



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



The Semaphore Circular

No 668

The Beating Heart of the RNA

April 2017



Project Semaphore is up and running. Deputy Project Manager and RNBT Trustee Shipmate Sarah Clewes visited Pembroke House in Gillingham to pass on her iPad knowledge and 'train up' the resident candidates. The residents are most looking forward to being able to 'FaceTime' relatives who live too far away to visit, take photos in the garden, explore new hobbies and catch up on the news and weather should they fall asleep and miss the end!

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

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“D’ye hear there” (Branch news)

Crossed the Bar – Celebrating a life well lived

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Shortcast

Swinging the Lamp

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Glossary of terms

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

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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

Dear Shipmate,

As you will see from the article in the Circular, we have seen the testing of the new Princess Royal jetty (used to be Middle Slip) for HMS Queen Elizabeth – with a large American ship testing the berth, tugs, brows and power supply system. All has gone well and the Chief Pilot and Naval Base Commander tell me that there have been valuable lessons, but they are delighted at the way things went. No news on the arrival date for QEZ, but it certainly isn't coming right!

You will be receiving a large envelope in the post soon with some important items for you: The Annual Accounts; Annual trustee report; the Agenda for Conference are the most important. Please bring them to the attention of the branch, especially the Conference Agenda which has the details of 4 National Council motions and 3 branch motions. You should have this on the agenda for your next two meetings and come to a view about the motions. Ensure that your conference delegate is briefed up, but given latitude to vote depending on the arguments advanced at Conference (both ways).

Also included are the new **Branch Secretary's Guide** and **Treasurer's Guide**. These have been produced to help shipmates take on these key roles and to make navigating our rules easier. We have done our best with them, but are fully open to suggestions for improvement. They are on the website too. Also in the envelope are the Conference Raffle tickets and a separate raffle for a cask of genuine pussers rum (sold at a very good price by a shipmate), with funds going to Jutland Wood.

In this edition we announce our fabulous discount on the new National Museum of the Royal Navy membership scheme. This is 50% off an annual fee. With a senior couple (over 60) costing only £30 for access to all NMRN attractions. It's an on-line application and very easy. Details in the article.

Project Semaphore, We are now off and running at a fast pace on the roll out of iPads. We are open for applications for candidates – with our trusty volunteers now trained and in business. You will see that we have kitted out Pembroke House and are starting to get some great feedback about the difference this makes. Our target is **at least 4 candidates from each branch** and I hope that you are working to identify any local naval veterans who would benefit from coming on line. Contact Sharon, the Project Manager, at sharon@royalnavalassoc.com.

Some more bits and pieces:

- The Gala Dinner is filling up fast and we are now booking into the **overflow room**, close-by but separate. If you are not staying in the CONA Travel Service Hotels you must apply for the Gala Dinner separately, with no tickets on the door. Important to get going now.
- Don't forget to get your Conference **delegate** booked in form at the back of this edition.
- Please pass the word on the Biennial Parade on **10 September** to your branch and any local naval associations. This is a day for all Naval Associations and is a great reunion too.

Kindest regards from the Central Office team

Paul

1. Project Semaphore Newsletter- iPads

The Project is now up and running and has already delivered some significant benefits to our digitally isolated community. The first two training events for the Volunteers were held in London and Harrogate at the beginning of the month. Mind blowing for some as the capabilities of this technology is amazing.

However, we didn't need to be total whizz kids from the start and the basics were covered to ensure the Volunteers can assist our candidates getting online and doing the simple things such as setting up an email address, taking photographs and being able to email a photograph, using Skype and Facetime.



Sarah Clewes, an RNBT Trustee, has assisted with the issue of iPads to Naval Veterans living in Pembroke House which is a care and nursing home owned and managed by the RNBT. One candidate is looking forward to using the iPad with his terminally ill wife to video call relatives which will bring huge benefit to them at a challenging time.

Some of our Volunteers in the North and South are now equipped with their training iPads and will be able to show any interested candidate the benefit of being online and how light and portable these devices are. We are expecting and hope that this will generate more applications. The eligibility criteria is: to be a Naval Veteran, over 65 years old and digitally isolated, which is not to have **regular personal access** to the internet and enjoy the benefits this can give. But if your computer broke last week you would not be eligible for an iPad in this Project. Any queries please email me on sharon@royalnavalassoc.com or contact Central Office.

I looking forward to receiving news of our candidates online and looking to spread the word further. I urge all Branches to share the benefits of this amazing Project and look out for eligible Shipmates which we can assist. Go and visit our FaceBook page with lots of info <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=project%20semaphore>

Sharon Brown, Project Manager, Project Semaphore.
Sharon@royanavalassoc.com

Photos from London Training Day;



2. ★ RNA and Naval Associations Biennial Parade – 10 September 2017

The RNA / Naval Associations Biennial Parade will be held at Whitehall on Sunday 10 September 2017. The Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Jonathon Woodcock OBE has now been confirmed as the Guest of Honour and the VIP party will include the Minister for the Armed Forces, Rt Hon Mike Penning MP, Flick Drummond MP, (Portsmouth South), Captain Andy Jordan ADC Royal Navy, Commanding Officer HMS Collingwood and Mrs Gillian Molyneux and her daughter Bethany, Mrs Molyneux is the widow of Lt Cdr Dean Molyneux who was killed whilst serving in HMS Astute.

It is envisaged that that over 500 personnel both Veterans and Serving will be on parade. As well as representatives from the many naval associations, including from Belgium and the Republic of Ireland. Trainees from HMS Sultan and HMS Collingwood will parade, as will members of the Sea Cadet Corps. Music will be provided by the volunteer band from HMS COLLINGWOOD.

The programme for the day is as follows;

- 0900 RNA Central Office staff on site, meet with Met senior officer.
- 0910 Set security points
- 0915 Civil Service Club opens for coffee and toilets (80 metres from Coach parking)
- 0930 Parking for coaches and minibuses in Whitehall Place (pass required from Central Office) All coaches + Cars to be clear of Whitehall Place by 1300.
- 0945 All Vehicles to be parked,
- 0950 Whitehall Place and South Whitehall closes.
- 1010 **Standard bearers brief by NCA**
- 1025 Parade musters and is briefed by Parade Commander.
- 1040 Parade steps off, from Whitehall Place
- 1055 2SL, Min (AF), Flick Drummond MP, Capt Jordan, Mrs and Miss Molyneux +, VIPs join the parade
- 1100 Service starts, 2 minute silence
- 1102 Service at Cenotaph led by the Chaplain of the Fleet
- 1127 Parade steps off, review by 2SL
- 1140 Parade addressed by NP/2SL
- 1146 Issue of Standard Bearers 'Tots' outside Civil Service Club
- 1147 Bar opens in Civil Service Club – 2SL and VIPs meets Shipmates
- 1200 Sandwiches and Chips served at no cost to participants
- 1200 Parking restrictions restored in Whitehall Place



Dress Will be uniform for those serving and RNA / Association rig with medals or equivalent for everyone else, polished shoes. Berets for standard bearers and optional for marchers. Standards should wear the NSM pennant (if entitled).

