



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



The Semaphore Circular

No 675

The Beating Heart of the RNA

December 2017



As promised to all our regular Area 10 readers. A 'Scouse' Christmas Robin!



HMS Queen Elizabeth, will be commissioned in Portsmouth by Her Majesty the Queen on 7 December, passing HMS Severn de-commissioned the day before as QEZ passed her on her way out of harbour for trails

**WISHING ALL OUR READERS A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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

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

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Glossary of terms

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

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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

Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to the December Circular. HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, has now returned to Portsmouth after very successful Contractor Sea Trials, with the ship on track for Commissioning and Acceptance into Naval Service. We were also thrilled at the arrival of RFA Tidespring (Dedicated and named yesterday), she is the first of 4 new RFA double-hulled tankers built to a high standard and great price in S. Korea. She is a very handsome ship and highly capable. She is berthed just along from Semaphore Tower on Victory Jetty right next to the QE who she will serve through her long life.



It was good to see a good turnout at the Field of Remembrance and I was privileged to act as wreath bearer for Remembrance Sunday with S/M Carol Gibbon laying the RNA/Naval Associations wreath on the 100th anniversary year of females in the Naval Service at the Cenotaph.

I hope you have lots of fun branch events planned for Christmas after the sober time of Remembrance. Don't forget to look after those who might be feeling a bit lonely at this time of year – maybe check on the Shipmate who hasn't been to a meeting recently or a lady member whose husband has crossed the bar. Please forgive me if this sounds like egg-sucking - I know many of you are brilliant at befriending and looking after shipmates.

May I ask you to **book your accommodation** for the Dublin Conference and register your Delegates. I appreciate that Dublin is more expensive than usual (for lots of reasons), and I hope that there will be help for delegates with the cost in addition to travel cost to port of embarkation. This is for the NC to decide on 9 Dec in the approval of next year's budget. We'll email branch secretaries and put on the website if approved (fingers crossed). There are options apart from the Royal Marine Hotel and please email conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk for details. Their great brochure also has details of ferries etc.

Some other important points:

- Remember the deadline for branch motions is 16 February 18.
- The Deadline for NCM/DNCM and SOC elections is 16 Feb 18.
- Don't forget that this is a great time to commemorate a shipmate with the Jutland Wood. Details at: <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/support-an-appeal/centenary-woods/jutland/>
- Nigel is looking forward to your orders for our excellent QE **Christmas cards** and the **2018 diary** with the Royal Yacht featured.
- A reminder for anyone interested in the role of RNA Hon Treasurer give the GS a ring, or to put yourself forward please email GS with your CV and reasons for wanting to take on the role.
- This link <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk> is a great start for a grant for Armed Forces Day events. Give it a go.
- We have changed the way we source our branded RNA clothing to allow you to order and pay on line. This is something we have been asked for and have now organized. Cost is about the same, with a small fee for the use of the RNA crest coming to CO. See article for details

- The Standard Bearers' Competition details are in the Circular this time for next May. Please note that we are running a novices' competition. Candidates will be eligible for travel support and the use of RN accommodation. The idea is to have a training session and see the best standard bearers at work. There is a presentation and a trophy and a tot I am sure.
- If you are booking into the Royal Maritime Club at Portsmouth (Home Club), the please quote the RNA membership number **7398** and you will get the member's rate for rooms and in the restaurant. Note that if you book on line the discount will be applied on your arrival and not on-line.
- There is no January Circular due to the Central Office Closed period (22 Dec to 2 Jan 18).
- Don't forget the LIBOR buses for Christmas events and including those who don't get out much because of mobility issues.

Finally, a huge Bravo Zulu to Shipmate Marie Taylor who has been presented with her British Empire Medal – following a joint application by the RNA and the Association of WRNS. A richly deserved award for a lady who does a huge amount for others.

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from me and all the team at Central Office,

Paul



QE entry for Commissioning and Christmas

Chairman's chat



With the year drawing to a close and the Festive Season on the horizon it is appropriate for me to slip in a brief chat to acknowledge those who have ensured the smooth running of the Association. The RNA has had a great year with the Central Office Team burning the midnight oil on several occasions; applying boundless enthusiasm in carrying out their numerous tasks and, more so, over and above their normal work on the various projects being undertaken. The Team Fly the RNA Flag at numerous meetings, events and presentation seminars around the country and we must not forget that whilst Central Office is the main administration base of this great Association we, the members are the sales team to get out there and recruit. Branches can pat themselves on the back for getting new members; however, in addition many new members have come from online applications along with those from the Shipmates & Oppos Programme.

Looking ahead Shipmates, always have an application form in your pocket ready to gain a new member. National Conference in Perth (Scotland) went extremely well with great hospitality shown from our Shipmates 'up' North. We have seen the completion, dedication and dispersal of the three Libor Minibuses. The Biennial Parade at Whitehall under the guidance of the Metropolitan Police with the heightened security alert in London ensured the event went extremely well with detailed planning by Paul Quinn and his Team of dedicated staff giving up their weekend to ensure all went well on our part which indeed it did. It was great to see so many Shipmates, Branch and various Ships Associations Standards on Parade along with our friends from the Irish & Belgium Naval Associations.

The CONA/RNA Cruise to Dublin & Cobh went very well with new friendships being made between the CONA/RNA members onboard the Good Ship Marco Polo and our thanks to the hospitality given by RNA Dublin Branch for training us on how to drink Guinness. Let us not forget Project Semaphore and the distribution of the iPads. This has been a great team effort by the membership in identifying digitally isolated naval veterans, and those volunteers who have given freely of their time to give 1-2-1 training and to Sarah Clewes as the Project Manager.

I realise that many Shipmates were disappointed with the last-minute change to HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH's arrival into Portsmouth Naval Base. Originally due in October, this was brought forward at short notice to 18 August and then a last-minute change to 16 August due to weather conditions. Some reports in the media have led to unfair snipes about the Ship. The fact is, on 7 December the Navy will become the proud owner of a long-awaited purpose-built Aircraft Carrier. Let us all be proud of that fact.

Whilst I have mentioned above a few people by name, those who I have not mentioned, and they know who they are, on behalf of the membership THANK YOU for your unstinting contribution to the smooth running of the Association. To all Shipmates, thank you for being a member of this great Association, you are the Association and I look forward to you supporting it in 2018 by renewing your membership. In closing, let us reflect on those Shipmates who Crossed the Bar in 2017 our thoughts are with their families at this time. Let us not forget our Serving Members unable to be with their families and love ones through the Festive Season. To all Staff and Shipmates on Land or at Sea, on behalf of my wife Maureen and myself, we send our Season Greetings. May you have a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy 2018.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

1. Project Semaphore iPad Update

In order to build on the progress of Project Semaphore, provide further information and training the project team would be delighted to visit you in the New Year! We could come to your Branch meeting or if you can find a venue, hold a Workshop in your local area.

Are you a Shipmate with an RNA iPad and need further training?

Would you like to know more about the Project and see what the iPad can do?

Are you willing to Volunteer to help others but would like to see the iPad and built in features and understand the commitment?

The Project Team is delighted that with the help of our band of amazing Volunteers we have been able to get Shipmates online...many are exploring the Internet for the first time and have proved that you are never too old to learn! Our devices have been built for Veterans and include shortcuts to useful websites including the RN and RNA as well as a preloaded Apps catalogue to enable shopping and banking online.



You will remember that the eligibility criteria to apply for an iPad is set by the Aged Veterans Fund: you must have served in the RN or RM, be aged 65 or over and do not have regular access to the Internet....you do not have to be a member of the RNA.

Please get in touch with Julie, Deputy Project Manager julie@royalnavalassoc.com if you can muster a small group, ideally of Shipmates interested in receiving an iPad, those with an RNA iPad who want to learn more and those willing to Volunteer to help a Veteran. Groups offering cake, tea and a venue will go to the top of the list!

We look forward to meeting you in 2018!

