



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



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The Semaphore Circular

No 718

The Beating Heart of the RNA

April 2022



Congratulations and BZ to RNA Spalding Branch on reaching the marvellous milestone of the 60th anniversary of the Branches Commissioning.

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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
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NCBA	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor/ Governance Committee

ind Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

Snail Mail – Postal Address

RNA Central Office,
Building 1/087,
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Portsmouth
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From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

Well Saturday marked the 40th anniversary of the Argentinian invasion of the Falkland Islands so that certainly starts the ball rolling with a season of commemorative events leading up to our own Annual Conference weekend over the weekend of 17-19 June. Our Comms team, Mary Prescott and Mike Gray, will be putting a new post up each day with news of what happened on that day in 1982 – a sort of Falklands Conflict day-by-day. Link here.....

<https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/> If you didn't see it, Channel 4 did a fascinating documentary last week entitled *Falklands War: The Untold Story* which is still available on Ch4 catch up. Meanwhile, planning for our w/e is coming together so please see the detail at Item 3. And don't forget the exceptionally kind gesture from Portsmouth University who have offered us vacant student accommodation at discount prices.



With the weather improving, although I confess it was a bit parky, the Portsmouth RNA cyclists mustered for the first time this year led by S/m Craig Foulton who some of you may remember as Chief Exec of Aggies a few years ago. Craig is also organising a ride out on the Friday afternoon of the F40 weekend. It is still early in the planning phase, but the intention is to enjoy a ride during the afternoon (17th June) and then hopefully gather together with the Motorcycle Riders and the Classic Car Group at a time to be confirmed at the Falklands Memorial Copse on Portsdown Hill (where a tree was planted for everyone who did not return.



As for the ride itself; the intention is to try to meet the needs of every ability, so we envisage two or three different groups riding at different average speeds for different distances. So, get your old tracksuit or your lycra dusted off! For now, all you need to do is to include your bike in your travel plans for the weekend - and drop Craig Fulton a line (craig@govguide.co.uk) to let him know you are in.

And, for those who are local, please feel free to join us for a social cycle on the first Saturday of the month. The usual routine is to meet about 0900 and have a spin for a couple of hours, stopping of course for the obligatory coffee at a suitable venue. Again, please contact Craig and we'll add you to the comms. All are welcome and no-one is ever left behind. Ideally, we'd like to start this at Branches/Areas around the country so if anyone who is a keen cyclist and wants to start something please let us know and we can advertise for you in the Circular or the Short.

Disappointingly, the Fishing Group who have organised a meet at the pond at Southwick Park on Friday 17 June, tell me that they will not be able to run it if they don't get more interest. So, if you are a keen course angler, get your rod packed for the Conference Weekend and let Selwyn Davies know you're coming down. He's on Selwyn@royalnavalassoc.com and he tells me that fly fishing is also permissible too.

Also, this is the final call for **discounted Army v Navy tickets** at Twickenham on 30th April. Buy your tickets through us and you'll get a fiver off the face value and, if you want to run a bus from your Branch, don't forget I can help with a grant from the Branch and Club Support Fund.

Finally, heartiest congrats and very best wishes to our very own Malcolm Little who became a grandfather earlier today. He is reportedly doing well!

Best wishes, Bill Oliphant

Chairman's chat

Hello again Shipmates,

First and foremost, I hope you have all read and submitted your Electric & Gas Meter readings for 31 March? If not, I suggest you do so now and don't delay. Without doubt, this unbelievable increase affects us all.

Sick Bay News: Not Covid, although you may well feel like you have got Covid symptoms, is a very nasty virus that we are experiencing here in the Cambridgeshire Area. Very much like flu, so look after yourselves.

HMS MARS Memorial Restoration Appeal: My thanks to those Branches and individuals who have so far responded to RNA Cork Branch's HMS MARS Memorial Restoration Appeal. Although the Branch has not reached its target, it is not too late for anyone who still wishes to make a small

donation to do so, as every little bit counts. Donations should be sent to Central Office either by cheque payable to 'Royal Naval Association' marked "HMS MARS" on the reverse or via Bank transfer to Sort code: 60-05-14 Account No 29671612 Reference "HMS MARS".

Membership: Continues to grow with Sara Field now dealing with an average of 10+ applications per day, so please be understanding if when phoning Sara you get through to her Voicemail (Answerphone in old speak). When I last asked for an update, the figure was 13535 – up from 9900 on 31 December 2020., what an amazing achievement. Keep spreading the word Shipmates.

Branch Admin: Just a follow up reminder from last month. Branch Secretaries are reminded to ensure their Year End Branch Returns are submitted to Central Office no later than 30th April – Branch Bye-Law B19 (c) refers. This must not be confused with the Annual Return required by the Charity Commission if your Branch is independently registered as a charity other than under the RNA's national charity No 266982. This also applies to Area Returns.

National Council Members (NCM's) and Deputy National Council Members (DNCM):

As a follow up to my article last month, just a quick sit rep report. Since last September's National Conference there has been a marked turnover of DNCMs & MCMs. New NCMs that have been appointed are: NCM 3 Andy Christie, NCM 5 Peter Chivers, NCM 7 Lance Higgon-Young (was DNCM), NCM 10 Stirling Simmons (was DNCM), NCM 11 Roslyn Hastie-Murray (was DNCM) and NCM Scotland Stephen Elliot. These appointments have been made ahead of this year's NCM and DNCM elections because of NCMs retiring mid-term with DNCMs stepping up, or current NCMs elected last September. The result of this year's NCM and DNCM elections will be announced at this year's National Conference in June.

A warm welcome is extended to them all and I look forward to working with you.

Ship Visit: A BZ to Area 10 Chairman Dave Wright, and RNA Wrexham on pulling out all the stops on getting S/Ms to attend a Ship's visit on Friday 25 March when HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH called at Liverpool. This came about as Bill Oliphant got informed of the Ship's visit at short notice by the Naval Regional Commander. Well done Bill.



Branch Social events: Just to say that my own Branch meets once a month for a Pub Lunch and Bi-Monthly on a Saturday for a Branch Breakfast (not to encroach on the local veterans' breakfast). This is a great way of supplementing the usual Branch Social activities and enables those unable to attend Branch meetings to meet up with Shipmates and keep in touch. Highly recommended.

Out & about: My thanks to Spalding Branch for inviting my wife and I to join them at a Lunch to celebrate the Branch's 60th Anniversary. Congratulations on reaching such a milestone. Next came attendance at RNA Stowmarket's AGM, the downside being not arriving home until 0100 due to the usual notorious road closures on the A14. Finally, a very interesting weekend in Edinburgh and the Scottish Area for inviting me the Dining Out of the Lord Provost, and attendance at the Scottish Area AGM and Quarterly Meeting. Without doubt, they have a strong Association of Wrens up there in Scotland, and my wife and I were kept well entertained after the meetings by the WRNS of RNA Rosyth & Fife who have not forgotten how to consume alcohol! What a delightful pleasure. All in all, it was a pleasure to meet so many S/ms from Branches and enjoy such warm hospitality - Thank You.

Area AGMs: Over the past month I have been approached by a few S/ms asking about Area Meetings, the reason being they wanted the opportunity to meet S/ms from other Branches. Can I ask Area Secretaries to email Andy Christie with details of your meetings so they can get published in the Semaphore Circular Long Cast.

Well Shipmates, that is it for now, and looking out of the scuttle I can see several Brass Monkeys running around -thermometer is reading 1c !!

To all serving Shipmates including reservists, maintaining the peace, and keeping the sea lanes open, keep up the good work, we are thinking of you. To all Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world keep safe. For those at sea, a safe return.

Stay safe everyone.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

Stop Press Stop Press.....

2022 Conference Tickets now Sale.....

Tickets are on sale for the 2022 Conference Raffle, with a top prize of £500. If you would like to buy tickets please call Sara on 023 92 723747 or email sara@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ National Standard Bearers Competition – 07 May 2022 HMS Collingwood

Standard Bearers are gently reminded that applications for the 2022 National Standard Bearers Competition in HMS Collingwood on Saturday 07 May 2022 are now being accepted.

Without causing any embarrassment we still haven't received entries from Area 1, Area 5, Area 7, Area 8, Area 9, Area 10, Area 12. So, if those Areas are planning to nominate a representative, please contact S/M Andy as soon as possible to allow for security and accommodation to be organised.

Area Committees and NCM's are strongly encouraged to nominate a Standard Bearer to participate in this prestigious National Event with the winner fulfilling the significant role of Royal Naval Association National Standard Bearer.

On a very encouraging note, the National Ceremonial Advisor has received 14 entrants for the Novice competition, so the future of the National Standard Bearer Competition is looking very positive.



