



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



The Semaphore Circular

No 672

The Beating Heart of the RNA

August 2017



The Submarine Museum from a different viewpoint featuring HMS Alliance. Shipmates enjoying the boat tour during the Central Office Open Day

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

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Glossary of terms

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

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

Dear Shipmates

Welcome to our August Semaphore Circular – I hope you are enjoying the sunny days interrupted by rain storms (except Faslane where the rain is never interrupted). The super-carrier USS George Bush has just anchored at Spithead and we have hundreds of American sailors streaming ashore to enjoy the delights of Portsmouth – and a trip up to London. We haven't heard about the arrival date of our own Super Carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, but time and tide might mean an unexpectedly early arrival at Portsmouth. We will let those who have notified us as soon as we have news.

The main news is regarding the Biennial Parade and is so important that I have written to all Branches in hard copy. Due to changes in the advice and direction of the Metropolitan Police **we will now muster for the Parade at King Charles Street**, which is down near the Cenotaph. The parade will march the few metres to the Cenotaph for the Service and there is a short parade review after the service of about 400 metres back to King Charles Street. Coaches, cars and minibuses can be parked on Horse Guards Road, those with mobility issues on King Charles Street. I have enclosed a Car Pass for both areas with the hard copy of the Parade Order.

Drinks and sandwiches/chips as usual at the Civil Service Club afterwards. Standard bearers can leave their stuff at the Civil Service Club should they wish. Drivers must remain with coaches and have responsibility for the security of their vehicle.

We are looking for some **DNCM nominations**. 5 Area due to the resignation of NCM S/M Dave Ambrose, S/M Jim Hammond has stepped up for the remaining 1 year of the term. We did not get nominations for 6 or 8 Area in the lead to Conference and are **seeking nominations for all 3 Areas by 15 September 17**. Please give this important duty your attention. Form at the back of the Circ.

I bring your notice to the call for Cenotaph names for Remembrance Sunday – don't delay we have to get the names in very early and better to put forward if you aren't sure rather than leave it later, when you won't get on to the access list.

Finally, as the National Chairman says in his chat, we have all been greatly saddened by S/M Paul Harries and S/M Dick Ascott crossing the bar. Paul was a doughty champion of his Area on the National Council with a deep understanding of Clubs and how they worked. A real character who would take vast amounts of snuff during our meetings, he was good fun in the bar afterwards and always up for a dit-spinning session.

Dick Ascott was an old fashioned gentleman who was tireless behind the scenes in his area, encouraging smaller branches and struggling clubs. Always the voice of common-sense and reasonableness he provided a rich seam of wisdom in our deliberations. I shall miss both Shipmates more than I'd care to admit – great Shipmates, great advocates for their Areas and most of all great people who put others first (like so many in the

RNA).

*kindest regards from me and all at
Central Office
Paul*



GS presenting Sharon Thomas from the Woodland Trust with a cheque for £1840 from the Conference Rum Raffle

Chairman's chat



At the time of writing this chat I have received sad news that 2 former National Council Members have Crossed the Bar; S/M Paul Harries on 20 July, and S/M Richard (Dick) Ascott on Sunday 23 July. Both Shipmates gave many years of loyal service at National Council Level. S/M Harries served as NCM for No 7 Area, was a member of the Association's Management Committee and also the RNA's National Clubs Advisor and was the font of all knowledge relating to RNA Clubs, giving invaluable advice when sought. S/M Dick Ascott passed away on Sunday 23 July. Dick served on the Finance Administration Committee and was a member of the 'Committee of Good Taste' when selecting the initial submissions for the Naval Service Memorial. Both will be a great loss to our Association and

our thoughts are with their families.

It seems just a few weeks ago that our 2017 National Conference was held in Perth (Scotland). A Big Thank You to Scottish Area for organizing and hosting it. Such events take a lot of hard work and all those involved can congratulate themselves and give themselves a big pat on the back. As with previous conferences held in Scotland, the hospitality was second to none and we received a warm welcome. Well done the Scottish Area. I do not propose to feed back on the motions as this has already been covered in the July Semaphore Circular. Our Guest speaker Rear Admiral John Weale OBE RN, FOSNI gave an interesting update on the Royal Navy and actually admitted to not being a member of the RNA. Quick as a flash I produced a membership application form which he completed at the end of his talk asking "who do I pay?" Remember Shipmates, always carry an application form with you.

Just recently I attended the **CONA (Conference of Naval Associations)** AGM held in Portsmouth. As reported by Paul Quinn, CONA now has over 70 members representing a whole host of Ships, Branch, Ship and Class Associations. This was my second meeting that I had attended and what a great group of people they are. Our President, John McAnally was re-elected Chairman, Paul Quinn re-elected as Chairman of the Working Group, and Sarah Clewes replaced Andy Christie as the Group's Secretary, Andy having done a splendid job. Amongst the presentations given was one by Captain Bill Oliphant RN, Captain of Portsmouth Naval Base who gave a very interesting presentation on the preparations for the arrival of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH. Captain Oliphant admitted that he waits with many nights lost sleep the date of QE's arrival but has been promised 4 weeks' notice. A fact he disclosed and an interesting question for all of you who served at Whale Island is – How did Whale Island originate? In driving through the Naval Base I noticed our original RNA Minibus decked with smart RNA Logos parked in a prominent spot (Good free advertising Paul!) only to be confronted by the first of our very smart New Minibuses passing in the opposite direction.

In browsing through **Facebook** I have occasionally come across some unfriendly posts relating to the 'cold' reception received by former naval folk looking to join the Association when they have called into a RNA Branch. Although this appears to be in the minority, please ensure that when a new member walks through the door he/she are given a warm welcome. In my own branch, I for one always sit with the new member, if not, another committee member does. Talking of new members, Nigel Huxtable returning from 2 weeks out of the office has 25 Online Joiners to action. This is proof that our Website works. If your Branch gets a referral from Nigel, please ensure early contact is made.

The RNA Cruise at the end of September with an inclusive drinks package is not too far away. Overlooked booking? Don't bother rushing to the phone to book as CONA Travel advice – all sold out! The question is, as a former Stoker, do I try my luck at being a Bridge Look Out or act as the Bar Patrol with negative Belt, Gaiters, NP Armband and Whistle (Aden, Steamer Point Shore Patrol ?) assisting with the disposal of Alcohol. No prize for guessing the answer.

iPads These are for digitally isolated naval veterans aged 65 and over.

There appears to be a severe lack of knowledge amongst Shipmates regarding this fantastic project. A few times Shipmates have complained to me what a waste of money which could have been spent better elsewhere. WRONG! RNA money has not been used to provide these iPads, this has come from the Aged Veterans UK Fund so is FREE money by way of a grant and must be spent solely on the project. Any funds remaining must be returned. You DO NOT have to be a RNA member to qualify.

This offer has been opened up to members of RN Branch, Ships Associations and Merchant Navy holders of the MN Veterans badge. So, if you know someone that qualifies have a chat with them, allay their fears about technology by informing them that they will be trained on a 1–2–1 basis on how to use one. Candidates' names can be notified via phone/email to Central Office or fill in the online application found on the RNA main website.

Naval Associations Biennial Parade will take place on Sunday 10th September this year. Branch Secretaries please note a revised Order of Parade has been circulated, Hard Copy has been sent by Paul Quinn with full details. All Branches are asked to do their **utmost** to support this important event. We have the Massed Naval Bands from the RN Volunteer Band Association (80 players) with 2 marching Platoons from HMS COLLINGWOOD & HMS SULTAN. On display and following up the Parade will be our Fleet of 3 New Minibuses which are to be dedicated that day to 3 recent holders of Gallantry Awards, Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux, CPOMA Kate Nesbitt and WO1 Matthew Tomlinson RM. We hope that Kate and Matthew will be with us and Gill Molyneux, Ian's widow, will be there with her daughter Bethany.

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

Yours aye
Keith Ridley

1. ★ Project Semaphore iPads - Update

Dear Shipmates,

Taking stock of the Project achievements thus far has really brought home how much we have all achieved. With a part time Project Manager, willing Volunteers also juggling day jobs and other commitments, since the training events in Mar and Apr the figures of our candidates have increased to almost 250 with only 6 of those the Project is still identifying a support solution for. Truly an example of the core values and ethos we all gained through our service, that 'can do' attitude, looking out for our oppos, kindness and a bucket load of patience.



