture as the lowering night came on,
I looked down from the lofty bridge but all the ships had gone.
Those mighty ships had vanished, gone too those simple men.
We'll surely never see the like of them again.

5. ★ Seafarers' Advice and Information Line (SAIL) – Visit by HRH The Princess Royal

The Princess Royal visited the Seafarers' Advice and Information Line (SAIL) on Friday 02 November at their premises in Greenwich, South London, to mark the expansion of this unique and vital service for the seafaring community. This was her first visit to SAIL, the only Citizens Advice for seafarers, since it opened its phone lines in 1996 and represents a significant milestone in its history.



Since the last Royal visit in 2003 SAIL has grown more than ten-fold, from one member of staff to 10, plus a full-time Manager. In April 2016 the service was extended to cover the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and has recently been expanded further with generous funding from Greenwich Hospital. The offices in King William Walk have just been refurbished to accommodate the growing team.

Like all Citizens Advice, SAIL provides free, confidential and impartial advice on a wide range of issues, from debt and welfare benefits to housing and employment problems. The difference is that the service is uniquely for seafarers and their

families and is delivered by phone and online. SAIL is funded by the Seafarers Hospital Society in partnership with Seafarers UK and Greenwich Hospital. As an extension of Citizens Advice Greenwich, SAIL meets the same stringent standards of advice.

As patron of Citizens Advice nationally, The Princess Royal will be greeted by Steve Whitehead, Executive Director at national Citizens Advice and Miles Cowley, SAIL Manager. She will also meet the staff and volunteers who provide advice and hear about their day-to-day work with clients.

SAIL Manager, Miles Cowley said: *“We’re delighted to welcome The Princess Royal to our newly refurbished and expanded premises. Having her support for the work we do will make a real difference.*

He continued: “When you spend most of your life at sea it can be difficult to access help when you really need it and not everyone understands the issues you face. That’s what makes SAIL so unique. We really understand what life is like for seafarers, both offshore and on, and work with our clients in a way that suits them. Last year we helped 1,334 seafarers from all round the UK and raised almost £900,000 on their behalf in benefits, charitable grants and debt write-offs - that’s an all-time record. We know there’s demand for more and have just expanded the service to meet the need.”



After a visit to SAIL’s offices to meet some of the advisers and hear about their work, HRH will be presented with a posy by 10-year-old Teddie Renton, son of SAIL administrator, Deana Reed. She will also meet Councillor Danny Thorpe, Leader of Greenwich Council, Ms Maria Parpou, Chair of Citizens Advice Greenwich and Ms Emma Knight, Chief Executive, together with trustees, funders and other members of staff.

Here is a few more SAIL ‘Factoids’.....

- SAIL is a Citizens Advice service to seafarers and their families living in the UK
- SAIL provides an in-depth casework service to clients and specialist support to other agencies working with seafarers
- SAIL is run by Citizens Advice Greenwich on behalf of the Seafarers Hospital Society and is funded in partnership with Seafarers UK and Greenwich Hospital
- Help is available to all seafarers - working and retired - and their dependants, including merchant seafarers, fishermen, members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines

- In 2017 SAIL advised 1,334 clients, on 3,233 issues and raised over £879,000 on their behalf
- Clients came from all sectors: fishing - 315; Merchant Navy - 638; Royal Navy/Royal Marines - 381
- SAIL phone lines are open Monday to Friday from 10am to 4pm
- Advice is also available by email, fax, post and skype
- SAIL has a manager and ten paid members of staff as well as three volunteers
- For more information see their website www.sailine.org.uk

6. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

This month can you name this former establishment? However, I'll bet one 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 November 'Guess the Establishment'

It is HMS Rooke Gibraltar No1 Pitch featuring HMS Glasgow and HMS Rooke in the final of the 'Ex Springtrain' football competition in 1982 – For your interest Rooke won 4-1.

BZ- to S/M Barry Lockyer for spotting it was HMS Rooke.



7. ★ The Last Salute by Shipmate Terry Cattermole

The English Channel 4 miles south of the Nab Tower, marking the eastern approaches to The Solent, 1430 Thursday 25 February 1960 on board HMS WAKEFUL, a converted V & W Class Destroyer. 'Stop the ship' said the Captain, Commander Bogey Knight, 'Aye Aye, sir', I replied as Officer of the Watch. 'Stop both engines, Cox'n', pause 'Slow astern both engines' and then 'Stop both'. Range and bearing of the Nab, check the chart, then 'Ship stopped, sir, and in position'.



We had slipped and sailed from South Railway Jetty, Portsmouth an hour earlier, bearing the lead-lined coffin of Edwina, Countess Mountbatten, known to millions as 'Lady Louis', who had died in North Borneo, aged 58, the previous week-end. Eight Chief Petty Officers had carried the coffin up the black-draped brow, to the sound of Bosuns Calls, and laid it on a bier on the Quarterdeck. The mourners included Lord Mountbatten, his daughters Lady Pamela Hicks

and Lady Brabourne, Prince Philip and his mother, Princess Alice of Greece.

The Indian Frigate INS TRISHUL followed us out and remained in close company in tribute to the woman who had been India's last Vicereine.

The body of Lady Mountbatten had been brought from Romsey, near Southampton, through streets of mourners and into the dockyard where hundreds of Servicemen and women lined the

half-mile from the Main Gate. As we passed along the sea-front hundreds more people watched from the shore.

It was a grey, cold day under leaden clouds, but, thankfully, calm and there was very little movement of the ship as the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, conducted a 15-minute service. He ended with the traditional words, 'we therefore commit her body to the deep' and 6 Petty Officers bent and gently tipped the ramp under the coffin. Slowly the coffin slipped from the Union Flag into the water



and its' resting place 22 fathoms below, as 4 Royal Marine Buglers sounded The Last Post and Reveille. Lord Louis cast an all-white wreath over the side, followed by the Queen's tribute of white and yellow flowers, laid by Prince Philip. About a cable away, from the TRISHUL a wreath was laid on behalf of the Indian Defence Minister, Dr Krishna Menon, an old friend of the Mountbattens. Lord Louis and the Prince, both in uniforms of Admiral of the Fleet, stood at the salute for a long moment as we slowly got underway.

I noted in the Ship's Log 'Committed to the deep the body of Countess Mountbatten at 1428 in position 50deg 36min North 0deg 57min West' and we turned back towards Portsmouth.

Lord Louis and Prince Philip appeared on the bridge, after they had made a short tour of the ship and kept a close eye on me as we made our way into harbour, without incident.

8. Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Portsmouth Historic dockyard are running several events in Autumn and Winter please see the list below.

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. ★ Finance Corner

Dear Shipmates,

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

Shipmates, you will find the appropriate forms at the rear of this Circular, along with your Branch / Area Officers information form which need to be completed, signed and sent to Central Office by **30 April 2019**, either by email or post. For the computer savvy Shipmates, you can also find them on our RNA website.



I would also like to add if any Branches have a change of Officers, would you please be so kind and inform Central Office, we can then keep the database up dated and saves any embarrassment if paperwork has been sent to a wrong Shipmate.

- *Pooled Fares*

Pooled Fares figure was authorised by the National Chairman and invoices have been raised and entered onto your Branch accounts, which will also show in your Termly accounts.

The breakdown of the costs are:

Dublin 2018 Conference

58 Delegates of 261 Branches attended the Conference

Total claims amounted to £2,331.08

Divide £2,331.08 by 261 = £8.93 which is the average cost for a medium branch

Large Branches pay a 1/3 more

Small Branches pay 1/3 less

The reason why the prices are so low this year is due to Delegates where only allowed to claim from Home to UK Embarkation and a NC subsidy of £110 per delegate not charged to branches.

- *Membership Secretaries*

Please note – any Branches that have purchased too many stickers, please don't forget that they must be returned to Central Office by **31 December 2018** (this Financial year, Jan-Dec2018). Any stickers received after the Year End will **not** be issued with a credit note.

Membership fees for 2019 will stay at £14.00 and Overseas £7.00

- *Membership Forms*

Regarding new Shipmates that would like to join your Branch, Central Office has a new form in which the Branch Secretary can now enter their Branch Bank account details.

Instead of using the old form with our HQ Members Bank Account details.

The new form will be much sleeker for your Branch and the Shipmate when paying his Annual Subscription. These forms will be eventually placed onto our RNA Website. If you would like forms please send me an email.

- *Termly Accounts*

We have now completed the Termly accounts and have been sent by email or post.

Treasurers / Secretaries – if you haven't received your accounts paperwork, please contact the Finance Office at:

Email – Michelle - michelle@royalnavalassoc.com Telephone – 023 92 723823

or – accountsadmin@royalnavalassoc.com

Since our Financial Year ends very soon, please and arrange payment to bring your Branch accounts up to date.

- *BACs*

I keep receiving the odd BACs payments, from Branches with no name of who they are from. Therefore, I must place these transactions into the Suspense Account, until somebody queries a missing payment from your Branch Customer Activity Summary (termly accounts).

To make my job easier, can I please ask, when making a payment to Central Office, to enter either, your Branch name or your Branch Account Number in the Bank Reference box.

- *Clothing*

Ray from RLP Embroidery has mentioned to me that he now has a stock of Blazers for Male & Female. If Father Christmas leaves you any money and you fancy a new blazer, please have a look at RLP website or you can ring him on the number below;

RLP Embroidery is www.ripembroidery.co.uk or Telephone number is: 07983 151011

Well, Shipmates since this is the last Circular for this year, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year. It's been lovely working with you all and I look forward to working with you next year.

Yours Aye Michelle

10. ★ Joke Yorkshire Cunning!

An English lawyer went duck hunting in The Dales. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence. As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing. The litigator responded, "I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I'm going to retrieve it."

The old farmer Peter replied, "This is my property, and you are not coming over here." The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial lawyers in England and, if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything you own."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we settle disputes in Yorkshire. We settle small disagreements like this with the 'Three Kick Rule.'

The lawyer asked, "What is the 'Three Kick Rule'? The Farmer replied, "Well, because the dispute occurs on my land, I get to go first. I kick you three times and then you kick me three times and so on back and forth until someone gives up."



The lawyer quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the attorney. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy steel-toed work boot into the lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees! His second kick to the midriff sent the lawyer's last

meal gushing from his mouth. The lawyer was on all fours when the farmer's third kick to his rear end, sent him face-first into a fresh cow pie.

Summoning every bit of his will and remaining strength the lawyer very slowly managed to get to his feet. Wiping his face with the arm of his jacket, he said, "Okay, you old fart. Now it's my turn."