There are two competitions; The National Standard Bearer Open Competition and the Novice Competition so whatever your level why not come along and join in the fun. Please submit names to either S/M Andy Christie andy@royalnavalassoc.com or the National Ceremonial Advisor, S/M Bob Coburn robertcoburn001@btinternet.com

Please include competitors name with DoB and name of any guests with DoB's - whether accommodation in HMS

Collingwood is required on Friday/Saturday night, Vehicle Reg details,

Spectators most welcome – Forward Name (DoB) and Vehicle Reg to Andy or Bob

Entries for competitors close on 02 April 2022

Programme

Friday 6 May

1400 – 1600 Photo session for Ceremonial Guidelines – NCA / S/M Huxtable
1600 - 1800 Practise and Training on Parade Ground (NCA and Team available for advise/guidance)

Saturday 7 May

0830 Competitors and Spectators arrive HMS Collingwood Main Gate
0900 -1000 Practise on Parade Ground
1000 Novice Competition Commences
O/C National Standard Bearer RNA & Association of Wrens Competition Commences
O/C Prize Giving Ceremony and Reception

O/C

Secure

The National Ceremonial Officer is looking forward to receiving entries for at least one competitor from each Area and he would ask Area Committees specifically to encourage Shipmates to volunteer for this vital area of RNA commemoration business and enable the tradition of Standard Bearers to continue.

Training and encouraged in all Areas is provided so please contact Shipmate Bob at robertcoburn001@btinternet.com



2. ★ CONA Conference Meeting 08 April 2022 – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth.

After two years since the start of the pandemic Conference of Naval Associations (CONA) is meeting again for the first time. Sadly during that period the membership list and Website needs a lot of love and attention. The Conference has already received confirmation that representatives from 25 Naval Associations will be represented.

CONA provides a direct platform to connect with the Navy Board, as the President is the Naval Secretary, Rear Admiral Jude Terry. It also provides a communications platform to connect r like-minded organistaions. CONA normally meets twice a year in the Spring and Autumn meeting, with the spring meeting in Portsmouth and the Autumn meeting this year in the West Country. it is hoped to hold and a Shipmates are requested to share this information with Ships Associations who's representatives would be provided with a very welcome. Please see the agenda for 08 April below;

For more information please contact the CONA Secretray Andy Christie at andy@royalnavalassoc.com Your attendance at the meeting would be most welcome.

3. ★ Heads Up F40 Weekend Programme

All recent articles concerning RNA/RBL F40 Events can be found on Page 33 in the F40 Supplement later in this edition. Shipmates are reminded that RBL events registration will close on 28 April.

Please see below latest details for this important landmark weekend. Apologies for not sending everything out sooner, but Portsmouth City Council are hosting the 'civic' events on the Friday and Sunday, and other Associations are involved at various points. Some changes may be necessary so do please look out for further updates.



Do remember to bring an ID card (e.g. Driver's Licence) for use at security gates, as well as apply to the RNRMC for branch travel costs, and the University for inexpensive B&B accommodation, if necessary.

As things stand in early April this is the latest outline plan for the F40 Conference:

Time	Event	Location	Rig /Comment
Friday - Reunite (17 June 2022)			
All Day	Special Interest Groups	Portsmouth Area	As per SIG Leader instructions
1900	Beat the Retreat RM Band	Guildhall Square	RNA Rig or Lounge Suit equivalent or Black Tie (wearing miniatures if attending PCC Civic Dinner)
1900 - 2115	Drinks Reception and Ceremonial Sunset	HMS Warrior	Suit/equivalent (no Stilettoes or narrow heel shoes); miniatures optional
1930 - 2300	PCC Civic Dinner (Invited Falklands Veterans – Card no cash Bar)	Portsmouth Guildhall	Black Tie with Medals
Saturday - Relive (18 June 2022)			
0830-1100	AGM (Including Bacon Butties)	HMS Nelson - Wardroom	RNA Rig
1100-1600	Falklands Forum and Q & A (Including S/W Lunch)	HMS Nelson - Wardroom	Informal
1930-2300	Buffet Dance (70/80's themed)	HMS Nelson - Wardroom	Informal
Sunday – Remember (19 June 2022)			
0930	Veterans , Band and Standard Bearers - Muster	Broad Street Car Park	RNA Rig with Medals
1040	F40 Commemorative Parade and Freedom of Portsmouth Ceremony	Hot Walls, Old Portsmouth	Rna Rig with Medals – No 1 Serving negative Swords
1140	Veterans March Past	Battery Row	
1145	Memorial Service and Civic Refreshments	Portsmouth Cathedral	Note; There is no alternative wet weather routine.

4. ★ RNA Cork and County Branch - Assistance Please - HMS Mars Project

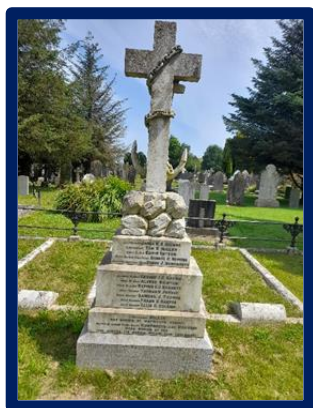
Shipmates RNA Cork and County Branch would appreciate your assistance and are appealing for funds to enable them to refurbish the HMS Mars Memorial to coincide with the anniversary of the tragic accident 120 years ago.

Very tragically twelve Royal Navy sailors were killed when a gun exploded on HMS Mars during gun practice off the coast of Ireland on the 14th of April 1902. Two of the casualties were buried at

sea, one of the sailors was repatriated to the south of England and the remaining nine of the sailors are buried in Cobh, County Cork.

As you can imagine, the intervening years have taken their toll on the headstones and professional help is required to refurbish them. As this disaster occurred during training and was pre-war, none of the statutory bodies will consider grant aid towards the refurbishment.

The actual cost of refurbishing the headstones is in the region of €2,500 and it is beyond the small local Branch to cover it. Any assistance with this very worthwhile project would be greatly appreciated by the shipmates of Cork & County Branch.



Donations can be sent by cheque direct to RNA Central Office marked for the HMS Mars Project. Or direct into the RNA Bank Account Sort Code 60-05-14 Acc No 29671612 again ensure you annotate for HMS Mars Project on the payment.

A commemoration will be held on Sunday 24 April commencing at 1430 on Old Church Cemetery Cobh.

Thank you for your consideration Shipmates

5. ★ Branch Bank Accounts Charges

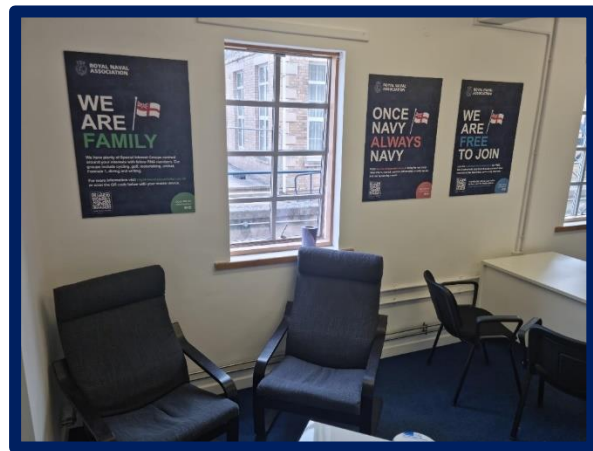
Shipmates may be aware that Banks are now charging charity organisations to manage their accounts. Shipmate Pete Aston, Hon Treasurer at Huntingdon Branch has forward the email below to forewarn other Treasurers about the bank charges so they can take alternative action plan to deal with these charges.

I recently noticed that we have started being charged an account fee monthly from January 2022, this is currently £5 a month and therefore £60 a year. With effect from next year there will be an additional 0.4% charge on Cash Deposits and 1.5% charge on Cheque Deposits. I was told they informed me last year but I have all correspondence and cannot find it. With it being early in the year with no transactions in our account I hadn't checked until I saw the statement. So far we have been charge £16. We are in the process of changing to a "Lloyds Bank Treasurer Account", this doesn't have any fees.

For information the CO-OP Bank is another Bank that does not charge Charitable organisations.

6. ★ RNA / RNRMC West Country Office

Shipmates will be delighted to hear the news, that a joint RNA / RNRMC Office will open in HMS Drake in the next couple of weeks, the exact date will be notified very shortly.



The Office will be manned Monday to Friday 0800 -1630 and managed by a full time RNMC/RNA staff member and volunteers. He/She will be the main point of contact for both organisations in the West Country, not only in Drake, but will maintain contact with all the other RN and RM Establishments from Culdrose to 3 Commando Brigade and onto Yeovilton. More news to follow in the very near future.....

7. ★ RNA Cricket V RMA - T20 Match Friday 17 Jun 2020

The RNA Cricket Team will take on the RMA at Burnaby Road in a T20 Match on Friday 17 Jun 22 by kind permission of the Naval Base Commander.

F40 spectators are most welcome, so bring a deck chair and enjoy a refreshment or two!

The match will commence at 1300 and will be followed by post-match drinks at RMA Eastney. So, Shipmates come and supporter our Team.

For further information contact S/M Mark Smith – markmiff1962@gmail.com



8. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

For Shipmates who are unaware, a series of 'Fireside Chats' featuring some fascinating subjects including; Battle of Jutland, Operation Paraquet (Re-capture of South Georgia 1982), Naval Recruiting in 2020 to name but a few. The presentations are held on Monday evenings commencing at 1800 using 'Zoom'. All are welcome.

Meeting ID – 288 830 5105 Password – Shipmate (case sensitive) Or, click on the link [here](#)

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 04 Apr	Geoff Parsons	Coats of Arms and Flags
Monday 11 Apr	Kevin Watkins	Atlantic Rowing
Monday 18 Apr	Easter Monday	
Monday 25 Apr	Dr Gordon Brooks	The Navy Astronaut who never was.
Monday 02 May	May Bank Holiday	

9. ★ Did You Join 1952 - Jubilee Shipmates

Did you join the RN / WRNS / QARNNS in 1952? The Royal Naval Engagements team are looking for Veterans who joined up in 1952 so that they can reach out to them with information regarding The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.



