



ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION



# The Semaphore Circular

No 697

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

March 2020



***RNA Central Office has moved. Nigel can just be seen amongst the mountain of crates. The staff still have another 50 crate's to unpack! However they are getting there slowly despite being provided with sage like advice from NCM 2, Shipmate Victor 'Darby' Allen who served as the Tech Office Writer in the County Class Destroyer HMS Fife and was heavily involved in the move from the shore side office back onboard in 1972!***

***Only kidding Darby we love your 'dits'***

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

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

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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



**indicates a new or substantially changed entry**

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

### Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

### Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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

## *From the General Secretary*

### *Dear Shipmates,*

Well, here we are in our new offices in Portsmouth Naval Base. I'm sure the bungalow will be lovely once we're squared away but I must confess it's looks like we've been on the receiving end of a 4.5" shell here at the moment. My computer is up and running but I haven't actually discovered my landline yet and the toilets in the building aren't plumbed in but, worry not, we have the tea boat fully flashed up! NATO standard please Andy!

I can commend a good Circular to you this month with some important information which I would be grateful if you could communicate widely across the membership. Indeed, with this in mind, I've reinstated the printing of 3 x hard copies of the Semaphore Circular for each of our RNA clubs so that they can be hung or laid out in public spaces for the wider membership. I'm thinking especially about Associate Members of RNA clubs who may not understand quite so readily our ethos of Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and, most importantly, Comradeship.

With respect to the latter of these - Comradeship, we are launching a new initiative this month called the **"1000 Good Deeds a Day Fund"** which I am hoping you will take every opportunity to exploit this for the benefit of our membership or those possibly more in need within the naval family. Full details at Item 2 below.



I note that more delegates have signed up to the **RNA Welfare Seminar** on 25 April in the Maritime Club in Portsmouth. That's very pleasing as I believe that as our members get on a bit, I see this as an increasing and key aspect of our membership. I know that a lot of work has been put into what should be a highly informative and interesting seminar so please consider sending your Branch Welfare Officer.

That's going to be a long day as I plan to start in London that morning for the ANZAC Day dawn commemoration. I hope it's a bit warmer and drier than it is today!

I still have tickets for the **Army v Navy** (Twickenham, 02 May) and **RAF v Navy** (Twickenham Stoop, 18 Apr). Why don't you put a bus on from your Branch and I'll give you **£250** from the Branch and Club Support Fund towards the costs?

In the meantime, Standard Bearers Brace Up! Andy's doing a great job with the planning for the **Standard Bearers competition** in HMS COLLINGWOOD on 16 May so get bullying those shoes! National President can be seeing review all the competitors during the last competition.





The Uckers Committee are also doing their stuff with a view to a launch of the First Sea Lord endorsed, **2020 World Uckers Championships** here in Portsmouth on 7 May. Stand-by for an announcement shortly!

Also, most importantly, the RBL have announced their plans for the **VE 75 commemorations** on the weekend of 8-10 May. They are encouraging applications from all of those who contributed to victory in Europe 75 years ago, including spouses and civilians from reserved occupations across the UK and Commonwealth. They are looking for a wide range of people who were affected by the war including land girls, factory workers or even child evacuees. More detail at item 6 and if you are reading this on line at the following link



<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75>. Remember the RN was in this fight from day one until the Japanese surrender almost 6 years later so please do what we can to find qualified members in the RNA so that our Association is properly represented. We don't want this just to be remembered as an Army and RAF affair!

Please also see the section on entries for the RN Veterans Photographic Competition which is an element of the prestigious Peregrine Trophy awards. Certainly worth an entry if you're a budding snapper!! Oops I meant David Bailey.

Finally, good luck to those who have applied for tickets for **HMS PRINCE OF WALES** who is due in Liverpool on Friday 28 February for her first non-base port UK visit and she will be open to visitors over the weekend. I know it has been almost impossible for any veterans to get tickets and there has even been the suggestion of skulduggery with a bus company obtaining tickets for financial advantage. While it's sad that we can't get priority access, these visits are about bringing the Navy into the public eye and, let's face it, it's good that the general public are so proud of their Navy that they are clamouring for access. I've written to the CO to ask about the possibility of access for a tour on another occasion in Portsmouth when it won't be quite so busy – fingers crossed.

A briefer intro from me this month as we're up against it in Central Office due to the office move. Please also note that this publication will be a tad delayed next month as my editor (Andy) is loafing on a WIGS deployment to escape the wind and flooding in Lee-on-Solent!! Have a good month and remember....

**Catch it. Bin it. Kill it!**

*Best wishes from the Central Office Team,*

*Bill*

(VE Day photo above courtesy Mrjspence at English Wikipedia)

## 1 ★ Launch of New RNA Fund – ‘1000 good deeds a day’ Fund

The RNA takes pride in maintaining naval ethos, having fun with like-minded people whilst supporting the serving navy and each other when needed; in short, we thrive on delivering ‘1,000 good deeds a day’ (in numerous guises).

In December 2019, the National Council approved a new fund, to offer small grants on request to enhance quality of life, remove barriers to enable Shipmates to look after each other, for one off or extraordinary events. Examples may include:



Covering the cost of transport to and from the train station to enable a Shipmate to attend an event, perhaps the Biennial or Remembrance parades in London.

Repair costs as a result of a break-in or deliberate damage to property.

Contributing to additional or unexpected costs relating to providing new and relevant services or historic events for Veterans.

### Application process

Requests to Central Office should be made by email [admin@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:admin@royalnavalassoc.com) or letter for consideration by the General Secretary, one of the Central Office team as well as the National Welfare Adviser (or Deputy National Welfare Adviser).

Applications submitted by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month, will be considered, processed and paid the following month.

Applications are limited to £100 each; this is a new Fund and separate from the Branch and Club Support Fund.

Whilst applications are not limited, the General Secretary has the final decision regarding numerous requests from the same Branches and/or individuals.

### Conditions of payment

We will want to know how the money was spent and the impact made! Therefore, a short story with photographs where possible (having sought permission from all those in photographs) should be sent to Central Office for inclusion in the Semaphore Circular and or the RNA website and social media channels. Your stories may inspire others to apply!

This new initiative will be reviewed in December 2020 to ensure it is sustainable and that as intended, it supports what the RNA stands for, that is to enhance Members' quality of life as well as to address need, distress or hardship.

We look forward to hearing from you!

W Oliphant  
General Secretary  
RNA Central Office

## 2. ★ Finance Corner

*Dear Shipmates,*

Hope you are all well and not being blown around too much by the storm force winds!



### *Bank Transfers*

Please can you ensure that when completing bank transfers that you annotate the Specific Account number and Branch name. The specific account number can be found on the Customer Activity (Summary).