The old farmer smiled and said, "Nah, I give up. You can have the duck."

(Photo courtesy of Newshub.co.nz)

11. ★ Charity Donations

Central Charities

| | |
|---|---------|
| RNA – Harlow | £25.00 |
| Hospital & Medical Care Association | £82.00 |
| Much Loved | £66.98 |
| Just Giving | £10.00 |
| BK Copelin | £36.00 |
| A Kinghorn | £30.00 |
| K Mawson | £5.00 |
| W Entwistle | £11.00 |
| W Rollings | £28.00 |
| D Scarlett | £6.00 |
| RG Madden | £31.00 |
| D Brown | £11.00 |
| DC Dowle | £10.00 |
| BGE Jackson | £12.00 |
| Derek Palmer | £30.00 |
| DRG Cooper | £20.00 |
| Alma Kent | £36.00 |
| 1 st Buxton Lamas Sea Scouts | £85.00 |
| Fillongley Parish Council | £38.50 |
| Kilniver & Kilmelford | £75.00 |
| Hennock Parish Council | £26.25 |
| All Saints Church Hemblington | £41.13 |
| T Cox | £11.00 |
| C Nash | £80.00 |
| Florey Properties | £100.00 |

Naval Service Memorial

K Ridley £33.86

In memory of the late

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Osborne Raybould | £70.00 |
| Glady's Blackburn | £77.70 |
| Peter George Longhurst | £255.00 |
| Dorothy Jane Taylor | £122.00 |
| William Watson | £22.00 |
| Donald Richard William Nicholas | £85.93 |
| Basil Eric Henry Phillips | £145.07 |
| David Leslie Green | £75.00 |
| Terence Vincent Sutton | £267.00 |
| Sidney Aspden | £230.00 |
| George Williams | £60.00 |
| Edward Donald Barrass | £20.00 |
| Francis Albert Ward | £54.60 |

12. ★ Joke Time - Tyrone Joke

Because of his stupidity and clumsiness, his teacher, was always yelling at him, "You're driving me crazy, Tyrone!"

One day, Tyrone's Mother came to school to check on how he was doing. The teacher told his Mother honestly, that her son was simply a disaster, getting very low marks and that she had never seen such a stupid boy in her entire teaching career. The Mother was so shocked at the feedback that she withdrew her son from school and moved out of London, and relocated to Birmingham.

Twenty-five years later, the teacher was diagnosed with an almost incurable cardiac disease. All the doctors strongly advised her to have open heart surgery, but there was only one surgeon in the whole of Britain who could perform the operation and he was located at the Birmingham Clinic. Left with no other options, the teacher decided to have the operation, which was successful.

When she came around after surgery she saw a handsome young doctor smiling down at her. She wanted to thank him but could not talk. Her face started to turn blue, she raised her hand, trying to tell him something but quickly died. The doctor was shocked, wondering what could possibly have gone wrong so suddenly.

Then he turned around and saw our friend Tyrone, a janitor in the Clinic, who had unplugged the life-support equipment in order to connect his vacuum cleaner.

Now...If you thought for one moment that Tyrone had become a heart-surgeon there is a high likelihood that you may have voted for Jeremy Corbyn. (Only Joking!)

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

This month's 'A thousand Good Deeds a day' features Shipmates George Barbrook and Charlie Hussain from Birmingham Central Branch.

A couple of months ago Central Office received a phone call from a close relative of HQ Roll member S/M Gerry Gensberg who asked how he could obtain a ticket and if there were any shipmates who could assist getting S/M Gerry to and from this year's Cenotaph Remembrance Parade. Gerry was a Korea Veteran, serving in HMS St Brides, had never taken part before and was desperate to attend this year.

Shipmate Gerry lives in the Midlands so getting the ticket was easily sorted but trying to find accommodation for an overnight stay was pretty near impossible so the only option was to 'find' a shipmate who was prepared to drive to down London and back on the day of the parade!



Step Forward not one but two, incredible Shipmates George Barbrook and Charlie Hussain who, not only, collected Gerry from his house, pushed him round the parade route in a wheelchair but then dropped him off after a very long day. They had also been round to visit Gerry to ensure he was briefed about the day the previous week.

On parade day they collected S/M Gerry at 0500 (Crack sparrows, literally!) and arrived at Stanmore tube car park at 0730. They met up with Steve Seaman (no pun intended) their taxi driver. Who although a former squaddie, and policeman was an entertaining chap, who provided a potted history of London on the journey into town.

Charlie collected his ticket and joined the parade at 09.15 on Horse Guards. The crowds were unusually large this year due

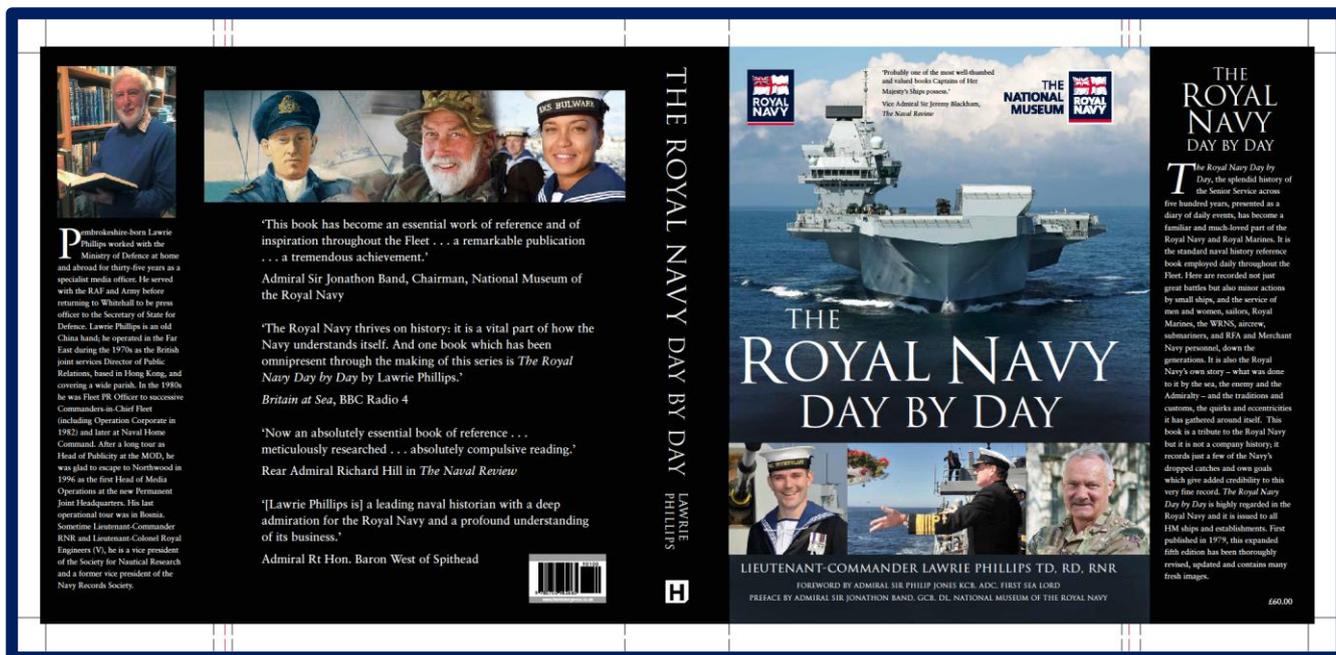
to the 'Peoples Parade', which was commemorating the Armistice, so Shipmate George missed the Parade and ended up attending the 1000 service in St Martins in the Field. He managed to get back in time to see column return with Charlie and Gerry with a couple of other wheelchair users at the back.

All three thought it was undoubtedly a special day. They returned to Stanmore for 1530, visited Macdonalds and finally got to Tamworth by 1930. However it left Shipmate Gerry planning another outing for next year holiday. Any Volunteers???

BZ Chaps RNA at its best. 'Nough Said!

14. Royal Navy – Day by Day 2018 Edition.

A new edition of the well-known work *The Royal Navy Day by Day* – considered by the *Naval Review* as 'probably one of the most well-thumbed and valued books Captains of Her Majesty's Ships possess' - will be published later this month. It will make a very special Christmas present.



The book is triumph of organisation and of compression. Individual entries are supported with concise summaries of operations – Jutland and naval operations in the Great War are given emphasis in this centenary year, the Palestine Patrol, Indonesian Confrontation, the Icelandic Cod Wars, Afghanistan, the Navy and the defeat of the Atlantic slave trade and much more. The challenge has clearly been selection – what to include and what to leave out.

In his introduction the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones, writes 'I am indebted to Lawrie Phillips for his hard work, passion and keen eye for historical significance' which has gone into this new revised edition which contains much new material and many fresh images.

Profound issues form the core of this book but the whole is leavened with humour. One of the delights is the variety of issues covered and the unexpected and quirky gems such as

- 11 May 2015 – Acting Sub-Lieutenant Penny Mordaunt RNR appointed Minister of State for the Armed Forces

- 29 March 1984 – a photograph of Captains Sam Salt (5 ft 4 ins) and David Hart Dyke (6 ft 2 ins) at the laying down of the Type 22 frigates *Sheffield* and *Coventry* – Hart Dyke standing in an open manhole on the jetty to even out their respective heights.

Admiral Lord West has elsewhere commented on the author's 'deep admiration for the Royal Navy and his profound understanding of its business'. This is evident, but the book is not a company history. The occasional dropped catches and own goals are mentioned where there is a lesson to be learned. But the tenor of this splendid new book is positive and heartening. The author hopes 'that this new edition of *The Royal Navy Day by Day*, recalling 'with their strange old ships and weapons what our fathers did and why', will be a source of inspiration and encouragement in the Fleet and that it will put a spring in the step of us all'.

The Royal Navy Day by Day - The History Press Price £60 ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5

15. ★ Royal Naval Air Service During World War One

Shipmate Ian Cameron (St Neots Branch) forwarded the article below in recognition of the commemoration of 2018 being the 100th remembrance of WW1 Armistice.

Naval aviation was a specialist sub-set of military flying, and one in which Britain – the most maritime of nations – made a particularly heavy investment. The Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) was formed in January 1914, and initially grew quicker in scale than the RFC, with more than 300 aircraft by the beginning of the war. By April 1918 it had some 67,000



officers and men, 2,949 aircraft, 103 airships and 126 coastal stations. The photo opposite shows a Sopwith Pup attempting an early carrier landing.

