

# The Semaphore Circular

**No 710**

***The Beating Heart of the RNA***

**June 2021**



**Welfare Programme Manager Lynda Pearson offering a bespoke Welfare check on 'their', both man and horse, welfare during the Central Staff's pre- Naval Associations Parade preparation in Whitehall.**

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

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| National Ceremonial Advisor                      |                              | <a href="mailto:Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com">Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com</a>   |

**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

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>NCM</b>  | National Council Member   |
| <b>NC</b>   | National Council  |
| <b>AMC</b>  | Association Management Committee                                  |
| <b>FAC</b>  | Finance Administration Committee                                  |
| <b>NCh</b>  | National Chairman   |
| <b>NVCh</b> | National Vice Chairman  |
| <b>NP</b>   | National President  |
| <b>DNP</b>  | Deputy National President   |
| <b>GS</b>   | General Secretary   |
| <b>CONA</b> | Conference of Naval Associations                                  |
| <b>NCBA</b> | National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor/ 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,  
Building 1/087,  
Scott Road,  
HM Naval Base,  
Portsmouth  
Hants PO1 3LT



*From the General Secretary*

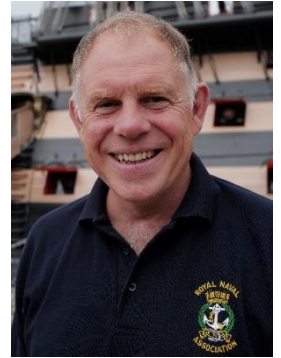
*Dear Shipmates,*

First things first, heartiest congrats to Shipmate Jude Terry who, it was announced this week, will be the Royal Navy's first woman admiral when she



*Shipmate Jude Terry - The Royal Navy's first woman admiral*

promotes to Rear-Admiral next year. For those who attend the Fireside



*Bill Oliphant*

Chats, you will recall that the then Captain Jude briefed us back in July last year giving a "Modern perspective on the Royal Navy." She was a classmate of Andy Christie on the Junior Pussers Course in RALEIGH and, at the tender age of 47, Jude is a member of the RNA Youth Wing!! BZ Jude – we are all very proud of you.

I also want to pay tribute to my old team in Portsmouth Naval Base who I thought did an outstanding job early last month getting approximately 160,000 tons of Grey Funnel Line out to sea in the space of 2 days. Force generating both carriers, 3 x T45 and a T23 and sailing them all on consecutive days was a mammoth effort by all concerned. Stirring stuff. As was the sight of QUEEN ELIZABETH sailing in the evening twilight with her jets embarked last weekend after a visit from our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen. Indeed, it was lovely to see the photographs of Her Majesty obviously enjoying her visit, chatting away to the lucky youngsters who were about to sail later that day. I hope you don't think it too irreverent to say that I think she was as excited as they obviously were!

Lots of good things happening this autumn: a great Conference in Nottingham, a Biennial Parade to show support to Her Majesty after the loss of the Duke and the World Uckers Championships. Details enclosed – get signed up!

*As ever, Bill Oliphant*



*QNLZ with jets (Photo courtesy of LPhot Oliphant)*

## 1. ★ 2021 World Uckers Championship - Operation 'Snakes-Eyes'

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is that time to prove..... that you and your Oppo are the best 'six throwing dream team' too sail the seven seas.....

Can you de-throne the current Champions! And become the 2021 World Uckers Champions?

So..... come on, let's get our Naval Game back in vogue and cool to play.

From Port Stanley to Stornoway and RNA Plymouth to HMS Medway the Naval community are entering teams for this year's competition. The Navy Board, featuring the First Sea Lord and Warrant Officer1, Speedy Steerman are leading the way having already entered!

To enter this year's competition all Teams/Competitors should forward their applications as follows;

Navy Board – [Carl.Steedman147@mod.gov.uk](mailto:Carl.Steedman147@mod.gov.uk)

RN Service – [Admin@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:Admin@royalnavalassoc.com)

RNA – [Andy@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:Andy@royalnavalassoc.com)

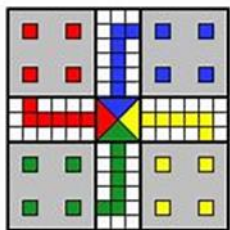
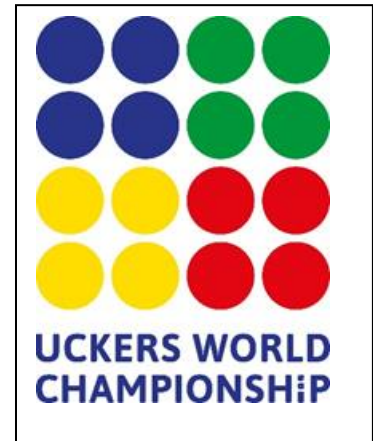
Non RN/RNA - [uckersworldchamp2021@gmail.com](mailto:uckersworldchamp2021@gmail.com)

Registrations should arrive at the email addresses above by Friday 08 July 2021. The initial rounds will play off in 4 entry groups;

- Navy Board
- RN /RM / RFA
- RNA
- Non RN/RMA/RFA (Everyone else)

Competitors are requested to forward:

- *Group*
- *Team Name*
- *Competitors Names*
- *Email addresses and / telephone contacts*



This year's competitions matches will commence on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 and culminate with the Grand Final which will be held in Victory Arena, HM Naval Base Portsmouth on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021.

Specific details and Rules can be found on the Royal Naval Association Website

<https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/worlduckerschampionship/>

***So come and join in the FUN remember 'you got to be in in it to win it!'***

## 2. 2021 Royal Naval Association Conference – Nottingham 4/5 September 2021



As many Shipmates are now aware the date for Conference has had to be moved to the first weekend in September and will be held in The Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham.

The Conference booking form is now available on the website <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/conference>

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.

The Conference agenda will be finalised shortly, and Branches, Clubs and individual Shipmates are encouraged to attend for what is undoubtedly a great AGM, reunion and more importantly a fun 'run ashore' weekend. Branches may also wish to consider submitting a 'Branch Motion' which can still be submitted to the Governance/SOC Committee for consideration. The application form can be found at the rear of this Circular, applications will close on 25 June 2021.

It is also important that as Branches start to hold post crisis meetings that they consider sending a delegate to Conference and enable your Branch to have a say and witness RNA democracy in action. Delegate attendance forms can be found at the rear of this Circular, remember you can claim your delegates travel expenses.

For those who are yet to attend Conference either as a delegate or observer the programme is as follows:

- Friday 3 Sep – 1900 Meet and Greet
- Saturday 4 Sep – 1000 – 1600 AGM (Including presentation by RN Presentation Team with a Fleet update ) (Welfare/SIG/Car Club Workshops are held around outside the Conference Hall)
- Sunday 5 Sep - 1030 Church Service

This year additionally the Special Interest Groups (Wheeled variety) will be rallying across the UK to Conference to join in the fun and advertise their various groups.

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.