Sarah can be contacted by e-mailing sarah@royalnavalassoc.com or writing to RNA Central Office, Rm 209, Semaphore Tower, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth Hants PO1 3LT

2. ★ New RNA Approved Clothing Supplier

Shipmates should note that all approved RNA Clothing range is now supplied by 'rlpembroidery' and that Badges, Ties and Buttons will continue to be supplied by Central Office. A revised price list for items available from Central Office and 'rlpembroidery' can be found at the rear of this Circular. Specific details can be found in the RNA Website Members Area – Shop at <https://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/shop>.

3. ★ Parliamentary Petition – ‘Stop the cuts to RN & RM Amphibious Ships’

Shipmates may wish to be aware that a Parliamentary Petition is ongoing to ‘Stop cuts to the RN & RM Amphibious Ships’. If you would like to sign the petition and it is hoped you will want to sign up. please follow the link below;

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/202588>

This petition calls on the Government not to cut Devonport-based HMS Albion & HMS Bulwark. There has been recent media commentary that the Government is considering scrapping the Royal Navy's entire amphibious assault capabilities and cut 1,000 Royal Marines. The petition seeks to prevent any potential cuts to the LPDs.

The Government response so far is;
A cross-Government review of national security capabilities is being conducted to ensure future investment is unified and efficient. No decisions have been made and the media articles are speculation. In the face of ever-changing threats to our security, the Ministry of Defence is contributing to the cross-Government review of national security capabilities in support of the continued implementation of the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review. This Review is to ensure that the United Kingdom's investment in capabilities is as joined-up, effective and efficient as possible, and will cover areas including Defence, counter terrorism, national resilience and cyber. This Review is on-going and no decisions have been made; any discussion of specific platforms or capabilities is speculation. Ministers will consider the conclusions of the National Security Capability Review in due course.



If the Petition has 100,000 signatures it will be considered for a Parliamentary Debate. There are currently 30,000 signatures.

The RNA Charter provides that the Association is not party political but can speak up for the Royal Navy on the issues of the day. So, ‘Not for any Party, but passionately for the Royal Navy (and Royal Marines!)’

4. ★ RNVC Series - Lieutenant Harold Auten VC DSC RD Royal Navy Reserve

Harold Auten was born in Leatherhead on 22 August 1891 and died in Bushkill Pennsylvania on 03 October 1964 aged 73. He was awarded the Victoria Cross whilst Commanding HMS Stock Force in an action with a German Submarine.

He attended ‘Wilson's School’ in Wallington London and joined the RNR before the outbreak of WW1. He was appointed to serve in ‘Q’ Ships, which were a disguised armed merchantman. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1917 and was awarded the DSC for services in Vessels of the Royal Navy employed on patrol and escort duties in 1917.

Under his command HMS Stock Force was torpedoed by U 98 at 1700 on the 30 July 1918 just off the Cornish coast. The torpedo



struck the ship abreast No. 1 hatch, entirely wrecking the fore part of the ship, including the bridge, and wounding three ratings. A tremendous shower of planks, unexploded shells, hatches and other debris followed the explosion, wounding the first lieutenant (Lieutenant EJ Grey, RNR) and the navigating officer (Lieutenant LE Workman, RNR) and adding to the injuries of the foremost gun's crew and several other ratings. The ship settled down forward, flooding the foremost magazine and between decks to the depth of about three feet. The "Panic party," in the charge of Lieutenant Workman, immediately abandoned ship, and the wounded were removed to the lower deck, where the surgeon working up to his waist in water, attended to their injuries. Lt

Auten, two guns' crews and the engine-room team remained onboard at their Action Stations.



The U-Boat surfaced ahead of the ship half a mile distant, and remained there for quarter of an hour, apparently watching the ship for any doubtful movement. The "panic party" in the boat accordingly commenced to row back towards the ship in an endeavour to decoy the submarine within range of the hidden guns. The submarine followed, coming slowly down the port side of the "Stock Force," about three hundred yards away. Lieutenant

Auten, however, withheld his fire until she was abeam, when both of his guns could bear. Fire was opened at 1740; the first shot carried away one of the periscopes, the second round hit the conning tower, blowing it away and throwing the occupant high into the air. The next round struck the submarine on the water-line, tearing her open and blowing out a number of the crew. The U-boat then subsided several feet into the water bows up and consequently presenting a large and immobile target into which the "Stock Force" engaged until the submarine sank. During the whole of the action one man (Officer's Steward, 2nd Class, R.J. Starling) remained pinned down under the foremost gun after the explosion of the torpedo, and remained there cheerfully and without complaint, although the ship was apparently sinking, until the end of the action.

The HMS Stock Force only displaced 360 tons and despite the severity of the shock sustained by the officers and men when she was torpedoed, and the fact that her bows were almost obliterated, she managed to keep afloat in the main by the exertions of her ship's company until at 2125 she sank with Ensign flying, and the officers and men were rescued by two torpedo boats and a trawler. The action was cited as one of the finest examples of coolness, discipline and good organisation in the history of "Q" ships.

After the war in 1919 Harold Auten wrote the first book on Q-ships entitled '*Q Boat Adventures*'. He moved to America and became an executive vice-president of the Rank Organisation in New York and lived for thirty years in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, where he owned a hotel and cinema. However, he remained a member of the RNR and in 1941 he was awarded the Royal Naval



Reserve Officers Decoration.

During the Second World War, he held the rank of Commander (later acting Captain) in the RNR and served as senior staff organizing trans-Atlantic convoys. He was made an Officer of the United States "Legion of Merit" for distinguished service to the Allied cause throughout the war" and a Commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau "for service to the Royal Netherlands Navy during the War". He was a Younger Brother of Trinity House.

His Victoria Cross is on display at the Royal Naval Museum as you can see in the picture above.

5 ★ Joke Time – Stunt Pilot

A young lady walked into a Lidl supermarket and on whilst in aisle 10 spotted the man who had his wicked way with her the previous evening, after they had met in a pub.

He was stacking washing powder boxes onto shelves.

"You lying toad," she yelled, "last night you told me that you were a stunt pilot".
"No" he said,

Wait or it

" I told you that I was a member of the Ariel display team."



6. ★ Finance Corner

Dear Shipmates,



Termly Accounts

Termly accounts have now been produced and distributed to all Branches. Many thanks to those Shipmates who have directed payment to central Office swiftly.



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 17).

Any stickers received after the Financial period will **NOT** be issued a Credit Note.



Cheques Please note, whenever sending a cheque to Central Office, please make it payable to 'Royal Naval Association' or 'RNA' (nothing else). Please write on the back of the cheque detailing what the money is for – thank you.





Donations

Top 15 donation figures abstracted from various Branch end of Year Returns for 2016.

	2016	2015
Welfare - (Donated by Branches to assist their own members)	£23,547	£25,897
Sea Cadets	£22,915	£40,929
RBL	£7,844	£10,661
Air Ambulance (Various)	£6,074	£852
RNBT	£6,197	£6,261
RNLI	£5,088	£1,597
RMRMC	£4,268	£7,465
RNA CCF	£3,189	£1,285
Pembroke House	£3,000	£600
Hospices	£2,645	£2,965
SSAFA	£2,325	£2,130
Seafarers UK	£2,105	£1,695
Freemantle War Memorial	2,750 AU	Nil
Hospital Funds (Various)	£1,436	£2,965
Combat Stress	£1,166	£1,525

Shipmates, since this is the last Circular for this year, it has been a pleasure working with you all and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I look forward to working with you all next year.

Yours Aye
Michelle

7 ★ Donations

Central Charities

Margaret Techick	£23.00
Mrs McCalluh	£100.00
Hospital & Medical Care Association	£208.40

In memory of the late

William Edmund Clark	£286.86
Frank William John Lawson	£45.00
Michael Battersby	£55.68
Charles McKenzie	£44.49
William Mervyn John Salter	£607.50
Mervyn Matthew Atkinson	£100.00
William George Clark	£295.00
James Edwards Helps	£400.00

John George William Barrett	£68.00
Alan Hadley	£40.00

8. 2018 Dublin Conference – Accommodation

*****Conference Count Down - 6 Months and counting*****

The 2018 Conference will be held in Dun Laoghaire near Dublin (pronounced Dun Leary) in the Republic of Ireland. The Conference and Gala dinner will be held in the Royal Marine Hotel, which is a 4 star hotel.