### *New Address*

RNA  
Central Office  
Building 1/087  
HM Naval Base  
Portsmouth  
POL 3IU

Yours Aye

Michelle

## 3. ★ 2020 Welfare Seminar – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth

**Calling all Welfare Officers! Stop Press..... 48 Delegate already signed up to attend.....**

We have been working on the plans for the Welfare Seminar and delighted that most speakers have confirmed attendance; we look forward to seeing you on Saturday 25 April 2020, at the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth.

The support and guidance that RNA Welfare Officers provide is invaluable; more than ever, it is so important that we look out for each other, provide an arm around the shoulder as required and ensure that Shipmates know where to turn in times of need.



Please attend the Welfare Seminar if you are currently a Branch or Area Welfare Officer (as a Delegate) or if you are interested the role and would like to know more, please join us as an Observer.

### **Programme:**

**Social** - If you are arriving on the Friday evening (or indeed if you live locally) please join us in the Bar at the Maritime Club for an informal social and raffle.

If you require accommodation - We have secured a special rate, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast (DBB), for those wishing to stay at the Royal Maritime Club:

£105.00 Double bedroom (based on Two people sharing), inc DBB.

£80.00 Single person (in a double bedroom), inc DBB.

£95.00 Double bedroom (based on Two people sharing), inc Bed & Breakfast

£75.00 Single person (in a double bedroom), inc Bed & Breakfast.

Please book direct and quote the RNA Membership number 7398, stating that you are part of the RNA Welfare Seminar booking (25 rooms have been reserved and will be taken on a first come first served basis).

**Saturday** - The Seminar will start at 0930, in Below Decks; we hope to offer presentations including Prostate Cancer UK, Age UK (Portsmouth), Seafarers Advice and Information Line (SAIL) and Defence Medical Welfare Services. All relevant Charities for you to share your knowledge in your role as Welfare Officer.

**Lunch** - A light lunch will be provided for those attending the Seminar; catering numbers will be based on the Delegates and Observers only. A ticket will be issued, as you arrive on Saturday, for those who can join us for lunch.

In the afternoon, we want to hear from you! We are keen to capture your thoughts, ideas, learn about the issues and challenges you deal with. There will also be time for you to speak to representatives from Veterans with Dogs, SSAFA to learn more about Caseworkers and training as well as RNBT and their plans for a new Care Home being built in Portsmouth. The Seminar will finish by 1600.

***Let us help you** to keep up to date with the range of support and Veteran specific service that exist, and please **help us** to understand what we need to do, so that in your role as a Welfare Officer you feel supported and valued...Once Navy, Always Navy.*

#### **Action required by you:**

Please respond by Friday 28 February 2020, by email to [sarah@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sarah@royalnavalassoc.com) if you can join us for the Welfare Seminar and provide the following information:

- \* Your full name
- \* Branch you are representing
- \* Attending as a Delegate or Observer
- \* Any dietary requirements

**Please note. Do not just turn up on the day! Even if you live locally, you must let us know, so that your details are on the list and to ensure you are included in the catering numbers for lunch.**

The National Welfare Advisor, Shipmate Rita Lock MBE and I are really looking forward to seeing you in Portsmouth and thank you for support.

Sarah Clewes.



#### 4. ★ Semaphore Circular / Newsletter April publishing dates

Shipmate should be aware that Ops Manager, Andy Christie will be on leave in March and so the April Edition of the Semaphore Circular and the Spring Newsletter will not 'hit the streets' until Thursday 09 April. Apologies for the delay normal service will resume in May.

#### 5. ★ Central Office Open Days 2020

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

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



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

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

#### 6. ★ VE Day 75 – 08 May 2020

Shipmates should be aware that the Government has announce a public bank holiday to commemorate the 75 anniversary of ' Victory in Europe' VE Day on Friday 08 May 20.

A special programme of events marking VE 75 will take place over the Early May Bank Holiday 2020 in Central London and has been designed to be of particular interest to all from the Second World War generation who served at home and overseas across the European theatre. Similar commemorations are expected to be reflected in communities across the nation.



We are particularly pleased to announce that we plan to host 750 Second World War generation from across the UK, each accompanied by a nominated companion, to attend the VE 75 events programme in Central London over the period 8-9 May 2020. Our invitation includes a fully funded plan for transport, meals and accommodation; travel to London will be courtesy of the National Rail Group on Thursday 7 May 2020 and returning home on Sunday 10 May 2020.

For further details please follow the link -

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/remembrance-events/ve-day-75>

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

## 8. ★ Joke time Newport Welsh Wales Supermarket

Overheard on Newport Bus

'Not in work today, Ben?'

'No. They're still closed.'

'What, your supermarket is closed on a Friday?'

'Yeah. Because of what happened yesterday. Didn't you see the papers?'

'I was away. What happened?'

'Well, this new manager turned up Monday. She looked about fifteen but she was like a snappy little Yorkshire terrier. She started picking holes in everything. Anyway she had a huge bust-up with Arty in the fruit & veg department. She told him to pull his finger out or he'd be sacked by the weekend.'

'Wow. That was harsh.'

'Yeah. And Arty is not the brightest candle in the box. He was ranting in the canteen during his break. The thing is, if Arty's wound up he can get out of control. And that's what Blond Kelly from checkouts was doing, winding him right up. Arty says if he gets the chance he'll grab the manager by her scrawny throat and choke the life out of her. But Kelly says he hasn't got the guts. I bet I would, Arty howls. What would you bet? Kelly shouts back. Anything you want, Arty

screams. So Kelly throws a pound coin on the counter. Arty howls louder and storms out of the canteen.'

'A pound coin?'

'A pound coin. Anyway Arty sees the manager and grabs her around the neck with his huge hands and – wallop! She's brown bread.'

'What? Oh my God ...'

'The security guard runs over and Arty grabs him too. And - whoosh, the same thing. Then a customer tries his luck but Arty is too strong and a third person hits the dust.'

'That's terrible. I can't believe it. It's a horrible thing to happen.'

'It is ...'

'So why are you grinning like that?'

'I'm not. I'm just thinking about the headlines in the local paper.'

Wait for it.....

Newport Supermarket Breaking News – Arty chokes three for a pound!'

## **9. ★ RN Veterans Photographic Competition**

### **Royal Navy Photographic Competition 2020 Amateur Category- Class 18 Veterans.**

**New for 2020** a chance to share your best images which best sum up the ethos of the RNA. The Amateur category is open to Regular & Reserve serving Naval Service personnel including RFA and Civil Servants serving in RN/RM establishments, and who are not Professional Photographers iaw Annex A para 1. Class 18 is for Veterans only. All photographs must have been taken between 21 Apr 2019 - 20 Apr 2020 and not entered in the RN Photographic Competition 2019.

Amateur photographers may submit up to three images in Class 18.

ENTRIES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ON CD/DVD, this is to contain the images, an electronic copy of the entry form for each image, bio picture and CV. It is to be packaged in a protective envelope to prevent damage in transit. A signed hard copy of the entry forms are to be provided with the disc.

