



ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION



# The Semaphore Circular

No 695

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

December 2019



**HMS Prince of Wales arrives in Portsmouth, her base port, for the first time. She will be commissioned on 10 December, a very poignant day in her naval history. Sadly, her predecessor was lost in action when attacked by Japanese aircraft off Kuantan, Malaya on 10 December 1941 with the loss of 840 Officers and men.**

**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](http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk) and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec*

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

1. [Central Office Open Day Dates](#)
2. [Finance Corner](#)
3. [RNVC Series Captain Gordon Charles Steele VC Royal Navy](#)
4. [Unusual Personal Naval Photographs](#)
5. [Standard Bearers and Novice Competition 16 May 20](#)
6. [A Thousand Good Deeds](#)
7. Thanksgiving Service Sir Donald Gosling
8. [Joke time – The Different Ages of Man!](#)
9. [Dicken Medal winner - AB Cat Simon](#)
10. [Shipmate Nigel McDougall – Echoes](#)
11. [SAIL](#)
12. [Project Vernon – Mine Warfare and Diving Monument](#)
13. [Naval History – How times have changed!](#)

## Glossary of terms

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



indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Central Office Team (L to R) - Bill Oliphant, Sarah Clewes, Andy Christie, Michelle Bainbridge, Kathryn Brindley, Nigel Huxtable, Chrissie Hughes (Missing -Mike Gray & Julie Royston)

### Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

### Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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

## *From the General Secretary*

### *Dear Shipmates,*

Welcome to the final Semaphore Circular of the year. Indeed, the National Council meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> December will mark a year of me being in the chair as General Secretary – where has it gone? It's certainly been eventful: I've lunched with Sir Donald Gosling, a huge privilege especially as he later this year crossed the bar – his memorial service is planned for 11 December in ; witnessed thee most fabulous and poignant D-Day 75 national commemoration in Southsea attended by Her Majesty and the leaders of the countries involved; I was proud of Sarah Clewes winning her award at the Soldiering On awards with her Project Semaphore iPad project; I enjoyed a fabulous Black Tot event in HMS BELFAST; a wonderful Biennial Parade in Whitehall with the First Sea Lord taking the salute and then, at the November ceremonies, had the distinct honour of acting as bearer to the National Chairman, S/m Keith Ridley, at the Cenotaph as he laid the wreath on behalf of all naval veterans.

I must tell you, it was a source of some amusement (not to Keith I hasten to add!) when one of Keith's fellow wreath layers got the drill wrong and missed the "halt!" order before turning into line to face the Cenotaph. Well, just as he was recovering himself having marched some 4 or 5 paces further on, they then bent down to lay their wreaths, only for the chap to Keith's starboard side slightly beating Keith to it and laying his wreath on Keith's spot! Keith then had to push the other wreaths out of the way to make way for the rather splendid full anchor wreath he was laying. Everybody understands the reverence of the moment so it's not really a laughing matter. The thing is, we all go to Wellington Barracks for a rehearsal several days beforehand led by the Garrison Sergeant Major who, being a guardsman, is a fairly fearsome fellow. I suspect next year we'll be doing the drill till it's dark, and if it's not absolutely perfect and second nature, the duty watch will be getting called with their flashlights!

Meanwhile, the hospitality I have received this year from numerous Branches around the country has been simply amazing and I sincerely feel as though I have been welcomed into the body of the Kirk as it were, having been invited to a number of reunions and dinners throughout the year. I can honestly say, I now know more about the Battle of Trafalgar than I ever did in my 37 years in the Service! I genuinely never thought working for the RNA would be as much fun, so I thank you all for finding me and appointing me as your General Secretary.

However, I can assure you, it's not all fun in Central Office and it is certainly a worry that we're losing more than we are recruiting so my challenge is to put the RNA on a sustainable footing. I'm already engaged in some strategy work with a small team. The National Council has already agreed the following vision for the RNA...

#### **Vision**

To establish and maintain the RNA on a sustainable footing which still meets the original Objects of the Association while maintaining relevance and respect in modern society.

I am sharing this with you now as whenever somebody mentions the term "Strategy," certainly in business, it is often their code for 'buckle up, we in for a bumpy ride'. I suppose in matelot language, we might be more comfortable with the term, 'Stand by to stand by!' Well, you will be glad to know, all I seek to achieve is the improvement of some admin processes. We are, after all, already a fifth of the way through the 21<sup>st</sup> century and

the line that "it's quaint" is, not only not good enough but frankly unnecessary. I will be doing my utmost in this coming year to try therefore to update our processes starting with the introduction of a new members database which will allow better communication with the membership and allow Central Office to continue to better meet the needs of our membership.

We've already employed Sarah Clewes full time to expand into the welfare support area and I want the Association to be able to do much more for its members. I don't believe that 1000 members are crossing the bar every year so I hope this will go some way to improving our retention.

One of the things we are looking at doing is more national events where we can meet and enjoy each other's company. The Black Tot event in HMS BELFAST was a great success this year and was the "dry run" (anything but!) for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the rum ration which will be commemorated next July again in HMS BELFAST and we are very much hoping that a VVIP will be joining us.

We're also trying hard to connect the RNA better with the serving RN and our Biennial Parade in September at the Cenotaph was a helpful demonstration of that with platoons from both COLLINGWOOD and SULTAN marching alongside RNR, Sea Cadets and veterans from across not only the RNA but other naval associations too. With bringing us closer to the serving RN in mind, my other very exciting announcement is that the First Sea Lord, Admiral Tony Radakin, has just approved my request for the RNA to become the World Governing Body for Uckers and, as such, the license to organise and run the World Uckers Championships. More to follow in due course, but my thinking is that this competition will be open to all ships and RNA Branches and also across the wider naval associations. We already have sponsorship from Pussers Rum so it promises to be fun.

**Stop Press**  
First Sea Lord approves RNA  
request to become              Uckers  
    World Governing Body!

Finally, this is of course the last Semaphore Circular of the year so thank you to Andy for pulling the Circulars together and indeed all my team in Central Office who have patiently coaxed the office sprog along – it's very much appreciated. I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

*Best wishes from the Central Office Team,*

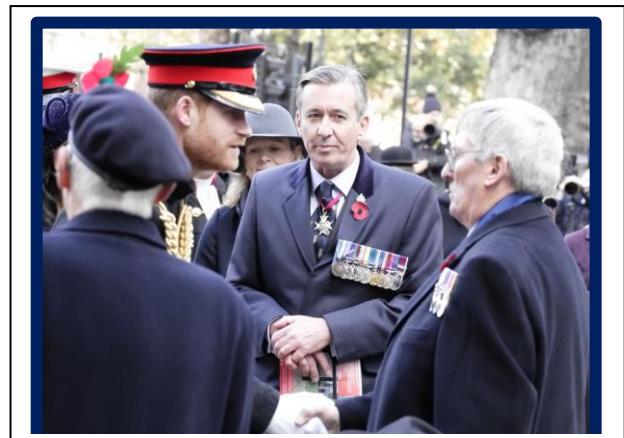
*Bill*

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I would like to start by thanking my fellow Shipmates of the National Council for re-electing me again and S/M Paul Stephenson for a fourth term as your National Chairman and National Vice Chairman respectively. It is indeed a great privilege to serve and represent you the members throughout the year.

The time has come again when the Bridge Lookout has reported that the Festive Season is just over the horizon as is **HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH** on her way back home from the USA and flying trials to berth ahead of her Sister Ship **HMS PRINCE of WALES** in Portsmouth Naval Base.

Both Ships will be alongside in December with **HMS PRINCE of WALES** being commissioned into the Royal Navy on 10<sup>th</sup> December, which will mark the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of her predecessor which was lost in action alongside **HMS REPULSE** in 1941. It will be a proud day for the Navy and indeed all of us. Furthermore, as I write this article, **the Royal Navy has just taken up Ceremonial Guard Duties at the Royal Palaces & Residences for the second time**, what a great honour for the Navy.



Where has the time gone this year? It certainly has been a very busy one for me with Area & Branch visits and an ever growing email bag! Some queries and problems could have been answered or resolved simply by reading the RNA National Rules & Bye-Laws which can be found on the RNA National website. However, not only as your National Chairman but also a National Council Member, and like all National Council Members we are here to help and give advice as and when needed.

It has been a busy year dealing with various problems associated with Clubs and their relationship with a Branch and vice versa. In the coming months the National Council will be looking at a strategy for assisting and liaising more closely with Clubs.