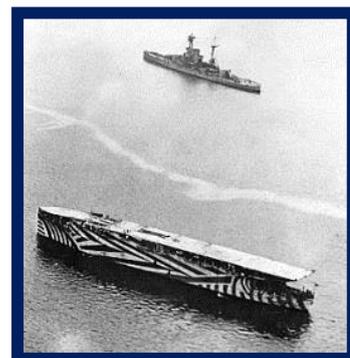


Aviation offered huge potential for naval and merchant operations, with the aerial platform providing a superb vantage point for observation of huge expanses of seascape and a mobile response to surface and under water threats. Hence the RNAS main duties were coastal patrols, maritime reconnaissance, convoy escort and anti-

ship / submarine operations, although it also flew bombing missions against ground targets and flew fighter missions over the Western Front.

The photo above shows Sopwith Triplanes from No. 1 (Naval) Squadron, in Bailleul, France. The aircraft nearest the camera (N5454) was primarily flown by ace Richard Minifie

Shipmates may be interested to know that by the end of 1918 the Royal Navy had 6 Aircraft Carriers in service, one of which was HMS Argus (pictured below.)



(We wish to acknowledge author Chris McNab's book *World War One- Aviators Manuel*, from which this is extracted).

16. RNA 'Gazebo' Information

There have been a number of enquiries concerning recommendations for the purchase of a suitable 'Gazebo' for branch use. Please see below details of the Gazebo purchased by Rhondda Branch which they recommend. It is 3 X 3 mtr and has 4 side walls (not printed). It was purchased from

<https://www.tfhgazebos.co.uk/>

Phone 01277 350524

Rhondda recommendation

"We are very pleased with the quality of the product which comes with its own wheeled trolley which is part of the bag. The sidewalls and roof section also have their own bags. The photos are of the branch running a test construction. We found it easier with 4 people, but it would be possible with 3, due to the weight of the materials used. Hold down pegs are also supplied"



17. ★ Collision between HMS Melbourne and USS Evans by S/M John Lallyette

Thanks to Shipmate John Lallyette for taking the time to forward an article describing the tragic collision between HMAS Melbourne and the USS Evans.

In June of 1969 I was serving aboard HMS LONDON a relatively new Guided Missile Destroyer of the County Class of ships. HMS LONDON was part of an International fleet of warships aligned to SEATO all of which were engaged in an exercise called "Sea Spirit" that was geographically stationed in the South China Sea.

As an LOEM at the time, I had no part to play in the navigational performance of the ship I was serving on, or was I part of a major incident that occurred at around 3am on the morning of the 3rd of June 1969.

In order to test the navigational skills of the various Navigating Officers serving aboard each ship, the Admiral in charge of operations Rear Admiral John CRABB (RAN) decreed that all navigating lights aboard each vessel should be switched off, and each ship should proceed in total darkness, testing the skills of the NO's to steer their ships entirely by Radar.



(Photo opposite shows HMS London, the ship S/M Lallyette was serving in)

The destroyer USS EVANS around 3am was ordered to a new station and unwittingly sailed under the bow of the light aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE. To avoid such an incident, Admiral CRABB had ordered Melbourne's navigation lights to be turned fully on. An almighty collision occurred, and the destroyer was sliced completely in two.

The Fo'castle and Bridge separated from the rest of the ship, and sank very quickly after the collision, taking those sailors accommodated in the forward section down with it. At that time of night, only those sailors on watch were up and about, the rest of the crew were turned in. Given the speed at which the Forward section sank, those turned in, had little chance of survival. It was later learnt that careless precautions concerning watertight doors had taken place, and most doors on main passageways had been left open, allowing the ship to flood more quickly.

Melbourne stopped immediately after the collision and lay alongside the after section of EVANS which had remained afloat, taking sailors from that section aboard for safety.

(The photo below shows the stricken USS Frank E. Evans, HMS Cleopatra is seen in background,- Courtesy of the US Navy)



It emerged later, that of the 273 crew of EVANS seventy-four were killed. Ironically the Captain of USS EVANS a Commander Albert S McLemore was asleep in his quarters at the time of the collision. Two Officers, Lieutenants Ronald Ramsey and James Hopson were OOW and the CO was turned in. There were issues about their qualifications as Bridge OOW. Ramsey had failed the examination to *Stand Watch*, whilst the latter was at sea for the “first time”.

Despite expectations the After Section of EVANS didn't sink and remained afloat. It was eventually towed by USS TAWASA to Subic Bay, arriving there on 9th June. What was left of her, was decommissioned on 1st July, and at that point she was stripped of parts. Later, what remained of her Stern was sunk for target practise.

The incident inspired many acts of gallantry. Medals were awarded to several of the Melbourne's crew. One George Medal. One MBE. One Air Force Cross, and two BEMs. Fifteen other commendations for gallantry were awarded by the Australian Naval Board.

A Board of Inquiry was convened in the US where Australian personnel were asked to be present. This enquiry lasted for over 100 hours and was convened between 9 June and 14th July. Seventy-nine witnesses were interviewed. Some 48 US Navy personnel, and 28 from the Royal Australian Navy were questioned, along with three from other navies.

The unanimous decision of the board was that whilst EVANS was partially at fault for the collision, Melbourne had made its own contribution by not taking evasive action sooner. Ironically, this would have contravened International Regulations for the prevention of Collision at Sea. At the time they stated that in any lead-up to a collision, the larger ship is required to maintain course, and speed. Some suggestion that Melbourne's navigational lights took rather long to reach full brilliance, was laughingly rejected, as evidence.

STEVENSON was informed he would be required to be subject to Court Martial, on two charges of negligence. One for failing to explicitly instruct EVANS to change course to avoid a collision. Two, for failing to set the Carriers Engines to full astern. This Court Martial would be held from 20th to 25th August.

Evidence presented at the Court Martial suggested going full astern would have made no difference to the collision. Also, the charge of failing to give warning to the destroyer, was dropped. The presiding Judge Advocate concluded reasonable warning had been given, adding, "What was Stevenson supposed to do, turn his guns on the ship" ?

The enquiry concluded STEVENSON had done nothing wrong, and had done everything possible to avoid the collision, and had done it correctly.

Commander Albert S. McLemore, and Lieutenants Hopson and Ramsey all faced Court Martial. The latter two pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty, and negligence. Their positions on the promotions lists, were moved down. McLemore, was also found wanting as Captain of EVANS, to be guilty of a dereliction of duty, and hazarding his ship. The reprimand that followed ended his naval career. Some years later in 1999 he publicly claimed he was responsible for the collision, since he had left two inexperienced officers on watch, and in charge of the ships navigation.



HMAS Melbourne

My ship HMS LONDON (after the exercise was abandoned) joined others involved, in the search for survivors. As far as I am aware, none were found, but many bodies were recovered from the sea, and respectfully laid out in body bags on the quarterdeck. It was a sombre time for all of us.

After three days moving up and down the area where EVANS had sunk, it was determined that nothing more could be done, and all the ships involved dispersed. My own ship HMS LONDON putting in at Subic Bay, the American Naval Base in the Philippines.

On a run-ashore here, I found many of the US Sailors in a deep state of shock, and sadness. Many had known several their comrades serving on the EVANS who had lost their lives. For me it was an incident in my career that will live long in my memory as one of the saddest days and one which despite the many years that have elapsed, I have never forgotten, nor will.

RNA Longcast

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 2018 | |
| | |
| 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 | |
| 20 Jan | Area 4 Meeting - Plymouth |
| 02 Feb | Area 5 AGM & Quarterly - Harwich |
| 15 Feb | FAC |
| 16 Feb | AMC |
| 16 Mar | National Council Meeting |
| 04 May | Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich |
| 11/12 May | Londonderry Branch – Battle of the Atlantic Celebrations |
| 17 May | Open Day |
| 18 May | Area 4 Meeting - Bodmin |
| 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 |
| 26 Jul | Open Day |
| 03 Aug | Area 5 Quarterly - Rayleigh |
| 16 Aug | FAC |
| 17 Aug | AMC |
| 30 Aug | Open Day |
| 07 Sep | National Council Meeting |
| 08 Sep | Biennial Parade - Whitehall |
| 21 Sep | Area 4 Meeting - Weymouth |
| 11 Oct | Open Day |
| 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 Harlow](#)

[RNA Bognor Regis](#)

[RNA Nottingham](#)

[RNA Brightlingsea](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Limavady](#)

[RNA Huntingdon](#)

[RNA Rhondda](#)

[RNA Chatham](#)

[RNA Belfast](#)

[RNA Reigate](#)

[RNA Cardiff](#)

[RNA Bude](#)

[RNA Londonderry](#)

[RNA Wansbeck](#)

[RNA St Helens](#)

[RNA Llandudno](#)

[RNA Plymouth](#)

[RNA Letchworth and Hitchin](#)

[RNA Rosyth and West Fife](#)

RNA Harlow Branch

Thanks go too S/M Colin Hand Branch Chairman for forwarding this article concerning 'Matters Harlow'.....

On the 12th Oct Harlow Branch celebrated its 60th birthday, with a mess deck dinner/celebration for 65 Shipmates and guests at the Harlow British Legion Club.

The guests included Harlow Chair Cllr Maggie Hulcoop, Cllr Edna Stevens, Area 5 Chairman, S/M Tim Jarvis, RBL Branch Chairman Bob Hunt, Club Chairman Geoff Buckram and Area 5 Sec S/M Paulette Rose to name but a few .

A very enjoyable meal and evening ensued with a gift of an engraved pen and case for every one present (and for those S/M unable to attend). This was made all the more enjoyable with a choice of wine (or not) for all guests. A toast to Her Majesty the Queen, with 54% Pussers, went down extremely well plus a toast to the branch and its shipmates.

A four-course meal and no expense spared, cheese and biscuits and with wine or soft drinks Also a free raffle was held (the Shipmates were really spoiled!) saw some lovely gifts find their way home. After a few more toasts..... everyone went home happy.

Finally, a special thanks to S/Ms June Ray (Hon Sec) and Betty Bryant (Hon Treas) for all their hard work making the evening so special.

RNA Bognor Regis Branch

On Saturday 20th October 2018 the Branch celebrated their annual Trafalgar Luncheon at the Bognor Regis Golf Club. There were thirty-eight present which included our two honoured guests – Commander Michael Dreelan, Royal Navy and his wife Fiona. Commander Dreelan is the current Commanding Officer of HMS Excellent. Other guests included the new Branch Chaplain, The Reverend Alison Green, Councillor Pat Dillon – Vice Chairman of The Arun District Council, there were also the O. in C. of the T/S Sir Alec Rose Sea Cadet Unit - Lt. (SCC) RNR Gary Edgington MBE and its Chairman Lt. (SCC) RNR Retired, Ray Rowe. There was also Shipmate Phil Brown who was the Life Vice President of the Littlehampton Branch. The event commenced with the arrival of the Honoured Guests who were welcomed by a squad of sea cadets from T/S Sir Alec Rose, who he then inspected. The



Commander and Fiona were then welcomed by the Chairman, Shipmate Ron Hargest, who introduced them to the Branch President Shipmate Lt. Peter Forster RN Retired, and his wife Margaret.