Briefs Standard bearers should note the early brief for them at 1010 in Whitehall place by the National Ceremonial Advisor.

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

Band The band will be the HMS Collingwood Volunteer Band

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

Mobility. The march is of the order of 450 metres there and 450 back with just over an hour on our feet. Those with mobility issues should make their way to the front of the FCO where an area will be reserved

** Parking Details will be advertised once confirmed with Met Police.

3. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment



This month can you name this establishment No hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!

The answer will be in next month's edition.

*Last month's answer: Centurion Building in Gosport.
The former home of Commodore Naval Drafting.*

4. ★ Perth Conference Update

For information Shipmates should be aware that sadly the main function room is now full to capacity for the Gala Dinner on Saturday night. However should you wish to attend the Gala Dinner evening at the Station Hotel then additional places have now been made available in the Grampian Room which is very close to the main room. This is an 'overflow room' which is completely separate to the main function room where the entertainment will take place after dinner, but it is hoped that a screen will be made available so that a link can be provided between the two dining rooms. This might be an advantage if you do not want loud music in your 'lug holes'!

Should you wish to book seats for the Gala Dinner, in the overflow Grampian Room, please be aware this is on the understanding that you may not be able to participate with the after dinner entertainment due to the capacity limitations of the main function room.

Bookings on the Conference Form with CONA Travel.

5. ★ FINANCE CORNER

Dear Shipmates,

Year End Returns 2014

Sadly there are still 3 Branches who have failed to submitted their accounts to Central Office for **2014!**

Can I please ask for a copy to be returned to Central Office **ASAP**.

There are plenty of options for assistance for these Branches; the relevant Area NCMs or alternatively both Rita Lock and I are available at the short trial to talk Shipmates through whatever issues require resolution so that the accounts can be submitted.



The Branches on the 'very naughty step' are :

Area 6 - RNA High Wycombe,
Area 8 - RNA B'ham Cotteridge
Area 11 – RNA Redcar

Year End Returns 2015

Central Office still has 10 Branches that have not submitted their Year End Returns for 2015.

Please can I request that the Treasurer of the branches listed below forward a copy to Central Office **ASAP**.

'Defaulters Ho':

Area 1 – Area 1 itself, RNA Greenford
Area 2 – RNA Sidcup
Area 6 – RNA High Wycombe
Area 8 – RNA B'ham Cotteridge
Area 9 – RNA Sheffield
Area 11 – RNA Redcar

I would be grateful if Treasurers and Branches treat this as a priority whilst bearing in mind that failure to forward the Year End Returns may result in action being taken under rules B30(a) and B30(c).

Finally, on Year end Returns Treasurers and Branches are requested to ensure that an additional copy is forwarded to the Area secretary (Page 1-4 please)

Subscriptions

I would like to say 'Thank you' to the Treasurers/Secretaries that have sent to Central Office your Membership fees.

Standards Fund

A few Shipmates have been asking what does the Standard Fund cover.

Standard cover:

- Period from 18 March 2017 – 17 March 2018
- Costs - £8 per annum
- Covers for – Loss & Damage anywhere in the world and whilst in transit, plus Fire & Theft & Ceremonial equipment
- Branch contribution to loss of £100, but circumstances taken into account.

Please note – this does **NOT** cover your Branch for Public Liability, you will have to source your own Public Liability Insurance. If your Branch would like a quote, please contact Ansvar on or online <https://thecolemangroup.co.uk/coleman-insurance-brokers/organisation-specific/cona> tel: 01323 744149 or type in a search engine 'RNA Branch Insurance'. This covers public liability employer and volunteer liability and cash after collection and before banking.

Thank you for all your assistance and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need advise.

Yours Aye

Michelle

6. ★ An insight into what goes on at Central Office on a daily basis?

Without a Royal Charter and a National Council every Branch would just do its own thing and there would be no cohesion, order or regularity and hence no national reputation or influence. To be effective the National Council needs the Central Office sufficiently staffed to meet the tasks and commitments placed on it.

- **Communication and support to all Branches:** all over the country: a good deal of time is involved in giving advice either by letter, telephone or verbally to callers, as well as via the website in the members/downloads Area, under the usual password.
- **Communication with Areas:** Advising and supporting Area Secretaries, Chair and National Council Members.
- **Producing Semaphore Circular and HQ Roll Newsletters:** Circulars are sent out monthly to Branch secretaries by email and are available on the website. HQ Roll members receive a Newsletter twice a year.
- **Hosting Open Days:** Visits to the Central Office are very popular and include a boat tour of the harbour. They are run from Easter onwards, dates and details of how to book are included in the Monthly Circular. All free of charge.
- **Keeping Financial Accounts:** The accounts of the Association and Branches and the range of activities mean that the task has an in-house Finance Controller.
- **Membership Records:** Membership cards and stickers are issued on receipt of the necessary application being made together with a cheque made payable to the Royal Naval Association or payment by BACS. Worn out membership cards can be replaced as needed at no charge, there is a charge for lost cards.
- **Selling RNA Goods:** A range of Association badges, clothing and miscellaneous goods can be viewed at our online [shop](#) . Central Office buys and accounts for them



as well as dispatching them to the membership. The range of goods is increased whenever practicable and a Price list produced. GS is always happy for new ideas – such as RNA tartan for Scotland.