This month we welcome two new volunteers, George Barbrook from Birmingham Branch being assisted and trained up by Alan Magrath and from Dagenham Branch, Rev Graham Dunnill-Gosling being assisted and trained up by Area 5 Maestro that is Gary Daisley from Rayleigh Branch. The expansion of our volunteers in these areas has facilitated the support to a further 12 candidates. George and Graham are going to be busy!!

We also received applications from the Scottish War Blinded Association which has led our Scottish volunteer David Liddell to supporting significantly visually impaired candidates.

We also had news from Wales, where Selwyn has significantly touched the life of one candidate who had lost his Wife and sister within 10 days in Apr, diagnosed with the big 'C' in Jun and whilst in hospital receiving treatment lost his beloved dog, companion of over 17 years. He is now looking forward to keeping in touch with his RNA oppos... standby for Facetime action!

It is safe to say that this Project has reached the end of Phase 1 which has been highly successful and mainly due to the dedication and patience of the volunteer network. I am now handing the Project over to enable the next phase to commence. The new Project Manager will be Sarah Clewes, who I hope will enjoy your fantastic support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who I have engaged with throughout this project for your efforts and good humour. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing the heartening stories and seeing pictures of our veterans online with their new iPads.

So please e-mail the new team - Julie@royalnavalassoc.com in the first instance or sarah@royalnavalassoc.com or snail mail to RNA Central Office, Room 209, Semaphore Tower, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth Hants PO1 3Lt

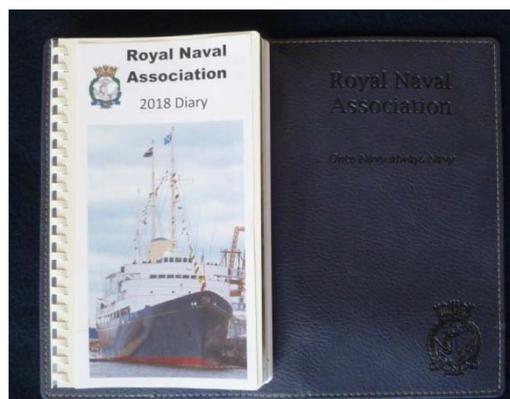
I look forward to hearing how the Project progresses and hope you all continue to share the benefits of this amazing Project and look out for eligible Shipmates who we can assist.

Sharon Brown, Project Manager, Project Semaphore.

2. ★ RNA Diaries 2018

2018 Diary order forms can be found at the rear of this edition. The Diaries should be available from October.

As you can see in the photo the diaries this year will feature a lovely picture of the Royal Yacht taken by Nigel Huxtable in Leith Docks earlier this year. It brings back a few memories of what a beautiful ship she is.



3. ★ RNVC Series - Lieutenant Commander Gerard Broadmead Roope VC Royal Navy

Lt Cdr Roope was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross during an action between HMS Glowworm, which he commanded, and superior German Naval forces notably the Cruiser Admiral Hipper and two Destroyers in West Fjord Norway on 08 April 1940. Unusually the recommendation and supporting evidence was provided by Admiral Hippers' Commanding Officer, Kapitan zur See Heye who wrote to the British via the Red Cross.

On 8 April 1940, the Destroyer HMS Glowworm (1,345 tons), engaged two enemy destroyers while heading alone to Norway's West Fjord. After one of the enemy ships was hit, they both broke off and retreated to the north. Though aware that the enemy destroyers were attempting to draw him towards German capital ships, he gave chase. Glowworm soon spotted the German cruiser Admiral Hipper (14,000 tons). He alerted the Home Fleet before turning to engage the cruiser. Glowworm fired ten torpedoes but scored no hits and was soon battered by enemy rounds and set on fire. With only three guns still firing, Roope successfully rammed the cruiser as a last gesture of defiance. Glowworm then fired a final salvo, scoring a hit, before she capsized and sank. Of the crew of 149, one officer and 30 men survived and were picked up by the Admiral Hipper. Very sadly Gerard Roope was drowned in the course of assisting in the rescue of survivors. Admiral Hipper was forced to return to port after the extensive damage she had sustained during the engagement with Glowworm.



The Victoria Cross was presented to his widow on 12 February 1946. The citation read as follows;

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS for valour to:—

The late Lieutenant-Commander Gerard Broadmead ROOPE, Royal Navy. On the 8th April, 1940, H.M.S. Glowworm was proceeding alone in heavy weather towards a rendezvous in West Fjord, when she met and engaged two enemy destroyers, scoring at least one hit on them. The enemy broke off the action and headed North, to lead the Glowworm on to his supporting forces. The Commanding Officer, whilst correctly appreciating the intentions of the enemy, at once gave chase. The German heavy cruiser, Admiral Hipper, was sighted closing the Glowworm at high speed and an enemy report was sent which was received by HMS Renown. Because of the heavy sea, the Glowworm could not shadow the enemy and the Commanding Officer therefore decided to attack with torpedoes and then to close in order to inflict as much damage as possible. Five torpedoes were fired and later the



remaining five, but without success. The Glowworm was badly hit; one gun was out of action and her speed was much reduced, but with the other three guns still firing she closed and rammed the Admiral Hipper. As the Glowworm drew away, she opened fire again and scored one hit at a range of 400 yards. The Glowworm, badly stove in forward and riddled with enemy fire, heeled over to starboard, and the Commanding Officer gave the order to abandon her. Shortly afterwards she capsized and sank. The Admiral Hipper hove to for at least an hour picking up survivors but the loss of life was heavy, only 31 out of the Glowworm's complement of 149 being saved.

Full information concerning this action has only recently been received and the VICTORIA CROSS is bestowed in recognition of the great valour of the Commanding Officer who, after fighting off a superior force of destroyers, sought out and reported a powerful enemy unit, and then fought his ship to the end against overwhelming odds, finally ramming the enemy with supreme coolness and skill.

The VC awarded to Lt Cdr Roope is in private ownership and not on public display.

4. ★ RNA Poppy Badge

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

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

Orders with cheques etc to Nigel in Central Office as usual. Also if you don't do cheques and you want to pay by card just give Nigel on 02392 723747



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

The RNA / Naval Associations Biennial Parade will be held at Whitehall on Sunday 10 September 2017. The Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Jonathon Woodcock OBE has confirmed as the Guest of Honour and the VIP party will include the Minister for the Armed Forces, Rt Hon Mark Lancaster MP, Mrs Flick Drummond, Captain Andy Jordan ADC Royal Navy, Commanding Officer HMS Collingwood, Captain Peter Towell Commanding Officer HMS Sultan and Mrs Gillian Molyneux and her daughter Bethany, Mrs Molyneux is the widow of Lt Cdr Ian Molyneux who was killed whilst serving in HMS Astute. CPO Kate Nesbitt and possibly WO1 Matthew Tomlinson.

It is envisaged that that over 500 personnel both Veterans and Serving will be on parade. As well as representatives from the many naval associations, including from Belgium and the Republic of Ireland. Trainees from HMS Sultan and HMS Collingwood will parade, as will members of the Sea Cadet Corps. Music will be provided by the Portsmouth Volunteer Band Association (80 musicians strong!).

The programme for the day is as follows;

- 0900 RNA Central Office staff on site, meet with Met senior officer.
- 0900 Civil Service Club opens for coffee and toilets (Great Scotland Yard)
- 0915 Parking for coaches and minibuses in Horse Guard Road (pass required from Central Office) (For those with mobility issues, Minibus and Cars may be parked in King Charles Street).
- 0930 All Vehicles to be parked,
- 0950 King Charles Street closes.
- 1010 **Standard bearers brief by NCA**
- 1025 Parade musters and is briefed by Parade Commander.
- 1025 Band marches onto Whitehall
- 1035 Parade steps off from King Charles Street
- 1055 2SL, Min (AF), , Mrs and Miss Molyneux, Flick Drummond, Capt Jordan, Capt Towell, Capt Cox, Capt Russell +, VIPs join the parade
- 1100 Service at Cenotaph led by the Chaplain
- 1140 Parade steps off, review by 2SL
- 1155 Parade dismissed in King Charles street and addressed by NP/2SL
- 1156 Issue of Standard Bearers 'Tots'
- 1200 Bar opens in Civil Service Club – 2SL and VIPs meets Shipmates
- 1200 Sandwiches and Chips served at no cost to participants
- 1400 Parking restrictions restored in Horse Guards Road



Dress Will be 1b uniform for those serving and for RNA / Associations rig with medals or equivalent for everyone else, polished shoes. Berets for standard bearers and optional for marchers. Standards should wear the NSM pennant (if entitled). A high standard of turnout is required.