As Shipmates can see above it is only just 6 months until the next Conference so if you are thinking of attending as a Delegate or an individual member you need to consider booking your accommodation in the next couple of months.

So.....

Shipmates are invited to familiarise themselves with the extremely comprehensive brief on travel to, and from Conference and the wide range of accommodation available which has been prepared by CONA Holidays UK.

It is attached at the rear of last month's Semaphore Circular. The brief also features a welcome to Ireland with stacks of ideas and what to do and where to go. The brief also contains the booking form and costs for accommodation and details of alternative hotels, Bed and breakfast options that cover a huge range of requirements. They even provide comprehensive insurance for a premium of £35 per person

9. Libor Minibuses are now available to borrow - Routine for borrowing



The three Libor Minibuses are now alongside in their base ports; Portsmouth, Liskeard and Blackburn.

listed below are the points of contact for each bus sponsor are;

Portsmouth;	e-mail andy@royalnavalassoc.com	phone 02392 720782
Liskeard;	e-mail warwickbelfitt@btconnect.com	phone 01579 346606
Blackburn;	e-mail belfastblues_812@icloud.com	phone 07964 721849

Central Office are very keen that the buses are loaned out and on the road rather than parked up in their base ports doing nothing so have deliberately tried to keep rules to a minimum So in no particular order

They are free to loan. Insurance, maintenance etc costs covered by Central Office.

The vehicle is supplied with a full tank of fuel and should be returned with a full tank of Diesel and AdBlue topped up if necessary and cleaned. Can be driven on a car license. (No need for D1)

The loan is on a first come first served basis (Sponsor has final say!). **Longer loans may be negotiated with Central Office.**

They are covered for insurance for drivers aged 30 to 70 (Insurance cover for over 70s can be purchased from the insurer dependent on personal circumstances. The Insurer will require two weeks' notice for this to be arranged. Insurers contact details are available from Andy at Central Office). A very approximate cost for a weekend is £56 but very dependent on individual circumstance/health etc.

(More on Over 70's insurance - If you are over 70, you fall in to the government bracket of 'Group 2' medical standards, which attracts all sorts of complications; the requirement for driving assessments to demonstrate fitness to drive etc. The link below is very interesting. However please don't press print as it is 138 pages of medical terms.!
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652720/assessing-fitness-to-drive-a-guide-for-medical-professionals.pdf)

Only 8 passengers and the driver or up to three wheelchairs +3 carers +2 and one driver.

Roadside assistance is included.

10. ★ National Standard Bearers and Novice Standard Bearers Competition - Heads up

Shipmates may wish to make a note in their diaries for the upcoming Standard Bearer extravaganza at HMS Collingwood. The excitement is brewing as 2018 could be the year that S/M Bob 'the Tartan Trojan' Coburn loses his National Standard Bearer crown to Steve 'Bromley Basher' Susans, (pictured opposite) or Marie 'Two Comp' Taylor BEM or Dave '8 Bit' Corrigan..... Tickets are selling fast and it could be a capacity sell out.

On a serious note The National Standard Bearers and **new Novice Standard Bearers competition** along with the Association of WRNS competition will take place at HMS Collingwood on Saturday 12 May 2018 and will be the same format as recent competitions commencing at 1000 and on completion will be followed by a presentation ceremony.



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

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

It is hoped that the Warrant Officers and Senior Rates Mess will offer accommodation to those competitors and guests who wish to stay in HMS Collingwood on Fri/Sat. Full details of the competition and accommodation arrangements will be announced early in the New Year. Closing dates for entries will be **Friday 6 April 2018**

There is no pressure but..... Areas; 1,4,5,7 and 10 did not have a representative and were given a challenge and two years notice after the 2106 competition to produce a competitor
.....

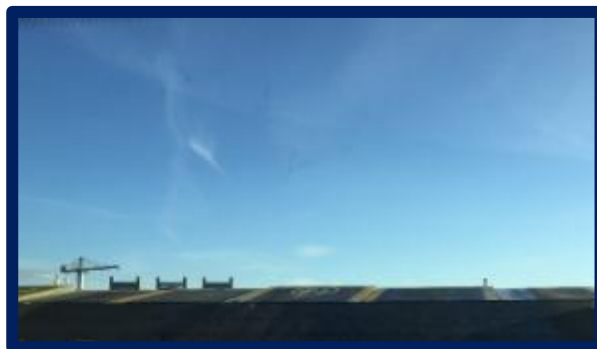
Sadly, Central Office have to report that unfortunately the 3rd placed trophy is currently missing so please would Standard Bearers be kind enough to have a good huck out/ look around for it and advise DGS if found.

11. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

This month can you name this establishment?
Remember no hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!..... Good Luck

The answer will be in next month's edition.

And so to last month's 'Guess the Establishment'..... RNAS Culdrose. The photo was taken by Andy Christie in the visitors viewing area (he is now officially a spotter after this!) during a short break in Kernow. A Merlin from the 'Flying Tigers 814 can be seen burning and turning in the distance.



12. IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT - Naval Service Memorial Figurine

Graham Mitcheson, the sculpture of the Naval Service Memorial, has produced a miniature figurine of the Sailor (approx 9" high) who sits adjacent to the NSM. The figurine is now on sale at the National Arboretum, where it is on sale for £90. However Shipmates may purchase the figurine at a discounted cost of £75 (including Post) from Nigel at Central Office. Nigel can be contacted at nigel@royalnavalassoc.com
Or by telephone on 02392 723747.



13. Reunion Shortcast

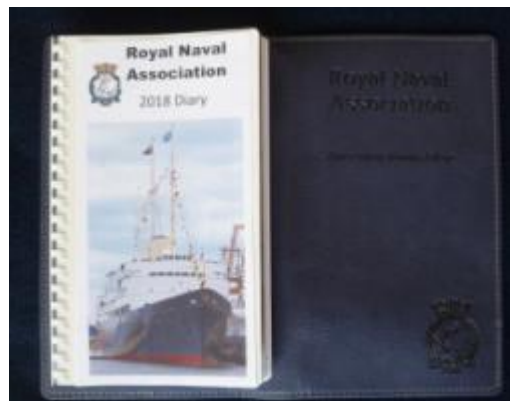
Shipmates should be aware that the Semaphore Circular editorial team would be delighted to advertise details of any scheduled reunions.

If you would like your reunion advertised please forward the details to RNA Central Office by email to admin@royalnavalassoc.com or snail mail Semaphore Circular, Room 209, Semaphore Tower, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LT.

14. RNA Diaries 2018

2018 Diary order forms can be found at the rear of this edition..

As you can see in the photo the diaries this year will feature a lovely picture of the Royal Yacht taken by Nigel Huxtable personally in Leith Docks earlier this year. It brings back a few memories of what a beautiful ship she is. And a tear to the eye of the National Pres who used to be the Royal Yacht ~~Baggage Officer~~ Navigator – he has ordered 25 for his close friends.



15 ★ Joke for the Road....

Apologies to Shipmates across the Irish Sea but this is a good one.....

Paddy had been drinking at his local pub all day and most of the night, celebrating St Patrick's Day. Mick, the bartender says, 'You'll not be drinking anymore tonight, Paddy'.

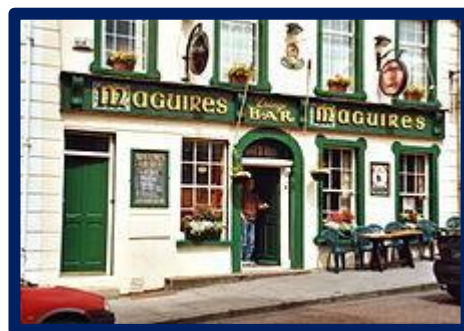
Paddy replies, 'OK Mick, I'll be on my way then'. Paddy spins around on his stool and steps off. He falls flat on his face. 'Damn' he says and pulls himself up by the stool and dusts himself off. He takes a step towards the door and falls flat on his face, 'oh bloody damn!'