Entries should be sent to;

[nigel@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:nigel@royalnavalassoc.com) or

Royal Naval Association Central Office. (photo competition)

Room 209 Semaphore Tower PP70,

H M Naval base Portsmouth

PO1 3LT

Judging will take place in May 2020 and prize winners will be informed of their success by signal and invited to attend the prize giving.

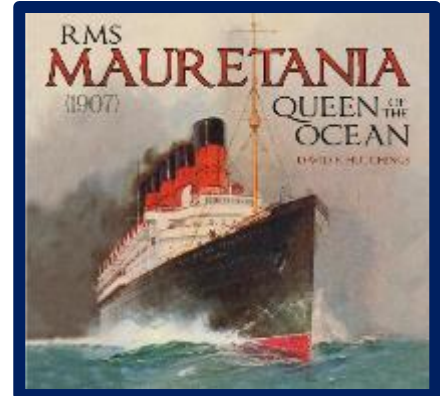
***Entries need to be forwarded to Central Office by 20 April 2020***

***\*\*\*\*\*Full competition details are contained at the rear of this Circular.\*\*\*\*\****

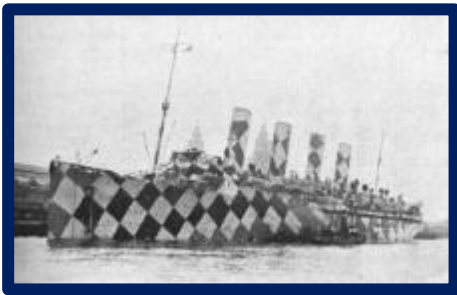
## 10. ★ Book 'RMS Mauretania' by David Hutchings

A new book about the Cunard liner MAURETANIA appeared at the beginning of December, written by local resident, David Hutchings of Lee-on-The Solent.

The MAURETANIA and her sister-ship, LUSITANIA, were built – as far as the general public were concerned – to regain the Blue Ribband from the Germans whose ships were the fastest on the North Atlantic. The Germans had borrowed a British idea that fast merchant ships could be converted in time of war as Armed Merchant Cruisers and it was to counter the German threat that Cunard, with a deep involvement from the Admiralty, devised the two new ships.



The evolving designs were tested locally at the then Admiralty Experiment Works at Haslar where wax models of the ships were towed under the carriage in No. 1 Towing Tank. The two liners were also designed to be propelled by the then new turbine engines and this would lead the Admiralty to design its own turbine driven battleship, the mighty DREADNOUGHT that rendered all other battleships in the world obsolete.



The book tells how large Armed Merchant Cruisers were abandoned early in the Great War as being too vulnerable and too expensive to run. Returned to civilian work the LUSITANIA soon fell victim to a U-boat with a great loss of life. However, after acting as a troopship and then as a hospital ship during the Gallipoli Campaign the MAURETANIA later brought thousands of Canadians and then American soldiers to Europe.

After the Great War she was converted to burn oil fuel (she had hitherto burnt coal in her boiler furnaces). After a varied career the MAURETANIA was put to cruising, firstly to the Mediterranean and then to the Caribbean before finally being sold for scrap in 1934 after many of her fittings – including her famed and fabulous panelling – was auctioned off in Southampton.

The photo above shows Mauretania towards the end of the Great War painted in a dazzle scheme intended to confuse an enemy submarine as to her direction of travel. She was demolished in Rosyth where the new QUEEN ELIZABETH carriers were built in a later century.

***If you are interested in purchasing this book it is available through the History Press ISBN 0 7509 85840 (£40)***

## 11. ★ Falklands Ride of Respect.

Central Office received a letter from the Airborne Forces Riders concerning the Falklands Ride of Respect. Please read below;

*Dear Shipmates,*

*Last year, we did a motorcycle ride around the UK to visit all of the graves of 3 Para who fell in the Falklands in 1982 and we intend to repeat something similar this year. We will be doing it to*



*demonstrate that the lads are not forgotten nearly 40 years later, to raise awareness of where they lie and to raise funds for the South Atlantic Medal Association.*

*This is the link to the ride in 2019:*

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AirborneRiders3ParaFallen?utm\\_campaign=lc\\_frp\\_share\\_transaction\\_transactional\\_%7C%7C\\_page\\_launched\\_%7C%7C\\_charity&utm\\_content=ce98cfc4-0725-4194-84ff-cc019284f36a&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=postoffice&utm\\_term=1546989162994](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/AirborneRiders3ParaFallen?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_transactional_%7C%7C_page_launched_%7C%7C_charity&utm_content=ce98cfc4-0725-4194-84ff-cc019284f36a&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1546989162994)

*Our Facebook page which covers last year and changed for this year:*

[https://www.facebook.com/Falklands-War-Ride-of-Respect-2020-in-aid-of-SAMA-82-369572600436147/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Falklands-War-Ride-of-Respect-2020-in-aid-of-SAMA-82-369572600436147/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

*This year, we intend to repeat this ride, but also to visit grave locations or memorial sites of other units who took part in the Falklands war. As you can see by my attached spreadsheet, we intend to pay our respects at the Naval Memorial Southsea on the morning of Friday 03 July. I am not aware of any grave locations for ROYAL NAVY Falklands personnel buried in the UK and I assume that most if not all are buried at sea. However, I may be mistaken, and I am hoping that you can help me find the grave locations in mainland UK if there are any, or put me in contact with someone who knows.*

*We intend to visit as many of the grave locations or memorials as we can between Sat 27 June to Fri 03 July when we intend to arrive in Aldershot for Airborne Forces weekend. The locations this year will take us as far north to Aberdeen, over to Lisburn in NI, down to Dublin to cross back into UK then east to Lowestoft in Norfolk and south to Plymouth and Portsmouth before heading up to Aldershot. It is an estimated 2300 miles and we will be averaging around 300 miles per day. All of the costs are borne by ourselves although we hope to raise some funds by way of sponsorship in the next few months.*

*Once we have firmed up the route, timings and have a plan, I will share that plan with all of the Service Associations concerned so that family and friends can join us at each grave according to the plan. We can only allocate around 30 minutes at each grave or memorial site due to the distances we have to cover each day but having guides there to meet us at each location saved us a lot of time last year as local people were able to take us straight to the grave and we were able to spend more time with the family and friends of the fallen. Thank you in anticipation of your help and support.*

Best regards,

Paul Moore

President, Airborne Forces Riders. ([paul508@mac.com](mailto:paul508@mac.com) 07931446344)

## **12. ★ Hospital and Medical Care Association**

The Royal Naval Association has agreed with HMCA to offer discounted rates for medical plans, dental plan, hospital cash plans, personal accident plan, travel plan, income protection and vehicle breakdown products.



Are you paying too much for your present private medical plan? Why not

take a look at the HMCA plans and compare the benefits and subscriptions offered? You may transfer to HMCA at any age and without a medical examination; there will be no break in protection and there is a 14 day money-back guarantee.