Briefs Standard bearers should note the early brief for them at 1010 in King Charles Street by the National Ceremonial Advisor.

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

Band The band will be the Volunteer Band Associations.

Parking parking may take place in Horse Guards Road you will need to display a parking pass obtained from Central Office. Parking restrictions will be lifted in Horse Guards Road at 1400.

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

Mobility. We will have just over an hour on our feet. Those with mobility issues should make their way to the front of the FCO where an area will be reserved.

6. NMRN – Exclusive Rum Dinner in HMS Victory Friday 01 Sep 17



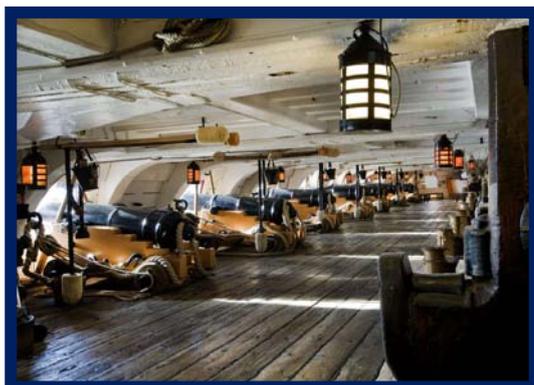
The National Museum of the Royal Navy is proud to be hosting their first rum festival to honour the link between the Royal Navy and its favourite tippie. To celebrate this occasion we are hosting an exclusive black tie dinner onboard HMS Victory on Friday 1st September, complete with entertainment and a very special tour and we would be delighted to see your attendance at this unique event as a valued supporter of HMS Victory and Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Please join us on what promises to be a fantastic evening onboard HMS Victory, which will be an experience to remember. Guests will be introduced to hand selected rums by experts to suit the occasion and be given a tour of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship, interspersed with the rum tastings on various decks. Here the guests will learn about the history of the ship, the heritage of the rum and the Royal Navy's unique connection to the drink. In which you will explore different flavour appreciation, enjoying old favourites and maybe discovering new ones too. Afterwards, dinner will be served on the Lower Gun Deck of HMS Victory and accompanied by musical entertainment.

The NMRN have partnered with The Rum Club who are a select, members club for the discerning drinker who provide exclusive and engaging access to the finest range of rums from around the world. They have hand selecting rums to compliment the event and on hand to talk you through their unique flavours.

The dinner is an exclusive affair with only 90 places available, where guests will be seated amongst the guns at mess tables as the sailors would have dined during the flagship's many voyages. Tickets are sold at £1200 per table of 6, or individually at £200 each.

It would be wonderful if you felt able to support the



Museum by booking some places at what will be a superb evening in an outstanding location. If you would like any further information, or to discuss any aspect of the event, please do not hesitate to get in touch with our events team on 02392 989776 or 02392 839766. You can also visit our website, to see the event schedule, see the provisional menu and purchase tickets. Please go to <http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/exclusive-rum-experience>

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

Shipmates who would like to attend and march at the November Remembrance parade at the Cenotaph are advised that once again enhanced security measures will be in place. This will involve the Met Police conducting individual security checks on all participants. Therefore Basic Personal Information will be required in advance for each applicant and ticket holders will need to bring photo ID and a document showing proof of their address for access to the parade at Horse guards via manned Police entry points. Disabled shipmates are reminded that this year they can be accompanied on the parade by their carer. However the carers will be subject to the same security procedures and must forward their details to Nigel.



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

Title/Rank, First Name (**This must be the name on the photo ID**), Last Name, Date of Birthday (DD/MM/YYYY),

Place of Birth, First line of address, Town, Postcode, Service number (Where applicable)

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

8. ★ Field of Remembrance - Wednesday 8 November 2017

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

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

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



9. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment



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

The answer will be in next month's edition.

Last month's answer: Not quite so easy last month, however, well done Shipmate Malcolm Clarke you were correct it was HMS Ceres in Wetherby. It is now HMYOI Wetherby!

10. ★ Joke – RN Ski Championships

Jack decided to go to the RN skiing championships with his shipmate Whisky. So they loaded up Jack's minivan and headed south. After arriving on the continent and driving a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. They pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night.

'I realise it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed,' she explained. 'I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house.'

'Don't worry,' Jack said. 'We'll be happy to sleep in the barn, and if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light.' The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. In the morning, the weather had cleared, and they carried on their way.

They enjoyed a great week skiing. However about nine months later, Jack got an unexpected letter from a Solicitor.....



It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the Solicitor of that attractive widow he had met with Whisky on their way to the RN Ski Championship. After secure he popped round the Whisky's gaff and asked, 'Whisky do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm where we stayed during the blizzard about 9 months ago?'

'Yes, I do.' said Whisky. 'Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?' 'Well, um, yes !,' Bob said, a little embarrassed about being found out, 'I have to admit that I did.'

'And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?' Whisky's face turned a darker shade of red and he said, 'Yeah, look, I'm really sorry, shipmate, I'm afraid I did.' 'Why do you ask?'.....

'Cheers Mate she just died and left me everything.'

And you lot thought the ending would be different, didn't you?...

11. ★ Naval Service Memorial Figurine

Graham Mitcheson, the sculpture of the Naval Service Memorial, has produced a miniature figurine of the Sailor (approx 9" high) who sits adjacent to the NSM. The figurine is now on sale at the National Arboretum, where it is on sale for £90. However Shipmates may purchase the figurine at a discounted cost of £75 (including Post) from Nigel at Central Office. Nigel can be contacted at nigel@royalnavalassoc.com Or by telephone on 02392 723747.



12. ★ White Civvy Looking Ship

Thought Shipmates would like to see the latest bit of inter-service rivalry concerning HMS Queen Elizabeth which we received from a mystery Shipmate at Central Office. It certainly comes across as genuine.....

HMS Queen Elizabeth is on her sea trials. Allegedly the white, 'civvy' looking ship astern, is the RAF embarked squadrons accommodation ship.....



13. ★ SAIL Line (Seafarers' Advice and Information Line)

Shipmates should be aware that there is a free Citizens Advice service dedicated to working and former seafarers across the whole of the UK. It's called Seafarers' Advice & Information Line (SAIL).

Seafarers' Advice & Information Line (SAIL) is a free Citizens Advice service dedicated to working and former seafarers across the whole of the UK.

We provide free help Naval Service Veterans and their partners. Advice and support can be provided to you on many different areas including benefits, debt, charity grants, pensions, immigration, housing, care homes and many more. SAIL has 7 professional fully-trained advisers.

You can contact SAIL by calling 0800 160 1842 between 1000 and 1600 on weekdays. That number is free from both land lines and mobiles. Alternatively you can email us at advice@sailine.org.uk or contact us through the website www.sailine.org.uk. On that site you'll also find more information on the help SAIL can give you.

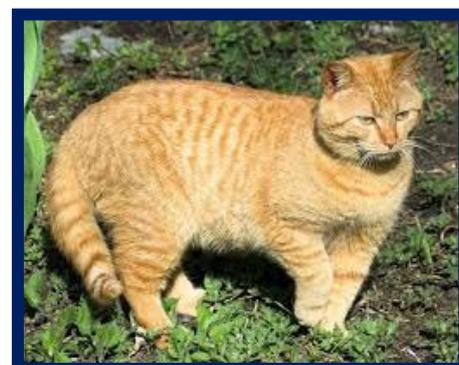
In 2016 SAIL helped just over 1,000 seafarers. The most common problems we saw were to do with benefits and debt. SAIL's advice to Naval Service Veterans is funded by Greenwich Hospital, a Royal Navy charity since 1694. For more information on SAIL to give to your members, please email Miles Cowley on miles.cowley@sailine.org.uk

14. ★ Joke Time – The B*****y Cat

My wife and I were dressed and ready to go out for a lovely evening of dinner and a show. Having been burgled in the past, we turned on a 'night light' and the answering machine, then put the cat in the garden. When our cab arrived, we walked out our front door and our rather tubby cat scooted between our legs back inside, then ran up the stairs. Because our cat likes to chase our budgie we really didn't want to leave them 'unchaperoned' so my wife ran inside to retrieve her and put her in the back yard again.

Because I didn't want the taxi driver to know our house was going to be empty all evening, I explained to him that my wife would be out momentarily as she was just bidding goodnight to her mother. A few minutes later she got into the cab all hot and bothered, and said (to my growing horror and amusement) as the cab pulled away.....

