

The Semaphore Circular

No 709

The Beating Heart of the RNA

May 2021



Bon Voyage!

**Carrier Strike Group 21 led by HMS Queen Elizabeth sailing from
Portsmouth on her inaugural operational deployment.**

Shipmates Please Stay Safe

If you need assistance call the RNA Helpline on 07542 680082

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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PLEASE NOTE DURING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS CENTRAL OFFICE IS CLOSED. PLEASE USE EMAIL OR, IF THE MATTER IS URGENT, THE HELPLINE ON 07542 680082.



Staff photo (L – R) Sara Field, Kathryn Brindley, Nigel Huxtable, Lynda Pearson, Malcolm Little, Andy Christie, Julie Royston, Charlie Darlington and General Secretary Bill Oliphant. Missing on this occasion was Mike Grey.

*** Guest 'Photobombing' courtesy by HM the Queen and the Late Duke of Edinburgh.*

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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
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NCBA	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor/ Governance Committee

ind Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

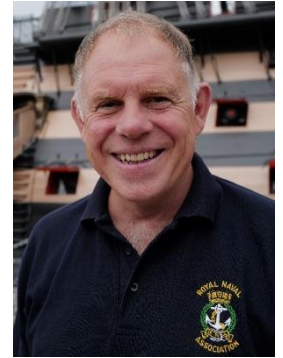
Snail Mail - Postal Address

RNA Central Office,
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Scott Road,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

“Forth Bridge is down” was the coded text message which pinged across to me mid-morning 9 April. I think Princess Anne described it best when she said that despite being prepared for the inevitability of the moment, the news of HRH Prince Philip crossing the bar was still a shock. I felt her pain. I watched a bit of the coverage on the Duke’s amazing life on the tv at lunchtime and I took a moment to reflect before leaving the Naval Base that day. I went down to the jetties to see that the ships had already shifted their ensigns to half-mast in respect.



Bill Oliphant

It must have been about 1700 and, on a Friday, you can imagine the dockyard wasn’t very busy. With not another soul in sight, and he would not have seen me sitting in my car, I watched a loan sailor skipping up the brow of DEFENDER. Just as he reached the top of the brow, he glanced aft, saw the half-masted ensign, and recognised the significance. Almost as an involuntary action, he saluted the flag. I found it really quite touching, that private little mark of respect. Nice one Shipmate!

The tributes are still flowing into Central Office from Branches and Shipmates around the Association and we have already decided that our Yearbook this year will be dedicated to our Shipmate Prince Philip.

It has indeed been a sad month; not only with the passing of the Duke but we also lost our well-loved Shipmate Nobby Hall who eventually succumbed to his titanic battle with cancer – RIP Nobby – and also the tragedy of the sinking of the Indonesian navy’s submarine KRI NANGGALA with the loss of its 53 ship’s company. Our hearts go out to the families of the crew. Submariners especially in our Association would wish to



KRI NANGGALA – USN photograph

know that an appeal has been started to support the families of the crew – please see the RNA Community Facebook page for details.



National president, John McAnally, gives saluting drill to the next generation of jolly tars as they await the departure of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH. BZ family Mavor!

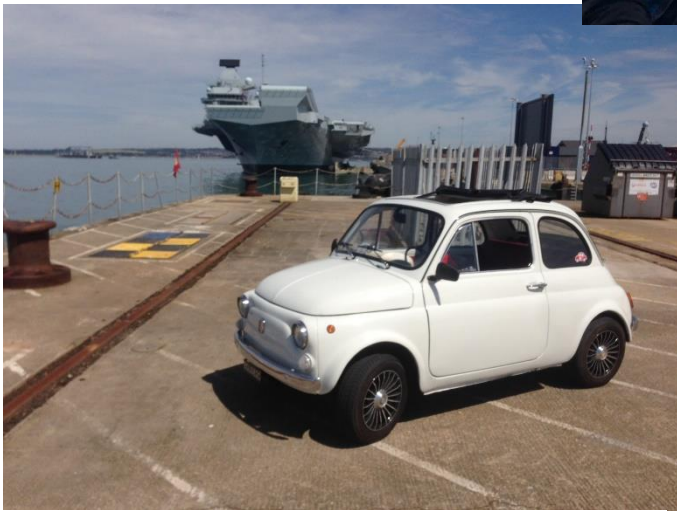
I promise the remainder of this intro will be cheerier!

What a great day on Saturday 1st May when the Central Office team set up the RNA gazebo at 0730 at the back of the Round Tower in Old Portsmouth to support the families who had come down to wave off the ships of Carrier Strike Group 21. DIAMOND was first out at 0800, followed by DEFENDER at 1000, KENT at 1200 and then QUEEN ELIZABETH at 1545 all looking resplendent at Procedure Alpha. Just amazing to stand on this side and see the

emotion of the moment when families were waving off sons and daughters, husbands and wives and fathers and mothers. It was lovely to have conversations from families who had driven as far as Wales and Scunthorpe. This was an out and out recruiting drive and we set ourselves a target of 100 new recruits on the day having surpassed earlier in the week the magic 1000 new members this year. Thank you to my CO team – Keith Ridley calls you my “Press Gang!” - for

your outstanding support and also to the Riders Branch who arranged for half a dozen of their members to come down with their glittering machines and support the effort – much appreciated. The Riders Branch now boasts 130 members and is increasingly popular – BZ lads!

As indicated in the Semaphore Short last week, and thanks to those who have already responded, I'm also looking at a similar group for those who have old or interesting vehicles. I have a 1969 Fiat 500 which my wife and I get a lot of enjoyment from heading out for picnics in the summer and if any shipmates would quite like to do



Who's got an old or interesting car?

likewise it would be fun. What I am planning is a mini rally from St Neots, where our last (physical) National Conference was held, to Nottingham ahead of this year's Conference. To carry the flame as it were, or, in our case, the Standard. Please get in touch if this appeals – bill@royalnavalassoc.com I envisage meeting on the evening of Thursday 02 Sep at St Neots for an opportunity to chat and then the following morning take a gentle route to Nottingham stopping for lunch en route with arrival at Nottingham in time to scrub up ahead of the evening Conference welcome drinks in the Crowne Plaza.

I must take the opportunity to say farewell to our long-standing Finance lady Michelle, who, after going sick earlier in the year, has decided not to return. Michelle we wish you well.

Finally, I was delighted to be able to drop a Pussers finest into S/m Bill Silvester on his 97th birthday last Friday. Bill has been unwell in Queen Alexandra's Hospital for a while and is now on the road to recovery back home in Southsea. It was good to see the WW2 veteran in fine form.

As ever,

Bill Oliphant

PS. Sorry about my cock up with Monday's Fireside Chat – normal service resumed next week.

Chairman's Chat

At the top of the hoist in April was the sad loss of S/m HRH Prince Phillip. What an amazing person he was, and proud of having served in the Royal Navy. We all have our own fond memories of him, especially those amongst us that served with him. As you will read elsewhere in this circular, our National President on behalf of the RNA sent a letter of condolence to HM The Queen for which he received an acknowledgement.

R.I.P. Shipmate.



Once Navy Always Navy Sadly, on 9th April the idyllic Island of St. Vincent was subjected to the Eruption and devastation in the north of the Island by the volcano La Soufriere displacing some 15 – 20,000 residents who fled their homes to the safety of the southern part of the Island. Currently there are some 500 personnel from the Island serving in the Royal Navy, with many naval veterans having served their time and returned home. Bill Oliphant will have mentioned elsewhere in this circular the RNA's fantastic response, and you will have read the various emails from CO with regards the RNA Appeal. This is a clear indication of the bond that exists within our naval family – **Once Navy Always Navy**. I am aware of the amazing response from the membership to send Aid to the Island for which I offer my sincere thanks.

By the time this circular hits the Messdecks our two flat tops will have sailed out of Portsmouth; HMS PRINCE of WALES on 30th April, and her sister HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH on 1st May. The Central Office Team having given up their Bank Holiday Saturday, will have been sporting distinct RNA Tee Shirts to mingle with naval families and the public in the area around the Round Tower on 1st May who witnessed the QE putting to sea for exercises before she deploys on 22nd May to the Pacific & Far East returning mid-December. The CO Team's Mission – to spread the good name of the RNA amongst those gathered and gain new members (A modern day version of a Press Gang?). I have left it to Bill Oliphant to announce the latest total of new members as 30th April!

Correction to last month's circular. For the flight deck sunseekers amongst you out there, you may have noticed that last month - Item 9 (Borneo/Brunei insurrection December 1962) that young Andy Christie Goofed. Unfortunately, young Andy printed the wrong photograph of HMS ALBION, admittedly, it was taken before his time. Although the photograph was of ALBION, it was an earlier photograph showing her as a Fixed Wing Carrier (Note the clue of the 'Z' deck marking). From 1962 onwards as a Commando Carrier she had 'A' painted on the flight deck aft. Back to counting blankets Andy!