The exact details of the festivities are not yet known. However, if you joined up in 1952 (or know anyone who did) and would like to be contacted with further information, please call Sara in Central Office – 023 92723747 or email sara@royalnavalassoc.com

10. ★ Royal Naval Benevolent Trust – Update

Thanks to RNBT CEO – Rob Bosshardt for the article below which provides an update from RNBT.

Hosted by Portsmouth MPs Stephen Morgan and Penny Mordaunt, we were privileged to use the Churchill Room in the House of Commons as a superb opportunity to brief a number of politicians and other invited guests about our plans for increasing awareness of the help that we can offer to those in the naval community, who may not know about us or how to contact us.



The event was an important first step in engaging our friends and supporters in this our Centenary Campaign. We need everyone to spread this message as far and wide as possible.

To set off the event in style, the Royal Marines School of Music Corps of Drums performed a spectacular display of military precision and talented musicianship, followed by a keynote presentation from our Chairman, Captain Nick Fletcher to let everyone know about our plans and how they could help. For more information see <https://www.rnbt.org.uk/news/2022/03/house-of->

[commons-reception/](#) including how to receive a media pack to help you support our campaign.

Admiral Jellicoe House is nearing completion and is the final few weeks of the construction phase, on time, and the building is really starting to look good.



Although the grounds remain unfinished, we have had our superb landscaping plan authorised by Portsmouth City Council, and that will take shape in the last weeks of the project.

Staff recruitment is going full tilt, and we are very pleased with the calibre of the applicants. There are still some vacancies, so please do encourage anyone interested to make contact with our Recruitment Team on [0121 713 6958](tel:01217136958) or email rnbtc@cohesionrecruitment.com for more information.

We have registered the Home with The Care Quality Commission (CQC), so we can expect the Regulator to visit in late May or early June to clear us to open in mid-June if all goes to plan. We are keen to hear from anyone interested in a residency: please contact Lindsay Yendall by emailing scm.ajh@rnbtc.org.uk or give Lindsay a call on [02394 216293](tel:02394216293). We will also be looking for volunteers to help at the Home. If that is of interest to you, please contact the Home Manager Gill Irish by emailing hm.ajh@rnbtc.org.uk or call [02392 690112](tel:02392690112) Ext 228.

11. ★ Her Majesty the Queen – Platinum Jubilee – Trooping the Colour

It is with great pride that the Royal British Legion is able to offer members of the Armed Forces community (serving, ex-serving and their families) the opportunity to celebrations in the heart of London.

Trooping the Colour will take place on Thursday 2 June 2022 and, for this Platinum Jubilee year, there will be grandstand seating outside Buckingham Palace, **exclusively for the use of the Armed Forces community.**

The RBL will run a ballot for all those veterans who have served the Crown. If you would like the chance to take part in this historic event, please click the link below and **register your details by 13 April 2022**. Successful applicants will be **notified by email no later than 22 April 2022**. Please see the link for details [The Queen's Platinum Jubilee | Events | Royal British Legion](#)

N.B. (Tickets for currently serving personnel will be available via [Tickets for Troops](#).)

12. ★ RNRMC – Battlefield Cycle Challenge

Calling all Cycling Shipmates – How about a bit of a cycle while raising funds for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity by taking on this exciting challenge!



Cycle from Portsmouth through northern France to Cherbourg, visiting some of the region's most significant World War 2 battle sites, including Pegasus Bridge and the Normandy Landing Beaches.

We have some long days in the saddle as we pedal through this historic region, but we stop to pay our respects at many sites, and our tired bodies seem a small price to pay for the sacrifices made by the armed forces in WW2 and more recent years.



When – Wednesday 14 Sept 2022 – Monday 19 Sept 2022

Where - Portsmouth – Cherbourg

Registration Fee - £150

Fundraising Target - £1,600

Physical rating : 3 - Entry level grade perfect for first challenges, although moderate fitness levels are required as the trip includes some challenging distances and uphill cycles.

Group size: 40 max

To register and read more information, visit.....

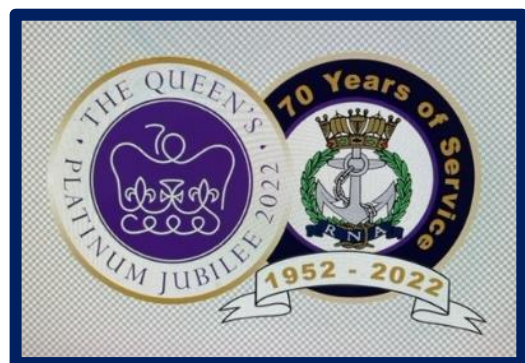
[Battlefield Cycle Challenge 2022 | The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity \(rnrmc.org.uk\)](https://www.rnrmc.org.uk/Battlefield-Cycle-Challenge-2022)

13. ★ RNA Platinum Jubilee Pin Badge

Central Office has commissioned an RNA Platinum Jubilee Pin Badge. Individual Badges will cost £5 each including post and packaging. Branches can order quantities of ten or more with the cost being reduced to £4. This will enable the badge to be sold for a modest profit, which can be recouped by the Branch/Club.

Please forward your orders for the pin to admin@royalnavalassoc.com

For further
or contact Central Office



14. ★ Armed Forces Cricket

Shipmates will be interested to know that Armed Forces Cricket is back after the pandemic!

Armed Forces Cricket are holding a T20, Men's and Women's, tournament at Lords cricket Club in London on Thursday 16 June 2022. Tickets are now available at:

<https://tickets.lords.org/en-GB/categories/all%20fixtures>

Tickets cost - Adults £20 – Over 65's £10 - Under 16's £5

For further information interservices20.co.uk or Fb [Facebook.com/InterServicesT20](https://www.facebook.com/InterServicesT20) or Twitter [@UKAFCricket](https://twitter.com/UKAFCricket)

15. ★ Assistance Please – Sea Cadets HQ



Gary Bassett from Sea Cadet HQ has written to Central Office to ask Shipmates if they recognise the Brass Plate shown in the photo.

Gary would really appreciate any pointers in the right direction or indeed if you recognise it, please contact him at gbassett@ms-sc.org

16. ★ Important Finance 'Stuff' - Travel Claims and Expences

Shipmates should be aware that many 'back-office' financial actions have now been transferred to RNRMC and so with effect from 01 April 2022 that **all** travel claims or requests for financial assistance should now be emailed to financial.services@rnmc.org.uk.

If any further information or guidance / assistance is required Kathryn can still be contacted through the normal channels at Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com

17. ★ HMS Cardiff Hangar Stables

Our grateful thanks go to Stowmarket RNA Branch, Editor S/M Pete 'Chivs' Chivers - formerly a PO Scribes ... for this super dit!

Forty-one years ago, probably one of the most unusual signals ever received by a naval warship arrived in HMS CARDIFF's MCR for the attention of the then Captain. Captain M. Harris, Royal Navy. To transport two horses from the UK to Belgium, accompanied by their riders; two officers from the Lifeguards, who were taking part in some PR exercise that was happening in Brussels.



CARDIFF had just returned from a work-up at Portland, which had been followed up with a hugely enjoyable stopover for the crew to the City of Cardiff, and was now back in Pompey for a short period before heading back out to sea for a trip to Antwerp and a couple of other European ports. So, somebody in the MoD had thought it a good idea that CARDIFF would assist in the carriage of both horses and riders across the sea. Clearly, carrying non-naval personnel onboard was a given – but horses ! This was something new and it was agreed that somebody from the ship's company should help with liaison and safety whilst the 'precious' cargo was in the navy's charge.

So, in Daily Orders a request was made for any volunteers to step forward and help look after the four and two legged 'guests'. With also a flurry of signals going back and forth between the ship, the MOD and Brussels, all of which landed in the Ship's Office, one of the Scribes professed to having had some experience of looking after horses. With some 'gentle' nudging from the others in the office, and in his messdeck, Scribes was convinced that he should put his name forward to be the 'Acting Stable Lad', which was gratefully accepted.

He was now officially in charge of making all the necessary arrangements for the horses to be kept safe whilst onboard. It was a given that the largest space available to stable the horses would be the ship's hangar, and Scribes was soon told that the horses could have this space all to themselves as the Captain had arranged for the ship's Lynx helicopter to fly directly to Belgium.



All confirmed by the signal traffic that was still going back and forth and seen by Scribes. Indeed, Scribes found himself put effectively in charge of looking after the horses as the recognised 'expert' onboard.

Over the days leading up to the arrival of the horses, which would be a couple of days before the ship sailed (to allow them to 'acclimatise' to their new 'stable' arrangements), Scribes was given a 'crash course' by the Buffer in the use of rope and how to tie knots, useful when it comes to tethering. Confirming with the Chief Stores what stores mainly hay and oats) would be required and their delivery. Being shown by the Chief Stoker how the main water system worked onboard, including use of a mobile pump, so sea water could be used to 'muck out' the hanger. And lastly, speaking with both the PO Cook and Caterer on preparing

the feed these 'thoroughbred' horses would require.