## 3. ★ 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 gets the best choice of scran!!

The newly named Naval Associations' Biennial Parade will be held in Whitehall on Sunday, 12 September. Please advertise the date across the 'Wider Naval Family' who are very welcome to march with us. This year, as well as commemorating our war dead, we will take the opportunity to



honour all our shipmates who crossed the bar during the pandemic, whether taken by Covid or not, as many did not enjoy the marks of respect at their funerals which they might normally have expected due to the restrictions. Also, a good turn-out is requested in recognition of our continued loyalty and respect to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, who lost her husband and consort this year. 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.***



#### 4. ★ Royal Navy Type 31 Named

HM The Queen has approved the names of the five next generation Type 31 frigates. The Inspiration class has ship names aimed to inspire, using names linked to the history, particularly the fighting history, of the Royal Navy – including the Royal Marines, the Falklands War, the Battle of the Atlantic, the Fleet Air Arm, the Submarine Service, intelligence and technology. They should be in service by 2030!



- HMS *Active* will be the 25<sup>th</sup> ship of the name, the first a frigate of 1758 – 16 Battle Honours
- HMS *Bulldog* will be the 9<sup>th</sup> ship of the name, the first a sloop of 1782 – 7 Battle Honours
- HMS *Campbeltown* will be the 9<sup>th</sup> ship of the name, the first a sloop of 1782 – 7 Battle Honours
- HMS *Formidable* will be the 7<sup>th</sup> ship of the name, the first a prize ship taken at Quiberon in 1759 – 10 Battle Honours
- HMS *Venturer* will be the 6<sup>th</sup> ship of the name, the first dating from 1799 when a British ship was recaptured and so named – 1 Battle Honour

While Inspiration class might take time to get used to, the Ship Names Committee has done a splendid job with these five names. Given that our Navy has fewer hulls, it's a clever idea to find names that salute so many aspects of the Royal Navy, both through its history and its

manifold branches. Indeed, I wish that the press release had gone a little further, mentioning and 'name-checking' also

- The Physical Training branches of both the Royal Navy and Royal Marines > **HMS Active**
- The Hydrographic Service > **HMS Bulldog** was a Coastal Survey Vessel of 1967, name ship of a class of four handsome ships
- A connection with Scotland (and the Union, perhaps) and a fishing port familiar particularly to submariners on passage to and from Faslane > **HMS Campbelltown** (the name will do good for sales of whisky, too, I'd wager)
- A connection with Canada (Robert Hampton Gray VC DSC RCNVR was an officer of the Royal Canadian Navy, of course, and this really should have been mentioned in the press release.) Furthermore, mention of the British Pacific Fleet 1945 ('The Royal Navy's Most Powerful Strike Force') would not go amiss > **HMS Formidable**
- Links with the Royal Naval Reserve, the South West of England and Wales, come with the name of the last of the five as do links with Trade and the Merchant Navy > **HMS Venturer**. The name was given to more than one tender of the RNR Division at HMS *Flying Fox* in the post-war years. The *OED* defines Venturer as 'a person who undertakes or shares in a trading venture' and, indeed, The Society of Merchant Venturers is woven into the fabric of the City of Bristol (origins 13<sup>th</sup> century, the earliest Charter granted a limited monopoly of maritime trade 'beyond the seas' to the Society's members). One can see, though, why this West Country link might be underplayed in the present climate. The Merchant Venturer was a named train of British Railways from 1951-1961.

*Our thanks and courtesy to Lt Cdr Lester May RN (Rtd) for providing the above article ([pusserissue@gmail.com](mailto:pusserissue@gmail.com))*

## 5. 2021 Central Office Open Day 30 July 2021

Central Office will be holding an Open Day on 30 July 2021, sadly this will be the only opportunity this year as we have regrettably had to cancel the one scheduled for 25 Jun. Hopefully, normal operations will resume in 2022.

Our sincere apologies to those Shipmates who had original booked for the 23 July as due to unavoidable circumstances the date had to be moved to 30 July. Your original booking has been cancelled and it is requested that you book again. Once again very many apologies for the inconvenience.

It should be a great day out and there are currently plenty of spaces should Branches, HQ Roll members or individual Shipmates like to attend. Central Office staff are really looking forward to meeting them and will be delighted to host them.

For those unaware the fun begins at 1100 in Central Office, at our new office in Building 1/087 in Scott Road next to HMS Victory in HM Naval Base Portsmouth. On arrival you will enjoy a sandwich lunch and brief by a Senior Naval officer on current Fleet issues followed by an update on RNA matters from the GS. Then it is off on a Boat trip round the Naval Base. There will also





be an opportunity to purchase 'Jackets, Buttons and Badges' from Nigel, so bring some cash! The Open Day normally completes by 1400.

If you would like to come along, please forward your name, HQ Roll/ Branch and car registration details to [Admin@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:Admin@royalnavalassoc.com). On the day you will need some form of photo ID. Once your interest is registered Central Office will get back to you with specific instructions. Finally individual Shipmates and Branches that have not attended a previous Open Day will get priority otherwise it is first come first served.

## 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  |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Tuesday 01 Jun | Terry Corner      | Op DYNAMO - Dunkirk                                    |
| Monday 07 Jun  | Nick Hewitt       | D Day – The Story of LCT7074                           |
| 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. ★ Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations Londonderry May 2021

The Londonderry Branch once again took centre stage for their organisation of the 2021 Battle of the Atlantic annual commemoration held in Londonderry where they paid strict adherence to the current Covid-19 Regulations. Regrettably, this meant they were unable to host their usual supporters from No 12 Area and further afield, which is something the branch deeply regrets, despite it being out of their control. The annual commemoration was scaled down to two events in Londonderry and one off the coast of Co Donegal.



Area 12 (Ireland) and RNA Londonderry Chairman Shipmate Robert Buchanan takes up the story....

### ***Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021;***

The Londonderry Branch Royal Naval Association hosted a Tri-City Live Link with Halifax Nova Scotia and St John's Newfoundland.

Part of the live streamed ceremony was a symbolic ringing of the three Convoy Bells in tribute to the service and sacrifice of our predecessors. The project to place the Convoy Bells in the three Convoy Escort Bases was a joint venture by Londonderry Branch RNA and their Canadian shipmates.



The Ceremony was live streamed from the jetty beside two visiting Royal Canadian Navy ships, HMCS Summerside and HMCS Kingston and two Royal Navy Archer Class vessels, HMS Example and HMS Explorer.

The socially distanced ceremony on the jetty was attended by Her Majesty's representative, The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the City of Londonderry, Mr Alan Moore OBE TD DL BSc Hons FRICS.

Brigadier General Paul J Doyle. Royal Canadian Air Force. Commander and Defence Adviser at the Canadian High

Commission in London.

Captain Chris Smith. Royal Navy, Naval Regional Commander for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Commander John Patterson, Royal Navy, Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland.

Commander Dale Turetski, Royal Canadian Navy. Deputy Naval Advisor at the Canadian High Commission in London.

Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey Anderson, Royal Canadian Navy. Commanding Officer of HMCS Summerside.

Lieutenant Commander Greg Zuliani, Royal Canadian Navy. Commanding Officer of HMCS Kingston.

Lieutenant Robert Hutchinson Royal Navy. Commanding Officer HMS Example.

Lieutenant Michael Duncan Royal Navy. Commanding Officer HMS Explorer.