- **Dealing with individual Applications to join:** Applications made via the RNA website are administered by Central Office, membership cards are sent for the new member to pick up from the Branch Secretary. New members may opt to join the HQ Roll which is administered centrally.
- **Processing applications for Life Membership and Certificates of Appreciation:** See Annexes A, B and C.
- **Preparing Membership and Branch Anniversary Certificates:** These are available on request and are undertaken on behalf of the Council after checking acceptability with the Branch's Area National Council Member.
- **Marketing the Association:** In conjunction with the National Events Adviser this involves Commissioning and obtaining all the material by which the Association interfaces with the public at events such as Armed Forces Day, Air Days; posters, pamphlets, stickers, banners etc.
- **Maintaining and updating the Website:** In conjunction with the Website developers and RNA Webmaster, Central Office is your access to your Branches face on the website. Be this your Branch's own page or via the diary and news articles. Remember that all Royal Naval Association Rules, Bye-Laws and Advisory Publications are now included in the Association Website www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/



- **Managing the Standards Fund:** All matters are dealt with by the Finance Controller.

- **Producing the Year Book / Diary:** editing the content, negotiating with the advertising agency, printers, despatching and selling them.

- **Organising Ceremonial Events:** Central Office is fully involved in organising National Parades, Armed Forces Day, Association Biennial Parade in Whitehall,

St.Paul's Seafarers Service, Cenotaph Parades, Field of Remembrance, National Standard Bearers Competition and much more.

- **Organising The Annual Reunion and Conference/AGM:** A great deal of the groundwork in organising the National Conference is either carried out or coordinated by the Central Office staff. Close liaison with the Area and Branch officials hosting the Conference is essential. The National Council reports to Conference and follow-up action on Conference Resolutions is co-ordinated and implemented by the General Secretary who writes the Minutes and deals with the Privy Council.
- **Liaison with the Royal Navy:** This is undertaken at all levels on many subjects including RNA/RMA relationships and supporting the Navy Partnering Arrangement..
- **Service Visibility and Support:** Through the Shipmates and Oppos campaign, Mentoring of trainees, Trauma Risk Management (TRIM) for Veterans and recruitment campaigns etc, Central Office can keep the Association in the mind of the serving naval service.
- **Liaison with Other Associations:** The General Secretary is the RNA representative at the Council of British Service and Ex-Service Organisations (COBSEO), the Conference of Naval Associations (CONA), the International Maritime Confederation and RN Charity Chief Executive Officers meetings.

- **Mentoring:** Providing briefings to Part 2 Trainees from HMS Collingwood and Sultan to demonstrate to them how their RN /RNA forefathers are held in high esteem.
- **Investments and Financial Control:** Careful control of investments and interest earning opportunities is needed to gain maximum benefit from the Association's capital and also supplement subscription income. Detailed control of the budget helps keep expenditure to the minimum needed. Monthly accounts are prepared for the FAC to scrutinise as well as sending out termly accounts to Branches.
- **Assisting the Charities and Welfare Officer:** Central Office administers the Central Charities Fund, through grants to the RNRMC. Not one penny of the donations to the Central Charities Fund is spent on administration which is provided as a Central Office activity.
- **Assisting Clubs:** An annual task is to issue permits. Central Office provide a framework of model rules and advice as required, mindful of the complexities around RNA Branch and Club relationships.
- **"Hello, is that the Royal Navy?"** Central office answers thousands of calls a year from members of the public, particularly looking for how to get records of service, family details and many varied questions.
- **Major Projects.** Project Semaphore bringing iPads to digitally isolated naval veterans; Shipmates and Oppos – transition support for naval leavers – running the Conference of Naval Associations. Jutland Wood.
- **Managing and upkeep of the Naval Service Memorial.**
- **Purchase and running of 3 minibuses fitted with wheel chair access.**



Whilst the above is a formidable though incomplete list, it should not be thought that Central Office runs every activity completely. Members of the National Council help as well as Central Office volunteers. However, the back-up provided by full time Central Office staff is an essential ingredient of having a National Association.

7. ★ RNVG Series - General Sir Lewis Stratford Tollemache Halliday VC KCB Royal Marines

Halliday was 30 years old, and a captain in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, during the Boxer Rebellion in China when he was awarded the VC.

On 24 June 1900 at Peking, China, an attack was made on the British Legation by the Boxers who set fire to the stables and occupied some of the other buildings. It being imperative to drive the enemy out, a hole was knocked in the Legation wall and 20 men of the RMLI went in. Captain Halliday, leading a party of six men, was involved in desperate fighting and was severely wounded but despite his injuries he killed four of the enemy. Finally, unable to carry on any further, he ordered his men to go on without him, after which he returned to the legation alone, telling his men 'carry on and not mind him', so as not to diminish the number of men engaged in the sortie. He walked 100 yards unaided to the hospital although his shoulder was half blown out and his left lung punctured.



He was promoted to brevet major for his part in the legation's defence, and returned to the United Kingdom to receive the VC from King Edward VII during an investiture at Marlborough House on 25 July 1901.

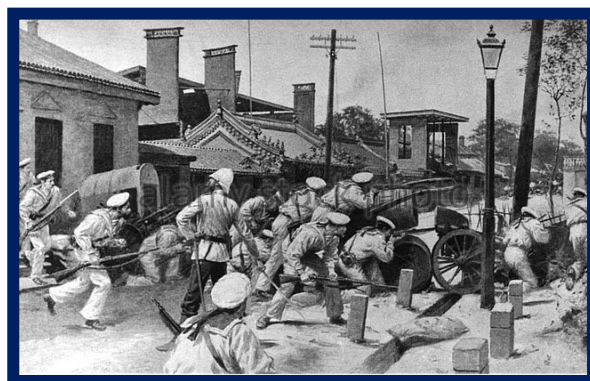
CITATION FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE ADMIRALTY

London Gazette, 1 January 1901

Captain (now Brevet Major) Lewis Stratford Tollemache Halliday, Royal Marine Light Infantry

On the 24th June, 1900, the enemy, consisting of Boxers and Imperial troops, made a fierce attack on the west wall of the British Legation, setting fire to the West Gate of the south stable quarters, and taking cover in the buildings which adjoined the wall. The fire, which spread to part of the stables, and through which and the smoke a galling fire was kept up by the Imperial troops, was with difficulty extinguished, and as the presence of the enemy in the adjoining buildings was a grave danger to the Legation, a sortie was organised to drive them out. A hole was made in the

Legation Wall, and Captain Halliday, in command of twenty Marines, led the way into the buildings and almost immediately engaged a party of the enemy. Before he could use his revolver, however, he was shot through the left shoulder, at point blank range, the bullet fracturing the shoulder and carrying away part of the lung. Notwithstanding the extremely severe nature of his wound, Captain Halliday killed three of his assailants, and telling his men to "carry on and not mind him," walked back unaided to the hospital, refusing escort and aid so as not to diminish the number of men engaged in the sortie.