He looks to the doorway and thinks to himself that if he can just get to the door and some fresh air he'll be fine. He commando crawls to the door and shimmies up to the door frame. He sticks his head outside and takes a deep breath of fresh air, feels much better and takes a step out onto the sidewalk and falls flat on his face.

'Bi' Jesus... I'm in bloody trouble,' he says. He can see his house just a few doors down, and crawls to the door, hauls himself up the door frame, opens the door and shimmies inside.

He takes a look up the stairs and say's 'No bloody way....'

He crawls up the stairs to his bedroom door and says 'I can make it to the bed'. He takes a step into the room and falls flat on his face. He says, 'damn it' and falls into bed.



The next morning, his wife, Jess, comes into the room carrying a cup of coffee and says, 'Get up Paddy. Did you have a bit to drink last night ?' Paddy says, 'I did, Jess. I was bloody pissed. But how did you know?'

Wait for it.....

'Mick phoned .. . You left your wheelchair at the pub.'

RNA Longcast

2017	
09 Dec	National Council Meeting
2018	
20 Jan	Area 4 Meeting - Saltash
31 Jan	Battle of May Island Centenary Commemoration – Anstruther Fife
03 Feb	Area 5 AGM / Quarterly – Southend RNA Club
16 Feb	FAC
17 Feb	AMC
10 Mar	National Council Meeting
13 Apr	Open Day
20-22 Apr	Welfare Seminar – Stoke on Trent
05 May	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
19 May	Area 4 Meeting - Christchurch
18/19/20 May	Londonderry Branch Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration 2018
12 May	National Standard Bearer Competition – HMS Collingwood
18 May	Open Day
08 Jun	NC/AMC/FAC/SOC Meetings
8/9/10 June	RNA Conference - Dublin
29 Jun	Open Day
30 June	Armed Forces Day – Llandudno (North Wales)
04 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
10 Aug	Open Day
17 Aug	FAC
18 Aug	AMC
08 Sep	National Council Meeting
15 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Dorchester
05 Oct	Open Day
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – RBL Club Rayleigh
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
08 Dec	National Council Meeting

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Paddock Wood](#)

[RNA York](#)

[RNA Tyne](#)

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RNA Paddock Wood Branch

Members and their Guest of the Paddock Wood RNA Branch held a very enjoyable Trafalgar Night dinner in the Poults Wood Golf club, Tonbridge. The food was very good and the atmosphere was jovial and friendly.

The guest of Honour was Lt Cdr Lindy Mackenzie MBE RNR . She gave a very interesting talk about her experiences in the RNR, Civvy Street and in her spare time. Lindy is a qualified coach for many sporting events including karate, scuba diving and gymnastics. The experiences that she spoke about were cleverly link to the events of the Battle of Trafalgar. This made Lindy's speech interesting and enjoyable. The evening closed with a fairly large raffle that was led by two shipmates suitably dress in ghostly attire.



RNA York Branch



Shipmate Marie Taylor of York Branch was awarded the BEM in a recent Honours list. Marie has worked tirelessly for the RNA and a variety of other local charities.

The picture shows S/M Marie being presented with her BEM by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire Mr Barry Dodd. Also present was Scarborough Sea Cadet Phoebe Donbravand who is seen holding the certificate.

Very many congratulations thoroughly deserved and a large BZ from Central Office.

RNA Tyne Branch

RNA Tyne had a busy programme of events on Trafalgar Day this year. The day started with a visit to the Trotter Memorial in Gateshead where John William Trotter is buried. Trotter was Master of LEVIATHAN, a line of battle ship during Trafalgar, for which he was awarded with a War medal by the Sovereign.



Then onto 'Toast to Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood' at the foot of the Collingwood Monument, overlooking the mouth of the River Tyne.

The Blue Ensign was raised and a toast of 'grog' was made to Vice-Admiral Lord Collingwood at 12 noon, the time of the first shot fired at the Battle of Trafalgar by Collingwood, from his flagship, the Royal Sovereign.



The Trafalgar Night Dinner was held at Byker Masonic Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne where our guest of honour, WO Scott Mills of HMS Calliope, gave the address 'To His Immortal

Memory' preceded by a highly entertaining dialogue involving a politically correct version of Nelson's orders and responses during the height of battle. A splendid meal, enjoyed by more than 70 shipmates and friends, was followed by a fundraising raffle towards our 70th Anniversary celebrations next March 2018.

RNA Lee on the Solent and Stubbington Branch

On Thursday 16 November, 14 members of the Lee and Stubbington Branch made a 'ships visit' to the offshore vessels of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets (MSSC), based at Fort Blockhouse, Gosport. The visit was hosted by Shipmate Andy Giles, whose day job is the Deputy Offshore Commander for the Marine Society and Sea Cadets.

After a short intro and safety brief the visitors were invited aboard the tall ship TS Royalist, the motor boat TS John Jerwood and the yacht, TS City of London.

Shipmates were able to tour the ships, meet the crew and cadets and were even treated to coffee and cake! (Unbelievably no Rum was involved in the making of this visit!)

Branch members were particularly impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the cadets who proved to be delightful, helpful and enthusiastic hosts. Lee/Stubb would like to thank Shipmate Andy for arranging this visit and the Captains and crew of all three vessels for their hospitality and kindness.



Shipmates may wish to note that the cost of running these vessels is considerable and the MSSC rely heavily upon the generosity of others. If you would like to donate to the Sea Cadets you can do so at <https://www.sea-cadets.org/donate> or, do as we do at the Lee and Stubbington Branch and sponsor a berth on one of the vessels to support the cost of taking a cadet to sea for a week.

The Branch would be delighted to welcome Shipmates at their Annual Christmas Band Concert which is being held at Holyrood Church Stubbington on Friday 15th December commencing at 1930. HMS Collingwood Volunteer band will be providing the Music. Mince Pies and refreshments will be served at the interval. Ticket price is £5.00 and you can pay on the door on the night. Specific Details are available on flyer at the rear of this Circular.

RNA Stowmarket Branch

Stowmarket RNA were proud and honoured to have Royal Navy Marine Engineer Ben Mallett join them for Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 12th November. Ben, who is a submariner based and based in Plymouth, read about the local branch of the RNA and asked if he could march alongside the shipmates of the branch in the town's Remembrance Parade – and in full rig. There was of course only one answer to that question, and with his parents proudly looking on, Ben not only took part in the parade, but also attended the church service and wreath laying ceremony afterwards at the town's



Memorial Gates. Thanks Ben, you certainly showed the townspeople of Stowmarket how proud we are of our Royal Navy. Once Navy, Always Navy.

S/M Pete Chivers has proudly seen the next generation of his family take to the seas, with his grandson Finnlay having successfully enrolled with the Sea Cadets at Whale Island, Portsmouth.



Pete, a navy veteran and now a Petty Officer instructor with Newmarket Sea Cadets in Suffolk, had Finnlay staying with him during the summer holidays and took the chance to show him the ropes at a couple of parade nights at his unit.

The lad certainly caught the bug, and having got back home to Portsmouth, he asked his mum if he could join the local Sea Cadet unit. She was only too happy to see him take after her dad, and he's taken to it like a fish to water. Let's hope Finnlay makes a better sailor than his grandad!

(Editors note; We at Central Office couldn't agree more with the last statement - Well Done Finnlay)

RNA Plymouth Branch



One hundred and seventy- eight members with friends gave a very warm welcome to Lord Mayor Wendy Foster, Consort Ken Foster, Rear Admiral Simon Williams CB, CVO Royal Navy, representing the First Sea Lord, and Mrs. Charlotte Williams at the Annual Dinner & Dance.

Silver Service enhanced by excellent cuisine provided by the Warrant Officer & Senior Rates Mess, HMS Drake, quality entertainment, ensured a memorable evening for all.

Lord Mayor responding to the branch's toast to the City mentioned that this was not the first time she had enjoyed the RNA's hospitality, previously

when husband Ken was Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor Wendy reminded members' the City link with the RNA was very important, further enhancing the important Naval relationship that has existed for hundreds of years.