Royal Naval Association No 12 Area (Ireland) Officers and Londonderry Branch members



No 12 Area (Ireland) and Londonderry Branch Chairman, S/m Robert Buchanan opened the ceremony by welcoming everyone to Londonderry and conveying greetings to the Convoy Bell parties in Halifax NS and St John's NL. This was followed by speeches from the principle VIP's, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Alan Moore, Brigadier General Paul Doyle and Captain Chris Smith RN. We then switched to St Brendan's Chapel in Canadian Forces Base, Halifax, Nova Scotia and heard from Cdr Bill Gard

RCN (rtd), past Commanding Officer of Canada's Naval Memorial Ship, HMCS Sackville.

The ceremony then switched to Government House in St John's Newfoundland to an introduction from Lt (N) Timothy Woodworth RCN. The focus then came back to the jetty in Londonderry and Londonderry Branch Chaplin, Rev David McBeth BEM BTh, led us in a service of remembrance. On completion, the Parade Commander Lt (N) Sam Mercier RCN brought the parade to attention and Royal Marine Buglers Sgt Chris Bray & Cpl Tom Charnley sounded the Last Post.



The No 12 Area (Ireland) Standard, carried by Shipmate Jack Garfield, Vice Chairman, No 12 Area (Ireland) and Londonderry Branch Standard, carried by Shipmate Arthur Lapsley, were dipped and the Exhortation was given by Shipmate Robert Buchanan and two minute silence ensued.

The Royal Marine Buglers sounded Reveille and biodegradable wreaths were cast into the River Foyle in memory of the service and sacrifice of our predecessors during WWII.



On completion of the Wreath Casting, the live ceremony switched to St Brendan's Chapel in CFB Halifax NS, where Master Mariner Mr Earl Wagner, WWII Merchant Navy Veteran, sounded Eight Bells on the first Convoy Bell.

We then switched to Government House in St John's NL where Cadet/CPO1 Payton Coules from 166 RCSCC Fort Townshend, sounded eight bells on the Newfoundland Escort Force Bell. Returning the live feed to Londonderry and Naval Cadet Lydia Hibbert from Londonderry Combined Cadet Force, sounded eight bells on the Newfie-Derry Bell. Eight Bells signalling End of Watch and Duty Done.



Chaplin Rev. David McBeth BEM BTh gave the benediction, and the Parade was dismissed. CO's LCdr Anderson RCN and LCdr Zuliani RCN exchanged gifts with S/m Buchanan. Link to Ceremony; <https://fb.watch/5vwE9nF90J/>

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The Battle of the Atlantic Sunday Service was held in All Saint's Church of Ireland, which was the Garrison Church for the nearby Naval Base, HMS Ferret, during WWII. Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold our normal parade or marchpast and the normal hospitality after the service could not be offered to anyone.

Saturdays VIP's were augmented by the addition of Lord Hay of Ballyore William Hay, the Deputy Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Mr Graham Warke, Gary



Middleton MLA and Alderman Darren Guy. The Rector and RNA Chaplin Rev David McBeth gave an informative sermon and slide show during the service. Readings were done by Brigadier General Doyle RCAF, Captain Smith RN and S/m Buchanan. The Royal Marine Buglers, No 12 Area (Ireland) and Londonderry Branch Standards took part in an Act of Remembrance and wreaths were laid by Brig Gen Doyle on behalf of the Government of Canada, LCdr Anderson RCN on behalf of Canadas Naval Memorial Trust, HMCS Sackville, S/m Buchanan on behalf of the RNA and S/m

Billy Doherty on behalf of the Merchant Navy.

Links to Part 1 and Part2 of All Saints Battle of the Atlantic Service 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

<https://fb.watch/5ABULI3txi/> and [https://fb.watch/5AB\\_o5Dy1M/](https://fb.watch/5AB_o5Dy1M/)

### **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

HMS Laurentic, a WWI armed merchant ship, hit two German mines leaving Lough Swilly on a freezing winter evening on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1917. The ship sank 354 souls lost their lives, a number of them dying of hypothermia in their lifeboats. The temperature was reported as minus 13 degrees that night. <https://laurenticlegacy.com/>



and



Among the casualties of the sinking of the Laurentic were 21 Newfoundlanders and the Royal Canadian Navy were more than happy to include a commemorating ceremony in memory of those lost souls.

HMCS Kingston and HMCS Summerside departed Londonderry and took station above the wreck site of HMS Laurentic, just off the coast of Co Donegal. They were joined by the RNLI's off-shore lifeboat from Lough Swilly and a private craft, a 40ft Nelson ex River Thames Pilot Boat, Vagabond, owned by Mr Mark Buchanan.

Mark was good enough to convey representation from the Royal Naval Association, Shipmates Robert & Lesley



Buchanan, representation from the Ulster Canada Initiative, Mr Don McNeill and representation from Fort Dunree and Inishowen

Friends of Messines, Mr John McCarter. HMCS Kingston (700) led the ceremony of Remembrance and Wreath Casting and on completion we wished them fair winds and following seas, as they continued on their



deployment.

The Londonderry Branch of the Royal Naval Association would like to thank everyone for their participation in this year's Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration. Without this vital support these commemorations are destined to fade away. We owe it to our predecessors, who gave so much, to keep the memory of their sacrifice alive.

*(Photos courtesy of - RNA Londonderry and Lt Jeffrey D McBride CCPA (Canadian Armed Forces))*

## **BZ Area 12 and Londonderry Branch.**

### **8. ★ RNA Special Interest Groups**

A number of RNA Special Interest Groups have been established and are designed to help maintain the appeal of RNA membership and to include some of the many diverse interests of its members, as well as to help relieve some of its members feelings of social isolation.

In January 2021, shortly after financial support from the RNRMC and free RNA Membership were

officially voted in, S/M Gary Daisley was first down the slipway with the SIG for Modelmakers and Scale Modelling. With input from NCM & S/M Darby Allen, a dedicated online Group page has been created on Facebook. Although closed to non-members, (by all means join as an HQ Roll member if Branch membership isn't attractive) the group has attracted 47 (verified) RNA members and continues to grow in numbers. The Group is currently planning to host a display at this year's RNA National Conference in Nottingham and is looking for even more members to join.

**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 - Construct - Create!

**Membership Distribution**

47 Verified (SIG) Members

Membership to the Modelmaking SIG is free and is open to all RNA Members regardless of experience or ability. It doesn't matter if your interest is in shipping, trains, planes or automobiles; human figures, historic figures, alien figures or fantasy figures; powered models that float, fly or roll; if they are of museum quality or just for fun, all are welcome and everyone is encouraged to share their knowledge and experience online!

There are of course certain rules and guidelines set out by the RNA to govern the running of these groups, but if you fancy setting up a Special Interest Group of your own, please get in touch with S/M Charlie Darlington in the first instance  
or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/434544820928061>

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

HQ Roll member Alick Lavers has very kindly forwarded this article for Shipmates to enjoy. When I served onboard HMS EAGLE we carried out full power trials in the Bay of Biscay in April 1956 on our way to the Med and achieved 30.5 knots, remarkable for a ship of our size.