The Coxswain was briefed about keeping a steady helm when the horses were taken out onto the flight deck for their daily exercise, and the PO Writer looked up where in Naval Pay Regulations it said that Scribes could receive 'special' payment for undertaking 'additional' duties.

So, a week before the arrival, and by now having also read a couple of books on looking after horses, Scribes was asked by the Supply Officer if he was still sure he was okay with 'helping', to which he said he was and informed the SO that the Chief Stoker had just issued him with his overalls, hard hat, ear defenders, rubber boots and a bucket and spade. With the Chief Stoker also confirming that the spade was of a type that wouldn't cause sparks on the hanger deck and frighten the horses! Scribes was all over it – and if necessary, he would sleep in the hanger during the journey. The Supply Officer mulled this over for a minute and rang the stores office to enquire about a hammock.

A day before the horses and Life Guards were due to arrive, several hay bales arrived, along with blankets for the horses, rope (for tethering) and a small horse jump (a plank nailed to two uprights, no more than a foot high), and a bag of oats. The following day, CARDIFF and the other ships on Fountain Lake Jetty were bathed in brilliant sunshine and at the pre-agreed time, up pulled a PSTO(N) naval stores lorry at the bottom of the ship's gangway and out jumped the driver, who informed the QM that he had a delivery for the attention of Scribes. So, with the QM having piped for Scribes to come to the gangway, it led to most of the ship's company (including the Captain) finding any vantage point on the upper deck to watch the 'special' arrival.

Scribes arrived at the gangway, dressed in his newly issued overalls and wellington boots, where he signed the delivery docket presented to him by the driver, and made his way down the gangway to help bring the horses onboard.

Scribes face was an absolute picture when the tail gate of the lorry was dropped, and on peering inside he found himself looking at two wooden horses staring back at him. The penny finally dropped, and now hearing the laughter of the whole ship's company watching from their vantage points, he climbed into the back of the stores lorry, took one of the horses under his arm, jumped back off the lorry and carried it up the gangway, where he requested permission from the Officer-of-the-Day to bring his new charge onboard, which was duly given to loud cheers from those watching.

To his absolute credit, Scribes was laughing as much as anyone, especially when he was reminded by the Officer-of-the-Day what day it was – April 1st.

This is a '10 Clipper' gen dit and it really did happen. It was Chivs who started the spoof, though he didn't realise just how enthusiastically everyone else would join in.

Editors Note – What is it about Writers - whilst serving in HMS Falmouth one of 'ours' took a saucer of milk to the Hangar Roof to feed the Sea Cats!!

That really was a cracking bite Chivs..... But what have you started..... is there anyone out there that can Black Cat that?

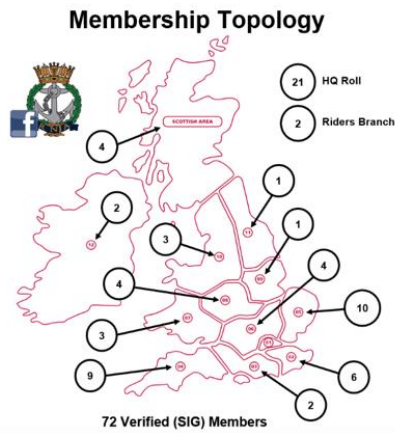
18. ★ RNA Model Makers

**ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)
FOR MODEL MAKERS**

For all model making enthusiasts!
Find us and 'Like' us on Facebook. Just search for RNA SIG
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/434544820928061>



The Facebook page is a closed (Private) Group and will need your RNA Membership Number to join.
Connect - Construct - Create!



19. ★ Specialist Interest Groups – Contact details

Shipmates will be interested to know how popular and successful the Specialist Interest Groups has become. There has been huge interest from Shipmates across the UK and to kick start our F40 weekend a selection of SIG's have created a fun filled day of activities for you to get involved with on Friday 17th June, our Reunion day!

Whether you are already a part of a group or are yet to join one we highly recommend you get involved and see what it's all about.

For more information regarding the day's activities for each group please contact the designated leaders, listed in no particular order:

Camping and Caravanning – Ron Shilton: rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com

Classic Cars – Mike Burnham: hon.secretary@rnarayleigh.org

Cricket – Mark Smith : Markmiff1962@gmail.com

Cycling – Craig Fulton: craig@govguide.co.uk

Decorative Ropework – Bob Jones: oldsalt69@hotmail.co.uk

Divers – Bill Lawless: billylawless40@yahoo.com

Fishing – Gus Honeywood/Selwyn Davies/John Stephenson: rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com

Golf – Colin Dinsdale: rna.golfers@gmail.com

Riders – Dave Ives: secrnariders@gmail.com

If you are interested in forming a Special Interest Group and joining in the fun please contact admin@royalnavalassoc.com

20. ★ Assistance Please – White Mafia

Central Office has received a request for assistance from Lt Cdr Nick Toms the Deputy Fleet Logistics Officer at Navy HQ. He is asking if any Scribes, Jack Dusties, Caterers, Chefs or Stewards have a 'White Mafia' story to tell concerning the Falklands Campaign, please see below.

My name is Nick Toms and I currently work in Navy Command in Portsmouth. One of my more random roles is to edit and produce the annual "Logistics Matters" magazine for our branch – the honourable evolution to the RN's Supply & Secretariat Branch that operated with such skill to support the Falkland campaign Task Force.

For this year's edition I would very much like to include some reminiscences from former "White Mafia" members who went down South. Given that the modern RN has now finally got itself back into the Carrier Task Group game, it seems a fitting thing to do in this 40th Anniversary year.

I wonder if there is any mechanism available to reach out to your membership to see if any old Cooks, Jack Dusties, Stewards or (heaven forbid!) Supply Officers would like to send in some snippets (humorous, dramatic or mundane...) for inclusion? Any snaps of glorious early '80s mutton chops and moustachioed chaps "doing supply stuff" would also be amazing.

In true naval fashion if you don't ask you don't get! Nick can be contacted at Nicholas.Toms369@mod.gov.uk and has a deadline date of **01 June 2022**.

21. ★ World Wide Interweb - Top Tip

Shipmate Ian McQueen very kindly forwarded this item to highlight to Shipmates who order 'stuff' Online how to avoid hackers.

Do you know the difference between HTTP:// & HTTPS:// when you open up a website address

Keep this in mind!! Especially those of you who order online. This is how hackers get your information.

Do you know what the difference between http is:// and



https://?

I don't know how many of you are aware of the difference, but it is worth sending to anyone who does not.

The main difference between http:// and https:// is it's all about keeping you secure. HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. **The "S" stands for "secure".**

If you visit a website or web page and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: http://

This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular "unsecured" language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website.

If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.

This is why you must never **ever enter your credit card number in an http:// website!**

However, if the web address begins with https://, that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop. If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with https://.

If it doesn't, you should NEVER enter sensitive information such as a credit card number, SS #, etc. Hopefully, your eyes haven't misted over because it mat cost you hard earned money.....**remember https://**

22. ★ Assistance Please – Operation Christmas Box 2022

S/M Alan Key is the Treasurer of the Fleet Air Arm Association and would like to introduce you to a superb Charity that supports Servicemen and women who are on duty over Christmas.

We at the FAAA support this "operation" and have done for many years. Last year the only Military Associations that supported this cause were ourselves and the Royal British Legion.

Below is the contact details for the organiser Sally Little who will be able to give you details of the charity. It is a great way of showing serving members that we as veterans care as well as advertising your organisation. Sally Little 07973 225048 sally.little@operationchristmasbox.org

23. ★ Quick Joke for the Road

Did you know that having sex while drunk is banned in Iceland.....

Not sure about ASDA you will have to check their rules..... Boom Boom !!

HMS BRONINGTON - the historic former Royal Navy Mine Hunter once commanded by our future King, desperately needs help

The Mine Hunter, which was commanded by the-then Lieutenant Wales in 1976, sank at her moorings on Merseyside six years ago. The volunteers of the recently-formed HMS BRONINGTON Preservation Trust (formed 3 September 2021) believes there is a final chance to save the ship – now nearly 70 years old – before the elements finally take their toll (visit [Royal Navy](#) website for further information).

With the exception of HMS VICTORY, HMS BRONINGTON is the UK's last surviving wooden hulled RN vessel to be constructed (built as HMS HUMBER in 1953 at Beverley, East Yorkshire). Her final base port was Portsmouth (HMS VERNON followed by HMNB Portsmouth (MCM2 Squadron)) until she was decommissioned in 1988. She was converted to a Mine Hunter during a refit at Rosyth Royal Dockyard (1963 – 1965); alterations included the fitting of an enclosed bridge, a tripod mast and the Type 193 mine hunting SONAR.



HMS BRONINGTON is one of around 120 Ton-class minesweepers built in the 1950s. With hulls of mahogany, the TONS were the last wooden warships built for the Royal Navy before it switched to today's plastic-hulled Mine Hunters (HUNTs and SANDOWNS) in the 1970s. (More ship details, [here](#)).



HMS BRONINGTON is registered with National Historic Ships UK (NHS UK). NHS UK is the official voice for our historic vessels and contains a significant sub-group of around 200 elite vessels (including HMS BRONINGTON) deemed the National Historic Fleet (NHF) due to her "exceptional historical interest". Sadly, membership of the NHF will not prevent her from being scrapped. (Visit [NHSUK](#) website for further information).