Having recovered from his wound he returned to duty at the end of 1901. He commanded the Marine detachment aboard HMS *Galatea*, and then commanded the Marines aboard HMS *Empress of India*, the flagship of the home fleet. In 1907 having completed staff college at Camberley, he was appointed staff officer to the Portsmouth Division of his corps.

He then commanded a company of Gentleman Officer Cadets at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst for four years during which time he was promoted to major. Among his cadets was the future Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis. In early 1915 he was promoted to brevet lieutenant colonel and on 14 July of that year he was made lieutenant colonel. In November 1915 he joined GHQ, Home Forces as General Staff Officer. He was appointed Colonel second Commandant of the Royal Marine Light Infantry in 1920 and Colonel Commandant on 1 January 1923. Halliday was promoted to major general on 11 December 1925, to lieutenant general on 11 June 1927 and to General on 1 October 1928. He served as ADC to King George V in 1924 and 1925, and held the post of Adjutant-General Royal Marines from December 1927 until his voluntary retirement in June 1930. Having been appointed as Companion of the Order of the Bath on 3 June 1913, he became Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath on 1 January 1930. Lewis's Victoria Cross is displayed at the Royal Marines Museum in Southsea, England.

8. ★ Traffic Camera Joke

A man was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. He worked out that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding. Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed.

Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed. He tried a fourth time with the same result.

He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace.



Two weeks later..... he got five tickets in the mail for Driving without a seat belt!!!

9. ★ Donations received for the Central Charities

Central Charities

RNA – Bodmin	£100.00
RNA – Isle of Man Ramsey	£50.00
JM Steven	£25.00
CC Herman	£36.00
F Wills	£20.00
A Burgess	£26.00
Hospital Medical Care	£21.07
Muchloved Charity	£12.05
Charities Trust	£4.44

In memory of the late

Roy Addison	£25.00
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Other Donations

SJ Marvin	£21.00
DG Holden	£36.00

10★ National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN)

Shipmates will be interested to know that NMRN has written to Central Office to inform us that they are launching a new NMRN Membership scheme. Please see the details below;



This is an exclusive invitation to those with whom we have a close relationship and we are delighted to be able to offer your members a **50% discount** on the new membership scheme by using the special promotional code **Family50** on the sign up page - <https://directdebit.nmrn.org.uk/galaxy-tools/nmrn-membership>.

The NMRN membership provides great days out as we tell the stories of real people and bring history to life. As a registered charity, the funds we raise enable us to carry out our projects and continually deliver new information and experiences to our members through our work.

National Museum of the Royal Navy members will be able to enjoy an enhanced experience, with many benefits including:

- Unlimited entry to all National Museum of the Royal Navy museums and ships (detailed below)*
- 25% discount into National Museum of the Royal Navy museums for friends & family – up to 4 people*
- 25% discount on all National Museum guidebooks*
- 10% discount on all National Museum cafes and restaurants*
- 10% discount at all National Museum shops*
- Dedicated Members' e-newsletter*
- Access to our exclusive Online Members' Area*
- Discount and early bird tickets to selected NMRN events*
- Special tours of maritime interest in conjunction with National Museum Friends of Museum schemes*
- Exclusive invitations to behind the scenes NMRN museum tours and previews*



Entry to all our museums is included in the membership, they include,

- HMS Trincomalee in Hartlepool and its historic quayside, known as The National Museum of the Royal Navy, Hartlepool*
- The Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset*
- The National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth*
- HMS Victory, Portsmouth*
- First World War Gallipoli campaign survivor HMS M.33, Portsmouth*
- The Royal Navy Submarine Museum and Explosion, Gosport*
- The Museum of Naval Firepower, Gosport*
- HMS Caroline, the last survivor of the battle of Jutland, Belfast.*

The cost of membership:

Ticket Type	National Museum of the Royal Navy Membership
Adult	£45 With 50% discount £22.50
Adult Joint	£70 With 50% discount £35.00
Child	£30 With 50% discount £15.00
Family (1 adult)	£60 With 50% discount £30.00
Family (2 adults)	£90 With 50% discount £45.00
Senior	£35 With 50% discount £17.50 (over 60)
Senior Joint	£60 With 50% discount £30.00 (over 60)
Student	£35 With 50% discount £22.50

The photo above shows General Secretary, Paul Quinn with Paul Elgood from the NMRN on a glorious sunny day in March with HMS Victory in the background.

(Editors Note; What more can you say, what a great deal!)

11.★ HMS Queen Elizabeth History

As mentioned in Parish Notices last month, the RN's latest edition to its fleet will be coming to Portsmouth this year, but it is not the first HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH to have served in the Royal Navy.

The original QUEEN ELIZABETH was the lead ship of the 15 inch-gun 'Queen Elizabeth' class of Dreadnought battleships. The ship was launched on 16th October 1913 as the first RN warship to carry this name. Her Badge reflects the particular association with the Royal Family.



Build was completed on 22 December 1914 and she was deployed in the Mediterranean. While still undergoing testing, the HMS Queen Elizabeth was sent to the Dardanelles for the Allied attempt to knock the Ottoman Empire out of the war. The HMS Queen Elizabeth was the only modern battleship to participate, though a number of battlecruisers and pre-dreadnought battleships were also involved. She became the flagship for the preliminary naval operations in the Dardanelles Campaign, leading the first line of British battleships in the decisive battle of 18 March 1915. During the military invasion of the Gallipoli on 25 April, the HMS Queen Elizabeth was the flagship for General Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

However, after the sinking of HMS Goliath by a Turkish torpedo boat on 12 May, the HMS Queen Elizabeth was immediately withdrawn to a safer position. She joined Admiral Hugh Evan-Thomas's 5th Battle Squadron (consisting of Queen Elizabeth-class battleships) of the Grand Fleet based at Scapa Flow, but she missed the Battle of Jutland because she was in dock for maintenance.



In 1937 she was selected for an extended modernisation which began in August that year and was not completed until 1939. Her WW2 service was particularly well known as she was seriously damaged at Alexandria after explosive charges had been placed on her hull in an attack by two-man human torpedoes in December 1941. She then had an extensive period under repair

and refit in a US Navy Dockyard Norfolk, Virginia before resuming Fleet service in the East Indies Fleet. She took part in many offensive operations against the Japanese bases in the Indian Ocean and in support of landing operations in Burma before return to UK before VJ Day. After brief service in the Home Fleet she was placed in Reserve at Portsmouth during 1946 and sold for demolition two years later.

