



# The Semaphore Circular

No 664

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

November 2016



**Gill Molyneux and her daughter Bethany visiting the new exhibition hall at the NMA. Gill was our Guest of Honour at the dedication of the Naval Service Memorial. Gill is the widow of Lt Cdr Dean Molyneux, the WEO of HMS ASTUTE, who lost his life onboard.**

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

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<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>DGS</b>	Deputy General Secretary
<b>AGS</b>	Assistant General Secretary
<b>CONA</b>	Conference of Naval Associations
<b>IMC</b>	International Maritime Confederation
<b>NSM</b>	Naval Service Memorial

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Find Semaphore Circular On-line ; <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads>  
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,*

Welcome to the November Circular, it is a foggy day here in Portsmouth and the fog signals have been sounding all morning, with warships and ferries creeping past the Central Office windows. Preparations for the HMS Queen Elizabeth Carriers are going ahead at a fast pace with the strengthening of the jetties well advanced (just along from us) and work at Trafalgar Gate just started to cope with the higher number of people using the dockyard (sailors and contractors).

A very full Circular this time. We have received quite a lot of feedback recently from Area meetings that the Circular information isn't getting to branch members. It is **really** important that all branch members are kept up to date on RNA news; we have a long list of exciting projects and member benefits, which shipmates should know about. For instance it would be a very poor show if all members in your branch weren't fully up to date on the opportunity for an iPad in Project Semaphore. I do appreciate that the Circular can be quite chunky and the branch secretary may be reluctant to print it off for the meeting. To help with that problem the monthly email to the branch secretary will now have:

- The full Circular in .pdf form (please send by email to all branch members who are on line)
- The Daily Orders section in .pdf – which has all the important up to date news and is much shorter.
- Forms such as the annual returns, which avoids putting them in the main Circ.

Please let me know if this works for you (or not). The National Council has gone to a digital Circular which saves almost £17,000 a year – so please don't struggle with printing costs if that is preventing the branch secretary from showing the important news to the members. Let me know and we will help you with cartridge costs from the Branch and Club support fund. Don't worry we will check that you don't have 5 million quid in the bank from selling some club premises! Also I am keen that all branch secretaries can get emails and the Circ. I have special permission from Aged Vets fund to allow branch secretaries to have an iPad since it will be used to help veterans to get access to the internet. The National Council have cleared a process for helping with broadband costs if necessary for branches.

And so to few admin matters:

- There were very few contacts to CONA Travel, or Central Office for an RNA coach to the Perth Conference, so in view of that we will not be running RNA coaches to Perth.
- Please see the forms for Conference motions, NCM and DNCM elections and two SOC members. The NCM/DNCM elections are needed in 2,6,7,8,9,10 and 11 Areas.
- Branches with Clubs should **immediately** complete the Form C3 and return to Central Office by 16 Dec 16.
- I enclose the form for branch motions at Conference next year, so please put it into your branch meeting agenda – correctly signed forms should be back with me by 10 February 17, don't forget that the whole branch has to vote on the proposed motion as well as the supporting branch. The Standing Orders Committee is available to provide advice to ensure that motions are drafted so that they can be accepted for the agenda.
- Don't forget to book your delegate and observers for Conference.
- It is getting to annual return time (see Michelle's section). I am attaching the forms Word documents to the email, so that the branch secretary and branch treasurer can complete them electronically, this should speed up the process and save on postage – please email them back. Hard copy is, of course, fine too. We have tried to make the forms shorter and easier to understand and complete.

- Please keep the applications for Project Semaphore coming in, for iPads for those not on-line. If you are not sure of eligibility give me a shout and we will sort it out. See Sharon Brown's excellent update in Daily Orders.
- The National Council has now decided that the metal beret badges may be worn. Please note that the RNA fabric badge from Central Office is still preferred. The AMC is considering whether the rules standard bearers should be different.
- The Biennial Parade for 2017 is on 10 September at the Cenotaph, so please put the date in the diary.
- We have produced a simple guide to the duties of a branch treasurer and this will be sent out shortly, just going through final quality assurance checks.

A huge welcome to our new National Chair, Shipmate Keith Ridley (NCM 6) and National Vice Chair, Shipmate Paul Stephenson (NCM 12). Keith's Biography and first Chairman's Chat are in this edition and make great reading. You will be delighted to learn that Shipmate Chris Dovey, the retiring NCh has been elected a National Vice President of the Association.

I had the great privilege with the National President of attending the VIP review of the new visitors centre at the National Memorial Arboretum – we had the invite because of our sponsorship of the Naval Service Memorial (NSM). The new centre is fantastic and we have our own NSM display in the exhibition – the front cover shows it. The Ships Wheel (donated 4 years ago) is now in the naval information point and looks wonderful. The point is just behind the Merchant Navy wood (turn right at the aircraft carrier!!). Our memorial is one of the most popular and most visited. I am delighted to announce that the memorial has been shortlisted for the PMSA award for Excellence in Public Sculpture with the winner announced on 2 November. Details at <https://3rd-dimensionpmsa.org.uk/pmsa-news/2016-10-26-pmsas-marsh-awards-the-2016-shortlist-for-excellence-in-public-sculpture>



I am pleased to say that we have been able to acquire a minibus for the Central Office. It is 20 years old with 55,000 miles and cost £100 and a bottle of rum from some local charity friends! This will save hiring vehicles for moving people and things and for Conference. When not in use it will be parked by the historic dockyard fence and provide a free advertising billboard for visitors!

*All the best from me and the Central Office (HQ) team*

*Paul*



Our National President with Gill Moyneaux and her daughter at the Arboretum exhibition

## Chairman's Chat - November 2016

Welcome Shipmates to this my first Chat as your newly elected National Chairman.

As you will appreciate it will take me a few middle watches to get my head around writing this bi monthly article, so please bear with me whilst I up steam.

I would like to start by acknowledging and thanking three Shipmates who have given endless hours of their personal lives to the Association, these are my predecessor, Chris Dovey, Mike Hesketh who has just stood down from being the National Vice Chairman and Mike's predecessor, Keith Crawford who stood down in 2015. Sadly, all three have suffered setbacks with their health which curtailed their service as National Chairman & Vice Chairmen. On your behalf I thank them for the tireless & endless hours they gave both in and outside of committee meetings and for their commitment to our great Association. Next I would like to acknowledge all members of the National Council who give their time to represent the membership, and a warm welcome to the newly elected National Council Members S/M Dave Ambrose No 5 Area and S/M Peter Godwin No 8 Area. Last but not least, I would like to introduce S/M Paul Stephenson who is our new National Vice Chairman. Paul is the Chairman of Dublin Branch and we both had a close run election for our new roles. I am confident that we shall both work well together and as part of a greater Team; the National Council and Central Office Staff.



So, who am I? , Keith Ridley or simply call me Stokes, unless you are Fleet Air Arm in which case call me SIR! I joined St. Neots & District Branch No 6 Area of the RNA in June 1976, and have been a member of the Branch ever since. Over the past 40 years I have served the Branch as Secretary (8 yrs), President (5 yrs) Chairman (20 yrs), Area Delegate (10 yrs) including, Deputy National Council Member (8 yrs) and since 2012, National Council Member. I obviously was not listening to The Chief when he said "do not volunteer young man".

Why did I join? The wife and I got fed up babysitting for a neighbour while he and his wife went off socialising at what I thought was a Merchant Navy affair, WRONG! Having tackled 'Fred' the rest is history as you will have read above. So, why have I stayed around so long? Simply, I have enjoyed every day of it. Where else would you experience; Unity, Loyalty, Patronism and Comradeship and good humoured banter all in one place from those who serve and have served – Once Navy, always Navy.

During my term of office I want to see the RNA continue to expand. Whilst joining online is steadily increasing, we cannot afford to sit back on our laurels and expect Central Office to wave a magic wand to increase the membership. Branch Committees and individual members all have an important role to play by spreading the word. Always endeavor to have a membership application form in your pocket when out and about. Our Target Group as part of our Strategy Plan is the Navy's Senior Rates and 40-65 year old veterans. Representatives of the RN serve on the National Council, and it is my intention to work closely with them to promote the RNA throughout the Naval Service and to create a better bond. These representatives are Steve Cass, the Warrant Officer of the Naval Service (WONS) and Jan Cox, Command Warrant Officer.

Youth membership is another area I would like to explore, but it will not come without a number of issues that would have to be carefully thought through.

It is amazing just what information you can come across 'surfing the net', this circular for example. The phrase 'surfing the internet' was certainly not a phrase that was around when I arrived at HMS RALEIGH in January 1962 when I joined the most important Branch of the Royal Navy, the Marine Engineering Department to commence training as a Junior Engineering Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. How the world has changed since then. Gone is the stoker who would open valves with his coveted wheel spanner, in has come the computerised valve, operated remotely from the Ship's control room.

With the exception of a handful of Branches, Semaphore Circular (SC) as you know it is now distributed electronically via the internet at great savings to the Association. The SC is accessible to all members who have access to the internet and not just Branch Secretaries, so I would ask Branch Secretaries to remind their members at each Branch meeting to go online and read it. In visiting several branches recently and talking with members it became apparent that vital information may not be reaching the grass roots membership. That said, Branch Secretaries have an important role to play by ensuring you bring to the attention of your members all important matters contained in the circular. Two such vital bits of information are firstly, Project Semaphore. Our General Secretary, Paul Quinn has successfully secured £635000 from Aged Veterans UK to fund the purchase of approximately 1200 iPads. This will provide isolated members and those who do not have access to the internet, the means to do so, by providing them with an iPad and a year's broadband connection. Whilst you may have read about this in previous circulars, it is a worrying fact that the take-up has been rather poor. Please review your Branch members to establish who does not have access to the internet with a view to putting their name(s) forward. It is better to put a name forward rather than miss the boat! The second project is Jutland Wood, Langley Vale, Epsom. The RNA is the main partner with The Woodland Trust in this project. The Target is to plant 6097 trees to commemorate the 6097 naval personnel who lost their lives at the Battle of Jutland 100 years ago. The trees will be planted as Whips, each costing £20. Again, the take up has been very low. I would ask that you spread the word to those you may know who lost a family member at Jutland that they can purchase a Whip in their memory. I encourage Branches and members to purchase a Whip and to consider the purchase of one in memory of a Shipmate who has Crossed the Bar. Details can be found on the RNA website on and how to apply, regarding both projects.



Enough said for now Shipmates. As Captain of my own Boat, PUSSER'S RUM, I must now check that Able Seaman Maureen has cleaned the bright work and squared away the Boat ready for winter.

On behalf of Maureen and myself, we wish you and your families our very best wishes for a Joyful Festive Season. Let us not forget those Shipmates on Deployment, may they have safe passage and a safe return. May you all have a Healthy & Happy New Year.

*Best wishes*

*Keith Ridley*

# Daily Orders

## 1. ☆ Project Semaphore Newsletter- iPads

Report from the Project Manager – Sharon Brown.

