



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



The Semaphore Circular

No 676

The Beating Heart of the RNA

February 2018



General Secretary Captain Paul Quinn writing to all Royal Navy Commanding Officers to offer seasonal greetings and brief on all the great projects the RNA is running, the 1,000 good deeds a day that Shipmates do, and the Jutland Wood project.

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 ☆ new or substantially changed entry

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<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

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RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
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Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to the February Circular, a big thanks to the many Branches who sent us Christmas good wishes in various forms they are really appreciated.



Having been in for Christmas and commissioning HMS Queen Elizabeth sails this week for her first Work Up with Flag Officer Sea Training in Plymouth, and first flying trials at sea, p[re]dominately with rotary wing. She has already had a Merlin from 820 Squadron burning and turning on deck as part of working up the flight deck crews – testing refuelling and telebrief, we have been able to see the activity from our offices in ST. Her fixed wing flying trials with the new F35B (Admiral West calls it the Sea Lightning) start in the summer.

A big congratulations to S/M Soapy Watson (Lee and Stub branch) who was awarded the BEM in the New Years honours list for his work with the RNA, particularly in the set up and great success of his branch over 4 years. Soapy also volunteers in HMS Warrior and is our SLJO/Maitre d'H at Conference.

At the request of 10 Area I'd like to clarify the National Council's Dublin Conference subsidy of at least £100. This is in **addition** to the claim for travel expenses to port of embarkation under the pooled fares scheme. There is no need to claim the subsidy against a receipt it will be a flat payment to all voting delegates. There is a pool of money that will be shared equally, if there are fewer than 75 voting delegates, the subsidy will be more. Claim on the usual form issued at Conference.



May I remind you to **book your accommodation** for the Dublin Conference and register your Delegates. There are options apart from the Royal Marine Hotel and please email conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk for details of this and details of ferries.

I am delighted to report that the National Museum of the Royal Navy has offered free entrance to HMS Caroline (Belfast) during the Conference weekend, just show your RNA photo ID card.

I am also delighted to report that the Woodland Trust has produced a great promotional film for the Jutland Wood featuring our great friend Sir David Steel. This will be going onto our website and Facebook feeds, but can be downloaded from <https://thewoodlandtrust.sharefile.eu/d/52c49cb640e24428>, this is a good production please show it at Branch meetings etc. If you want a copy on a data-stick let me know for Armed Forces Day etc. The wood will be planted this winter – details of the planting event will follow. More to the point please encourage members, family and friends to dedicate a tree to a family member. Also please spread freely to your contacts. Details at: <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/jutland/>.

You might like to know that the General Secretary's job is now open for applications. The closing date is 6 March and interviews for shortlisted candidates at Semaphore Tower on 28 March. Details are on the RNA website. It is hoped that the successful candidate will attend the Dublin Conference and take up during after the September NC meeting.

I hope that branches are gearing up for the novice section of the Standard bearers competition, this is a training and development event, with travel subsidy payable to novice competition entrants.

The details of the Welfare Seminar are in this Circular – and a really cracking day is planned. We are pleased for anyone and all to attend for as little or as much as you'd like. GS and the Project Semaphore Project Manager will be in attendance. The weekend rate is very good, so just take advantage of that if you want a fun weekend, close to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Some admin points please

- It won't have escaped your notice that the protection of personal data is now taken very seriously. Since the RNA does not have centralized control of membership, it is up to branch secretaries and officials to protect data in accordance with the Law. This is entirely commonsense, but Nigel (Our data man) has prepared a brief for you. Please read and action.
- This is the final reminder for anyone interested in the role of RNA Hon Treasurer give the GS a ring, or to put yourself forward please email GS with your CV and reasons for wanting to take on the role.
- This link <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk> is a great start for a grant for Armed Forces Day events. Give it a go.
- If you are booking into the Royal Maritime Club at Portsmouth (Home Club), the please quote the RNA membership number **7398** and you will get the member's rate for rooms and in the restaurant. We have negotiated a very good rate for Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.
- Deadline for branch motions is 1200 on 16 February.

Finally, you may have heard that our beloved National President has been in hospital. Admiral John has had a heart procedure and is recovering really well and enough to go to Portugal for his annual golfex (putting not driving), where he is sunning himself as I write.

All the best from the team at Central Office,

Paul

Merlin on QE side lift,
note the Ship's name
on the aircraft nose.



1. ★ Welfare Seminar

Shipmates are requested to disseminate the information below concerning the details of the Welfare Seminar which will be held on Saturday 21st April 2018 at the North Stafford Hotel Stoke on Trent SR4 2AE.



Please note that Seminar is open to **all** who wish to attend so if your wife/partner/oppo wishes to come along then the more the merrier from any Branch. One subsidy claim per branch for travellers can be submitted. For information, the hotel offer is open to all RNA members even if you are not attending the seminar and wanted a reasonably priced weekend. It is a 30-minute drive to the National Memorial Arboretum which is home to Naval Service Memorial and well worth a visit.

The Agenda is as follows;

0930 - Guest Speakers;

*Miles Cowley - **SAIL** (Sailors Advise and Information Line)*

*Phil Shuttleworth - Beneficiary Support Co-ordinator for **Royal Naval Benevolent Trust***

*Craig Mclellan - **Veterans with Dogs** (with a dog)*

*Capt P Quinn OBE & Mrs S Clewes - **RNA Project Semaphore** (Providing iPads and training to digitally isolated Naval Veterans)*

*Dr N Murdoch - **Veterans in Prisons***

*Michelle Manville - **Blind Veterans***

1 Hour lunch break – (Commencement dependant on Speakers)

National Memorial Arboretum - Home to the Naval Service Memorial founded by the RNA.

The Not Forgotten Association - Speaker TBC

Prostate Cancer - Speaker TBC

Bereavement/Benefits Speaker TBC

Church notices

- For those Shipmates attending the Seminar **it is essential that they complete a booking form**, which can be found at rear of Circular, even if it is just for lunch on the day. This request will enable us to provide dining numbers to the hotel. (Luncheon tickets will be issued when you register on the day.)

- Please note that Shipmates will be able to claim travelling expenses but not accommodation. Michelle Bainbridge will be available at the Seminar to provide travel expense forms and advice.
- Please note Shipmates attending the Seminar must annotate their vehicle registration on a special pad/board at reception to ensure you do not incur parking fees.

North Area Support Officer Shipmate Alan Magrath will attend and is driving down the North Libor Bus from Blackburn. If any Area 10 Shipmate would like a lift to the Seminar please contact S/M Alan directly at belfastblues_812@icloud.com or by phone 07964 721849.

The other buses are available and 'borrowing' details can be found in a separate article in this edition of the Circular.

Finally, any contributions of prizes for the Friday and Saturday raffles would be gratefully received. If you require any further information or specific details please the National Welfare Advisor ritalock@sky.com or 02392 723747

2. New RNA Approved Clothing Supplier

Shipmates should note that all approved RNA Clothing range is now supplied by 'rlpembroidery' and that Badges, Ties and Buttons will continue to be supplied by Central Office. A revised price list for items available from Central Office and 'rlpembroidery' can be found at the rear of this Circular. Specific details can be found in the RNA Website Members Area – Shop at <https://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/shop>. You can now order **and pay** on line.

3. ★ RNVC Series - Lieutenant Peter Scawen Watkinson Roberts VC DSC Royal Navy

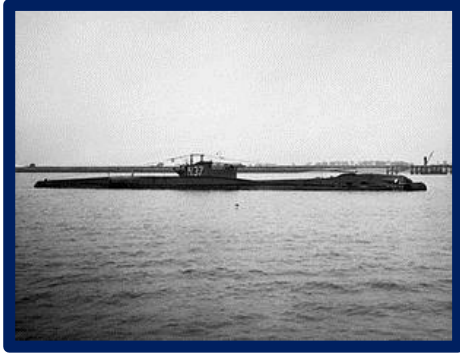
Peter Roberts was born in Chesham Buckinghamshire on 28 Jul 1917. He joined the Royal Navy in 1936 and served until 1962. He saw action during WW2 and the Korean War and was awarded the VC and DSC.

On 16 February 1942 north of Crete, in the Mediterranean, HM Submarine *Thrasher*, after attacking and sinking a supply ship in daylight, was itself attacked and subjected to a three-hour depth charge attack and aerial bombing.

In the cover of darkness, after surfacing, two unexploded bombs were discovered in the gun-casing. Lt Peter Roberts and PO Thomas Gould volunteered, despite the type of bomb not being recognised by them, removed the first one without too much difficulty, but the second bomb had penetrated the side plating of the gun emplacement, and then the deck casing above the pressure hull.



They entered the confined space (which was no more than 2 ft high in places), and lying flat, wormed past deck supports, battery ventilators, and drop bollards. PO Gould then lay on his back with the 100 lb bomb in his arms while Lt Roberts dragged him along by the shoulders.



Meanwhile, the boat was surfaced, stationary, and close inshore to enemy waters. If the submarine were forced to crash dive, both men would have drowned. It was 40 minutes before they got the bomb clear, wrapped it in sacking, and dropped it over the side.

His Victoria Cross is on display in the Lord Ashcroft Gallery at the Imperial War Museum. Peter Roberts crossed the bar on 08 December 1979 in Newton Ferris Devon.

4 ★ Joke Time – Sharing is Caring!

A man placed an order for one hamburger French fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife

He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife.

He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering.



Obviously they were thinking, 'That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.'

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything.

People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink..

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said 'No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.'

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked 'What is it you are waiting for?'

She answered Wait For it.....

'THE TEETH.'



5. 2018 Dublin Conference – Accommodation

*****Conference Count Down - 4 Months and counting*****

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



As Shipmates can see above it is only just 4 months until the next Conference so if you are thinking of attending as a Delegate or an individual member you need to consider booking your accommodation in the next couple of months.

So.....

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

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

6. ★ Royal Naval Benevolent Trust - Trustee Vacancies 2018



The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust
Supporting The RNBT Family

The RNBT has vacancies for 'Ordinary Member' Trustees with the closing date for applications being 12 March 2018.