Looking through the various Facebook Posts by Branches & Shipmates, it was interesting to find that so many Branches have been out & about 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. I thank Dublin, Rayleigh & Rushden Branches for inviting me to their Dinners all of which were very well organised. On 7<sup>th</sup> November at Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance I was introduced to both Prince Harry and his wife Meghan. The Duchess took an interest in the RNA speaking with me for some 3 minutes. On Remembrance Sunday I was most honoured to represent the Association at the Cenotaph in London where I laid a Wreath on behalf of all Naval Veterans and subsequently met many Shipmates at the Civil Service Club for a few wets.

For a second year the **Minor Grants made to Branches** from the Branch & Club Support Fund has proved a great success with many Branches having applied for and been given grants of up to £250 and in exceptional cases £500. I am pleased to report that provision has been made within the budget for 2020 to run the scheme for a third year. Just to remind Branches, the General Secretary Bill Oliphant is authorised to make grants up to a maximum of £250 to assist with, but not restricted to; recruitment, publicity, purchase of a Gazebo etc. Applications &

administration of the scheme have been kept to an absolute minimum. A simple email to Bill Oliphant – [bill@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:bill@royalnavalassoc.com) setting out the reason for the application is all that is required.

**Is your Branch independently registered with the Charity Commission?** If so, I must ask Branch Secretaries or Treasurers to log online and check that you have submitted your annual return. This year the process will take slightly longer as the Commission requires a compulsory update of Trustees, although the information required is fairly basic and simple.

**Project Semaphore** has now issued some 850+ iPads and has made an amazing life change to those who now possess one. Project Manager, Sarah Clewes is still looking for digitally isolated naval veterans to issue iPads to, so please keep your ears and eyes open for potential recipients. Details please to Sarah at Central Office – [sarah@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sarah@royalnavalassoc.com)

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](mailto: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. To all Shipmates onshore, I would 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 and who will be parted from their families and love ones.

*Yours aye*

*Keith Ridley*

[nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com)

*(The Photo above was taken at the Garden of Remembrance Service in Westminster Abbey over remembrance weekend chatting with the HRH Prince Harry and the president of the RBL)*

## 1. ★ Central Office Open Days 2020

Central Office are holding a number of Open days in 2020, please see dates below. There are plenty of spaces should branches, HQ Roll members or individual shipmates wish to attend. Central Office staff will be delighted to see them and for those unaware the fun starts at 1100 in Semaphore Tower in the Naval Base at Portsmouth.

On arrival you will enjoy a sandwich lunch and update, by the General Secretary, on both RNA and Royal Navy matters. This followed by a harbour Boat trip round and an opportunity for Nigel to empty your wallets and purses of shekels so you can purchase 'Jackets, buttons and Badges'

The Open Days are all held on a Friday and the 2020 dates are as follows;  
22 May, 26 Jun, 24 Jul, 07 Aug and 02 Oct



If you are interested in attending please forward your details to Central office Contact details are at the front of this Circular)

## 2. ★ 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  
and also on our RNA website.



Forms need to be completed, signed and sent to Central Office no later than the 30 April 2020.  
Forms can either be emailed to: [michelle@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:michelle@royalnavalassoc.com) or  
[kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com) or by Royal Mail to RNA Finance Office, Room 219 PP70,  
Semaphore Tower, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 3LT

### **Membership**

Please note – any Branches that have purchased too many stickers this year, please don't forget that you can return them to Central Office, within this Financial year (Jan-Dec 2019) to receive a credit note against your Branch account. Any stickers received after the Financial year end will not be issued a credit note.

### **Membership Fees**

Membership fees stays the same figure as this year – January – June 2020:  
Existing/New Members - £14.00  
Overseas - £7.00  
Life Memberships £140.00 (10 x 14.00)

*July – December 2020*

Existing - £14.00  
New Members - £7.00

Overseas - Existing - £7.00  
Overseas – New - £3.50  
Life Memberships £140.00 (10 x 14.00)

### **Pooled Fares**

Calculation for Pooled Fares figures, below is the breakdown of the costs:

St. Neots 2019 Conference  
77 Delegates of 242 branches attended the Conference  
Total claims amounted to £4,712.00  
Divide £4,712.00 by 242 = £19.47 which is the average cost for a medium branch, (Central Office round it off to £19.00)  
Large Branches pay a 1/3 more  
Small Branches pay a 1/3 less

1-15 members = Small Branch  
16-30 members = Medium Branch  
31 + members = Large Branch

### **Termly Accounts**

Kathryn has now produced the termly accounts, if you haven't received your copy please contact Kathryn on [kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com) and Kathryn will be more than happy to resolve any issues.

Well, Shipmates, since this is the last Circular for this year. I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope the New Year bring you lots of happiness and a bright year ahead for 2020. I look forward to working with you all next year.

Yours Aye

Michelle

### **3. ★ RNVC Series – Captain Gordon Charles Steele VC Royal Navy**

Gordon Steele was born in Exeter, Devon on 01 November 1891. Gordon had quite a Naval service background as his Father served as a Captain in the RN and his Mother was the daughter of a Major General RMLI. He was educated in Ramsgate, Kent before joining P&O as a Cadet in 1907 and later joining the RNR.

At the outbreak of the First World War he was serving as a S/Lt and saw action as the Gunnery Officer in the Q-ship Baralong, which resulted in the sinking of U-27 and saw Steele being Mentioned in Dispatches. He served in HMS Royal Oak at Jutland and in the later part of the war given a number of commands, including the frigate HMS Cornflower.

In 1919, following the Russian revolution, the Royal Navy was sent to the Baltic to assist the Imperial Russian Navy who were fighting the Bolsheviks. They had gained control of much of the former Imperial Russian Navy and an action was planned to attack inside the Russian port of Kronstadt. Lt Steele was the first Lieutenant of



the coastal motor boat (CMB) HMS C88. The action on 18 August 1919 was extremely risky as CMB 88 was heavily outgunned by the massive firepower of the Russian warships.

HMS C88 began entering the harbour and shortly afterwards the Captain Lt Dayrell-Reed was killed by a shot to the head. As the boat now weaved off course, Lieutenant Steele, realising what had happened, took the wheel and steadied her. He now manoeuvred CMB 88 to a position suitable for launching a torpedo at the Bolshevik Battleship, Andrei Pervozvanni. He gave the command to fire at a range of one hundred yards, the torpedo finding its mark, exploding on the side of the ship. He now turned his attention to the Battleship, Petrapavlovsk, partly obscured by smoke from the stricken Andrei Pervozvanni.



Lieutenant Steele successfully fired off a torpedo at his second target which again found its mark; he then made a rapid retreat from the harbour, under heavy concentrated fire from the line of forts. Making his escape out to sea, he saved his ship. As a result of this gallant action and the torpedoing of two capital ships, Lieutenant Gordon Steele, RN, was awarded the Victoria Cross

Lt Steele carried on serving in the RN until retiring in 1928 as a Captain. After leaving the Navy he took Command of the training ship HMS Worcester until final retirement in 1957. On 28 January 1958 Gordon Steele VC was the subject of a 'This is your Life' BBC TV programme, hosted by the one and only Eamon Andrews.

Gordon Steele crossed the bar in Exeter on 04 January 1981, aged 89, and was buried in All Saints Cemetery in Winkleigh, Devon.

#### 4. ★ Unusual Personal Naval Photographs

The photo opposite features the Ships Company of HMS Falmouth marching through the streets of Whangarei in New Zealand in 1979.

The question is what is unusual about this photo? It might take you a couple of minutes....

The answer is at the rear of the Circular



## 5. ★ Standard Bearers and Novices Competition - Heads Up 16 May 2020

Shipmates may wish to make a note in their diaries for the upcoming Standard Bearer extravaganza at HMS Collingwood. The excitement is brewing for the 2020 competition....It could be your year!

On a serious note, The National Standard Bearers and Novice Standard Bearers competition along with the Association of WRNS competition will take place at HMS Collingwood on Saturday 16 May 2020 and will the same format as recent competitions commencing at 1000 and on completion will be followed by a presentation ceremony.



The National Ceremonial Officer, Shipmate Bob Coburn is very keen to encourage Novice Standard Bearers to come along and experience the ceremony, camaraderie and fun in taking part in this competition. It is hoped they will then move onto to enter the main competition and one day become National Standard Bearer which is a prestigious role within the RNA appearing at Conference, Biennial Parade in Whitehall and representing the RNA at national and overseas events such as the



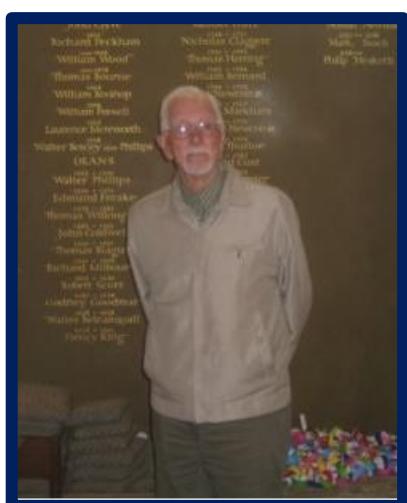
Remembrance Festival in the Royal Albert Hall and other national commemorative events.