There has been a lot of activity recently and I felt this was a good opportunity to update you all on the Project's progress. Due to changes in the project requirement and approach, it was necessary to ensure that the Aged Veterans Fund approved these changes as they have provided the funding and have certain rules on how the money can be used. However, I am pleased to say that the changes were all approved last month and we have the green light to proceed. As many of you know the IT world moves at a pace and in the last 4 months 2 of the iPad models we had selected have been taken out of production by Apple so we have had to select another model. This has resulted in higher costs per iPad which will mean the numbers we will provide in the project will reduce from the 1500 we originally had hoped. *What does that mean to you I hear you cry!* Well if you are eligible and interested don't hesitate get your application in, first come first served!!



We will be opening this opportunity up to other Naval veteran organisations so don't miss out. If you are unsure, go for it!, as nothing ventured, nothing gained. If you don't take to the iPad (which is unlikely once you see what you can do with it!) then it can be reissued to another Shipmate so don't think you will be wasting anyone's time or money. I strongly encourage all of you who are still thinking about it to apply. We have staggered the purchase of the iPads and the first 600 are being built as you read this. We strongly encourage those who are very optimistic about the project to consider getting broadband in your home in preparation as this is the simplest method of connection to the internet. Due to restrictions on the way we can use the funding we are unable to give grants to individuals to pay for broadband. We have a short-term solution but broadband in the home could be the most economical and convenient in the long term if you feel you are likely to enjoy having an iPad.

The next stage is the training for our amazing volunteers, those who will be supporting and training our shipmates and the main beneficiaries of this project. We hope to have some training dates and venues published soon. Remember that volunteers get an iPad themselves to get familiar with the RNA set-up, in exchange for helping those not on-line to join the internet community (and see the grandchildren on a video call!).

For those already online we now have a Project Facebook page called "RNA Central Office HQ – Project Semaphore" – catchy title!! Please add yourself and keep in touch.

If you want to volunteer or register someone for an iPad this is the page where you can do it.

<http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/campaigns>

*Sharon Brown, Project Manager, Project Semaphore.  
(Sharon is a Lt RNR!!!)*



## 2. ☆ 'Change of Watchkeeper on the Bridge' - Introduction to S/m Keith Ridley RNA National Chairman

Born in Pontypridd, South Wales, the family moved to London when I was aged 4. Although a visitor to Wales at every opportunity, my biggest regret is not having a beloved Welsh accent. At 16, following an East London comprehensive school education, I followed my elder brother into the Royal Navy's elite Branch as a Junior Engineering Mechanic (Stoker!).

Aged just 17, my Ship HMS ALBION became the principal Ship for 14 months supporting operations in the Brunei Revolt & Borneo Confrontation. Following a medical discharge from the Navy in 1966 and away from the sea, I made a career in both Local Government Housing and with a Housing Association spanning some 39 years, retiring at a Senior Level.

Having settled in Cambridgeshire, over the last 40 years my spare time has been dedicated to serving the ex servicemen's community within St. Neots having joined the RNA in 1976 serving first as Branch Secretary, then President, Chairman and at Area and National level within No 6 Area as Deputy National Council Member and the last four years as National Council Member. Locally, I was involved with the then Royal British Legion Housing Association having Chaired a committee in managing a Sheltered Housing Development. At present, as the Hon. Secretary & President of the Town's RBL Branch, I currently serve as Chairman of St. Neots Armed Forces Day Committee comprising RNA, RAFA & RBL.



I am married to Maureen, who is an Associate Member, and whom has given great support to both me and loyal service to the RNA over the last 21 years. We have 2 sons and 2 daughters who have given us six wonderful grand children one of whom is called Harry Martin Stanley Evans (HMS Evans!). Although the Navy has never had a Ship by that name, young Harry sports a HMS Evans Cap tally.

For the last 10 years I have been seen cruising the Great River Ouse as Captain of my own 27' cabin cruiser named 'PUSSER'S RUM' proudly flying the Blue Ensign as a member of the Royal Naval Sailing Association. The answer to your question is YES, there is always a bottle of 54.5% proof PUSSER'S onboard for medicinal purposes.

Having been elected the Association's National Chairman, I deem it a great privilege to serve the membership in such a high office, and with the support of the National Council will do my utmost to serve the Association to the best of my ability.

Keith Ridley  
National Chairman

### 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!

RNAD Ernesettle - Devonport under the Tamar Bridge



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### 4. ☆ **Donations received for the Central Charities and the Charter Challenge**

#### **Central Charities**

RNA – Rhondda	£125.45
RNA – Orkney	£50.00

Mark Jones	£40.00
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#### **In memory of the late**

Mrs P Richardson	£250.00
Thomas Fradley	£45.00
Ronald Frederick Simmonds	£28.65
Jack Clapham	£165.11
Margaret Robinson	£170.00
Martin Steven Mitchell	£409.20
Agnes Nash	£393.25
Fred Gordon Halford	£62.60

#### **Charter Challenge**

K Ridley	£45.00
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Thank you very much for your continued support.

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### 5. ☆ **Bob and Cletus Joke**

Cletus is passing by Billy Bob 's hay barn one day when, through a gap in the door, he sees Billy Bob doing a slow and sensual striptease in front of an old John Deere tractor. Buttocks clenched, he performs a slow pirouette, and gently slides off first the right strap of his overalls, followed by the left. He then hunches his shoulders forward and in a classic striptease move, lets his overalls fall down to his hips, revealing a torn and frayed plaid shirt.



Then, grabbing both sides of his shirt, he rips it apart to reveal his stained T-shirt underneath. With a final flourish, he tears the T-shirt from his body, and hurls his baseball cap onto a pile of hay.

Having seen enough, Cletus rushes in and says, "What the world're ya doing, Billy Bob ?"

"Good grief, Cletus, ya scared the bejeebers out of me," says an obviously embarrassed Billy Bob.

"But me'n the wife been havin trouble lately in the bedroom d'partment, and the therapist suggested I do something sexy to a tractor."

Now don't make me come & explain this to you all!

Just read the last line again, slowly.....

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## 6. ☆ RN VC Series - Captain Richard Been Stannard VC DSO RD Royal Navy Reserve

Richard Stannard was born in Blyth Northumberland on 21 August 1902 and crossed the bar in Sydney Australia 22 July 1977 aged 74. He served in the Royal Naval Reserve from 1929 until 1954.

In late April 1940 Lieutenant Stannard was Commanding HMT Arab (FY202) and during an engagement with the enemy in Namos Norway during which the trawler survived 31 bombing attacks and brought down a Heinkel He115 Bomber he was awarded the VC for his actions and leadership.



### The London Gazette published his VC citation;

*Admiralty, Whitehall, 16th August, 1940.*

*The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant Richard Been Stannard, R.N.R., H.M.S. Arab, for outstanding valour and signal devotion to duty at Namsos. When enemy bombing attacks had set on fire many tons of hand grenades on Namsos wharf, with no shore water supply available, Lieutenant Stannard ran Arab's bows against the wharf and held her there. Sending all but two of his crew aft, he then endeavored for two hours to extinguish the fire with hoses from the forecastle. He persisted in this work till he had to give up the attempt as hopeless.*



*After helping other ships against air attacks, he placed his own damaged vessel under shelter of a cliff, landed his crew and those of two other trawlers, and established an armed camp. Here those off duty could rest while he attacked enemy aircraft which approached by day, and kept anti-submarine watch during the night.*

*When another trawler near-by was hit and set on fire by a bomb, he, with two others, boarded Arab and moved her 100 yards*

*before the other vessel blew up. Finally, when leaving the fjord, he was attacked by a German bomber which ordered him to steer East or be sunk. He held on his course, reserved his fire till the enemy was within 800 yards, and then brought the aircraft down.*

*Throughout a period of five days Arab was subjected to 31 bombing attacks and the camp and Lewis gun positions ashore were repeatedly machine-gunned and bombed; yet the defensive position was so well planned that only one man was wounded.*

*Lieutenant Stannard ultimately brought his damaged ship back to an English port. His continuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy was magnificent, and his enterprise and resource not only caused losses to the Germans but saved his ship and many lives.*

— *The London Gazette, 16 August 1940*

Richard Stannard later won a DSO in 1943 for breaking up a U-boat hunting pack during convoy SC 118 when Comanding HMS Vimy. On 4 February 1943, *Vimy* and the destroyer *Beverley*, using HF/DF, located *U-187*, which was shadowing Convoy SC 118 in the North Atlantic, south of Greenland at the exit of the Baffin Bay. Depth charges from the two destroyers sank the submarine 966 km (600 mi) south-east of Cape Farewell, Greenland. *U-187* was on her first cruise and had not had any successes. Nine of her crew members perished, including the Captain, during the sinking, but *Vimy* and *Beverley* rescued 45 men from the water.

Finally as though the above was not enough he was also Mentioned in Despatches during the D Day landings whilst commanding HMS Peacock

After the war Captain Stannard settled in Essex before emigrating to Australia. He died in Sydney on 22 July 1977. In Loughton, Essex, the local council erected a blue plaque to him on his former house in The Avenue, Loughton, Essex.

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## 7. ☆ Assistance Required Please

Central Office received an e-mail from Jack Jennings, please see below, asking if any Shipmate could assist him. His e-mail address is [captainjrj@hotmail.com](mailto:captainjrj@hotmail.com)

*Dear Sir / Madam*

*I have recently been clearing my late Fathers effects and whilst doing so found a badge/medal which I assume is related to the RN in some way and most likely to his Great-Grandfather who died in the Battle of Jutland.*

*Beyond the initials RNEBC, the crown and anchor design and that it refers to something founded in 1903, I am none the wiser and I hoped that you or one of your members might be able to identify what it is.*

*Many thanks*

*Jack*  
*JR JENNINGS*



## 8. ☆ Finance Corner

Dear Shipmates



### ❖ Year End Returns 2014

They are still 6 Branches who have not submitted their accounts to Central Office for 2014.

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

I have informed your Area NCM that you have still not submitted your accounts, so they might offer what assistance is required or you can ring Rita or me.

They are:

- Area 2 - RNA Isle of Sheppey,
- Area 6 - RNA High Wycombe,
- Area 8 - RNA B'ham Cotteridge, RNA Bloxwich
- Area 11 – RNA Redcar

### ❖ Year End Returns 2015

Central Office still has 15 Branches that have not submitted their Year End Returns.

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

They are:

- Area 1 – RNA Carshalton, RNA Greenford
- Area 2 – RNA Isle of Sheppey, RNA Reigate, RNA Sidcup
- Area 6 – RNA High Wycombe
- Area 8 – RNA B'ham Cotteridge
- Area 9 – RNA Bourne, RNA Old Clee, RNA Scunthorpe, RNA Sheffield
- Area 10 – RNA Salford,
- Area 11 – RNA Redcar
- Area 13 – RNA Sutherland

### ❖ Branch / Area Year End Returns & Officers Information forms

You will find the appropriate forms at the rear of this Circular, along with your Branch / Area Officers Information. Forms need to be completed, signed and sent to Central office by the 30 April 2017, either by e-mail or post.