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) helps those who are serving or have served as Warrant Officers and below in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and their dependants, who find themselves in need or distress. Thousands of applicants, both serving and retired, are assisted every year. We also run a Care Home and an Almshouse. Find out more from our website: www.rnbt.org.uk.

A founding principle of the Trust is that it is predominantly run by those who are serving or have served as non-commissioned Sailors and Royal Marines. Accordingly, 11 of the 16 trustees that form the RNBT's governing body (including the Trust's Vice President) are drawn from serving and retired personnel who have been or are RN ratings and RM other ranks.

Vacancies will occur for 5 such Trustee positions with effect from 1 April 2018 as part of the RNBT's routine planned turnover of trustees. The election of volunteers to fill these positions, including those who are standing down but may wish to stand for re-election, will happen in the last week of March. If you are interested please contact Rob Bosshardt (Chief Executive) at the RNBT's Portsmouth-based Head Office (02392 690112). You can also email a request for an application pack via: rnbt@rnbt.org.uk

7. ★ Important Message For Delegates Attending Conference 2018

Branch Secretaries are gently reminded that **it is essential they complete a 'Delegate Application form'** if they intend sending a delegate to Conference. This applies to all branches, even those who responded in the affirmative to the survey undertaken before Christmas asking for your intentions to send a Delegate to Conference or not. Failure not to comply will result in disappointment as the delegate will not be allowed a vote. **Form at the back of the Circ.**

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



The nice weather is round the corner so if your Branch is planning an outing then please consider using the three Libor Minibuses which are now alongside in their base ports; Portsmouth, Liskeard and Blackburn. **It is possible to borrow them for up to a month at a time.**

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

Portsmouth; e-mail andy@royalnavalassoc.com phone 02392 720782

Liskeard; e-mail warwickbelfitt@btconnect.com phone 01579 346606

Blackburn; e-mail belfastblues_812@icloud.com phone 07964 721849

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

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

The vehicle is supplied with a full tank of fuel and should be returned with a full tank of Diesel and AdBlue topped up if necessary and cleaned. Can be driven on a car license. (No need for D1)

The loan is on a first come first served basis (Sponsor has final say!). **Longer loans may be easily negotiated with Central Office.**

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

(More on Over 70s insurance - If you are over 70, you fall in to the government bracket of 'Group 2' medical standards, which attracts all sorts of complications; the requirement for driving assessments to demonstrate fitness to drive etc. The link below is very interesting. However please don't press print as it is 138 pages of medical terms.!

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652720/assessing-fitness-to-drive-a-guide-for-medical-professionals.pdf

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

Roadside assistance is included.

9. ★ National Standard Bearers and Novice Standard Bearers Competition - Heads up

Shipmates may wish to make a note in their diaries for the upcoming Standard Bearer extravaganza at HMS Collingwood. The excitement is brewing as 2018 could be the year that S/M Bob 'the Tartan Trojan' Coburn loses his National Standard Bearer crown to Ben 'I was there' Cartwright, or Marie 'Two Comp' Taylor BEM or Dave '8 Bit' Corrigan..... Tickets are selling fast and it could be a capacity sell out.

On a serious note The National Standard Bearers and **new Novice Standard Bearers competition** along with the Association of WRNS competition will take place at HMS Collingwood on Saturday 12 May 2018 and will be the same format as recent competitions commencing at 1000 and on completion will be followed by a presentation ceremony.



The National Ceremonial Officer, Shipmate Mick Kieran, is really 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 on 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 events such as Remembrance Festival in the Royal Albert Hall and other national commemorative events.

The Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess **have very kindly offered 12 cabins** worth of accommodation to those competitors and guests who wish to stay in HMS Collingwood on Friday, which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Alternative accommodation is available in the Royal Maritime Club for the RNA rate which includes Dinner, Bed and Breakfast for £58, please ensure you quote the RNA membership number **7398** for these prices. Full details of the competition will be announced in the next edition of the Semaphore Arms. Closing dates for entries will be **Friday 6 April 2018**



There is no pressure but..... Areas; 1,5,7 and 10 did not have a representative and were given a challenge and two years notice after the 2106 competition to produce a competitor

However, the Editorial Team owe an apology to 4 Area and S/M Ben Cartwright for suggesting they failed to send a competitor in 2016. As you can see from the photo there he is bold as brass. Sorry.....

10. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

This month can you name this establishment? Remember no hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!..... Good Luck this is very difficult ...one clue.... it commissioned in 1943 and decommissioned in 1958. It is still in operation as a NATO facility.

The answer will be in next month's edition.

And so to the December 'Guess the Establishment'..... HM Naval Base Plymouth 'Refit Sheds' . The photo was taken by Andy Christie during his latest deployment on the Torpoint Ferry!



11. ★ Data Protection Act – Important Information for Area/Branch Secretaries

Central Office fully appreciate that your eyes are already glazing over at the thought of this article concerning the Data Protection Act (DPA) but as the Branch Secretary you need to be fully complaint with the new regulations commencing in May 2018. Nigel Huxtable has been appointed as the RNA DPA 'Guru' and has put together the article below detailing the main areas that require your attention;

- Anyone collecting and storing lists of Members' names and addresses needs to ensure that those giving you their name and address give you permission to store and share it. This is implicit in being a Member of a Branch to which you belong.
- However if you produce a Branch membership list which is shared you need to make explicit that the details on the list are only to be shared amongst those on the list. NOT for sharing with another Branch or organisation without everyone's express permission. You can make this proviso explicit when everyone 'signs up' to having their name on your Membership list with a tick box asking for their permission to share, and who you may share it with.
- If you hold your Membership list on computer you must ensure that your Branch Membership list is not able to be shared accidentally. You should never cc recipients as everyone can see the list and it is too easy for that list to be accessed when out of your control. Always BCC recipients lists.

Whilst on this subject could we gently remind you that is it a good practise **to never pass on emails from sources that you do not recognise and trust.**

In short, we in Central Office and you in Branches **ONLY** collect people's names and addresses and contact details. That data is kept securely in a ledger or on a computer which no one outside the Association can access, is **only** used for RNA business and will never be shared with commercial enterprises.

If a list of Members and contact details is compiled and shared with the members then they are all made aware of the importance of not losing it or sharing it. Using an e-mail distribution list it must be done as a group on BCC not as CC

If you have any issues/queries please contact Nigel at Central Office on 02392 723747 or e-mail nigel@royalnavalassoc.com

12. ★ Joke Time – In the best possible taste!

The teacher asked the class to use the word “fascinate” in a sentence.

Molly put up her hand and said, “My family went to my granddad's farm, and we all saw his pet sheep. It was fascinating.”

The teacher said, “That was good, but I wanted you to use the word ‘fascinate,’ not ‘fascinating’.”

Sally raised her hand. She said, “My family went to see Rock City and I was fascinated.”

The teacher said, “Well, that was good Sally, but I wanted you to use the word ‘fascinate’.”

Little Johnny raised his hand, but the teacher hesitated because she had been burned by Little Johnny before. She finally decided there was no way he could damage the word “fascinate,” so she called on him.

Johnny said, “My aunt Carolyn has a sweater with ten buttons, but her bosom is so big she can only

Wait for it..... fasten eight

13. ★ Area/Branch Secretaries More Important ‘Stuff’

Shipmate Secretaries please see below important information on a number of subjects

Dublin Conference Subsidy;

The National Council has decided that to encourage an improved attendance at the 2018 Conference in Dublin that each ‘Voting Delegate’ will be able to claim at least £100 towards the cost of travel/accommodation **in addition to the normal travel claim under pooled fares**. This includes delegates who are voting on behalf of another branch. The sum may increase depending on uptake. The subsidy can be used for accommodation etc, will be paid at a flat rate with the pooled fares claim, no receipt required for the subsidy (just attendance as a delegate).

Branch Club Support Fund;

The National Council has delegated authority to the General Secretary to approve minor grants of up to £250. Branches may apply by simple e-mail providing outline details of the grant. Shipmates should note that Branch balances may be taken into account in the decision to approve the award of a grant. It is hoped to turn around a grant application in just a couple of

days. There is no need to seek NCM clearance or approval. A minor grant may be for anything, **except, 'Gizzets' or Marketing Materiel** which are all ready provided for free (Please contact the National Events Advisor S/M Steve Caulfield at rna1958@icloud.com) and be within the RNA's charitable objects.

Trade Mark Guidance;

Please see the attached guidance at the rear of this Circular for details of how to use the RNA Crest and Logo now that they are registered trademarks.

14. ★ Can you Assist?

If anybody can assist Bob Flegg, a 92 year old, WW2 Naval Veteran track down any shipmates who may have served with him in HMS Trouncer or HMS Thane please contact Central Office on 02392 723747 or follow this link;

<https://www.facebook.com/SpottedPort/photos/a.801008713371106.1073741828.800582066747104/938669469605029/?type=3&theater>



15. ★ HMS Eskimo Ships Bell Project – Can you assist?



Shipmates may wish to be aware that following extensive research by Leon Lallyette, eldest son of John Lallyette, Hon Sec Peterborough Branch, the whereabouts of HMS ESKIMO's Ship's Bell was finally established. Leon's brother Layton was baptised onboard in 1977, and both brothers were anxious to see the bell. The bell will be part of a major exhibition which will take place at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich in September next year, and the Curator Ms Sarah Wood, is desperate to obtain any photographs or memorabilia associated with the

christenings which would become part of the exhibition.

Below is a list the names of all infants whose names are inscribed on the bell. If you were connected with any of the christenings or have records-photos please would you contact either; John Llayette – jlallyette@yahoo.com or Sarah Woods – swood@rmg.co.uk

P.A. Foster John	13-4-69	D.J. Perry	24-08-69
J.A. Rose	1970	M.D. Rose	1970
A.L. Phillips	1970	J.L. Malcolm	1971
S.T. Lord	1971	S.B. Oldham	03-08-75
S.E. Cooke	28-09-76	D.A. Bateman	09-03-77
J.P. Bromley	03-04-77	M.J. Price	19-06-77

S.L. Price	19-06-77	A.J. Patterson	19-06-77
L.P. Patterson	19-06-77	L.J. Lallyette	24-07-77
K.H. Bailey	14-08-77	L.M. Oldham	23-10-77
V.S. Maple	01-04-78	C.J. Snell	18-02-79
C.M. Murison	04-03-79	J.L. Murison	04-03-79
S. Carroll	25-04-79	C. Carroll	25-04-79
P.G. Farley	17-05-79	B.C. Mears	20-05-79
S.J. Bateman	08-08-79	R.J. Bean	02-09-79
B.S. Farley	09-09-79	L.A. Walsh	08-11-79

16. Reunion Shortcast

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

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

17. ★ HMS Ajax Canada 1976 – Can you assist finding the Ships Company?