"Sorry it took so long but the stupid b***h was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her bottom with a coat hanger to get her to come out! She tried to take off so I grabbed her by the neck and wrapped her in a blanket so she wouldn't scratch me like she did last time. But it worked! I hauled her fat arse down the stairs and threw her back into the gardenshe had better not pooh in the vegetable garden again."



As you can imagine the silence in the taxi was deafening!!

15. ★ Whale Island Heritage Weekend



Shipmates I am sure will be very interested to know that over the weekend Saturday 9th September and Sunday 10th September 2017 that HMS Excellent Whale Island is open to the public (for free).

During the weekend the GI's Association 'Man up' and volunteer to show / 'March' visitors around the sites of Whale Island including the State Gun Carriage, Field Gun Display Room, the brilliant Excellent museum in the Wells Room and of course the Rose garden which has been ~~manured~~ sorry manicured by one-up French(Roy) De La Haye.

The GI's Clubhouse will be open (free ear defenders on request) for a cheap as chips pint and other refreshments for a donation!

So come along and enjoy this rare opportunity. If you require

further details please contact Frenchy on 01252 310767 or e-mail frenchy.delahaye@ntlworld.com

16. Spotted In Cowes IOW

Shipmates a Shipmate spotted this shop front
Shipmates in Cowes.....



17. WRNS 100 Commemoration

RNA Central Office Staff Member Chrissie Hughes, spinning a 'dit' (and boy can she spin some!) with 94 years-old Irene Peck. Irene served at Bletchley Park during WW2 as a Wren and she still possess her original hat!, which you can see her wearing in the photo.

Also featuring in the photo is Chrissie's shipmate, Karen Eynon – they served together in Hong Kong from 89-91 (Name droppers). The photo was taken at the WRNS 100 Commemoration at Greenwich.

(Editor Comment – The ladies had a fabulous day out and

were particularly impressed with the painted hall.)

RNA Longcast

2017	
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Stowmarket
11 Aug	Open Day
18 Aug	FAC
19 Aug	AMC
01 Sep – 31 Oct	Possible arrival window of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth - TBC
06 Oct	Open Day
09 Sep	National Council Meeting – Victory Services Club
10 Sep	Biennial Parade
29 Sep - 02 Oct	CONA Cruise (Liverpool –Dublin- Bristol)
30 Sept	Chichester Branch 70 th anniversary event
11 Oct	Sea Farers Service St Pauls Cathedral (Ticketed entry only – requests for tickets to Nigel by end September please)
20 Oct	RNA Dublin- Trafalgar Night Dinner
21 Oct	RNA Chard -30 year Commissioning Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
08 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – Cenotaph Parade
17 Nov	FAC
18 Nov	AMC
25 Nov	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Royston RNA (Eternit Sports & Social Club)
09 Dec	National Council Meeting
2018	
03 Feb	Area 5 AGM / Quarterly – Southend RNA Club
16 Feb	FAC
17 Feb	AMC
10 Mar	National Council Meeting
20-22 Apr	Welfare Seminar – Stoke on Trent
05 May	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
18/19/20 May	Londonderry Branch Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration 2018
12 May	National Standard Bearer Competition – HMS Collingwood
08 Jun	NC/AMC/FAC/SOC Meetings
8/9/10 June	
04 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
17 Aug	FAC
18 Aug	AMC
08 Sep	National Council Meeting
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – RBL Club Rayleigh
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
08 Dec	National Council Meeting

D'ye hear there'.....

News from around the Areas and Branches

- [RNA Chatham](#)
- [RNA Lee on the Solent & Stubbington](#)
- [RNA Maidstone](#)
- [RNA Stowmarket](#)
- [RNA Plymouth](#)
- [RNA St Neots](#)
- [RNA Henlow](#)
- [RNA Christchurch](#)
- [RNA Huntingdon & District](#)
- [Area 2](#)
- [RNA Helston](#)
- [RNA Paddock Wood](#)
- [RNA Tyne](#)
- [RNA Newport](#)
- [RNA Chard](#)
- [RNA Chichester](#)

RNA Chatham Branch

Chatham Branch Shipmates had a very successful day at Chatham Armed Forces Day on the Great Lines which was really enjoyed by the Shipmates and general public as you can see below.



RNA Lee on the Solent and Stubbington

Vice Chairman Soapy Watson his good lady wife Ann and Lee/Stubb Hon Secretary Kate Webb led a team of Shipmates to Asda in Fareham where they raised £360 pounds for the Branches 'Charity Chest'.

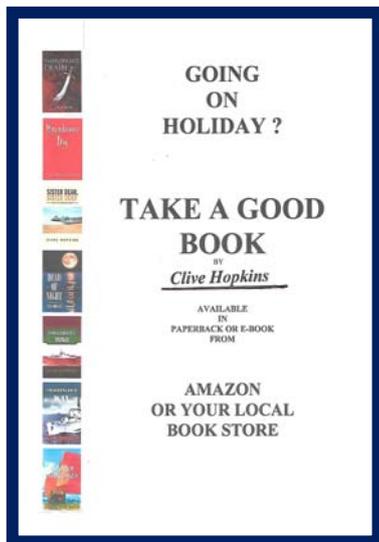
The Branch was been very busy on the social front a very successful 'Skittles' evening at the Crofton pub. Once again the Jack Dusties of the branch maintained their winning streak after wins by S/Ms Andy Giles and



and John 'knock em for 9' Webb this year branch Chairman Andy Christie was presented with the winners trophy! Common You Dusties...

This was followed on the Sunday with the annual branch 'Barbie' which was attended by 50 Shipmates and their families and guests. Once again the Vice Chairman got his probe out (oooh Matron!) and 'cheffed it up' with Social Secretary Shipmate Rod Phillips and supplying an incredible feast of Barbeque'd tucker!

RNA Maidstone Branch



Maidstone branch member Clive Hopkins is a published author and would like to advertise his books to Shipmates.

NCM 2 S/M Darby Allen is a fan of S/M Clives books and said "I have read all books and believe the HMS Challenger series are based on Clive's service in the 1950's, as a Signaller on HMS Cossack, would be of great interest to RNA members".

RNA Stowmarket Branch

Stowmarket Shipmates visited Central Office for an Open Day recently and below is a blow by blow account of their outing!

Friday, 30th June saw a small party from the branch 'invade' the seaside town of Portsmouth, known simply as 'Pompey', for a visit to RNA HQ in the dockyard (sorry, but the editor refuses to call it a Naval Base). The six hardy souls in our shore party had decided to make the most of our visit, which included a stay overnight in the city and taking in a visit to the submarine museum the following day.

We set off from Stowmarket at 0530 for our journey to Pompey, with a stopover on the A3 for a spot of breakfast and arrived at the dockyard at 1000 to 'book in', to be met by armed police! Now we know we can get a bit rowdy, but we hadn't had a drink yet! Of course, Jack and Jenny took it in their stride, though Archie had to be held back from asking if he could play with the coppers 'shooters'. Having 'bluffed' our way in, we drove through the yard towards Semaphore Tower, which for some was their first ever visit and others an opportunity to remember when the yard was packed with 'grey funnel line' ships, Jack having a 'bimble' and 'Dockies' walking aimlessly about in their green overalls, spanner in hand, avoiding a ship to work on!

We arrived at Central HQ to be met by Nigel Huxtable and Andy Christie, both of whom would



prove to be excellent hosts during our stay. They were stars, making us and shipmates from Aldershot, Portland and Southsea feel very welcome. From Semaphore Tower, we had a stunning and unobscured view of Pompey harbour and blessed with a gloriously warm day. After a spot of lunch and a visit to 'slops' (yep, visits to HQ mean you will end up spending money), it was time for a boat trip around the harbour. (Known by many a sailor by another name, which I won't go into here!)

HQ's Paul Quinn gave an excellent overview of the work of the RNA, which includes hosting visits for new members of the Royal Navy, before being our tour guide as we made our way around the harbour. Nigel and Andy had hip flasks of 'Nelson's blood' to keep us warm, which of course we weren't going to turn down!

Once the boat trip was complete, it was time to say farewell and find our digs for the night. With a quick turnaround, we had changed into 'run ashore' rig and headed for the nearest bar where we stayed for the remainder of the afternoon! Having had something to eat (we thought it sensible, not a necessity), we took up Portsmouth RNA's invitation to visit them and say hello. Pompey RNA couldn't have been more welcoming. The end of the evening saw us take a short taxi ride to Spice Island in Old Portsmouth to take in the harbour lights (ok, have a couple more drinks), which Roz particularly enjoyed, before heading back to our digs for the night.