E-mail addresses: [michelle@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:michelle@royalnavalassoc.com) or [rita@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:rita@royalnavalassoc.com)

### ❖ Donations

Donation figures abstracted from the Branch 2015 Year End Returns will be enter in the January 2017 Circular. We are just waiting for the above Branches to send their Returns.

### ❖ Membership

Please note – any Branches that have purchased too many stickers, please don't forget that you can return them to Central Office within this Financial period (Jan-Dec 2016). Any stickers received after the Financial period will not be issued a credit note.

2017 Membership forms are found at the rear of this Circular. Would you all be so kind and please use & complete these forms, this will help any future confusion.

As at the 1 January 2017 Membership fees will be £14.00, Overseas £7.00, Life Membership £140.00 (10 x Membership). These fees were all passed at Conference 2016.

Please make sure your Branch Shipmates pay their subscriptions either by D/D, Cash, Cheques to your **Branch Bank Account** and not HQ Bank Account.

❖ **Slops**

As at the 1 January 2017 the Certificate of Appreciation will cost £25.00, increase passed at Conference 2016.

❖ **Termly Accounts**

Treasurers / Secretaries should have now received your Branch Termly accounts, any queries please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be more than happy to resolve any issues.

❖ **Payment up front**

Since implementing this system in January 2016, I have to say it really has had a positive effect – thank you. Last December we had outstanding balances from branches of £29,000 and at the end of this September the amount is £12,600 (this figure is due to Pooled Fare Invoices raised in August and Termly accounts just been dispatched).

❖ **Expense Claim forms**

Regarding Delegates attending Conference & any Mentors – please note, Central Office will only pay your expenses via BACs, please don't forget to include your Bank details on the form. Thank you.

❖ **Treasurers Role Guide**

By the time you read this article all the Treasurer's should have received the new Treasurer's Role Guide which I have written and produced. Hopefully this should really help and guide you in your elected Role.

❖ **Moving on from working issues,**

I completed the 10k memory walk on the 24 September in under 2hours. By the numbers talking part, this terrible illness effects more people than you realise, but hopefully monies raised will eventually combat this illness. I have personally have thanked everyone who sponsored me, in which, I raised over £400. Thanks again, I do appreciate your support.

Yours Aye , Michelle

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9. ☆ **Assistance Please - Badge**

Does anyone recognise the badge in the photo. If so, please e-mail Bob McMorran at [Robert.mcmorran@sky.com](mailto:Robert.mcmorran@sky.com)



## 10. ☆ S/M Margaret Tedrick

Shipmate Margaret attended Conference as the delegate representing Long Beach RNA California until it decommissioned and is now an HQ Roll Overseas member. She now resides in Florida and has forwarded the following article for Shipmates information.



*RNA HQ (Overseas) member S/M Margaret Tedrick who lives in Ormond Beach, Florida, reports that she has been very busy for the last three years working with Veterans in her area creating a new Veterans Museum and Education Centre. After many months searching for premises a local physician donated part of a building he owns to be used by the Museum. Finally, the Dedication Ceremony for this endeavour was held on Saturday, August 6, 2016. She is pleased to report that the event was a huge success with around 250 people in attendance. The local newspapers published articles and provided publicity. Various speakers delivered encouraging and inspiring speeches. All in all a great day! It certainly made all the hard work worthwhile.*

*The Veterans requested S/M Margaret to set up a section for the allies, in particular, Great Britain. She was delighted to do this and here are some pictures of her efforts.*

*She is planning to be at the RNA Conference in Perth, Scotland, next year and is requesting that if any Shipmates have some small artifacts they would like to donate to her section she would be delighted to receive them. Her thanks go to the Shipmates of West Lothian Branch RNA who donated the two jackets you see in the photos, along with some smaller items.*

*Also, if any Shipmates visit the Orlando area, or the Central/North Atlantic Coast area of Florida she encourages you to get in touch with her to plan a visit to her area.*

Margaret can be contacted by e-mail her address is [travellingwren@hotmail.com](mailto:travellingwren@hotmail.com)

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## 11. ☆ German Shepherd Joke

A German Shepherd starts chasing rabbits and before long, discovers that he's lost. Wandering about, he notices a panther heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old German Shepherd thinks, "Oh, oh! I'm in deep do-do now!" Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat. Just as the panther is about to leap, the old German Shepherd exclaims loudly,



"Boy, that was one delicious panther! I wonder if there are any more around here?"

Hearing this, the young panther halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

"Whew!" says the panther, "That was close! That old German Shepherd nearly had me!"



Meanwhile, a squirrel who had been watching the whole scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the panther. So, off he goes.

The squirrel soon catches up with the panther, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the panther.



The young panther is furious at being made a fool of and says, "Here, squirrel, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!"

Now, the old German Shepherd sees the panther coming with the squirrel on his back and thinks, "What am I going to do now?" But instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to

his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old German Shepherd says...

"Where's that squirrel? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another panther!"

Moral of this story...

Don't mess with the old dogs. Age and skill will always overcome youth and treachery! Craft and brilliance only come with age and experience.

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## 12. Update of RNA & Naval Associations Deployment to Ireland on the MV Marco Polo (Renamed HMS Marco Polo) - 'Mini Cruise' 29 Sep -02 October 2107

***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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.



The full programme of events for the cruise is still being constructed however just confirmed on the entertainment front is the unashamedly famous *Shep Woolley and the Shanty Men*.

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.....**

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### 13. ☆ Londonderry Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations 6/7<sup>th</sup> 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 for same will be 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](mailto:frankjf22brown@gmail.com)



## 14. Woodland Trust (Jutland Wood)

Please see below an article below written by Vice Admiral Sir David Steel KBE DL, former Second Sea Lord who is now an Ambassador for Woodland Trust.

Those who attended, or watched on the news, the Orkney commemoration for the centenary of the Battle of Jutland could not fail to be moved by the occasion.

Similarly, I know of many people who have been touched by the wonderful exhibition, '36 Hours', displayed at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, revealing the brutality of the battle which claimed the lives of 6,097 Royal Navy officers and ratings in such a short period of time.

The Woodland Trust with the Royal Naval Association is to deliver a lasting tribute to all those British sailors who died in the battle with the creation of Jutland Wood, an eight-acre site at the Trust's First World War Centenary Wood in Langley Vale, Surrey . Eight acres of this glorious site will be used to create a wood of four groves containing a tree for each of the fallen and a semi mature oak to represent each ship sunk.

I know it's something many of you already know about as a number of branches and individual members have kindly dedicated trees to honour our men. Market Drayton branch took the time to write to the Woodland Trust to say thank you after the trust allocated them an appropriate Serviceman to dedicate a tree to. In a fitting tribute the branch reported that they toasted the memory and sacrifice of their shipmate, Valentine Cooper, with a tot of rum.

As the Trust's ambassador for this poignant memorial, my heartfelt thanks go out to those of you who have contributed already, especially the National Council which has generously sponsored two specimen oaks in the avenue of 14 trees. The campaign has got off to a good start with more than 180 dedications so far, but there's a long way to go if we are to reach our target of dedicating every tree.

Planting will start in 2017 and the wood will be officially opened on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018. If you would like to join me in helping create this living tribute and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice, you can find out more at [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/jutland](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/jutland) or ask your branch for a leaflet. I know that you already contribute so much to other good causes but please consider dedicating a tree for the Jutland Wood, a dedication which future generations can enjoy while remembering those who did not return.

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## 15. ☆ Unashamedly Shep Woolley – Gunners School Joke Book!!

At the Whale Island the Gunners School of Music received no grants of financial support we were so poor..... we only had 2 recorders - the rest had rulers.

Skipper of the newest RN ship....

As we ploughed through the raging main one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this vessel was supplied by the lowest bidder.

If life were fair, Elvis would still be alive today and all



the impersonators would be dead.

I booked into a hotel in Blackpool - I told the receptionist I was an Armed Services Vet  
She asked "What is the biggest animal you have treated?"

*(Editor Note - Thank you Shep they were truly dreadful, I would give up the day job.....)*

Oh by the way.....Shep would like to remind Shipmates that his new Album 'Sailors on a Train'  
would make a great stocking filler pressie at Christmas!

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## 16.☆ Type 42 Association Reunion 003.

The Type 42 Association Reunion 003 will be held at HMS Excellent on 22 Jul 2017.  
Open to all who have served on a Type 42 Destroyer, Discounted tickets for all fully paid up  
association members, new members can sign up to the association via the website.



BGM Start 1230 hrs Finish 1345 hrs  
Reunion Start 1400 hrs, Finish 2100 hrs  
HMS Excellent, Sports Field

Tickets: Members £10 + 1 Guest £10 & Non Members £30  
For Info email: [chairman@type42association.co.uk](mailto:chairman@type42association.co.uk) For tickets  
email: [deanpullom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deanpullom@yahoo.co.uk)

Web site: [www.type42association.co.uk](http://www.type42association.co.uk) click on forum or visit our Facebook page Type 42  
Association

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## 17.☆ Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)



RNRMC has just published its Impact Report for 2016 for  
information you can find some of the highlights below;

- More than £8.1million has been granted to projects, charities, causes and individuals in support of Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel by The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) in 2015 – the highest ever amount distributed by the Group.
- Achievements involving the veteran community were particularly abundant, with 45 new volunteer support officers being recruited and trained through the Royal Marines Association's Veteran Support Network, to assist in delivering welfare support and camaraderie to the wider RMA network and its pool of 12,000 members. Similar funding from the Royal Marines Charity saw 150 medically downgraded, or former, Royal Marines benefiting from an experienced business mentoring programme to help them transition into civilian life.



For the Royal Naval Officers' Charity, 2015 heralded a record-breaking year, both in terms of the number of applications received in to the charity and the total amount given in grants and annuities, totalling £316,286 (up 15 per cent on 2014). The oldest officer in receipt of a grant was 93 years old and the youngest just 23.

- The charity's international brand awareness reached new heights in 2015 thanks to the support of fundraisers such as Irene Robinson, an aspirational piper from Poole, who raised funds across all seven continents in aid of the charity: "I was passionate in choosing the RNRMC and trusted that my fundraising efforts would have a positive effect on serving personnel, veterans and in particular families," she says.

A team of HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier cyclists from the Royal Navy and the Aircraft Carrier Alliance meanwhile completed a challenging 5-day ride over 500 miles from Edinburgh to the City of London raising nearly £7,000 for the charity.

- At a glance: key charitable achievements:

- 2.4 million worth of Greenwich Hospital funds distributed to 28 frontline Naval and military charities around the world, supporting and improving the lives of more than 25,000 beneficiaries
- 72p in every £1 spent on charitable activities
- More than £300,000 secured for Naval projects in partnership with The Nuffield Trust for the Forces of the Crown
- Re-affirmation of Royal Navy commitment to its charity in 2016 Charter signing.
- The coming together of the Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund and the C Group as the Royal Marines Charity to give a more focussed charity to serve the Royal Marines.
- A 20% increase in active volunteers year-on-year



## 18. ☆ 'JacksTaxi' Christmas Presents Prints

Dear Shipmates,

My name is Nick Barwis, an ex-Royal Navy Cook and I create digital art at <http://www.jackstaxi.net/>. I served from 1977 until disabled out in 1982. I started the website three years ago when it became apparent that I might be on disability benefit for the rest of my years! Jacks Taxi is a website which has grown over the last 3 years and now has well over 1,500 of Pusser's finest ships from WW1 to the present day on site as limited edition art prints. It also stocks over 400 framed ship and FAA squadron crests.