The Mine Hunter served for nearly 35 years, finally decommissioning in 1988 after which she became a museum ship firstly in Manchester, then on the Wirral Peninsula. The trust looking after her – and other vessels, including Falklands veteran HMS PLYMOUTH – folded in 2006, since when she has been neglected, eventually sinking at her moorings in 2016.

Firstly, a dive survey is required to assess the state of the hull and whether there is any significant damage which may result in the project having to be abandoned. In June this year it is planned that the MOD (Navy) Salvage and Marine Operations (SALMO) will conduct a comprehensive underwater survey using ROVs and drones. Pending the outcome of the dive

survey (and integrity of her hull) it is then planned to pump her out, re-float and stabilise her using the services of a commercial salvage company with MOD (Navy) support.

The nearby, world-famous Merseyside shipbuilder Cammell Laird has agreed to take HMS BRONINGTON onto a slipway for restoration under their apprenticeship scheme if it is feasible to save her and the funding can be found.

The trustees want to see the wooden-hulled ship used to deliver yachting and diving courses, teach navigation, be hired for fishing/diving trips, filming, and used by Sea Cadets. If those goals prove too much due to cost and unavailability of equipment, then HMS BRONINGTON would revert to becoming a static display alongside or in a dry dock, open to the public, similar to her successful years as a museum ship on the Manchester Ship Canal.

Recent correspondence to HRH the Prince of Wales had an encouraging response. A letter received from Clarence House states that His Royal Highness takes a keen interest in all matters to do with his former ship and is humbled by the recovery efforts for this historical naval vessel. This project also has the support of my local MPs, Penny Mordaunt MP (a RN reservist) and Flick Drummond MP. The MOD (Navy) and United Kingdom Naval Engineering Science and Technology (UKNEST) have offered help with the dive survey, recovery, technical guidance and fund raising.



The trustees are very grateful for the generous donation already received from the Liverpool RNA and are hoping that the other RNAs may also be able to help. Any donation – large or small – will be gratefully received.

Should the project be abandoned, all donations received for this project will be donated to a Forces Charities. So far, the trust has raised over £6,500 towards its target. Further donations can be made via www.gofundme.com/f/help-restore-hms-bronington

For further details please contact Mike McBride, who is a Trustee of HMS Bronington Preservation Trust Limited on 07712 769411 or mike.mcbride@ntlworld.com

25. ★ Naval Children's Charity – April is Month of the Military Child



At the Naval Children's Charity, we believe that Naval children should be proud of their family's service, and that an affiliation with the military should be a positive and enhancing experience.

April is Month of the Military Child. This Ministry of Defence initiative looks to raise awareness of the hardships faced by service children, but also celebrates the benefits too.

There are so many wonderful ideas that schools, parents and other charities are undertaking to

celebrate. From special assemblies to art competitions, breakfast events to inviting service parents into classrooms, the creativity shown by our community is always a pleasure to see.

It's really easy to get involved. Follow the #MotMC hashtag on social media to see how others are celebrating. Also, keep an eye out for an announcement for our own special #MotMC competition. This sense of pride we want to instil in our Naval children must be based on a foundation of self-confidence and resilience.

Copies of *Wisdom While You Work*, an interactive notebook that helps older children and young people (10-25 years old) learn lifelong values and skills, are still available.

Email book@navalchildrenscharity.org.uk with the code WWYW, and the service number of their Naval parent or guardian, to receive a free copy.

***** Members Offers *****

Gin Lovers.....

Ideal Gift for GIN LOVERS! Read On.....

We gave you the opportunity to buy your warming "1921 Reserve" Gin in April which many of you did and it proved very popular, but now it is time to top up your drinks cabinet (or garden bar) with the refreshing summer "1921 Reserve" Gin.

You may have spotted that this is just a marketing ploy - it is of course, the same Gin but we are sure you have run out and your visitors would appreciate the special qualities that go to make this a Gin to remember as well as a very useful Birthday present for any upcoming birthdays.

Now on sale at £35 plus £4.50 P&P but if you buy 2 or more, the Postage is free! What an incentive! Please also remember that the RNA receives 10% for each bottle sold, so apart from drinking a very smooth Gin, you are helping the Association! Don't forget to click the button for RNA when you are on the gin website. [Sea Urchins Navy Strength Gin - Mygin](#)



Pussers

Calling all 'Rum Rats'

Shipmates may wish to know that 'Pussers' is now available from the very new online 'Navy Shop' with all profits from Rum going back to the charity.

Please follow the link <https://royalnavyshop.co.uk/collections/rum>

www.pussersrum.com



Forces Cars Direct

Veteran-owned Forces Cars Direct is celebrating 20 years of service to the military community and we're delighted to welcome them to the Royal Naval Association and our members in an exclusive partnership.

Offering unique new car discounts with savings up to 35% on a full range of makes and models, you can be sure to find the right car for you! Forces Cars Direct is endorsed with 5-star TrustPilot ratings from its customers, was named Veteran

Business of the Year in the English Veterans Awards, and has support from the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, so you not only save thousands, but can be assured of the highest level of service too.

With Forces Cars Direct you will also benefit from:

- UK nationwide, Covid-safe delivery
- Cash purchase and full finance options available
- Leasing service available
- All part exchange vehicles welcome
- Serving and veterans

Find out more about the service and savings available at <https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna> where you can browse and make your enquiry.



WWW.RNASLOPS.CLOTHING

The RNA Officially Licensed supplier of embroidered garments.

Polo Shirts, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Fleece, Jackets, Knitwear, Blouses, Pilot Shirts, Softshell, Headwear,

The RNA Logo is included in your garment price. All you have to do is select New or Blazer Style badge and add your Branch Name, of which is optional.

Tel: 07983 151011 E Mail: ray@rnaslops.clothing



RNA Slops is owned by RLP Embroidery and we pay Royalties to the RNA

Just for Groups

Shipmates should be aware that just For Groups, which is a part of the UK Holiday Group return 5% of turnover to the RNA to reinvest in CONA and other programmes.



‘Tailor Made’ Holidays – for the RNA

Please find below a couple of proposals for your consideration one for a possible self-drive stay in Leatherhead with coach transfers to Chessington World of Adventures and the other for Hampton Court Palace. Alternative attractions which we could look at with this particular hotel which also might be suitable are RHS Gardens Wisley, Denbies Wine Estate and Thorpe Park

For further information please contact Cheryl.barnard@justforgroups.com or check out www.justforgroups.com or call 01603 886740

RNA Longcast

2022	
15 Apr	Easter Monday
24 Apr	HMS Mars 120 years Commemoration, RNA Cork & County Branch. 1430 – Old Church Cemetery Cobh
30 Apr	Navy v Army Rugby Match – Twickenham
06 May	AMC
07 May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
07 May	Area 5 Meeting – Stowmarket
09 May	HMS Royal Arthur Memorial Rededication - Skegness
13 May	FAC
14/15 May	Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration, Londonderry Branch.
20 May	Central Office - Open Day
27 May	RNA Christchurch – Standard Dedication Service Christchurch Priory 1100
12 Jun	No 12 Area - Falklands 40 Commemoration, , Belfast Branch
14 Jun	Opening of HMS Sheffield and HMS Coventry Memorial Benches and Naming of Central Office Building by Naval Base Commander Portsmouth Cdre JJ Bailey RN
16 Jun	Armed Forces Cricket - T20 Mens and Womens – Lords Cricket Ground
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AGM/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
02 Jul	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day
08 Jul	Central Office - Open Day
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
06 Aug	Area 5 Meeting – Harwich
12 Aug	Central Office - Open Day
01-04 Sep	Bournemouth Air Days (Christchurch Branch)
04 Sep	Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service Navy War Memorial Tower Hill
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
30 Sep	Central Office - Open Day
29 October	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Spalding](#)
[RNA Salisbury](#)
[RNA Scottish Area](#)
[RNA St Neots](#)
[RNA Huntingdon](#)
[RNA Rushden](#)
[RNA Llanelli](#)
[RNA Falmouth](#)
[RNA Area 3](#)

RNA Spalding Branch

Our thanks to Shipmate Terry Carter Spalding Branch President for forward the article below describing the Branches magnificent 60th Commissioning Celebrations.

Spalding Branch celebrated being in commission for 60 years on 25th February 2022. The branch wishes to thank Central Office for the generous donation from the Branch and Club

Support Fund to allow us to celebrate the occasion in true naval fashion.

On this occasion the Branch restricted attendance to Members, their Spouses or Partners to a Luncheon at the Royal Mail Cart Spalding, where the branch holds impromptu lunches throughout the year.

Our Branch Padre the Rev.

Aileen prepared and conducted a short service in the Bar, and after a short speech by the Branch Chairman S/M Keith Crawford MBE, it was “Hands to Dinner” .

Guest of Honour was the National Chairman S/M Keith Ridley, who I discovered was also a Member, as I am of the elite RN Branch.(Stokers). ...I am still ducking. fter an enjoyable three courses, the two Keith’ s cut the Anniversary Cake, “Up Spirits” followed, by the Loyal Toast It was then swinging the lamps time.

Like all Branches we are aware, our time is far from the present, as our was from Nelson, but I would hope there is comraderie as we



had, still with serving people. Spalding has a Maritime Heritage, and up to the 1950's was still accepting cargo's, though I think its Port claim was tettering.