So why not give it a go there is plenty of time to practice and lots of Shipmates available to train you.

If you are interested please contact Andy at Central Office [andy@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:andy@royalnavalassoc.com) 02392 720782 or the National Ceremonial Officer - Shipmate Bob Coburn [robertcoburn001@btinternet.com](mailto:robertcoburn001@btinternet.com) 07810 300383.

## 6. ★ A Thousand Good Deeds .....

Jim Fisher is a member of Chatham RNA although he isn't often in resident in Kent as he lives in South Africa!



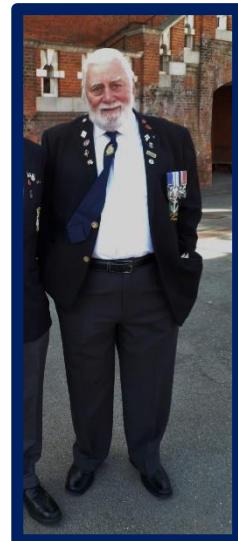
But on Thursday the 13th of June, at about 0830 Chris Stout our Secretary's phone rang, it was Jim, who is now 94. Jim is a veteran of the Normandy Landings and a recipient of the Croix De Guerre, he had flown over to Europe for the D-Day commemoration Services on the Normandy Beaches. (S/M Jim can be seen in Rochester Cathedral in the photo opposite)

He told Chris that he had a memorable time made even more enjoyable by talking to many veterans and having his hand 'Shook' by HRH Prince Charles and the then Prime Minister Theresa May. On returning to Dover on the MV Boudicca Jim disembarked, but his escort had disappeared! So, at a loose end he decided to make his way to Rochester, where he had prearranged to meet his family who still live in the UK.

However, he was a day early, so he booked into the Royal Victoria & Bull Hotel in Rochester High Street and stayed overnight, he didn't know anybody. So, in the morning he rang the Chatham Branch Hon Sec as, Chris writes to Jim once a year and includes his Membership Sticker.

Chris realised Jim was alone. So, she contacted Shipmate Tom Pask, (Branch Rum Bosun!) who immediately cancelled his plans and made his way to the Hotel where he met S/M Jim for breakfast. They got on like two old Shipmates and Tom took him for a tour of Rochester Cathedral. Being an ex-builder Jim was fascinated by some of the stone structure of the Cathedral and asked where the stone had come and incredibly it had come from Normandy!

At a recent Branch meeting the story was regaled and earned a loud applause from all the Chatham shipmates.



BZ to Shipmate Tom Pask (Can be seen in picture opposite) for helping out a lost Shipmate.

## 7. ★ Vice Admiral Sir Donald Gosling KCVO – Service of Thanksgiving

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Donald Gosling KCVO will be held in Westminster Abbey at Noon on Wednesday 11th December 2019. To apply for tickets, please email Mrs Nicky Lee on [nicky.lee855@mod.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.lee855@mod.gov.uk) who will then organise tickets & seating with the Abbey Events team. Tickets will be despatched by early December. When applying for tickets please include details on whether you are serving or retired and what rank/rate you hold/held.

Applications should also include address to which the tickets are to be sent. For any specific questions about this Service, please contact Commander Al Murray Royal Navy on [al.murray928@mod.gov.uk](mailto:al.murray928@mod.gov.uk) or by phone on either 07985 732763 or 02392 573076.

## 8. ★ Joke Time – The Different Ages of Man!

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

And God said that it was good. On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh.. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God again said that it was good. On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed it was good. On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

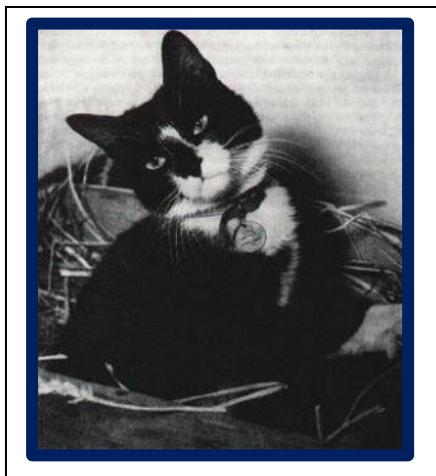
But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service. If you are looking for me I will be on the front porch watching day time tv!

## 9. ★ Dicken Medal Winners – Simon the Cat



Following on from last month and to appease 'cat loving' shipmates please read below the account of how 'Simon' the cat was awarded the Dicken Medal (animal equivalent of the VC).

Simon was adopted by Seaman George Hickinbottom in 1948. George was serving in HMS Amethyst and found the cat wandering the dockyard in Hong Kong

It was thought that Simon was approximately a year old and could be described as a 'scraggy dockyard moggy'. George smuggled the cat onboard and Simon soon ingratiated himself with the Ships Company, particularly because he was a trained killer in the rats and mice department. Simon rapidly gained a reputation for cheekiness, leaving 'presents' of dead rats in sailors' hammocks, and sleeping in the Captain's cap. The crew viewed Simon as a lucky mascot, and when the ship's Commanding Officer changed late in 1948, the outgoing CO left the cat for his successor. The new Captain, Lt Cdr Bernard Skinner RN, took an immediate liking to the furry AB.

HMS Amethyst was tasked with traveling up the Yangtze River to Nanjing to replace the duty ship there, HMS Consort. On route and halfway up the river she came under fire from a Chinese PLA field gun battery, which opened fire on the Frigate causing her to run aground. Very sadly Lieutenant Commander Skinner along with 21 members of the Ships company were killed during the attack and 31 were wounded. One of the first rounds tore through the Captain's cabin, seriously wounding Simon.

The Chinese PLA held the ship captive for ten weeks and after having four pieces of shrapnel removed Simon the cat resumed his duties. Whilst aground the ship had become overrun with

rats and the cat took on the task of removing them with renewed vigour, which in the process raised the morale of the Ships Company.

Following the ships escape Simon became a celebrity receiving so much mail that Lt Stewart Hett RN was appointed 'Cat Officer' and Simon was awarded the Dicken medal along with the GSM with 1949 Yangtze clasp. Despite his status on arrival in the UK he was quarantined and during this period caught a virus and crossed the bar on 28 November 1949.



Hundreds, including the entire crew of HMS Amethyst, attended his funeral at the PDSA Ilford Animal Cemetery in east London. His gravestone reads:

*IN MEMORY OF "SIMON" SERVED IN H.M.S. AMETHYST  
MAY 1948 – NOVEMBER 1949 AWARDED DICKIN MEDAL  
AUGUST 1949 DIED 28TH NOVEMBER 1949.  
THROUGHOUT THE YANGTZE INCIDENT HIS  
BEHAVIOUR WAS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER*

For information the first Dicken Medal was awarded in 1943 by the PDSA and it has since conferred 100 animals with this award including dogs, pigeons, horses and a cat!

*Photo's courtesy and credit to PDSA.*

## 10. ★ Shipmate Nigel McDougall – Echoes (An RNA Tale)

*Thanks to S/M Nigel from Peterborough branch for this hugely inspirational story. It also demonstrates how the RNA and Naval Charities can and do assist naval service veterans.*

Occasionally we make a life changing decision without having any idea, at the time, of the repercussions which may then echo down the corridors of our lives. The choice I made which was to have such a significant impact on my life was to join the Royal Navy. I signed up in 1976, aged eighteen, trained as an able seaman (radar), served on HMS London, did a tour in Gibraltar and left in 1982 because I was drafted into the Submarine Service. A Radar operator on a sub? I'm sure stranger drafts have happened, but it made me laugh at the time.

I left the RN to go to University, obtained a degree in Philosophy and then began a career in teaching. My Naval Service was genuinely useful during teaching job interviews, as the life experience it had provided me was so valued by school governors that I was fast tracked for promotion. Already the decision to join up was beginning to resonate.

All was going well until 2001 when I had an accident while in Crete and suffered a serious spinal injury. Ironically, my skills of seamanship were being utilised at the time. I was mending the rigging at the top of a mast when it broke at the bottom and I fell, tangled in the loosened ropework, back first onto concrete stairs. I don't have much to say about Cretan hospitals. When I finally arrived at a spinal unit in the UK, I was clinically severely malnourished and



riddled with MRSA, so you get an idea of conditions there. To begin with surgeons in Salisbury thought it very unlikely that I would walk again. However; after a year in the unit, a couple of major operations and some (very tough) physiotherapy, they put me back on my feet. The amazing NHS!