I am hoping that you will be kind enough to pass my details onto your members as my work has gone down extremely well with Jack so far.

I have attached a couple of samples of my work and if you would like to see the entire collection please go to the website.

Thanking you in advance. Yours aye

Nick Barwis (D166158P) PS. Better than socks for Christmas!!



## 19 . ☆ British Forces Philatelic Service

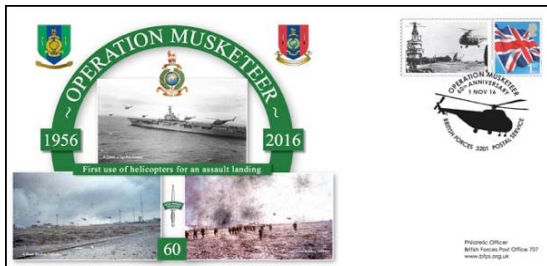
First Ever Use Of The Helicopter For An Assault Landing - Operation Musketeer was the Anglo-French plan for the invasion of the Suez Canal in 1956. As part of this helicopters were used to transport Royal Marines of 45 Commando 9 miles from the aircraft carrier HMS Theseus to Port Said. This was the first ever use of helicopters for an assault landing.

BFPS has produced a commemorative cover to mark this groundbreaking use of helicopters.

The images used on the cover and the specially produced smiler stamp were taken by 'troops on operation' and provide a real sense of history in the making. The smiler stamp will be cancelled by the 'BFPS 3201 Operation Musketeer' handstamp, which incorporates an image of the iconic Wessex Whirlwind helicopter.

The cover may be ordered from the BFPS online shop ([www.bfps.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfps.org.uk/shop)) from the 18th October 2016 and will cost just £7.50 (UK/BFPO p&p free).

You can also order the covers by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS The Old Post Office Links Place Elie Fife KY9 1AX.



Above BFPS 3201 Operation Musketeer special handstamp

Smiler stamp showing a Wessex Whirlwind helicopter landing on the deck of HMS Theseus.

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## 20. ☆ Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee – Public Appointments

Please see below a letter from Kerry Wright the Veterans UK Business and Partnership Manager;

*Dear Shipmates,*

*I work for Veterans UK (formerly the Veterans Agency and War Pensions Agency). We are a Department of the Ministry of Defence which provides essential support services to the armed forces and veterans including:*

- *allowances*
- *pensions*
- *compensation payments to those injured or bereaved through service*

- 1 to 1 veterans welfare support

*The Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committee (VAPC) is an independent body which acts as a bridge to:*

- *act as advocates for implementing the Armed Forces Covenant and associated measures at a local level.*
- *advise and guide UK Veterans of their rights and where to turn in the complex world of government pensions and other allowances.*
- *listen to complaints when things go wrong and, where we can, help to sort them out.*
- *assist Veterans in obtaining help from the appropriate ex-service charity or government department.*

I am the Focal Point within the Veterans UK tasked with assisting the VAPCs with recruitment issues. VAPC Chairmen and Members are Public appointments approved by the Minister for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel. The posts are voluntary but Travelling expenses and loss of earnings are payable. For those interested in applying for the roles this is a fantastic opportunity to play a central role in promoting the interests and welfare of Veterans and their families.



The posts are currently being advertised on both the Public Appointments and the Cabinet Office websites and will close on 15 May 2017. However, it is in the interests of each Committee to advertise as widely as possible in order attract a range of candidates from a variety of different backgrounds which is why I would be grateful for your assistance in publicising these locally. Maybe your Armed Forces Community Covenant Boards/Champions would be able to assist. If you could also forward the adverts to any of your acquaintances (please see links below) who you think may be interested and who would fit the person specification that would be helpful.

In summary, the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPCs) work within the local community promoting the Armed Forces Covenant and assisting veterans and their dependents to access local services. These are voluntary, unpaid posts but highly rewarding in other ways.”

### **Current vacancies**

[Public Appointments website - Chair advert](#) (closing date 20 November 2016)

[Public Appointments website - Member advert](#) (closing date 20 November 2016)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Kerry Wright Vets UK Business and Partnership Manager Veterans UK  
 Ministry of Defence Room 6406| Tomlinson House | Norcross| Thornton Cleveleys | FY5 3WP|  
 01253 332699| Internal email: DBS Vets-Head-Coord

## **21.☆ Use of Force!**

This month we will leave you with this thought for the day!.....

*It is only when you see a mosquito landing on your testicles that you realise that there is always a way to solve problems without using violence. (Courtesy of an NCM..)*



## RNA Longcast

<b>2016</b>	
5 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Harwich
6 Nov	Banbridge Remembrance Parade
10 Nov	Field of Remembrance – Westminster Abbey
12 Nov	NS at Albert Hall
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – NVCh and GS at Cenotaph
18 Nov	FAC Meeting
19 Nov	AMC Meeting
10 Dec	National Council Meeting
23 –3 Jan 17	HQ Closed for Christmas
<b>2017</b>	
04 Feb	Area 5 Quarterly / AGM Meeting - Harwich
09 Feb	Independent Examination
10 Feb	Motions Deadline
17 Feb	SOC
17 Feb	FAC
18 Feb	AMC
11 March	National Council Meeting
07 Apr	Open Day
07 Apr	Deadline for SOC nominations
06 May	Area 5 Quarterly / AGM 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)
24 Jun	National Armed Forces Day - Liverpool
30 Jun	Open Day
June	Possible arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth (V flexible date)
27 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly / AGM Meeting - Stowmarket
11 Aug	Open Day
25 Aug	FAC
26 Aug	AMC
06 Oct	Open Day
09 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Sep	<b>Biennial Parade</b>
29 Sep - 02 Oct	CONA Cruise ( Liverpool –Dublin- Bristol)
21 Oct	RNA Chard -30 year Commissioning Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly / AGM Meeting - Harwich
17 Nov	FAC
18 Nov	AMC
09 Dec	National Council Meeting

D'ye hear there'.....

## *News from around the Areas and Branches*

### **RNA Sleaford Branch**

Sleaford Branch, was officially visited by the No 9 Area Chairman and former National Vice Chairman, Shipmate Keith Crawford MBE from Spalding. S/M Keith's visit to the Branch also coincided with the inauguration of a new President, Commander Gary Titmus RN (Rtd), who is a former Mayor of Sleaford and Town Councillor. S/M Gary is also the longstanding President of The Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, which he has given service to for many years.



Branch Secretary Shipmate Peter Corby, commented that despite the resignation of the 'old guard' who wished to branch to cease, an active new recruitment programme including its own Facebook page, had well succeeded the Branches expectations. Sleaford Branch also won the prestigious R.N.A. Briggs Rose Bowl, which is awarded to the Branch with fewer than 30 full members who have recruited the most new full members in the year and the No.9 Area R.N.A Silver Membership salver.

Royal Naval Association Sleaford Branch is alive and continues to recruit new veteran members and this is the message it wishes to send to the local community.

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### **RNA Huntingdon and District**

Shipmates from Huntingdon & District Branch continued with their community activities by attending two Merchant Navy Day parades in Ramsey and Huntingdon. On the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2016, shipmates Graham Murray and Karl Webb were invited to the service in Ramsey which was also attended by the High Sheriff of Cambridge, Deputy Lord lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, the Mayor of Ramsey and VIPs from Cambridgeshire.



With the President of the Merchant Navy Association unavailable for the day, Shipmate Karl Webb was honoured to be asked to give a speech detailing the role of the Merchant Navy during both World Wars and the close working relationship with the Royal Navy.



A service was also held in Huntingdon on the 5<sup>th</sup> September, once again, S/M Karl Webb represented the RNA and took part in the service at the War Memorial.

Since the last edition of the Semaphore Circular, shipmates from Huntingdon Branch were pleased to hear that our No 6 Area NCM, Shipmate Keith Ridley, has been elected as National Chairman for the Association. Keith is a regular at Huntingdon Branch and is often seen at our local parades and activities; he has some big shoes to fill after shipmate Chris Dovey stood down, but we are sure he will do an excellent job, BZ Keith, the branch look forward to seeing you at its Annual Trafalgar Night Dinner.



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## RNA Glasgow Branch

Glasgow Clan once again celebrated Admiral Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar with a weekend and a celebratory dinner in the Arrochar Hotel. There were 33 members and guests at this event where two of the guests took a small part in the entertainment. Colin Botfield from URNU (Glasgow University) did a talk on Nelson in costume, and S/m Andy MacDonald from the Grangemouth Branch was roped in to do the compare at our SODS Opera. The company were most amused at this entertainment. S/m Edward Pollar donated a bottle of Pusser's Gunpowder for the toast to Nelson.



S/m Brian MacKenzie is seen modelling the new RNA Tartan that has been commissioned for the National Conference in 2017. He has also been offered a modelling contract on the back of this shoot by Vogue where he will star on the front page of the prestigious publication 'Bomber Queen'. He is also planning a Cat Walk during the RNA Conference in Perth Darling!

Many Thanks to S/M Kenn McKinnon for the photos.

## RNA South Gloucestershire

*Branch Hon Sec Shipmate Margaret Singleton forwarded this article inform one and all that very sadly South Gloucestershire Branch is de-commissioning.*

Early in 2005 a couple of Bristol South RNA shipmates thought it would be better if they could form a local RNA branch nearer to where they lived. The first official meeting of RNA South Gloucestershire Branch took place at The Royal British Legion, Staple Hill, nr.Bristol with 20 attendees and was commissioned on Wednesday 28th September 2005. Within a year we had bought our Standard which was paraded at many events over the 11 years of our existence.

Since 2005 we have maintained a membership of 20-25 shipmates but somehow could never find younger shipmates to join us. In August 2007 we stumbled when our Founder Chairman, Branch Secretary and Welfare Officer resigned, but from that point we grew strong as a branch. As a Founder member, our Vice-Chairman Bob Walker took over as Chairman 'no-one else was daft enough to do it' his words! and his oppo s/m Eric Talbot agreed to take on the position of Vice Chairman (He hit 90 this year). Our new Honorary Secretary who took over has been the lynch pin of our branch and when our Founder Member s/m Bernie Allen as Treasurer died, his wife bravely took over and has done a sterling job. We have been a united Committee throughout but we could not have done any of this without the support of our shipmates, especially the ladies who have always 'come up with the goods' when an event called for it.

During our 11 year existence we have had to find 3 places to meet, through no fault of our own, but we knew this day would come as we were all getting older and seemed unable to attract younger shipmates to join us. Both Chairman and Honorary Secretary are resigning and sadly there is no-one able to take over and so South Gloucestershire branch of the R.N.A. will be unable to function.