HMCA only offer medical plans to membership groups and can offer up to a 40% discount off the underwriter's standard rates. This is a comprehensive plan which provides generous cash benefits for surgery and other charges

**Who are HMCA?** - HMCA has specialised in providing benefits and services to associations and professional groups since the 1970s. HMCA is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

For further information and quotations contact HMCA by telephone on 01423 799949 or visit the exclusive HMCA Royal Naval Association website here: <https://www.hmca.co.uk/rna>.

*© 2019 HMCA/S PLC trading as Hospital and Medical Care Association, HMCA and HMCA Members are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. HMCA/s PLC is a company registered in England, company number: 01362094, registered office: Beech Hall, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, HG5 0EA*

### 13. ★ Joke Time One for the Road.....

Courtesy Chuckle Corner in the RNA Peterborough Branch Newsletter.

Sad news at the local Nestle Factory.....

A member of staff was seriously injured when a pallet of chocolate fell more than 50 feet and crushed him underneath.

He tried in vain to attract attention but every time he shouted

'The Milky Bars are on me'

Everyone just cheered!

## RNA Longcast

2020	
05 Mar	FAC / SOC
06 Mar	National Council Meeting
6/9 Mar	4 Area Reunion – Bideford
10 Apr	Good Friday
13 Apr	Easter Sunday
18 Apr	Area 2 Committee Mtg - Bromley
18 Apr	RN v RAF rugby (Twickenham Stoop)
25 Apr	ANZAC Day
25 Apr	Welfare Seminar – RMC Portsmouth
02 May	Army v Navy Rugby - Twickenham
02 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Stowmarket
7/10 May	VE Day 75 and Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations in Londonderry
08 May	Early Spring Bank Holiday (VE Day Commemorations – London)
09 May	Area 2 Delegate Meeting - Sidcup
16 May	National Standard Bearers Competition – HMS Collingwood
16 May	4 Area Quarterly Meeting - Plymouth
22 May	Central Office – Open Day
26 May	Inter Services T20 Cricket - Lords
05/07 Jun	<b>National Conference – Liverpool (Area 10)</b>
05 Jun	National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings
26 Jun	Central Office – Open Day
27 Jun	Armed Forces Day - Scarborough
06 Jul	Area 2 Committee Mtg - Bromley
31 Jul	Black Tot Day – 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
24 Jul	Central Office – Open Day
01 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich
07 Aug	Central Office – Open Day
15 Aug	Area 2 Delegate Meeting - Chatham
21 Aug	FAC
22 Aug	AMC
31 Aug	August Bank Holiday
12 Sep	National Council Meeting
19 Sep	4 Area Quarterly – Portland
02 Oct	Central Office – Open Day
10 Oct	Area 2 Committee Mtg - Bromley
31 Oct	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
20 Nov	FAC
21 Nov	AMC
21 Nov	Area 2 Delegate Meeting – Ramsgate
05 Dec	National Council Meeting
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day

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

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

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

[RNA Riders Branch](#)

[RNA Torrevieja Branch](#)

[RNA Peterborough and District](#)

[RNA Helston Branch](#)

[RNA St Neots Branch](#)

[RNA Huntingdon Branch](#)

### **RNA Riders Branch**

The Riders Branch Standard is being dedicated on Saturday 21 Mar 20 at 14.30. The dedication will take place at the National Arboretum Memorial on completion of the Branches AGM, which is being held in RNA Tamworth Club.

Shipmates are cordially invited to attend this event especially Standard Bearers. For further details please contact S/M Bernard McPhillips, Chairman of the Riders Branch at

[hon.chairmanrnariders@gmail.com](mailto:hon.chairmanrnariders@gmail.com)

### **RNA Torrevieja Branch**

Wow! What a start to the year with 40 members and guests making their way to Restaurante Rendezvous in Urb. Altos del Limonar, Torrevieja for a fabulous Menu del Dia on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

It is indicative of the resilience of the members & their partners and their service background for them not to miss out on a chance to 'chat' and enjoy some good 'scrان' (Royal Naval Term for Meal/Food) in spite of the 'topsy turvy weather'.



The members are all 'wingers' (friends) regardless of which discipline of the 'Grey Funnel Line' (Royal Navy) they are from such as the 'Greeny' who lights the way (An Electrician), 'Dabtoe' who keep everything ship shape (Seaman or Ops Branch), 'Jack Dusty' supplying the vitals (Naval Store Rating), 'Clanky' who keep the machinery running (Marine Engineer), 'Club Swinger' who try to keep us fit (PT Instructor), Chippy' who whittle the timber and keep us afloat (Shipwright),

'Crumb Duster' who dress the tables with the eating irons (Steward), 'Wafu' who keep the planes flying (Fleet Air Arm), 'Bootneck' who protect us from foe (Royal Marine) and 'Sun Dodger' who surface from time to time to join the throng (Submariner), to name just a few.

The consensus of the branch members is that it's 'full steam ahead' to the exhilarating variety of forthcoming social events in the year ahead.



You can participate in this harmony even if you have no military background, so why not contact us and find out more, we look forward to hearing from you.

Or see more about the Royal Naval Association Torrevieja Branch at their website [www.rnatorrevieja.com](http://www.rnatorrevieja.com)

### RNA Peterborough and District Branch

Shipmates gathered at the St Johns Church Peterborough on Monday 27 January 2020 as people across the world commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day. The service started with St John Fisher pupils performing a piece of drama in Cathedral Square. There were a number of speeches, from people of a variety of faiths and religions, before the Mayor Cllr Gul Nawaz laid a wreath at the Holocaust Memorial in St John's Square.



### RNA Helston Branch



The Helston Branch along with the Penzance Breakfast Club on the morning of 20<sup>th</sup> of this month made their way to a wet and windy Penzance Cemetery to mark the eve of end of the WWII alongside the grave of O/s Ronald Neale of HMS Warwick.

HMS Warwick was sunk that day 1944 in the Bristol Channel with the loss of 66 crew. The service was led by S/m Joe Locke and held in front of the



War Memorial with the 71 WWII graves behind the congregation. S/m George Scott read Binyon's'

lines and S/m Josie Locke read the Kohima Epitaph with S/m Peter Brooke piping the still & standard bearer Alec Willet dipping the branch standard.

On completion of the service of Remembrance members shared a tot with Ronald Neale. Branch members warmed themselves up at Penzance Fire Station (please excuse the pun) with tea & biscuits laid by Chief Officer David Carlisle (former FAA rating) & the crew. Lest We Forget

## RNA St Neots Branch



St Neots have an evening of pot mess and Bomb Disposal. The November meeting started with pot mess and apple pies, prepared by Geoff Patterson and much enjoyed by S/M's, followed by a superb talk from Lucy Lewis, a retired Army Major. With few notes and no slides, she had us all spellbound, with her exploits at Sandhurst and as the UK's first female Bomb Disposal Officer in the Royal Engineers. After transferring to the Royal Military Police, she is now the Marshall (senior constable) at Cambridge

University. Seated are S/Ms who assisted with the catering from L-Maureen Ridley, Helen Patterson and Geoff Patterson. (Article by S/M Mike Milne)

St Neots branch had a chilly but productive end of year good causes collection at Morrisons Cambourne. S/Ms Jayne Miller, Paul Main, John Gibbs and Mike Milne can be seen collecting for good causes on a chilly Saturday in November. Collections at Morrisons are normally done in summer, so rig of the day was number 1s with ample warm clothing underneath. (None of the chaps owed up to wearing 'pussers' passion killers however!) There was a Port and

Starboard watch and branch S/Ms responded in

exemplary fashion, with some participating in both watches.