There must be youngsters of all persuasion from the locality who are serving, shipmates want you to know that despite you may consider us to be a bunch of "Old Farts", we are not and would be delighted to see you and make you feel most welcome at our meetings. It would be 'Sweet' and we are still up for a laugh- sometimes at our own expense. It costs nothing. Second Thursday of each month time 2000 at Spalding Services and Social Club; High Street Spalding.

Come and meet us, the next 60 years are going to wicked.....

(Editor Note - BZ Spalding Branch what an achievement, congratulations)
(Pictures -Courtesy of the Spalding Today)

RNA Salisbury Branch

Following Salisbury Branches successful Commissioning Function last August, branch Shipmates met up again with the Navy Larks to present the Cheque from the money raised at the event to the RNLI.

A cheque for £650 was presented by Salisbury Branch Chairman, S/M John Mussell to Mr Ray Stedman, Chairman of the Salisbury & Wilton RNLI.



A Further £100 was raised for the Salisbury Sea Cadets who were sadly unable to attend the presentation evening

RNA Scottish Area



A dinner night to honour the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Councillor Frank Ross, was held at the Radison Blu Hotel in Edinburgh for his service to the Veterans Community during his tenure as Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Admiral of the Forth.

Guests included - The National President of the Royal Naval Association, Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB, National Chairman, MEM Keith Ridley, General Secretary / CEO Captain Bill Oliphant RN, Captain Chris Smith ADC RN, Scottish

Area President and the Lord Provost of Aberdeen Councillor Barney Crockett.

The evening was hosted by Stephen Elliot, Chair of the City of Edinburgh Branch of the RNA and Karen Elliot BEM, Chair of Edinburgh and District Branch of the Association of Wrens who presented an engraved memento from the RNA.

The photo features the Lord Provost of Edinburgh Frank Ross with the ladies of the Association of Wrens.

(Our thanks go to S/M David Cutler for the article and photo)

RNA St Neots Branch

St Neots held an Oggie evening organised by S/M Maureen Ridley which brought back some West Country memories for many S/Ms.



S/M Keith Ridley extolling the virtues of the Oggie to S/Ms Paul and Val Godfrey from the Peterborough branch. In the foreground is S/M Mick Noble

S/M Pete Horner about to bite of more than he can chew with S/Ms John and Stella Gibbs tucking in.



Another highlight of the evening was a quiz which featured;-“Name 20 items that you would take with you if you were stranded on a desert island”

Among some of the many amusing suggestions were:-



A breeding pair of rabbits/A cooker with a solar panel/12 Bottles of Pussers Rum!
(Doesn't do to die of thirst!)

The branch had an excellent start to their first good causes collection for 2022 at the St Neots branch of Tesco. Branch Support was, as always, excellent, as can be seen from the S/Ms on the first watches. (All those smiles and not a Tot taken yet!)

From Left-S/Ms Keith Ridley, Terry Brown, Anne Knowles, Simon Stearman, Jennifer Casey, Mike Milne, Kati Page, John Gibbs and Peter Plant.

Finally, The gentleman opposite was an extremely generous contributor, and as can be seen readily adopted the RNA culture. S/M Tony Webley doing duty at the stand looks on.



RNA Huntingdon Branch

Shipmates from Huntingdon RNA carried out a charity stall at the Peterborough Services station on 5 March 2022. It was good to be out amongst the public, chatting and promoting the RNA. BZ to shipmates Pete Aston, Colin Jones, Mark Fearon, Dick Bacon, and Terry Baker.

The same weekend, shipmate Pete Aston arranged a collection of essential items, on behalf of Huntingdon RNA, that would be shipped out to the people of Ukraine fleeing the war zone and in desperate need of help. Our hearts go out to all those suffering during such an unprovoked attack on their country.



On the 12th of March, shipmates Karl and Hilary Webb, in their roles as Mayor and Mayoress of Huntingdon, attended the Mayor of Rushden's Barn Dance organised with shipmates from Rushden RNA (see the separate article about Rushden Branch).

All in all, it is good to see the branch back out in public and collecting for naval-related charities in need.

RNA Rushden Branch

On the 12th March, shipmates from Rushden Branch assisted the Mayor of Rushden organising and hosting her charity Barn Dance in support of the Falklands Veterans Foundation, Rushden Royal British Legion, and Rowan Gate school.

Rushden RNA Branch President, S/M Paul McKay, worked with the Mayor of Rushden, Cllr Melanie Coleman, to tailor the evening with a mix of dance and entertainment to ensure the evening was a success. One of the





mayor's guests was the Mayor of Huntingdon, Cllr Karl Webb, who also happens to be a Life Vice President and Secretary of Huntingdon RNA, it was a great opportunity for representatives of the two branches to form a new friendship.

Photographs show Rushden shipmates at the Mayor's Ball, and a group shot with Rushden shipmates and the Mayor of Huntingdon (also Huntingdon RNA).

RNA Llanelli Branch

Shipmates should be aware that Llanelli Branch has a new Hon Secretary, S/M Linda Davies. S/M Linda's contact details are.....

Email – linda.davies338@gmail.com and Mobile 07598 451734

RNA Falmouth Branch



Shipmates are cordially invited to join Falmouth Shipmates at the 'Sea Sunday Falmouth' event.

Sea Sunday Falmouth 2022 will be held on Sunday 17 July with the **Parade forming on the Moor at 1020**. The church service will be held in the King Charles the Martyr Church, which will be followed by a reception in the Civic Office Reception Suite

All are welcome to attend Branch/Club members and Standards.

RNA Area 3

Area 3 Southern Flotilla Reunion weekend will be held on the weekend 14-17 October 2022 in the Holiday Inn Sittingbourne.

The package includes:

- Half Board Ensuite accommodation
- Wine reception
- Up Spirits Gala Dinner and two nights live entertainment
- Coach trips to Chatham Dockyard and Greenwich Maritime Museum

The total cost for a three-night package is £275pp For further information please contact S/M Ken Chandler 07970 686301 or kencathcpa@hotmail.co.uk

[Alex Johnson](#)

[William Herbert Judd](#)

Alex Johnson - Area 12

It is with sadness that I have to inform you that Shipmate President, Alex Johnson crossed the bar, 24th Feb 2022, his 101st birthday in hospital. Alex was taken in on the night before with breathing difficulties.

Our President Alex Johnson was given a great send off 1/3/22, having crossed The Bar. On a glorious spring day, Shipmates from Area 12 along with members of the Royal British Legion and SNONI, gathered at the church. The Area. Branch and the Royal British Legion standards lead Alex into the packed church, were they walked down the aisle, which was lined by a Guard Of Honour, consisting off Shipmates from Area and the Branch along with members of the Royal British Legion.

A memorable service was held, recollecting the life of our dear shipmate Alex. On completion, the standards lead out off the church, again through the Guard Of Honour. The cortege then heading to Carmoney Cemetery for the committal. There, the cortege was led by the Standards and a lone Piper, with a Guard Of Honour escorting Alex to the committal site. A short service was held, and then the committal, followed by the last post by the Bugler, and a lament by the Piper.

The citation was read out by the President of the Royal British Legion, N. I. Area. A Poppy wreath was layed, followed by family, friends, Shipmates and Royal British Legion members, dropping Poppy's into the grave.

(Our thanks to East Antrim Branch Secretary, S/M Geoff McConnell for forwarding the above obituary.)

William 'Bill' Herbert Judd - Market Drayton Branch

Market Drayton Branch Hon Secretary S/M B Westwood has forward some sad news concerning Shipmate William 'Bill Herbert Judd.

Bill Judd Official No DJX 398999 crossed the bar earlier this month shortly before his 102nd Birthday. Bill was our oldest member and joined the branch on 07 February 2022 at age 99.

Bill joined the RN in 1943, for Hostilities Only, and became an AB Seaman Gunner. His first ship was the SS Clan MacArthur, a defensively equipped Merchant Ship, defending convoy's. His first trip was scheduled to go from the UK to Durban and then Mauritius. Unfortunately, after leaving Durban the ship was hit by three torpedoes form a German U Boat and his ship sank.

The lifeboats were hailed by the U Boat Captain who apologised for sinking the ship but that it was his 'Job' and he offered first aid equipment but that was all he could do! Luckily a day or so later a French ship rescued Bill and the 29 other men in the lifeboat and took them to Mauritius.

Bill will be remembered when Market Drayton Shipmates are sitting on his bench, which Bill donated on his 100th birthday, it takes pride of place in the memorial garden.

BZ Bill thank you for your service.

F40 WEEKEND EVENTS - SUPPLEMENT

Dear Shipmates,

Please find below a number of articles relating to events and activities relating to the Falkland 40th commemorations.

Shipmates the aim of the Falklands 40th weekend, which includes the 2022 RNA Conference on 17/18/19 June 2022 is to Reunite, Relive and Remember and just to emphasise this isn't just a weekend for those who took part in the Falklands Conflict; it's an opportunity for our entire membership to pay their respects to those who were lost and who contributed to the effort, whether serving RN, RM, RFA, Merchant Navy, Dockyard workers, spouses, or children of those serving.

Unlike previous recent RNA AGM/ National Conferences, the events of the weekend will not be centred on a single venue.

Delegates and attendees should therefore seek their own accommodation in Portsmouth. To help, a list of accommodation venues and websites is attached.