We hold our last meeting on Monday 14th December 2016 and we Lay Up our Standard @ Downend Church, Downend Road, Downend, Nr. Bristol on Sunday 15th January 2017 @ 1500 hrs. All, including Standards are very welcome. Tea and Sticky Buns will be laid on afterwards, next door @ Downend Cricket Club.

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## RNA Reigate

Stop press..... Two Shipmates from Reigate Branch have climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to raise funds for the Walking with the Wounded charity. Sisters Lauren & Shaney Bolton are at present half way up the mountain and are planning to reach the summit by dawn on Friday. The girls have found the adventure both physically and mentally taxing but are in high spirits and are going all out to reach the summit.



## RNA Newton Abbot Branch

The Branch held a successful Curry night with 50+ guests. The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Social Secretary dressed as a Press Gang, successfully encouraged 7 guests to 'Join' the Branch as full members. A fabulous spread was put on, thanks to the dedication and hard work of Shipmates Nicola Cair and Barbara Underhill.

The evening ended with a raffle and a game of "Port Roll" (roll a coin towards the bottle, closest wins) which the Chairman won.



The Annual Skittles competition against the Royal British Legion Newton Abbot was also held and by a narrow margin of just 1 point, the RNA won.

The opportunity was also taken to present the Chairman of the Royal British Legion with a cheque for £250 in aid of the 2016 Poppy Appeal.

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## RNA Market Harborough

On Saturday 22 October 2016 Market Harborough Branch celebrated the glorious victory at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. 60 members and guests sat down to a formal dinner at Market Harborough Golf Club. The guest of honour was Vice Admiral Sir Paul Lambert KCB who proposed the Toast to the Immortal Memory. The Loyal Toast was made by Shipmate Jim Oliver, a wartime Navy Pilot and a founder member of the Branch. A message of greeting was received from Her Majesty The Queen. The Vice Admiral ordered Splice the Mainbrace.



## RNA Spalding

*Shipmates will I am sure enjoying reading the article below;*

S/M Terry Day, The Hon Secretary of Spalding Royal Naval Association and his wife S/M Shirley were invited to attend the preview event to explore the new facilities, discover Heroes' Square and the Boyes Garden, and uncover a variety of moving stories in the new Landscapes of Life Exhibition, prior to the opening to the public on 21<sup>st</sup> October, of the £15 million New Remembrance Centre at the National Memorial Arboretum.



After the dedication in the main Remembrance Centre, the guests were led into Heroes' Square, for a short prayer. In Heroes Square, Terry and Shirley saw for the first time, a memorial paving stone dedicated to Terry's dad, Reginald Day who was a Merchant Naval Seaman who served during The Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War.

Whilst returning home from the Far East on board SS AENEAS in Convoy OA176 off the coast of Devon, being the largest ship in the convoy, was singled out for aerial attack by the Luftwaffe. The ship was sunk with the loss of 19 lives. Three months later whilst serving on board SS EUROMEDON in Convoy OB217 in Mid Atlantic, his ship was torpedoed by German U boat U29 and sunk two days later, with the loss of 28 lives. Due to his injuries Reg was

discharged from Merchant Naval Service and was unable to go to sea again, This was devastating to Reg who had been going to sea for the past 8 years, since he was sixteen years old.

Terry says to be invited to the preview was a great honour, to see how such a fantastic transformation had been made to the Arboretum as a whole, and to be able to have a memorial to one's father in the Heroes' Square of Remembrance, makes me burst with pride.

## RNA Rayleigh Branch

Here is a round-up of Rayleigh Branch news courtesy of .....

Shipmate Jean Barker recently brought in a little curio of her late father's for Hon Sec S/M Gary (The Roving Reporter) Daisley investigate. Believed to have been used in the Navy, it turned out to be a Carl Zeiss Jena 8x21 Turmon (folding monocular). This model was manufactured in Germany from 1921, and was presented in a beautifully crafted custom leather case. The pre-war model handed to me at last week's meeting was sold by J.H Steward Ltd, 406 The Strand, London, with the serial number 1364050, and dates to around 1937. The folding Porro-prism monocular was actually a bit of optical design genius. Whether it's simply legend or truth, it's believable that this monocular design has been used for espionage work. It is a "spy glass" in every sense of the term — being quite easily concealed in the hand when folded for use. Given the quality of its optics and design, it would be perfect for that sort of thing.

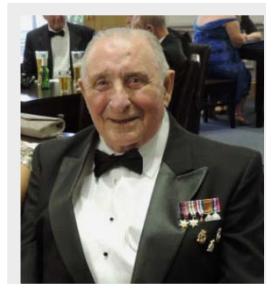


Value: There are still plenty of these around, and can sell for anything between £30-£100 for a really good example!

Congratulations to Shipmate Dave Mead our most recently appointed Welfare Officer has now received his official WO ID Card, and continues his excellent support for our more needy members. He has been also spotted wearing his new shiny new RNA tie, blazer and blazer

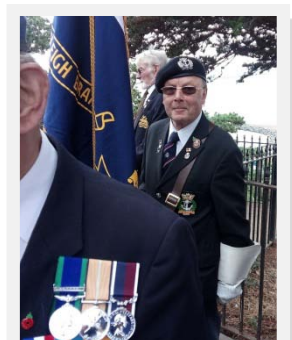
badge at the Branch meeting earlier this month. - Well done Dave.

Project Semaphore... A formal application has been made to HQ for Shipmate Les Holyome to be accepted as a "candidate" under Project Semaphore (an RNA initiative to bring "digitally isolated" Shipmates online). A formal application has also been made for S/M Gary Daisley to undertake training as a "volunteer" to become part of the training and support team.



RNA Car Stickers..... S/M Dave Mead is now taking orders for RNA Car Window Stickers. Priced at just £2.75 each, RNA Car Stickers make a great addition to your car windscreen, now that we no longer need to display a valid road fund licence (tax disc) or Guinness bottle label..!

Shipmates and members of the RNA (Rayleigh Branch), enjoying the hospitality of the Naval & Military Club (Southend-on-Sea), at Sunday's Parade and Church Service in commemoration of those who gave their lives in The Battle of Britain. In the presence of Her Worship Mayor Councillor Judith McMahon on Sunday 18th September 2016 at St. John's Town Centre Church (The Lifeboat Church) in Southend.



S/M Margaret Day reported that all 40 places for this year's Turkey and Tinsel trip to Weymouth in Dorset are now fully booked. The visit (organised by Isle of Wight Tours) is scheduled for late November.



Area-5 Standard Bearer, Rayleigh Branch Vice-Chairman, Entrepreneur and all round good egg, Shipmate Terry Barker has received his Joining Instructions and was to carrying the Area Standard at this year's "Nelson Service" at Burnham Thorpe in Norfolk on 2 October and at the Remembrance Parade in Rayleigh on 13 November. Terry has also been busy organising next year's Speakers for our Branch meetings, and now has a very full calendar. - Well done Terry (even if he doesn't know how to wear a beret properly)!

The date for the Branch AGM is now set for Wednesday 1st February 2017, with the positions of Honorary Secretary and Welfare Officer up for formal election, Honorary Treasurer up for re-election, and the positions of Social Secretary and PR Officer up for grabs. The formal nomination procedure for the above positions will be posted in January 2017, but please approach the Branch Secretary if you would like to put your (or someone else's) name forward for the committee election.



Added incentive... We have invited a photographer to the 2017 Branch AGM in order to take a group photo of the entire Ships Company (no excuses for turning up out of rig this time).

The photographer will also be briefed to update our committee mugshots, and will be available for individual portrait (or group) photos for anyone who may want them.

Finally..... The successful “first attempt” to rejuvenate the annual Branch dinner/dance came as a breath of fresh air in the guise of the 30th Anniversary Ball at the Saxon Hall, Rochford earlier this year (see The Moorings #23). Next year’s Ball and showcase event for Rayleigh Branch will follow a similar format, and is to be known as our Annual Mess Dinner.

Plans are already underway for 2017, with a provisional date in August pencilled in at the same venue. So please start gathering support from family and friends to help make this VIP gala function the success it deserves to be.

*(Editors Note – My aren’t they busy in Essex)*

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## **RNA France Nord Branch**

France Nord members were invited to the island of Noirmoutier in the Vendee region of France for a special memorial ceremony dedicating a new memorial for two Canadian pilots, flying with Coastal Command during World War II, whilst on patrol they spied four German minesweepers trapped, at low tide, in the marshy area of an estuary.

Fifteen members went down for a very special and well organised day, with the relatives of the deceased pilots, the Canadian ambassador, and a representative of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and many French dignatories.

We laid a wreath at the new memorial and another on the graves in the town cemetery, where we also discovered some graves of people from the Lancastria disaster in 1941, (their bodies had floated down and found on Noirmoutier).

Please look at the video, we hope you will all find it interesting. It can be found at this link;  
[www.facebook.com/ricmbarbatre](http://www.facebook.com/ricmbarbatre)

*(Editor Note – You may be in enemy territory (Post Brexit) but you will never be forgotten..)*

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## **RNA Belfast Branch**

President Cdr. Peter Campbell LVO OBE DL RN is presented with a commemorative book of his history as our President. A job given to him by Lord Mountbatten



RNA Belfast Annual Trafalgar Dinner and Church Parade

## RNA Stowmarket Branch

Once Navy, Always Navy – even in deepest rural Suffolk you'll find a naval presence, and on Tuesday 20th September the Stowmarket branch of the Royal Naval Association celebrated the blessing of its standard, just four months after having been commissioned.

Conducting the blessing fell to Australian, Pastor George Samiec, who having arrived in England in 2002, found life with the 'Poms' was actually fun. In addition to his pastoral duties, George also serves as a Police Chaplain for Suffolk Constabulary and as the 'Padre' for the local Sea Cadet Unit in Mildenhall. George read from Matthew, Chapter 5, quoted from Shakespeare and as every agrees, conducted an excellent ceremony.



Stowmarket is the first RNA branch to be commissioned in the East of England in fourteen years, and now proudly has twenty shipmates on its Watch & Station Bill. Remembrance Sunday will see members of the branch take their place in Stowmarket's parade through the town, before attending a church service and paying their respects at the town's Memorial Gates.

Each and every member is proud of having served in the Royal Navy and continue to follow the traditions and camaraderie that only Naval Service life can instil, along with the RNA's core values of Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and Comradeship.

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## RNA Plymouth Branch

Plymouth Branch will be holding its 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Trafalgar weekend in the Livermead House Hotel, Torquay over the weekend;

Friday October 13<sup>th</sup> – Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

2 Nights. Dinner/Bed/Breakfast £124

3 Nights Dinner/Bed/Breakfast £180

Saturday Night Formal followed on Sunday by a Church Service Sunday morning.

For further details please contact :

Sue Gutteridge

Social Secretary.