The event continued with two cadets who piped “Hands to Dinner” followed by a cadet acting as the Branch Standard Bearer to “March on the Standard”. The new Branch Chaplain then gave the grace followed by the Commander, presenting an engraved Bosun’s Pipe and chain, an engraved presentation case and a framed certificate to Cadet Amy Wales on her achieving high standards in the use of the Bosun’s Pipe.



The meal was very enjoyable and the service excellent. Toasts were made to HM the Queen, Absent Friends, the Royal Naval Association and finally to the “Immortal Memory”. The event closed with a presentation to Commander Dreelan of an engraved Royal Naval Association plaque in recognition and appreciation of the Commander’s support to the Royal Naval Association Bognor Regis Branch, the Bognor Regis Armed Forces Day, the HMS St Barbara Memorial and the Town’s Sea Cadets. Fiona was presented with a Bouquet of Flowers. The Commander thanked the Branch for their thoughtfulness; he was pleased with the plaque and wished everyone present all his best wishes.

(Photos top right- Cdr Dreelan presenting Cadet Amy Wales her engraved Bosun’s pipe and Bottom Left – Mrs Fiona Dreelan, Bognor Chairman, S/M Ron Hargest, Cdr Mike Dreelan and Peter Forster Branch President.)

RNA Nottingham Branch

The subject of the September Semaphore Circular VCs feature was Rear Admiral Sherbrooke who we are reliably informed by S/M Tom Rotherham (Nottingham Branch Hon Secretary) was a member of the Nottingham Old Naval Comrades Association as verified in the attached photo.

The question now remains how many other VC winners were members of the RNA? Over to you....

| Form 8. To be retained in Branch Records. (Rev. 1/12/17) | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Royal Naval Old Comrades Association | | | |
| NAME | SHERBROOKE, ROBERT ST. YOUNG | BRANCH | |
| ADDRESS | 10, THE GARDENS, NOTTINGHAM, Notts. | | |
| Age | 88 | Rank or Rating | SA 1918-1920 |
| Long or short Service, etc. | 2000 | | |
| Ex-service or still serving | E | | |
| Last ship or establishment | H.M.S. ORESTON | | |
| Date of joining Service | 1917 | Date of leaving | 1920 |
| Medals or decorations | T.C., D.S.O. | | |
| Signature of applicant | | | |
| Proposed by | | | |
| Subscribed | Date of enrolment | | |
| 1917-18 | 1918-19 | 1919-20 | 1920-21 |
| 1921-22 | 1922-23 | 1923-24 | 1924-25 |
| 1925-26 | 1926-27 | 1927-28 | 1928-29 |
| 1929-30 | 1930-31 | 1931-32 | 1932-33 |
| 1933-34 | 1934-35 | 1935-36 | 1936-37 |
| 1937-38 | 1938-39 | 1939-40 | 1940-41 |
| 1941-42 | 1942-43 | 1943-44 | 1944-45 |
| 1945-46 | 1946-47 | 1947-48 | 1948-49 |
| 1949-50 | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 |
| 1953-54 | 1954-55 | 1955-56 | 1956-57 |
| 1957-58 | 1958-59 | 1959-60 | 1960-61 |
| 1961-62 | 1962-63 | 1963-64 | 1964-65 |
| 1965-66 | 1966-67 | 1967-68 | 1968-69 |
| 1969-70 | 1970-71 | 1971-72 | 1972-73 |
| 1973-74 | 1974-75 | 1975-76 | 1976-77 |
| 1977-78 | 1978-79 | 1979-80 | 1980-81 |
| 1981-82 | 1982-83 | 1983-84 | 1984-85 |
| 1985-86 | 1986-87 | 1987-88 | 1988-89 |
| 1989-90 | 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 |
| 1993-94 | 1994-95 | 1995-96 | 1996-97 |
| 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-00 | 2000-01 |
| 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
| 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 | 2012-13 |
| 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 |

RNA Brightlingsea Branch

In September 2017 Brightlingsea Branch sought approval with the RN for a 'Bond of Friendship' (old term - affiliation) to Hunt Class MCMV, HMS Brocklesby. The first Sea Lord granted their wish through the offices of Captain Mine Warfare and Patrol Vessels, Captain R Readwin Royal Navy. Branch Chairman Bill Dobson and another shipmate were invited to Portsmouth to witness the official handover of the ship to its new Commanding Officer. The 'Mighty Brock' is now in the Gulf operating with other MCMVs.



Two years ago, the branch recruited a new shipmate, Colin Watkins, who had just retired from the RN in the rank of Commander. Colin has now become Commanding Officer of the Sea Cadet Brig Royalist. In July he brought the ship alongside the Hard in Brightlingsea for an official visit. Many of the town's dignitaries including The Mayor and The Deputy of the Cinque Port of Brightlingsea. Who incidentally is also a shipmate.

The attached photo shows the Deputy is on the Left of Colin and The Mayor to the Right and during the

Afternoon Watch the RNA went on board to salute the TS Royalist and tots were issued all-round.

RNA St Neots Branch

St Neots branch had a busy Remembrance Day when it covered no less than 6 wreath-laying related ceremonies in the local area during Sunday the 11th November.

S/Ms who attending at the various venues were: -

St Neots – S/Ms Mike Milne, Tony Webley, Mick Noble, John Gibbs, Jayne Miller, Roy Lodge, Officer Cadet Peter Lodge.

Eynesbury – Pete Horner

Cambourne - Ian Cameron



Eaton Socon - Mike Milne, Tony Webley, Mick Noble, John Gibbs, Pete Horner, Roy Lodge, Roy's son

Graveley - Tony Webley

Beacon Lighting, Regatta Meadow, St Neots - Mike Milne

As can be seen, several shipmates attended more than one wreath laying ceremony-a great effort all round!

Last but by no means least, S/M Keith Ridley, as National Chairman, represented the RNA at the Cenotaph in London and also organised and planned the parade organisation for St Neots.



Photos show –

Top - S/M John Gibbs laying the RNA wreath at the town war memorial. Standard bearer, S/M Tony Webley in the background. {Middle}

Bottom - S/M Mike Milne caught unawares at the Beacon Lighting ceremony at St Neots.

RNA Limavady Branch

Thanks to S/M John Pudney for forwarding the article below concerning events at Limavady Branch.



Shipmates and families of Limavady branch and RBL Ballycastle Branch travelled to Rathlin Island on Sunday 18 November 2018 for a Remembrance service in the Island's parish church St. Thomas's. Address given by The Very Rev. Victor Dobbin CB.MBE.QHC (Rtd) Chaplain General to the Forces.

Following the service, an act of remembrance and wreath laying took place at the Naval War Graves in the church graveyard.

On the return ferry journey the two ferries stopped at the HMS Drake wreck buoy. An act of remembrance and a environmental friendly poppy wreath was cast upon the waters of Rathlin sound, by HM Lord Lt. for Co. Antrim Mrs Joan Christie CVO. OBE assisted by Lt Cdr Steven Carroll RN and Air Vice Marshall David Niven CB. CBE. RAF.

The Service was conducted by Naval Chaplain Simon Hamilton RN



RNA Huntingdon Branch

As the nation remembered 100 years since the cessation of hostilities in the First World War, Huntingdon & District Branch played their part in several Remembrance Day parades and services.



In the morning, the bulk of the branch were at the Huntingdon War Memorial for the 1100 service. Shipmate Bill Small paraded the Branch Standard, S/M Pete Aston would lay a wreath on behalf of the branch whilst other branch members formed a squad between the RBL and RAFA squads. The branch President was missing from the squad, but not from the parade. Elected as a town

councillor in May, S/M Karl Webb took his place with the mayor, VIPs and Town Council members in front of the War Memorial.

Elsewhere, branch shipmates took part in local services in Godmanchester, Sawtry, Hartford, and for two members, on RNR (HMS President) duty in London.

After the morning service, shipmates met up with serving personnel at the Market Inn and Wetherspoons for a few drinks and a chance to spin a few dits before preparing for some evening services.

Huntingdon RNA attend an evening service of Remembrance in Godmanchester, this year, the branch was the lead for the Act of Remembrance. As we are affiliated with T.S. Cromwell S.C.C., we also had cadets with us to act as escorts to the Standard, and for the first time at the service, Huntingdon RNA's Cadet of the Year, Luca Scott, read out the Act of Remembrance on our behalf.



At the same time as the Godmanchester Service, S/M Karl Webb and a small contingent of Sea Cadets from T.S. Cromwell, attended the Beacon Lighting Ceremony at Huntingdon's War Memorial.



Overall, a great turn-out by Huntingdon Branch members being represented at several locations during the day and evening parades, BZ to all.

(Photographs show members of Huntingdon Branch before the service at the War Memorial; shipmates with the Royal Navy in Wetherspoons; Huntingdon beacon lighting ceremony; S/Ms Mark and Catherine Fearon on duty in London; S/M Bill Small and cadet Luca Scott with the mayor of Godmanchester and VIPs at the evening service.)

Our thanks go to Shipmate Karl Webb for keeping us briefed on happenings in Huntingdon.

RNA Rhondda Branch

Rhondda Branch Hon Secretary Graham Warner was honoured to represent the RNA by parading the Rhondda Branch Standard at Cardiff City's home game against Brighton and Hove Albion for an act of Remembrance.



Eleven Standards were present including the RNA, RBL and RAF Association.



The Welsh Guards provided the Bugler who played the Last Post on a Bugle from World War One. The crowd were magnificent in their applause for the Welsh Guards and Standards and impeccable in observing the silence.

RNA Chatham Branch

Chatham Branch took part in two services during Remembrance weekend. The first was held at the Great Lines Chatham and the second at Victoria Gardens Chatham, the Victoria Gardens service recorded one of the largest attended services in recent years 1500 strong which was incredible.

Shipmate John Brown carried the Standard for the first time on both of the Services (Battling the elements) under the guidance and advice of Shipmate Christine Sandman and in the process executing the drill to a first-class standard.



For the first time the March past at Central Theatre in Chatham had Tri-Service Veteran's on the Dais taking the Salute to honour those who died serving the country. This was a new initiative designed by the organising committee, chaired by Vince Maple, Leader of Medway Labour Group, which was welcomed by those marching and the general public watching on. Tracey Crouch MP, attendance was also welcomed on the Dais. Overall it was a very poignant and well attended day.