S/Ms Tony Webley and Yvonne Webley were assisted by S/M Helen Patterson on the late (and colder) shift on Saturday.

The Sunday shift was more comfortable as the store staff allowed us inside for the day. Here the duty watch of S/M Helen Patterson and S/M Keith Ridley, doing his best to look

suave and dignified, not easy for a stoker, are collecting opposite the main entrance to Morrisons.

Once again, on both days the people of Cambourne responded fantastically with notes being put into the collection buckets on several occasions.



## RNA Huntingdon Branch



On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Huntingdon Branch shipmates began their annual fundraising events with a charity stall in the local Morrison's store in St Ives. Shipmates Pete Aston, Graham Murray and Colin Jones spent the day chatting with shoppers and promoting the RNA and our branch activities.

Shipmate Pete Aston was also inspired by a TV programme about Dementia; charity groups and organisations can register as Dementia Friendly by following a few simple steps. Two shipmates from

Huntingdon Branch, Karl Webb and Hilary Meers-Webb, are already qualified Dementia Friends which means the branch meet the criteria to be fully registered as a Dementia Friendly Branch supporting those living with Dementia.

Photographs show shipmates Pete Aston and Graham Murray manning the charity stall in Morrison's (S/M Colin Jones had secured for the Afternoon after a busy shift on the stall). S/M Karl Webb is also shown after completing training as a Dementia Friend at Ferrars Hall Care Home in Huntingdon.





[Edwin Carpenter](#)  
[Bill Hirst](#)  
[Barry Bishop](#)  
[Norman Webber](#)  
[Peter R Sheppard](#)

### **Edwin 'Keith' Carpenter – Uttoxeter Branch**

On the 8th of January 2020 Uttoxeter and District Branch led by their Chairman S/M David Emery MBE attended the Funeral of Edwin "Keith" Carpenter at Stafford Crematorium. S/M Phil Davies presented the Branch Standard and Malcolm Knight sounded the "Last Post" with Members of the Branch forming a Guard of Honour. Keith "crossed the bar" on Saturday 30th November, he was 95 years old.



Keith was one of the founder Members of the Branch but due to ill health in his later years was unable to attend Meetings but always supported us with advice and donations.

Born in 1924 Keith joined the Royal Navy in June 1943 and served on HMS "Petard" and HMS "Redoubt" as a Stoker 1st Class He was demobbed in 1946.

One of his enduring memories was while serving in the Far East on VE day he was pulling casualties and bodies from the sea from a ship that had been sunk by Japanese action.

Decorations 1939-45 Burma Star with Clasp Defense and Victory Medal.

He will be sorely missed by Family and Friends.

### **Bill Hirst - Uttoxeter Branch**

On the 30th January Members of the Branch led by their Chairman S/M David Emery MBE attended the Funeral of Uttoxeter British Legion President Bill Hirst. A Guard of Honour was formed by British Legion and RNA Members and Standards from the Legion, Cadets and RNA in attendance. The "Last Post" was played at the graveside by Malcolm Knight.

Bill Hirst was a well-loved local man who upon retirement joined the British Legion and swiftly became active in its activities becoming Chairman then President liaising with all services especially the RNA for Parades and ex-service activities.

Bill served his National Service In the REME then the Military Police mostly in Kenya in 1951--1953

On demob, he worked for Bamfords(JCB) for 45 years

He will be missed by Family and many Friends in Uttoxeter.



## Barry Bishop – Bognor Regis Branch



Bognor Regis branch are saddened to announce that a very popular member, Shipmate Barry Bishop, passed away on the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2020, just 55 days short of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a very keen member of the branch, even attending a meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

Barry enlisted in the Navy in June 1940, serving until January 1946. He joined HMS Royal Arthur near Skegness. He trained as a telegraphist at the former Butlins Holiday camp before he joined the first of the two Town Class destroyers, that he served on, HMS Chesterfield and HMS Newark, both ships covered the North Atlantic Convoys.

On demob he took various jobs before eventually becoming a teacher. He is survived by two daughters. He will be sadly missed, by all members of the branch.

## Norman Webber – Bracknell Branch

It is with great sadness that Bracknell Branch report the loss of Shipmate Norman Webber, who crossed the bar on Friday 31st January, aged 86 years.

Norman carried out his 'National Service' in the Navy between 1955 and 1957, where he acquired the rate of ERA 4 (Engine Room Artificer) and, like all ex-matelots, he never forgot his service number – CM 952777. He served on HMS Sheffield and HMS Superb and was a Member of the HMS Superb (Cruiser) Association, attending the annual reunions in Chatham.



***Norman receiving his Skittles trophy in December 2019.***

Norman had originally joined the RNVR and he was always very keen to show off his Watch and Station Card whenever he visited HMS President for the Annual Lunch and AGM.

He was a Shipmate at the Reading Branch of the RNA for nine years and was Chairman there for three years before the Branch closed. He then transferred to the Bracknell Branch in May 2012 and was elected as Branch Chairman in July 2012, taking over from S/M Bob Privett, who had been in the Chair for 15 years and had just celebrated his 84<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Bob had said that it was time for a change and, as Norman had had previous experience, it seemed like there was no escape for him, as a mere 79-year old!!

Interestingly, in Norman's "maiden speech" as Chairman he expressed his surprise at the low ratio of Associate Members to Full Members in the Bracknell Branch, saying that we should recruit some more Associate Members. Funnily enough, we are now in the complete opposite situation and are now needing to recruit Full Members. He made his mark very quickly as Chairman, initiating the post of Social Secretary to enliven our

meetings and social gatherings; introducing the Trafalgar Dinner as an Annual event and

arranging for a copy of the Branch Certificate of Authorisation to be displayed at every meeting. It was also during Norman's time as Branch Chairman that we obtained our own White Ensign.

Norman held the Chair until January 2016, when he stood down due to health problems. He was succeeded by S/M Mike Daley, although Norman then took on the role of Vice-Chairman, which he has held until the end.

He always enjoyed our outings, whether it was the annual trip to Central Office in Portsmouth and the sail around the harbour; the Poppies at the Tower of London; Southwick Park to see the D-Day Planning Room and Museum; to RAF Benson to see 845 Squadron before they moved to Yeovilton; and to Chatham Dockyard. The Trafalgar Night Dinners and the Annual Skittles Night, which Norman actually won in December were also his favourites. In recognition and in his memory, fellow Shipmates voted unanimously at the February meeting that the Skittles Trophy that Norman won will, in future, be known as "The Norman Webber Cup" and this has now been appropriately engraved.