E. [suzanne5571@virginmedia.com](mailto:suzanne5571@virginmedia.com)

T. (01752) 849176

## RNA City of Inverness



The attached photo shows Sea Cadets from Inverness wearing what was left of the 'Charter Challenge' polo shirts, all of which were small/midget size that would not fit the average RNA Shipmate! So they were 'donated' to the Sea Cadets by Inverness Chairman who had been sniffing around Nigel's Slops Store on a recent visit to Central Office !

Shipmates may want to get rid of, the sea cadets in Inverness would gratefully accept, as the CO Lt.Cdr Robbie Hay tells me they survive on hand outs.....

As Brucie would say 'didn't they do well!'

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## RNA Douglas Branch

On Trafalgar Day three Shipmates from Douglas Branch: S/Ms Jess Owen, Tom Quirk and Tommy Claughey attended a Church Service at Arbory Church in Ballabeg, a small village on the Isle of Man. They were joined by members of the Royal British Legion. This church is unique as it is the burial place of Captain John Quilliam RN, who was First Lieutenant on HMS Victory during the Battle of Trafalgar and who helped steer her into battle. It is also one of the few non- Naval establishments to be permitted to fly the White Ensign. The Service included a re-enactment of aspects of the Battle of Trafalgar and the life of Capt Quilliam carried out by the pupils of Arbory Primary School, in appropriate period dress, as they do every year with great enthusiasm, which helps to ensure that the memory of Trafalgar lives on. Proceedings finished with a stirring chorus of 'Hearts of Oak.' Attached are some photos of me with the Standard, along with the others, at the graveside of Capt. Quilliam.



## RNA Cardiff Branch

Sadly Cardiff Branch regret to announce that one of their oldest members – S/M 'Topsy' Turner - has crossed the bar.

Topsy was a WWII submariner and, like many of his age in the 'Silent Service' , spoke little of his achievements. Although not attending branch meetings for quite a while through illness, he will be missed and remembered by many of his shipmates. His funeral will be at 14:00 on Thursday 3rd Nov at Thornhill crematorium in Cardiff. All are welcome.



## RNA York Branch

Commodore Gary Doyle, The Naval regional Commander for Northern England and The Isle of Man was the guest speaker at York RNA and RMA Trafalgar Dinner on 21 October 2016, at the York Monk Bar Hotel. Commodore Doyle was presented with a memento of his visit to York by Shipmate Peter Shepherd, Chairman RNA York.



On Sunday 23 October, The Sheriff of York, Mr Jonathan Tyler and the Sheriff's lady Mrs Brenda Tyler attended our Service at the Guild Church of All Saints Pavement York. On completion of the service there was a Parade through York to the Mansion House. The Sheriff inspected the Standards on parade, read a lesson then took the Salute opposite the Mansion House in York. This was followed by a reception in the Clarence Street WMC for a TOT and

Buffet lunch.

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## RNA Spalding Branch

Spalding Branch Members and friends held their annual Trafalgar Night Dinner at Whaplode Manor, Saracens Head, Spalding to remember Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar, on the 211th Anniversary of the battle. Invited guests were Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP CBE and Mrs Susan Hayes. Councillor Rodney Grocock Vice Ch. South Holland District Council (also a Branch Member), and Mrs. Christine Grocock. Following a 3 course meal, Councillor S/M Grocock gave his toast to Admiral Lord Nelson with an insight into the Battle of Trafalgar on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1805.



John Hayes MP CBE took the occasion to present Spalding RNA Associate Member S/M Brian Payne, with the RNA Certificate Of Appreciation. This is the highest award that the RNA can bestow on an Associate Member. The award was made for Brian's role as an RNA Standard Bearer. He has been Spalding Branch Standard Bearer for 10 years and also Number 9 Area Standard Bearer since 2009. Brian has represented The RNA, Area and Branch in all parts of the country and abroad. He represented 9 Area two occasions competing in the biennial National Standard Bearers Competition. S/M Brian has never failed to represent the Area or

Branch whenever asked to do so, regardless of the location.

## RNA Rhondda Branch

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Rhondda Branch laid up their existing Standard which was approaching 60 years of age. It was first Dedicated when the branch first formed in the mid to late 1950s. Since the Branch reformed in 2014 it was the aim of the members to purchase a new Standard which resulted in a flurry of fund raising activities resulting in the purchase of the Standard which was dedicated during the same service for the laying up.



The Branch members were honoured to welcome the newly elected National Chairman, Shipmate Keith Ridley who, although having lived in Cambridgeshire for many years, has never forgotten his Pontypridd roots. We were also honoured to welcome Major John Charles, he was deputising for the Lord Lieutenant of the County.



We were also joined by shipmates from Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff, Newport and Llanelli branches. Area 7 Standard (S/M Peter Killick), the Standard of the Abercynon Branch RBL. The last Post was played by Shipmate Dennis Morgan of Llanelli Branch. The local Sea Cadet Corps also joined us in the parade and church service. The branch has 2 serving members who were also able to attend. CPO MW R. Crandon who is approaching retirement for the RN and AET Dafydd Boyle who joined Raleigh earlier this year.

The weather was very kind and a short parade was held prior to the Church service which passed the Tonypany War Memorial where a salute was given in respect of all the fallen.

Special thanks to Shipmate Mick Kieran who took charge of the parade and kept us all on our toes, Fr Philip Leyshon (Branch Chaplain) and Rev'd Jonathon Wright (Assistant Curate of the Benefice of Whitchurch Cardiff). Rev'd Jonathon is a Submariner and has also earned his Green beret with the Royal Marines. The service and parade was followed by a traditional celebration where dits were told and tots were drunk.



Finally a big thank you to Shipmates Cath John and Adrienne Hodder, to Winnie who made the cake and to Christine who made all the sticky buns (60 in total). Without our Associate members and friends we would not be able to do what we do.

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

### **David Michael Ashwell - Chatham Branch**

The Royal Navy has historically served this country for centuries and has been blessed with some exceptional individuals serving on many of its brilliant ships. One of these sailors was CMEM(M) (CPO) David Michael Ashwell.

After spending three years as a naval cadet David joined the Royal Navy in 1956, a career which lasted 34 years. Within this time he served on some historically prevalent ships which were steeped in the Royal Navy's rich background of true British warships, such as HMS Victorious, which previously played a vital role in imperative engagements against the mighty German ships Bismarck, Tirpitz and also took part in the Arctic convoys.



David was also involved in action in the Falklands War in 1982. Amongst other tasks we probably still do not know about. He proudly served in number of Ships and Shore Establishments including; HMS Paladin, Bermuda, Striker, Victorious. Berryhead, Scylla, Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Bacchante and Apollo.

David retired from the Royal Navy in 1990. He continued to serve his country again at Thames House home of MI5 for 9 years. For some people doing just a small part of what David achieved would be sufficient, but for David, well he just seemed to get on with whatever he was detailed to do with a very British "can do" approach.

Unsurprisingly he was awarded the BEM and MSM. Consequently many admirers have been inspired to join the Royal Navy and try to emulate his commitment to his country and those who did not join would probably say BZ Chief (meaning "Bravo Zulu" a naval signal typically conveyed by flaghoist or voice radio meaning "well done"). Would any young person wish to have an individual to look up to then CPO David Ashwell would certainly be one of those gentlemen to inspire them and many others. CPO David Ashwell deserves the recognition of a true Royal Naval person.

God Bless Him, Dennis Potter (Welfare Officer) RNA Chatham.

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### **John Harrison – RNA Gloucester**

John Harrison, an ex Leading Seaman RP2 served on many ships, as a Navigator's Yeoman and some ships replacing the Navigation Officer altogether. He served in Aden, Burma, Malaysia, and the Icelandic wars.

John was Chairman, Assistant Chairman, and a stalwart supporter of RNA Gloucester and the RNA in general. He died after a short illness of Pancreatic Cancer and was cremated at Gloucester on September 14th 2016 with full Royal Naval Honours to a very RN themed well attended service.



## George Lester – RNA Dagenham

The Dagenham branch RNA is deeply saddened to report that S/M George crossed the bar on 8<sup>th</sup> August. He will be greatly missed by all members of the branch and the many people who knew him. George was a member of the branch since March 1983 and was a life member and Chairman until recent ill health caused him to vacate the position.



Sailor's sailor and true Gentleman George, aged 15 on 08-12-1940, enlisted at the Temple Meads Bristol recruiting office. He went to HMS St George, Douglas I.O.M. to begin his training and was on HMS Exmouth. After 17 months training, aged 16, he was deployed as a boy telegraphist to the Battleship HMS Nelson which, operated in the South Atlantic and Mediterranean areas. He was involved in Major operations including Pedestal, relief of Malta and Torch, the invasion of North Africa and assisted in the invasion of Sicily and the Italian main land. Aged 18 He was redeployed to HMS Mercury for further training then on to Combined Operations for the D-day landings and operation Neptune. He was off Gold beach on D-day on HMS Kingsmill and served on HMS Retalick, Torrington, Riou and Kingsmill, protecting the landing

areas until October 1944.

Aged 19 he was seconded to HMS Mastodon and Mercury for 5 months. Then he was deployed to the First Sea Lords Office. He was on Winston Churchill's communication staff team and secretly transported in civvies on the S.S. Franconia to assist in the Yalta conference with Churchill, Stalin and Eisenhower. As soon as the secret was out he was back in uniform for the return journey to HMS Mercury. He was deployed to H.M.S. Boxer for 6 months, then to Mercury for 3 months. Then he went to Hong Kong to be stationed at the Royal Naval Shore Wireless Station on Stonecutters Island via HMS Indefatigable, Monara and Bonaventure for 2 years.

He then returned to H.M.S. Collingwood for 10 months and was seconded to ASRE (Admiralty Signal and Radar Establishment) for 2 years dealing with experimental trials for new radar system which took him around the country. Then back to H.M.S. Collingwood, Royal Arther and Collingwood again. During this time, he was trialling out mobile Radar coast watching exercises, also represented the Navy at Earls Court radio shows. He was then seconded to battleship H.M.S. Vanguard to carry out special radio communication trials with M.O.D boffins during 3 month Arctic cruise. When completed he returned to H.M.S. Collingwood for 3 months. He was then sent to the Far East by troop ship and destroyer H.M.S. Defender to join HMS Morecambe Bay F624 for a two year deployment, returning to H.M.S. Collingwood to complete his End of Twelve on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1955.

# RNA Members Benefits

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## UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individual. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA. <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/news/323/members-holidays-service>

## Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

Discounted Branch and House hold Insurance - 01323 744149

<http://www.thecolemangroup.co.uk/coleman-insurance-brokers/organisation-specific/cona>

## Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Veterans UK [www.veteranfunerals.co.uk](http://www.veteranfunerals.co.uk) Tel 07889 009393

## Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



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

## Legal Services



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

# Shortcast

2016

## **Survey Ships Association - 28-31 October 2016**

The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty-second reunion at the Aztec Hotel, Bristol on the w/e of 28<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, e-mail: [secretary@surveyships.org.uk](mailto:secretary@surveyships.org.uk), or telephone 023 9232 4795.