RNA Belfast Branch



Remembrance Sunday saw the Belfast Branch bringing together Surface Fleet, Submariners and Royal Marines.

They took part in the Royal Naval Association Belfast Branch Remembrance Day church service and Parade which took place at the Church of the Nazarene in Belfast.

RNA Reigate Branch



Despite the weather, Reigate Branch attended the local Remembrance parade in 'force'. A marching platoon of 27 led by our two current serving Warrant Officer members and another 8 acting as marshals and assisting Reigate Sea Cadets. The shipmates marched to the local Memorial and after taking up their positions in readiness for the arrival of the Mayor, the heavens opened, undeterred, but they stood fast! At 1058, the rain stopped, and the sun made an appearance.

At 1100 the fantastic buglers from T.S. Ark Royal sounded "Last Post". The young lads and lasses played beautifully even though they were soaked to the skin. After a short service, Branch Chairman, S/M Ian Page, marched out with a young Sea Cadet representing the past and the future of the Royal Navy, and together they laid wreaths for the fallen. After marching back to Redhill, the branch attended a reception, held at T.S Ark Royal, where £250.00 was raised for the poppy appeal.

On Saturday 17th November, Reigate Branch held their first "Pickle Night" mess dinner. With Vice Admiral John McAnally. CB LVO as our Guest of Honour and 79 guests attending, they had a splendid evening full of Naval tradition, rum, good food and loads of 'dits'.



Back in September..... thirteen member of the Branch spent a weekend in Belgium tracing the footsteps of the Royal Naval Division in the 3rd Battle of Ypres, close to the village of Passchendaele. On the Sunday morning of the visit shipmates walked to the site which represented the furthest point of advance. Here, on this solemn ground, they toasted the members of the RND that fell on that fateful day. One thing that stuck in members minds was a visit to Varlet Farm. Here the branch discovered a plaque that read, "This farm was taken from the Germans by the Royal Naval Division, 26th October 1917".

This was followed on Sunday 28th October 2018, when a contingent from the Reigate Branch paid a visit to the RND Memorial on Horse Guards. Our Historian, S/M Paul Christien gave a brief of the history of the RND. S/M David Cooper piped the "Still" to begin a minute silence which was also observed by passers-by. An RNA wreath was laid at the foot of the Memorial by the branch Chairman S/M Ian Page. Prayers were then led by the Branch Chaplain, S/M John Scott.

Those attending were later told that representatives from the Royal Parks and Met. Police had invited us to repeat the ceremony again next year. The branch relid 'Will we? Yes we will.'



Finally, the Branch held its first Pickle Night Mess dinner on Saturday 17th November. Attended by 79 shipmates and guests with National President, Vice Admiral John McAnally as our Guest of Honour, an excellent night was had by all. The evening was superbly run by our Vice Chairman, S/M Clive Hill, during which the Briggs Dirk was presented to the branch and accepted by our Chairman, S/M Ian Page.

With the two "Junior services" represented, the evening was full of "Naval " tradition. During the courses the dispatches were read out and copious amounts of "Pussers" and port were on hand for the loyal toast and the "Immortal Memory".

There was even an impromptu rendition of the "Last Shanty" by shipmates Neil Smith and Vic Gullett, much to the delight of those present.

Vice Admiral McAnally took to the floor and soon had the room filled with laughter with his speech inter-twined with the occasional "dit", his Aussie accent sounded almost genuine!

Its been a good year for the branch and we now look forward to 2019 with eager expectation.



RNA Cardiff Branch

Cardiff Branch members visited Roath Park Primary School in Cardiff to join pupils and Staff in commemorating Remembrance Day. Twenty-one years ago, the branch was given a plaque listing all previous pupils from Roath Park school who were killed in WW1. The branch subsequently passed it to the school and has since paid annual visits there on the nearest Friday to the 11th November.

On each occasion, Shipmates on arrival, were provided with refreshments (Tea/Coffee and bacon sarnies!) before entering the main hall for a presentation by the pupils of verse narration and music relevant to the occasion.



The morning ends with the pupils walking past in procession, shake each visitor by the hand and says "Thank you!".

It was very moving occasion for all the Shipmates who attend. This year Capt Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards KCVO, GCStJ, RD*, JP, RNR, who was the previous Lord Lt of Glamorgan, accompanied the Shipmates.

The branch held its annual Trafalgar night dinner on Friday 19th Oct and during the evening the Chairman, Andy Clark,

was awarded Life Membership.

Then on 05 November at the United Services Mess, Cardiff RNA was presented with a plaque of the insignia of Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe. The donor was Mrs Eileen Mills-Long , whose late husband PO (MEM) David Long, served with the group between 1970 and 1987.



RNA Bude Branch

Semaphore Circular received this dispatch from deepest darkest Kernow from Shipmate Bob Gelder the Elder.



Bude Branch provided the lead platoon for the March Past following the normal practices on the Strand, Bude on 11th November. The salute was taken by the RBL President, sole Bude recipient of Legion d'Honneur medal and member of Bude Branch, Alan Litchfield (ex RM) accompanied by North Cornwall's M.P. Scott Mann and Lt. Tony Gibbs.

A packed Methodist Church under the guidance of Deacon Debbie Marsh had paid due respects to all Servicemen & Women of conflicts from 1914 onwards in a very thought-provoking Service involving all local

Service and junior organisations. The public attendance this year was absolutely tremendous with The Strand somewhat tricky to march along, such was their enthusiasm. Their collective "applause" to Standards and personnel was spontaneous and very greatly appreciated. The Community of Bude and all the surrounding district paid due respect – Thank You! ladies and gentlemen and also to the very strong platoons that attended this Remembrance Day under the control of our Parade Marshall, "Chunky" Philp.



The Branch also recently staged a very successful renewal of "Trafalgar Night Dinner" at The Falcon Hotel when it was also a real pleasure to welcome an 18-strong party from Plymouth Branch including NCM4 (Senator Arthur Gutteridge). An excellent presentation and event, 'MC'd' by our Branch Social Sec, concluded in normal style with a quality Raffle and subsequent Auction. Separately - as is our current custom - two knitted dolls were auctioned in aid of Childrens' Hospice South West. Pictured at the November Meeting is the presentation to Margaret Horswell (who knitted the dolls - "Jack" & Royal") for the magnificent sum of £575! Margaret is promising to employ her creative skills and knit up a Jenny Wren for 2019 (so long as she's depicted wearing black stockings!)



Pictured below are: l - r: Chunky Philp (Social Secty.); Margaret Horswell (CHSW); Dave Worth (Chairman).

The Branch Meeting then ensued to which we welcomed a new Associate Member Mike Dinsdale. Mike is a local businessman attracting locals and visitors alike into his emporium of goodies! Routine Agenda items were swiftly dealt with and S/ms agreed to dispense the usual Christmas card + voucher to our widows. The 'tot' on the night was kindly sponsored by Chris Masterman and that for December will be a shared affair. Volunteers for

December Raffle prizes are: S/ms Tanky Williams, Dave Worth, Steve Adams, Alan Bicker & John Bosworth + voluntary contributions.

Meeting closed following the Loyal Toast including the memory of Pat Moore who we'd had the privilege of forming a Guard of Honour at his funeral recently. Raffle & Auction were very well supported, as always.

RNA Frome Branch



The photos show the Frome Garden of Remembrance which has a cross displayed for all 224 men who lost their lives and Branch members reading out the names daily during November with 1 minute's silence on completion of reading.



RNA Londonderry Branch

Shipmates will be interested in the article below forwarded by S/M Robert Buchanan.

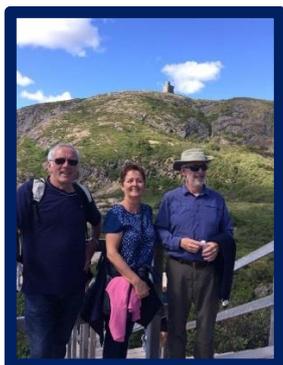
A delegation of 14 Shipmates accompanied The Newfoundland Escort Force Bell, as they flew from Dublin to St John's Newfoundland on the 7th September 2018. The NEF Ships Bell, third in a series of three, had been commissioned by the Londonderry Branch RNA. The NEF Bell was dedicated in St Columb's Cathedral, Londonderry, during the annual Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations in May 2018. The purpose of the trip was to present the NEF Bell to the City of St John's and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, from the Royal Naval Association in Londonderry. We are most grateful to the trustees of the HMCS Sackville Trust for their encouragement, financial support and comradeship, as we work together, to ensure the service and sacrifice of all during the Battle of the Atlantic is not forgotten. We particularly thank Lt Cdr (rt) Pat Jessup RCN for her dedication and for organising our program in Newfoundland.

Friday 07 Sept.

The Crow's Nest Officers Club was the venue for lunch. The Club is a National Historic Site for its World War II character and its significant collection of military artefacts. It is a must see for any seafarer visiting St John's. We were delighted to discover, among the artefacts, a scale model of the 'Foyle Punt'. This model had been hand built by S/m Billy Doherty, a member of



Londonderry Branch RNA. He had presented it to the Canadian contingent when they made the first pilgrimage to Ireland in 2005. On Friday evening the shipmates were hosted at a Meet & Greet in Branch 56 of the Royal Canadian Legion and a grand evening was enjoyed by all.



Sunday 9 Sept.

Signal Hill is a National Historic Site overlooking the entrance to St John's harbour. The more able bodied of our group set off along the coast line and 7 kilometres of rocky paths, a few cliff edges and 440 steps later, we achieved our goal and were rewarded with stunning scenery and beautiful weather.

Monday 10 Sept.

The Crow's Nest Club was the venue for the

Newfoundland Escort Force Bell Dinner. We were joined by a number of our Canadian shipmates and trustees of Canada's Naval Memorial, HMCS Sackville. On completion of the excellent meal, the Loyal Toast to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was proposed by S/m Eric Mitchell, Vice Chairman of Londonderry Branch RNA. The President of the Crow's Nest Club, Mr Gray Walsh, then proposed the toast to The Crow's Nest. The toasts were followed by remarks from Lt Cdr (rtd) Jim Reddy RCN, Commanding Officer of HMCS Sackville and S/m Robert Buchanan, Chairman of No 12 Area Ireland. Two Irish coffee glasses, one depicting the International Sailor Statue in Londonderry and the other depicting the NEF Bell, were presented to the Crow's Nest by S/m Buchanan on behalf of the Londonderry Branch RNA.