The following morning Olga rounded up the troops and we headed to Gosport and the submarine museum, which is still simply known to thousands of submariners (and 'skimmers') as HMS Dolphin. The smiles on both Archie's and Chris' couldn't have been wider as we walked through the gates. They had come 'home' and immediately went into submariner mode (a bimble with swagger). During the excellent tour of HMS Alliance, both were at hand to answer questions about life on a 'boat' and the strange obsession submariners have with the smell of diesel! As a 'skimmer' ('target' in submariner

parlance), it still doesn't explain why anyone would want to shut themselves away on a tube. Strange bunch, but I admit I'd rather have them on my side.

With our tour complete, and Archie having spent a small fortune on submariner merchandise (they let him off the 10 pence for the two carrier bags), we set off back towards Suffolk, tired, but happy. All in all, it was well worth the hangover! Though the yard has changed, it certainly brought back many happy memories of our time in the 'mob'. Once Navy, Always Navy.

RNA Plymouth Branch

Plymouth Shipmates enjoyed a memorable long weekend which encompassed a day at the Chatham Historical Dockyard, an evening enjoying the warm hospitality of RNA Southend and a day at Greenwich Old Naval College and National Maritime Museum.



Members were delighted to meet S/M 'Darby' Allen (NCM 2 Area) Chatham Branch, past volunteer on HMS

Cavalier who enlightened members on the important features within the Dockyard. Being a very warm day 'Darby' was dressed most appropriately and resembled an 'Outbacker' from the periphery of Tanarmi, Northern Territory, Australia!.

A continuous influx of new members, an average attendance of 80 for monthly meetings certainly stimulates the Branch. Summer Ball, 'Demise of the Tot night, Trafalgar weekend and the Annual Dinner & Dance later in the year, enhanced by regular media publicity indicates a sound future for the Branch. So do not forget.....The Branch Biennial Trafalgar weekend- details below

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

Friday October 13th – Monday October 16th 2017

2 Nights. Dinner/Bed/Breakfast £124

3 Nights Dinner/Bed/Breakfast £180

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

RNA St Neots Branch

Shipmate Maureen Ridley has forwarded the report on activities at St Neots Branch.



St Neots and District Branch throughout the year go out fundraising whilst flying the flag and raising interest in the RNA. Over many years St Neots and District Branch have picked up new members in this way whilst out at events with the gazebo and a tombola stall. We have two tombola sessions, one for the adults and the other for children and both have been very successful.

In May this year the branch were at Eaton Socon May Day which is a very popular local event, which the Branch attends every year. The next event was in the foyer at Tesco in St Neots for 2 days where again a great deal of interest was created. Children particularly like the RNA Sailor Hats which can be

obtained free from Central Office as free giveaways.

Any Branches looking to recruit new members you need to get out and promote yourselves and the RNA. Admittedly you need willing volunteers but on the plus side it can be a great fun day out for those who take part. To be successful you need to source new tombola prizes at a good price. The adult prizes always look more attractive if they are wrapped in cellophane and tied with curling ribbon. Adult prizes are numbered but on the children's tombola they can choose what they want. Another huge attraction is supermarket foyer collections where members if possible should wear blazers and medals. This creates a huge attraction with



members of the public who are always very eager to chat. Again free RNA Sailor Hats are always very popular. Finally always make sure you have sufficient RNA Application Forms ready to hand and have available details of where and when your Branch meet. New members in general don't come to you, you have to go out and get them!

Another brilliant day for the town of St Neots, home patch of the RNA National Chairman Keith Ridley who in his "spare time" is also Chairman of St Neots Armed Forces Day Committee, who along with his team for the 4th year organised a highly successful free public event. This is the biggest Armed Forces Day event in Cambridgeshire and visitors now travel from around the country to attend. Over 6,000 people came to support our Armed Forces past, present and future. Numerous military vehicles, classic and vintage cars and motorbikes were on display and there was a fantastic horse display by the WW1 Field Hospital Team plus there were many more attractions. Two Chelsea Pensioners honoured the event with their presence and very much enjoyed their weekend. Crowds were entertained by a fantastic range of acts both on stage and in the arena. Youth was represented by Cadets from T.S. DUCHESS from Biggleswade SCC, and 2500 Squadron Air Training Corps. Youngsters enjoyed experiencing hands on the St Neots Fire and Ambulance vehicles and were given first hand how to perform CPR and using a defibrillator. The most moving part of the day was both the Opening Ceremony with the raising of the Armed Forces Day flag and in particular the Closing Evening Hymn and Sunset Ceremony which was very emotional. Hundreds of families enjoyed picnics throughout the day. It was rewarding to see so many people of all ages enjoying themselves. The St Neots RNA Branch were once again there with their gazebo fundraising and flying the flag for the RNA. This year we had standards from around the county and Dave Corrigan the Deputy National Standard Bearer paraded the RNA No 6 Area Standard sported by Jack Ord from Bletchley Branch. This event took place in the idealic setting of Regatta Meadow, part of the St Neots Riverside Park alongside the River Great Ouse. S/M Keith Ridley's boat/floating office Pusser's Rum was predominantly moored along the bank where well earned tots of Pusser's were issued to end a very successful day.



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On Sunday 11th June the National Chairman Keith Ridley visited S/M Philip ("Pip") Harrison to congratulate him on his 102nd birthday on behalf of the Royal Naval Association. Pip is a member of RNA St Neots and District Branch. Pip joined the Royal Navy in 1940 at HMS GANGES and served as a signalman until he was commissioned in 1943 and went on to be promoted to Lt. RNVR before being demobbed in 1946. Pip completed 11 Russian Arctic convoys. During his wartime career Pip served on HM Ships, INTREPID, TAFF and SPEY.



Pip was on both Russian and Malta convoys and took part in the famous Operation Pedestal in which the American tanker Ohio was bombed and caught alight. Following the fire being extinguished it was lashed to two Royal Navy destroyers who took it into Grand Harbour and was one of the first oil tankers to reach Malta who desperately needed fuel. On leaving the Navy Pip became headmaster of a local school. Very Happy Birthday Pip from all the Shipmates.

The photos above Top -show the RNA National Chairman, Keith Ridley with MP Jonathan Djanogly, Aileen Guy whose son Alex served in Afghanistan with the Royal Anglian Regiment. Alex was tragically killed whilst on active Service in 2012. On the left is Derek Giles the St Neots Town Mayor. The middle photo - is of the National Chairman wearing his hat as the St Neots Branch Standard Bearer with Dave Corrigan the Deputy National Standard Bearer carrying the RNA No 6 Area Standard and finally the bottom photo shows S/M Keith Ridley with 102 year old Pip Harrison.

RNA Henlow Branch

Unfortunately at the beginning of the 2017 Henlow Branch hit stormy waters (Force 10!). Having survived the storm they now have a new Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and two new members have come on board. Last month they had a young Royal Marine who travelled up from London to talk about Navy life today. On the 13th September the Branch will be holding a Mess Deck supper and all are welcome. The new member has an Uckers board so watch out Rayleigh Branch they may be taking up your challenge of a match. Henlow Branch meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1930hrs at

The Gardens Community Room,
Arlesey Road,
Henlow
SG16 6DG

Please contact the Secretary Jack Stafford on 01462 850618 for more details about the Branch and the Mess Deck Supper.



RNA Christchurch Branch

Christine Payne the Branch PRO has forwarded a despatch from Christchurch to inform Shipmates that;

- Branch is holding its Trafalgar Dinner on Wednesday 18th October 2017. Further details and tickets from S/M Mike Parker - charles35@ticali.co.uk
- Christchurch Branch recently marked the centenary of the foundation of the WRNS with a cream tea. Members of the Bournemouth Association of Wrens were invited to join S/Ms of the local RNA who have former Wrens among their membership. A splendid tea was enjoyed and the afternoon was buzzing with trips down memory lane -- and some of the visitors have joined the RNA. The event received good coverage in the local press including a picture.
- Christchurch will again have a stand as part of the Naval Village at Bournemouth Air Show 31 August to September 3rd. It is hoped that Christchurch members will be visited by lots of S/ms from other Branches.

RNA Huntingdon & District Branch

Shipmate Karl Webb has very kindly provided an update on activities in Huntingdon and District.

Whilst serving and former service personnel celebrated Armed Forces Day during the week of 19th June 2017, Huntingdon & District Branch were also representing the Royal Naval Association at two AFD events. The first was the Fly a Flag for Armed Forces Day Ceremony at the Huntingdon District Council Offices.