Apology. Last month I mentioned the Monday evening Fireside Chats and the Saturday Virtual Tot Nights which are thoroughly enjoyed by all who tune in. Unfortunately, I failed to acknowledge (on the Orders of my wife) all the Wives, partners and off-spring who work behind the scenes to get participants scran ready. So, to all the Chefs & Cooks I say a BIG Thank you.

In last month's circular I announced that LET (WE) (CIS) Richard **Jonah** Jones of HMS WESTMINSTER was the winner of a Bottle of PUSSER'S Gunpowder donated by myself as the first serving member to submit a Dit to the Semaphore Circular. After a four-month deployment the Ship put into Pompey on 16th April, quick as a flash in true naval tradition, Jonah was on the



phone to me to claim his prize which was duly presented by Nigel Huxtable on my behalf. Pictorial evidence appears in this circular. **True or False** – a Post on Facebook showed a photograph of the Ship laying off with a Rib (Rubber type Sea Boat) from the WESTMINSTER putting into a Cornish Port to collect some 200 Oggies, yes Oggies! On interrogating Jonah as to whether the Post was true or false, he coughed, and said it was true, and had been organised by the Skipper as a morale booster for the Ship's Company. What a nice thought.

Liberty Guys to glamorise was the Pipe aboard USN Ships in Hong Kong. Well Shipmates, it will not be too long to wait before Covid restrictions are eased and we can break out and recommence physical Branch Meetings. So, it is time to find out if your clothes have shrunk in the darkness of your wardrobes, because mine certainly have! No doubt you all have a lot to catch up with in your Branches. I highly recommend that your first Branch Meeting takes the form of a social gathering unless you have any urgent business. Within my own Branch we have managed to organise some Lunch gatherings when restrictions have permitted. Do not forget to keep up you guard against the invisible enemy.

Time to sign off and recheck my clothing. To all our serving Shipmates including reservists, who continue to support the frontline against Covid-19, keep up the good work, to Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world keep safe. For those at sea, a safe return. Stay safe everyone, we will overcome Covid, and we will all emerge to share our Dits and a Tot together.

Yours aye

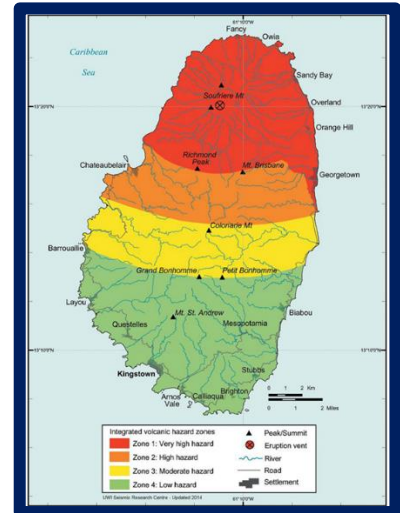
Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ Operation A thousand Good Deeds - Operation St Vincent

Shipmates may be unaware that the Soffriere Volcano on the Caribbean Island of St Vincent and the Grenadines erupted on 14 April along with several aftershock eruptions. This has resulted in over 1000 families being displaced and having to move into the relative shelter of 90 Shelters without even a toothbrush. (You can see in the map of St Vincent the volcano is in the red zone, most people have been evacuated from the red/orange zones)

By chance, the General Secretary was in discussions with the Naval Caribbean community concerning forming a branch in the Caribbean for the RNA to support and engage with serving, veterans and their families, particularly in St Vincent and the Grenadines.



There are currently over 420 St Vincentians serving in the Royal Navy the Central Office Team assisted by the Royal Naval Benevolent Fund (RNBF) 'leapt into action' to assist as best they could. A joint style COBRA committee was formed involving Central Office and serving St Vincentians including, Petty Officer Arron Dickson, Kerwin Romero and ex POWTR Gideon Henry.

The priority was to obtain a priority list of 'stuff' ranging from clothing to toiletries and face masks to torches to arrive in the warehouse in Southampton so it could be packed and loaded into an ISO container. The key priority was to ensure that the container was filled and loaded onto the Geest Line ship prior to sailing on 21 Apr. So no pressure there then!



To enable the logistics to work local branches were asked to donate as many of the items as they could and were collected by Shipmates and held in house/garages and at RNBF in Castaway House.

The next stage was to transfer all the gear. RNA Comms Officer, Charlie Darlington was volunteered and was given command of the RNA minibus, negative seats, and set off on the monumental task of collecting from all the drop of points and transferring to the warehouse in Southampton.



Long Story Short the Ship sailed with the ISO onboard. BZ to everyone involved it was a superb effort and proves the TEAM works.

Sadly the task hasn't finished and its all hands to the pumps to ensure that we are ready to fill the 2nd container which is due to sail around the 6th May. There is already a huge amount of kit ready to go which includes a Minibus full which was kindly donated by; S/M Penny Jarvis at RNA Letchworth and Hitchin and the shipmates at St Neots which was collected by the GS, Bill Oliphant and new boy

Malcolm Little.

There have also been a number of financial donations from branches far and wide and these are most welcome as the plan is to assist families when they eventually move home after they have cleared all the volcanic residue!

If your Area or Branch or individual Shipmate would like to donate, no sum too small, please send a cheque to Central Office payable to Royal Naval Association and marked on the back St Vincent Appeal. Or contact Kathryn in the Finance Office at kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com



2. ★ Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall - Sunday 12 September 2021



Shipmates last month I reminded you of an important date for your diary, see below. This month could I gently remind you of the need to book your **accommodation**, as I have been made aware that there are one or two other events scheduled to take place in London that weekend. Remember first in the galley queue best the best choice of scrum!!

Shipmates an important date for your Diary..... The newly named Naval Associations Biennial Parade will be held in Whitehall on Sunday 12 September..... Please

advertise the date as widely to the 'Naval Wider Family Community' as you is possible. Specific details will be issued nearer the time but don't hesitate to contact Central Office if you have any questions. When passing information concerning the parade it is important that consideration is given to the possible security implications. Remember Loose Lips sink Ships!

We have also had a number of enquiries from our fellow Naval Associations who would like to join us



on Parade the more the merrier, let's make this a proud Naval occasion. Permission has been granted to march in a 'Jack' 'bimble' style manner! Without being presented with a 'around the buoy again coxswain' type disc which meant you had to go round the parade ground again!!

It would be appreciated if Standard Bearers attending, for logistic purposes, inform the National Ceremonial Advisor Shipmate Bob Coburn, details in article below.

3. ★ Standard Bearers - Information Please

More ceremonial 'stuff'.....

The National Ceremonial Advisor, Shipmate Bob Coburn would appreciate if any Standard Bearers who are planning to attend Conference would kindly advise S/M Bob so that 'Operation SB Cunning Plan' can be enacted. Bob will reveal all when you contact him at - robertcoburn001@btinternet.com or call 07810 300383

4. ★ Welfare Spotlight Column – Good and Bad News on Covid.

As we move towards a life post covid, it's helpful to look back at the positive and negative effects of the pandemic on RNA welfare and its delivery to shipmates together with the support offered. In particular, awareness of the positive and negative effects of the pandemic on our own mental health and mental wellbeing and that of others continues to be important now as it was earlier.



So, what is mental health and mental wellbeing? Whether serving or ex-serving, being resilient and well trained to "cope" means we tend not to think about it.

However, we all have it to varying degrees good or bad but having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more. I see it as a state of mind, what we feel and think, but it's more than that in reality. The World

Health Organisation (WHO) defines it as: "Mental health is not just the absence of mental disorder. It is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community."

That seems to ask a lot of each of us and what are "normal" stresses anyway? Daily life is a better description and would include not just work or daily routine if retired but our relationships, hobbies, passions and chores etc.

What is normal and what is good? A simpler and realistic view is to recognise that mental health is about our behaviour and we are all somewhere on a spectrum with days when you are at one end and days when you are at the other more extreme end. If we agree we're all on a spectrum then chances are we're all "normal" **some** of the time and accepting that in ourselves and our shipmates is important.



What were (are) the negative effects of the pandemic? Isolation, illness, bereavement, loss of income and fear triggered for many mental health conditions or made worse existing ones. Loneliness and isolation in particular are bad for our mental health. Many studies have shown this particularly amongst veterans; we may

have experienced it ourselves or seen the effects in others with many facing increased levels of alcohol or drug use, insomnia, and anxiety. All these can be dealt with individually and with

professional help. We need to help shipmates with these problems and value them for where they are and help them to a better place.

What were (are) the positive effects of the pandemic? As an Association, Central Office, Areas, Branches and individuals we all rose to the challenge with an increased emphasis on welfare support and communication to all shipmates so BZs all. That effort continues in many different ways virtually and practically across the RNA. It has been recently evidenced by the strong responses to the St Vincent's Appeal and will develop further with the increased welfare resource in Central Office. For example, the Weekly Tot Night continues (thank you Wrexham) as do the Fireside Chats and the weekly Semaphore Short is a good, easily digested source of news of interest. Looking ahead we are planning a Welfare Drop-In at Conference on the Friday 3 Sep and a Welfare Seminar in 2022 (details later) to help shipmates with improving welfare support. More developments to follow.