Hot Off Press Update.....

The picture shows the latest trial to ensure the smooth arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth on 10-12 March 2017. The new Princess Royal jetty welcomed the American Supply Ship USS Robert E Peary who at 40,000 tons provided the Dockyard team with a stern examination to pass, which they did with flying colours. Testing tugs, Dolphins and berthing arrangements.

They now need to rise to the challenge of berthing a ship weighing 27,000 tons more!



The photo above shows the Queen Elizabeth's new Gangway awaiting its trial. I am sure there will not be any issue when the famous pipe is used for the first time on the gangway "LEAVE....."



12. ★ 2017 Conference Polo Shirt

Shipmates what about a souvenir from 'Bonnie Scotland', no not a deep fried Mars Bar or a pint of Heavy but a unique Conference polo shirt, as modelled by Shipmate Ally Stirton. (Fine figure of man as I am sure you will all agree!)

They cost £16 and can be pre-ordered ready for collection at Conference. If you would like to purchase a Conference Polo Shirt please contact Ally at;

allystirton@hotmail.co.uk or Mob No 07525760176



13. ★ Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)

The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor David Fuller tackled his fear of heights recently ahead of a charity abseiling challenge in aid of The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC).

During a visit to RNRMC HQ on Whale Island, Portsmouth he visited the establishments tallest building in preparation for his upcoming challenge.

Councillor Fuller will be the first Lord Mayor of Portsmouth to abseil down the Emirates Spinnaker Tower on 30 April raising funds for RNRMC , one of his chosen charities. He said "I am petrified of heights but it is for a very worthy cause". He will be joined by six other mayors/chairmen from



local boroughs will also be taking part in the abseil and the

Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire will be onsite to give his support.



The Lord Mayors visit coincides with the 10th birthday of the RNRMC which has distributed more than £50 million to projects and charities, such as Norton Home Headley Court, which provides free accommodation for severely injured, wounded and sick Servicing or ex-Service naval

personnel and their families, to The Poppy Factory, which works with ex-Service personnel with physical disabilities and mental health conditions.

Accompanied by his sister, Lady Mayoress Leza Tremorin, Cllr Fuller met with staff from The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, one of his chosen Mayoral charities for the year, to learn more about the kinds of projects his donations may help fund in future. Recent projects supported by The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity in the city include the construction of three self-contained family flats inside HMNB Portsmouth; Veterans Outreach Support clinics; and Kings Camp summer camps for children at HMS Temeraire, the Royal Navys sporting unit of excellence, in the heart of the city.



14. ★ Request for Assistance – FAA Malayan Junglies



Stuart Wakefield, who is ex FAA, has written to request help in contacting any shipmates who may be willing to provide him with assistance in his post-graduate dissertation, which has a working title of :

'The development of helicopter support in jungle warfare during the Malayan Emergency'.

In broad terms, he seeks the experiences of both those who flew and maintained helicopters during the Emergency and those on the ground who befitted from their availability. His research thus far has included the National Archives, the Imperial War Museum, the Air Historical Branch, the Fleet Air Arm Museum, and the Royal Army Medical Corps Museum. However, any dissertation should also include first-hand memories.



Whilst he is happy to telephone any shipmate in the UK who can assist, he is also content to contact via e-mail, if that is preferred. Shipmates should also understand that any information provided may be included in his eventual dissertation, albeit that all such contributions will be formally acknowledged.

15. ★ Pussers Recipe of the Month

Devils on Horseback.....

8 De-Stoned Prunes
8 Slices rindless Streaky Bacon
4 Small Rounds of Toast (approx 3" x 2")
25g or 1oz Mango Chutney
Butter
Garnish

Method

Pre-heat oven to 200C or 400F or gas mark 6

Soak the Prunes in hot Tea for at least 30 minutes.

Stuff each Prune with a little of the Mango Chutney.

Wrap a piece of Bacon round each Prune gently hold together with a cocktail stick.

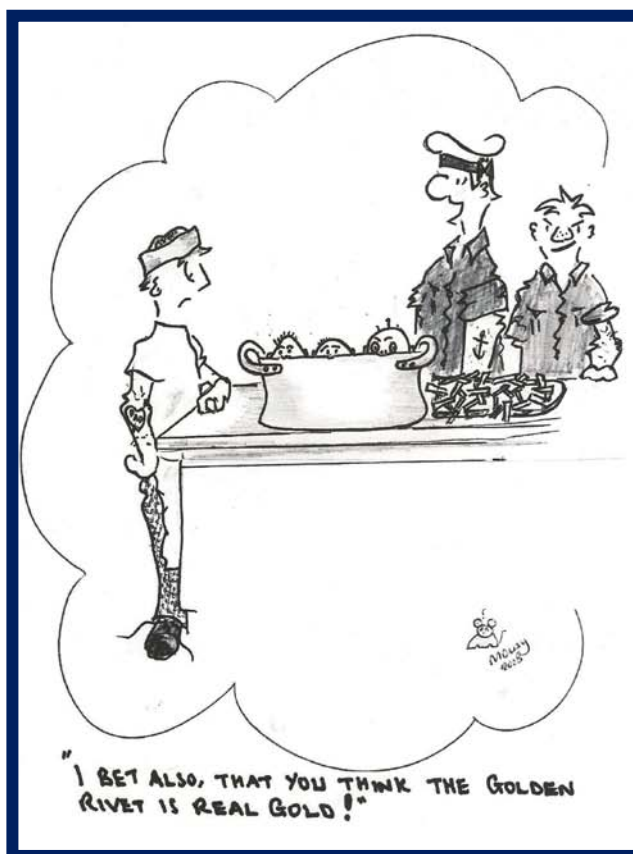
Place on baking tray.

Bake for 6 to 8 minutes.

Butter the toast, removing the cocktail stick, place 2 Devils on each slice of toast and garnish serve.

Recipe courtesy – Shipmate Martin Raine

Cartoon courtesy - Me old Shipmate Nobby Guyatt



16. ★RNA Torbay Memorial Appeal – Lt Cdr Arthur Harrison VC RN

RNA Torbay erected a memorial in the millennium year 2000 to the memory of Lieutenant Commander Arthur Leyland Harrison VC Royal Navy who was born in Torquay. He joined the RN in 1902 and saw action during the battles of: Heligoland Bight in 1914, Dogger bank in 1915 and Jutland in 1916.