However, while we were thundering along a broadcast was made over the Tannoy system advising, "those who could be spared to go up on deck and watch HMS APOLLO overtaking us – doing over 40 knots"!!! While there has always been some controversy among armchair enthusiasts about APOLLO's ability to steam at that speed I can vouch for it, having watched her plough past and overtake us. She was one of a number of fast minelayers, the like of which we shall never see again.



Regarding fast destroyers, I served on board HMS Carysfort 1964/65 and must state her case. We sailed for the Med in early January 1965 and arrived at Gib for a scheduled two days but in the early hours of the first night alongside we were ordered out in a fierce gale to rescue one of our small landing crafts which had sprung a leak and was sheltering in a bay on the Tunisian coast. She was on her way back from the Persian Gulf to the UK to be scrapped with only a skeleton crew onboard. We were ordered to reach her, repair her and get her out of the bay before the Tunisians saw her and could start an international incident. Our Chief Mechanician later proudly told me that we cleared Gib harbour doing 28 knots and then maintained over 35 knots into the gale until we found the stricken craft. When we found the landing craft we anchored off the coastline with almost zero visibility and our seaboard was sent in with our Chippy and Engineer Officer onboard in atrocious weather conditions. The landing craft was eventually made seaworthy and crept out to sea again without the Tunisians knowing what had happened.

My point here is obviously that if CARYSFORT could maintain 35 knots into a gale, then she **must** surely have been one of the fastest destroyers at that time, considering that the famous CAVALIER/RAPID race was carried out in calmer conditions.

And CARYSFORT had an open bridge! Sadly CARYSFORT was scrapped the year before that race. RIP.

Thank you Alick. Can anyone 'Black Cat' that.....



## 10. ★ Falklands Campaign 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations

Next year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 North Wall, now Princess Royal Jetty. (Photo courtesy Crown Copyright IWM (FKD 684))



## 11. ★ Marshland Maritime Museum

The website of the award-winning privately-owned small museum dedicated to the Royal Navy and located in Clenchwarton, near Kings Lynn [**PE34 4AA**] has had a makeover. So why not have a look.....[www.marshlandmaritimemuseum.com](http://www.marshlandmaritimemuseum.com)

During Lockdown, with no visitors and fewer acquisitions, owners Mike and Jo Smith have taken the opportunity to re-arrange some of the exhibits to improve layout, appearance and accessibility, with more items now being accompanied by a card containing a brief explanation of their purpose and provenance.

The website has been designed by Spi-Des-Ign Web and Graphic Solutions Ltd of Tostock, Suffolk [www.spi-des-ign.co.uk](http://www.spi-des-ign.co.uk) to give more background information about the museum and to increase the number of photographs of exhibits. Detailed histories of some of the most significant exhibits are also included.

The Museum is supported by volunteers, friends and donors, including the TON Class Association [www.tcaminesweepers.co.uk](http://www.tcaminesweepers.co.uk)

Entrance to the Museum is free of charge, although donations towards upkeep are welcomed.



Visitors are invited to phone [01553 765 530] or e-mail [mmmuseum@btinternet.com] in advance to book a visit and so that Mike and Jo can be there to welcome you.

For further details, please contact the Museum at the addresses given above.

## 12. ★ Bladder Cancer Awareness Month

*Our gratitude to Shipmate Collin Welbourn, an HQ Roll member, who has very kindly taken the time to forward this very important article highlighting Bladder Cancer. The month of May was Bladder Cancer Awareness Month and so, although a month late, please read the article below.....*

Shipmates May is *Bladder cancer Awareness Month* and I had my bladder and prostate removed in Mar 2018 at QA with the then recently bought Da Vinci Robot (14 hour keyhole surgery) -it saved my life. So I am happy to have a chance to highlight his terrible disease and emphasize a few facts :

- Bladder cancer is the 5th most common cancer, often thought of as ‘old mans disease’ but affects both male and female with 20,000 diagnosed per year. Blood in urine is most common ... and early diagnosis is critical. Extreme is to have bladder removed, for a female full hysterectomy. It is not restricted to the older age group.
- Bladder cancer is not a rare cancer
- It is one of the ten most common cancers in the UK
- Over 20,500 people in the UK are diagnosed each year - that's 56 people every day (500,000 worldwide)
- Over 100,000 people are living with it in the UK
- Bladder cancer has a high mortality rate - around 50%
- Diagnosis can often be late - around 25% of all cases are diagnosed at a late stage, particularly in women initially diagnosed UTI
- It affects all ages, both men and women, with almost three quarters of cases occurring in men
- Has the highest recurrence rate of any known cancer - up to 80%
- QA Hospital Cosham Urology Dept is one of the world's leading centres for bladder cancer keyhole surgery

For more information please visit Fight Bladder Cancer (FBC) website at:

<https://fightbladdercancer.co.uk/about-us>

Thank you for reading this. If Shipmates would like a more personal discussion I am more than willing to discuss this with anyone who feels they need more information. Please contact me on 01730 260553 or email me at [cgwelborn@hotmail.com](mailto:cgwelborn@hotmail.com)

## 13. ★ Assistance Request – Donald Matheson

Central Office received a request for assistance from Shipmates from Tesselaar Romanoff Matheson who is in Australia. If anyone can help please contact Tesselaar +61 400316988 or Email [tesselaar@westnet.com.au](mailto:tesselaar@westnet.com.au)

Dear Shipmates,

*A call to action. I would like to hear from any members who were aboard HMS Black Prince Arctic Convoy JW-57 20th Feb 1944 to 10th Mar 1944. In fact, any crew member from HMS Black Prince during WWII. My father Donald Matheson was a Telegraphist at the age of 17 when he played his part in an Arctic Convoy. He was also at the Utah Beach Normandy Landings. My father is now 94 and living in a Nursing Home in Australia. I would love to hear from any crew members who were aboard HMS Black Prince during WWII. In the hope old friends might be reunited.. Please search your records Thank you..*

#### 14. ★ Joke Time – Prawns

Far away, in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the warm, azure sea. One was named Justin and the other Christian. The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by the numerous sharks that patrolled the area.

One day, Justin said to Christian, “I’m bored and frustrated at being a prawn. I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn’t have any worries about being eaten.”

As soon as Justin had fixated on becoming a predator, a mysterious cod appeared and said, “Your wish is granted!” – and, lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark!

Horried, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old pal.

Time went on and Justin found himself becoming bored and lonely as a shark. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them. Justin gradually realized that his new, menacing appearance was the cause of his sad plight.

While out swimming alone one day, he saw the mysterious cod again and couldn’t believe his luck. Justin figured that if the fish could change him from a prawn to a shark, he could just as readily change him back into a prawn. He begged the cod to return him to his original form and, lo and behold (again), he turned back into a prawn. With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes, Justin swam back to his friends and bought them all a cocktail.

Looking around the boisterous gathering at the reef, Justin searched for his old pal. “Where’s Christian?” he asked.

“He’s at home, distraught that his best friend went over to the enemy and became a shark,” came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, he set off to Christian’s house. As he opened the coral gate, the memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, “It’s me, Justin, your old friend! Come out and see me!”