Shipmates Karl Webb (parading the Branch Standard) and Mark Fearon (Duty Phot) joined councillors, personnel from RAF Wyton, members of the Royal British Legion and also the Royal Air Force Association. BZ to S/M Mark Fearon, he had only just filled in his application form to join the Branch and was immediately roped in to

carry out photographic duties for the day.

On Saturday 24th June, shipmates Karl Webb and Pete Aston met up with cadets and staff from T.S. Cromwell S.C.C. to man a joint RNA/SCC stall for AFD in St Ives. At 1200, S/M Karl Webb and Cadet Kieran Turner joined the RBL and RAFA to parade Branch Standards for the AFD Flag Raising above St Ives Town Hall.

Later that afternoon, new branch members, S/Ms Mark and Catherine Fearon, both serving RNR personnel with H.M.S. President, joined shipmates and cadets at the stall. Shipmates from Huntingdon Branch are always keen to support the RNA whenever possible, especially for Armed Forces Day, well done shipmates.

On Saturday 1st July 2017, shipmates from Huntingdon & District Branch attended the annual Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride (AMRR) service, hosted by the Royal British Legion Bikers at Cambridge American War Cemetery, an event attended by over 1000 bikers.

Shipmates Karl Webb, Graham Murray, and Hilary Meers-Webb were attending after being invited by the RBL to parade our Branch Standard at the service. The Branch have never attended this service before so were unsure as to how the day would unfold. Arriving early gave a chance for a quick tour around the cemetery and to view the various memorials to



the American Armed Forces personnel who were buried on English soil.



As we waited for the bikers to arrive, Geoff Dodgson, UK Chaplain, AMRR spotted S/M Hilary Meers-Webb, smartly dressed in RNA blazer, and asked if she would read the Act of Remembrance during the Service. With S/M Karl Webb parading the Standard and S/M Graham Murray acting as duty phot, all three branch members would take an active part in the ceremony.

It was an amazing site at the entrance to the cemetery as the bikers arrived and rode through the gates with RNA, RBL and RAFA Standards on parade. Once all the bikers had passed, Standard

Bearers moved to the main memorial and S/M Hilary Meers-Webb took her place at the head of the organisers for the welcome brief and prayers from the padre and Bishop of Ely.

As this was the first time the branch had attended this service, we were not sure what to expect, but the whole event was amazing to take part in and we will certainly be back again next year. The arrival of the bikers and the service itself was covered on national and local TV and also featured on Forces TV, BZ shipmates.



The busiest months in Huntingdon RNA's calendar are June and July. This year was no exception. Having manned a joint RNA stall for Fly Navy Day, attending National Conference, attending a flag raising event in Huntingdon for AFD, manning a joint RNA and SCC stall in St

Ives for AFD and attending at Allied Memorial Remembrance Ride at Cambridge American Cemetery, we also attended two church services.



The first service was part of a meeting of local branches, hosted by RNA Cambridge, at Bishop Woodford House in Ely. Shipmates Karl Webb and Graham Murray were delighted to meet up with shipmates from Cambridge and

Soham branches, we were even treated to a lunch and a tot, but more important, we have made some new friends from the RNA, thank you Reverend Simon Whittaker for the invite, we look forward to meeting you all again soon.

The second church service was a combined St Benedict's Day Eucharist Celebration and Sea Sunday Service. The Merchant Navy Association had asked if Reverend Andrew Milton (also Huntingdon RNA's Branch Chaplain) could attend a Sea Sunday service, sadly it had clashed with St Benedict's Day but Andrew would be more than happy for us to join his congregation in St Benedict's Court, Huntingdon.

Shipmates Karl Webb, Bill Small, Graham Murray, and Pete Aston joined the Mayor of Huntingdon, Councillor Jay Dyne, members of the Merchant Navy Association, and of course, members of St Mary's & All Saints' Churches, Huntingdon for the Service.

Being a combined service, S/M Karl Webb was asked to give the 1st Reading. S/M Bill Small had brought the Branch Standard, but with the Mayor's agreement, we decided that we would make our way to Huntingdon's War Memorial on completion of the church service and hold a minute's silence and lay a wreath in memory of those who have served, are serving, and will serve at sea.



Area 2

Shipmates from Area 2 supported by Area 6 and ratings from HMS President gathered at Maidstone Civil Service Club on Sunday 16th July for Maidstone Sea Day. A short march to St Paul's Church was led by a combined band from Maidstone; Folkestone and Ashford Sea Cadets under the eye of Parade Commander S/M Steve Susans. On arrival at St Paul's a short service, conducted by the reverend Chris Keys was held. During the service Chris played guitar and sang a 'sea shanty' which he had specially composed for the day by himself. On return



from the service the salute was taken by the Guest of Honour Commander Trevor Price RN, and the Deputy Mayor of Maidstone. A buffet lunch and speeches followed along with a parade of standards, beating retreat and ceremonial sunset, Well done to shipmate John Cooper and all at Maidstone RNA who put together a great afternoon.

RNA Helston Branch

Shipmates will be interested in the latest going on's from deepest Darkest Kernow.....

Five Members of the Helston Branch attended the Falklands Memorial Dinner held at the WO's & Seniors Rates Mess at RNAS Culdrose on Saturday 17th June hosted by WO1 "Bridgette" Turner the Mess President.

Branch members S/Ms George Scott, Chairman, Josie Locke Deputy Chairwoman, and Joe Morton, HMS Antelope. S/M Peter Cherry, Atlantic Conveyer and Secretary S/m Joe Locke HMS Cardiff were the two guest speakers to follow on from Joe Morton who was the guest speaker last year. The meal was of roast lamb with the all the trimmings with plenty of wine.

A place was set and a candle was lit for the whole of the night for the 255 who didn't return. Three roll calls were read out, the Royal Navy personnel still on patrol down south, the veterans who were attending the dinner and the Vice President WO1 'Jan' Nicholas RM read out the losses of the Royal Marines. The Veterans stood in turn when their names were called out and the dinner guests gave a loud round of applause, it was very moving. The Shipmates all said it was a wonderful dinner and they were shown great hospitality by the mess members.

Shipmate Joe Locke presented a picture of the Task force heading south with the Hermes and a framed poster of the Royal Naval and Royal Marine who took part in the load down south and the timeline on the behalf of the Helston branch. The pictures and are now hanging proudly on the wall in the Falklands Suite in the WO and Senior Rates Mess, near the bar.

RNA Paddock Wood

Members of Paddock Wood RNA recently attended an event in The Historic Dockyard Chatham to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Battle of Medway.

It was a wonderful sight with the Royal Marine Band, Portsmouth and the Royal Dutch Naval Band performing to senior dignitaries and members of the public.

This was the first event which culminated on Saturday 17 June at Upnor Castle with a spectacular finale depicting the events leading to the raid by the Dutch Navy on the ships of the English Royal Navy.



RNA Tyne Branch

Shipmate Roslyn Hastie-Murray Tyne Branch PRO forwarded a report on proceedings in Tyne Branch.

The May Branch meeting of RNA Tyne showed a good turnout of shipmates, including some of our most senior members, for an evening mainly of celebration. Firstly, S/M John Curtis, who is an associated member, was presented with a well-due Certificate of Appreciation for all of the support and work he does for the Branch.

This was followed by a special presentation to our Branch President, S/M Ian McQueen, who is moving away from Tyneside into Yorkshire. (He will still continue his duties as NCM for Area11) He will be missed greatly at our meetings (always the first hand up during our meetings!) but he has agreed to remain our President so we will see him on occasion when he is free to visit. The Branch presented Ian with a box containing a special bottle of his favourite Merlot and accompanying accessories.



The third occasion of the evening was the celebration of the 92nd birthday of S/M George Laverick who had provided an excellent buffet.

Future planning is also in progress for the 70th anniversary of the Branch next March, 2018. To complement the celebrations themselves, it was proposed at the Area meeting, held on 10 June, that the next Area AGM to be held at our base in Jesmond Royal British Legion Club, in Newcastle upon Tyne, the dates for both occasions matching in. This was unanimously agreed by the Area Committee. More information about these events will follow in due

course - I foresee a committee meeting hoving into view already!

RNA Newport Branch

Newport RNA visited BRNC in Dartmouth on 08 July 2017.

A beautiful sunny day greeted the Newport RNA shipmates as they disembarked on the hallowed ground of the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth under the attentive eye of Shipmate Spider Kelly - organiser supreme and guide extraordinary.