I was then able to resume my teaching career, until nine years on I had a heart attack and had to retire on medical grounds. Not being the luckiest of people I then had yet another accident and broke my right hip. The surgeons tried to fix the break with steel plates. This failed and became infected, so they removed both the metalwork and the broken end of the ball joint itself. This is called the Girdlestone procedure, apparently named after the surgeon who first developed it. My right leg shrank by four centimetres and I became almost completely wheelchair bound. Yay Girdlestone!

And you may be thinking that this life of mine has now entered some sort of catastrophic tailspin. But before you despair of my story, bear with me, because what happened next was the booming echo of a young man's decision to join the Navy.

My housing association realized that the flat I was living in was unsuitable for a wheelchair user, so they found a bungalow for me to live in which has wide doorways, level entry, and a lovely garden. The only downside of the property was that it had a bath, and what I really needed was a wet room. The local council provided a grant for the work which covered most of the cost, but required that I contribute £500. Being pretty much broke from the cost of moving house, I found myself in a difficult position financially and wasn't able to muster the money. I applied for assistance through the British Legion, who obtained a grant for the full amount from the Royal Navy Benevolent Fund. How brilliant was that!

And that was just the start of the turnaround my life has taken. A lovely lady from the RN Benevolent Fund rang me to check that the grant had gone through smoothly, which it had. She kindly enquired about my condition and listened to the whole of my sorry tale. And having endured that (poor woman!) she went on to mention that there was a local branch of the Royal Naval Association in Peterborough which I might like to join. Until then I had no idea such an association existed. She thought it might help me to make friends and develop a support network. I agreed that it seemed like a good idea and she promised to send me the details.

At this point she asked me if I thought an assistance dog might be worth considering, to aid me in daily life and to overcome some of the obstacles presented as a result of my disabilities. Such an idea had not even occurred to me. And she put me in touch with Hounds for Heroes. Now I wouldn't describe myself as a hero. It is not as if I received any of my injuries from brave deeds in the field of action. And I have the utmost respect for those who have served our nation and been harmed in battle. However (and feeling just a little ashamed in doing so) I applied to Hounds for Heroes for help. I have since been assessed by them and it seems highly likely that I will be the proud owner of either a golden retriever or a Labrador assistance dog in the near future. All because I originally applied for help from my Royal Naval past with finance for the wet room. Surely, you must be thinking, that's it. Nige is Ok now. Sorted. He has his wonderful bungalow, a garden, he's making new friends in the RNA, and he's getting an assistance dog, what more could happen?

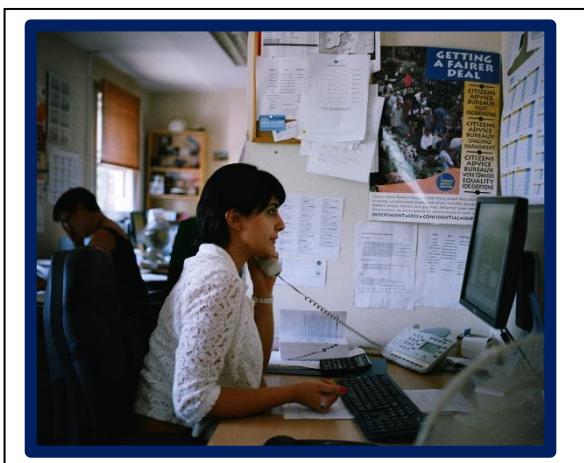
Well the final twist to this admittedly chequered history, is that I met a chap in one of the RNA meetings who also had a serious problem with his hip. He was seeing a military surgeon based in Oswestry in Shropshire. Lt. Col. Meyer was able to do the necessary hip replacement operation and John is now back on his feet. And cycling no less! Given that my surgeon in Peterborough Hospital had discharged me, I felt that obtaining a second opinion was probably a reasonable idea, and that a military surgeon who specialises in hip and knee orthopaedic surgery for serving

or ex-service veterans, was probably my best shot at finding a way to improve my condition. Yet again, the resounding echo of making the decision to serve in the Navy all those years ago sounds in my ears.

I had an initial assessment at Oswestry and the great news was that Lt. Col. Meyer wanted a deeper understanding of what is going on in my hip joint. He has suggested that it may be possible to replace the ball joint of the femur. I went for a CT scan, and in the follow up consultation the Lt. Colonel decided that we could go ahead with a hip replacement procedure, providing he could get the anaesthetist to agree. While I am trying very hard not to get too hopeful about all this, I can't help thinking that it would be just incredible if I could walk again. Some decisions we make in life turn out to have an extraordinary impact on our history. And the echoes of such decisions continue to sound down the years of our lives.

## 11. ★ Seafarers Advice Line (SAIL) Update

In June this year the Seafarers Advice and Information Line (SAIL) hit a landmark: this specialist Citizens Advice service for UK seafarers advised its 1000<sup>th</sup> client from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Up until three years ago this wouldn't have been possible. Here, Miles Cowley, SAIL's Manager, explains how it happened.



SAIL provides completely free and confidential advice on a wide range of issues, from debt and benefits to housing, immigration and family issues. We're just like any other Citizens Advice, with the same standards and training that make the service so well respected. The only difference is that we don't see clients in our offices – we operate mainly by phone and email and run a number of face-to-face outreach sessions, including a monthly session at Veteran's Outreach Support in Portsmouth.

SAIL was established in 1996 as a specialist Citizens Advice service for UK merchant seafarers, fishermen

and their families run by Citizens Advice Greenwich. With funding from the Seafarers Hospital Society and a base above their offices, SAIL quickly built up its reputation.

We started with one man and a dog – well, not quite, but in our first year we had only two members of staff. Now we have 9 advisers and help over 1,250 clients every year. And in the three months from June to September 2019 we advised a total of 475 clients – that's the highest ever in our 23 year history.

SAIL expanded to advise naval personnel when we were first set up we worked only with merchant seafarers and fishermen. That all changed in April 2016, when, thanks to extra funding from Greenwich Hospital, we launched a new service for serving and former Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel and their dependents. We employed extra staff, got ourselves up to speed on relevant naval issues and launched a publicity campaign.

In the first four months we dealt with 58 clients from the naval services. Now it's well over 100 per quarter – an average of two clients every day. So, back in 2015, when Greenwich Hospital first approached us and said they felt there was a need for us in the Navy, they were right. After an initial two year pilot they increased their funding so we could expand the team further and provide

a permanent service. And in June this year we advised our 1000<sup>th</sup> naval client. That's a success we're really proud of. (Text for short version ends here, plus 'To get help from SAIL')

### *Every case is different*

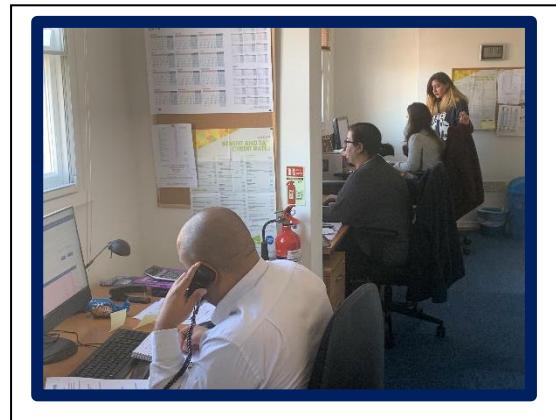
There's no such thing as a typical case. The sailors who come to us for help are from all areas of the service and bring a wide variety of problems. About half are serving and half are Veterans.

The three main areas of enquiry are debt, the practicalities of relationship breakdown, and immigration advice. There's a well-established cause and effect link between debt and poor mental health, so good debt advice is vital for all serving personnel in particular.

Here is one story that shows just how significant our support can be: TOM

Tom is a serving sailor. He called us when he was repeatedly contacted by the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) about a child he knew nothing about. His adviser at SAIL was Gerry. Here he tells his story in his own words:

*"I'd just got back off being on ship for 5 months when I got the first letter. It was a massive shock to hear about the potential of having a child. We'd only had a brief relationship. When you hear such big news you don't know what to do with yourself. You can't function normally. I had to speak to someone. Nikki from the RNRM Welfare helped me out. She recommended SAIL and since then we've come a long way.*



*CMS was harassing me for a lot of money for something that I was unaware of at the time - emails and phone calls saying that I have certain timeline to pay money otherwise there'd be loads of extra charges.*

*It was a very emotional time and Gerry from SAIL helped me through it all. She was someone to talk to and lift the weight off my shoulders. She also talked to the CMS so they couldn't bully me in to doing stuff.*

*Gerry mentioned a DNA test so we went for that and she advised me of all my rights. It turned out that the child is mine.*

*Then Gerry helped me sort out the support payments. And now I've sorted out the practicalities of being his father.*

*I think without speaking to SAIL I'd be in a bit of a different situation. I wouldn't have known about the DNA test. All the advice Gerry gave has helped and it's someone – when you're working doing the job I do and other stuff in life – someone to speak to. SAIL are very understanding. The advisers go far beyond what's expected to actually help you."*

### TO GET HELP FROM SAIL

- Call free on 0800 160 1842 between 1000 and 1600 weekdays

- Email [advice@sailine.org.uk](mailto:advice@sailine.org.uk)
- Go to the SAIL website – [www.sailine.org.uk](http://www.sailine.org.uk)

## 12. Project Vernon – Mine Warfare and Diving Monument

A monument in the form of a bronze statue will be unveiled at Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth on Wednesday 25 March 2020 to celebrate the naval and military heritage of HMS VERNON, which previously occupied the site, and honour those involved in mine warfare, diving and bomb & mine disposal – past, present and future. It is hoped that the unveiling will be conducted by a VVIP.