*Norman with S/m Mike Daley and friends from RNA Bracknell visiting Chatham Dockyard in 2016*

His funeral (including full honours with White Ensign and Branch Standard) was held on Wednesday 26th February at 1300 at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Wokingham.

Fair Winds and Calm Waters, Shipmate. You will be greatly missed.

### **Lt Cdr Peter R Sheppard AFC RN – Bude Branch**

Bude Branch deeply regrets to advise that Shipmate Peter passed away peacefully on 5th February, 2020. He was a highly respected Member of the Branch, having also acted as Branch President.

He will be remembered by many within the FAA as a marvellous Pilot on numerous species of aircraft, his personal favourite being the Sea Fury within which he provided numerous displays. He served 28.01.51 (HMS Indefatigable) - 15.04.85 (HMS Heron, Heron Flt) and thence to Grading Flight - BRNC - at Roborough, Plymouth until August, 92, when, in his own words he was released "on bail". He served onboard HMS Indefatigable, Triumph, Ocean (Korea), Bulwark, Ark Royal (3 times), Victorious, Hermes (2), Centaur, during which he was S.P. of 893, 892, and C.O. of Heron Flight (2), 890, NFSF and on numerous occasions was attached to RAF bases.

We have it on very good authority that appointed L.S.O. onboard HMS Ark Royal (21.01.73 - 22.10.74) he saved many potential fatalities of other pilots. He was Dep. Director, FAA Museum in 1977.

The Branch will always recall Peter for providing the "Branch Staff Car" (naturally a navy blue Rolls Royce) which went down very well at R.A.F. 'Battle of Britain' Services in Kilkhampton, N. Cornwall. He was also prone to "remembering" Taranto in addition to Trafalgar at Branch Dinners.

He leaves a widow, Doreen his cremation ceremony took place at N.D. Crematorium, Barnstaple on 27th February, followed by a Church Service in his memory at Holsworthy Church.

Allegedly, his natural response in the Wardroom when invited to join a colleague for a "wet" was, "I don't mind if I do!". He probably possessed one of the finest "cellars" in the whole of Devon. The Branch, R.N. and in particular the FAA has lost a true gentleman, fantastic shipmate and colleague. It was an honour for Bude Branch to provide our Standard and Guard of Honour at his Cremation. "Blue skies and a very safe landing, Peter".

## RNA Members Benefits

### UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

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

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

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

### Legal Services



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

### Breakdown Service



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



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

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



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

## Shortcast

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

***I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £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. <a href="http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk">www.rnshipmates.co.uk</a>	
05 Mar 2020	HMS Cheviot reunion – Torquay Details contact Victor Denham at <a href="mailto:vic742008@hotmail.co.uk">vic742008@hotmail.co.uk</a> or 07949 95503	Torquay
13/15 Mar 2020	R.N. Communications Association, AGM & Re-Union w/end Friday 13 – Sunday 15 March 2020 Venue, The Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth.  For more details contact Carl Beeson 07807 347509 <a href="mailto:secretary@rnca.info">secretary@rnca.info</a>	Royal Bath Hotel Bournemouth
2/6 April 2020	The HMS LOCH FADA ASSOCIATION F390 will hold their 23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion & AGM @ the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea from 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020. This will be our 4 <sup>th</sup> 4 Day Reunion after the great successes of our 1 <sup>st</sup> Three.  Friday venture into Pompey (Under own Steam) Saturday 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner (Black Tot day being Mourned by the Issue of Real Pussers Rum) in the Company of our Special Guests The Lord Mayor & Escort of Eastleigh ( our Warship week Town).  Sunday Mystery coach tour ( towards Southampton).  All Bookings & Arrangements are being made by Isle of Wight Tours email <a href="mailto:iowtours.com">iowtours.com</a> or telecom 01983 405116, or <a href="mailto:F390.sec@virginmedia.com">F390.sec@virginmedia.com</a> or Snailmail F390 Sec, 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND. Telecom 01252 310767	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
17-20 Apr 20	HMS Ganges Association- Annual reunion will be held at Warners Gunton Hall Holiday Village near Lowestoft. Open to all those who served at Ganges, wives and	Warners, Gunton Hall Holiday Village Nr Lowestoft



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

## Swinging the Lamp – March 2020

*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>	1907	Cap ribbons and bedding issued in lieu of a gratuity, and ready-made uniforms instead of material to be made up. Loan clothing introduced
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1911	First four officers, chosen from over 200 applicants, reported to the Royal Aero Club's aerodrome at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey for pilot training in private aircraft provided free of charge: Lt C.R. Samson, scout cruiser <i>Foresight</i> ; Lt R Gregory, armoured cruiser <i>Antrim</i> ; Lt A M Longmore, HMTB 24 and Lt E.L. Gerrard RMLI, cruiser <i>Hermione</i> .
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1807	The squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir John Duckworth engaged the Dardanelles forts on the return passage from Constantinople
4 <sup>th</sup>	1941	Transportation of Imperial troops from Egypt to Greece. Ended on 24 April, when the evacuation began. Operation Lustre.

5 <sup>th</sup>	1902	Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service constituted by Order in Council, replacing the naval nursing sisters.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1993	Retirement of CPO W. Price, last of the promised men' who joined the RN in 1948 and in 1970 were guaranteed employment until age 65. He served for twenty-two years at the RN Detention Quarters, Portsmouth
7 <sup>th</sup>	1814	Provisions of uniform regulations of 19 September 1810 extended to the Governors of the RN Hospital and Asylum, and the Lieutenant-Governors of Greenwich Hospital and of the RN College, Portsmouth.
8 <sup>th</sup>	1872	The wood screw frigate <i>Ariadne</i> , sailing to Gibraltar, hove to when a seaman fell overboard from the main topmast crosstrees 130 miles off the Portuguese coast (40.15N, 12.10W) In an unsuccessful rescue attempt both ship's cutters were swamped and two officers, S/Lt's Jukes and Talbot, and eight men were drowned.
9 <sup>th</sup>	1686	Pepys signed contract for purchase of rum in lieu of brandy for HM ships at Jamaica.
10 <sup>th</sup>	1956	World air speed record of 1,132 mph (1,823 kph) set by Lt-Cdr Peter Twiss, OBE, DSC and bar, RNVR, flying from Boscombe Down in a Fairey Delta 2 between Chichester and RNAS Ford, Sussex. The first person to fly at over 1,000 mph.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1708	The Cruisers and Convoys Acts allocated prize money to captors at the Crown's expense; a great incentive to captains and crews.
12 <sup>th</sup>	2009	The first woman in RN to win the MC. Able Seaman Kate Louise Nesbitt (21), a medical assistant attached to 3 Cdo Brigade, for 'exemplary gallantry' during a Taliban ambush in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Kate, all 5ft tall, ran under enemy fire and saved the life of L/Cpl John List of 1 RIFLES who had been hit in the neck. Her MC was awarded by HRH Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on 27 November 2009. Operation Herrick. Citation: 'Nesbitt's actions throughout a series of offensive operations were exemplary; under fire and under pressure her commitment and courage were inspirational and made the difference between life and death, "She performed in the highest traditions of her service."
13 <sup>th</sup>	1823	Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of St Vincent died. 'We expect too much of men; we do not make sufficient allowances, and perhaps we are too apt to over rate the services we render them'
14 <sup>th</sup>	1757	Admiral Byng executed on board <i>Monarch</i> after being court-martialled for dereliction of duty. 'At 1200 Mr Byng was shot dead by six marines and put into his coffin' – Master's Log, HMS <i>Monarch</i> .
15 <sup>th</sup>	1980	Fire in A1 boiler room in the commando carrier <i>Bulwark</i> during a visit to Philadelphia. Damage considered too costly to repair.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1858	<i>Shannon's</i> Naval Brigade at the capture of Lucknow by the forces under General Sir Colin Campbell. Naval Brigade manned all the breaching artillery on one side of the Gumti River. Indian Mutiny Medal: clasp 'Lucknow' Battle Honour: Lucknow 1857.
17 <sup>th</sup>	1912	Capt Lawrence Oates, 5th Inniskilling Dragoons, died in Antarctica by walking out into a blizzard in a vain attempt to improve the chances of survival for Capt Scott's party: 'I am just going outside and may be some time.' It was his 32nd birthday.