As shipmates, I think we all became more aware of each other's need for support in difficult times with enforced isolation and the loneliness crippling the mental health of many. That awareness and action by all of us should not change as things move on. We need to continue to be supportive of each other both in Branch and in reaching out to other shipmates around us who may be hidden, lost or lonely. As the opportunities for social gathering increase, we need to remember **all** shipmates.

How can I improve my mental health myself? Different things work for different people, so you need to find out what helps you but do seek further support if you feel you need it. Asking for help when you need it is a strength and not a weakness! Good mental health starts with you and your behaviour. You can help yourself to good mental health by:

- Care about yourself **and** care for yourself.
- See yourself as a valuable person in your own right, value yourself and others in the same way
- Look after your physical health, remember to eat well, sleep well, exercise and do things you enjoy yourself.
- Judge yourself against reasonable standards; don't set impossible aims and then punish yourself when you don't reach those aims
- Do not compare yourself with others; they're not you and not in your situation
- Perfection is not a realistic aim
- You don't have to earn the right to be you; you are what you are and have the right to be so
- Remember it's normal to feel a bit worried, scared or helpless about your situation, particularly if you feel you cannot control it
- Remember it is OK to share your worries with others you trust; it may help as well as a bonus
- If you find it difficult to talk or cannot to someone you know or if doing it has not helped, there are many sources of help out there for you as an alternative.



Who can help me or a shipmate? In Branch, there are your shipmates and often a Branch Welfare Officer there to listen and support you and, if necessary, signpost you to professional help. You are not alone if you belong to RNA in a branch or are on HQ roll or in ship. In support of them is myself as National Welfare Adviser (Geoff@royalnavalassoc.com) and Selwyn Davies (Selwyn@royalnavalassoc.com) as Deputy National Welfare Adviser plus the Central Office Team. The Central Office operates a **Helpline (07542 680082)** started during the pandemic and still taking calls. These latter options are open to all shipmates in or outside a Branch.



There are also many charities and helplines out there for veterans and their families. Naval charities such as Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT, <https://www.rnbt.org.uk/>; 02392 690112) Seafarers' Advice & Information Line (SAIL, <http://sailine.org.uk/>; 0800 160 1842 and 020 3597 1580) are excellent sources of general support by phone or email via their websites. Backup to these are the tri-service charities such as SSAFA and RBL. Specific areas of help such as for PTSD issues are covered by charities such as Combat Stress UK (<https://combatstress.org.uk/>; 0800 138 1619) or PTSD Resolution (<https://ptsdresolution.org/>; 0300 302 0551). Apps such as Forces Connect and Veterans Gateway give DIY mobile phone access to welfare support and information in 24/7 directories of what's in your local area to help with issues such as finances, housing, employment, relationships, physical and mental health. They are easily downloadable from Apple Store or Google Play. The NHS publishes useful support guides (see <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/> and <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/>) and a directory of charity helplines (see <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/nhs-voluntary-charity-services/charity-and-voluntary-services/get-help-from-mental-health-helplines/>). Physical access to mental health support is via your GP or local crisis service via 111. MIND (<https://www.mind.org.uk/> 0300 123 3393) is a good source of information and support outside of the naval family.



This is only an abbreviated summary of mental help advice and some available sources of help which hopefully is useful to shipmates needing it or those supporting them. Everyone's needs are individual though so do seek out the agency or charity that fits your need at the time. Remember we are here to help you with advice and support either through your branch or directly.

Your suggestions for Welfare Spotlight articles or requests for advice are welcome at any time, please do send to me in the first instance. We are in process of updating our welfare support materials such as Guides and FAQs to make available on the website to all. As volunteer Advisers we are working closely together with shipmates in the Central Office Team such as Lynda Pearson, the Welfare Programme Manager, to continue and develop the increased focus of RNA on welfare support in 2021 and beyond.

Stay safe and stay well shipmates

Geoff Apperley
National Welfare Adviser
geoff@royalnavalassoc.com

5. ★ Financial Conduct Authority - Advisory for RNA Clubs

Club Committees please note, the following instruction has been received in Central Office from the Finance Conduct Authority. If any Club feels that it is not able to achieve this requirement, the Club Secretary should contact Central Office for support.

FCA Coronavirus (Covid-C19) and mutual societies

Hello

We write as registering authority for mutual societies.

We are aware some societies are still experiencing delays in producing annual returns and accounts because of coronavirus (Covid-19).

We have [updated our website today](#) to reflect that:

- for annual returns and accounts due for submission by 31 October 2021, we will not take any action to follow-up on delayed submissions, where the delay is 3 months or less.

Other [measures making it easier](#) to submit applications to us, and our existing [forbearance on general meetings](#), remain in place.

Many thanks

Ian Adderley



12 Endeavour Square London E20 1JN www.fca.org.uk

6. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

For Shipmates who are unaware, a series of 'Fireside Chats' featuring some fascinating subjects including; Battle of Jutland, Operation Paraquet (Re-capture of South Georgia 1982), Naval Recruiting in 2020 to name but a few. The presentations are held on Monday evenings commencing at 1800 using 'Zoom'. All are welcome.

Meeting ID - 288 830 5105 Password – Shipmate (case sensitive) Or, click on the link [here](#)

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 03 May	Jon Pearson	BAE Systems Support to the RN
Monday 10 May	Paul Godfrey	The Story of HMS Ark Royal IV - 1955 to 1978
Monday 17 May	Ralph Dodds	Norway 1940 - War in the Fjords
Monday 24 May	Cdr William Sutherland – HMS HOOD Assoc	HMS HOOD
Monday 31 May	Terry Corner	Dunkirk
Monday 07 Jun	Nick Hewitt – NMRN	D Day
Monday 14 Jun	Steve Bomford	Company of Makers
Monday 21 Jun	Dr Jan Witt	Mutiny and Piracy
Monday 28 Jun	WO1 Carl Steedman	RN Update from 1SL Office
Monday 05 Jul	Andy Dodds	CRAM - Phalanx on a lorry in the desert in Iraq
Monday 12 Jul	David Griggs	Op Rheostat - Mine clearance in the Suez Canal 1974/75
Monday 19 Jul	Ian Cameron	The Battle of Hastings
Monday 26 Jul	Brig Ian Gardiner	The Dhofar Campaign

Monday 02 Aug	Capt Bill Evans	Marine Accident Investigation Branch DOT
Monday 09 Aug	Zoe O’Gorman	RM Bands
Monday 15 Aug	Tom Palmer	Arctic Star – Writing fiction in a historical context

7. ★ Fab Joke! - Norseman

Olaf the Norseman is shopping at a supermarket when he comes across an old lady in a wheelchair, almost in tears.

"What's the matter?" asks Olaf.

"Oh," sobs the old lady. "I want to have a look at the frozen puddings but, as you can see, there are three steps down into the chiller cabinets."

"No problem," says Olaf, lifting her onto his back. "I'll take you."

Olaf strolls through the chiller cabinets with the old lady on his back. She selects several puddings and puts them in the basket he is carrying for her.

At the other end the old lady's husband is waiting with her wheelchair.

"I'd really like to thank you," says the old lady as Olaf sets her back down in the chair, "but I don't even know who you are!"

Olaf just waves and walks off.

"I was really worried about you," says the old lady's husband. "What have you been doing?"

WAIT FOR IT.....

She replies, "Well, I've been through the desserts on a Norse with no name." Boom Boom!!



(Sorry Shipmates I couldn't resist it, I know you secretly enjoyed it!)

8. ★ Admiral FitzRoy – The First Weather Forecaster

Shipmate Ian Cameron (St Neots Branch) has once again forwarded a very interesting article for Shipmates to enjoy, this time it concerns Admiral FitzRoy.....

Better known for being the Captain of HMS Beagle, the ship which took Charles Darwin on his almost 5-year trip around the world where Darwin developed his theory of evolution. Darwin and FitzRoy apparently had violent arguments as FitzRoy considered Darwin's developing theory to be heretical. Darwin was astonished to learn that FitzRoy had got married almost



immediately after the trip as he had never mentioned the lady once in the almost 5 years that they sailed together!

After being promoted to Admiral, FitzRoy was appointed as Meteorological Statist to The Board of Trade.

Weather forecasting is part of our life today but for someone to make a science out of it at that time was regarded as something radical.

FitzRoy soon began to work on strategies to make weather information more widely available for the safety of shipping and fishermen. He directed the design and distribution of a type of barometer which, on his recommendation, was fixed at every port to be available to crews for consultation before setting out to sea. Stone housings for such barometers are still visible at many fishing harbours. The invention of several different types of barometers were attributed to him. These became popular and continued in production into the 20th century, characteristically engraved with Admiral FitzRoy's special remarks on interpretation, such as: "When rising in winter the rise of the barometer presages frost."