## **Operation Musketeer - 5 November 2016**

Did you serve at Suez? Were you involved on the Ports Said Landing on November 5 & 6, 1956. To commemorate the 60th Anniversary I am attempting to organise a reunion of RM, Para's, RAF, RN, and Fleet Air Arm personnel who took part, most of whom will be over 80 now, so numbers are reducing. The reunion will take place in Stafford over the weekend of November 5/6 and will include a visit to the Arboretum. For more details contact G C Polli ex SNCO RM at [gcpolli@gmail.com](mailto:gcpolli@gmail.com)

## **HMS RELENTLESS Association - 25/27 November 2016**

The annual reunion of the HMS Relentless Association will take place at the Aztec Hotel & Spa, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4TS from November 25th to 27th 2016. All ex-Rusty Rs 1942-1968 and guests are welcome.

For booking and more information contact IOW Tours Ltd on 01983 405116 or email [enquiries@iowtours.com](mailto:enquiries@iowtours.com) Alternatively, contact the Association Secretary on 02392 599640 or email [secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk)

## **R.N. Communications Association – 10-12 March 2017**

The R.N. Communications Association, AGM and Dinner/Dance will be held in Hull , 10 – 12 Mar 2017 in Hull, for more information please contact the Sec. Carl Beeson, 01752 253746 and 07807-347509 or [noseeb@skycom](mailto:noseeb@skycom)

## **Loch Class Frigates Association - 30 March 2017**

Annual Reunion takes place at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport PR8 1RB from March 30 to April 3 2017.

Two and Three day packages available. Reservations: 01704 533771 quote "372601", or email: [sales@royalclifton.co.uk](mailto:sales@royalclifton.co.uk)

All members welcome. Membership is open to all who served on any of the Loch Class ships or their variants (Bay Class, Admirals Yachts, survey ships and repair ships). Some of these types of ships have their own 'Associations' but you can always join both.

For details please contact Andrew Nunn Hon. Sec. LCFA at [andrew.nunn@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:andrew.nunn@blueyonder.co.uk)

## **HMS Newfoundland & HMS Kenya - 31 March 2017**

Veteran's annual get together will be held from 31 March to 3 April at the 4\* Sketchley Grange Hotel, Burbage, Leicestershire. Reunion includes 3 nights half board accommodation, Gala Night Saturday night. Saturday coach tour to Nottingham and River Trent Cruise including a cream tea and sandwiches. Sunday coach tour to Leicester (King Richard III) and Foxton Locks. Also three night's entertainment.

If you served on any of the Fiji/Uganda class cruisers, aka the Colony Class, you and your family members are welcome to join us. There is no official business, just a weekend of meeting friends and lamp swinging so come and join us. Also available for 2 nights. Contact Isle of Wight Tours, tel 01983 405116 or Alan Waite at [alan04@live.co.uk](mailto:alan04@live.co.uk)

## **HMS Iveston (Jan –May 1991) - Reunion**

There will be a 26 year reunion for the Ship's Company involved in this memorable five month deployment to be held in the Portsmouth area on 1 July 2017 for all those wanting to attend. We recently held a 25 year reunion where 40% of the crew attended and we would like more to attend the next one.

Anyone who served on the Iveston during this deployment who wants more information, or if you know of someone who served onboard during this period, please contact Shaun at [shaunmckeever@yahoo.com](mailto:shaunmckeever@yahoo.com)

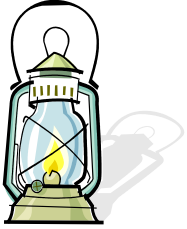
## **849 Squadron Gannets – 5 May 2017**

849 Squadron Gannets. Regroup 2017 at the Mariners' Hotel, Haverfordwest, SA61 2DU May 5 & 6. Contact John Rawling at [jsrawl@aol.com](mailto:jsrawl@aol.com)

## **HMS Fisgard, Artificer Apprentices Reunion – 9 June 2017**

A reunion to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the entry classes S29, S30, and S31 joining HMS Fisgard in 1957, will take place from June 9 to 11 2017 with the Reunion dinner Saturday 10th June. The venue, the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea, situated opposite South Parade Pier, has been booked, with a deposit paid to secure the booking.

For details and booking form contact Malcolm Howard at [malcolmhowardexrn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:malcolmhowardexrn@yahoo.co.uk)



# Swinging the Lamp -November 2016

Date	Year	Entry
1st	1945	AGM 641A promulgated a vote of thanks passed by Parliament the previous day: 'That the thanks of this House be accorded to all ranks of the Royal Navy and of the Royal Marines for the untiring vigilance and resource with which they have frustrated each new stratagem of the enemy; for their courage and devotion to duty which beat the U-boats by which the enemy planned to reduce these Islands to starvation and submission; for the unflagging zeal which they brought to the arduous duties of protecting the flow of food and materials vital to the life and work of our people and allies; and when the long period of defence at last made way for attack, for the matchless skill and courage with which the great forces for the assaults were landed, supported and maintained on campaigns in both hemispheres.'
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1918	Last two British merchant ships ( <i>Murcia</i> and <i>Surada</i> ) to be sunk in First World War torpedoed by UC-74 off Port Said.
3rd	1956	First RN loss of Suez campaign: <i>Wyvern</i> from <i>Eagle</i> shot down. Sloop <i>Crane</i> attacked by Israeli aircraft, assuming her to be Egyptian. Operation Musketeer.
4 <sup>th</sup>	1834	<i>Nimble</i> wrecked on passage to Havana, partly because of the rapidity of the currents but also partly because of the noise made by 272 captured black slaves.
5 <sup>th</sup>	1940	VC: Capt Edward Stephen Fogarty Fegen ( <i>Jervis Bay</i> ). Armed merchant cruiser <i>Jervis Bay</i> sunk by <i>Admiral Scheer</i> while defending convoy HX 84 in mid-Atlantic (52.41N, 32.17W). Battle Honour: <i>Admiral Scheer</i> 1940.
6 <sup>th</sup>	2002	<i>Trafalgar</i> , SSN, with SMCC 0/2 embarked, hit the sea bed at 14.7 knots during dived transit of the Fladda-chuain/Eilean Trodday trough off the Isle of Skye. Board of Enquiry found the cause was human error and recommended that 'nuclear submarines should only conduct training of this nature if the arrangements for navigational safety are infallible'.
7th	1918	Last attack (unsuccessful) by a German submarine on a British merchant ship ( <i>Sarpedon</i> ) in First World War.
8th	1943	<i>Grenville</i> , <i>Tumult</i> , <i>Tyrian</i> and <i>Piorun</i> (Pol) bombarded enemy positions in the Gulf of Gaeta, in support of the 5th Army. (Gulf Of Gaeta is on the west Italian coast above Naples)
9th	1980	Second major fire in a year damaged forward hangar and several mess decks in the commando carrier <i>Bulwark</i> , alongside at Portsmouth. Increasing concern about old and faulty wiring. Ship's Motto 'Under Thy wings I will (t)rust'.
10th	1808	<i>Amethyst</i> captured the French <i>Thétis</i> off Isle de Groix. First award



		of Gold Medal to Captain for taking an equal or superior enemy in single-ship action.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1940	Fleet Air Arm attack on Italian battleships in Taranto Bay by two squadrons from <i>Illustrious</i> and two from <i>Eagle</i> . Battle Honour: Taranto 1940. See 31 August 2005. Ships: <i>Berwick, Glasgow, Gloucester, Hasty, Havock, Hyperion, Ilex, Illustrious, York</i> . Cover: <i>Barham, Gallant, Greyhound, Griffin, Hereward, Hero Malaya, Valiant, Warspite</i> . FAA Sqns: 813,* 815, 819, 824.* Seriously damaged: <i>Conte di Cavour, Caio Duilio, Littorio</i> . Operation Judgement. (*From <i>Eagle</i> .)
12 <sup>th</sup>	1942	<i>Lotus</i> and <i>Starwort</i> sank U-660 in Mediterranean (36.07N, 01.00W). Convoy TE 3.
13 <sup>th</sup>	1964	RN officers and ratings of Sikh nationality and religion are to be permitted to wear uniform turbans purchased privately instead of caps and to keep their hair long if they so wish. Cap badge or cap ribbon to be attached.' – DCI(RN) 1173/64.
14 <sup>th</sup>	1941	Submarines <i>Talisman</i> and <i>Torbay</i> landed a party of Commandos near Apollonia to raid Rommel's headquarters.
15 <sup>th</sup>	1798	Capture of Minorca by Cdre John Duckworth ( <i>Leviathan</i> ) a veteran of Quiberon Bay and of the First of June, and troops under General the Hon. Charles Stuart. Ships: <i>Argo, Aurora, Centaur, Constitution, Cormorant, Leviathan, Peterel</i> . Seamen and marines were landed to support the Army: not a man was lost.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1967	Eighth and last County-class guided missile destroyer, <i>Norfolk</i> , launched by the Duchess of Norfolk at Swan Hunter's on the Tyne. Blessing was given by the Revd K. Mathews who had been chaplain of the previous <i>Norfolk</i> , the 8-in heavy cruiser, during the <i>Bismarck</i> action in 1941. In 1972 her B-turret was replaced by Exocet making her the first RN ship to carry three missile systems – Exocet, Seaslug and Seacat.
17 <sup>th</sup>	1869	Opening of the Suez Canal.
18 <sup>th</sup>	1942	<i>Arethusa</i> , light cruiser, was escorting a convoy to Malta in Operation Stoneage. Air attacks started at 0600 18 November, and at 1800 <i>Arethusa</i> was torpedoed. She was towed stern first back to Alexandria, having to battle with raging fires and a rising gale. She reached Alexandria on the evening of 22nd, with 155 men dead. She was the last serious casualty of the famous 15th Cruiser Squadron. In 1944, <i>Arethusa</i> led the bombarding forces at Normandy and later carried King George VI over the Channel to visit forces in Normandy.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1915	VC: Sqn Cdr Richard Bell-Davies, RNAS, at Ferrijik Railway junction, Bulgaria, for landing behind enemy lines while under heavy fire during an air attack to rescue a colleague who had been shot down.
20 <sup>th</sup>	1759	Battle of Quiberon Bay. Admiral Sir Edward Hawke ( <i>Royal George</i> ) defeated Admiral le Comte de Conflans ( <i>Soleil Royal</i> ). Battle Honour: Quiberon Bay 1759.
21 <sup>st</sup>	1997	Royal Yacht <i>Britannia</i> sailed from London on last voyage to Portsmouth. Flew short paying off pennant (227ft) in river but down-channel changed to her 412ft-long entitlement.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1944	Submarine <i>Stratagem</i> sunk by Japanese destroyer in Malacca Strait.