Tuesday 11 Sept.



The Honourable Judy M. Foote, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador and His Honour Howard W. Foote hosted a ceremony to receive the Newfoundland Escort Force Bell from the Royal Naval Association Londonderry Branch.

The RNA delegation assembled in Government House, St John's, with the NEF Bell, to take part in the Bell Presentation Ceremony. We were joined by Canadian Shipmates and local dignitaries. We were honoured to meet Flight Lt (rtd) Arthur Barrett RCAF, a World War Two Veteran. The Lt Governor welcomed

everyone and remarks were made by Lt Cdr (rtd) Jim Reddy RCN, Cdr Corey Bursey RCN, Assistant Naval Advisor at the Canadian High Commission in London and S/m Robert Buchanan RNA. S/m Buchanan then requested assistance from Her Honour, Mr Barrett and Jim Reddy, to unveil the Bell. S/m Buchanan, on behalf of the Londonderry Branch RNA, then presented the NEF Bell to the City of St John's and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, in recognition of the Service and Sacrifice of the Newfoundland Escort Force during the Battle of the Atlantic. The ceremony was followed by a reception hosted by the Lt Governor and some photo opportunities.

The Newfoundland Escort Force Bell will now have a permanent home in Government House St John's NL.

With all the business completed, the Shipmates took advantage of the better than expected weather and explored the sights and pubs of St John's and the surrounding area. The RNA Delegation returned to Ireland as Certified Honorary Newfoundlander's and members of the Royal Order of Newfoundland Screechers!!

RNA Wansbeck Branch

On the 04 November 2018 Wansbeck branch attended the Submariners Remembrance Sunday service in Blyth Northumberland.



There were 4 branch Shipmates in attendance, plus 8 standards, 4 buglers and approximately 250-300 people taking part or watching, who were mainly Ex- Service men and women from all branches of Services.

The principal guests were the Duke of Northumberland and the Lord Mayor of Blyth. There were 20 wreaths laid during the service, which was conducted by The Revd. Andrew Elder outside St.Mary's Parish Church at the top of Blyth Market Place, where the Submariners have their

Cenotaph, in the shape of an Anchor and a memorial seat complete with craved dolphins and a garden of remembrance which has a stone plinth with 'Lest We Forget' carved on. This stone was unveiled last year parade by the Duke of Northumberland. The weather was fine with a slight breeze and it was a very suitable service that was enjoyed by all who attended.

RNA St Helens Branch

The St Helens Branch and standard was involved with the unveiling of a statue to a local man who won the VC in WW1. His name was Norman Harvey. Norman was 19 when he won his VC medal on October 25, 1918 for his actions in Ingoyhem, Belgium.

Despite his age, when Norman's battalion was held up and suffering severe casualties from machine-gun fire, he ran forward and engaged the enemy single-handed, killing two, wounding one and capturing 12 men and two guns. He later used a hidden machine-gun to put the enemy to flight. When night fell, he went out alone and gathered important information.



Throughout these actions Norman was limping as he had a sprained ankle. Norman survived the war and in 1939 enlisted in the Army again serving in Royal Engineers serving in the Railway Battalion. Norman was later killed in action in 1942 in Palestine.

RNA Llandudno Branch

Branch Secretary Shipmate Matt Shields has very kindly forwarded a report of events involving the branch over the last few months.



Shipmates from Llandudno attended the Memorial Service for HMS H5 aboard the Porthdinllaen Lifeboat. They have also been very active attending the Area Ten reunion in the Libor Minibus.



They also had time to hold their annual Trafalgar night dinner and managed to present a cheque to TS Abercomwy Sea Cadets.

RNA Plymouth Branch

Plymouth Branch are holding their 12th Biennial Trafalgar Weekend 2019 at the 'The Livermead House Hotel', Torquay on the weekend 11th to 13th October 2019. The branch would like to invite shipmates to join them.

“An exceptional weekend, fine cuisine at an outstanding venue”

Bed, Breakfast, Evening Meal with a formal Saturday Night. 3 nights £190, 2 nights £130, 1 night £65. Deposit £20 (non- returnable). Balance August 2019. Details from: Sue Gutteridge (Social Sec) suzanne5571@virginmedia.com or T. (01752) 849176



RNA Letchworth and Hitchin

Letchworth and Hitchin Branch are trying desperately to raise funds to assist the local Sea Cadet unit in Hitchin. Their building is in dire need of urgent repairs to the roof. If any branch or individual Shipmate can assist the branch would be extremely grateful.

If you could assist please contact Shipmate Penelope Jarvis, Branch Hon Secretary, at penelopejarvis@yahoo.co.uk or 07914 924353.

RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch

Shipmate Jim Stewart from Rosyth and West Fife forwarded the article below reporting on Armistice weekend activities.

On the 9,10 &11th Nov. Rosyth & West Fire Branch of the RNA embarked on a series of events and ceremonies to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice of WW1.



The weekend started on the late afternoon of Friday 9th when Shipmates Jim Stewart, Alan Bayliss, John Sherwood, Barbara Firth and Mike Firth attended a Remembrance Service at Dunfermline Abbey followed by a Civic Reception hosted by the Provost of Fife, Cllr. Jim Leishman. The event was also attended by the Lord Lt. Of Fife.

On Sat. 10th our Branch attended the annual HMS Scotia RNR Remembrance Service at Douglas Bank Cemetery, Limekilns, at which our Standard was paraded. Following the Service at Limekilns, HMS Scotia then hosted a small Service of Remembrance at their own Garden of Remembrance in MoD Caledonia followed by complimentary drinks, finger buffet and soup.

Immediately following this a number of Branch Members gave up their afternoon to help pack 350 goody bags for the children participating in the Beacons of Light Ceremony, organised by our Branch over the previous 18 months. Having filled the bags we were given the generous help of Graeme Hooper, Sales Manager of Stephens Bakers. We delivered the bags to Stephens Bakery in Dunfermline late Saturday afternoon and on the Sunday Graeme baked off 350 sausage rolls and a batch of cookies, to top up the goody bags. The Branch had booked six coaches to pick up the participating school children, youth groups and Bands to bring them to MoD Caledonia. Graeme personally delivered the goody bags to all the coach pick up points for distribution to the children.

At 06:00 on Sunday 11th our Beacons of Light Ceremony commenced with a few members of the Branch and some local residents from Inverkeithing gathering at Inverkeithing Garden of Remembrance to support 11 year old Brooklyn Morris, a young local talented musician, start the days events by piping the lament, "The Battles O'er." For those of us there it was a most poignant and moving start to what was going to be a very long day. Inverkeithing Parish Church opened its doors to us following this and provided us with hot drinks and biscuits.

At 11:00 we held our own Branch Remembrance Service and Parade in Inverkeithing. The parade was led by Inverkeithing Pipe Band and Standards were paraded by Rosyth & West Fife Branch RNA, SCC Rosyth, RCT Association, Royal Signals Association, Boy Scouts and Inverkeithing Masonic Lodge. There was a huge turnout for the event and the salute was taken by the Deputy Lord Lt. escorted by Commander Gary Mills R.N, Senior Naval Officer MoD Rosyth and our Branch President Lt Cdr. Alan Bayliss. The dias for taking the salute was supplied and delivered by Aramark Ltd.

At 16:45 6 coaches with all the participating groups: P7 School children from 10 local Primary Schools, a Brass Band from Glenrothes, a Pipe Band from Burntisland, Boy Scouts, two squadrons from the Air Training Corps, a Company of Inverkeithing Boys Brigade and a troop of Fife Girl Guides, arrived. Tea and coffee, courtesy of Aramark, was provided in the Highlander Bar. The VIP's hosted by Commander Gary Mills and RNR Officers were entertained with light refreshment in HMS Scotia Wardroom, again, provided by Aramark

In Addition, 40 Ratings from Rosyth SCC, as well as having a squad on parade with their standard, also provided guides and Marshalls for the event. A platoon from our Branch along with our standard were on parade along with the Standard from Stirling Branch. Our Parade Commander for the ceremony was Lt Cdr Danny Caines, District Officer SCC.

A large screen was used to stream still photos of scenes from WW1 while children from the Primary Schools recited articles and Poems they had written themselves for the occasion. Their understanding of the occasion and the feeling they put into the pieces they themselves had written and recited were exceptionally moving. Two of the schools formed a choir made up of 30 children and sang a medley of songs including, It's A Long Way To Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles and White Cliffs Of Dover.

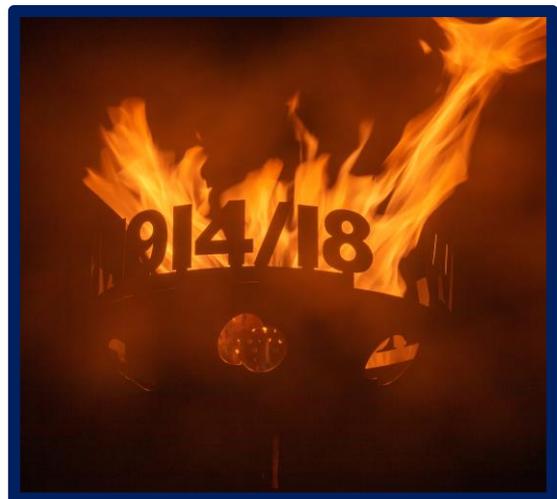
The audience of 530 included the Deputy Lord Lt. of Fife, the Provost of Fife, Commodore D J M Doull RN, Naval Base Commander Clyde, representatives from the French and German Consulates, local councillors and a number of Senior Naval Officers.

Following the recitals Lt Cdr. Danny Caines marched on the Parade led by the Guard from HMS Scotia, and gave a general salute in front of the VIP's seated on the Main Mast Dias. Five Ratings from the Sea Cadets then constructed a Drum Head and Rev. Mary Ann Rennie, Minister of Dunfermline Abbey conducted a very moving Drum Head Service. This was followed by the Last Post, Lament, 2mins silence, reveille and Kohima Epitaph.

At 19:05 our Beacon was lit by schoolboy and piper Brooklyn Morris to a huge cheer from the spectators. The Parade Commander then marched off the Guard and Parade led by Burntisland Pipe Band with a resounding skirl of pipes and drums.

Everyone then gathered at the grassed area facing MoD Caledonia JR's Highlander Bar for a spectacular 20 minute firework display. Tullis Brass band, conducted by Denise Crichton-Ward, played a resounding compilation of very moving music throughout. Only one word can describe the display, "WOW."