The Christmas Social now on the horizon, will conclude what may be termed a successful year for the branch. With an average attendance at the ten monthly meetings of eighty- four, twenty-seven new members and outstanding venue hosts, the future bodes well for the City's Royal Naval Association Branch. Membership stands at two hundred and five with three new members joining at our most recent meeting.

Serving personnel are automatically members of the Association and ex-Serving, wives, partners within the Plymouth catchment area would enjoy the ambience of a very successful Branch and are encouraged to contact Secretary on (01752) 849176.

The photograph above shows the Branch Committee with VIP Guests.

RNA Chichester Branch

In September 2017 old Navy, present Navy and future Navy came together to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Chichester Branch of the RNA. The Branch has its pre-RNA origins in 1947, meeting for the first time in the Park Tavern (then the Ritz) in Priory Lane Chichester. This year over 70 members gathered together in Chichester City Council's Assembly Room where Chairman Jim Gibb was presented with a celebratory certificate by National RNA

President Vice-Admiral John McAnally, in the presence of West Sussex Deputy Lord Lieutenant Shelagh Lagrange.



In opening proceedings Branch President David Blythe emphasised the importance of the RNA in supporting and encouraging Chichester's naval community, encompassing as it does all those who served in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and their Reserves. As well as Branch members and their guests David welcomed to the celebration the Chichester Harbour and Selsey Sea Cadets, civilian sailors of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the RN Presentation Team.

The celebration began at 1900 with the Branch's longest serving member, S/M Maurice Page, marking time in the last dog watch by striking two on the preserved bell of the frigate HMS Chichester. The Sea Cadets, having acted as ushers during the evening, then performed the Hornpipe, finishing with their own modern version. Throughout the evening the Chichester City Band played, bringing the evening to an end with a rousing chorus of naval songs.



During the evening RNA shipmate Peter Goss was honoured by the Sea Cadets when it was announced that they were creating a new award – to be given yearly to the cadet who had stood out in dedication and service – in his name. He then presented the trophy to its first winner. During World War Two Peter had volunteered for the RNR, and specialised in neutralising underwater explosives and beach defences. As CO of the Finchley Sea Cadets Peter encouraged many cadets to look to the sea. One of them, Stuart Pearce, became an RFA Captain, and Stuart has just agreed to become

President of Chichester's Sea Cadets.

A high point in the evening was a presentation by the Royal Navy explaining the role and capabilities of the Navy today. There weren't many questions at the end as this audience needed no convincing of the value to the nation of the Royal Navy!

RNA Huntingdon & District Branch

On Saturday 21st October 2017, the 212th anniversary of the Royal Navy's greatest battles in history, Huntingdon & District Branch celebrated their annual Trafalgar Night Dinner at the Black Bull in Godmanchester.



Guests of honour were the Mayor and Mayoress of Huntingdon, Councillor Jay Dyne and Councillor Sonia Dyne, and two Founder members of the Branch, Shipmates Dave Rowland and Christine Williams. Other

VIPs and guests included the RNA National Chairman, Shipmate Keith Ridley (with S/M AB Maureen Ridley), the Branch Padre, Reverend Andrew Milton, members of St Neots Branch RNA, the RBL, RAFA, Wheelers, Sea Cadet Corps, and of course, members of Huntingdon & District Branch with their family and friends.

The Branch President, Shipmate Karl Webb, began the night by welcoming all guests to the Black Bull before Shipmate Catherine Fearon piped 'Hands to Dinner'. After the Silent Tribute, Reverend Andrew Milton said Grace and then everyone took their seats ready for the first course. After enjoying the food and company, it was time for the Hon. Treasurer, Shipmate Pete Aston, to thank the catering team for an excellent meal. Pete also called up Simon the chef, it was his last meal as Head Chef at the Black Bull. The Branch presented him with an RNA apron as a thank you.

The next presentation was in memory of two Founder Members, Shipmates Ben Dear and Sybil Rowland. A memorial tree in Jutland Wood bears their names as a thank you from the Branch. Receiving the certificates were Shipmates Rose Dear and Dave Rowland.

In June, Huntingdon & District Branch teamed up with St Neots & District Branch with a charity stall at the Fly Navy Event at Shuttlesworth. The combined donation to the Fly Navy Trust was carried out by Shipmates Karl Webb, President of Huntingdon



Branch, and Mike Milne, Chairman of St Neots Branch. The donation was received by the Mayor and Mayoress of Huntingdon, Cllrs Jay and Sonia Dyne, on behalf of the Trust. As a thank you for attending the dinner, the Mayor and Mayoress were also presented with a Branch shield by Shipmate Pete Aston.



Finally, Shipmate Pete Aston was shocked to find that there was one more presentation, a thank you from the President for all the work he has done throughout the year. A certificate of appreciation, but more important, a personalised bottle of Rum

(complete with rum of course). BZ Pete, well deserved.

The Branch Chairman gave the Loyal Toast, and then the Branch President followed this with the Toast to the Immortal Memory. After the toasts, the evening continued with a history lesson from the Branch Committee. ***(Editors Note; there was truth in the scurrilous rumour that they were actually onboard!)***

Research of those who took part in the Battle of Trafalgar gave an insight of the life and fears onboard each of Nelson's ships whilst engaging with the enemy. Those personnel names were in all likelihood related to at least one member taking part in the evening's meal. A roll of honour was also read out, bringing home the reality of war as each named had the surname of shipmates and guests in the room. The evening concluded with a raffle, with plenty of prizes, most shipmates took home something from the dinner whilst raising funds for the Branch. Overall, another successful annual dinner, the Branch look forward to meeting up again next year. BZ shipmates.



In November, Huntingdon Branch took part in four Remembrance parades. Beginning with a flag raising service outside of Huntingdon District Council Offices on Thursday 9th November. A short service of Remembrance at Huntingdon's War Memorial on Armistice Day.

On Remembrance Sunday, Branch members took part in the main parade at the War Memorial, whilst other members attended smaller services in Godmanchester, Sawtry, March, and St Ives. On completion of the Service in Huntingdon, shipmates were invited to meet and greet serving members of the RN, Army and RAF from RAF Wyton for a 'DTS' at Wetherspoons in Huntingdon. During the evening, Shipmates also attended the evening Service of Remembrance at Godmanchester Church. The Branch Standard was paraded and this year we had members of T.S. Cromwell, Sea Cadet Corps as Escorts to the Standard. On completion of the service, shipmates met up with veterans at the Comrades Club in Godmanchester.

Photographs from Trafalgar Night show shipmates enjoying the annual dinner, shipmates Karl Webb and Mike Milne presenting a donation to the Fly Navy Trust, and shipmate Nino Crean issuing a tot of Pusser's Rum to shipmates Mark and Catherine Fearon.

Remembrance photograph above shows Branch members marching on parade on Remembrance Sunday.

RNA Rhondda Branch



Rhondda Chairman Shipmate Kevin Rowan had the privilege of being 'press ganged' into presenting the awards at the Rhondda Sea Cadets Awards evening.

The award of 'Best Cadet' the Les Bryant Memorial Shield is sponsored by Rhondda RNA Branch, which also comes with a small cash was presented to Able Cadet C. Lewis.

S/M Les Bryant was a member of Rhondda Branch who during WW2 served on the Atlantic Convoys. Sadly, after a short illness Les Crossed the Bar and the Branch hoped that by sponsoring the award it would allow Les's memory to live on and his story shared with generations to come. He was also a Freemason and his local Lodge

donated a sum of money to the branch in his memory.

RNA City of Glasgow Branch

The City of Glasgow Branch were requested to visit an ex sailor who has reached the grand age of 100 years. Alec Collins served in the RN from 1940 -1945 signing on at Skegness and served in HMS Iona, Arbona, Robina and Drummerboy.