Christian replied, “No way, man, you’ll eat me! You’re a shark, the enemy, and I’ll not be tricked!”

Justin cried back, “No, no, I’m not! That was the old me – I’ve changed...”

WAIT FOR IT.....

...I’ve found cod and I’m a prawn again, Christian!”



## 15. ★ Married Couples Allowance Entitlement

Shipmates if you have not already claimed this allowance then have a look at the link and make a claim and it is back dated to 05 April 2017.

[Apply for Marriage Allowance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) You can also ring 0300 2003300.

Shipmates please note that this process is easy peasy However..... during the process please do not respond to any emails/Phone calls from anyone in relation to your claim they will almost certainly be a scammer so ignore it. **HRMC will only contact you by post.** Good luck hope you are successful.

Thanks to S/M Bob Gelder (Bude Branch Hon Sec) for providing this top tip.....

## 16. ★ The GLARAC Association

THE GLARAC Association is an Association dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the Men who lost their lives and too the loss of the three Ships on June 8th 1940 -

HMS GLORIOUS, HMS ARDENT and HMS ACASTA.

GLARAC :- **GL**orious, **AR**dent, **AC**asta

Each Year we hold a Service of Remembrance in HMS DRAKE Devonport. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 this has not been possible. So..... Now that restrictions are being lifted we will be holding a Service of Remembrance, in The Belvedere Gardens, on The Hoe, Plymouth on The 18 July 2021. The Service will take place beside The Plaque that we have Dedicated there.

For further information please contact Shipmate David Emery MBE at [dg.david@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dg.david@hotmail.co.uk) or [glarac.co.uk](http://glarac.co.uk) | [The HMS Glorious, Ardent & Acasta Association \(GLARAC\)](http://The HMS Glorious, Ardent & Acasta Association (GLARAC))

## 17. ★ 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.

## 18. ★ Joke for the Road

When I was a baby, my parents used to bath me in cheap Australian Lager

It wasn't until I was 18 that I realised I'd been

Wait for it.....

'Fostered' .....

Boom Boom



## 19. ★ 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](http://www.nauticalia.com)

## 20. ★ 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](#)





## RNA Longcast

| 2021         |  |
|--------------|--|
| 04 Jun       | National Council -Zoom   |
| 05 Jun       | <del>HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day</del> <b>CANCELLED</b> |
| 25 Jun       | Branch Motions for Conference – Deadline/SOC                   |
| 08 Jul       | Staff Day – Office Closed                                      |
| 23 Jul       | HMS Collingwood – Ceremonial Divisions                         |
| 30 Jul       | Open Day   |
| 05 Aug       | FAC – Zoom 0930  |
| 06 Aug       | AMC – Zoom 0930  |
| 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 Helston](#)

[RNA Peterborough Branch](#)

[RNA Wallasey Branch](#)

[RNA St Neots Branch](#)

[RNA Rosyth and West Fife](#)

[Area 7](#)

## **RNA Helston Branch**

Shipmate Joe Locke, Hon Secretary, Helston Branch, has emailed Central Office to ask Shipmates for their assistance.

One of Helston Branch shipmates, Sharon Clarke's husband, Mike, was riding in a charity cycle ride three years ago and he had an accident. The back tyre of his bicycle blew out and sent him over the handlebars on a downhill part of the ride.

The accident left Mike paralysed and, in a wheelchair, his life was saved by the Devon Air Ambulance. S/M Sharon is walking in August to finish the 38 miles of Mike's ride, she is being sponsored and the donations going to the Devon Air Ambulance.

S/M Joe wanted to highlight her endeavours and ask that any shipmates who would like to assist in sponsor Sharon should contact him directly (as they say in Kernow!) at

[jandjlocke@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jandjlocke@hotmail.co.uk) Thank you

## **RNA Peterborough Branch**

Peterborough RNA were proud to remember the 76th VE Day at All Saints Church on Saturday 8th May 2021.

Due to the very bad weather, the service was held inside the church, and in compliance with current COVID rules, it was short and socially distanced, but it did not detract from its significance.

The service was by kind permission of the Reverend Greg Roberts and conducted by Charles Steward.



Included in the gathering was the guest of honour, the Mayor of Peterborough,



Councilor Gul Nawaz, a small number of RNA Shipmates, the Branch Standard Bearer, the Branch Chairman and an RBL representative and shipmate, Langford Smith.

Unfortunately, our two WW2 Veterans; Shipmates Ken Tinkler and George Hockney were not able to attend, but were with us in spirit.

## RNA Wallasey Branch

Thanks to S/M John Williams for forwarding the article below;

‘Charlotte Brightside’ one of the charities that RNA Wallasey supported this year invited us to their VE day celebrations as a thank you for appreciating their efforts in the community.

The photo shows S/M Brian Antrobus, club treasurer(left) and S/M Billy Simmons committee(centre) and John Williams (PRO) and some of the staff from the community centre.

The ‘locals’ turned out in force to support their event. They also had local singers singing World war Two numbers including The White Cliffs of Dover, All the nice girls love a Sailor for our benefit as we were leaving.



## RNA St Neots Branch

St Neots Branch PRO Shipmate Ian Cameron reports that the branch ‘pulled out all the stops’ for the St Vincent appeal to assist the hard hit Islanders after the Volcanic eruption as you can see in the photo below.

S/Ms standing next to the RNA bus are, from left, Keith Ridley (RNA National Chairman), Geoff Patterson, John Gibbs, Bill Oliphant, Mike Milne, Malcolm Little, Tony Webley, Yvonne Webley and Helen Patterson. (Photo S/M Maureen Ridley)





Kneeling is our General Secretary Captain Bill Oliphant, wearing a white shirt is Malcolm Little our recently recruited RNA National Fundraiser.

Below is a letter to the St Neots Branch from Chairman Geoff Patterson which captures the team motivation and effort:-

“A big thank you to one and all for your efforts at collecting much needed supplies for the people of St. Vincent. As you know the Island has been devastated by a volcanic eruption and some 16000 residents have been made homeless, in many cases the islanders escaped with nothing but the clothes they stood in.

The RNA has ties with the island through the approximately 500 veterans and serving members of The Royal Navy and the RNA answered the call for whatever help we could give to help ease the suffering of the islanders.

The branch made a great effort, I would especially like to thank our Branch Secretary Tony and Yvonne Webley and also Keith & Maureen Ridley for collecting the donations at their house and carefully sorting, packing and labelling the boxes before collection. BZ to Chairman Geoff and his wife Helen who were first in the queue to collect boxes and also did the initial packing

Thanks to those who turned up at the Tesco car park for the transfer to the mini-bus, it made for a quick turn-round, Bill Oliphant who came down in the mini bus from Central Office was pleased to see that we had all made an effort to pack and sort most of the donations which makes it easier for those sorting at the collection warehouse - and he has passed on his thanks.”

## RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch

Rosyth & West Fife Branch Hon Secretary Shipmate John Sherwood reports on recent proceedings starting with the commemoration of VE Day on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with a Wreath Laying Ceremony.