HQ roll member Shipmate George Phillips is looking for assistance in tracing former members of the 8th HMS Ajax who visited Ajax Ontario in 1976. Please see below:

As part of the 40th Anniversary celebration of the HMS Ajax visit to the town of Ajax, Ontario, Canada; local dignitaries and veterans assembled at Veterans Point Gardens in Ajax on the 26th August 2016 to unveil the historic memorial wall. It features over 4,500 names honouring veterans who served at the Battle of the River Plate in HMS Ajax, HMS Achilles and HMS Exeter; and those who served in HMS Ajax during WW2 and those who were part of the 8th HMS Ajax Frigate crew when it visited Lake Ontario in 1976.



Organisers are aware that the list of the crew who served on the 8th HMS Ajax is not as accurate and complete as hoped for. We are approaching the deadline when no more names will be added to the wall hence the urgency to find all names, so we are asking members if they know of anyone who served on HMS Ajax in August 1976.

If you do, please contact the following with the information which we will pass onto the the town of Ajax

Malcolm Collis - malcolm.collis@gmail.com

George Phillips - carolalan9590@btinternet.com

For further information on the memorial wall, see www.hmsajax.org>memorial-wall

18. ★ Warship World and Maritime Books Ltd

For information the editorial team are led to believe that Maritime Books Ltd went into liquidation soon after publication of July/August edition of Warship World. It is understood that the new company intends to continue with the publication. Once they have established themselves outstanding copies will be forwarded to established subscribers. Please call 01579 343663 for specific information.

19. ★ Day Trip to Visit HMS Caroline in Belfast

Shipmates may be interested on the details of a Day-trip to visit HMS Caroline in Belfast with Maritime Heritage Tours (www.maritimeheritagetours.co.uk) which has been organised by Mike Critchley. Please see the letter below for details;

Dear Shipmates,

We have recently put together another trip to Belfast to view the amazing WW1 cruiser HMS CAROLINE now looking extra smart after her £11million plus refit. She is definitely well worth a visit.

*We have had interest from all parts of the UK from past customers wishing to join us but I am looking at flying the main group out on **19th April from SOUTHAMPTON**. We have done this trip before and we can pack a lot into just a day trip for you.*



The programme will look something like this....

0815	meet at Southampton Airport
1015	arrive Belfast City (George Best) airport 5 minutes by Taxi to HMS CAROLINE
1200	walk to TITANIC EXPERIENCE (3 minute walk)
1500	Black Cab tour of the fascinating "Peace Line" in Belfast (Highly recommended)
1700	Return to airport by Taxi.
1930	Back in Southampton in time for a "late tea"!

We have not included any catering on this day tour but there will be ample opportunity for you to grab something appropriate during the day. The cost will be "about" £185 per head depending how soon you book. Unlike hotels we are unable to purchase flight tickets on a sale or return basis so we must pay "upfront". If you want to join the Southampton group please transfer £185 to our bank (Santander Sort Code 09 01 28 a/c no 96780823 and reference your payment BELFAST and your surname. Book early enough and you may even get a reduction!

If Southampton isn't your local airport you will find flights to BELFAST CITY airport from your local regional airport (East Midlands, Cardiff, Edinburgh etc) (most by FLYBE) to arrive by about 1015 and you will be welcome to join us at the airport or we can meet you and whisk you to the ship shortly after your aircraft arrives. You can of course come on the overnight ferry from Liverpool and again meet us at CAROLINE. The price will of course be a lot less if you book your own travel arrangements....Just let us know your proposed plans and we can quote you.

Some of you are interested in staying overnight - to include a coastal tour to the Bushmills Whisky distillery and Giant's Causeway next day. This can be arranged if requested. There is a Premier Inn alongside the Titanic Experience but for some reason they don't accept group bookings! We already have clients booked for this "extra". We look forward to hearing from you if the above sounds an interesting Spring day out for you.

Kind regards and I trust we get to meet in Belfast. Mike Critchley

PS Please see our other tours and holidays on offer at www.maritimeheritagetours.co.uk. We now have only limited availability on our Croatia visit in May.

20 ★ Joke for the Road....(Apologies to any Yorkshire Folk!)

I bumped into a dyslexic Yorkshireman today..... He was wearing a catflap!

21. ★ Support Dogs Charity

Shipmates may wish to be aware of a national charity that trains assistance dogs. Please see the article below.

Hello there,

We're a national charity that trains assistance dogs for adults with physical disabilities, (also adults with epilepsy and children with autism).

Our disability assistance dogs make an enormous difference to our clients' lives. We train the client's own pet dog to perform tasks which are specifically tailored to their individual needs, such as assisting with dressing and undressing and raising the alarm, as well as providing the companionship and support that enables people to lead safer, more independent lives.

I'm getting in touch because would very much welcome applications for disability assistance dogs from former members of the armed forces. Could someone from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines' Charity suggest the best way of going about this – maybe a mention in the news section on your website?

Anything you can suggest to enable us to promote our services to your members - which we provide free of charge - would be much appreciated.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

*Many thanks and best wishes,
Jane*

Jane can be contacted by e-mail at Jane.Tadman@supportdogs.org.uk

RNA Longcast

2018	
03 Feb	Area 5 AGM / Quarterly – Southend RNA Club
16 Feb	FAC
17 Feb	AMC
06 Mar	Applications for GS Position close
07 Mar	Runcorn Branch visit Central Office
10 Mar	National Council Meeting
28/29 Mar	GS position interview days – Central Office
13 Apr	Open Day
20-22 Apr	Welfare Seminar – Stoke on Trent
05 May	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
19 May	Area 4 Meeting - Christchurch
18/19/20 May	Londonderry Branch Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration 2018
12 May	National Standard Bearer Competition – HMS Collingwood
18 May	Open Day
08 Jun	NC/AMC/FAC/SOC Meetings
8/9/10 June	RNA Conference - Dublin
29 Jun	Open Day
30 June	Armed Forces Day – Llandudno (North Wales)
04 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
10 Aug	Open Day
17 Aug	FAC
18 Aug	AMC
07 Sept	CONA 'Clear Lower Deck' - Annual Conference event, Royal Maritime Club
08 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Sep	General Secretary – Hand Over
15 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Dorchester
05 Oct	Open Day
21 Oct	Trafalgar Day
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – RBL Club Rayleigh
08 Nov	Field of Remembrance – Westminster Abbey – Sunday rehearsal
11 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – NCh to lay wreath DGS as wreath bearer 100th anniversary of the Armistice for 1WW Battles Over commemorations nationally – many RNA taking part
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
23 Nov	IMC Executive Council Portsmouth and 1WW commemoration
08 Dec	National Council Meeting
13 Dec	Battle of the River Plate Day
2019	
7-9 Jun	Conference – Wyboton Lakes (Area 6)

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Ferndown](#)
[RNA Portland](#)
[RNA St Neots](#)
[RNA Cardiff](#)
[RNA Bristol](#)
[RNA Selsey](#)
[RNA Rayleigh](#)
[RNA Bromley](#)
[RNA Stocksbridge & Deepcar](#)
[RNA Huntingdon and District](#)
[RNA Newark](#)
[RNA Eastbourne](#)
[RNA City of Glasgow](#)
[RNA Chard](#)
[RNA Bloxwich](#)
[RNA Stowmarket](#)

RNA Ferndown Branch

On Monday 27 November eight Shipmates of Ferndown Branch accepted an invitation to visit and take part in a Tour of Parliament Buildings from their local MP Mr Chris Chope.

Arriving in Westminster at 1100 the Shipmates joined the mahousive security clearance queue. As you can imagine the security regime is extremely rigorous! ' With airport style x-ray machines everything metal, belts coats bags had to be removed. Once all was in order they moved into Westminster Hall and were introduced to their guide for the day Teresa.

After a very interesting introduction to Westminster Hall, they we were taken right to the Queens Entrance, from there they progressed gradually through the building visiting all the spectacular rooms, into the House of Lords Chamber. Into the lobby and on to the Commons Chamber. In both Houses the stewards were setting up for the start of business at 14.30. They finally arrived back at Westminster Hall, where various memorials to Kings had laid in state and a variety of nobles had stood trial before 'losing their heads'.

Back in the Central Lobby we were met by Christopher Chope. On the way home a visit to the Ship Inn at Mortlake on the towpath of the River Thames, for a welcome stop for food and drink. Finally arriving back at Branch HQ at 1930. After leaving the south coast at 07 crack sparrows it was a long but very worthwhile experience.

RNA Portland Branch

The Pilgrim house in Weymouth's Hope square was the chosen venue due its great facilities and best deal in the area for such an undertaking.

Ten local clients were organised by Shipmate Richard Gray webmaster of the Portland branch. Clients from Dorchester, Christchurch and Portland gathered for a very enthusiastic learning session lasting some two hours on Saturday morning 9th December. Training staff from



Plymouth and Hampshire provided the expertise required to encourage the students and develop their iPad skills.

The highlight of the session was to witness Shipmate Steve Skerman speaking to his son in



America, whilst seeing him at the same time, on line.



The project Semaphore team deserve a huge vote of thanks for turning out in force, they were Sarah, Sue and Julie supported by volunteers Nick and Molly. It should be said that you have left some very happy customers behind. BZ

The Portland branch are more than happy to provide the facilities again, if required having learned a great deal this time and will do even better next time.