Over £250,000 has been raised so far by a team of unpaid volunteers to fund the one-and-a-quarter life size monument, created by sculptor Mark Richards FRSS. It will stand proud of one of the pools in Gunwharf Quays where its reflection will enhance its appearance to the annual footfall of 8 million.

HMS VERNON started life in 1876 as a training establishment accommodated on board ships afloat in Portsmouth Harbour. In 1923, it moved ashore to the site that is now Gunwharf Quays and became a centre for training and trials of

many forms of undersea warfare including mine warfare and diving. It closed in 1986 and the monument of a contact sea mine and two divers commemorates that part of naval history.

During both world wars, Britain's Armed Forces were heavily involved in locating the enemy's mines, unexploded bombs and other explosive ordnance which, for the Royal Navy, involved dangerous operations both under the sea and on land. Throughout the Second World War the use of sea mines increased dramatically, and scores of ships and submarines were sunk or damaged by them. Converted trawlers were pressed into service as minesweepers but for mines dropped by aircraft onto shoals and mudbanks the clearance tasks fell to personnel from HMS VERNON.

In the hours before and during D-Day, Allied minesweepers operated off the coast of occupied France. In addition, 120 Royal Navy divers, including Reservists and Royal Marines, cleared 2,500 mines and other obstructions from the approaches to the Normandy beaches. This dangerous work, which was carried out under fire, significantly reduced the risks to Allied soldiers and sailors and was continued later to make the harbours of Europe safe.

The important work of Royal Navy mine warfare and diving units has continued to this day in both peace and during the conflicts in the Falklands, Middle East, Afghanistan and Libya. Much closer to home, whilst preparing Portsmouth Harbour for use by the aircraft carriers HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and HMS PRINCE OF WALES, these Royal Navy specialists removed some 46 tonnes of explosive ordnance from the seabed within sight of Gunwharf Quays and this

## 13. Naval History - How times have changed!

7<sup>th</sup> November 1975 -

The 'infamous' DCI T641/75 announced that black nylon stockings for Wrens (Vocabs 45500-05) were to be replaced by black tights. 'BR81 and BR96 will be amended'. The Navy had not fully

recovered from the withdrawal of the Rum ration in 1970 when this further blow landed. A vigorous but futile 'Fight Tights' campaign was led by the FAA

## RNA Longcast

| <b>2019</b> |  |
|-------------|--|
| 02 Nov      | Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich   |
| 08 Nov      | 2020 Budget Meeting - London                                       |
| 15 Nov      | FAC (London GH)  |
| 16 Nov      | AMC (Portsmouth)   |
| 23 Nov      | Area 3 Meeting - Gosport   |
| 07 Dec      | National Council Meeting   |
| <b>2020</b> |  |
| 18 Jan      | 4 Area AGM   |
| 01 Feb      | Area 5 Quarterly/AGM - Harwich                                     |
| 14 Feb      | FAC / SOC  |
| 15 Feb      | AMC  |
| 29 Feb      | Area 3 Meeting - Netley  |
| 07 Mar      | National Council Meeting   |
| 6/9 Mar     | 4 Area Reunion – Bideford  |
| 10 Apr      | Good Friday  |
| 13 Apr      | Easter Sunday  |
| 25 Apr      | Welfare Seminar – RMC Portsmouth                                   |
| 02 May      | Area 5 Quarterly - Stowmarket                                      |
| 07 May      | RNA Corporate Day - London   |
| 7/10 May    | VE Day 75 and Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations in Londonderry |
| 08 May      | Early Spring Bank Holiday (VE Day)                                 |
| 8/10 May    | 2020 Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations in Londonderry          |
| 16 May      | National Standard Bearers Competition – HMS Collingwood            |
| 16 May      | 4 Area Quarterly Meeting - Plymouth                                |
| 22 May      | Central Office – Open Day  |
| 05/07 Jun   | <b>National Conference – Liverpool (Area 10)</b>                   |
| 05 Jun      | National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings                         |
| 26 Jun      | Central Office – Open Day  |
| 27 Jun      | Armed Forces Day - Scarborough                                     |
| 31 Jul      | Black Tot Day – 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary                       |
| 24 Jul      | Central Office – Open Day  |
| 01 Aug      | Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich   |
| 07 Aug      | Central Office – Open Day  |
| 21 Aug      | FAC  |
| 22 Aug      | AMC  |
| 31 Aug      | August Bank Holiday  |
| 12 Sep      | National Council Meeting   |
| 12 Sep      | 4 Area Quarterly – Portland  |
| 02 Oct      | Central Office – Open Day  |
| 31 Oct      | Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich   |
| 20 Nov      | FAC  |
| 21 Nov      | AMC  |
| 05 Dec      | National Council Meeting   |

|        |               |
|--------|---------------|
| 25 Dec | Christmas Day |
| 26 Dec | Boxing Day    |

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

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

**This Month Featuring.....**

[RNA City of Glasgow](#)

[RNA Chatham](#)

[RNA Helston](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Bracknell](#)

[RNA Reigate](#)

[RNA Torrevieja](#)

[RNA Cape Town](#)

### **RNA Glasgow Branch**



At our branch meeting we held the Uckers final for 2019 which was won by S/M Eddy Pollar with S/M Alec Thomas coming a close second.

Both received their respective trophies and commemorative glasses.

Plenty of expletives e.g you 'six throwing fellow' and 'see you' you 'timber-shifting shipmate' were heard throughout the evening!



The Branch went to the South Beach Hotel in Troon for our Trafalgar weekend. The dinner was well presented by Stuart and his staff. S/m Brian MacKenzie gave a short speech and the toast to Nelson and those that fell with him. S/m's Kenn, David, Alex and Eddy gave us some excellent ditties. The night ended well with plenty of singing gingers being consumed in good naval tradition. S/m David Carlin presented Stuart the hotel owner with a plaque from our branch.



## RNA Chatham Branch

Chatham RNA attended three services in the Medway area two of which are pictured here ,

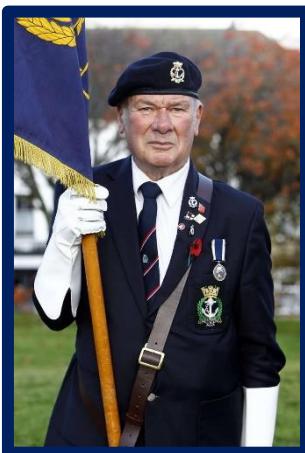


Working closely with the RNR, Sea Cadet Corps and Royal Marine Cadet Corps (Chatham) the service was held at the Great Lines Chatham and was very successful.

The service was led by the Assistant Chaplain to HMS President, Rev Jake Bateson ,

Standard Bearer, Shipmate John Brown and Shipmate John Wigley taking the Salute outside the central Theatre Chatham high street ( an old Haunt for some elder shipmates of years past )

Others taking the salute were Bishop Of Rochester James Langstaff Councillors Tracey Crouch , Vince Maple .



## RNA Helston Branch

*Thanks to S/M Joe Locke Helston Hon Sec for updating us on happenings in the far west of Kernow.*



Helston Branch have been on their travels, our small band of merry men and ladies were out on Remembrance Sunday/Day. While our Chairman George Scott was up in London marching with HMS Lowestoft Association as he missed last year, the branch was in Brege a local village with our Standard and the Weath Layer, Shipmate Peter Brooke did a fine service along with Standard Bearer Shipmate Alec Willett. (pictured opposite)

On Remembrance Day the branch was in HMS Seahawk attending the wreath laying at the masthead along with the Commanding Officer, Base Warrant Officer, SAMA 82 laid by S/M Peter Cherry a survivor off the Atlantic Conveyor along with five other wreath layers. After a short service of remembrance the branch was invited back to the Warrant Officers & Senior Rates Mess for much welcome refreshments by the BWO (picture opposite)



At the same time our Standard Bearer Alec Willett was at Tregonning Hill with Standard Bearers from the Wrens Association & the RBL. After a very steep climb the standards were dipped which is not easy in the strong wind after Kohima Epitaph wreaths were laid. Thanks to all for taking part.