Well we didn't let the weather deter us from remembering our Comrades' who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Members of the Branch duly mustered at Inverkeithing War Memorial at 14:45 to pay our respects to the fallen. Our Branch Chaplain, Rev Colin Alston opened the



proceedings with the opening prayers at 14:55 after which our Chairman called the Branch to attention at 14:59 and Rev Colin Alston recited Binyons Lines. The Last Post was sounded by our Bugler Michael Hunter, followed by two minutes silence, Reveille, then followed the Kohima Epitaph and prayers by Rev Colin Alston.



Our Hon Branch President, S/M Alan Bayliss laid the wreath accompanied by the lament played by our Branch Pipers Brooklyn Morris and Jacqueline Gibson (who continued with an aria on the pipes.)

Next up for the Branch was a Blessing of Branch Standard and Renewal of Vows for 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The Service commenced at 18:30 led by Rev Colin Alston with the opening sentence; "They that go down to the sea in ships, and occupy their business in great waters, these people see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep".

The Service continued with the presentation of Standards by S/M Mark Firth, and S/M Robert Coburn, The National Ceremonial Officer, where the Rosyth & West Fife Standard was Blessed by Rev Colin Alston.



**Our original standard, which was made in the sail loft in Rosyth Royal Dockyard, was laid up in the Sanctuary along with the Area Standard. On completion of the service our original Standard was displayed with our current standard. (see photos below)** The Service then continued as per the order of service, finishing with The Benediction and The National Anthem.

The service was well represented by our President, S/M Alan Bayliss and other Members and friends of the Branch.

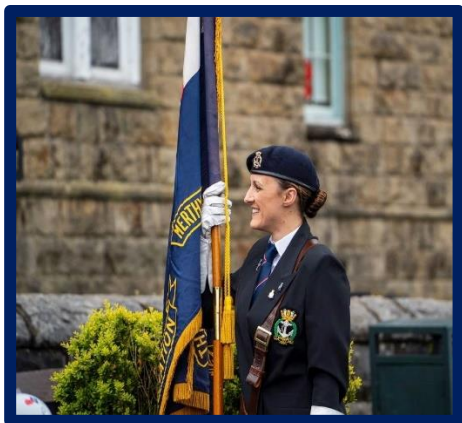
It was a very moving service much enjoyed by all whom attended, in fact many of those present commented on how moving a service it was.

## Area 7 and Glos

Area 7 and Glos Vice Chair shipmate Graham Warner forward this despatch from the 'Valleys' But!.

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 both RNA Rhondda & Merthyr Tydfil Branch Standard Bearers mustered at Cyfartha Castle to help celebrate 100 years of the RBL.





Shipmate Kayleigh Thomas of Merthyr Branch who has only recently taken up the mantle of Branch Standard Bearer was immediately employed.

In fact, her first duty was at the funeral of S/M Stan Kendrick who crossed the bar earlier this year and was, until his death, the Merthyr Standard Bearer. The Shipmates at Merthyr Branch wanted to commend her for 'doing them proud' and long may she do so. BZ Kayleigh.

### **CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived**

[John Antell](#)

[Alan Marshall](#)

[Trevor Boarer](#)

[Cdr Neil 'Nobby' Hall](#)

### **John Antell – RNA Dorchester**

RNA Dorchester Hon Secretary, Shipmate Roy Dean is sad to report, on behalf of the branch, that Shipmate John Antell crossed the bar on 25 April 2021.

John was the "founder" of the Dorchester Branch. It was John who, when Mayor of Dorchester, called a meeting in 1998 to see if there was any enthusiasm for forming a Dorchester Branch of the RNA; there was and the Branch commissioned in April 1999.

As Captain Sir Tom Moore said - "Tomorrow will be a good day".

### **Alan Marshall – Newbury and District**

S/M Doug Bell, Hon Secretary, Newbury and District Branch, reports with great sadness that our dear S/M Alan Marshall "Crossed the Bar" on Sunday 9th May 2021.

Alan was a telegraph delivery boy during WWII which earned him the 39/45 Defence Medal. He was one of the first to enlist in the Newbury Sea Cadets when it was formed immediately after the war. He went on to join the Royal Marines and served in 42 Commando. During his service saw action in Suez and Malaysia for which he received the General Service Medal with two clasps.

Alan served as Chairman and as President of the Branch since 2000. He was a Life Member and was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation in 2018.

We will all miss his sense of humour and his keen sense of duty and honour - he was a real gentleman.



## **Trevor Boarer - Bognor Regis Branch**

Shipmate Trevor Boarer "Crossed the Bar" on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. He was aged 65.

Trevor Boarer served as a Radar Operator from 7<sup>th</sup> November 1972 until the 6<sup>th</sup> November 1986. Ships served on included HMS Gurkha, Penelope, Bacchante, Ariadne, HM Royal Yacht Britannia and HMS Plymouth. Establishments HMS Dryad, Vernon, Rooke, Nelson and Warrior.

Whilst serving on HMS Penelope he had seen action in the Falklands War. During operations in the Falklands, "Penelope" was given a variety of jobs including escorting the damaged HMS Argonaut out of San Carlos Bay; the "Argonaut" still had an unexploded bomb in her Seacat magazine. Convoying troops and supplies back and forward to landing areas. She was also the battle group Post Office. "Penelope's" Lynx was attacked and badly damaged by the patrol craft "Rio Icvato".

On the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1982 "Penelope" was attacked by Argentinean aircraft and by skilful manoeuvring of the ship, managed to avoid an Exocet missile. Laying the claim, she was the last ship to be fired on by Argentinean aircraft. Trevor was also very proud of having served on the HM Royal Yacht.

He will be sorely missed by the members of Bognor Regis branch.

May he find Safe anchorage.



## **Commander Neil 'Nobby' Hall Royal Navy - Worthing Branch Ton Class Association**

The RNA and TCA regrets to announce that Commander Neil (Nobby) Hall, Royal Navy, Vice Chairman of the Ton Class Association and RNA Shipmate (Worthing Branch), Crossed the Bar in hospital on Tuesday 20 April. He had been back in the UK for medical treatment since before Christmas but finally lost his battle with a resurgent cancer.

Like many of us, Nobby's introduction to the Royal Navy was via the Sea Cadets and he then graduated to the RNVR as a teenager, spending weekends afloat and venturing as far as Gibraltar in on a ROCKHAUL exercise. Nobby joined the Royal Navy as a Junior Seaman (Mine Warfare) in 1975 and served in HM ships FITTLETON, ALFRISTON, KELLINGTON and WASPERTON.

He was selected as an Upper Yardman and re-categorised to Radar Plotter to gain Operations Room experience before he was commissioned as a Midshipman at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth in 1981.

He subsequently served as a Watchkeeping Officer in HM Ships ANDROMEDA (1982/83), PHOEBE (1984/85), ARETHUSA (1986), BROADSWORD (1987/88) and BLACKWATER (1989). After qualifying as a Principal Warfare Officer (Air) at DRYAD in 1990, his appointments included BIRMINGHAM (1991/93), DRYAD (1994), ILLUSTRIOUS (1995/96), NEPTUNE (1997/98), OCEAN (1999/2000) and HQ British Forces Cyprus (2001/04).