RNA St Neots & District Branch

At the December meeting of the St Neots & District RNA Branch five good causes were presented with cheques for £600 each. The Branch go out fundraising at various events throughout the year and foyer collections at Tesco and Morrison.



The delighted recipients of the cheques were:

- Riverside Miniature Railway
- Grafham Water Sailability Ltd
- Cambourne Youth Partnership
- Magpas Air Ambulance Service, Cambridgeshire.

Unfortunately, the Biggleswade Unit Sea Cadets due to operational reasons were unable to attend on the evening but will also be receiving a cheque for £600.

RNA Cardiff Branch

Twenty years ago the Cardiff Branch were given a plaque bearing the names of ex pupils of Cardiff Roath Park School who were killed in the 1st World War. The plaque had been discovered in an antique shop on the South Coast.

On Saturday 10th November of that year the Branch presented the plaque to the school and every year since has visited the school on or around Remembrance Day. On arrival shipmates are given tea and bacon sandwiches, before watching a concert/poetry reading by the children.

The morning closes with the children walking past and shaking hands with the shipmates the attached photos have only just become available which is why this submission is late



RNA Bristol Branch

In a poignant service held at The Lord Mayor's Chapel, the Standard of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Naval Association (RNA) was laid up. The Bristol Branch, one of 34 RNA branches in the region, joined forces with the South Bristol Branch as numbers of veterans in the branch dwindled. Standard bearers and members from the region, which stretches from Bournemouth to Cornwall and up to Bristol, attended the service alongside the Lord-Lieutenant Mrs Peaches Golding OBE, the Lord Mayor Cllr Mrs Lesley Alexander and Sea Cadets from TS Adventurer.



The Lord-Lieutenant passed the Standard to the Lord Mayor for display and safekeeping in the Chapel. After leaving the Chapel, seamen, their friends and families retired for a light lunch at the RAF Club in Henleaze. The RNA, whose motto is "Once Navy, Always Navy," provides a network of support, companionship and guidance for veterans and their families where members can reflect on their time in the Royal Navy and in civilian life in the company of fellow

shipmates and their families. Veterans and their families are welcome to join the South Bristol Branch of the RNA; information may be obtained from RNA Central Office on 02392 720782.

RNA Selsey Branch

On the 7th January members of RNA Selsey attended a service of re-dedication immediately following the Epiphany Eucharist at St Peter's Church. Also, in attendance were standard bearers from adjacent RNA branches; Chichester, Bognor Regis, Lee-on-the-Solent & Stubbington, Wittering and Area 3 Standard. After the service a reception, with a plentiful buffet and drinks and the inevitable tot or two! Held at The Selsey Club.



This service marked the commissioning of the RNA Selsey branch on the 3rd January 1978 comprising just fifteen members, of which, just three founder members remain. Shipmates; Brian Hall, Nigel Jest and Brian Mariner.

- Shipmate Brian Hall has been Chairman for the last eight years and prior to that Brian was the Hon. Secretary of the branch for thirty-one years, as well as serving in other capacities for the committee and branch.
- Shipmate Brian Mariner has been our Treasurer for twenty-one years, as well as being Vice Chairman for eleven years.



- Shipmate Brian Hall has, sadly, tendered his resignation, effective from February, stating he wishes to retire, due to a memory and hearing loss, before he makes any mistakes. There is no question - Brian has been at the heart of the RNA branch ever since it commissioned, and many will say he is, and has been, **the** heart of the branch superbly supported by his wife, Sheila.

Today, the branch is still thriving with membership standing at eighty-one members, having enrolled two hundred and seventy-five members in total since 1978.

RNA Rayleigh Branch

Please see below a report of happenings in deepest Essex..... from our roving reporter Gary Daisley

RNA Rayleigh is pleased to announce that RNA name badges are now ready to order for production. They are priced at just £4.50 each (plus £1 p&p). These bespoke and unique 'laser engraved' pin-on badges are produced in top quality satin-finished laminated plastic and sized at 75mm x 25mm (3"x1").

RNA name badges are available in blue with up to three lines of white text (any branch, any name and any committee or branch position/title).

Please contact Rayleigh Branch Secretary S/M Gary Daisley with your order details. Payment can be made via bank transfer or PayPal as required (details on application) Delivery is approx one week from order.



RNA Raleigh held it's 2017 Open Uckers Tournament on Saturday 16 December. Although the turnout was somewhat less than was planned, the RBL club put on a tremendous show for us, with catering supplied by the RBL ladies. Southend Branch turned out in force for the day, equalling the number of players from Rayleigh branch.

With registration and breakfast rolls and coffees out of the way, serious game-play began in earnest with the first rounds being played as a best of three games.



The winning team from Group-A (S/Ms Mike Sandbrook & Brian Cox) went on to meet the Group-B winners (S/Ms Gary Daisley & Mick Horner) in a 'winner takes all' sudden death final.

With S/Ms Bill Vernon (Rayleigh) and John Hawes (Southend) acting as invigilators (and S/M Dave Harding arriving just in time to witness the final battle), you could cut the atmosphere with a knife!

Advantages swayed back and forth, with S/M Brian Cox's counters all remaining at his home for most of the first half and all four of S/M Mike Sandbrook's pieces being returned to base just before the half-time whistle and break for lunch.

Shortly after the break, S/M Sandbrook was threatening to up-turn the board before falling on what can only be described as the luckiest winning streak in the world! Throwing a staggering 18 sixes in just 6 turns, bringing all of his pieces into play and smashing the opposition back to base in the process. Meanwhile, S/M Horner had all counters home and was set to come to the aid of S/M Daisley who had succumbed to S/M Sandbrook's run of luck.

There were cries of "Ludo playing b*stards" and accusations of 'timber shifting' together with various other insults and banter across the table, but in the end it came down to a race to the finish line, with S/Ms Sandbrook and Cox taking the honours and beating S/Ms Daisley and Horner into second place.

After the award ceremony and a tot of Pusser's (courtesy of S/M John Hawes), all competitors agreed that it had been an excellent (if nerve shattering) event. S/M Daisley thanked everyone for attending and in response, Southend RNA offered to host next year's tournament.

Bring it on..!



Finally, Quizmaster and Shipmate Bill Vernon again hosted a very successful 'Christmas themed' Quiz on 22 November, with the honours this time being shared by the Ladies Team led by S/M Gary Daisley. S/M Bill had arranged festive based food prizes for the winners, which the ladies generously re-donated as spot-prizes for the branch Christmas Social which was scheduled for 6 December. Thank you ladies. S/M Daisley received the Quiz Trophy which the ladies had won no fewer than five times during 2017.

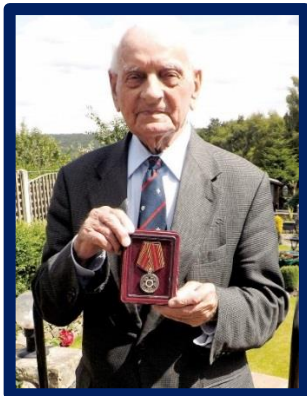
RNA Bromley Branch

It was an honour for Steve Susans, Ceremonial Officer for Area 2 to be invited to attend a service at Guildford Cathedral on Wednesday 17th January. In the presence of Brig Gen Lowell Thomas, Commander Defence Liaison, Suzanne Happe, Veterans Affairs Officer and Linda Witten, Vice President Canadian Veterans Association UK. (CVAUK)



After a short service led by Canon Paul Smith in The Lady Chapel, Steve Susans received the CVAUK National Ensign following the closure of the CVAUK Branch. It had taken some two and a half years of constant contact for the Secretary of both Associations to arrange the transaction successfully. The service was later shown on Armed Forces TV.

RNA Stocksbridge and Deepcar



Branch President and Life Member Shipmate Lieutenant Tommy Dickinson has cracked a century recently with his 100th Birthday being celebrated.

Tommy served in the Royal Navy from 1936 until 1978 and in the later stage of this period was a Careers officer. During WW2 he served in Arctic Convoys and was awarded the Ushakov Medal.

BZ Shipmate Tommy from all at Central Office.

RNA Huntingdon and District

Shipmates from Huntingdon & District Branch ended the year as busy as it had started.

On the 28th November, shipmates Karl Webb and Bill Small attended a ceremonial parade in commemoration of Private George



Clare VC in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire.



On the 3rd December, shipmates Karl Webb, Bill Small, and Pete Aston were at T.S. Cromwell, Huntingdon Branch of the Sea Cadet Corps' annual presentation evening. S/M Bill Small

presented OC Liney with the Huntingdon Branch, RNA Cadet of the Year trophy.

On the 5th December, shipmate Karl Webb attended the annual Civic Christmas Carol Service, hosted by the Mayor of Huntingdon. The service was conducted by the Reverend Andrew Milton, who is the Huntingdon Branch Hon. Chaplain.

The 11th December saw shipmate Karl Webb travel to St Neot to attend St Neots & District Branch annual presentations.

Finally, on the 16th December -- after all the work during the year -- it was time for the Branch gathering at the Market Inn for Christmas drinks.

This has been another successful year for the branch, we have attended over 35 events (civic parades, social evenings, flag-raising events, charity stalls, and national events such as Armed Forces Day, RNA Biennial Parade, and Remembrance Day services). BZ shipmates.



Photographs show S/Ms Karl Webb and Bill Small with Chatteris and St Neots Branch shipmates at the George Clare VC service in Chatteris, OC Liney receiving his RNA Cadet of the Year trophy with S/Ms Bill Small and Pete Aston, and shipmates enjoying a 'few wets' for Christmas.

RNA Newark Branch

Newark Branch are very sad to announce that two longstanding members of the Branch have crossed the bar.

Shipmate Les Fletcher had been the Branch President for the last three years and was a founding member and Shipmate Dave Maltby who was a long term Committee member currently the Social Secretary and editor of the popular 'Buzz' magazine.

Calm and safe seas Shipmates. Both Dave and Les will be sorely missed by both Newark RNA members and the wider No 9 Area, where they were well known.