18 <sup>th</sup>	2002	<i>Fearless</i> , last RN steam-powered surface warship, entered Portsmouth for the last time on return from the Indian Ocean.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1847	Admiralty order that Wednesday 24 March be observed as a Day of Public Fasting and Humiliation, Divine Service to be specially performed in recognition of Irish Famine. Reaction of ship's companies and their pursers not recorded.
20 <sup>th</sup>	1832	Navigating, Medical and other non-executive officers adopted the uniform jacket of the Executive branch, distinguished by the pattern of their button.
21 <sup>st</sup>	2007	Explosion of a self-contained oxygen generator (SCOG) in submarine <i>Tireless</i> while submerged under the Arctic ice killed two crew members.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	2003	Two Sea King Mk VII of 849 Sqn A Flight, flying from <i>Ark Royal</i> on vital ground surveillance missions to support Royal Marines ashore on the Al Faw peninsula, collided over the northern Arabian Gulf. Two pilots and five observers killed. Posthumous MiD to observer, Lt Tony King. Operation Telic.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1922	Submarine H42, Lt D.C. Sealy RN, sunk with all twenty-six hands in collision with the destroyer <i>Versatile</i> , Cdr V.L.A Campbell RN, during 3rd Submarine Flotilla tactical exercises with the Atlantic Fleet off Europa Point, Gibraltar. The submarine surfaced 40yds ahead of the destroyer which was steaming at 20 knots.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1960	<i>Yarmouth</i> , first of nine Rothesay-class antisubmarine frigates, commissioned at John Brown's, Clydebank, by Capt H.R. Hewlett RN, shortly to be Captain (F) Sixth Frigate Squadron. The first ship to be equipped with the new Seacat missile.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1945	World's first deck landing of a high-performance twin-engined aircraft; a de Havilland Mosquito Mk 6 from RAE Farnborough on <i>Indefatigable</i> off Ailsa Craig and Arran piloted by Lt-Cdr Eric 'Winkle' Brown RNVR.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1912	Leonard James Callaghan, later Lt RNVR and Prime Minister, born at Portsmouth.
27 <sup>th</sup>	2006	The last Sea Harrier FA2 squadron, 801 NAS, paid off at RNAS Yeovilton, having completed operational flying on 9 March.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1996	RM School of Music, Deal, closed and band training moved to old RNDQs in Portsmouth Dockyard. RM at Deal since 1861.
29 <sup>th</sup>	1968	The beginning of the end of the fathom. The first of the new metric Admiralty charts, No. 3105 of Chiba Ko in Tokyo Bay, published, with depths and heights shown in metres and decimeters. This was followed on 5 April by Chart 2247 of ports in the Black Sea, and on 12 April by Chart 438 of Boulogne.
30 <sup>th</sup>	1912	Capt Robert Falcon Scott RN and the remainder of his party died in the Antarctic. 'It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more.' 'For God's sake, look after our people.'
31 <sup>st</sup>	1956	HMS <i>Siskin</i> , RNAS Gosport, paid off and following day commissioned as HMS <i>Sultan</i> as a TE for ratings of the Mechanical Engineering Branch. The new establishment was named after the old ironclad <i>Sultan</i> which served until 1943 as the RN mechanical training ship in Portsmouth Harbour.

## Delegate to Annual Conference 2020 Liverpool

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

<b>Branch</b>			<b>Area</b>	
<b>Name of Delegate</b>				
<b>Car registration</b>		<b>Passenger Name</b>		
Delegate's Address				
	<b>Telephone No</b>		<b>Post Code</b>	
<b>e-mail</b>				
<b>Number of Observers</b>				
Name of Branch Hon Secretary				
Contact telephone No: (if not branch Hon Sec)				
Contact e-mail address				
<b>Name and Address for correspondence</b> (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 2020 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.**

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



## **ROYAL NAVY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020 – CLASSES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR AMATEUR CATEGORY.**

1. The Amateur category is open to Regular & Reserve serving Naval Service personnel including RFA and Civil Servants serving in RN/RM establishments, and who are not Professional Photographers iaw Annex A para 1.
2. All photographs must have been taken between 21 Apr 2019 - 20 Apr 2020 and not entered in the RN Photographic Competition 2019.
3. Photographs that are personal copyright are **only** accepted for entry on the understanding that they may be reproduced free of charge. Photographs submitted to the competition **will not be returned** and may be used in public relations, marketing literature, official publications and online.
4. Consent must be gained by the photographer of any image depicting people iaw DIN: 2017DIN05-006. Consent forms are to be retained by the Photographer and produced if requested.
5. Image format for submission and acceptable methods of digital enhancement can be found at Annex D.
6. Full details of each class in the Amateur category are listed below:
  - a. **Class 8 – Engineering Excellence Award.** Awarded to the single best photograph, combining creativity and impact that illustrates engineering talent, inspires future Naval Service Engineers and informs the wider public.
  - b. **Class 14 – The RN Amateur Photographer of the Year Award.** Awarded to the best portfolio of three Service-related photographs submitted by an individual.
  - c. **Class 15 – The RN Amateur Maritime Image Award.** Awarded to an individual for the best Maritime photograph of a ship, submarine or aircraft. In particular, the judges will be looking for eye-catching material.
  - d. **Class 16 – The RN Amateur Open Category Award.** Awarded to the single best photograph of an RN/RM theme that combines creativity and impact.
  - e. **Class 18 – The RN Amateur Veterans Award.** Awarded to the best single photograph taken by a Naval Service Veteran which best encapsulates the ethos of the Royal Naval Association.
7. Amateur photographers may submit one image for class 8 and three images for each class for classes 14-18 (**maximum of thirteen images**). Any single image may only be entered once.
8. **ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ON CD/DVD**, this is to contain the images, an electronic copy of the entry form for each image, bio picture and CV. It is to be packaged in a protective envelope to prevent damage in transit. A signed hard copy of the entry forms are to be provided with the disc.
9. Judging will take place in May 2020 and prize winners will be informed of their success by signal and invited to attend the prize giving.