### RNA St Neots Branch

Shipmates from St Neots mustered for wreath Laying duties over remembrance weekend.

At the main St Neots parade Shipmate Roy Lodge, an ex RN Colleague, S/M Mike Milne and S/M Jane Miller ready to form up for the main St Neots parade. S/M Tony Webley was the Branch Standard Bearer. S/M Roy Lodge laid the RNA wreath



Meanwhile Shipmate Mick Noble was laying the RNA wreath at Eaton Socon.

The three musketeers!  
S/M Ian Cameron on left (Doing his best to muster a smile) accompanied by, on far R, serving RN Commander (soon to be Captain) Tony Williams and a French army Colonel at the **Cambourne Wreath**

laying. There is no truth in the rumour that the French Colonel's name is d'Artagnan!



Finally, President John Gibbs laid the wreath at Eynesbury and National Chairman S/M Keith Ridley was laying the National RNA wreath at the Cenotaph Parade.

## RNA Bracknell Branch

Bracknell RNA's monthly meetings have continued to provide shipmates with a variety of entertainment, including the scary history of the Ghosts of Hampton Court Palace (with the speaker in period costume! No not tropical uniform!); tales from our Chairman's Naval career (including drinking on first name terms with an Admiral); an Evening of Dits, among which was an account of the redoubtable Dame Agnes Weston, the founder of the Sailor's Rests – known to all as Aggie's - and finally a talk from the Sebastian's Action Trust.



Two further outings have been enjoyed - to Central Office (Semaphore Tower) in Portsmouth for their Open Day on 26th July where we were excellently looked after by Bill and the Team; and to the Army Flying Museum at Middle Wallop on 5th September. Bracknell Branch were also proud to be involved in the first-ever Merchant Navy Day celebrations in Bracknell Town Centre on 3rd September.

Bracknell Branch has been represented at the very enjoyable Maidstone Sea Sunday on 14th July; the Biennial Parade in London on 8th September, followed by the excellent hospitality offered by Uxbridge RNA; and at Aldershot RNA's great Banyan on 30th August with the Kings Pond Shantymen.



Finally, Shipmates enjoyed a great Trafalgar Day dinner on the 25<sup>th</sup> October.



## RNA Reigate Branch

*Shipmate Vic Gallet reports that Reigate Branch have had a busy couple of weeks.*

The last 3 days of October saw branch members visit Varlet Farm, Belgium, which was captured by the Royal Naval Division in 1917. At 0600 with a blast on a whistle, we retraced the advance taken by the RND during the battle of Passendale.

Over wet muddy fields we stepped in total darkness until, 45 minutes later, we reached the furthest point of their advance. What surprised us the most was, what had taken us 45 minutes actually took the RND 9 hours.

Our Remembrance weekend began on Saturday night with a film night at our Sea Cadet Unit where we watched "Sink the Bismarck" on a big screen. Prior to the film we watch some Pathe News footage about the event, however, in true Naval tradition, the evening began with a couple of Tom & Jerry cartoons.



On Sunday we were out in force marching and assisting our Sea Cadets at the Borough's Remembrance Sunday parade. Here, we introduced our new branch mascot, 6 year-old Henry Smith. You can see Henry 'stepping it out' in the photo above. Afterwards we retired to our Sea Cadet Headquarters for some well deserved refreshments and a raffle which raised £485 for the poppy appeal.

On Monday we attended an Armistice Parade held inside our local Shopping Centre. A large crowd had gathered to hear Buglers from our Sea Cadets play the 'Last Post' and watch 30,000 poppy petals fall from the ceiling during the 2 minute silence.

## RNA Torrevieja Branch

*Hola, Torrevieja Branch we welcome this report on proceeding in Spain from Shipmate Tony Jenkins.*

**Sundays Remembrance Day Parade and Service** on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019 was held at the Capilla de las Palmeras (Church of a thousand palms) in Mil Palmeras by the Orihuela Costa & District Branch of The Royal British Legion, at which many UK service association attended with their individual Standard (Flag) and included the **Royal Naval Association Torrevieja Branch**.

The service was conducted by Pastor Keith Brown and joined by dignitaries and officials of Pilar de la Horadada Ayuntamiento and the Royal British Legion.



The 100's of congregation that exceeded the church capacity spilled into the grounds around the church and were hardy enough to brave the chilly northerly wind to listen, view and immerse themselves in the ceremony via a huge temporary screen and audio system whilst seated, all of which was graciously provided by the Pilar del la Horadada Ayuntamiento and is tremendously appreciated by all that were there.

This 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1944 WWII was musically supported in the church by The Royal British Legion Phoenix Band and resoundingly assisted outside the church by the Torrevieja Pipes & Drums created awesome pride and pageantry while leading the parade of all the Standard's to the church for the service and from the church after the service. The 'Lone Piper' played some spectacular traditional laments during the laying of the poppies and wreaths, which reaffirmed the nostalgic tradition of 'Remembering The Fallen' and being ever grateful for their sacrifice by all affirming "We Will Remember Them".

All the Standard bearers performed their roll on the procession both to and from the church with tremendous fortitude by maintaining dignified control of their respective standard in what can only be described as a 'howling wind'.

As like other associations, the Royal Naval Association Torrevieja Branch are committed to demonstrating their dedication in upholding traditions and showing their sign of respect by parading their Standard and members attending not only UK but also Spanish official ceremonies. Offertory proceeds from the amicable band of collectors went to The Royal British Legion Poopy Appeal.



**Mondays Armistice Day Parade and Service** on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 was held by The Royal British Legion Torrevieja Branch at the La Siesta Church, Torrevieja. Many UK service association attended with their Standards (Flag) and included the Royal Naval Association Torrevieja Branch.

Father Richard conducted the service which was attended by dignitaries and officials of Torrevieja Ayuntamiento and the Royal British Legion.

This 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first ceremony that was inaugurated by King George V was musically supported during the service in the church by the Torrevieja Royal British Legion Concert Band and once again the Torrevieja Pipes & Drums provided outstanding music during the marching parade of Standards and the 'Loan Piper', who performed terrific renditions of laments during the formal laying of the poppy's.

The congregation that were unable to be seated in the church were able to be seated in the grounds of the church and were able participate in the service with the benefit of the sound system and fortunately not have to endure the northly wind as of the previous day.

Offertory proceeds via the enthusiastic band of collectors went to The Royal British Legion Poopy Appeal.

It was a time for all to reflect and join in the act of Remembrance through the prayer and affirmation:

*They shall grow not old,  
As we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

**“Long may the tradition and sign of respect & gratitude be maintained”**

It is no surprise that the **Torrevieja Branch** of the **Royal Naval Association** attend many formal events along the Costa Blanca and Costa Calida coast line as they are located between the two Costa's and their members are formed from people who live along the coastal region between Alicante to Cartagena.

**Following** the Armistice Day parade and service the Royal Naval Association Torrevieja Branch members decided not to go on a “Jolly” but instead mustered on the messdeck [otherwise known as the Che Loco Restaurant at El Chaparal] for some “Scran” and to “Cackle the fat”.

They were all “Chuffed” that the “Tiff”, who is a “Pi-r squared rating” [otherwise known as the Branch Treasure] was going to “Push the boat out” by authorizing [with the committee’s approval] that the “spondoolies” for the “Las-up” would come from the Branch Social Fund. There was a resounding “Bravo Zulu” from everyone to the Che Loco for the delicious food.

Photos of these events and more information can be found at [www.rnatorrevieja.com](http://www.rnatorrevieja.com)

## **RNA Cape Town Branch**

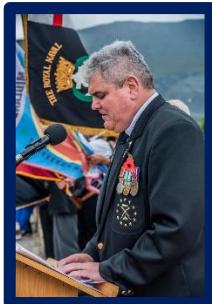
*Thanks go too Shipmate Andrew Preston, Hon Sec Cape Town Branch for sending this article.*

On Sunday 3 November the Memorial Order of Tin Hats (MOTHs), Battledress Shellhole, held their annual Remembrance Parade at Fish Hoek near Simon's Town. This is always held the week before Remembrance Sunday, whereas the City of Cape Town parade is held on Remembrance Sunday itself, at the Cenotaph in the city.



The RNA Standard Bearer, Shipmate Ronnie Gilbert, passed away last year and our considerably reduced membership is ageing rapidly. Nevertheless, we were invited to the parade in Fish Hoek and Shipmate Andrew Preston laid a wreath on behalf of the RNA. Our standard was carried by Sea Cadets from TS Woltemade, the training base at Zandvlei near Muizenberg. They were exceptionally smart and we are very grateful to them for representing us at both this and the RAFA Battle of Britain Service on 15 September at the SA Navy Dockyard Church, Simon's Town.