RNA Eastbourne Branch

Shipmate Alf Armstrong from Eastbourne Branch received the highest French award for gallantry on 7 December 2107. My thanks to S/M Harry Summerton for forwarding this report;

The year 1944 seems a long time ago for some of us who remember and indeed it is a time before many people of this generation were born and, yet both were truly represented when a gentleman of 94 years was honoured on 7th December 2017. As a young man of 22 he had seen the horrors of war. At the time he wondered why men of his age and even younger had been landed in fragile boats on a hostile shore to fight foreign men of similar age in such a terrible conflict. And then, later that same day, to see many of them return to his ship badly wounded. To this day he still wonders why?



Alf, was a Merchant Seaman, a chef serving on a coastal collier. These small ships, a mere 2841 tonnage, were used to ferry coal around the ports of Britain and were never intended to be built as "ships of war". This however was June 1944; the Allied Forces were preparing to invade the continent of Europe to relieve that territory from the German Forces of Occupation. Alf was Chef on board this small ship, here is his story;

"We were taken into port on the south coast, the ship's hold was emptied, cleaned and then loaded up with landing craft, some were collapsible, flimsy looking boats with canvas sides. They were stacked in the hold and lashed down. Later, about 300 American troops arrived; coming up the gangplank they looked young and tired.

They were overloaded with equipment, the only food that they had with them was their "K Rations". Luckily there were two chefs in their number, they came along to the galley to give me a hand, one was a baker. Between us we managed to make hot soup and hot bread rolls for the lads, they were so grateful. We kept that soup going for as long as we could. D-Day, on the way to France, the weather was a bit rough, there were ships everywhere, and the sky was full of planes, German aircraft attempted to attack, many were shot down.



We neared Omaha beach - so much has been written about what happened here that there is not much more to say. The cliffs were so high, the poor men could not get off the beach, the landing craft were at the mercy of the German guns, the shore defences appeared to be untouched, out at sea a British battle ship was blasting away but the shells were exploding too far inland, no effect at all. By late afternoon the wounded were being ferried back to us, a sight I never wish to see again. When we were fully loaded we made the hazardous trip back to England. After a couple of days rest and cleaning ship we were sailing back again to Normandy this time full of supplies. It was the same all over again. I shall never forget those young men, some had never seen war before, and they went into it blindfolded".



Alf Armstrong was present at The Fishermen's Club, Eastbourne, the venue of the local RNA Branch, however on this occasion he was accompanied by his family and many other guests. He was to be presented with the highest honour that France could give to a Foreign National; he was to receive the Award of Chevalier del' Ordre National de la Legion Honneur.

The Chairman of RNA Eastbourne, Mr John Wicking and the Chairman of The Submariners Association, Sussex, and Mr Harry Summerton welcomed the following honoured guests.

The Consul Honoraire de France Captain Francois JEAN, Deputy Lieutenant Mr Tim Cobb, Mayor of Eastbourne Councillor Pat Hearn and Consort, Mr Stephen Lloyd MP, Captain C Laycock MN (Retd) and Mr B Scott, National Council representative for RNA Area 3.



Also in attendance were Standards of the Royal Naval Association, Red Ensign Group, Eastbourne and Maritime Volunteer Service were present on parade and presented an impressive background to the event.

The Deputy Lieutenant opened the proceedings with details of Mr Armstrong's brave participation and service on D-Day. He then introduced Captain JEAN who gave the detail and importance of the Award and its meaning to the recipient. He then presented the medal to Alf. The ceremony concluded spectacularly by Alf who thanked Captain JEAN and the French people for the honour bestowed upon him, to the delight of the audience this speech was given in French. He then gave the same speech in English and thanked everybody for attending. There was great applause for this fine gentleman.

The company was then presented with an excellent buffet and refreshments by "The Fishermen's Club", this gave excellent opportunity for them to personally talk to Alf and for him to enjoy time with his family.

RNA City of Glasgow

On 20 December the Committee were invited to attend TS Queen Elizabeth Cadet unit in Clydebank for their presentation night.

At the presentation S/m Kenn McKinnon (Chairman RNA Glasgow) presented a Bosun's Call to one of the cadets and S/m Brian MacKenzie (Pictured) Chairman Scottish Area presented our new trophy The Frank Halliday trophy to Midshipman Nadine Daly.



On 21 December the branch held a wives and girlfriends night. S/m David Carlin paid for a buffet which S/m's Anne McKinnon, Anne Cox and Rosemary Palmer organised. S/m Tom Gates supplied a Christmas cake and S/m George Troup donated a Litre of whisky for a Xmas drink. We finally finished the Ukkers competition with S/m Alec Thomas beating S/m Eddie Pollar. The night was a success.

Ho Ho Ho

RNA Chard Branch

Members of the Chard branch broke with tradition this year when they held a Christmas Buffet at their base in the Chard Rugby Football Club.

It was unfortunate that the numbers attending were down for this occasion due to the dreaded coughs, colds and stomach complaints that appear to be doing their rounds in the area, however those attending were entertained by husband and wife team S/mates Chris and Anne Trustcott who held two very thought producing Xmas quizzes whilst seasonal music played in the background.

The 'Girls Ahoy team' S/mates Sherilyn James and Helen Day played their usual blinder selling raffle tickets with the caller being our chair S/m Malcolm Day.



All attending were suitably impressed with the seasonal buffet supplied by a lovely lady on the Rugby club's catering committee.

The evening was rounded off when S/mates Paula Moon and Mags Asprey posed for a photograph in front of the tree wishing all members of the RNA a Merry Christmas and best wishes to all for the New Year.

RNA Bloxwich Branch

Branch Chairman Shipmate Christine Mawhinney and members of the branch presented a cheque for £740 to our 2017 Charity, The Watermill (Dementia Care)

The Watermill is a specialist residential care facility for people with dementia providing 30 residential places and 10 respite places as well as day care facilities for people aged 55 and over. The scheme is divided into four 'houses' each with 10 en-suite bedrooms, a communal living room with kitchen and dining area, a laundry room, assisted bathroom and quiet room.

Additional facilities available include a hairdressing salon which is open to the public, a mini-cafe for visitors and staff and a 1950s reminiscence room that triggers past memories and prompts discussion. The scheme also boasts day care facilities, business offices, a guest suite, meeting rooms and consulting suite which are available to the local community.

The photo shows (Left to right): S/M Steve Ellison, S/M Christine Mawhinney, S/M Alan Bown, Caroline (Centre Manager), S/M Bill Platt and S/M Terry Flynn



RNA Stowmarket Branch

On Wednesday 13th December, and in the presence of the High Sheriff of Suffolk, Geoffrey Probert, shipmates from Stowmarket RNA were honoured to present a donation of £357 to HMS Ganges Museum in Shotley, which is dedicated to the 160,000 boys who went through the gates of HMS Ganges as boys and marched out as men, from its inception as a Royal Navy Training Establishment in 1905 to its closure in 1976.

The donation was possible due to the kind generosity shown by shipmates and guests at Stowmarket RNA's Trafalgar Night Dinner in October, when a raffle and games were held to raise money for the museum, which relies on such donations to remain open.

Geoffrey Probert was present at the museum to recognise the hard work of a number the museum's volunteers, who give up their time to help open the museum every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday from 1100-1700 from Easter until the end of October each year.



[Alan Illes](#)

[Gerry Nunn](#)

[Jim Davis](#)

[David Trimble](#)

[Les Fletcher](#)

[Dave Maltby](#)

[Lloyd \(Bill\) Adams](#)

Alan Illes – Rayleigh Branch

It is our sad duty to report that Shipmate Alan Illes crossed the bar on 22 December 2017.

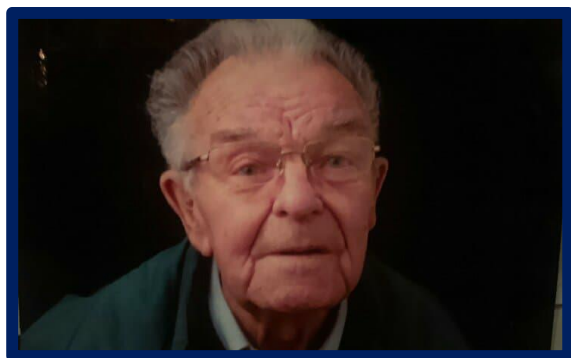
Alan Illes joined the Royal Navy in January 1943 at the age of 18. He was originally sent to America to help bring a US ship back to Europe but while there, he was seconded to take a frigate from Montreal to Halifax. When he got there, he was seconded for a second time to join the minesweeper HMS Clinton and escort a convoy back to Europe.

Alan stayed with the Clinton for the rest of the war, going out the night before D-Day to lay marker buoys for the flotilla. The next day as they returned they were cheered by the Invasion force on its way to Europe.

Shipmate Alan was a founder member of Raleigh Branch when it commissioned in 1986. The photo shows him receiving the Legion d'Honneur medal from Mark Francois MP in February 2017.



Gerry Nunn – Newport Club (Shropshire)



Gerry Nunn crossed the bar recently at age 92.

He was a 2nd World War Veteran who served onboard Landing Craft seeing action during the D Day landings on the Normandy beaches.

He was a founder member and life member of Newport Navy Club back in 1978, serving on the Committee, and contributing greatly to its ongoing success in too many ways to mention.

He was a wonder at woodwork and hand-made many items at the club, including a hand turned flag stand, a large RNA emblem for our wall, anchors on the bar, etc..

Gerry is remembered with much love and fondness and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

Ronald (Jim) Davis – Norwich Branch

Norwich Branch are sad to announce that Shipmate Ronald (Jim) Davis crossed the bar on 17 December 2017 aged 98.

Jim was serving as an AB Radar Operator on HMS Dunedin a Danae class Cruiser when she was torpedoed off Recife Brazil on 24th November 1941 by U124. Up to 250 men survived the sinking but then spent 4 days in the sea clinging to carley floats. Many men succumbed to jelly fish, sharks and exhaustion and when by chance a US merchant ship the Nishmaha came across them only 4 Officers and 63 men were rescued .

Ironically later in the war when Jim was serving on HMS Stonecrop and in consort with HMS Black Swan on 2nd April 1943 they sank U124 of which there were no survivors. Up until his passing Jim was President of the HMS Dunedin Society. He will be missed at Norwich RNA



David Trimble – City of Glasgow Branch

Very sadly David Trimble crossed the Bar on 30th November after a short illness. Aged 93.