This is probably one of the busiest weekends our Branch has experienced and was made possible by the generous funding we received from the Armed Forces Community Covenant Fund, Fife Council, MoD Caledonia, RN Caledonia, HMS Scotia, those members of our Branch who worked tirelessly for us over the last 18 months to make it happen, the help of the Armed Forces Champion, Fife Cllr. Rod Cavanagh, Susan Budd from Leuchars who provided invaluable help in putting together our bid to AFC for funding and providing me with a number of valuable contacts to help in the planning, Vron Wootton from Leuchars who gave her services free, as our official photographer, our Parade Commander Lt. Cdr. Danny Caines, Rev Mary Ann Rennie and all the Schools, youth organisations and Bands that participated.



A special thanks has to go to Mrs. Theresa Sowden, wife of Shipmate Dave Sowden who, voluntarily and at her own expense, spent endless hours making a mountain of tablet for 350 children.

Our Branch produced a 50 page A4 glossy souvenir programme of the event which was given to all who participated. We also commissioned 30 framed certificates designed by Bruno Peek, Pageant Master, to present to the schools and organisations who took part.

The Beacon which was manufactured by apprentices from Fife College, in collaboration with Babcock Intl., is being handed over to Rosyth Community Council as an enduring memorial of the event

The Branch has already embarked on the next stage of our Beacons of Light project. Our plan is to carry out a tree planting programme, of over 100 trees, around the grounds of the Primary Schools who took part. The programme of planting led by S/M John Sherwood will begin in the Spring. He has already procured from the Woodland Trust the trees for planting. The Branch will also design and deliver further presentations on local Naval history to the local schools.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to those members of our Branch who gave up so much of their time over the last 18 months, giving up their own family time to put together Power Point presentations which were delivered to the P7 classes of 10 primary schools as well as to the Sea Cadet Corps. Writing to numerous organisation seeking sponsorship, canvassing local businesses for help, organising fund raising, putting together applications for grants, getting sponsorship for the ceremony programme, designing, collecting and collating the articles and photographs for the programme, organising the manufacture of the Beacon, procuring a big screen getting support from Fife Council and the Community Councils of West Fife writing hundreds of letters and e mails. The list goes on. The team could often be seen tearing their hair out, well those that did have hair, at my seeming lack of patience, having to tolerate the constant hounding from me to have everything done yesterday and at times being a complete pain in the butt. I take my hat off to you John Sherwood you Dickie Wardrope you Norman Thoroughgood, you John Ives and you our Branch President and mentor Alan Bayliss. Thank you also to all those Branch members who mucked in, in one way or another over the course of putting this memorable and fitting ceremony together.

CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Norman J Leahy](#)

[John McKernan](#)

[James \(Jim\) Oakes](#)

Norman J Leahy - Limavady Branch

Shipmate Norman J Leahy, served from 1950 – 1973 reaching the rank of PO(REL) (A) in many Royal Naval Air Stations and Carriers including HMS Albion at Suez, Ark Royal, detached service in HMAS Melbourne and 819 N.A.S based at R.A.F Ballykelly.

Norman was a Life Member of Limavady R.N.A since 1963. He very sadly Crossed the Bar on 20 November 2018 aged 85.

John McKernan – Norwich Branch

Norwich Branch are extremely sad to announce that Shipmate John McKernan crossed the bar on 17 November 2018 aged 91.

Shipmate John served as a scullion in the RNXS between 1945 and 1946; serving on HMS Mersey and HMS Trumpeter and joined the Branch in September 1998.

James (Jim) Oakes – Londonderry Branch

Londonderry Branch much regret that they have to inform Shipmates that Shipmate James (Jim) Oakes crossed the bar at 0300 on 09 November 2018.

S/M Jim was a founder member of the re-commissioned Londonderry branch in 1998. Until he became ill, he was a very good contributor and attendee at Branch meetings and any other branch functions and events.

He will be much missed by all of his Shipmates.

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



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.

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

| | | |
|-------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Fri 15th Feb 2019 | H.M.S. Penelope Association. Contact IOW Tours 01983 405116 | Tiffany's Hotel Blackpool |
| Sat 02 Mar 2019 | Reunion of HMS Submarines Walrus and Orpheus commencing at 1700. Contact Rob Hillman rob.from.ash@ntlworld.com or Walrus Fb page. | Nelsons Bar Gosport |
| Sun 07 Apr 2019 | Royal Naval Auxiliary Service | The Last Anchor Ipswich Suffolk |
| Fri 12th Apr 2019 | HMS Newfoundland, Kenya, Ceylon and Gambia veterans. | Queens Hotel Blackpool. |
| Fri 12th Apr 2019 | Loch Class Frigates Association | Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford |
| Fri 12th Apr 2019 | H.M.S. Decoy Association | Eastbourne |
| Fri 12th Apr 2019 | H.M.S. Ganges Association | Gunton Hall near Lowestoft |
| Fri 26th Apr 2019 | Royal Navy Safety Equipment & Survival Association gordon.parkes7@btinternet.com | Aztec Hotel Bristol |
| Fri 10th May 2019 | H.M.S. Tenby Association | Hotel Collingwood, Bournemouth |

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Fri 17th May 2019 | Federation of Naval Associations (FNA) | Suncliff Hotel, Bournemouth |
| Fri 7th Jun 2019 | Fleet Air Arm Buccaneer Association | Royal Court Hotel Coventry |
| Sat 7th Sep 2019 | 847 NAS HMS SIMBANG 69 - 71 Association cliff.jones1948@gmail.com | Aztec Hotel Bristol |
| Fri 04 Oct 2019 | HMS Lowestoft Association | Royal Beach Hotel Southsea |
| Fri 04 Oct 2019 | HMS Troubridge (Final Commission 66/69) | Adelphi Liverpool |
| Sun 1st Dec 2019 | H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans malcolm.collis@gmail.com | Trip to South America |

Swinging the Lamp – December 2018



The RNA is grateful to the History Press for allowing us to publish a small selection from the RN Day by Day. If you would like to read more it can be purchased from - The History Press and is priced £60 ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5

| Date | Year | Entry |
|------------------|------|---|
| 1st | 1744 | Frigate <i>Rose</i> captured the Spanish <i>Concepción</i> (100), a rich prize worth at least 108,636 dollars, 100 miles E. of Havana |
| 2 nd | 1825 | Defeat of the Burmese at Pagoda Point, above Prome. <i>Diana</i> and boats of the Irrawaddy flotilla captured 300 war boats |
| 3rd | 1860 | Metropolitan Police from the 4th Division took over security duties at Chatham Dockyard Establishment: 1 superintendent, 7 inspectors, 10 sergeants and 95 PCs. |
| 4 th | 1939 | Submarine <i>Salmon</i> sank U-36 in North Sea, S.W. of Stavanger (57N, 05.10E). |
| 5 th | 1974 | Mitchell Committee reported on future of naval reserves, recommending successfully that the RNR should be recognised as 'the part-time element of a single naval service'. |
| 6 th | 1672 | First attempt, by Order in Council, to introduce retired pay as opposed to half-pay. |
| 7th | 1776 | James Aitken, known as 'Jack the Painter'. set fire to the Rope House in Portsmouth Dockyard. He paid the price for Arson in a Royal Dockyard |
| 8th | 1803 | <i>Medusa</i> captured the French privateer <i>Espérance</i> and destroyed <i>Sorcier</i> off Cabrita (Carnero) Point, Gibraltar Bay. |
| 9th | 1856 | Capture of the Persian fort at Reshire (Rishahr). Ships: <i>Assaye</i> , <i>Semiramis</i> , <i>Ferooz</i> , <i>Ajdaha</i> , <i>Victoria</i> , <i>Falkland</i> , <i>Berenice</i> (Indian Navy). |
| 10th | 1902 | <i>Ariadne</i> (flag), <i>Charybdis</i> , <i>Tribune</i> , <i>Retribution</i> and <i>Indefatigable</i> dealt with recalcitrant Venezuelan gunboat before blockading that coast in conjunction with German and Italian ships until 14 February 1903. |
| 11 th | 1936 | Accession of King George VI. |
| 12th | 1940 | River gunboats <i>Aphis</i> and <i>Ladybird</i> and monitor <i>Terror</i> bombarded enemy positions on the Egyptian frontier |

| | | |
|------------------|------|--|
| 13 th | 1944 | Swordfish L/813 and Q/813 (<i>Campania</i>) sank U-365 in Arctic (70.43N, 08.07E). Convoy RA 62. |
| 14 th | 2006 | Chief ERA Leonard Williams, veteran of two wartime sinkings in the Far East and four years as a POW in Japanese hands, died aged 87. He was in the frigate <i>Amethyst</i> during escape from the River Yangtze in 1949 (DSM). As Chief ERA was the first to start up the engines of the new royal yacht <i>Britannia</i> in which he served for twelve years. |
| 15 th | 1379 | Sir John Arundel's squadron destroyed by storm on coast of Ireland |
| 16 th | 1653 | Instructions for all commanders-in-chief of squadrons, flag officers in their divisions and for all captains of ships at sea in the service of the Commonwealth, issued by George Monck, John Disbrow and William Penn aboard the <i>Swiftsure</i> – the first Articles of War, from which came the phrase 'Naval justice is swift and sure.' |
| 17 th | 1706 | <i>Romney</i> captured a French privateer in Malaga Bay. |
| 18 th | 1809 | Capture and destruction of the French <i>Seine</i> and <i>Loire</i> in Barque Cove, Guadeloupe. Two batteries stormed and captured. Ships: <i>Blonde</i> , <i>Castor</i> , <i>Cygnets</i> , <i>Elizabeth</i> , <i>Freija</i> , <i>Hazard</i> , <i>Ringdove</i> , <i>Sceptre</i> , <i>Thetis</i> . |
| 19 th | 1917 | UB-56 sunk in Dover Barrage, observed by destroyer <i>Gipsy</i> who picked up the sole survivor. |
| 20 th | 1799 | Boats of <i>Queen Charlotte</i> and <i>Emerald</i> recaptured <i>Lady Nelson</i> in Gibraltar Bay. |
| 21 st | 1841 | Special uniform, with special buttons depicting an engine, devised for First Class Engineers |
| 22 nd | 1875 | <i>Goliath</i> , former 80-gun second rate, reduced to training ship 'for pauper boys from workhouses, accidentally burned out in Medway |
| 23 rd | 1805 | The body of Vice-Admiral Viscount Nelson transferred from <i>Victory</i> at The Nore into Commissioner Grey's yacht <i>Chatham</i> , which had come from Sheerness, and carried up the Thames to Greenwich. |
| 24 th | 1910 | Cruiser <i>Hyacinth</i> dealt with arms-runner at Dubai. A retrospective clasp 'Persian Gulf 1909–14' was awarded on 10 August 1915 for the Naval General Service Medal |
| 25 th | 1962 | A messing supplement of 75 per cent of the basic daily rate of mess allowance may be claimed for all officers and ratings actually fed in Mess on Christmas Day in HM Ships and Fleet Establishments at home and abroad from Christmas 1962.' – AFO 2280/62. |
| 26 th | 1767 | Catherine Nelson, wife of the Revd Edmund Nelson of Burnham Thorpe, died aged 42 leaving eight children, including Horatio . |
| 27 th | 1805 | Body of Lord Nelson laid in Painted Hall of Greenwich Hospital |
| 28 th | 1814 | <i>Leander</i> , <i>Newcastle</i> and <i>Acasta</i> captured the American privateer <i>Prince de Neufchâtel</i> 450 miles S.E. by E. of Sable Island |
| 29 th | 1860 | <i>Warrior</i> , first British seagoing ironclad, launched at Blackwall. Became tender to <i>Vernon</i> , reduced to fuelling hulk at Pembroke Dock and subsequently restored at Hartlepool Returned to Portsmouth as ' <i>Warrior 1860</i> ' on 16 June 1987 |
| 30 th | 1942 | Decoy ship <i>Fidelity</i> torpedoed by U-435 in convoy ONS 154 |
| 31 st | 1999 | Frigate <i>Westminster</i> , anchored off Greenwich, heralded the New Year and the (popularly accepted start of) the Third Millennium |