After he was 'demob' he went back to his trade of tailor until he retired. S/M's Kenneth McKinnon (Chairman) and David Carlin (Treasurer) called at his home and S/M David presented him with a certificate from the branch on achieving a spritely 100 years of undetected crime. He was also presented with a bag of RNA



goodies with an invitation to meet the members of the branch on our next meeting. **(Editor Note; BZ from Central Office 100 not out!)**

RNA Uttoxeter Branch



Members of Uttoxeter Branch led by their Chairman S/M David Emery MBE attended the naming of Diamond Freight's new truck in celebration of the 100years since the forming of the WRNS.

The truck is named HMS "Dauntless" and bears the silhouette and pennant number of the modern "Dauntless" and the WRNS insignia and 100 year celebratory badge.

The parade which was held at Stoke on Trent Sea Cadets HQ, TS "Talent" included Uttoxeter and Stafford's Standards also included 3 WRNS Standards all led by a Piper.

The President of the Association of WRNS Anthea Larken CBE presented badges of Proficiency and Merit to several Cadets.

An excellent buffet was put on and enjoyed by a good number of WRNS and other "ranks".



RNA Dublin Branch

On Saturday 30th September, the Branch were delighted to host members of the RNA who were taking part in the 2017 CONA Cruise, for some drinks and to experience the traditional 'Irish Craic' at a Pub in Dublin. A number of Branch members were in attendance to welcome Shipmates from across the UK with a pint of the Guinness, from the home of the 'Black Stuff'. Branch Chairman Paul Stephenson was presented with a bottle of Pusser's Rum by National Chairman, Shipmate Keith Ridley, which was put to good use at the Branch's Annual Trafalgar Night Dinner!



On Friday 21st October, around 90 Branch Shipmates and guests, attended the Branch's Annual Trafalgar Night Dinner at the Royal Irish Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire. This year, the Branch was delighted to welcome the recently appointed new British Ambassador to his first Branch Trafalgar Dinner,

along with the British Defence Attaché Colonel Max Walker and his Wife.

Our guest speaker this year was taken ill at the last moment, but nonetheless, being a resourceful Branch, we were able to rustle up a substitute speaker with less than 24 hours notice.

Mr Des Grant, a local historian who gave a most fascinating talk on the role of the Irish at the Battle of Trafalgar. With the toast to the 'Immortal Memory' taken and a few words from the Ambassador, we closed another very successful Branch Annual Dinner.



RNA Woking Branch

Woking Branch held their annual Trafalgar Day Dinner at the Hoe Bridge Golf Club on Saturday 21st October. There were forty-eight Shipmates and Guests in attendance who all sat down to a three course meal.

The Mayor of Woking, Cllr. Graham Cundy was the Guest of Honour, and it was pleasing to see two past Mayors attending as paying Guests. Following the meal toasts were made for the Association and the Guests. The Mayor replying on behalf of the Guests praised the Branch for its part in the community over the past 30 years or more, especially for organising parades in the Town, such as Armed Forces Day, Armistice Day and St George's Day. He also went on to thank the Branch for its charity work in the area.

The evening main toast to Horatio Nelson was given by the Branch Chairman S/M Rod Fraser who had a few amusing anecdotes about life in the Royal Navy during Nelsonian times. The toast was given in the time honoured way with a tot of Rum to Horatio Nelson. The evening ended with a Toast to Her Majesty The Queen given by the Mayor of Woking.

The Branch is now getting ready for the Armistice Day Parade on the 11th November and the Remembrance Parade Day on the following day, which both are well supported by the General Public, which certainly boost the morale of those taking part.

RNA Littlehampton Branch



Littlehampton Branch celebrated its 71st year by having the Trafalgar Day Lunch at our local Inn, The Arun View.

The photograph shows the cake being cut by our President S/M David Lawrie and his wife Anne over-seen by our Chairman S/M Pat Cox and his wife Gladys.

The cake was made by Shipmates Clifford and Lynda Baddock. The members had a very enjoyable meal and thanked the staff for their hospitality.

RNA Bude Branch

Shipmate Bob Gelder filed this report on the 'goings on' in deepest darkest Kernow.....

Saturday, 21st October at The Falcon Hotel, Bude was the excellent venue for circa 50 S/Ms and Guests to celebrate the Battle of Trafalgar.

Before being allowed to settle a Branch "Groupie" was taken by our tame photographer - Paul Hamlyn - who was also responsible for the other two photos. Our Chairman, Dave Worth, welcomed all present and swiftly advised what the RNA was all about. Following the Exhortation (Hon. Sec. Bob Gelder), Nelson's Prayer (President Alan Litchfield) & Bishop Bill Ind's "Grace" (Vice Chair Stuart Douglas), an excellent and generous Dinner was thoroughly enjoyed, concluding with Port, during which our Chairman proposed the Trafalgar Toast.

With our P.R.O./Vice President (Godfrey) having carefully protected his RNA tie from gravy splashes and a/s/m Pat Moore opting for a 3rd helping of Roast Beef, such were the veg. helpings that the local pig farm should be producing some fine porkers! Godfrey did note, however, that his menu card read Godfrey Harrison - Prawn!



A 'dit' via Chunky Philp about the methods of inserting a cat pill down a cat's throat brought several chuckles and the A&E Dept. was glad to see the back of him!

Annual Presentations were then made with a brief explanation of each via Hon. Sec., by Chairman Dave.



Joining Horatio were (l to r) "Shipmate of the Year" (services to the Branch): Chunky Philp; The "Mick Philp Tankard" (service to Raffles & Auctions): Godfrey Harrison; Jim White "Golden Spanner Award" (he being ex-Stoker and for the "Nut" or Twit of the Year) retained by Tanky Williams; supported by Chairman Dave Worth.

Group "Selfie". Inviting Horatio for a couple of "Sippers" are Rum Bos'n Tanky Williams and a/s/m Neil Stone.

Following an excellent Raffle (thank you all contributors) certain items were then subject to "Auction" via current Auctioneer Peter Phillips. First class enthusiasm raised considerable income, including two fine photographs of a pair of the "Philp" family enjoying the local beach! Separately (and in further memory of Jim Watling, recently c.t.b.) a fine litre bottle of Rum raised £55 in favour of Cancer Research UK. Finally, two knitted dolls (by Margaret Horswill) on "Jack" and the other "Royal" were separately auctioned

in favour of Childrens' Hospice SW.

These are 'perpetual' trophies and following voluntary donations, a fantastic £233 will be handed over. Our indebted thanks to Debbie and the Staff @ The Falcon for seamless service - Debbie was quite rightly presented with a bouquet with the Branch's appreciation by Chairman Dave.

(Editors Note; Ere sounds like fun down there!)

[Dennis Campbell Morris](#)

[John Tegwyn Prosser](#)

[Dennis Raymond Walter](#)

Dennis Campbell Morris – Christchurch Branch

Dennis Campbell Morris who passed away on 5th October was born in Henley-on-Thames on 19th January 1925. Part of his childhood was spent in Newark, Nottinghamshire where his mother and her sisters lived. He had an older step-sister, Ivy, who lived for many years in Highcliffe. Dennis began his World War 2 service in the Royal Navy on 23rd March 1943 aged 18 years when he joined the Training Ship HMS Collingwood. By 5th October he was considered well trained enough to join the crew of HMS Winchester in Rosyth serving in the Battle of the Atlantic. The ship was one of many guarding the Normandy Beaches while troops were landing there. He was later belatedly awarded the Legion d'Honneur Medal by the French Government. It was presented to him by the Mayor of Christchurch at a special lunch. He was very proud of this and all his other Service Medals. Among other ships Dennis served on HMS Abercrombie. He sailed to North Africa and eventually to the Indian Ocean before starting his return journey to England on the day after VJ Day. On 16th September 1946 he was discharged from the Royal Navy and two years later married Mary (known as Molly). He also joined the Royal Fleet Reserve and he became a member of the Henley on Thames Sea Cadets as an instructor, rising to the rank of Lieutenant RNVR SP. By 1957 such were his work commitments as a painter /decorator that he regretfully retired from the Cadet Force.



Having moved to Bournemouth in 1966 Dennis, as well as continuing his work as a painter/decorator, and Molly, helped by their daughter, ran of a successful guest house until 1978 when it was sold and the family moved to Hengistbury Head. He continued working as a self-employed painter & decorator. When semi- retired he became Caretaker of The Marine Training Centre, Hengistbury Head. He finally gave up employment when in his eighties to look after Molly, with other carers, until her death in 2011.