Torbay RNA would like to refurbish the memorial to commemorate the centenary of his VC action on 23 April 2018.

At Jutland Arthur Harrison was mentioned in dispatches (MiD) for being one of three Officers who commanded gun turrets in HMS Lion, which fired 321 rounds during the course of the battle.

He was then awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) for conspicuous gallantry at Zeebrugge on the night of 22-23rd April 1918 when he had Command of the Naval parties embarked in HMS Vindictive. Whilst coming alongside the Mole he was struck on the head by a shell fragment, which broke his jaw and knocked him senseless. Recovering consciousness, he proceeded on to the Mole and took Command of his party who were attacking the seaward end of the Mole. The silencing of the guns on the Mole-head was of first importance and though in a position fully exposed to the enemy's machine gun fire, Harrison gathered his men together and led them into the attack.

Sadly Arthur Harrison was killed at the head of his men, all of whom were killed or wounded. Although he was severely wounded and in undoubtedly in great pain he displayed indomitable resolution and courage of the greatest order in pressing home the attack.

The memorial to Lieutenant Commander Harrison was erected 16 years ago on an exposed position on Roundham Head, Paignton, Devon, however it now requires a major refurbishment. The Torbay Branch are in the process of raising funds to ensure that the memorial tablet, information and general area is renovated to a standard that will withstand the test of time for the 100th Anniversary of Lt Cdr Harrison's exploits at Zeebrugge on 23 April 1918.

The Branch would like to appeal to all Shipmates for any financial assistance that you can offer so that memorial can be refurbished to a fitting manner for a very brave man and Victoria Cross Winner.

If you can assist please contact the RNA Torbay Hon Secretary Mike Seaward at ausoniaseaward@gmail.com



17. ★ RNH Haslar Commemoration Service – Sunday 9 April 2017

Central Office has received the invitation below;

RNA members are invited to a Commemoration Service conducted by Canon John Draper at Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery Clayhall Rd Gosport on Sunday 9th April at 1500 Standards are welcome. Local Sea Cadets, the Submariner Association will be attending with a piping party provided by the Sea Cadets The Mayor of Gosport will also be attending and laying a wreath.

The service is a commemoration of all the Naval personnel buried there, organised by the Cemetery Manager who wants to raise awareness of the Royal Naval Cemetery which is looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Many thanks

Yours Aye

Andy Brown, Branch Chairman Gosport and Alverstoke RBL



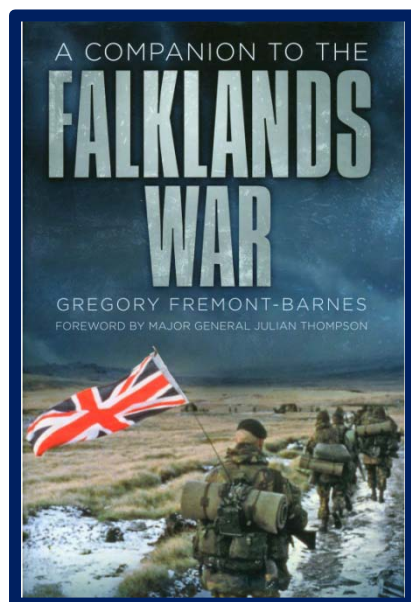
18. ★ BOOK REVIEWS

The books mentioned below are available from 'NavyBooks'. Run by naval people for naval people. 100s of titles – 1000s of books www.navybooks.com.

Using Code 'RNA 101' at the Checkout Cart RNA members can obtain a 5% on-line discount on all books. (except Magazines, Bargain & Bin End categories)

A COMPANION TO THE FALKLANDS WAR

£25.00



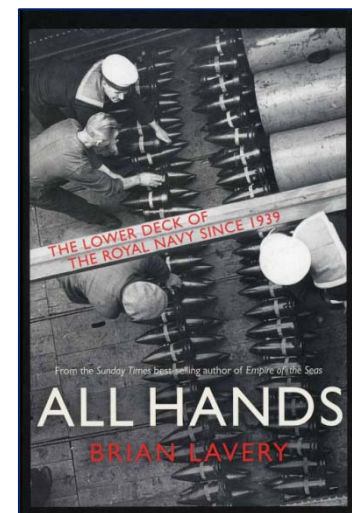
The Falklands War is a story of occupation, fierce air battles, heavy naval losses and bitter encounters between ground forces amidst an inhospitable terrain and unforgiving climate. With complex political machinations and nationalist sentiment at the centre of the conflict, even today the sovereignty of the islands is hotly contested in political circles. There is no single volume reference work on the Falklands War.

Renowned military historian Gregory Fremont-Barnes seeks to fill the gap by providing a single accessible book to guide reader through this short, but militarily fascinating, conflict.

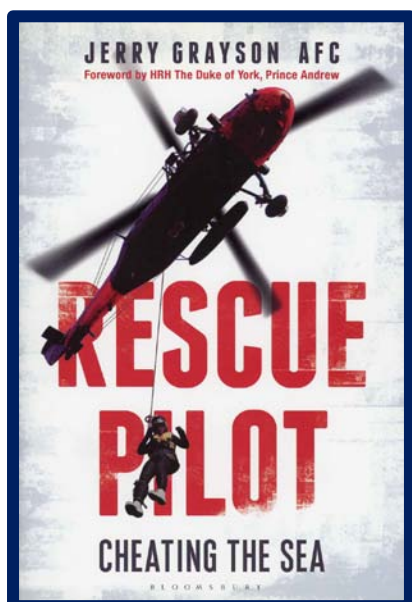
ALL HANDS £15.00 (was £25.00)

Lavery examines the world of the sailor from the outbreak of war in 1939 through over 70 years of change up to his place in the modern Royal Navy. As new technologies demanded increased professionalism, specialisation and training, the inherent adaptability of the professional sailor is clearly demonstrated. The book also focuses on the changing social structure of the Navy, and the periods of expansion as the service coped with the great demands made through two World Wars and innumerable other conflicts across the globe.

This is not only a fascinating read but also thought provoking - discussing toward the end whether today's sailor has the resilience, confidence and ability to match his (and her) forebears.