And again we were challenged by the captain himself - no, not *that* one! The REAL one - Captain Jack Sparrow, who demanded to see our ID. But he was immediately advised to desist by Shipmates Kelly and Routly, they were about to arrest him when he produced a warrant giving him free passage for the day! So we ambled off down the road to the Parade Ground where a Cadet rounded us up for a tour of the college.

And no matter how many times you visit this amazing place you're still impressed by it. You can almost taste the history that seeps from every brick of an establishment that dates back to 1905. Designed by Sir George Aston Webb, one of the more distinguished architects of his day, he also designed Admiralty Arch and the East Front of Buckingham Palace. The foundation stone was laid by King Edward VII in March

1902 and the first cadets entered the College three years later.

First up was the Captain's garden where the teenage Princess Elizabeth was accompanied by the dashing Lt Prince Philip of Greece during her visit to the college. And the guide drew our attention to a bricked up window, reminding us of the class prejudices of the time when cadets weren't permitted to see into the Captain's apartments.

Next we visited the chapel and saw the small round window up in the wall through which, once every year, the sun casts a beam of light that touches on the statue of Jesus - at the exact moment Lord Nelson died at the battle of Trafalgar! Glass doors replaced the old oak ones in 2000 to celebrate the millennium and are engraved with the prayer 'They that go down to the sea in ships ...'

The Museum was a place you could spend a whole day in. There was an impressive collection of artefacts that illustrated the college's longstanding Royal connections. Generations of the Royal family have trained at Dartmouth, including King George VI, The Queen's father, whose dress uniform is still on display. Also on display was the sea chest of a young cadet, assumed to be fifteen years old, in which were his whole worldly possessions, including a half written letter to his parents. There was a desk with a typewriter and parchments, a writing bureau with original pens and ink. We could also listen to the Britannia Voices oral history project, which captures first-hand accounts of College life from the 1930s to 1980s.



Fortunately the college was practically empty at the time and the only fatality during the dreadful episode when a young WREN who was walking through it.

As it was an open day over 3,000 visitors came to see the College and stalls, and to enjoy the many demonstrations throughout the day. Highlights included a Field Gun run, the chance to look inside a Royal Navy helicopter and of course the beer tent, which came second only to the hot dog tent.

For the final event, a performance by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Plymouth, the Newport RNA Shipmates were invited to stand with Captain Jol Woodard RN on the balcony. The band gave us a wonderful display of music, marching and humorous sketches for which they got enthusiastic applause. As we were about to disperse Captain Woodward chatted with us and posed for a group photo before wishing us well and inviting us back again in the near future.

It was a wonderful day, and we enjoyed being one of the attractions for the public. People asked us about Newport RNA and said how much they admired the way we turned out in smart blazers and military bearing. It reminded so many people of relatives who served in the forces and they were anxious to tell us their stories.



Then it was back on the bus and a quick buzz up the road to our friends at the White Ensign Club, Exeter where we had a rousing serving of rum by the excellent Rum Bosuns. Then a beautiful buffet was laid on followed by live music that had some people shuffling around the dance floor as if they knew what they were doing. And the beer flowed and the food disappeared with great gusto. Then back on the bus for the last leg home, arriving in Newport at 11.30 knackered but satisfied. The credit for this great day out must go to Shipmate Spider Kelly, but also to the rest of the group who were fantastic company and an honour to spend time with.

RNA Chard Branch

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

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

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

RNA Chichester Branch

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

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

CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Jim Whent - Hereford Branch](#)

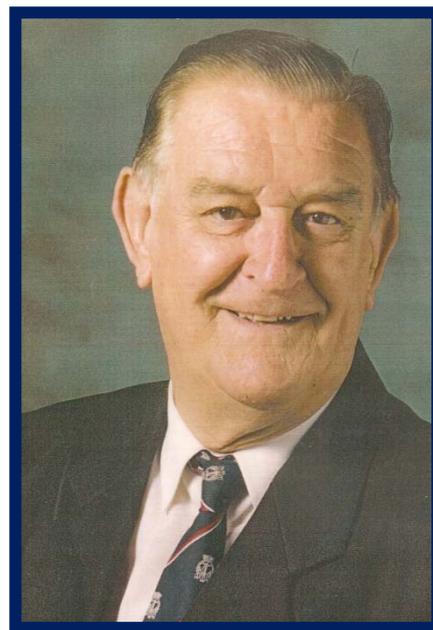
Jim Whent - Hereford Branch

S/M Jim Whent “Crossed the Bar” on Sunday 18th June, peacefully at home at the age of 93 after many years being nursed at home by carers and his devoted wife Eileen.

He joined the Royal Navy in April 1942 and was discharged in June 1946. He trained at HMS Collingwood and worked on the landing craft. He was awarded the 1939-45 Atlantic Star, Burma Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, and the War Medal. On leaving the Royal Navy he joined the Police force in Hereford and in 1994 Jim was awarded an MBE for services to the Community in Hereford.

S/m Jim joined the Hereford RNA in 1974 and served on the committee in various roles as Assistant Secretary, Liaison Officer, PRO, Branch Chairman and in 2000 was awarded Honorary Life Vice President. He was an exceptionally generous man and was always forthcoming with raffle prizes for the branch meetings, skittles matches, mess dinners and of course the Christmas ‘Get Together’. He was also a member of other Associations but his heart was mainly with the RNA and the Landing Craft Association. He will be greatly missed by all his Shipmates at the Hereford Branch.

“ May He Find Safe Anchorage”



RNA Members Benefits

UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

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

Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

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

Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Veterans UK www.veteranfunerals.co.uk Tel 07889 009393

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



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

Legal Services



Free 30 minute legal advice with Coffin Mew.
armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk 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



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Shortcast

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

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

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

Plymouth - for further details contact jameschapman375@btinternet.com

HMS Illustrious Association – 8-10 September 2017

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

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

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

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

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

HMS Ulster Association – 29 September – 02 Oct 17

Details are: Friday September 29th – Monday October 2nd at Royal Beach Southsea.

Full details <http://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/reunions.html> or contact IOW Tours on 01983 405116 to make a booking. All commissions very welcome. Additional information can be made by contacting reunion organiser, Norrie Millen at ulster@candoo.com or by calling 01626 779409 or Mobile 077709909691. Both phones have an answering service so do please leave a message.

2018 HMS Ulster reunion will be at Tillington House Hotel in Staffordshire, not too far from National Arboretum. Once again all commissions welcome. It will mark the 60th anniversary of 1958-60 commission for her memorable and unique trip up through Great Lakes of Canada when Queen Elizabeth & President Eisenhower officially opened The St Lawrence Seaway. The CO - Commander Cameron Rusby (later Vice Admiral Sir Cameron) signalled MOD "I am claiming the world altitude record for a British Frigate, we are now 600 feet above sea level and 2000 miles inland" Date to be confirmed but will be in late September/early October 2018.

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

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

Hot off the press.....

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

HMS St Vincent Association - 06/09 October 2017

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

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

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

HMS Arethusa Association – 13-16 October 2017

HMS ARETHUSA Social weekend - October 13th to 16th 2017 at The Risboro Hotel, Llandudno. Details and booking forms from - IOW Tours Ltd.
HMS Relentless Association – 24-27 November 2017