Dennis was a long-term member of Pokesdown & Southbourne Ex-Servicemen's Club and The Royal British Legion. He joined the local Branch of The Royal Naval Association in 1998. As a very active member he served in every role possible arranging social events, fundraising and visiting sick Shipmates. Latterly he was Chairman for five years representing the RNA at numerous functions and events. He stood down from the Chair in March 2017. Leading up to his Chairmanship he formed a close friendship with S/m Christine Payne and they shared a few happy years.

In recognition of his long and active service with the RNA Dennis was made a Life President of the Christchurch & District Branch -- a role he accepted with pleasure and pride and he continued being an active member of the Branch. Dennis was a sociable, caring and popular local figure. He leaves a daughter, Lorraine and son in law Brian. His grandson Roger and his wife Yeing-Lang, both lawyers, who live in Twickenham. His Grand-daughter Victoria works for Stannah Lifts

and lives in Christchurch. Her husband, Kevin Marshall, was well-known local musician who passed away recently suffering from a brain tumour. Dennis also leaves two Great Grand-Daughters, Indi and Saskia-Mei and his partner Christine.

John Tegwyn Prosser - Hereford

Shipmate Tegwyn, as he was known, joined the Royal Navy in 1949 and served as a stoker on board several ships including HMS Euryalus. He was awarded the Korean Medal and was discharged in 1957.

After the White Ensign Club in Hereford folded in 2002, he, along with 2 more shipmates, joined the Hereford branch of the RNA and they always sat together at the monthly meetings. He always enjoyed the meetings and the Trafalgar Mess Dinners. In 2014 his health deteriorated and he was looked after by his wife Beryl at home with the aid of carers. He has been greatly missed by his Shipmates at the branch and is remembered with great affection. "May He Find Safe Anchorage".



Dennis Raymond (Ray) Walter

Dennis Raymond (Ray) WALTER, sadly crossed the bar on 30 October 2017 aged 92.



Ray was formerly Chairman of Buxton & High Peak RNA for 6 years, followed by Vice President of the Branch for 12 years.

He joined the RNVR aged 18, commissioned as a Sub Lt aged 19 ½. And following training with Tank Landing Craft in the West of Scotland took part in the Normandy Landings, landing equipment and men on Omaha Beach. Before the end of the war he served onboard HMS Diadem as a Navigating Officer. After the war he transferred to the RFA as a Navigating Officer and served on tankers including RFA Black Ranger. He came ashore in 1952.

Recently he was appointed Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur in recognition of his contribution to the Normandy Landings. He will be much missed by all Shipmates at Buxton and High Peak.

RNA Members Benefits

UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

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

Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

- Discounted Branch and House hold Insurance - 01323 744149
<http://bit.ly/RNACona>

Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Veterans UK 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 0800 827168

Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service
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



- Discounts on a large range of new Cars www.motorfinity.uk/rna

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

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,400 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.

HMS Ganges Association - 13-16 April 2018

The AGM and Reunion will take place at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island on the weekend of 13th to 16th April 2018. For more information contact IOW Tours, 3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, IOW, PO36 9JN. Email: enquiries@iowtours.com or Tel: 01983 405116. For details of membership of the Association please contact Ken Bushnell, Membership Secretary, 7 Rivers Street, Yew Gardens, Waterlooville, PO7 5FR. Tel: 02392 252812 or Email: gangesmemsec@gmail.com

HMS Loch Fada F390 Association 12-16 April 2018

HMS Loch Fada Association F390 will hold their 21st Reunion & AGM @ the Radisson Park Inn, Cardiff City Centre, Mary Ann Street, CF10 2JH from 12th to 16th April 2018.

This will be our 1st Foreign reunion our second 4 day after the great success of our 1st in 2017.

Thursday - Meet up & venture ashore to meet the Locals

Friday - Mystery Coach Tour into the Valley's

Saturday - 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner

Sunday - Coach outing to St. Fagan's National Museum of History

Booking & Arrangements are being made through IOW Tours email iowtours.com or Tel 01983 405116 or F390.sec11@virginmedia.com or Tel 01252 310767 or F390 Sec @ 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND

849 Naval Air Squadron Gannets - 26-29 April 2018

849 Gannets are holding a reunion at the Hotel Mariners, Haverfordwest Dyfed SA61 2DU between 26 and 29 April 2018.

For further details please contact John Rawling at jsrawl@aol.com

Lascaris Malta Association – September 2018

Lascaris Malta Association visited SS. Great Britain during their annual reunion visit to Bristol in September. If you would like more details of this

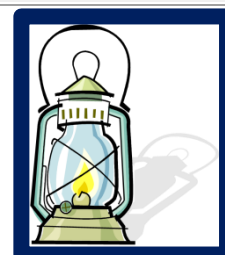


association contact Pat Middleton at patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com

Semaphore Circular is extremely grateful to Mike Crow of RN Shipmates who has forwarded the RN Shipmates 'Reunions' section from their website <http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk/reunions.php> where you will find specific contact details.

Mon 01 Jan 2018	H.M.S. Ulster Association	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffordshire
Sat 17th Feb 2018	H.M.S. Penelope Association	Blackpool
Fri 23rd Feb 2018	H.M.S. Birmingham Association	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
Fri 2nd Mar 2018	H.M.S. Exeter Association	The Mercure Southgate Hotel, Southernhay East, Exeter, EX1 1QF.
Sat 10th Mar 2018	R.N. COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION	BUXTON
Fri 23rd Mar 2018	40 Commando Association Royal Marines	Britannia Country House Hotel, Didsbury, Manchester
Thu 29th Mar 2018	H.M.S. Ganges Association	Inglewood Hotel Torquay
Fri 30th Mar 2018	H.M.S. Ledbury, Brecon & RMS St Helena Falklands 1982	Menzies Strathallan Hotel Birmingham
Fri 6th Apr 2018	Fleet Air Arm Association	Shire Hotel Kettering
Fri 13th Apr 2018	R.N. Colony Class Cruisers.	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Fri 13th Apr 2018	H.M.S. Ganges Association	Mill Rythe Holiday Village Hayling Island
Fri 13th Apr 2018	R.N. Engine Room Association	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 13th Apr 2018	H.M.S. Hermes Cooks 1968 - 1970	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
Sat 14th Apr 2018	HMS Dunkirk Association	Union Jack Club London
Sat 14th Apr 2018	AIRCREWMANS ASSOCIATION	Rembrandt Hotel, Weymouth, Dorset
Fri 20th Apr 2018	H.M.S. Decoy Association	Park House Hotel Blackpool
Fri 20th Apr 2018	H.M.S. Courageous Association	Mickleover Court Hotel Derby
Thu 26th Apr 2018	849 Naval Air Squadron Gannets	Hotel Mariners Haverfordwest Dyfed
Thu 26th Apr 2018	Royal Navy Safety Equipment & Survival Association	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Fri 27th Apr 2018	Bay Class Frigates Association	Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
Fri 27th Apr 2018	HMS DIDO Association	Brook Hotel, Norwich
Fri 11th May 2018	Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association	Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Millbay Road, Plymouth
Fri 11th May 2018	HMS SOLEBAY Association	Aztec West Hotel, Bristolmalc
Fri 18th May 2018	H.M.S. Broadsword Association	Mercure Hotel Bristol

Fri 18th May 2018	County Class Destroyers Association	Cavendish Hotel Torquay
Sat 19th May 2018	RNEBS	Guildhall London
Fri 1st Jun 2018	H.M.S. Londonderry Association	The Country Hotel Basingstoke
Sat 29th Sep 2018	Royal Navy Stewards Past and Present	Plymouth
Mon 1st Oct 2018	H.M.S. Endurance Association First Commission 1968 - 69	To be announced
Fri 5th Oct 2018	HMS Lowestoft Association	Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea, Hants
Fri 5th Oct 2018	HMS TROUBRIDGE FINAL COMMISSION	ROYAL BEACH HOTEL PORTSMOUTH
Sat 6th Oct 2018	Royal Naval Patrol Service Association	Lowestoft
Fri 12th Oct 2018	Royal Navy Photographers Association	Plymouth
Sun 14th Oct 2018	H.M.S. Neptune Association	National Arboretum Alrewas
Sat 7th Sep 2019	847 NAS HMS SIMBANG 69 - 71 Association	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Sun 1st Dec 2019	H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans	Trip to South America