RESCUE PILOT £9.99



Jerry Grayson was the most decorated peacetime naval pilot in history. For the Navy's Search and Rescue pilots, getting to work is both an adventure and an ordeal.

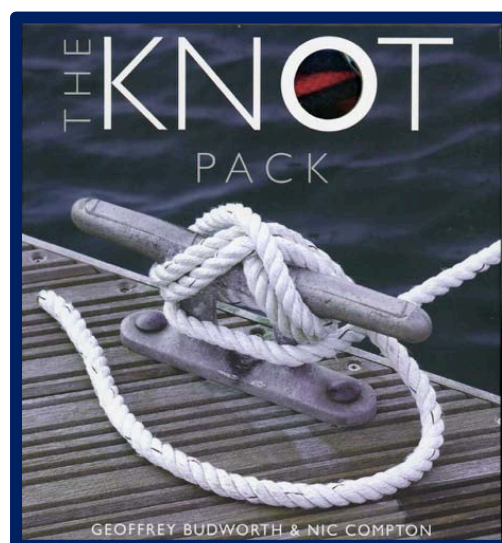
Whether rescuing a wounded fighter pilot who has ditched in the sea, saving desperate survivors from a sinking ship, or picking up a grievously ill crewman from the deck of a nuclear-armed submarine that is playing a cat-and-mouse game with the Soviet Navy. Jerry Grayson has lived a life of unparalleled excitement and adventure. Lives are at stake and pilots must move and think fast. Excitingly told, frequently funny but also very poignant, Jerry's story is not an account of just one man's deeds, it is a salute to all the men and women he worked with who were able to turn tragedies into triumphs.

THE KNOT PACK £9.99 (Was 14.99)

Something completely different. Remember your 'sea daddy' teaching you knotting and splicing? Forgotten it all?

Try this book - an attractively boxed set - whether you are whiling away an evening at home or sailing a yacht across the high seas, the Knot Pack is your ultimate guide to learning the ropes.

Perfect for the beginner, the Knot Pack contains all you need to learn and master the 50 most important nautical knots. Two lengths of contrasting colour rope to help getting started.



19. ★ More Biennial Parade Stuff... RNA Uxbridge Invitation.

Any RNA Member who is attending the Biennial Parade in Whitehall London on the 10th September are most welcome to visit RNA Uxbridge after the parade on your way home , we will lay on a free buffet and Tots to all that pop in !!!



So shipmates instead of getting ripped off with London Bar prices (average £4--£5 a pint) come and join us at a proper RNA Club where you can purchase properly discounted beers for example Draft Tiger at just £2 a pint, Real Ale at £3 a pint and all other beers from £2.70 a pint.

All the Club asks is that you let us know in advance that you intend to visit for catering purposes. Tel 01895 230071 e-mail rna.uxbridge@hotmail.co.uk web site

www.uxbridgerna.com

For non navigators the post code is UB10 9PG. The Club is located west bound just off the A40 at Hillingdon 14 miles from the west end turn off junction after RAF Northolt and is on the left at the end of the slip road , Nearest tube station a 2-minute walk from Hillingdon Station on the Metropolitan and Piccadilly lines. Chairman RNA Uxbridge Kevin (Slinger) Wood would be delighted to welcome you there.

20. Londonderry Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations 6/7th May 2017



To all Shipmates,

The Battle of The Atlantic Commemorations will be held over the weekend 6th and 7th May 2017 in Londonderry. The Programme is as follows:-

Saturday 6th May - 1900 for 1930 Dinner in the City Hotel.

Sunday 7th May-

1015. Parade musters at The RBL Club Waterside.

1030. Parade marches off.

1040. Parade arrives at All Saints Church.

1100. Church Service Commences

1210. Parade marches past en route to The RBL Club where light refreshments will be served.

Should any Shipmate wish to attend the Dinner the cost will be £30.00 per head; the cut-off date is 14 April 2016. Please forward a cheque to cover the cost of relevant number of shipmates attending. The Dress for all Functions will be RNA Rig.

Should any changes to the above programme arise Branches will be informed soonest. For further details please contact Frank Brown Hon Sec Londonderry RNA.

frankjf22brown@gmail.com

21. Update of RNA & Naval Associations Deployment to Ireland on the MV Marco Polo (Renamed HMS Marco Polo) - 'Mini Cruise' 29 Sep -02 October 2017

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Just a quick update on the Naval Associations Irish Sea Deployment on HMS Marco Polo 'Mini-Cruise'. The ship is under sailing orders from Liverpool at 1900 on Friday 29th September 2017, full details are available below.

The cruise is currently exclusively booked for RNA and CONA shipmates which can only continue for a limited period Shipmates who would like to attend are required to place a deposit of £100. However, to encourage more Shipmates to book early and ensure the exclusivity the RNA have successfully negotiated with CONA Holiday Service to reduce the deposit so it can be paid in two sums of £50, one now and the other by 31st January.



Come along and get the feel of the sea under your feet and have a 'stonkingly' great time. The drinks package alone is worth it! Look;

Why not add a '*Drinks Inclusive Package*' at a supplement of £15 per person per night*. This includes: House wine, draught beer and soft drinks by the glass during meal hours in the restaurants: Draught beer, house wines, cocktails and other alcoholic drinks by the glass from all bars during opening hours (excluding premium brands): Soft drinks and juices by the glass from all bars during opening hours.

* *The drinks package is only available if all occupants of the cabin book it in advance for the 3 night duration. (Exclusions apply).*

So Shipmates what are you waiting for please book up as early as you possibly can so that the cruise remains as a 'naval deployment'. Full details of the cruise and the booking form can be found at the rear of this Semaphore Circular.

So why not come along and swing that lantern.....

22. ★ 2017 Maritime Calendar

Our thanks go to Lester May for forwarding this Maritime Calendar.