A storm in 1859 that caused the loss of the Royal Charter ship inspired FitzRoy to develop charts to allow predictions to be made in which he coined the term "weather forecast". Fifteen land stations were established to use the new telegraph to transmit to him daily reports of weather at set times. The first daily weather forecasts were published in The Times in 1861. The 1859 storm resulted in the Crown distributing Storm Glasses then known as "FitzRoy's storm barometers", to many small fishing communities around the British Isles.

In 1860, FitzRoy introduced a system of hoisting storm warning cones at the principal ports when a gale was expected. He ordered fleets to stay in port under these conditions. The Weather Book, which he published in 1863, was far in advance of the scientific opinion of the time. Queen Victoria once sent messengers to FitzRoy's home requesting a weather forecast for a crossing she was about to make to the Isle of Wight.



Many fishing fleet owners objected to the posting of gale warnings, which required that fleets not leave the ports. Under this pressure, FitzRoy's system was abandoned for a short time after his death. The fishing fleet owners reckoned without the pressure of the fishermen, for whom FitzRoy had been a hero responsible for saving many lives. The system was eventually reinstated in simplified form in 1874.

9. ★ Volunteer Parade Marshals

The National Ceremonial Advisor, Shipmate Bob Coburn would like to hear from Shipmates willing to volunteer their services nationally as Parade Marshalls. There are number of events scheduled around the country (i.e. Naval Associations Parade, Remembrance Parade, Falkland 40th) that may be attended by RNA members and he is keen to hold a definitive list of suitably qualified Parade Marshalls. Anyone who is interested should forward their details and a small email providing their suitability to hold this prestigious role to ;

robertcoburn001@btinternet.com or 07810 300383

10. ★ Naval Service Memorial – National Memorial Arboretum

I am sure Shipmates will see from the photos below that the Naval Service Memorial is has been undergoing a bit of a 'spruce up' prior to being fully opened up for the full return of the general public on 'Freedom Day' 21 June 2021.

However you can still visit prior to that date if pre-book at the NMA website www.thenma.org.uk The NMA is just off the main A38 road at Croxall Road, Alrewas, DE13 7AR why not take a trip out and visit the unique NSM.



(Photo's courtesy of Shipmate David Evans)

11. ★ More Fastest Ship in the Fleet..... Well so far as we know.....

Continued from last month Firstly,

Shipmate Paul Fitzgerald (Brixham Branch) has joined the debate and forward the email below to Central Office

Dear Bill,

This is in reference to the article about "The race", item 12 in the circular. I served on HMS Caprice for her last commission (1971-73). Caprice was 6 months older than Cavalier. ON our last day at sea on passage from Lands end to Devonport the ship clocked 36 knots. So Caprice was faster than Cavalier and Rapid.



During the last commission an article appeared in the Navy News that Cavalier was going to be preserved for the nation as the last wartime destroyer. I wrote and pointed out that Caprice was in fact 6 months older.

The reply said "Yes we know that, but cavalier still has an open bridge. Wind your neck in. Boom! Boom!.

There's more.....

S/M David Fleming from Stonehaven emailed to say that HMS Brave Borderer was the fastship in the Fleet. Please see his email below;

Dear Editor,

Thank you for Semaphore. Always full of interesting material. Well done.

I hope I am not speaking out of turn, but the claim about the fastest ship (in the April edition) is, I believe, not quite true. HMS Brave Borderer P1011 was a Fast Patrol Boat in commission from January 1960 until 1970. She was designed for 50 knots, and is reported as doing 55 knots when racing some power boats along the South Coast. I suspect the maximum speed achievable was a guarded secret.

I am building fine scale model of her, and I would be very grateful of anyone could add to my research. In particular, I would appreciate hearing from anyone who served on her (or her sister ship HMS Brave Swordsman) and/or who have any photographs of either of them. She can seen in two videos, although it can't be verified what speed she was doing. It was just fast!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_QT9ijh7j0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTJNVcKb9AQ>

Kind regards David Fleming, 5 David Street, Stonehaven AB39 2AJ Tel 015697 67200
Mob 07733 361755 david.w.fleming@surescribe.com

No doubting the power of the HMS Brave Borderer and her sisters as observed by Shipmate John Pontin (Lee/Stubb Branch) who observed them leaving Haslar Creek together – showing off by handing over mugs of tea to each other as they departed the harbour at 'breathneck' speed being chased by the QHM, who couldn't catch them as they were trying to tell them to observe the speed limits!!!!

12. ★ Falklands Campaign 40th Anniversary Commemorations

Next year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign and thought you would appreciate an early 'Heads Up' of events that have been scheduled so far;

Sunday 29 May 22 – Falklands Veterans Foundation 40th Anniversary Memorial Service – Falklands Gardens Gosport followed by Freedom of the Borough Parade and Reception.

Sunday 12 Jun 22 – SAMA Annual Falklands Memorial Service - Pangbourne



Tuesday 14 Jun 22 – RBL Falklands Commemoration Event – details to be confirmed, however Attendance 10,000 including spouses. National Memorial Arboretum

Sunday 19 Jun 22 – RNA/Naval Associations Parade – Old Portsmouth – details to follow

The photo above shows HMS Hermes coming alongside after her return from the Falklands on what was then Middle Slip Jetty, now Princess Royal Jetty. (Photo courtesy Crown Copyright IWM (FKD 684)

13. ★ Central Office 2021 Official RNA Events – Update

2021 Official events update - Cenotaph, Garden of Remembrance and Seafarer's Service in St Pauls.

Central Office are currently awaiting any news on these three events as it is getting near the time when we need to accrue bids for tickets. With fingers crossed we shall go ahead and accept bids from Members so we are ready to go when asked. As in the past two years we will need to know your;

Full Name, Address and post code, Date and place of birth also an e mail address if you have one or phone number if not. If you want to attend but will need to be helped round with a wheelchair pusher or other supporter I need their names and the same details too. For those who come from afar to take part you need to think about accommodation arrangements too. Hopefully the local taxis will also be free as in previous years.

Please send your bids to nigel@royalnavalassov.com or sara@royalnavalassoc.com

Likely dates for them are;

St Pauls Seafarers Service	13 October	TBC
Field of Remembrance	10 November	TBC
Remembrance Sunday	14 November	Details to follow.

Watch this space

RNA Poppy Badges for sale.

Nigel still has a stock of RNA branded poppy badges - still only £1 each or 50 pence each if you buy ten or more.



14. ★ RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery

WWW.RNASLOPS.CLOTHING

The RNA Officially Licensed supplier of embroidered garments.

Polo Shirts, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Fleece, Jackets, Knitwear, Blouses, Pilot Shirts, Softshell, Headwear.

The RNA Logo is included in your garment price. All you have to do is select New or Blazer Style badge and add your Branch Name, of which is optional.

Tel: 07983 151011 E Mail: ray@rnaslops.clothing

RNA Slops is owned by RLP Embroidery and we pay Royalties to the RNA

15. HRH Duke of Edinburgh Reminisces

Shipmate Mick Hilder very kindly forwarded the 'Dit' below for all to enjoy..... For information CPO Francis turned out to be the last Buffer of the Royal Yacht 1989-1997.

Dear Sir, I was told of a story where CPO 'Connie' Francis, noticing that the Duke of Edinburgh was leaning on the guardrails of the Royal Yacht. He shouted 'Don't lean on the (bloody) guardrails!' which brought Connie to the attention of the Captain. Being summoned to the Captains' cabin Connie was asked to explain himself. You do not shout at the royals let alone swear at them! said the captain. 'Well... he should have known better,' answered Connie.



Later that day a personal note arrived at Connie's office from the Duke saying 'Yes I should've known better!'

Does anyone recall the incident? I worked with Connie for quite a while at HMS Vernon within Portsmouth Craft Group. He always used a mickey take solution if he thought you were going wrong in some way, which proved very effective in maintaining efficiency & discipline.

Once, I was late for work after coming back very early on a Monday morning by oversleeping (I'll just have an hour, woke up at 1100!) and he spoke up for me before I went in front of the Cdr. I think that is why I only got three days nines, no fine, finish Friday morning go W/E again. He always said the only thing he traps is his fingers in the door! Great Guy!

Regards L/S(MW) Mick (Wingnut) Hilder Rtd.

I have sticky out ears & that was his nickname for me!

16. ★ Change of National Conference Date to Saturday 04 September 2021



In light of the ongoing Covid crisis and the restrictions this poses on gatherings of any kind, the decision has been made to push the date of the 2021 National Conference to **Saturday 4th September**, in the hope that there is a much better chance of it taking place. The venue remains the same as originally planned for 2021 - The Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham.

The new Conference booking form has been distributed with the February Issue of this Circular. Prices range from £106.50 pp for a 1 day stay to 4 nights £224 these prices include the cost of the Gala night dinner. It can also be found on the website at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/conference>

We understand that many Shipmates will be disappointed that we have had to reschedule the conference once again, but we hope you all understand the reason behind this decision. We are really looking forward to coming together once again and celebrating the end of such a difficult period, in true RNA fashion.

17. ★ Penguins Facts

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica? Where do they all go?