Our Standard was again borne on Remembrance Sunday at a parade in Hermanus, a coastal town some distance from Cape Town. We are grateful to MOTH Robbie Abrahamse for carrying our standard and laying a wreath on behalf of the RNA at this event.



Because of our reduced membership, the RNA Cape Town will not be meeting monthly at Phoenix Lodge, Glencairn, in 2020. Instead, the branch will meet socially at various venues throughout the year, and our contact details remain unchanged for any visiting RN personnel. We will continue to hold our AGM at the Phoenix Lodge who have agreed to retain all the memorabilia, housed in our pub meeting room, intact. We are very grateful to them for doing so.



## CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Terry Kenny](#)

[Pat Rate MBE](#)

[Frank Beeny](#)

[Douglas Joseph Francis](#)

[Brian Leak](#)

### Terry Kenny – Basildon Branch

Basildon Branch are sad to announce the sad loss of S/M Terry Kenny on October 23rd, 2019.

Terry (Service No. PO X/126626) served as a Royal Marine in 42 Commando's from 1947-1949. He was posted in Malta-Brigade HQ and also served in the Med/Palestine/Lebanon and Egypt and for his service in this operational area was awarded the General Service Medal.

Terry was also Chairman of the Royal Marines Association - Southend & District Branch.

He will be sadly missed by all the Branch Members.

### Frank Beeny - Basildon Branch

Basildon Branch are sad to announce that Shipmate Frank Beeny Crossed the Bar in October. The funeral was held on the 19th November 2019.

Shipmate Frank was a stalwart of the branch for the past 27 years. He was the Standard Bearer for the Branch from 2011 until earlier last year when he had to give it up after having a triple heart by-pass. He also took up the position of Vice President in 1998.

He joined the RN in 1960 and served until 1969. He was in the Far East and Home Based. He served on the following ships:- Forth, Yarmouth, Bermuda, Belfast, Zest, Wakeful and Hermes.

He will be sadly missed by all members of the Branch.

## **Pat Rate MBE - Peterborough Branch**



Peterborough Branch are deeply saddened to report that their President and Founder member Shipmate Pat Rate MBE has crossed the bar on 25 October 2019.

Pat served for many years as the Branch Secretary and latterly as the President. Area 6 were also grateful for Pat's services as Area Secretary where she carried out numerous tasks in support of its aims and services.

Pat was awarded the MBE for her services to the RNA in 1996 and was also a keen supporter of the local Sea Cadets. Over the years she never failed to 'turn to' in support of Branch activities whether this was fundraising, promoting the RNA, parading or attending Branch/ Area functions.

Everyone in Peterborough Branch has come into contact with Pat at some point over the last 40 years, whether it was being 'chased up' for your annual subscription, putting her point across at Committee meetings or receiving an update of relevant information, Pat was 100%. Once Navy

Always Navy. We will miss her.

## **Douglas Francis**

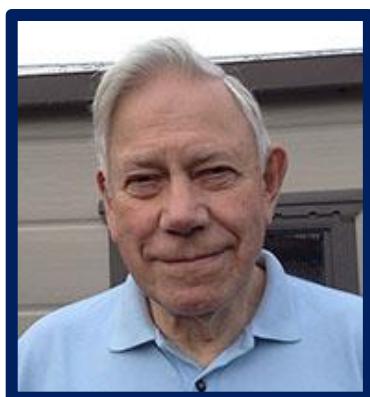
Anne Nelhams (Daughter) has asked if we would inform shipmates that Douglas has crossed the bar.

Douglas Joseph Arthur Francis born in Dec 1923, was a Sea Scout posted on fire watch on the Thames at Westminster Pier at the start of WW2. As soon as he could 'enlist' he was sent to Royal Arthur (Skegness) the class S7 and trained as a signaller in 1942. He was posted to West Africa and to Orkney amongst others.

He passed away on October 25th 2019 aged 95 and he was always very proud of his RN service.



## **Brian Leak – Wymondham Branch**



It is with much regret that the Wymondham Branch report that their Chairman Shipmate Brian Leak crossed the bar on 19 October 2019

Brian joined the RN in 1951 at HMS Ganges and served on various ships/submarines until his discharge as a PO in 1964. On leaving the RN he joined Norfolk Police where he served for 25 years.

Brian was an active member of the Wymondham Branch for many years taking over as Chairman in 2012.

His funeral took place at Attleborough on 7th November 2019, where the Branch Standard was paraded and Shipmates from the Branch were in attendance.

He will be sorely missed by everyone at the Branch.

## **Answer to the Unusual Photograph - Paragraph 5**

The 1st Lt , Lt Cdr A S Norman Royal Navy rode a horse (who wasn't called 'trigger') for the whole parade. Sadly time has passed and the name of the white nag (memories of Bolton v Westham at Wembley) has been forgotten.....unless you know different!

I have never seen a photo like that before, have you? Apart from the Elephant at Ganges!

If you have any unusual naval photos complete with 'dit' to accompany it send them to  
[Andy@royalnavalassociation.com](mailto:Andy@royalnavalassociation.com) for publication or snail mail to Central Office

## 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 <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/offers/members-cona-holidays-service/>

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



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

### Legal Services



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

### Breakdown Service



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



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

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



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

**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 £2,700 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.**

|                  |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| Sun 1st Dec 2019 | H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans<br><a href="mailto:malcolm.collis@gmail.com">malcolm.collis@gmail.com</a>   | Trip to South America                             |
| 05 Mar 2020      | HMS Cheviot reunion – Torquay<br>Details contact Victor Denham at<br><a href="mailto:vic742008@hotmail.co.uk">vic742008@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07949 95503   | Torquay   |
| 13/15 Mar 2020   | R.N. Communications Association, AGM & Re-Union w/end<br>Friday 13 – Sunday 15 March 2020<br>Venue, The Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth.<br><br>For more details contact<br>Carl Beeson<br>07807 347509<br><a href="mailto:secretary@rnca.info">secretary@rnca.info</a>  | Royal Bath Hotel Bournemouth                      |
| 2/6 April 2020   | The HMS LOCH FADA ASSOCIATION F390 will hold their 23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion & AGM @ the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea from 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020. This will be our 4 <sup>th</sup> 4 Day Reunion after the great successes of our 1 <sup>st</sup> Three.<br><br>Friday venture into Pompey (Under own Steam) Saturday 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner ( Black Tot day being Mourned by the Issue of Real Pussers Rum) in the Company of our Special Guests The Lord Mayor & Escort of Eastleigh ( our Warship week Town).<br><br>Sunday Mystery coach tour ( towards Southampton).<br><br>All Bookings & Arrangements are being made by Isle of Wight Tours email <a href="http://iowtours.com">iowtours.com</a> or telecom 01983 405116, or <a href="mailto:F390.sec@virginmedia.com">F390.sec@virginmedia.com</a> or Snailmail F390 Sec, 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND. Telecom 01252 310767 | Royal Beach Hotel Southsea                        |
| 17-20 Apr 20     | HMS Ganges Association- Annual reunion will be held at Warners Gunton Hall Holiday Village near Lowestoft. Open to all those who served at Ganges, wives and partners also welcome. For booking details please contact   | Warners, Gunton Hall Holiday Village Nr Lowestoft |

|             |  |                            |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|
|             | <a href="mailto:tony.widders@btinternet.com">tony.widders@btinternet.com</a> 07787 106202 or IOW tours 01983 405116  |                            |
| 8 May 2020  | VE Bank Holiday  |                            |
| 8 May 2020  | HMS Cadiz, Saintes and Wizard. A shared reunion takes place over weekend 8/11 May at the Novotel Hotel in Nottingham. All three ships associations will hold their own annual meetings and share all other activities. Details IOW Tours 01252405116 <a href="mailto:enquiries@iowtours.com">enquiries@iowtours.com</a>  | Novotel Hotel Nottingham   |
| 23 May 2020 | HMS Broadsword Association<br><br>Biennial reunion takes place in the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea on Saturday 23 May 2020. The reunion is open to anyone who served in Broadsword. For details visit <a href="http://hmsbroadswordassociation.co.uk">hmsbroadswordassociation.co.uk</a> or contact Bill Skilliter at <a href="mailto:wistheplumber@yahoo.co.uk">wistheplumber@yahoo.co.uk</a> | Royal Beach Hotel Southsea |
| 05 Jun 2020 | 1710 NAS – 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner for all serving /ex serving will take place in the WO and S/Rates Mess HMS Sultan. Details from <a href="mailto:Elaine.Rogers683@mod.gov.uk">Elaine.Rogers683@mod.gov.uk</a> or 02392722758   | HMS Sultan                 |
| 31 Oct 2020 | BRNC Entry September 1980 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion dinner, BRNC Dartmouth, Saturday 31 October 2020. Details available from Cdr N J 'Nobby' Hall <a href="mailto:neil.hall324@mod.gov.uk">neil.hall324@mod.gov.uk</a>  | BRNC Dartmouth             |