On retiring as a Lieutenant Commander in 2005, Nobby joined the RN Reserve and was attached to HMS KING ALFRED on Whale Island in Portsmouth from where he was promoted to Commander while working in Information Operations. His latest appointment was a NATO role at SHAPE in Mons, Belgium as Executive Officer for Information Operations.

Over a 45 year career in the RN, Nobby Hall saw active service in the Falklands, Northern Ireland, Persian Gulf, Balkans, and Sierra Leone in HM Ships ranging from Patrol Craft to Aircraft Carrier. He was awarded the Continuous Campaign Service Medal for having spent over 1000 days in combat zones.

Nobby made a mark as Vice Chairman of TCA and was actively involved with other ship Associations and Naval Charities. He will be greatly missed and stories of his exploits will be told for years to come.

### UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

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

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



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

### Legal Services



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

### Breakdown Service



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



*Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you.*  
0844 264 2122 [conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk](mailto:conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk)



- Discounts on a large range of new cars  
<https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna>



**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.<br><a href="http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk">www.rnshipmates.co.uk</a>   |
| <b>2021</b> |  |
| 12 Jun      | HMS Liverpool Association Reunion – For membership details and info contact the Secretary, John Parker at <a href="mailto:info@hmsliverpoolassociation.org.uk">info@hmsliverpoolassociation.org.uk</a> or call 02392 521222  |
| 24 Jul      | HMS Intrepid Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea – Contact <a href="mailto:iansrich@outlook.com">iansrich@outlook.com</a> for booking form and itinerary.   |
| Aug         | RMBS 1/70 and 2/70 squads is planned for August 2021 in Deal. Contact Nick Buckley on <a href="mailto:nickbuckley55@aol.com">nickbuckley55@aol.com</a>   |
| 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.<br>Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details.<br><a href="mailto:askhamd3@gmail.com">askhamd3@gmail.com</a> |
| 04 Sep      | 2nd HMS Manchester Association's 20th Annual Reunion at the in the WO, SR & SNCO's Mess, HMS Nelson.<br>For more details, please read the website <a href="http://www.2MA.org.uk">www.2MA.org.uk</a> .   |
| 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. Conatct Bryan Pace at <a href="mailto:Romft1@gmail.com">Romft1@gmail.com</a> or website HMS Troubridge.com  |
| 08 Oct      | HMS Carysfort Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea   |
| 08/11 Oct   | South West ex RN Social Group – Inaugural Autumn Reunion. Livermead House Hotel Torquay.<br>Ex Serving, Serving, Partners and Friends are most welcome.<br>Dinner Bed and Breakfast .  |

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|-------------|--|--|
|             | <p>3 nights £204, 2 Nights £136<br/>Saturday evening ; Black Tie or<br/>best 'Bib and Tucker' Excellent<br/>Cuisine</p> <p>For further Details contact Sue at<br/><a href="mailto:chikuai2920@gmail.com">chikuai2920@gmail.com</a></p> |  |
| 29 Oct      | HMS Eagle/ Yarmouth/ Undaunted - Hallmark Hotel Derby  |  |
| 5/7 Nov     | HMS Cleopatra Old Shipmates Association Reunion – For details contact<br>Honorary Secretary Warwick Franklin at <a href="mailto:Warwick_franklin@outlook.com">Warwick_franklin@outlook.com</a> or<br>call 10752 366611                 |  |
| <b>2022</b> |  |  |
| 11/13 Mar   | R.N. Communications Association - AGM/Dinner Dance Royal Beach Hotel<br>Southsea - For further details contact C Beeson07807347509 or<br><a href="mailto:noseeb@sky.com">noseeb@sky.com</a>  |  |
| 07 May      | HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool   |  |

## Swinging the Lamp – June 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 <sup>st</sup> | 1998 | Lt Katherine Babbington, first woman to win the Queen's Sword at Dartmouth, presented with the sword by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. Lt Babbington was serving in <i>Sandown</i> in the Gulf when Divisions were held.   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 1854 | Parliament passed an Act 'to empower the Commissioners of the Admiralty to construct a tunnel between H.M. Dockyard at Devonport and H.M. Steam Yard at Keyham'.  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 1747 | Captains who were not to be employed again were automatically promoted to flag rank and became 'Superannuated Rear-Admirals'. Nicknamed the Yellow Squadron.  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 2007 | Universal right to elect trial by court martial. Any officer or rating whose offence was capable of being tried summarily could henceforth elect for court martial instead. RN Regulating Branch re-mustered as RN Police. Regulating ranks and rates unchanged. New slides and |

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|                  |      | boards for officers and ratings with RN Police added to standard designs first shipped on 17 December 2008.   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 1939 | Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham arrived at Alexandria in cruiser <i>Penelope</i> and took over next day from Admiral Sir Dudley Pound as C-in-C Mediterranean.  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 1944 | D-Day<br><br>Ships taking part in the Operation - of which 78 per cent were British (including Canadian), 17 per cent were American, and 5 per cent were French, Norwegian, Dutch, Polish and Greek. Over 10,000 Royal Marines took part, including 5 RM CDOs, an Armoured Support Group, an RM Engineering CDO, Landing Craft Obstruction Units, signallers, drivers etc. Marines manned two-thirds of the assault landing craft.<br><br>Warships 1,212<br>Landing Ships and Craft 4,026<br>Ancillaries 731<br>Merchant Vessels 864<br>Total 6,833 |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 1973 | Second Cod War. First collision between frigate <i>Scylla</i> and the Icelandic Coastguard vessel <i>Aegir</i> . Eleven further collisions were to follow.  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 1915 | King George V opened Rosyth Dockyard.   |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 2005 | The bow section of <i>Daring</i> , the first Type 45 destroyer, built by Vosper Thornycroft in Portsmouth Dockyard, left Portsmouth on a barge for the Clyde where it was united with the ship's main hull at BAE Systems yard at Scotstoun.  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 1960 | 'A case has occurred in which items of officers' clothing have been damaged whilst stored in their cabin wardrobes. The damage was attributed to intermittent rubbing of the clothes against fittings which projected inside the wardrobes, resulting in excessive wear of clothes in direct contact with such items . . . Commanding Officers of HM Ships are to arrange for all officers' wardrobes to be examined . . .'<br>– AFO 1549/60.   |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 1847 | Sir John Franklin, naval officer and Arctic explorer, died on his ill-fated expedition in <i>Erebus</i> and <i>Terror</i> to find the North–West Passage. While his fate was still uncertain he was promoted to rear-admiral of the blue 26 October 1852. When it was ascertained that he had died earlier, the Admiralty annulled the promotion and removed his name.  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 1652 | Capt Sir George Ayscue ( <i>Rainbow</i> ) with a squadron of four men-of-war and seven hired merchantmen, captured six ships of the Dutch outward-bound Portuguese trade off Lizard Head.   |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | 1514 | Henry VIII launched <i>Henry Grace à Dieu</i> at Woolwich and paid the Chaplain who blessed her 6s 8d.  |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | 1853 | Chief Petty Officers. Admiralty Circular No. 121: 'My Lords consider that it would improve the discipline of her Majesty's ships, and be in other respects advantageous to the Service, to establish a class of Chief Petty Officers, and they therefore direct that the following be established accordingly: Chief petty officers – Masters-at-Arms,  |