The RNRMC is supporting this activity and Branches are invited to **apply for grants** for transport for Shipmates to be able to attend the F40 weekend. More details can be found at [Falklands 40 Fund | The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity \(rnrmc.org.uk\)](#)

REUNITE

On the Friday, our Special Interest Groups will gather in their clusters to take part in activities around the Portsmouth area. All our members are invited to be involved in this, whether they've joined a Special Interest Group yet or not. We're hoping that there will be an activity to interest everyone and plans are still being developed to bring more to the programme over the coming months. If you don't find something that sparks your interest but have an idea for an RNA group/activity you would like to be the Group Leader for then please do get in touch with us and let us know. Email us at: admin@royalnavalassoc.com

The Special Interest Groups are a new initiative from the RNA, so these events will be an inaugural activity for most, meaning you can be involved right from the start! Each group has its own Group Leader for you to email and express your interest to.

Golf – The RNA Golfers will be gathering at Southwick Park Golf Course on Friday 17th June for bacon butties and 18-holes across the land that Churchill and Eisenhower plotted the D-Day landings from. To be involved in this, please express your interest to their Group Leader, Colin Dinsdale – rna.golfers@gmail.com

Cricket – Are you a cricketer? Would you be keen to join an RNA Cricket team? The Royal Navy's Burnaby Road will be hosting a cricket match for us, against the Royal Marines Association, and we need a team! The match will start at 1300 on Friday 17th June, with refreshments served at around 1630 on completion. Clearly, this will also be a great spectator event and the bar will be open throughout. To be involved in this, please express your interest to Gordon Williams – chairman@rna-7area.org

Riders – The RNA Riders branch will be gathering in Portsmouth (location TBC) and rallying out to Sammy Miller's vintage bike museum in the New Forest on Friday 18th June. Whether you've been involved in the group previously or would like to join as a new member, anyone on two wheels is welcome. To be involved in this, please express your interest to Simon Zammit – rnarbarea3@gmail.com

Fishing – The RNA Fishing SIG will be hosting a social coarse fishing event on Friday 18th June at Southwick Park Lake. Whether you're an experienced fishermen or new to the sport, everyone is welcome. It's a beautiful and extremely peaceful place to spend the whole day or just a few hours. To be involved in this, please express your interest with an email to rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com

Classic Cars – The RNA Classic Car SIG will be meeting at RHS Wisley on Friday 17th June for a car rally down to Portsmouth, avoiding the A3 by taking A and B roads for a steady amble. All classic cars, their drivers and passengers are welcome to get involved in this. To express your interest in participating in this, would you kindly advise Group Leader, Mike Burnham m.burnham@btinternet.com by 23:59Hrs 15 March 2022 of your:

- Intention to participate
- Your joining point
- Your Vehicle make, model and Registration Number

Camping & Caravanning –

It has been a challenge to confirm location details, but the RNA Motorhome, Caravan & Camping Group will be hosted at a site in the Portsmouth area. If you would like to become a member of the group and camp over the weekend, please express your interest to their Group Leader, Ron Shilton – rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com

On Friday evening, the 17th of June, Shipmates will reunite at 1900 for the Band of the Royal Marines to Beat Retreat at the steps of the Guildhall, followed by evening drinks reception on HMS Warrior*. Members will be invited to walk to HMS Warrior or call taxis from the Guildhall taxi rank. For those less able, the RNA minibuses will run a shuttle from the Guildhall to Victory Gate.



* Please note, Portsmouth City Council will run a separate and free Civic Dinner that evening for Falklands Veterans and one guest– Please see the specific details in Paragraph 2.

RELIVE

Saturday's events will be hosted in a marquee in the rear garden of the HMS Nelson Wardroom. An abbreviated National AGM will take place in the morning, with delegates gathering at 0830 for breakfast rolls with formalities starting at 0900.

This will be followed at 1100 by a 'Falklands Forum' with a panel of Falklands veterans, representing different aspects of the Conflict. Some RMA members will also attend and a sandwich lunch will be provided.



Throughout Saturday afternoon we will have wellbeing support and guidance available for all Shipmates if required. Wellbeing experts will be on hand to give immediate support and signpost to ongoing initiatives. If you have any wellbeing concerns ahead of the event, please get in touch

with our Wellbeing Programme Manager, Lynda Pearson to discuss them in confidence.

lynda@royalnavalassoc.com

Model Making – The RNA Model Makers group will be displaying their crafts in HMS Nelson's Wardroom during the AGM and the Falklands Forum. If you'd like to join their group and display a model of your own, please express your interest to their Group Leader, Gary Daisley –

rna.modelmakers@gmail.com

After a short break (time for a siesta/LLD and a dhobi), members and guests will be invited back to the marquee at HMS Nelson Wardroom at 1930 for an 80s themed dance and buffet dinner. With a live band and 80s tunes playing late into the night, this is an event not to be missed!

REMEMBER

On the Sunday, in Old Portsmouth, those connected to the Naval Service under the leadership of Portsmouth City Council, are invited to march with their Shipmates with the RNA National, Area and Branch Standards for a 1100 Service of Remembrance at the Falklands memorial in the Hot Walls. This will be followed by the City of Portsmouth unveiling a new memorial and presenting the RNA, RMA, and Falklands Veterans with Freedom of the City scrolls. Commemorations will conclude in Portsmouth Cathedral with a short service, , as well as civic refreshments. Final timings and instructions for this element of the weekend will be published over the coming months, but those Shipmates marching will form up at the Ben Ainsley Building (Before Broad Street is closed to traffic)



List of Hotels to assist.

*******The cost of the functions over the whole weekend (including HMS Warrior reception on Friday evening and Forum sandwich lunch and Buffet Dinner on Saturday) is £30 per person*******



F40 Booking Form
PDF.pdf

The link to the attendance pro-forma is here

Hotel	Location	Postcode
Premier Inn Portsmouth Dockyard	Queen St, Portsea	PO1 3EE
Premier Inn Portsmouth City Centre	Brunel Road, Portsmouth	PO1 2TR
Queen's Hotel Portsmouth	Clarence Parade, Southsea	PO5 3LJ
Holiday Inn Express Portsmouth, Gunwharf Quays	The Plaza, Portsmouth	PO1 3FD
Ibis Portsmouth	Winston Churchill Ave, Southsea	PO1 2LX
Travelodge Portsmouth City Centre	Stanhope Rd	PO1 1FB
Travelodge Portsmouth	North End	PO2 8AB
Holiday Inn Portsmouth	Pembroke Rd	PO1 2TA
The Duke Of Buckingham	High St, Portsmouth	PO1 2HW
The Ship Leopard Boutique Hotel	Portsea, Portsmouth	PO1 3DT
Hotel Ibis Budget Portsmouth	Fratton Way, Southsea	PO4 8SL

Somerset House Boutique Hotel	Florence Road, Southsea	PO5 2NE
Premier Inn Southsea Hotel	Long Curtain Rd, Southsea	PO5 3XX
Becketts	Bellevue Terrace, Southsea	PO5 3AT
Seacrest Hotel	Southsea	PO5 2JB
Portsmouth Marriott Hotel	Cosham, Portsmouth	PO6 4SH
Village Hotel	Lakeshore Drive, Portsmouth	PO6 3FR
Premier Inn Portsmouth North Harbour	Cosham, Portsmouth	PO6 4SA
Royal Maritime Club (Home Club)	Queen St, Portsea	PO1 3HS
Royal Beach Hotel	St Helen's Parade, Southsea	PO4 0RN
Also, the University have B&B rooms available with city centre & Southsea options (costing around £52 per night)	Email david.goodwin@port.ac.uk or call him on 02392 844567	
Also, check accom at the following sites:		
www.airbnb.co.uk		
https://www.trivago.co.uk/		
https://uk.hotels.com/		
https://www.booking.com/		

★ RBL F40 Commemoration Service NMA 14 June 2022

Shipmates may be aware that the Royal British Legion are hold a Falklands Campaign 40th Anniversary commemoration service at the National Memorial Arboretum on 14 June 2022.

The programme for the day will feature Associations holding their own commemoration at their individual memorials and in the afternoon join together for a secular service and interactive ceremony featuring Falkland Campaign veterans both military and civilian at the National Memorial in the centre of the NMA. The ceremony at 1400 will also feature a direct link-up with Port Stanley. The event will be hosted by Max Hastings. There will also be an exhibition hall for attendees to visit and reminisce

The day is aimed primarily at Veterans and their spouses and bereaved families, not Senior Government and Service VIPs, obviously some senior figures will attend in their own right as a Falklands veteran.

It is estimated some 10,000 tickets will be available and details will be released early in the new year. The RBL are currently negotiating with Network Rail to investigate the possibility of free travel, fingers crossed!

Finally, as stated previously the service will feature Veterans and their families telling their stories of the campaign. It does not need historical factual descriptions, although are definitely welcome but some of the lighter personal relocations. Please forward your stories to admin@royalnavalassoc.com we would be delighted to receive them and with your permission forward them to the RBL.

If you would like to attend the event you will need to register with the RNA at admin@royalnavalassoc.com **before 22 April 2022** where you will need to supply the following information;

Forename/s Surname
Full Address (including Post Code)
Place of Birth – City
Country of Birth
Will you be bringing a Guest
If so... All of above information Please
Accessibility requirements and Do you possess a Blue Badge
Service Number
Details of your service in the Falklands Task Force.