HMS Lowestoft Association - 20/22 October 2017

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

HMS Mohawk Association – 20-23 October 2017

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

Bay Class Frigates Association – 23/25 October 2017

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

Survey Ships Association – 27/30 October 2017

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

HMS Relentless Association – 24-27 November 2017

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

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

Swinging the Lamp – August 2017



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1740	First performance of 'Rule, Britannia!' in the masque <i>Alfred</i> , about Alfred the Great's victories over the Vikings, performed at Cliveden House, Maidenhead, home of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and staged in honour of HM King George I's accession and the birthday of HRH Princess Augusta.
2 nd	1999	Final performance of the Royal Tournament at Earl's Court, in which the Royal Navy had participated since 1887. The centrepiece since 1907 was the annual naval field gun competition, a relic of the Naval Brigades in the Boer War, between the Home Ports, later joined by the Fleet Air Arm. Devonport was the last winner.
3 rd	1919	Battleship <i>Valiant</i> , with destroyers <i>Venomous</i> and <i>Whitley</i> , anchored in River Mersey to protect the docks and to support the civil power during a strike by Liverpool City Police.
4 th	1943	Monitor <i>Roberts</i> bombarded the road and railway at Taormina, Sicily.
5 th	1980	Destroyer <i>Glasgow</i> began three days' hurricane relief at St Lucia. Hurricane Allen.
6 th	1915	Suvla landing began in Dardanelles campaign. Ended on 15 August.
7 th	1914	Rear-Admiral Ernest Troubridge broke off the chase of <i>Goeben</i> and <i>Breslau</i> , which reached Constantinople and reinforced Turkey. This led to his being court-martialled but acquitted. Capt Howard Kelly in <i>Gloucester</i> continued to pursue the 'foe then flying' and, with his brother Joe in <i>Dublin</i> , he was the only star in a dismal episode.
8th	1979	Lt -Cdr Nicholas Monsarrat, RNVR, ('Montserrat' on birth certificate) author of <i>The Cruel Sea</i> (1951), 'one of the greatest triumphs of fiction in the English language' (DNB), died. His ashes were scattered at sea by the Royal Navy.
9 th	1854	VC: Cdr J. Bythesea and Stoker W. Johnstone (<i>Arrogant</i>) overcame five soldiers with important dispatches on the island of Wardo in the Baltic and brought them all back safely. William Johnstone ('probably a Swede') was the first lower-deck recipient of the VC.
10 th	1944	<i>Wren</i> (second of the name and of the war) and Liberator C/53 sank U-608 in Bay of Biscay.
11 th	1918	Six RN 40ft CMBs on patrol off Dutch coast attacked by six German aircraft off Terschelling. The CMBs were doing 30 knots and the aircraft 60 knots. 'It was certainly the fastest action ever fought at sea' – Newbolt, <i>Naval Operations</i> , vol.5, p.346. CMBs 41, 44 and

		<p>48 were interned by Dutch; CMBs 40, 42 and 47 sunk. Rear-Admiral Tyrwhitt, commanding the Harwich Force, lured Zeppelin L-53 to seaward, where she was brought down 'in those upper regions of the air from which neither sea nor land is visible' (Corbett and Newbolt, <i>Naval Operations</i>, pp.346–7) by Lt S.D. Culley, RAF, in a Sopwith Camel in which he had taken off from a lighter towed by the destroyer <i>Redoubt</i>. Tyrwhitt signalled a reference to Hymn 227, A&M, v. 7:</p> <p>O happy band of pilgrims, Look upward to the skies Where such a light affliction Shall win so great a prize</p> <p>The tactic was repeated in the Second World War when Hurricanes were catapulted from CAM ships (Catapult Aircraft Merchantmen) to destroy German aircraft shadowing Allied convoys.</p>
12 th	1812	First stone of Plymouth breakwater laid.
13 th	1942	Bombardment of Rhodes (Operation M.G.4). Diversion to facilitate the passage of the 'Pedestal' convoy. Ships: <i>Arethusa</i> , <i>Cleopatra</i> , <i>Javelin</i> , <i>Kelvin</i> , <i>Sikh</i> , <i>Zulu</i> .
14 th	1877	William Henry Smith, the son in W.H. Smith & Son, newsagents, made First Lord of the Admiralty by Disraeli. Smith was lampooned the following year as Sir Joseph Porter in W.S.Gilbert's comic opera <i>HMS Pinafore</i> : 'Stick close to your desks and never go to sea, and you all may be rulers of the Queen's Navee.' Disraeli was criticised 'for conferring the Admiralty on a London tradesman' and Smith blackballed by the Reform but he proved an able administrator and died in post as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports at Walmer Castle on 6 October 1891.
15 th	1983	Fire in engine exhaust and uptake in minehunter <i>Ledbury</i> caused £ 1,300,000 damage. DCI(RN) 349/84.
16 th	1950	Formation of 41 Independent Cdo RM at Bickleigh for Korean service with USMC.
17 th	1940	Two booby-trapped German mines dropped at Boarhunt attractively near <i>Vernon</i> , and, at Piddlehinton. Designated Type E and dealt with, but only just.
18 th	1915	Submarine E 13 stranded on Saltholm, wrecked by German gunfire, interned by Danes and sold for scrap in 1919.
19 th	1995	Destroyer <i>Southampton</i> provided relief assistance to island of Montserrat until 31 August following volcanic eruption. Operation Harlech. From 6–15 September the destroyer with RFA <i>Oakleaf</i> engaged in relief operations in Anguilla following widespread damage in wake of Hurricane Luis. Andy was there!!
20 th	1944	<i>Forester</i> , <i>Vidette</i> and <i>Wensleydale</i> sank U-413 off Brighton.
21 st	1967	Frigate <i>Loch Fada</i> , the first and last of the Loch class frigates serving in the Royal Navy, sailed from Singapore and arrived at Portsmouth 11 October to pay off after twenty-three years' service. While escorting Convoy BTC.81 on 27 February 1945 she sank U-1018 South. of the Lizard, and next day, with <i>Labuan</i> and <i>Wild Goose</i> , and Liberator H/112 of the USN, she sank U-327 off The Scillies. <i>Loch Fada</i> took Archbishop Makarios of Cyprus to exile

		in the Seychelles in 1956 and after paying-off in 1967 she was used as a floating test bed for the Sea Wolf missile on the MOD range in Luce Bay, Scotland.
22 nd	1918	<i>Hood</i> launched at John Brown's, Clydebank, by Lady Hood, widow of Rear-Admiral Hon.Horace Hood, who had been killed in <i>Invincible</i> at Jutland, 31 May 1916, the day <i>Hood</i> was originally laid down. At 860ft 7in overall, the longest warship ever built for the RN, and the heaviest warship at that time to hoist the White Ensign.
23 rd	1993	<i>Opossum</i> , Lt-Cdr J.R.G. Drummond RN, last of the Royal Navy's thirteen Oberon-class diesel-electric submarines, paid off at Gosport. Earlier that month the thirty-year-old boat was the first Western submarine since the Second World War to visit Severomorsk, the Russian Northern Fleet base.
24 th	1946	GC (ex-AM): Lt E.W.K. Walton for saving life during Antarctic survey.
25 th	1914	RM units landed at Ostend. Withdrawn 31 August.
26 th	1989	Admiral Sir Brian Brown promoted and appointed the first Supply Officer to be Second Sea Lord. (Splendid Pusser like all white mafia)
27 th	1944	First Minesweeping Flotilla, Cdr Trevor Crick, maintaining the swept channel between Portsmouth and Arromanches, attacked by RAF Typhoons off Cape d'Antifer near Havre (49.41N, 00.05W) in friendly-fire error. <i>Britomart</i> and <i>Hussar</i> sunk, stern of <i>Salamander</i> blown off (CTL), <i>Jason</i> and trawler <i>Colsay</i> damaged. Some 117 killed, 149 seriously wounded.
28 th	1595	Drake and Hawkins left Plymouth on what turned out to be their last voyage, since neither returned. Drake died of yellow fever and Hawkins of dysentery.
29 th	1969	Submarine <i>Tiptoe</i> , the last operational T-class boat in RN service and the last of fifty-three of her class, paid off after twenty-five years' service. Sold to Pounds 16 April 1971.
30 th	1954	The Royal Naval Association – 'Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and Comradeship' – formed in 1950, received its Royal Charter from HM The Queen. Its purposes 'to further the efficiency of the Service in which members of the Association have served or are serving, by fostering esprit de corps and preserving the traditions of the Service and thus to achieve those ideals for which Our Naval Forces have fought and perpetuate the memory of those members who have died in the service of their country; to relieve members of the Association who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress'. A Supplemental Charter granted 7 June 1990.
31 st	1939	Issuing Prices for service provisions on repayment and expended for General Mess purposes included: Herrings in Tomato Sauce: 1lb tin, 41s/d Lard: 1lb tin, 81s/d (except on the China station, where the price will be communicated by the Victualling Yard). AFO 2496/39.

2018 Diaries

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

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

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

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

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Order form

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TOTAL £.....

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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:

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Three Digit Security Code (where applicable)

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NOMINATION FORM

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

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Areas 5, 6 and 8

It has become necessary to elect a new DNCM to serve out the remaining tenure of DNCM 5 and vacancies in 6 and 8. Each Branch may nominate **one full or life member** from any Branch within its own Area, for election as the Deputy National Council Member **subject to the approval of the Branch to which both persons belong.** (See Note Below)

Name of Nominee for DNCM.....

Proposed by Branch

Address of Nominee

.....
.....

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

Chairman (signed)(dated)

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

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

Candidate's Branch

We certify the acceptance of the nomination by the Candidate's Branch.

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

Nomination Forms

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA HQ no later than **15 Sep 2017** Only one nomination is needed for a candidate to be included in the ballot