23 <sup>rd</sup>	1963	Following the assassination of President Kennedy the day before, the First Lord of the Admiralty sent a message of condolence to the Secretary of the US Navy on behalf of the Royal Navy. AFO 2370/63.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1957	Frigate <i>Loch Ruthven</i> sailed from Bahrain to deliver medical supplies, food, blankets and building materials to Dubai 'on the Trucial Oman coast' following widespread storm damage.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1941	<i>Barham</i> sunk by U-331 off Sidi Barrani (32.34N, 26.24E). She blew up in less than five minutes and, though 862 men were lost, 450 survived the great explosion. First battleship lost in open sea since <i>Britannia</i> sunk 9 November 1918.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1916	Second German raid on Lowestoft.
27 <sup>th</sup>	1999	The fourth and last Trident submarine, <i>Vengeance</i> , commissioned at Barrow, the last submarine commissioned into the Royal Navy in the (popularly accepted end of the) twentieth century.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1971	Fire in gear room of the frigate <i>Zulu</i> , on passage from Freetown, Sierra Leone, to Gibraltar, left her drifting without power off W. coast of Africa. The patrol craft <i>Bossington</i> , <i>Hubberston</i> and <i>Maxton</i> , returning to Britain from Hong Kong, reached <i>Zulu</i> on 30 November. <i>Hubberston</i> and <i>Bossington</i> took up a conventional tow, steaming side by side, but they could not keep apart due to the weight of the frigate. <i>Hubberston</i> slipped the tow at 1815 and <i>Bossington</i> continued the tow alone. The four ships arrived off Dakar at 0800 on 1 December. <i>Hubberston</i> secured alongside <i>Zulu</i> to provide steerage and <i>Bossington</i> was slipped. With the help of a local tug <i>Zulu</i> secured alongside 011050Z.
29 <sup>th</sup>	1945	First RN helicopter ASR (Sikorsky R 5).
30 <sup>th</sup>	1914	The third major intelligence haul at the start of the First World War. A British trawler operating off the Texel on the Dutch coast brought up a box of German CBs, probably that jettisoned by the German destroyer S-119 in action with the light cruiser <i>Undaunted</i> on 17 October. It included the third Imperial German naval code book to fall into British hands. It proved an intelligence a treasure trove that Room 40 always referred to as 'The Miraculous Draught of Fishes'.

## 2017 Diaries

*The 2017 diary will be available from the end of September as the diary part only, price - £5.  
diary with the dark blue crested cover, price - £8  
By popular demand the address book is available too. - £1 each*

*Orders should be sent to the address below and accompanied either by a cheque or card details.*

To: Royal Naval Association, Room 209  
Semaphore Tower (PP70)  
HM Naval Base  
Portsmouth  
PO1 3LT

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### Order form

From: .....Branch/ Member

Please provide ..... 2017 RNA insert Diaries @£5.00each £ .....

Please provide ..... 2017 Diaries with Cover @£8.00each £ .....

Please provide ..... Address Book inserts @ £1.00 each £ .....

**TOTAL £.....**

Deliver the order to S/M.....

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code:.....

Find enclosed a cheque to the value of - £ .....made out to The Royal Naval Association

**Or charge to my Credit Card/Debit Card;** the details of which are:

Card in the name of .....

Credit Card/Debit Card Number.....

Valid From: ..... Expires .....

Three Digit Security Code (where applicable) .....

Card holder's address of different from delivery address

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code:.....

# 2016 Christmas Cards



These are available with envelopes at **£5 for ten**.

Orders should be sent to Central Office Semaphore Tower and be accompanied by a cheque or payment details for the total value.

**From:** .....**Branch/Member**

Please provide..... Packs of ten Snowy Memorial Christmas Cards @ £5 per ten.

Please provide .....Packs of the 2016 Christmas cards @ £5 per pack

Deliver the order to

S/M.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....Post code.....

Find enclosed a cheque to the value of - £ .....made out to The Royal Naval Association

**Or charge to my Credit Card/Debit Card**; the details of which are:

Credit Card/Debit Card No .....

Card in the name of :.....

Valid From: .....Expires .....

Three Digit Security Code (where applicable) .....

Card holder's address if different from delivery address

Address.....

..... Post Code:.....

**NOMINATION FORM**

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 2017/2019**

**For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Areas. 2,6,7,8,9,10 and 11**

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

**Names of Nominees**

**NCM** ..... **DNCM** .....

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

**Address of Nominee**

**NCM**.....

..... **e mail** .....

**DNCM**.....

..... **e mail** .....

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

**NCM**

**DNCM**

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

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

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

Candidate's Branch .....

We are aware of the above nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch) .....

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch) .....

**Candidate**

**I accept the nomination and undertake to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and to sit on any Committees to which I am elected.**

Signature of Candidate ..... Dated .....

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA Central Office no later than **1600 10th February 2017.**

## PROPOSED MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

Proposals must reach The General Secretary by **1600 10 February 2017**

Name of Proposing Branch: .....

### Motion / amendment

### Explanation of the Motion / Amendment (To be included in the notes for Conference)

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

---

Name of Seconding Branch: .....

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

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### Notes

- a. A motion is submitted in the name of a Branch. Secretaries of proposing and seconding Branches are **certifying** that the motion or amendment reflects the view of the Branch meeting (not a committee); and that voting was conducted in accordance with Rule 20.
- b. A separate form is required for each Motion or Amendment
- c. A manuscript copy is acceptable for additional Motions or Amendments if the printed form is not available.
- d. The Motion or Amendment should be as short and precise as possible avoiding ambiguity. A Motion should normally start with the word 'THAT'
- e. The explanation is to assist the scrutiny of the Standing Orders Committee in understanding the intention behind the Motion so that they may be able to consider its presentation so it can be improved and implemented as soon as possible (Conference Bye Law C4)
- f. Motions may be submitted at any time but must reach the General Secretary by **10 February 2017**.
- g. Motions of Urgency should reach the General Secretary not less than 48 hours before Conference. (In accordance with Conference Bye Law C6.) and include an explanation about the urgency.
- h. Amendments to Motions should also normally reach the General Secretary not less than 7 days before Conference. The provision for the submission of amendments during Conference is in the Conference Bye-Laws.
- i. Bye-Laws. A Motion to Conference may propose that a Bye-Law be set aside or it may ask the Council to consider making or amending a Bye-Law.
- j. The Branch Proposing a Motion **must** have it Seconded by another Branch before forwarding it to the General Secretary. (Conference Bye Law C3a)

**Nominations for Standing Orders Committee 2017**

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Two members of the standing Orders Committee need to be elected/re-elected at Conference 2017. Those standing down are eligible to be re-elected.

Each Branch may nominate **one Full or Life member** as a candidate for election to the Standing Orders Committee, **subject to the approval of the Branch to which the candidate belongs**. A nil return is not required.

NAME OF NOMINEE .....

PROPOSED BY..... BRANCH .....

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE .....

.....

.....

E mail ..... Post code .....

**Brief history of nominee in the Association.** Continue on separate sheet if necessary.

CHAIRMAN ..... (signed).....(dated)

SECRETARY ..... (signed).....(dated)

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

Candidate's Branch .....

We support this Nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch) .....

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch).....

**Candidate**

**I accept this nomination and undertake to attend as many Standing Orders Committee Meetings as is possible.**

Signature of Candidate .....

It must be, despatched to be received at the Central Office no later than **7 April 2017** Nominations received after this date cannot be included in the Ballot.

**Form C3**

**APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL PERMIT FOR A REGISTERED ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION CLUB**

(To be submitted to RNA Central Office by 7 December 2016)

**PART - The Club**

Name of Club in full .....  
Registered Number .....  
Registered Office Address .....  
.....  
.....  
Tel.....Post Code.....  
Premises owned by : Club/Branch/Other.....  
Club membership as at **31 October '16** : Life.....Full.....Assoc.....

**ANNUAL PERMIT 2017**

The undersigned **certify** that:

The Club is registered with the FCA and has registered the annual accounts/financial statements.

The Club is a going concern and solvent under the terms of the Insolvency Act 1986 and this is anticipated for the year of this permit application.

The Club, at its AGM, agreed to abide by the Rules for Clubs laid down by the Association; reviewed its approved Bye-Laws and believes them to be current and appropriate.

Hon Secretary .....(Signed).....(Print name) .....Dated  
Chairman..... (Signed)..... (Print name) .....Dated  
Treasurer..... (Signed)..... (Print name) .....Dated

**PART II - The Branch**

The Committee of the ..... Branch of the Royal Naval Association has examined the above information and it is satisfied as to its accuracy.

The Committee hereby applies for the renewal of the Annual permit and undertakes to ensure all the conditions therein are complied with.

The present paid up membership of the branch is:

Life.....Full.....Assoc.....  
Branch Hon Secretary.....(Signed)..... Dated

**PART III - The Area**

Number..... Area in which the .....Branch is situated recommends that National Council approves this application.

Area Hon Secretary ..... (Signed).....Dated



## **PART IV - The Council**

This application is approved by the National Council, the Bye-Laws, if amended, are approved

On behalf of the Council.....(Signed) .....Dated

### **Notes and conditions**

- (a) Under Association Rule 11 the Council requires all Branches forming a club to register it and its name with the appropriate authority through RNA Central Office, and thereafter to apply for an Annual Permit
- (b) The application for the Annual Permit should be submitted by the Branch having first received the Area's endorsement, to RNA Central Office by the 7 December 2016. If either the Branch or the Area cannot approve the application, it should endeavour to resolve the reasons with the Club, but failing this should report full details to the General Secretary with a copy to the Council member for the area.
- (c) RNA Central Office will issue the permit dated 1 January of the following year as soon as practicable.
- (d) If the premises are not owned by the Branch it is a condition that adequate facilities are provided by the owner or lessee for the conduct of Branch business.
- (e) If the Secretary's address for correspondence is not the same as the registered office for the club, this should be shown after their signature
- (f) The conditions specified on the Permit as being accepted by the Club include the following:
  - 1. All members of the Club shall be members of the Association with not less than 20 Full and or Life members as defined by clause 7 of the Royal Charter.
  - 2. The Club will, in general, do all possible to further the objects of the Association and will support and encourage the work of the Branch with which it is associated.
  - 3. The Club will abide strictly by its registered rules which shall be those approved by The Council and accepted by the Licensing authority. Amendments to the Rules may only be made by the Council; they shall apply to each Club. Clubs are to use the registered Model Rules for the RNA, which ensures that they are always compliant with the Law and RNA Charter.
  - 4. Each Club shall review its Bye-Laws annually and submit amendments to the Council for approval.
  - 5 Two copies of the audited accounts of the Club shall be forwarded to the General Secretary each year.
  - 6 The Council shall be entitled to appoint a representative to inspect all documents, accounts and books of the Club on giving seven days notice.
  - 7 The Council and the appropriate Area Committee may from time to time pay a visit of inspection to the Club.
  - 8 The Council can give seven days written notice of cancellation of the permit, whereupon the Club shall thereupon cease to trade under the title of the "Royal Naval Association" and to use the RNA registered model Rules.

# PUSSER'S RUM



*"Liquid History"*



*Proud Supporter  
of the  
Royal Navy  
Association  
since 1979.*



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Pusser's Rum has secured an exclusive price deal with [drinkfinder.co.uk](http://drinkfinder.co.uk) for all RNRMC and RNA members. Enter **ROYALNAVY15** at checkout.