Thank you for your assistance with this information. Specific details on the event can be found on the RBL F40 Website at [Falklands 40 | Remembrance | Royal British Legion](#)

★ Invitation to Bereaved Family Members to attend the RBL Falklands Conflict 40th Anniversary at the National Memorial Arboretum 14 June 2022

Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Falkland's Conflict at the National Memorial Arboretum

The 40th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands Conflict will no doubt be time of great personal reflection for all those connected with the military and civilian effort to liberate the Falkland Islands and, most especially, for those whose loved ones paid the ultimate price.

In recognition of this sacrifice, I am writing on behalf of the Royal British Legion to extend a warm invitation to you and a companion to join the RBL and veterans of the conflict in remembering the anniversary at the National Memorial Arboretum on Tuesday 14 June 2022.

On the morning of the event, there will be an opportunity for unit Associations to conduct intimate commemorations at their respective memorials within the Arboretum. In the afternoon, there will be a tri-service commemorative event, culminating in an Act of Remembrance, based around the Armed Forces Memorial. This will feature veteran testimony from key moments in the conflict.

Should you require it, accommodation will be provided at a local hotel for you and your companion on the night of Monday 13 June 2022. Transport will be provided to take you to and from the Arboretum.

It would be a privilege to have you join us on 14 June 2022. If you would like to accept this invitation, please email falklands@britishlegion.org.uk with your name and contact details as well as those of your chosen companion. We will be in touch to discuss the finer details of the event in early March.

For further information on the Falklands 40 Commemorative Event, please visit our [website](#).

I hope very much to welcome you to the Arboretum in June.

Kind Regards,

Catherine Parums
Head of Commemorative Events

RNA Members Benefits

UK Holiday Group /Just for Groups

Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 5% of turnover returned to RNA to reinvest in CONA and other programmes.

www.justforgroups.com

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- RNA member - Day Ticket Offer just £20 plus 3 guests at £20 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.
- RNA Member – 30% discount on Annual Ultimate Explorer Ticket (featuring all attraction's)

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
<https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna>

The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Please forward any reunions for 2022 and I will publish them here

	<p>Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk</p>
2022	
12/13 Apr	<p>The 10th HMS Lowestoft Association reunion will take place on Tues/Wed 12/13 April 2022 at the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea. For details and a booking form please email: admin@hmslowestoft.uk</p>
07 May	<p>HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool (HMS Eaglet) Reunion (incorporating 20th Anniversary of Wolff Rock) For booking details please contact Alan Murrell at brown_pyjamas@hotmail.com</p>
13 May	<p>HMS Bulwark, Albion and Centaur Association – Red Lee Hotel, Scarborough</p>
21 May	<p>HMS Broadsword Association - HMS Drake</p>
28/29 May	<p>HMS Fearless 1982 Crew Royal Maritime Club (Home Club) Portsmouth To attend the gala dinner evening at The Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth, you will need to book your dinner tickets in advance. Please use the link to make your booking. Cost £60.00 per head.</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hms-fearless-82-40th-anniversary-reunion-tickets-189862392527</p> <p>Please note that accommodation at the hotel is not an option, as the hotel is already fully booked. If you plan to stay overnight in the local area, you will need to book alternative accommodation as soon as possible as availability will be limited, as there are many Falkland Reunions taking place the same weekend.</p> <p>Your Dinner Ticket includes a welcome drink, three course dinner, a cheese course and Port. Wine will be included on the table. Menu choices will be provided at a later date. We have a great toastmaster to smooth things along.</p> <p>Plus-ones are encouraged and there will be a DJ for the those that wish to boogie, while the rest of the salts mingle by the bar swapping sea dits about our time down south.</p> <p>Dress Code for the Dinner is black tie or lounge suit plus mini medals for men & evening gowns or cocktail dresses for the ladies. Mini medals may be worn in honour of those no longer with us.</p> <p>Sun 29 May</p>

0945 Muster at the Gosport Bus Station (be warned - the last ferry across is 1030)
1100 Service. Dress of the day. Jacket/Tie with Medals
1140 Gosport Parade via High Street to Reception at Walpole Park Gosport.
On completion Disperse and safe journey home

Swinging the Lamp – April 2022

The RNA is grateful to the Author, Lt Cdr Lawrie Phillips TD, RD, RNR for allowing us to publish a selection from the RN Day by Day. If you would like to read more it can be purchased from - The History Press and is priced £60 ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1853	First provision for lower-deck pensions, after twenty-two years' service.
2nd	1966	C.S. Forester died; creator of Horatio Hornblower.
3rd	1918	Seven British submarines destroyed at Helsingfors to avoid capture: E 1, E 9 and E 19; E 8, C 26, C 27 and C 35 some days later.
4th	1982	South Georgia garrison of twenty-one Royal Marines surrendered, having shot down one Argentine helicopter and damaged the frigate Guerrico with platoon weapons.
5th	1942	Minesweeper Abingdon sunk and destroyer Lance badly damaged in dry dock by Italian aircraft at Malta.
6th	1915	False bow-waves to be painted on all ships to confuse submarine attack.
7th	2011	3 Cdo Bde deployed to Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 14. Brig E.G.M. Davis took over command of Task Force Helmand from Brig James Chiswell, Commander 16 Air Assault Bde at Lashkar Gah on 9 April.
8th	1930	Explosion of a depth charge gun cotton primer in the destroyer Sepoy, Lt-Cdr H.E. Reid RCN, during exercises off Hong Kong with the Eighth Destroyer Flotilla, caused minor damage to the ship but killed six men. The King sent word of his distress and 'heartfelt sympathy' to the First Lord of the Admiralty.
9th	1945	Aircraft Handler Branch of FAA formed, known colloquially as 'Chockheads'.
10th	1781	Nelson's 'favourite ship', third Rate Agamemnon (64), launched by Henry Adams at Buckler's Hard.
11th	1997	White Ensign hauled down at Tamar, Stonecutters' Island, 100 years to the day after the troopship Tamar arrived in Hong Kong waters as Receiving Ship. Tamar was Britain's last naval base east of Suez.
12th	1943	Lt-Cdr Robert Hichens, DSO and bar, DSC and two bars, RNVR, peacetime Cornish solicitor, killed in action in MGB 112 off the Dutch coast; the most

		highly decorated RNVR officer of the Second World War. His portrait by Lt-Cdr Peter Scott hangs in the Naval Club, Hill Street.
13th	1940	Force Sandall – 200 Royal Marines – landed by heavy cruiser Suffolk to occupy Faeroe Islands.
14th	1915	Cruiser Hyacinth destroyed German Kronburg off East Africa, preventing her from supplying light cruiser Königsberg.
15th	1965	Prime Minister Harold Wilson presented the ship's bell of HMS Resolute to President Lyndon Johnson in Washington
16th	1921	Allowance for milk for the Admiralty cat increased from 1s to 1s 6d a week.
17th	2002	750 NAS became the first RN squadron to achieve fifty years of continuous commission. Originally formed 24 May 1939, disbanded 10 October 1945, re-formed 17 April 1952 at RNAS St Merryn, north Cornwall, as the Barracuda element of 796 NAS.
18th	1969	The Admiralty Board noted 'with grave concern' the giving of 'Sippers' and drew attention to QRRN Article 1839(3) which prohibited all 'loan, transfer, gift or barter' of spirits or other intoxicating drink. DCI(RN) 466/69.
19th	1945	First flight of de Havilland Sea Hornet, Navy's first twin-engined, single-seat fighter.
20th	1949	Amethyst, frigate, fired on by Communist PLA batteries in Yangtze River east of Nanking. Opening of the Yangtze Incident.
21st	1989	Quorn, last of eleven Hunt-class MCMVs, commissioned.
22nd	1916	Battlecruisers Australia and New Zealand collided. Former missed Jutland and never fired a shot in anger.
23rd	1786	A Flag Captain 'is never his own master' – Capt Nelson, HMS Boreas, Carlisle Bay, Barbados, to his future wife, Frances Nisbet, at Nevis.
24th	1959	RN Helicopter Station, Portland, the first Service helicopter station in the UK, opened by the C-in-C Portsmouth, Vice-Admiral Sir Manley Power. First FAA squadron based at Portland was 815 NAS with Whirlwinds.
25th	1916	Submarine E 22 torpedoed and sunk by UB-18 off Yarmouth after what in RAF parlance was a dogfight
26th	1943	HM Landing Craft Gun (L) 15 and 16, together with a rescue boat launched from the sloop Rosemary, foundered in a storm off Freshwater West, Pembrokeshire; seventy-nine RN and RM personnel lost.
27th	1915	VC: Lt-Cdr Edward Courtney Boyle (E 14) and Lt-Cdr Martin Eric Nasmith (E 11) for work in the Sea of Marmora, Dardanelles.
28th	1982	Total Exclusion Zone of 200 miles declared around Falkland Islands, from 30 April.
29th	1802	Marines styled 'Royal Marines' by George III 'for meritorious service'. This was on the recommendation of St Vincent, who reflected in 1823 that he had never known 'an appeal made to them for honour, courage or loyalty that they did not more than realise my highest expectations. If ever the hour of real danger comes to England they will be found the Country's Sheet Anchor.'
30th	1992	Vanguard, first RN Trident submarine, 'officially named' at Barrow by HRH The Princess of Wales.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2022 Portsmouth

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

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 has been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

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