## Swinging the Lamp – December 2019

*The RNA is grateful to the Author, Lt Cdr Lawrie Phillips TD, RD, RNR for allowing us to publish a 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  |
|-----------------|------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 1744 | Frigate Rose captured the Spanish Concepción (100), a rich prize worth at least 108,636 dollars, 100 miles E. of Havana.   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1825 | Defeat of the Burmese at Pagoda Point, above Prome. Diana and boats of the Irrawaddy flotilla captured 300 war boats.  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 1942 | Destroyers Janus, Javelin, Jervis (D 14) and Kelvin sank the Italian TB Lupo off Kerkenah Bank (34.34N, 11.39E).   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 1951 | Nurton, the last of 118 original Ton-class MCMVs, which had been converted for service in the Northern Ireland Patrol Squadron, and the Royal Navy's last wooden seagoing ship, entered Portsmouth to pay off. |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | 1804 | Rank of sub-lieutenant established by Order in Council, because of shortage of Second Masters. Disappeared after 1815 but revived in 1863 with 1/2in stripe, which caused some confusion.                      |

|                  |      |   |
|------------------|------|---|
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 1799 | Speedwell captured the French privateer Heureux Speculateur off the Channel Islands.  |
| 7th              | 1824 | Repulse of the Burmese attack on Kemmendine. Ships: Teignmouth (BombayMarine), Sophie. Troops: 26th Madras Native Infantry.   |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1900 | Sloop Espiegle launched at Sheerness. The last RN ship in commission bearing a figurehead   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 2003 | Lt Charlotte Atkinson, born on Trafalgar Day 1971, appointed to command Brecon in MCM3 at Faslane. Hitherto women had commanded only P2000 Archer-class vessels attached to URNUs   |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 1747 | Relative ranks between officers of the Navy and the Army approved by King George II.  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 1807 | Grasshopper captured the Spanish San Jose under Cape Negrete  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 1888 | Establishment of two Schools of Signalling, one in Devonport Barracks and the other in Portsmouth, originally in Duke of Wellington but eventually in Victory.  |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 1939 | Cdre H.H. Harwood (Ajax) engaged the Admiral Graf Spee off the River Plate (34.28S, 49.05W) and drove her into Montevideo, where she was scuttled on the 17th. Ships: Ajax, Achilles (NZ), Exeter. FAA: Sea fox: 700 NAS (Ajax). Battle Honour: River Plate 1939. |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 1985 | Caledonia ceased to operate as a TE for MEA apprentices and training task transferred to Sultan. Paid off and became annex to Cochrane on 17 December 1985.   |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 1976 | Lt HRH The Prince of Wales RN relinquished command of the minehunter Bronington, The final day of his active service in the Royal Navy.   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 1796 | Cleopatra captured the French privateer Hirondelle 500 miles to the westward of Ushant.   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | 1826 | Hardy in Wellesley (74) escorted expeditionary force to Lisbon. Ship sunk by air attack on Thames 24 September 1940.  |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | 1944 | Light cruiser Sirius stood by naval party ashore at Mitylene, Greek island of Lesbos, during general strike.  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | 2022 | First RFA Officers Course passed out of Britannia RN College, Dartmouth.  |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 1799 | Boats of Queen Charlotte and Emerald recapture Lady Nelson in Gibraltar Bay.  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | 1841 | Special uniform, with special buttons depicting an engine, devised for First Class Engineers.   |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 1943 | Old cruiser Niobe (German, ex-Yugoslav Cattaro), aground near Silba Island, in Adriatic, torpedoed by RN MTBs.  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 1787 | HM Armed Transport Bounty, Lt William Bligh, sailed from Portsmouth for the South Pacific.  |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | 1810 | Boats of Diana destroyed the French L'Elise driven ashore to the northward of Tatihou   |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | 1917 | Penshurst (Q 7) torpedoed by U-110 in the entrance to the Bristol Channel (51.32N, 05.48W).   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 1967 | Gunnery Officer, Rear-Admiral Michael Pollock, Flag Officer Second-in-Command Western Fleet, promoted vice-admiral and appointed Flag Officer Submarines.   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | 1805 | Body of Lord Nelson laid in Painted Hall Greenwich Hospital.  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | 1943 | Light cruisers Enterprise and Glasgow engaged and pursued ten German destroyers 270 miles S.W. of Ushant (46.33N, 12.30W). German ships sunk: T-25, T-26, Z-27.   |

|                  |      |   |
|------------------|------|---|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | 1916 | Ludlow, paddle minesweeper, mined off Shipwash light vessel.  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | 1778 | Capture of St Lucia by Admiral Hon. Samuel Barrington and General Grant. Ships: Boyne, Nonsuch, Preston, Prince of Wales, Centurion, Isis, St Albans. Frigates: Ariadne, Aurora, Carcass, Pearl, Venus. War of American Independence. |
| 31st             | 1861 | Boats of Falcon with Dover, first RN iron vessel, destroyed four towns up the Rokel River, Sierra Leone. Operations lasted four days.   |

# The 2019 Christmas card image



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

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

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

Please provide ..... Packs of ten **2019** Christmas cards @ £5 per pack.

Deliver the order to

S/M .....  
.....

Address.....  
.....  
.....

Post code .....

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

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

Credit Card/Debit Card No .....

Card in the name of :.....

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

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

Card holder's address if different from delivery address

Address.....  
.....

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

## 2020 Diaries

*The 2020 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

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### Order form

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

**Please provide .....** 2020 RNA insert Diaries @ £5.00 each £ .....

**Please provide .....** 2020 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:.....

## **Nominations for Standing Orders Committee 2020**

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Applications are sought for the standing Orders Committee. Two vacancies in 2020.

Each Branch may nominate **one 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. A nil return is not required.

NAME OF NOMINEE .....

PROPOSED BY ..... BRANCH

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE .....

.....

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

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

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

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

Candidate's Branch .....

We support this Nomination.

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

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

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

Signature of Candidate .....

This form should despatched to be received at the Central Office no later than **14 February 2020** Nominations received after this date cannot be included in the Ballot.

**NOMINATION FORM**  
**ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 2020/2022**  
**(Revised RNA Bye-Law 7)**

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

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

Names of Nominees

NCM ..... DNCM .....

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

Address of Nominee

NCM.....

..... e mail .....

DNCM.....

..... e mail .....

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

NCM

DNCM

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

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

---

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

Candidate's Branch .....

We are aware of the above nomination.

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

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

---

Candidate

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

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

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL and must reach RNA HQ no later than 1600 14th February 2020.

## **PROPOSED MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020**

Proposals must reach The General Secretary by **1600 14 February 2020**

Name of Proposing Branch: .....

### **Motion / amendment**

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

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

---

Name of Seconding Branch: .....

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

---

### **Notes**

- a. A motion is submitted in the name of a Branch. Secretaries of proposing and seconding Branches are **certifying** that the motion or amendment reflects the view of the Branch meeting (not a committee); and that voting was conducted in accordance with Rule 20.
- b. A separate form is required for each Motion or Amendment
- c. A manuscript copy is acceptable for additional Motions or Amendments if the printed form is not available.
- d. The Motion or Amendment should be as short and precise as possible avoiding ambiguity. A Motion should normally start with the word 'THAT'
- e. The explanation is to assist the scrutiny of the Standing Orders Committee in understanding the intention behind the Motion so that they may be able to consider its presentation so it can be improved and implemented as soon as possible (Conference Bye Law C4)
- f. Motions may be submitted at any time but must reach the General Secretary by **14 February 2020**.
- g. Motions of Urgency should reach the General Secretary not less than 48 hours before Conference. (In accordance with Conference Bye Law C6.) and include an explanation about the urgency.
- h. Amendments to Motions should also normally reach the General Secretary not less than 7 days before Conference. The provision for the submission of amendments during Conference is in the Conference Bye-Laws.
- i. Bye-Laws. A Motion to Conference may propose that a Bye-Law be set aside or it may ask the Council to consider making or amending a Bye-Law.
- j. The Branch Proposing a Motion **must** have it Seconded by another Branch before forwarding it to the General Secretary. (Conference Bye Law C3a)

## Delegate to Annual Conference 2020 Liverpool

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

**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.**

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

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

**NB:** A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2019 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2020 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.

Please note. Conference packs are NOT sent out before Conference but collected on the day by each delegate. A full set of background paperwork will be sent to each Branch early in 2020. Having sent in your application by mail or e mail you may wish to phone Nigel on 023 9272 3747 to confirm receipt of your application.