David served in the RN from 1939 until 1946 as an AB Signals seeing service in tank landing craft . He then went onto work in Oxford University Press. He was a member of the City of Glasgow RNA and Lennox Castle and Campsie bowling Clubs.

Les Fletcher – Newark Branch

Shipmate Les Fletcher had been Branch President for 3 years and was a founding member of the Newark branch. He had served in various positions on the committee over the 30 plus years he had been part of the branch.

Les was a Fleet Air Arm engineer and had drafts to Royal Naval Air Stations HMS Anthorn in Carlisle and HMS Fulmar in Lossiemouth. He also served on HMS Eagle. It was whilst serving at Fulmar that he met his future wife Millie. They remained devoted until Millie's death four years ago.

On leaving the Navy Les returned to his home town of Newark and continued to work in engineering at Worthington Simpson. Les crossed the bar in Brighton, where one of his daughter's lives, but was reunited with Millie in view of their former home in the cemetery at Balderton. He will be sorely missed by Newark and Area 9 Shipmates.



Dave Maltby – Newark Branch

Shipmate Dave Maltby was a long term committee member, having served in various roles, lately as the Social Secretary. Dave had been a driver with Marshalls Coaches for a number of years and was able to organise holidays and trips away. Newark has had a longstanding reciprocal

arrangement to visit Wigston RNA and their members often accompanied us on the trips arranged by Dave. Dave was also the editor of the *Buzz* magazine, which was a must read within the branch and also within the wider No 9 Area.

Dave served on Algerine minesweeper's HMS Rattlesnake and HMS Hound before becoming a submariner and serving on HMSMs Trespasser and Tireless. Dave joined the RNA in 1962 and was a member of the Nottingham Branch before moving to Newark and joining the Newark Branch. His son Andrew maintains the Naval connection as a Petty Officer at HMS Sherwood. Dave had lived in Balderton with his wife Carol for 12 years following their move from Nottingham.

Dave Les will be sorely missed by Newark RNA members and the wider No 9 Area community, where he was well known.



Lloyd (Bill) Adams – Netley Branch

Netley and District Branch mourn the death of their oldest member, Lloyd (Bill) Adams, who "Crossed the Bar" on Saturday 20th January 2018, following the celebration of his 102nd Birthday on the 17th January, which was attended by Netley Branch President, Shipmate Paddy McClurg and Chairman, Shipmate Brian Sandom.



Bill was also the oldest member of the "Hood Association" on which he served early in WW2. Bill left the Navy as a Paymaster Lieutenant after serving for a term at Dartmouth. He has been a member of Netley Branch for some 5 years but has not had any mobility for meetings. He has however made good use of our disabled Buggy.

Funeral details are still being put together but he is guaranteed a full Naval send off.

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



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

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

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,400 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.

HMS Ganges Association - 13-16 April 2018

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

HMS Loch Fada F390 Association 12-16 April 2018

HMS Loch Fada Association F390 will hold their 21st Reunion & AGM @ the Radisson Park Inn, Cardiff City Centre, Mary Ann Street, CF10 2JH from 12th to 16th April 2018.

This will be our 1st Foreign reunion our second 4 dayer after the great success of our 1st in 2017.
Thursday - Meet up & venture ashore to meet the Locals
Friday - Mystery Coach Tour into the Valley's
Saturday - 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner
Sunday - Coach outing to St. Fagan's National Museum of History
Booking & Arrangements are being made through IOW Tours email iowtours.com or Tel 01983 405116 or F390.sec11@virginmedia.com or Tel 01252 310767 or F390 Sec @ 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND

849 Naval Air Squadron Gannets - 26-29 April 2018

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

For further details please contact John Rawling at jsrawl@aol.com

Lascaris Malta Association – September 2018

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



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

Royal Naval Writers Association – 12 October 2018

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

GOH for 2017 was 1SL – 2018 GOH TBA.



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

Survey Ships Association – 26-29 October 2018

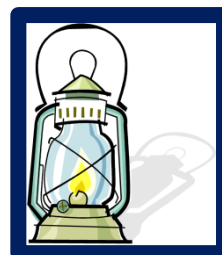
The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty-fourth reunion at the Holiday Inn, Hull Marina on the w/e of 26th to 29th October. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, e-mail: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

February 16th - 18th	H.M.S. Penelope Association	leowhisstock@outlook.com	Blackpool
February 23rd - 24th	H.M.S. Birmingham Association	socialsec@hmsbirminghamassociation.co.uk	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
March 2nd - 4th	H.M.S. Exeter Association	hms_exeterassociation@hotmail.com	Mercure Exeter
March 2nd - 4th	H.M.S. Diana Association	kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk	Blackpool
March 9th - 12th	H.M.S. Ganges (Devonport Division)	bazval@btinternet.com	Inglewood Hotel Torquay
March 8th - 10th	R.N. Communications Association	noseeb@sky.com	Buxton
March 23rd	FAA Armourers Association	micktimpson@yahoo.co.uk	Royal Court Coventry
March 23rd - 26th	H.M.S. Surprise Association	geoff.prentice@virginmedia.com	Hadleigh Hotel Eastbourne
March 23rd - 26th	40 Commando Association Royal Marines	40commandoassociation@gmx.co.uk	Britannia Country House Didsbury
March 25th	Royal Naval Auxiliary Service (East Anglia)	philipchapman@talktalk.net	Last Anchor Ipswich
March 30th - 1st April	H.M.S. Ledbury, Brecon & RMS St Helena Falklands 1982	ianmcvitie@outlook.com	Menzies Strathallen Birmingham
April 5th	H.M.S. Hermes Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Park Inn Cardiff
April 6th - 9th	Fleet Air Arm Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Shire Hotel Kettering
April 12th	HMS Loch Fada Association	F390.sec11@virginmedia.com	Raddison Park Cardiff
April 13th - 15th	H.M.S. Cossack Association	SecretaryHMSCossack@outlook.com	Royal Beach Southsea
April 13th - 16th	RN Engineerroom Association	rstyants@btinternet.com	Royal Beach Southsea
April 13th - 16th	H.M.S. Hermes Cooks 1968 - 1970	scouseenright@hotmail.co.uk	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
April 13th -	R.N. Colony Class	enquiries@iowtours.com	Aztec Hotel

16th	Cruisers.		Bristol
April 13th - 16th	H.M.S. Ganges Association	tony.willders@btinternet.com	Mill Rytte Hayling
April 14th	H.M.S. Dunkirk Association	jcarroll@jandecarroll.plus.com	UJC London
April 14th	AIRCREW MANS Association	webmaster@aircrewman.org.uk	Rembrant Hotel Weymouth
April 20th - 22nd	H.M.S. Courageous Association	stevecrowley34@gmail.com	Mickleover Court Hotel Derby
April 20th - 23rd	H.M.S. Decoy Association	dobbo.exrn@btinternet.com	Park House Hotel Blackpool
April 26th - 29th	849 Naval Air Squadron Gannets	jsrawl@aol.com	Hotel Mariners Haverfordwest
April 27th - 30th	Loch Class Frigate Association	Andrew.nunn@blueyonder.co.uk	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
April 27th - 30th	H.M.S. Dido Association	secretary@hms-dido.com	Book Hotel Norwich
April 27th - 30th	H.M.S. Aisne 1966 - 1968	enquiries@iowtours.com	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
May 4th - 7th	H.M.S. Saintes Association	Ron Miles 01404 43177	Royal Beach Southsea
May 11th - 14th	H.M.S. Solebay Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
May 11th - 14th	Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association	dnsaskhm@aol.com	Duke of Cornwall Guz
May 18th - 20th	H.M.S. Broadsword Association	Stevie.bullock@blueyonder.co.uk	Mercure Hotel Bristol
May 18th - 21st	County Class Destroyers Association	charland4@hotmail.co.uk	Cavendish Hotel Torquay
May 18th - 21st	H.M.S. Tenby Association	krhysjones@blueyonder.co.uk	Collingwood Hotel Bournemouth
May 18th - 21st	H.M.S. Cavalier Association	kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk	Sittingbourne
May 19th	RNEBS	artificer150@yahoo.co.uk	Guildhall London
May 26th	H.M.S. Ardent Association	rasntas@gmail.com	HMS Drake Devonport
June 1st - 4th	H.M.S. Londonderry Association	enquiries@iowtours.com	The Country Hotel Basingstoke
June 6th	Fleet Air Arm Buccaneer Association	robinH49@btinternet.com	Royal Court Hotel Coventry
June 9th	H.M.S. Liverpool Association	info@hmsliverpoolassociation.org.uk	GI's Club Whale Island
June 9th	2 nd HMS Manchester Association	iantids@ntlworld.com	Senior Rates Mess HMS Nelson
June 9th	HMS Ark Royal Association	https://www.hmsarkroyalassociation.org/	Still and West Old Portsmouth
July 14th	H.M.S. Daring Association (Fifth & Final Commission)	hmsdaring_d05@yahoo.co.uk	The Bell House Hotel Chippenham
August 17th	WRNS 1966	barbaracotton46@btinternet.com	RMC Portsmouth
August 31st - Sept 3rd	H.M.S. Diana Association	kendavies131@yahoo.co.uk	Grantham
September 8th	The Fiscard Association	https://www.thefiscardassociation.org/	Royal Beach Southsea
September 15th	HMS Ark Royal Association	https://www.hmsarkroyalassociation.org/	Still and West Old Portsmouth