A Maritime Calendar 2017

- US declared war (100) - 6 Apr 1917
- * Tall Ships Festival, Greenwich - 13-16 Apr
- Malta awarded GC (75) - 15 Apr 1942
- * Easter Sunday - 16 Apr
- * Parade of Sail, Greenwich - 16 Apr

- Doolittle Raid from USS Hornet (75) - 18 Apr 1942
 - * ANZAC Day - Dawn Service + Wreath Laying - 25 Apr
- Fall of Burma completed (75) - 26 Apr 1942
 - * Army v Navy Rugby match - 29 Apr
 - * Canalway Cavalcade (29 Apr - 1 May)
 - * May Day - 1 May
- Battle of the Coral Sea (75) - 4-8 May 1942
 - * Navy Wings Supporters Day - 6 May
 - * VE Day - 8 May
 - * ARNO AGM + Reception - 10 May
 - * Graspan Memorial Parade - 14 May
 - * Feast Day of St Brendan the Navigator (Patron Saint of Seafarers) - 16 May
 - * European Maritime Day 2017 - 18-19 May
 - * Seafarers UK - AGM + reception - 23 May
- Convoy System introduced (100) - 24 May 1917
 - * UKNDA - Richard Holmes Memorial Lecture - 24 May
 - * The Glorious First of June - 1 Jun 1794 > 1 June should be Navy Day every year!
 - * ARNO Evening tour + Reception - BRNC Dartmouth - 2 Jun
 - * Shuttleworth Fly Navy Day - 4 Jun
- Battle of Midway (75) - 4-7 Jun 1942
- Start of Six Day War (50) - 5 Jun 1967 > Suez Canal closed for eight years
- D Day - 6 Jun 1944
- Raid on the Medway (350) - 9-14 Jun 1667
 - * HM The Queen's Official Birthday - 10 Jun (+ HRH Duke of Edinburgh's 96th)
 - * Falklands 35 - Pangbourne - 11 Jun
 - * City Naval Club - 100th lunch - 12 Jun
- Fall of Tobruk (75) - 20 Jun 1942
 - * Armed Forces Day - 24 Jun
 - * Seafarers Awareness Week - 24-30 Jun
 - * Seafarers' Day - 25 Jun
- Silver Jubilee Fleet Review (40) - 28 Jun 1977
 - * Feast Day of St Peter (Patron Saint of Fishermen + Shipwrights) - 29 Jun
 - * Arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth - summer/autumn*
 - * Canada Day 150 - 1 Jul
 - * Yeovilton International Air Day - 8 Jul
- HMS Vanguard exploded at Scapa Flow (100) - 9 Jul 1917
- First performance of Handel's Water Music (300) - 17 Jul 1717 (17/7/1717)
 - * Pussers' Association - reception - 24 Jul*
 - * RNAS Culdrose Air Day - cancelled
- PM announced partial return of control of FAA of RAF to Admiralty (80) - 30 Jul 1937
- Attacks on Convoy SC94 (75) - 5-10 Aug 1942
- Operation Pedestal (75) - 3-15 Aug 1942
 - * VJ Day - 15 Aug
 - * Totally Thames - 1-30 Sep
 - * Merchant Navy Day - service - 3 Sep
 - * The Great River Race - 9 Sep
 - * RNA Biennial Parade, London - 10 Sep
 - * London International Shipping Week 2017 - 11-15 Sep
 - * Southampton Boat Show 2017 - 15-24 Sep
 - * World Maritime Day - 20 Sep*
 - * ps Waverley - Thames cruises - 22 Sep to 8 Oct
 - * Invictus Games (Toronto) - 23-30 Sep
 - * Annual National Service for Seafarers - 11 Oct
- HMS Trincomalee launched (200) - 12 Oct 1817
 - * RNWA Annual Dinner - 13 Oct

- * City Naval Club - lunch - 16 Oct
- * Trafalgar Day Wreath Laying Ceremony - 21 Oct
- * Trafalgar Night Dinner - 21 Oct
- * ARNO Annual Trafalgar Church Service - 22 Oct
- Second Battle of El Alamein (75) - 23 Oct to 11 Nov 1942
- * Maritime Media Awards Dinner - 24 Oct*
- Operation Torch (75) - 8-16 Nov 1942
- * Lord Mayor's Flotilla sails downriver to pass under Tower Bridge - 11 Nov
- * Remembrance Sunday - 12 Nov
- * Proctor Memorial Lecture - 17 Nov*
- * Admiralty Service + reception - 27 Nov*
- * Founding of the WRNS (100) - 29 Nov 1917
- Op Frankton: Cockleshell Heroes (75) - 7-12 Dec 1942
- * UK Chamber of Shipping Annual Dinner – 5 Feb 2018

RNA Longcast

2017	
4 April	Flick Drummond MP visits Central Office
07 Apr	Open Day
07 Apr	Deadline for SOC nominations
06 May	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Beccles
12 May	Open Day
02-04 Jun	RNA Conference – Perth
02 Jun	AMC /FAC / National Council Meeting/SOC
03 Jun	SOC (Wash up)
04 Jun	Parade and Church Service
17 Jun	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Chesham and Amersham
24 Jun	National Armed Forces Day - Liverpool
30 Jun	Open Day
01 Jul	RNA Dublin Summer BBQ
27 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Stowmarket
11 Aug	Open Day
25 Aug	FAC
26 Aug	AMC
01 Sep (ish)	Possible arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth (V flexible date)
06 Oct	Open Day
09 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Sep	Biennial Parade
29 Sep - 02 Oct	CONA Cruise (Liverpool –Dublin- Bristol)
30 Sept	Chichester Branch 70 th anniversary event
20 Oct	RNA Dublin- Trafalgar Night Dinner
21 Oct	RNA Chard -30 year Commissioning Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
17 Nov	FAC
18 Nov	AMC
25 Nov	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Royston RNA (Eternit Sports & Social Club)
09 Dec	National Council Meeting

Delegate to Annual Conference 2017 Perth

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2016 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2017 have been received in RNA Central Office (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

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

CONFERENCE TRIP – Saturday 4 June 2017

Finally for those Shipmates, wives, boyfriends, girlfriends, partners and guest who will not be attending the Conference on Saturday!

We're planning a trip to Balhousie Castle for a tour of the Black Watch Museum (*the entrance fee has been waived for this*) and a spot of lunch/afternoon tea (cost approx.: £10 – *TBC dependent on numbers*) for Saturday 3rd June 2017. Visitors will be taken to/from hotels and Balhousie Castle by minibus.

This trip needs to be pre-booked. Please return the attached booking form, there is a blank form at the rear of this edition, if you would like to book any place(s) for this trip.

BALHOUSIE CASTLE / BLACK WATCH MUSEUM TRIP BOOKING FORM

NAME:	
RNA BRANCH:	
NUMBER OF PLACES:	

Please return completed form, by no later than 15th May 2017, to: S/M Ally Stirton. A: 63 Brahan Terrace, Perth, PH1 2LN. E: allystirton@hotmail.co.uk