Wonder no more! It is a known fact that the penguin is a very ritualistic bird and lives an extremely ordered and complex life. Penguins are extremely committed to their family and will mate for life, as well as maintain a form of compassionate contact with their offspring throughout the remainder of their life.

If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and their social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using only their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

After packing the ice back in the hole, the male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:

"Freeze a jolly good fellow."
"Freeze a jolly good fellow."

Boom Boom!!

(Thanks to S/M Bob 'the Elder' Gelder)



18. ★ Introducing Pussers Gunpowder Proof 'Spiced'



Pussers Rum LTD is proud to announce the production of its first batch of Gunpowder Proof Spiced Rum. It has been blended to Admiralty specifications (54.5% ABV) and aged for a minimum of three years in once used charred oak bourbon barrels and then mellowed with a subtle blend of spices including Banana, Vanilla, Chocolate, Cinnamon and a hint of Ginger that produce an incredibly smooth Spiced rum with deep flavours and a rich Amber colour that can be enjoyed neat, on the rocks or in a cocktail. The initial batch shall be sold exclusively through Paragon Brands, the Company's UK importer.

This new expression is replacing the old Pussers Spiced, which was bottled previously at 35%. Gary Rogalski (CEO of Pussers Rum) quotes: "We had an

outpouring demand from rum aficionados around the world to “spice-up” liquid history and I believe we have accomplished that goal. We have added a nuance of Caribbean fruits and spices without taking anything away from the blend’s classic Demerara wooden pot still heritage. I believe our customers will find the sensory perception of this rum be world-class in every respect!”

Pussers Rum Ltd. Bottles blends and distributes the original Royal Navy rum – one of the most historic and traditional rums still available today.

The new Pussers Spiced expression retails at Nauticalia for £43.99 for a 700ml bottle....www.nauticalia.com

19. Rum – 1960’s RN memory.....

For those new Shipmates who like me, a paid-up member of the RNA Youth Wing! And joined the Navy after the Daily Rum Issue ceased on Black Tot Day, 31 July 1970 I thought you would appreciate some historical knowledge and may like to know what the fuss was all about! So, from one of our Naval Forefathers (non-other than the RNA National Chairman) read his experiences below –

Just in case you do not know the history of that filthy drink and to the best of my 1960's memory:

The most important Pipe of the day other than Liberty Men fall in was at 1200 - UP SPIRITS.

Juniors had to leave the Messdeck when the Rum Bosun/Cook of the Mess brought the Golden nectar down. However, 18 and 19 year olds were allowed to remain given you had to be 20 yrs old to draw your Tot. Apart from Submarines, Minesweepers and small Units who got issued their Tot neat, Ships were issued 2 & 1, being 1 part Rum & 2 parts water filling a half pint glass. Senior Rates got theirs issued neat. Glasses NEVER got washed.

This filthy stuff was liquid money:

- 1. A small favour for your Oppo = a wet (Sippers)*
- 2. A bigger favour = Gulpers*
- 3. Stand a Duty Watch so your Oppo could go ashore to entertain a lady ! = A FULL Tot.*
- 4. If it was your Birthday = a Wet from all your Mess mates and normally a visit to the Sick Bay to have Life Saving Treatment. It was also the norm that the morning after your Birthday your Oppos would stand your Watch whilst you had a lay in, which OOW and Duty PO's turned a blind eye to.*
- 5. If your Oppo was'nt feeling 100% = he would pass you what was left of his Tot to be seen off = Sandy Bottoms.*

A keen eye was kept on the Rum Bosun to ensure he was not holding each glass when he filled it with 2 fingers inside the top !



Despite the watchful eye of a Jack Dusty Officer, a Regulator and a Stores Rating, it was normal to find you had at least 1-2 Tots over issued known as Queens - everyone then got Sippers.

Most important etiquette was everyone gave the Rum Bosun a Wet.

Now, if you want to know one of the reasons why the Tot was stopped on 31 July 1970. Having read the above + Guided Missiles on Ships + Computers, somehow did not make for a safe Ship!

(Photo of Rum Issue – HMS King George V 1940 - Courtesy IWM A 1777)

20. ★ Assistance from Shipmates Please



Could Shipmates assist G Paul Karcha who has emailed Central Office for help as sadly the Royal Navy Museum is unable to assist him during the move of their collection.

He is possession of an Anson Royal Naval Division Battalion cap badge and is trying to identify it's authenticity. The photo of the badge is shown opposite.

G Paul can be contacted at Gpsk27558@icloud.com

21. ★ Gin Lovers.....

Shipmates the RNA is very pleased to offer the "1921 Reserve" Navy Strength Gin to our members.

This Gin was blended by the Handmade Gin Company on the Wirral in conjunction with the RNR Officers' Club, Liverpool (Sea Urchins) to celebrate their Centenary this year.

This refreshing Gin contains botanicals from around the world to reflect our maritime heritage, including Lingonberries, Norwegian Angelica Root, complemented beautifully by Elderflower, Grapefruit, Liquorice and Lemon at 57% ABV.

The good news is that this available at only £35 (+£4.50 P&P) and the RNA receives 10% for each bottle sold, so apart from drinking a very smooth Gin, you are helping the Association! Don't forget to click the button for RNA.

[Sea Urchins Navy Strength Gin - Mygin](#)



22. ★ Forces Cars Direct

Veteran-owned Forces Cars Direct is celebrating 20 years of service to the military community and we're delighted to welcome them to the Royal Naval Association and our members in an exclusive partnership.



Offering unique new car discounts with savings up to 35% on a full range of makes and models, you can be sure to find the right car for you! Forces Cars Direct is endorsed with 5-star TrustPilot ratings from its customers, was named Veteran Business of the Year in the English Veterans Awards, and has support from the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, so you not only save thousands, but can be assured of the highest level of service too.

With Forces Cars Direct you will also benefit from:

- UK nationwide, Covid-safe delivery
- Cash purchase and full finance options available
- Leasing service available
- All part exchange vehicles welcome
- Serving and veterans

Find out more about the service and savings available at <https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna> where you can browse and make your enquiry.

23. ★ Wanted – Reward Tot of Pussers or pint of Beer

Shipmates are requested to keep their eyes peeled for this wanted man who is suspected of pretending to be a senior RNA official. If anyone spots him and helps identify this imposter a free tot or pint of beer awaits.....

Police believe he has possible links with the Midlands, HMS Albion (The one with the letter 'A' painted on the flight deck aft!) and Wales or any other country where he might get a free wet. Has been known to claim to be Scottish during the 6 Nations when Scotland are winning 55-0 with 1 min remaining on the clock! Is also known to support any football team that is winning by claiming dodgy allegiance i.e. I have driven past their ground.....His concubine is also known to dance the 'dance of the seven veils' when he gets his wheelspanner out! (Oooh Matron)



Finally, he uses the alias Sheik Mustafa Wheelspanner.....

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) FOR MODELMAKERS

For all model making enthusiasts!
Find us and 'Like' us on Facebook. Just search for **RNA SIG**
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/434544820928061>



*The Facebook page is a closed (Private) Group and will need your
RNA Membership Number to join.*
Connect - Create - Construct



RNA Longcast

2021	
14 May	Open Day Cancelled
14-16 May	Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations – Londonderry
May TBC	Inter Services T20 Cricket – Lords CANCELLED
31 May	Late May Bank Holiday
04 Jun	National Council (Collingwood)
05 Jun	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day CANCELLED
18 Jun	IMC
25 Jun	Branch Motions for Conference – Deadline/SOC
25 Jun	Open Day

26 Jun	Armed Forces Day – Scarborough CANCELLED
08 Jul	Staff Day – Office Closed
23 Jul	Open Day
30 Jul	AMC / FAC - Zoom
30 Aug	August Bank Holiday
03 Sep	National Council - Nottingham
03 Sep	NC Dines Out National President (VA McAnally)
04 Sep	AGM/National Conference - Nottingham
12 Sep	Naval Associations Biennial Parade - Whitehall
23 Oct	World Uckers Championships Finals - Portsmouth
05 Nov	Budget Meeting
11 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	FAC
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
18/19 Nov	AMC Meeting in Cleethorpes
09 Dec	National Council Dines-In National President (VA Potts)
10 Dec	National Council
23 Dec-4 Jan	Central Office Closed
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day

2022	
11 Feb	AMC/FAC – Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Ferndown and District Branch](#)

[RNA Aylesbury \(No1 Branch\)](#)

[RNA Plymouth Branch](#)

[RNA Harwich Branch](#)

[RNA Bracknell Branch](#)

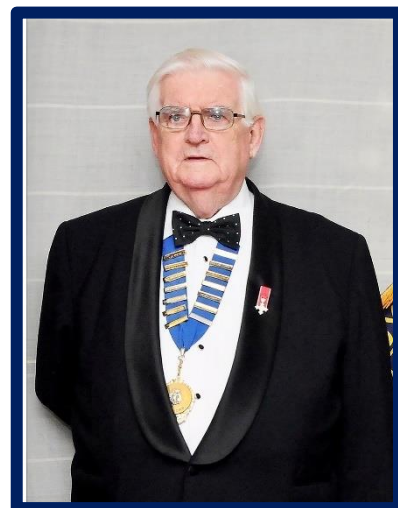
RNA Ferndown and District Branch

The Ferndown and District Branch is sad to report that our long serving Chairman S/M Mick Arnold MBE has been forced to stand down due to a medical condition, though he will continue as a Member.