September 21st - 23rd	H.M.S. Protector Association	Dougatspindrift@aol.com	Hadleigh Hotel Eastbourne
Sept, 21st - 24th	H.M.S. Ulster Association	ulster@candoo.com	Hallmark Midlands Hotel Derby
September 21st	RNCCA	honsec@rncca.com	Rob Roy Hotel Aberfoyle
September 21st	H.M.S. Tiger association	turbine52@gmail.com	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
Sept 28th - Oct 1st	R.N.E.W.E.B. Association	enquiries@lowtours.com	Hallmark Hotel Preston
Sept 28th / 29th	H.M.S Caprice 1968 Association World Cruise	gl@hmscaprice1968.org.uk	RMC Portsmouth
September 29th	Royal Navy Stewards Past and Present	shugstero1@yahoo.co.uk	Plymouth
September 29th	BRNC Dartmouth September 1978 Entry	brncclassof78@gmail.com	BRNC Dartmouth
October 5th	H.M.S. Lowestoft Association	ian@hmslowestoft.co.uk	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 5th	H.M.S. Troubridge Final Commission	Romft1@gmail.com	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 6th	Royal Naval Patrol Service Association	hq@rnpsa.co.uk	Lowestoft
October 8th	Bay Class Frigates Association	Doug Turk	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Naval Writers' Association (RNWA)	les@heyhoe.com	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Navy Photographers Association	http://www.rnpa.org.uk/	Plymouth
October 13th	Type 21 Club Association	davidwoollard813@btinternet.com	Crownhill RBL Plymouth
October 14th	H.M.S. Neptune Association	www.hmsneptune.com	National Arboretum Alrewas
October 20th	H.M.S Nubian	robertholland54@btinternet.com	Caledonian Hotel Rosyth
October 26th - 29th	HMS Eagle / HMS Yarmouth / HMS Undaunted but open to all	alan666@blueyonder.co.uk	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
November 9th	H.M.S. Intrepid Association	andywalmsley_uk@yahoo.co.uk	Liverpool
October or November	H.M.S. Endurance Association First Commission 1968 - 69	jansbolt@btinternet.com	TBA
		-	
		.	
2019			
April 26th - 28th	Royal Navy Safety Equipment & Survival Association	gordon.parkes7@btinternet.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Sept. 7th - 10th 2019	847 NAS H.M.S. Simbang 69 -71	cliff.jones1948@gmail.com	Aztec Hotel Bristol
December 2019.	H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans	malcolm.collis@gmail.com	Trip to South America

Swinging the Lamp – February 2018



		Swinging the Light - February 2018
Date	Year	Entry
1st	1917	German 'unrestricted' submarine warfare began
2 nd	1747	<i>Edinburgh</i> and <i>Nottingham</i> captured the French privateer <i>Bellone</i> 100 miles N.W. by W. of Ushant. <i>Eagle</i> also in company.
3rd	1834	Pusser's waste allowance reduced from one eighth to one-tenth.
4 th	1303	King Edward I said to have granted to one Gervase Alard the first commission to an English admiral.
5 th	2007	Reclaim Building on Horsea island Diving HQ renamed 'Bridge Building in honour of the Diving and Bob Diosposal officer Lt Cdr John Bridge GC GM and Bar.
6 th	1842	<i>Charybdis</i> (6) and crew of fifty-five under Lt de Courcy took the Cartagenan corvette <i>Coretta</i> , sank a brig, and put two schooners to flight,
7th	1919	Paddle minesweeper <i>Erin's Isle</i> mined off The Nore.
8th	1918	Destroyer <i>Ghurka</i> sunk by mine 4 miles S.W. of Dungeness; seventy-five men lost.
9th	1937	First flight of Blackburn Skua, FAA's first monoplane, a cross between a fighter and a dive-bomber.
10th	1943	Commemorative standard candlesticks, commissioned by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey in memory of the 862 men lost in the battleship <i>Barham</i> , were dedicated after Evensong in the presence of Vice-Admiral Sir Henry Pridham-Wippell whose flag she had been wearing when torpedoed on 25 November 1941. 'Since the candles in these holders are lit at every service held in the nave, <i>Barham's</i> men will be honoured daily for as long as the Abbey stands' – Dr C.S. Knighton in <i>The Westminster Abbey Chorister</i> 41 Winter 2005/6.
11 th	1944	Sloops <i>Wild Goose</i> and <i>Woodpecker</i> sank U-424 in W. Approaches.
12th	1756	Rear-Admiral Charles Watson (<i>Kent</i>), and Rear-Admiral Pocock, with some East India Company ships and troops under Col Robert Clive, destroyed the pirate stronghold of Tulagi Angria at Geriah (Vijaydurg), W. coast of India. Ships and vessels : <i>Bridgewater</i> , <i>Cumberland</i> , <i>Kent</i> , <i>Kingfisher</i> , <i>Salisbury</i> , <i>Tiger</i> . Hon. East India Co.: <i>Bombay</i> , <i>Drake</i> , <i>Guardian</i> , <i>Protector</i> , <i>Revenge</i> , <i>Triumph</i> , <i>Viper</i> , <i>Warren</i> .
13 th	1814	<i>Boyne</i> and <i>Caledonia</i> fought the French <i>Adrienne</i> and <i>Romulus</i> close off Cape Brun, outside Toulon.

14 th	1858	Naval Brigade, landed from wood screw corvette <i>Pelorus</i> , arrived at Meaday, Burma.
15 th	1940	Heavy cruiser <i>Exeter</i> reached Plymouth from Falkland Islands after the Battle of the River Plate. First Lord first on board.
16 th	1953	Carrier <i>Hermes</i> (ex- <i>Elephant</i> , renamed 5 November 1945) launched at Vickers, Barrow, by Mrs Winston Churchill. Sold to India in November 1986 and commissioned as <i>Viraat</i> .
17 th	1945	Corvette <i>Bluebell</i> sunk in less than thirty seconds by U-711, and <i>Alnwick Castle</i> and <i>Lark</i> sank U-425, off Kola Inlet. Convoy RA 64. <i>Lark</i> torpedoed by U-968 and beached at Murmansk. Salvaged by Russians and taken into service as <i>Neptune</i> .
18 th	1827	Frigate <i>Diamond</i> (46), 'lately returned from South America under the command of Lord Napier', burned to the waterline while lying in ordinary at Portsmouth under the care of her standing warrant officers. Sister ship of <i>Trincomalee</i> preserved at Hartlepool.
19 th	1807	Vice-Admiral Sir John Duckworth (<i>Royal George</i>) forced the passage of the Dardanelles and moored 8 miles off Constantinople. Eleven sail of the Turkish squadron destroyed and remaining two taken by the division under ear-Admiral Sir Sidney Smith (<i>Pompée</i>). Ships: <i>Canopus</i> , <i>Pompée</i> , <i>Repulse</i> , <i>Royal George</i> , <i>Standard</i> , <i>Thunderer</i> , <i>Windsor Castle</i> and volunteers from <i>Ajax</i> . Frigates: <i>Active</i> , <i>Endymion</i> . Bombs: <i>Lucifer</i> , <i>Meteor</i>
20 th	1858	<i>Pearl's</i> Naval Brigade, with a detachment of the 1st Bengal Military Police Battalion and Gurkha allies, defeated the Indian rebels at Phulphur. Indian Mutiny Medal.
21 st	2004	Destroyer <i>Glasgow</i> , Cdr M.J. Wainhouse RN, on her (APT(South)) deployment, rendezvoused with <i>Endurance</i> in the Weddell Sea and 'recorded the southernmost latitude for a RN warship since 1911'.
22 nd	2007	The last holder of the office of First Lord of the Admiralty died. George Patrick John Rushworth Jellicoe, the Second Earl Jellicoe, KBE, DSO, MC, was the son of Admiral of the Fleet Earl Jellicoe of Scapa, C-in-C Grand Fleet 1914–1916 (including Jutland) and First Sea Lord 1916–1917.
23 rd	1979	Former commando carrier <i>Bulwark</i> recommissioned at Portsmouth. She had been brought out of reserve and converted into an anti-submarine warfare carrier to fill the gap between paying-off of <i>Ark Royal</i> and completion of the Invincible-class carriers. A gallant old ship but her electrics were not up to it.
24 th	1813	<i>Peacock</i> (18) taken by the American <i>Hornet</i> (20) off the mouth of the Demerera River, British Guiana, despite the weather gauge and her immaculate appearance which earned her the nickname 'The Yacht'.
25 th	1991	Destroyer <i>Gloucester</i> destroyed Iraqi Silkworm missile with her Sea Dart just short of USS <i>Missouri</i> . Operation Granby.
26 th	1891	Queen Victoria christened two new warships in Portsmouth Dockyard: the battleship <i>Royal Sovereign</i> (undocked) and the first class cruiser <i>Royal Arthur</i> (launched).
27 th	1943	Submarine <i>Tigris</i> presumed lost to depth charges of UJ-2210, S.E. of Capri (40.26N, 14.16E).
28 th	1758	<i>Monmouth</i> (64) captured the French <i>Foudroyant</i> (80), the largest ship af loat at the time. <i>Revenge</i> (64) and <i>Berwick</i> (64) captured the French <i>Orphée</i> (64) 20 miles S. of Cartagena. <i>Monarch</i> (74) and <i>Montagu</i> (60) drove <i>Oriflamme</i> (50) ashore at Monte Cope. Battle Honour: <i>Foudroyant</i> 1758.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2018 Dublin

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

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

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

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

RNA – Guidelines for the use of the trademarked Logo and crest

The RNA logo and crest are now registered trademarks under UK00003206225 under Classes 14, 16, 21, 25 and 26. This means that the neither the logo or crest can be used without the permission of the National Council of the RNA. Guidance for Areas and Branches is as follows:

1. The Logo and crest may be used by Branch and Area officials on letters, newsletters and on other printed media without charge.
2. The Logo and crest may be used by Branch and Area officials on websites, and other social media without charge.
3. The Logo may not be used for any printed or electronic reason for non-branch or Area officials without the permission of the National Council.
4. Only **licenced** providers may use the Logo or crest for badges, boxes cufflinks etc; diaries calendars, engraved products, jackets, shirts, gilet, cardigans, jumpers, polo shirts, scarfs, ties, bow ties, buttons, cummerbunds and similar. Only the General Secretary, delegated by the National Council, may authorise a supplier on payment of license fee to the RNA National Council. If a branch or Area wish to use the Logo or crest they must use an authorised supplier or gain specific permission of the General Secretary. The GS will provide .EPS files with the correct crest as approved by the College of Heralds.
5. Suppliers will be licenced by the RNA under the conditions of:
 - a. Payment of an appropriate fee.
 - b. The right crest is used.
 - c. The quality of the items is sufficiently good – including the quality of the crest.
 - d. Signed agreement renewable annually.
6. The General Secretary is the delegated approval officer on trademark issues from the National Council.