Delegate to Annual Conference 2019 St Neots

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

- (a) **Each Branch which has complied with Rule 16(c)**, (*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the payment of subscriptions and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference.*) but subject to Rule 10(c), (*Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate*) and has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.

(a) Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty-four hours before the Conference.

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

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2018 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2019 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

A letter confirming a delegate's attendance will be sent prior to Conference. This letter should be brought to Conference to confirm eligibility to be a Delegate. There will be NO additions to the delegate list on the day. **If you have not received confirmation one month before Conference please call Nigel on 023 9272 3747**

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 2019 RNA insert Diaries @ £5.00 each £

Please provide 2019 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:.....

NOMINATION FORM
ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 2019/2021
(Revised RNA Bye-Law 7)

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Areas. 2,6,7,8,9,11 and Scotland.

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

Names of Nominee

NCM/DNCM (delete as appropriate)

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

Address of Nominee

.....
.....
.....

Telephone **e mail**

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

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

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

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

Candidate's Branch

We are aware of the above nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

Candidate

I accept the nomination and promise to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and give the RNA permission to use my data in support of this nomination.

Signature of Candidate Dated

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA HQ no later than **1600 15th February 2019.**

PROPOSED MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

Proposals must reach The General Secretary by **1600 15 February 2019**

Name of Proposing Branch:

Motion / amendment

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

We certify that this motion has been passed by a Branch motion in an ordinary meeting of the Branch.

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

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

Name of Seconding Branch:

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

Notes

- a. A separate form is required for each Motion or Amendment
- b. A manuscript copy is acceptable for additional Motions or Amendments if the printed form is not available.
- c. The Motion or Amendment should be as short and precise as possible avoiding ambiguity. A Motion should normally start with the word `THAT`
- d. The explanation is to help the Standing Orders Committee to understand the intention behind the Motion so that they may be able to consider its presentation, so it can be improved and implemented as soon as possible (Conference Bye Law C4)
- e. Motions may be submitted at any time but must reach the General Secretary by 1600 on **15 February 2019**.
- f. Motions of Urgency should reach the General Secretary not less than 48 hours before Conference. (In accordance with Conference Bye Law C6.) and include an explanation about reason for urgency.
- g. Amendments to Motions should also normally reach the General Secretary not less than 7 days before Conference.
- h. Bye-Laws. A Motion to Conference may propose that a Bye-Law be set aside or it may ask the Council to consider making or amending a Bye-Law.
- i. The Branch Proposing a Motion **must** have it Seconded by another Branch before forwarding it to the General Secretary. (Conference Bye Law C3a).

Nominations for Standing Orders Committee 2019

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Applications are sought for members of the standing Orders Committee.

Each Branch may nominate **a member** as a candidate for election to the Standing Orders Committee, **subject to the approval of the Branch to which the candidate belongs**. Applicants should be Full or Life members.

Name of Nominee

Proposed By (Branch)

Address of Nominee

.....

..... Post code.....

e-mail Tel

Brief history of the service of the nominee in the Association. (Separate sheet if necessary)

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

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

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

Candidate's Branch

We support this Nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

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

Signature of Candidate

Nominations are to be with Central Office by **1600 on 12 April 2019** (Rule 20(c))

ADVICE UPDATE

4th Quarter 2018

| ADVICE AREA | SUBJECT | WHAT'S HAPPENING |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Consumer | "Loyalty penalty" | Loyal customers are paying too much for mobile phones, broadband, home insurance and mortgages. To highlight this Citizens Advice made a super-complaint to the Competition & Markets Authority. Separately the Financial Conduct Authority launched an investigation in to household insurance pricing. |
| Utilities | Energy prices cap | This will come in to effect from 1 st January. It's claimed 11 million households will save over £75 per year. If you want to switch supplier Citizens Advice has an excellent price comparison tool on their website. |
| Social isolation | Loneliness strategy | The government announced a loneliness strategy with GPs (in England) able to refer people to various activities. For all seafarer types, as well as all the associations there is Seafarers' Link. This is a free fortnightly group friendship phone call. |
| Finances | Private pensions | Up to £20 billion is in "lost" pensions. SAIL can help you trace any of these pensions. |
| Finances | State Retirement Pension | From 6 th November the State Retirement Age for men and women became the same. Currently this is 65. This will increase to 67 by 2028. |
| Benefits | Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) | Tens of thousands of ESA claimants will get a back payment due to DWP errors, some over £10,000. These relate to people who moved from Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance to ESA between 2011 and 2014. Call SAIL if you think you're affected. |
| Legal | Probate | The cost for probate will increase from £215 to a sliding scale. For example estates valued at over £300,000 will cost at least £750, and some as much at £6,000. |

NEED MORE INFORMATION? CALL SAIL NOW.

SAIL gives free advice to working and retired seafarers and their families on a wide range of issues, including debt, benefits and housing problems. We can help fishermen, merchant seafarers, Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel. We also provide advice and training to other agencies working with seafarers.





ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

.....BRANCH OFFICIALS INFORMATION 2019

(Note: This Report should be forwarded to H.Q. with a copy direct to the Area Secretary after the Branch AGM - Bye-Law B8) and **no later than 30 April 2019**. It covers the reports to the National Council required by Bye-Laws B17 & B18. **One copy of the Annual Accounts & Report should also be sent to H.Q. Bye-law B19 (c).**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------|
| CHAIRMAN | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Post Code..... | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| VICE-CHAIRMAN | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Post Code..... | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. SECRETARY | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Post Code..... | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. TREASURER | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Post Code..... | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. WELFARE OFFICER | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Post Code..... | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. PR OFFICER | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Post Code..... | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| STANDARD BEARER | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Post Code..... | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| Address of Meeting Place | | |

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Frequency of Branch Meetings |
| Name & Address of Branch Bank |

OTHER INFORMATION

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------|
| PATRON | Name: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| PRESIDENT | Name: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| VICE-PRESIDENT | Name: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. CHAPLAIN | Name: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. MEMBERS | Name: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. MEMBERS | Name: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |

CLUB OFFICIALS

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------|
| CHAIRMAN | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. SECRETARY | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| HON. TREASURER | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |
| OTHER APPOINTMENTS | Name: | |
| | Address: | |
| | Tel / Mobile: | e-mail: |

Any other useful information about Branch:

Signature of Hon. Secretary

Date



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

| BRANCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018 | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| RNA BRANCH | RNA AREA | |
| CHARITY NUMBER (If applicable) | ANNUAL ACCOUNTS | |
| BRANCH FUNDS | | £ |
| Balance B/Fwd. from 31 December 2017 | | See box 2 in 2016 returns |
| Add: Difference of Income over Expenditure for Year (OR) | | See box 5 |
| Deduct: Difference of Expenditure over Income for Year | (-) | See box 6 |
| Balance C/Fwd at 31 December 2018 | TOTAL | £ Box 1 |

| LOCATION OF FUNDS | | £ |
|--|--------------|---------|
| Investments | | |
| Balance in Deposit Account | | |
| Balance in Current Account | | |
| Balance in other Bank Accounts | | |
| Cash in Hand, including Petty Cash | | |
| Loans (outstanding), if any | (-) | |
| Un-Presented Cheques (Cheques written out 2018, cleared on Bank Statement 2019) | (-) | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Box 2 should agree with Box 1 | TOTAL | £ Box 2 |

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

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

Accounts scrutiny (by a competent person)

I/We certify that:

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

Signed.....

Print Name.....

Date.....

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

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

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

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

Charity Commission Returns criteria Income:

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

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

We certify that:

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

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

Date

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

Date

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

Date

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



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

AREA Office Holders Information for 2019

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

Note: This Report (RNA Form 3) and one copy of the Annual Accounts (RNA Form 4) should be forwarded to the Council at Central Office, within 31 days after the Area AGM but no later than 30 April 2019.

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

Signature of Hon. Secretary..... Date



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

AREA BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018

| | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|
| RNA AREA | | |
| CHARITY NUMBER (If applicable) | | ANNUAL ACCOUNTS |
| AREA FUNDS | | £ |
| Balance B/Fwd. from 31 December 2017 | | |
| Add: Difference of Income over Expenditure for Year (OR) | | |
| Deduct: Difference of Expenditure over Income for Year | | (-) |
| Balance C/Fwd at 31 December 2018 | TOTAL | £ |

See box 2
in 2016
returns

See box 5

See box 6

Box 1

| LOCATION OF FUNDS | | £ |
|--|--|-----|
| Investments | | |
| Balance in Deposit Account | | |
| Balance in Current Account | | |
| Balance in other Bank Accounts | | |
| Cash in Hand, including Petty Cash | | |
| Loans (outstanding), if any | | (-) |
| Un-Presented Cheques (Cheques written in 2018, cleared on Bank Statement 2019) | | (-) |
| | | |
| | | |
| TOTAL | | £ |

Box 2

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

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

Accounts scrutiny (by a competent person)

I/We certify that:

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

Signed.....

Print Name.....

Date.....

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

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

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

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

Charity Commission Returns criteria Income:

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

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

We certify that:

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

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

Date

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

Date

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

Date

One copy to Central Office.