S/M Mick joined our Branch at its Commissioning on 7th March, 1980, (41years), joined the Committee in 1986, and in the same year became Branch Delegate to No.4 Area. Shortly after he was elected to the No.4 Area Committee, then served as Area Secretary from 1999 to 2019, (20 years). From 2000 until 2019 he served as Secretary/Treasurer of the No.4 Area Reunion Committee, which for many years has been held in Bideford. For services to the RNA S/M Mick has been awarded as Life Vice President and Life Member of Area 4.

S/M Mick was elected Ferndown and District Branch Chairman on three occasions, 1994 to 1996, 2000 to 2002 and finally 2012 to 2021, totalling 13years. During the latter period he arranged for three Members to be presented with their Legion d'Honneur in Nelson's cabin on-board H.M.S. Victory, by former First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jonathon Band GCB, and a further member received the Legion d'Honneur at our Branch Headquarters in 2019.

S/M Mick was a member of the 'Algerines Association' for many years. In addition, he was our Area 4 point of contact with the 'Not Forgotten Association' for over 20 years. S/M Mick was also the County Chairman and Vice President of the Royal British Legion and awarded the Royal British Legion Gold Badge. For Services to the Community of Ferndown he was awarded the MBE in the 2004 New Year's Honours list.



This year S/M Bob Stanyard has succeeded S/M Arnold MBE as Branch Chairman.

From the new Chairman - What shoes to fill.

A pillar of society, S/M Mick was a Councillor, and twice the Mayor of Ferndown, along with other social positions of merit within the Dorset Masonic Order.

S/M Mick Arnold has been a huge credit to our Branch and I am so pleased that he and his lovely wife Jean will still be members. I was going to say "Job Done" but no doubt his knowledge and experience will be called upon.

Well done Chairman and thank you Shipmate, thank you for your excellent service.

RNA Aylesbury No1 Branch

Four members of the Aylesbury No.1 Branch mustered to pay tribute to HRH Prince Phillip at 1500 on Saturday 17th April.



From left to right in the photos – S/M Ron Hale, Secretary, S/M Tom Spurrier, Chairman, S/M Ken Satterthwaite, Standard Bearer, S/M Trevor Hooper, Branch Member.

Neighbours of S/M Ken gathered to take part in the brief tribute (distanced on the opposite side of the road).

All the mustered members have been inoculated against Covid 19 and social distancing was observed (except for Tot issue).

A Tribute was read out by S/M Ron followed by the dipping of the Standard and One Minutes Silence. On completion the Standard was marched off and this was followed by a Tot of Pussers.

RNA Harwich Branch

Harwich Branch honoured HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

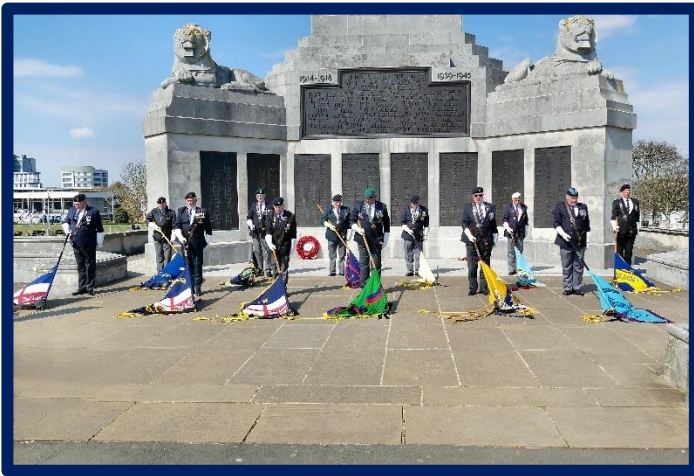
Branch President, S/M Bob Bliss, S/M Andy Wells and Standard Bearer Ron Scutcher mustered in S/M Ron's garden at 1500 to pay their respects at this sad time.

In true Naval tradition they raised a tot in his memory.



RNA Plymouth Branch

Plymouth Branch took part in the Veteran's Tribute to the Late, HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh RIP.



A brief poignant Salute of Farewell and act of Tribute was made by the Veterans of Plymouth Ex Services Associations which, includes RNA Plymouth Branch, held on Plymouth Hoe at the Royal Naval Memorial, the 'Salute' timed to coincide with the Minutes Silence at Windsor Castle.

At 1500 the 'Still' was piped, the draped Standards were dipped, a Farewell Salute by the Veterans of Plymouth to **HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, High Lord Admiral, Captain General of the**

Royal Marines and Royal Navy WW2 Veteran. On completion the 'Carry On' was piped.

*May there be no sadness of Farewell
When I embark;
Alfred, Lord Tennyson's
'Crossing The Bar'*

The display of twelve Standard Bearers in two groups of six, spaced in compliance with the Covid directive on the mostly deserted Hoe added to the hauntingly silent atmosphere.

Shipmate Kevin Adamson, Branch Standard Bearer, was instrumental in initiating the 'un-announced' event, brought to fruition by the Parade Commander Jerry Josee, Standard Bearer and Chairman of Commando Gunner Regroup. Shipmate Baz Downing-Waite, Federation Chairman and Plymouth Branch Member, expertly piped 'the still' & the 'carry on' using his trustee Bosun's Call. Shipmate Grant Fox, Standard Bearer for Plymouth Branch Submariners Assoc. resplendent with his tartan touch. The HMS Ganges Assoc., Royal Marines Assoc., RASC Veterans Assoc., Aden Veterans Assoc., RAF Veterans Assoc., RAF Regiment Veterans Assoc., Royal Artillery Assoc., British Legion (Plympton) and RFA's Veterans Assoc. all displayed their Standards.

RNA Bracknell Branch

It is amazing to think where the time has gone – it has flown by so fast. Who could have imagined that it is over a year since the Branch Shipmates were together physically at their monthly meetings? The first meeting held on “Zoom” was in May 2020 and they continue to the present day with Branch meetings and now Committee meetings held virtually. A “social/tot” night has recently been introduced in the middle of the month, so Shipmates can more informally catch up with each other.

The AGM at the January meeting saw the Chairman and Vice Chairman exchanging positions, with S/M Nigel Carpenter becoming Chairman and S/M Mike Daley taking over as Vice Chairman. S/M Terry Dilliway was succeeded by S/M Marcus Carpenter as the PRO for the

Branch. Tributes were paid to S/M Mike for his dedication and service in the Chairman's role over the last five years and to S/M Terry for all his hard work in recording and reporting the activities of the Branch since he joined the Branch in 2013.

The Branch meetings' format has remained the same with regular updates from our local Sea Cadet Unit in Maidenhead (TS Iron Duke); a sharing of information and Dits, (which involve a variety of "poems", real-life tales and the inevitable wide range of "jokes") and a few talks, including: "The Day I Joined Up"; "The Great Siege of Gibraltar"; "The Background Behind Many Warships' Names"; "Pickle Night"; "My Naval Career"; "Once a Wren, Always a Wren" and most recently on "HM Sub Alliance and the Submarine Museum at Gosport". There have also been a couple of enjoyable Quizzes. From a membership, currently of 38 Shipmates, there are usually 21-25 regular attendees at these meetings, which are much appreciated. It is hoped that "physical" meetings will resume at the beginning of July and Shipmates look forward to raising their glasses together.

On Saturday 17th April 2021 eight Shipmates met in the afternoon at the local War Memorial in the grounds of St Mark's Church in Binfield. At 1500 the Branch Standard - carried by S/M Anthony Boddrell, the Regulating Branch & Royal Naval Police Association Standard - carried by S/M Chairman Nigel Carpenter and the Regimental Standard of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire & Wiltshire) - carried by S/M David Smith were "dipped" for the National one minute's silence to pay tribute to HRH Prince Philip, as part of the funeral ceremony for His Royal Highness. "Social distancing" was maintained and Shipmates dispersed quietly afterwards – back to the safety of their own homes after their first "group outing" for many months....!!!



CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Edward Guest](#)

[Brian Wright](#)

[Joseph Robinson](#)

[Tony Eyres](#)

Eddie Guest – RNA Stocksbridge and Deepcar

RNA Stocksbridge and Deepcar Hon Secretary S/M Chris Burden has the sad duty to inform you that Stocksbridge and Deepcar Chairman Eddie Guest crossed the bar very suddenly and unexpectedly on 16th March 2021 (Not Covid Related).

Edward Garforth Guest (Eddie) was born on 22/11/42 and crossed the bar 16/3/2021.