Swinging the Lamp – December 2017

Date	Year	Entry
1st	1941	Light cruisers <i>Aurora</i> and <i>Penelope</i> , and destroyer <i>Lively</i> sank the Italian destroyer <i>Alvise da Mosto</i> off Kerkenah Bank (33.45N,
2nd	1796	<i>Southampton</i> captured the Spanish privateer <i>Corso</i> off Cape delle Mele.
3rd	1993	<i>Nurton</i> , the last of 118 original Ton-class MCMVs, which had been converted for service in the Northern Ireland Patrol Squadron, and the Royal Navy's last wooden seagoing ship, entered Portsmouth to pay off.
4th	1827	The first steam vessels commissioned as HM ships; the Duke of Clarence, Lord High Admiral, signed commissions for Lt George Evans, G.J. Hay and T. Bullock to command <i>Lighting</i> , <i>Echo</i> and <i>Meteor</i> . The ships appeared in <i>The Navy List</i> next month.
5th	1969	Chinese Unofficials. 'Tailors, Cobblers and Barbers are not to be employed in HM ships west of Suez. The only Chinese Unofficials who may be brought west of Suez are Laundrymen and may not remain west of Suez for more than 12 months. When in Home Waters Laundrymen are not to work as Tailors, Cobblers or Barbers.' – DCI(RN) 1511/69.
6th	1954	The former royal yacht <i>Victoria and Albert</i> arrived at Faslane for breaking up.

		Following custom, coins of the realm had been placed beneath her three masts during construction at Pembroke Dockyard. These were recovered; all are dated 1899, the year of her launch.
7th	1817	William Bligh, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, late Captain of HM Armed Transport <i>Bounty</i> , of <i>Director</i> (64) at the Battle of Camperdown and of <i>Glatton</i> (56) at Copenhagen, died at Lambeth. Buried in churchyard of St Mary, Lambeth, now the Museum of Garden History.
8th	1778	Horatio Nelson promoted master and commander into the brig <i>Badger</i> .
9th	1942	Destroyer <i>Porcupine</i> torpedoed by U-602 off Cape Ferrat (36.40N, 00.04W). Reached Gibraltar and towed to UK in two parts nicknamed <i>Pork</i> and <i>Pine</i> . But CTL, so no second <i>Zubian</i>
10th	2008	<i>Daring</i> , first of the Type 45 destroyers, accepted from her builders, BVT Surface Fleet Ltd, at Scotstoun by Capt Paul Bennett RN and White Ensign hoisted. Ship is affiliated with Birmingham and Guernsey
11 th	1807	<i>Grasshopper</i> captured the Spanish <i>San Jose</i> under Cape Negrete.
12th	1936	Destroyer <i>Fury</i> , escorted by destroyer <i>Wolfhound</i> , carried Prince Edward (later Duke of Windsor) to France after his abdication as King Edward VIII the previous day.
13 th	1711	The wall around Portsmouth Dockyard completed. 'This WALL was Begun the 4th June and finish'd ye 13th Decembr 1711.' 'In order to meet the needs of modern road traffic and with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty this gate built in 1711 was increased in width from 12ft to 22ft, November 1944' – plaques at Victory Gate.
14 th	1809	<i>Defender</i> , gun-brig of fourteen guns, Lt John George Nops RN, sailing from the Downs to Spithead, anchored off Folkestone to avoid a gale, wrecked on Cob Point when both her anchor cables parted. Crew saved.
15 th	1805	The body of Vice-Admiral Viscount Nelson, preserved in a cask of spirits after Trafalgar, transferred into an elm coffin on board <i>Victory</i> at anchor off Dover while on passage from Portsmouth to The Nore. On 21 December, Mr Whitby, Master Attendant at Woolwich, and Mr Tyson, Nelson's former secretary, arrived at Sheerness with the 'exterior coffin'.
16 th	1921	<i>Victory</i> , first rate, moved into No. 1 Basin, Portsmouth Dockyard; the first move towards her restoration and preservation
17th	1941	<i>Blankney</i> , <i>Exmoor</i> , <i>Penstemon</i> , <i>Stanley</i> , <i>Stork</i> and Martlet aircraft of 802 Sqn (<i>Audacity</i>) sank U-131 W. of Gibraltar (34.12N, 13.35W). Convoy HG 76. Cdr F.J. Walker's first kill, with 36th Escort Group.
18th	1827	Uniforms for officers reduced to a double-breasted coat, always to be buttoned up, with gold laced trousers for dress wear and plain for undress (white in summer). Breeches and dress swords restricted to Drawing Room. Buttons to be slightly domed rather than flat.
19th	1963	Assault ship <i>Fearless</i> launched at Harland & Wolff, Belfast, by Lady Hull, wife of Gen. Sir Richard Hull. Vice-Admiral J.B. Frewen, VCNS, and Lt-Gen. Sir Malcolm Cartwright-Taylor, CGRM, were present. The media were ordered not to photograph the stern of the ship, a security attempt negated by a Soviet merchant ship alongside at an adjacent berth.
20th	1808	The Royal Navy's second <i>Dauntless</i> , an 18-gun ship sloop, launched at Deptford Dockyard. She served in seas as far apart as Archangel, Newfoundland and the East Indies but, unlike the first of the name, she stayed out of trouble and was sold in 1825.
21st	1941	Escort carrier <i>Audacity</i> sunk by U-751 500 miles W. of Cape Finisterre (44.00N, 20.00W), and <i>Deptford</i> and <i>Samphire</i> sank U-567 in Atlantic (44.02N, 20.10W). Convoy HG 76.

22 nd	1875	<i>Goliath</i> , former 80-gun second rate, reduced to training ship 'for pauper boys from workhouses', accidentally burned out in Medway.
23 rd	1796	<i>Minerve</i> captured the French privateer <i>Maria</i> 30 miles S.W. by W. of Cape Spartivento, Sardinia
24 th	1798	Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, having precipitated a French attack on Naples, embarked the Sicilian royal family in <i>Vanguard</i> (74) and sailed for Palermo, the second capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.
25 th	1965	The 500th day of patrol work by the Royal Navy in Malaysian waters since the start of Indonesian 'Confrontation'. During 1965 British warships steamed 1 million miles and killed or captured 1,400 Indonesian raiders for the loss of two officers killed and eleven men injured.
26 th	1944	Frigate <i>Capel</i> sunk by U-486 off Cape de la Hogue, Normandy (49.50N, 01.41W): capsized slowly. <i>Affleck</i> also torpedoed by U-486; made her way home but CTL.
27 th	1831	<i>Beagle</i> sailed on five-year circumnavigation carrying Charles Darwin, subsequently author of <i>On the Origin of Species</i> .
28 th	1975	Third Cod War. The first collision of the 'War' between Icelandic Gunboat Thor and frigate Andromeda; fifty-six collisions were to follow, many severe enough to force the frigates to return to the UK.
29 th	1860	<i>Warrior</i> , first British seagoing ironclad, launched at Blackwall. Became tender to <i>Vernon</i> , reduced to fuelling hulk at Pembroke Dock and subsequently restored at Hartlepool. Returned to Portsmouth as ' <i>Warrior 1860</i> ' on 16 June 1987.
30 th	1941	Light cruiser <i>Ajax</i> and river gunboat <i>Aphis</i> bombarded Bardia.
31 st	1915	RNR and RNVR officers to wear gold lace, and not braid, but narrower stripes than RN.

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Delegate to Annual Conference 2018 Dublin

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2017 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2018 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

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

If you have not received confirmation one month before Conference please call Nigel on 023 9272 3747