Approved by the National Council 9 December 2017

RNA WELFARE SEMINAR 2018 BOOKING FORM

20th – 22nd April 2018 (Fri-Sun) Britannia North Stafford Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent

Please return this application to: **Just for Groups! The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich NR1 3PL**

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

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

Prices:

- 1) 20th–22nd April (Fri – Sun) *2 nights dinner, bed & breakfast with buffet lunch on Saturday:
£109.95 per person ☐
- 2) 20th – 23rd April (Fri – Mon) 3 nights, dinner, bed & breakfast with buffet lunch on Saturday:
£158.95 per person sharing ☐ £178.95 per single ☐
- 3) 20th – 21st April (Fri – Sat) 1 night dinner, bed & breakfast with buffet lunch on Saturday:
£65.95 per person sharing ☐ £79.95 per single ☐
- 4) 21st – 22nd April (Sat – Sun) 1 night dinner, bed & breakfast with buffet lunch on Saturday:
£65.95 per person sharing ☐ £79.95 per single ☐
- 5) Saturday buffet lunch, no accommodation: £10.95 per person ☐
- 6) Sunday lunch (3 course) £10.95 per person ☐

Accommodation Requirements: (The first person named should be the "Lead Name" to whom all correspondence will be sent) Note: A limited number of rooms are available for Single occupancy without supplement. If singles are over-subscribed a supplement of £20 per night may apply.

	Title	Initial	Surname	Delegate Y/N	Arrival Day	Depart Day	Accommodation Type:			
							Double	Twin	Single	Other
1										
2										
3										
4										

Special Requests/Mobility Issues: (Not guaranteed) including accommodation and parking, special needs and dietary requirements etc

Lead Name Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel number: _____ **Email:** _____

RNA Branch: _____ **Deposit (non-refundable):** _____ @ £25per person = £_____

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

Cheques payable to "Just for groups!"

(If you wish to pay using a credit/debit card then please tick here: ☐ Once your application has been accepted we will contact you to arrange payment. 2% charges apply for credit card payments)

Note: Final Balance Payment: Is due on or before 23rd February 2018

Optional Insurance: We can provide comprehensive insurance cover for a premium of £10 per person. Full details will be provided for your consideration once your application has been processed and accepted.

ADVANCE Booking Details



Conference of
Naval Associations
Holiday Service



**CRUISE & MARITIME
VOYAGES**

Book before 31.01.2018 to guarantee these prices!

'ALL ABOARD' OUR 'EUROPEAN CITIES BREAK CRUISE' Full Board from only £355 per person!

From the 28TH OCT-2ND NOV 2018 (SUN-FRI)



Your CONA Holiday Service has put together this exclusive cruise offer, on board the ever popular Columbus.

Three of Europe's most popular cities and you only have to unpack once! Amsterdam promises pretty tree-lined canals, gabled houses and world-famous museums, whilst Hamburg offers rich maritime history, grand buildings, beautiful lakes and parks and great shopping. Lastly, spend a day in historic Antwerp with its eye-catching architecture, sculpted streets and picturesque galleries. Be sure to bring home some delicious Belgian chocolates!

Your Cruise Itinerary:

Day 1: London, Tilbury, Depart - 16.00
Day 2: Amsterdam, Netherlands, Arrive - 08.00, Depart - 14.00
Day 3: Hamburg, Germany, Arrive - 12.00, Depart - 21.00
Day 4: At Sea
Day 5: Antwerp, Belgium, Arrive - 08.00, Depart - 19.00
Day 6: London, Tilbury, Arrive - 08.00

Parking is available in Tilbury at a cost of £55 per vehicle for the duration of the cruise

**Drinks
Package
ONLY £10pppn
Save £35pp!**

Why not add our 'Exclusive Drinks Inclusive Package' at a supplement of £10 per person per night*

Our exclusive drinks package includes: House wine, draught beer and soft drinks by the glass during meal hours in the restaurants: Draught beer, house wines, cocktails and other alcoholic drinks by the glass from all bars during opening hours (excluding premium brands): Soft drinks and juices by the glass from all bars during opening hours.

*** The drinks package is only available if all occupants of the cabin book it in advance for the 5 night duration.**

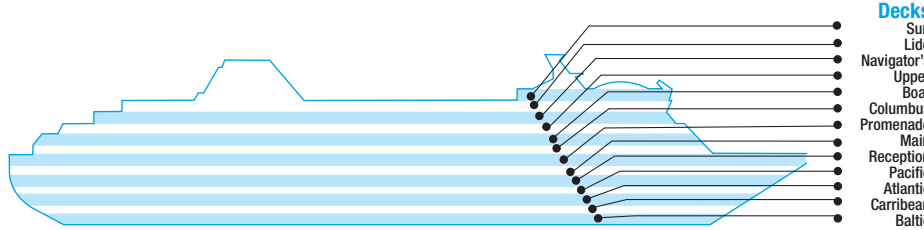
(All prices apply to bookings made before 31.01.2018. Exclusions apply).

FOR BOOKING FORMS PLEASE CONTACT:

By Phone: CONA Holiday Service on 0844 264 2122 **By Email:** conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk

By Post: The CONA Holiday Service, c/o Just For Groups!,
The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich, NR1 3PL





Cabin	Cabin Type	Per person
IG	Voyager Inner	£355
1	Standard Twin Inner	£365
2	Standard Plus Twin Inner	£399
3	Superior Twin Inner	£425
4	Premium Twin Inner	£449
OG	Voyager Ocean View	£445
6C	Standard Twin Full*	£459
6B	Standard Twin Full	£475
6P	Standard Twin Port Hole Ocean View	£475
6	Standard Twin Ocean View	£499
7	Standard Twin Ocean View	£515
8	Standard Plus Twin Ocean View	£539
9	Superior Twin Ocean View	£599
11	Superior Plus Twin	£649
12	Premium Twin Ocean View	£699
DL	De Luxe Balcony	£999
JS	Junior Balcony Suite	£1125

The above prices apply to bookings confirmed on/or before the 31.01.2018. Prices for single cabins on application.

Notes:

It is a condition of booking a cruise that you have adequate travel insurance before departing. This vessel operate as adult only cruise ships and do not accept anyone under the age of 16. It is important that you are fit and healthy to embark on a cruise holiday and your attention is drawn to our Booking Conditions. Full British Passports are required for all cruises

• Optional shore excursions, personal expenditure such as drinks, laundry, communication and medical fees are not included • According to international custom in the hospitality industry, tipping is accepted as recognition of good service. For your greater convenience the ships operate an automatic tipping system so instead of worrying how much and when to tip, an amount of £5.00 per person per night (£4.00 per person per night for cruises over 16 nights) will be debited to your onboard account. All itinerary timings are approximate and may be subject to change. Please be advised that the ships offer designated smoking areas - if you need further details please ask at the time of booking.

*Cabins with full or partially obstructed view.

Columbus

At 63,786 tonne, with a draft of 8.20 metres and overall length of nearly 250 metres, Columbus was purpose built for deep sea ocean cruising and ideally suited to the type of exciting scenic cruise programme on offer. She underwent an extensive refit in August 2015 and was upgraded further in April 2017 before the start of her maiden programme with Cruise & Maritime Voyages.

Accommodation

Accommodating up to 1400 guests, Columbus has 11 passenger decks, serviced by nine lifts. Columbus offers a wide choice of wellappointed inner and ocean view cabins plus 28 De Luxe Balcony cabins and 36 Junior Balcony suites. All accommodation is graded according to size and/or position within the ship.

Dining & Entertainment

At the Waterfront Restaurant you can opt for a full English breakfast, savour a leisurely lunch and enjoy a delightful five course dinner. Breakfasts and lunches are generally served on an open seating basis. However, two fixed time sittings are operated for dinner when your attentive waiting staff will welcome you each evening. Perhaps opt to dine at the Fusion or Grill speciality restaurants or sample the delights of a sumptuous dinner at the 'Chef's Table' (supplementary charge). If you prefer something more casual, the Plantation Bistro is open every day for buffet style breakfast, lunches and dinner, and when the weather is fine, the Alfresco Grill beckons. There are extensive lounge areas including the Palladium Show Lounge with big show entertainment & cabarets, the Captain's Club, Connexions, Raffles and Taverners Pub & Casino.

On board facilities include:

- Waterfront Restaurant • Speciality and Chef's Table Restaurants (supplementary charge) • Alfresco Grill
- Seven choices of lounge or bar • Casino • Shopping Galleria • Two coffee and tea shops • Six entertainment venues include Palladium Show Lounge • Columbus Lounge & Library • Bridge & Card Room • Jade Wellness Centre including Beauty Salon • Two heated outdoor swimming pools • Outdoor Giant Screen • Medical Centre • Extensive Sun Deck • Main Lobby • Reception
- Tour Desks offering a wide range of shore tours • All cabins are well equipped with en-suite facilities, with shower, personal safes, television, hairdryer, music channels and electrical current is 110/220v AC.



FOR BOOKING FORMS PLEASE CONTACT:

By Phone: CONA Holiday Service on 0844 264 2122 **By Email:** conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk

By Post: The CONA Holiday Service, c/o Just For Groups!, The Old Bakery, Queens Road, Norwich, NR1 3PL

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The following voluntary plans have been specially arranged by the Hospital and Medical Care Association

- ☒ **The Medical Care Plans**
provide private health cover
- ☒ **The Dental Plan**
provides cover for routine examinations, hygiene, x-rays and remedial and restorative treatment with a private dentist
- ☒ **The Income Protection Plus Plan**
ensures that, in the event of loss of earnings because of serious illness or accident, you will still have income
- ☒ **The Care Cash Plans**
provide tax free cash to cover your unexpected medical expenses
- ☒ **The Travel Plan**
provides medical expenses cover up to £10 million when you travel overseas
- ☒ **The Personal Accident Plan**
provides up to £150,000 cover

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