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|------------------|------|--|
|                  |      | Chief Gunner's Mate, Chief Boatswain's Mate, Admiral's Coxswain, Chief Captain of Forecastle, Chief Quarter-Master, Chief Carpenter's Mate, Seamen's Schoolmaster, Ship's Steward, Ship's Cook. As an inducement to render themselves proficient in all branches of their duty . . . My Lords are pleased to direct that a higher class of able seamen be established under the denomination "leading seamen" . . . to be exempted from corporal punishment, except by sentence of a court martial, or for mutiny.'  |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | 1944 | <i>Sickle</i> sunk by mine in Aegean. The forty-fifth and last submarine lost in the Mediterranean.  |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | 1987 | <i>Warrior</i> (1860) arrived at Portsmouth. Ex-Hulk C77, removed from the <i>Navy List</i> as <i>Vernon III</i> in 1904, ex- <i>Warrior</i> , second of the name.   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | 1918 | <i>Lychnis</i> , the only First World War Q-ship to serve in Second World War, sank U-64 off southern Sardinia (38.07N, 10.27E).   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | 1940 | RNAS Yeovilton (HMS <i>Heron</i> ) commissioned. 'The new fighter training station . . . was nothing but three runways in an ocean of mud.' – Capt Eric Brown, <i>Wings on my Sleeve</i> , p.12.   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | 2003 | <i>Albion</i> , Capt Peter Hudson RN, commissioned at Devonport in the presence of her sponsor, HRH The Princess Royal and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, Captain of the previous <i>Albion</i> .   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | 1982 | <i>Illustrious</i> commissioned. The first RN warship to be commissioned at sea.   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | 1997 | Cdr Charles Eckersley-Maslin, naval aviator, died aged 96 in Tasmania. In 1918, lying about his age, he enlisted in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and was wounded in France. Found to be still only 16, he was returned to Bedford School 'where he was treated with some awe'. Served five years in RAF; resigned his reserve commission in February 1939 and joined the Royal Navy as a lieutenant-commander. Wartime service in carriers in Far East and Mediterranean and commanded HMS <i>Simbang</i> , the RNAS in Singapore, during Korean War. Father of Rear-Admiral David Eckersley-Maslin.  |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> | 1841 | <i>Trafalgar</i> , first rate, launched at Woolwich in the presence of HM Queen Victoria and HRH Prince Albert by Nelson's niece, Lady Bridport, using a bottle of wine which had been in <i>Victory</i> at Trafalgar. The figurehead is in the RN Museum, Portsmouth.   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | 1915 | First successful action of a RN decoy ship in anti-submarine operations. Disguised trawler <i>Taranaki</i> , Lt H.D. Edwards, towing submerged submarine C 24, Lt F.H. Taylor, intercepted by U-40, Kapitanleutnant Gerhardt Furbringer, off Aberdeen. U-boat put a shell across her bows and the trawler's crew simulated panic. Telephone link to C 24 failed and she could not slip her end of the tow. <i>Taranaki</i> therefore cast off her end and with 100 fathoms of 3.5-in wire hawser, 100 fathoms of coir hawser and 200 fathoms of telephone cable trailing from her bows C 24 torpedoed U-40 (57.00N, 01.50W). C 24 surfaced but had twenty turns of the telephone cable wrapped around her propeller shaft. |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | 1340 | Battle of Sluys, Edward III ( <i>Thomas</i> ) captured or destroyed the whole of the French fleet of about 200 vessels in the Zwyn, thus pre-empting a French descent on England, and recaptured the <i>Christopher</i> . His letter of 28 June to the Black Prince may count as the first naval dispatch.   |



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| 25 <sup>th</sup> | 1908 | <i>Indomitable</i> commissioned. First battlecruiser and first of the name.  |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | 1857 | Queen Victoria held the first VC investiture in Hyde Park, decorating sixty-two of the eighty-five men gazetted. Thirteen of the twenty-seven RN and RM recipients had been attached to Naval Brigades.  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | 1734 | First official recognition of the title Commodore as a temporary rank made by King George II. 'Our Will and Pleasure therefore is . . . That Commodores with Broad Pendants have the same Respects as Brigadiers General, which is, to have one Ruffle.'   |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | 2005 | <b>2005</b> HM The Queen reviewed an international fleet at Spithead from the Antarctic patrol ship <i>Endurance</i> led by the THV <i>Patricia</i> . HM Ships present:<br><i>Albion, Archer, Bangor, Blazer, Bulwark, Cattistock, Cardiff, Chatham, Cumberland, Endurance, Enterprise, Example, Exeter, Explorer, Gloucester, Gleaner, Grafton, Grimsby, Invincible, Illustrious, Iron Duke, Lancaster, Ledbury, Marlborough, Middleton, Montrose, Nottingham, Ocean, Pembroke, Puncher, Raider, Ramsey, Ranger, Roebuck, Scott, Shoreham, Sovereign, Southampton, St Albans, Tracker, Trafalgar, Trumpeter, Turbulent, Tyne, Walney, Westminster.</i> RFAs <i>Argus, Fort George, Fort Victoria, Hurst Point, Orangeleaf, Sir Bedivere, Sir Galahad, Sir Tristram, Wave Ruler</i> , HMAS <i>Anzac</i> , HMCS <i>Montreal</i> . |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> | 1950 | The Communist North Korean Army attacked the South Koreans across the 38th parallel. Within a week the Royal Navy was operating in Korean waters, sinking coastal shipping and attacking communications ashore. The Chinese reinforced the North Koreans and advanced into North Korea during the winter, driving the United Nations forces back. Allied sea power was used to the full, both in launching seaborne air attacks against North Korean forces, and in evacuating and landing troops as required. Russian-built MiG jet fighters were deployed against the Fleet Air Arm in Korea. Lt P. Carmichael shot down the first Russian MiG to be destroyed by the Royal Navy and, remarkably, by a piston engined aircraft.  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | 1997 | Hong Kong returned to China at midnight. Prince of Wales and former Governor, Mr Chris Patten, embarked in HM Yacht <i>Britannia</i> at 0022 1 July, completing British withdrawal. Ship sailed at 0045 and, with Royal Marine band playing 'Rule Britannia' and 'Jerusalem', amplified by ship's broadcast, she led <i>Chatham, Peacock, Starling, Plover</i> and RFA <i>Sir Percivale</i> out of harbour. Group rendezvoused with seventeen ships of Ocean Wave Task Group commanded by Rear-Admiral Alan West, which had been standing by over the horizon. All ships steamed past <i>Britannia</i> on 1 July.  |

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BRANCH MOTIONS

Branch Motion

Proposed by ..... Branch, Seconded by .....Branch

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 **25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

## **Delegate to Annual Conference 2021 Nottingham**

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

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

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2019 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2021 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer. Please note. Conference packs are NOT sent out before Conference but collected on the day by each delegate. A full set of background paperwork will be sent to each Branch before Conference. Having sent in your application by mail or e mail you may wish to phone Nigel on 023 9272 3747 to confirm receipt of your application.