Eddie joined the Royal Navy in his teens we believe he was 17 or 18 years old and completed 9 years leaving the service sometime late 78 early 79 (unfortunately his Service Certificates were not available). Eddie joined as a Radio Operator, later qualifying as a Ships Diver, serving at Mercury twice and HM Ships Plover, Barrosa and also a draft at HMS Forest Moor.

After leaving the RN he had various jobs working at Heathrow Airport, a Local Leisure Centre in Stocksbridge and as a Security Officer in Sheffield.

He retained his Naval connections when serving as the Chairman of Stocksbridge and Deepcar, and also as the Chairman of the 8th Destroyer Squadron Association.



I have known Eddie for the past 20 years and to say he will be sadly missed by the Association is an understatement. Our condolences go to his wife Marolin, daughters Jackie, Allison, Nicola and son Anthony.

(The photograph above shows members of the Association with Eddie top right)

Stand Down R.O we have the Watch.

Brian Wright - RNA Anglesey Branch



It is with great sadness that Anglesey Branch Hon Sec S/M Gareth Bean has to report the loss of Shipmate Brian Wright who crossed the bar on Thursday 1st of April, aged 71.

Brian Wright was a Life member of the Branch, the Branch Standard Bearer for many years, and the Club and Branch Secretary for over thirty years until ill health forced him to relinquish his duties of Branch Secretary.

The funeral service took place on the 14th of April at St Cybi's Church Holyhead, followed by internment at Maeshyfyd Cemetery.

The Branch Standard was paraded with that of the Holyhead Royal British Legion, and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Branch and Royal British Legion.

Our deepest sympathies go to his widow Anwen and family.

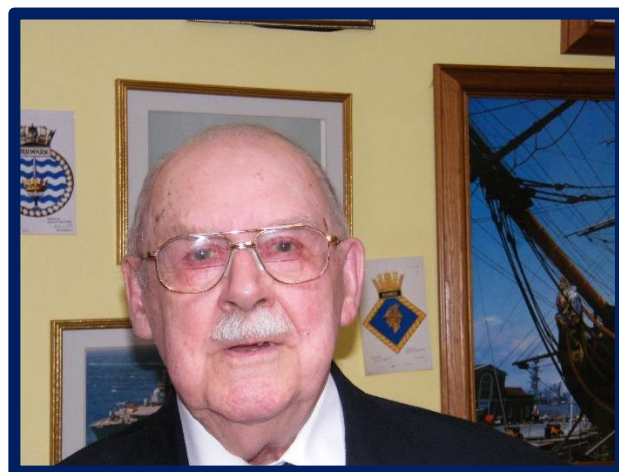
Fair winds and calm waters Shipmate. You will be greatly missed by all.

Joe Robinson – Bognor Regis Branch

Shipmate Joseph (Joe) “Crossed the Bar” on the 16th April 2021. He was aged 96.

Joe Robinson served as a signalman in the Royal Navy from the 1st November 1941 until 1st March 1946. Ships served on included HMS Scylla and Sirius (Dido class Cruisers). During his service he saw action on Russian convoys PQ18, JW53 and RA53. QP14. Among those ships returning on this particular convoy were some of the ships that survived the ill-fated PQ17 convoy.

Landings included were North Africa, Salerno, Normandy and the Dodecanese Campaign (Greek Islands) where the Sirius took a direct hit by a bomb dropped from a German aircraft on the quarter deck, which resulted in quite a few casualties. The ship was repaired in time to take part in the Normandy landings. Medals awarded 1939/45 Star, Atlantic Star & Bar, African Star & Bar, Italy Star, Victory Medal, 4 Russian Medals, Normandy Medal, Arctic Medal and N.Assn Medal, The Russian Ushakov Medal and The French Order of Légion d'Honneur,



Joe was a one of the founder members of the Reigate Branch in 1973 and a keen supporter of the Bognor Regis Branch of the R.N.A. which he joined after he moved down to Bognor Regis to be closer to his family. Joe was recently awarded his Life Membership for being a servicing R.N.A. member who had served during WWII.

He will be sorely missed by the members of both the Reigate and the Bognor Regis branches. May he find safe anchorage.

Anthony Brian ‘Tony’ Eyres - Cwmbran Branch



AB (Anthony Brian) Tony Eyres crossed the bar on 10 March 2021.

He joined the Royal Navy at HMS St Vincent, as a boy sailor when fifteen-and-one-quarter years of age. On his first day he met Jerry Lewis. They resumed contact years later, Tony and wife Valerie staying at Jerry’s holiday home in Ross-on-Wye and remaining friends until Jerry’s passing.

As a Sea Cadet Tony’s Commanding Officer was Jack Strath, who went to sea in sail in Queen Victoria’s time and lived to the age of one-hundred-and-seven.

Tony was always up early, tidy and organised, which was a legacy of HMS St Vincent. He recalled how sailors were inoculated, then made to climb the mast,

hopefully preventing a faint. In Duncan 118 class in January 1947 pay was two shillings a week.

He loved life in the Royal Navy, travelling around the world several times, retaining a special regard for New Zealand (to whose Navy he was seconded for a spell), Malta and Gibraltar, revisiting all three places later in life and staying with friend Joe Gaunt, Commander of a landing craft, in New Zealand.

In 1956 as Gunner's Yeoman on HMS Kitts, Battle Class destroyer, Tony was responsible for all rifles, bayonets and ammunition (including records, pyrotechnics or rockets, webbing equipment, pouches, belts and gaiters).

Sailing with HMS Tracker, tank landing ship, the bomb was taken to Montebello Islands for the British nuclear test. Laying off just over six miles away the crew were told merely to turn their backs at detonation, following which the ship picked up the observing scientists from the nearby island. Tony, who had scraped his shin on the ship's superstructure at that time, forever carried a troublesome and medically inexplicable lesion there.

Tony saw action at Suez and remembered the dousing received by EOKA terrorists, deterred from an attempt at boarding.

He served on a number of ships his favourite being HMS St Austell Bay, Bay Class anti-submarine frigate.

He would spend any leave with his beloved wife Valerie. Although born in London and Newport, South Wales respectively, Valerie was only fourteen hours his junior, causing much confusion whenever recording their date of birth of 20 March 1932. Once married in 1953, they moved to live on Plymouth Hoe. Tony left the Royal Navy shortly after the birth of the first of his two daughters and family remained most important to him.

With an enormous zest for life, during ten years in the Royal Navy and forty-six in the Post Office, Tony would at any time be happy and ready to give advice or help to anyone in need. He was wise and - with genuine concern – very good at this. Tony was baptised on Easter Sunday 1984 and served as Deacon at Summerhill Baptist Church in Newport. In the late 1980s, a devout Christian, he featured in an episode of the BBC Songs of Praise.

Tony joined the Cwmbran Royal Naval Association, revelling in the camaraderie of shipmates. On occasion he served as standard bearer. There were many events and trips including reunions of HMS St Austell Bay, HMS St Vincent Association, Pusser's Rum ceremony at Exeter branch and even, due to daughter's membership of Royal Naval Auxiliary Service, Families' Day aboard Loyal Class fleet tender Loyal Moderator. Tony proudly both took the wheel and peeled the spuds on deck.

Embracing life to the full with RNA, travel, worship, dancing and so much more, Tony enjoyed the fellowship of the many friends made along the way.

Missed so much and now at peace.

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The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Please forward any reunions for 2021/22 and I will publish them here

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

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,700 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk
2021	
12 Jun	HMS Liverpool Association Reunion – For membership details and info contact the Secretary, John Parker at info@hmsliverpoolassociation.org.uk or call 02392 521222
24 Jul	HMS Intrepid Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea – Contact iansrich@outlook.com for booking form and itinerary.
Aug	RMBS 1/70 and 2/70 squads is planned for August 2021 in Deal. Contact Nick Buckley on nickbuckley55@aol.com
13/15 Aug	The HMS Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association will hold their 42nd Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea from 13th to 15th August 2021. Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details. askhamd3@gmail.com
24 Sep	HMS Tiger Reunion – St Pierre Hotel Newmillerdam Yorkshire
01 Oct	HMS Tartar Reunion – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
8/10 Oct	HMS Troubridge Final Commission Association Reunion to be held at Royal Beach Southsea 8/10 Oct. Contact Bryan Pace at Romft1@gmail.com or website HMS Troubridge.com
08 Oct	HMS Carysfort Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
29 Oct	HMS Eagle/ Yarmouth/ Undaunted - Hallmark Hotel Derby
5/7 Nov	HMS Cleopatra Old Shipmates Association Reunion – For details contact Honorary Secretary Warwick Franklin at Warwick_franklin@outlook.com or call 10752 366611
2022	
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool

Swinging the Lamp – May 2021

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



Date	Year	Entry
1 st	1891	Gunnery School on Whale Island commissioned as <i>Excellent</i> .
2 nd	1982	<i>Conqueror</i> torpedoed and sank the Argentine heavy cruiser <i>General Belgrano</i> off the Burdwood Bank, Falkland Islands (55.27S, 61.25W). Operation Corporate. DSO: Cdr Christopher Wreford-Brown. The first sinking by a British submarine for thirty-seven years and the first torpedo attack by a SSN. The Mk 8 Mod IV torpedoes used were in their fiftieth year of service. Boat returned to Faslane flying Jolly Roger.
3 rd	1977	<i>Invincible</i> , first of class, launched at Vickers, Barrow, by HM The Queen.
4 th	1945	<i>Formidable</i> , fifth of the name, operating off Sakishima, hit by kamikaze aircraft and demonstrated the superiority of the armoured flight deck over the wooden flight deck in USN fleet carriers.
5 th	1940	Minelaying submarine <i>Seal</i> surrendered after prolonged attack in Kattegat. Commissioned into Kriegsmarine 30 November 1940 as UB. Scuttled at Kiel 3 May 1945. Lt-Cdr R.P.Lonsdale honourably acquitted at Portsmouth court martial 11 April 1946.
6 th	1943	Destroyer <i>Oribi</i> rammed U-125, and corvette <i>Snowflake</i> hit her with gunfire before she was scuttled (52.30N, 45.20W). Corvette <i>Loosestrife</i> sank U-192 on her first Atlantic patrol, S. of Cape Farewell (53.06N, 45.02W). Corvette <i>Pelican</i> sank U-438 (52.00N, 45.10W). Sloop <i>Sunflower</i> sank U-638 with ten depth charges (54.12N, 45.05W). Destroyer <i>Vidette</i> hedgehogged and sank first U-630 (52.30N, 44.50W) and then U-531, her second of the day (52.48N, 45.18W). The battle of convoy ONS 5 lasted for ten days. Twelve merchantmen totalling 56,000 tons were sunk; so were six U-boats – three Type VII and three Type IX – and two more which sank one another in collision.
7 th	1909	No. 1 Rigid Naval Airship, unofficially known as <i>Mayfly</i> , ordered from Vickers Sons and Maxim for £ 35,000 under the 1909–10 Navy Estimates. She took exactly two years to build but never flew; she was wrecked being removed in high winds from her shed on 24 September 1911 after modifications but this marked the start of British naval aviation.
8 th	1861	Royal Marines Depot opened at Deal.
9 th	1899	The twin-screw royal yacht <i>Victoria and Albert</i> launched at Pembroke Dockyard.
10 th	1968	HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother opened the Clyde Submarine Base.
11 th	1969	RN Phantoms in <i>Daily Mail</i> Transatlantic Air Race, staged to commemorate fiftieth anniversary of first transatlantic flight by Alcock

		and Brown. Aircrew, using helicopters and bicycles at both ends, with Phantoms in the middle, completed flight from Empire State Building, New York, to Post Office Tower, London, in 5 hours 11 minutes 22 seconds. Air-to-air refuelling six times by RAF Victor tanker controlled by <i>Nubian</i> . Phantom XT 858, flown by Lt-Cdr Brian Davies, CO of 892 NAS, established the fastest overall west-to-east time with a new record crossing-time of 4 hours 46 minutes 57 seconds, averaging a true airspeed of 1,100mph.
12 th	1982	<i>Brilliant</i> , Type 22 frigate, destroyed three Argentine Skyhawk aircraft in the first operational use of Sea Wolf. Her Lynx helicopter was the first to fire Sea Skua in action. <i>Glasgow</i> , Type 42 destroyer, damaged by bomb which failed to explode. Operation Corporate.
13 th	2007	Gieves, the naval tailors and outfitters, which traded throughout the twentieth century at 22 The Hard, closed their shop in the Gunwharf (lately HMS <i>Vernon</i>) and so ended a presence in Portsmouth dating back 222 years. The almost legendary position of Gieves in the Royal Navy is commemorated in stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel of Portsmouth Cathedral in the High Street of Old Portsmouth where, at No. 73, the company opened for business as Meredith's in 1785.
14 th	1847	<i>Driver</i> , wood paddle sloop, arrived at Spithead from the Pacific, the first steam vessel to circumnavigate the world.
15 th	1917	VC: Skipper Joseph Watt, RNR (<i>Gowan Lea</i>) for engaging an Austrian cruiser at 100yds' range with his only gun, refusing to surrender and subsequently rescuing the crew of another drifter.
16 th	1975	Ships' dogs and cats effectively banned following rabies-control legislation. 'UK-based ships with ships' dogs, cats or other animals on board are advised to land them before sailing for foreign ports.' The list of doubtful creatures included vampire bats, jackals, mongooses, cheetahs, armadillos, kangaroos, great apes and spiny rats. DCI(RN) T300/75.
17 th	1917	Second experimental use of Sea Lions for detecting submarines.
18 th	1972	Anti-terrorist quartet including two Royal Marines parachuted into Atlantic alongside RMS <i>Queen Elizabeth 2</i> to search for a reported bomb.
19 th	1847	Gunboat tender of <i>Calliope</i> , with a detachment of the 58th Regiment, repulsed a Maori attack on Wanganui. Last naval commitment in first New Zealand war.
20 th	1953	The reintroduction by Admiralty of the term 'Fleet Air Arm' after a lapse of seven years 'during which the air forces of the Royal Navy have been known officially as naval aviation' (<i>The Times</i>), announced in a written answer in the House of Commons. 'In deciding to reintroduce the title Fleet Air Arm the Admiralty had been greatly influenced by the strong appeal of its glorious wartime associations. This decision will be generally welcomed throughout the Fleet. The nebulous term naval aviation has never been popular . . .' – <i>The Times</i> , 21 May 1953. On the same day the Fleet Air Arm memorial at Lee-on-Solent was unveiled by HRH The Duchess of Kent commemorating the 1,931 officers and men 'who died in the service of their country in the Second World War and have no grave but the sea'.

21 st	2007	The fourth Astute-class SSN, <i>Audacious</i> , ordered. The previous ship of the name was the battleship of 1912 mined in 1914.
22 nd	1969	The Churchill Estate at Faslane, comprising 730 houses built for men of the Polaris force and the Clyde Submarine Base, handed over to the RN – <i>The Naval Review</i> , vol.47, No. 4, October 1969,
23 rd	1943	Swordfish B/819 (<i>Archer</i>) sank U-752 in N.Atlantic (51.40N, 29.49W). Convoy HX 239. First operational success of air-to-sea rocket projectiles.
24 th	1967	Leander-class frigate <i>Andromeda</i> launched, last ship built in Portsmouth Dockyard in the twentieth century.
25 th	1982	Destroyer <i>Coventry</i> sunk and frigate <i>Broadsword</i> damaged N. of Falkland Sound by air attacks. <i>Atlantic Conveyor</i> , carrying important helicopter reinforcements, damaged by two air-launched Exocets while in company with carrier battle group 85 miles N.E. of Cape Pembroke, and sank later. Capt Ian North DSC one of twelve men lost. This was Argentina's national day but there was no sign of the eponymous carrier (<i>25 De Mayo</i> , originally HMS <i>Venerable</i> and then the Dutch <i>Karel Doorman</i>). Operation Corporate.
26 th	1703	Death of Samuel Pepys, first Secretary of the Admiralty.
27 th	1847	The first Naval General Service medal belatedly approved for all surviving personnel who served in the Royal Navy 'in the battles of the great war', 1793–1815, later extended to 1840. Mrs McKenzie gave birth to a son in HMS <i>Tremendous</i> (74) at the Glorious First of June in 1794 and fifty-four years later Daniel Tremendous McKenzie successfully applied for his medal and clasp '1 June 1794'.
28 th	1944	MTB 732 inadvertently sunk by <i>La Combattante</i> (Free French) off Selsey Bill.
29 th	1992	Malta Siege Bell Memorial dedicated in the presence of HM The Queen at Valetta, to the memory of the 7,000 who died, 10 June 1940 to 13 May 1943.
30 th	1887	Two boats of <i>Turquoise</i> captured a slave dhow off Pemba, East Africa.
31 st	2006	The destroyer <i>Edinburgh</i> , Cdr Scott Verney RN, and the German frigate <i>Hessen</i> held a combined service of commemoration at sea off the Jutland Bank for the men of both nations who were lost on 31 May and 1 June 1916, the 90 th anniversary of the battle.

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BRANCH MOTIONS

Branch Motion

Proposed by Branch, Seconded byBranch

Proposed Motion (to begin; That the)

Explanation

Proposing Branch Contact details

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

Postcode

E Mail

Telephone number

Please return completed form to Central Office for consideration by the NC and Governance Committee (SOC) by the **25th June 2021**.

NOMINATION FORM
ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
2021/2022 (Revised RNA Bye-Law 7)

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

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

Names of Nominees

NCM **DNCM**

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

Address of Nominee NCM.....

..... **e mail**

DNCM.....

..... **e mail**

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

NCM

DNCM

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

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

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

Candidate's Branch

We are aware of the above nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

Candidate

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

Signature of Candidate **Dated**

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA HQ no later than **1600 1st June 2021.**