## ROYAL NAVY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020 – CLASSES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR Royal Naval Association Class 18 entries.

1. The competition is open to Naval Service Veteran amateur photographers.
2. Each photographer may submit a maximum of three photographs.
3. All photographs must have been taken between 21 Apr 2019 - 20 Apr 2020 and not entered in the RN Photographic Competition 2019.
4. Photographs should encapsulate the ethos of the RNA.
5. A completed application form (Annex E) must accompany each entry.
6. Photographs that are personal copyright are **only** accepted for entry on the understanding that they may be reproduced free of charge. Photographs submitted to the competition **will not be returned** and may be used in public relations, marketing literature, official publications and online.
7. Consent must be gained by the photographer of any image depicting members of the public.
8. Image format for submission and acceptable methods of digital enhancement can be found at Annex D
9. **Images should be submitted by e mail as an attachment to an e mailed entry form. One entry form per image. Or on CD/DVD with a paper copy of the entry form for each image. Please note the requirement to include a thumbnail on the entry form.**
10. Entries should be sent to RNA Central Office by the **20 April 2020** for collation before submission to the Competition organisers for judging.
11. Entries should be sent to;  
[nigel@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:nigel@royalnavalassoc.com) or  
Royal Naval Association Central Office. (photo competition)  
Building 1/087, Scott Road,  
H M Naval base Portsmouth PO1 3LU

**IMAGE FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION AND ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF DIGITAL ENHANCEMENT.**

1. Images must be submitted in electronic format at the highest quality. The longest side of each image is to be 12 inches, saved as a Jpg compression level 12, baseline (standard) at 300dpi.
2. Digital enhancement of images is only allowed in order to clean and balance to a correct reproduction of the original conditions. Tools that are considered acceptable:
  - a. Brightness control.
  - b. Burning and dodging
  - c. Contrast control
  - d. Colour balance
  - e. Levels/Curves
  - f. Saturation
  - g. Unsharp mask
3. Manipulation of the composite elements of images and HDR is not permitted.
4. Where necessary, tools may also be used to remove sensor artefacts from the image. The Photographic Specialist Advisor retains the right to reject photographs deemed not suitable, manipulated or over enhanced.

## Annex E

### ROYAL NAVY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2020 ENTRY FORM – Royal Naval Association Amateur Class 18 entry form

Note: Complete a separate entry form for each photograph submitted.

NAME		
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Address;	EMAIL	
	Post Code	

Select Category and Class:

Professional	Video	Amateur
Class 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Class 7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Class 12 <input type="checkbox"/>	Class 8 <input type="checkbox"/>
Class 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Class 8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Class 13 <input type="checkbox"/>	Class 14 <input type="checkbox"/>
Class 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Class 9 <input type="checkbox"/>		Class 15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Class 4 <input type="checkbox"/>		Class 16 <input type="checkbox"/>
Class 5 <input type="checkbox"/>		<b><u>Class 18</u></b> <input type="checkbox"/>
Class 6 <input type="checkbox"/>		

Insert image thumbnail:

Photograph file name:

Date taken:

Description of Photograph (Who, What, Where, When, Occasion)

Please check as appropriate:

☐ I certify that this photograph was taken by me between 21 Apr 2019 - 20 Apr 2020, and has not been manipulated outside of the stated rules. This image was not entered into the RN Photographic Competition 2019 and consent for any member of the public in the image has been gained.

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Completed entry packages are to be sent to:  
 Royal Naval Association Central Office. (photo competition)  
 Building 1/087, Scott Road,  
 HM Naval Base Portsmouth, PO1 3LU







# Have you served in the Armed Forces?

ARE YOU WOUNDED. INJURED. SICK OR HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH TRANSITION? FEEL ISOLATED? NEED A CHALLENGE?

## Would you like to do something different?

We are looking for a small group of 8 Former Service Personnel to take part in a performance project between Mon 11th May and Fri 5th June 2020. No previous experience required. Spouses or partners are welcome.

You will have time to get together as a group, learn skills and then make up and perform a play based on stories relevant to your experience. There is also the opportunity to work with film.

## WHY?

This is about re-acquiring self-confidence, about engaging with others and about expressing yourself. The process is challenging but good fun, and it has brought about real changes in the lives of previous participants.

## Where?

**Dundee:** Travel, accommodation and expenses can be provided for those living further afield

**Who:** Contact **Alan Cameron** for further information

**Tel:** 01333 278 853

**Email:** [standeasyproductions@gmail.com](mailto:standeasyproductions@gmail.com)



[www.standeasyproductions.org](http://www.standeasyproductions.org)



**The Royal Naval  
Benevolent Trust**  
Supporting The RNBT Family

## **TRUSTEE VACANCY**

**Would you like to be involved in helping to run the charity which helps serving and former serving naval and RM ratings and their dependants in times of need and distress?**

**RNBT has a vacancy for an 'Ordinary Member' Trustee.**

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

A founding principle of the Trust is that it is predominantly run by those who are serving or have served as non-commissioned Sailors and Royal Marines. Accordingly 11 of the 16 trustees that form the RNBT's governing body are drawn from a wide range of serving and retired personnel who have been or are RN ratings and RM other ranks. Trustees wish to continue to encourage diversity, and applications from junior rates / ranks as well as representation from minority groups is encouraged. Application from those with service in submarines would be particularly welcome.

A vacancy will occur for one such Trustee position with effect from 1 April 2020. The election of a volunteer to fill this position will happen in the last week of March. We are looking for a wide range of competences, including but not limited to marketing, PR and Health & Safety.

If you are interested please contact Rob Bosshardt (Chief Executive) at the RNBT's Portsmouth-based Head Office (02392 690112). You can also email a request for an application pack via: [rnbt@rnbt.org.uk](mailto:rnbt@rnbt.org.uk)

**The closing date for applications is  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2020**



# THE MILITARY MUSICAL SPECTACULAR BEATING RETREAT

THE MASSED BANDS OF HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES



Horse Guards Parade, London  
3rd and 4th June 2020 | 7.00pm

[tickets.rnrmc.org.uk](https://tickets.rnrmc.org.uk) | From £8 - £25

IN SUPPORT OF



ROYAL NAVY &  
ROYAL MARINES  
CHARITY