



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



Published 1st
Monday of
the Month

The Semaphore Circular

No 722

The Beating Heart of the RNA

September 2022



Founder members of RNA SVGG (St Vincent and the Grenadines) Group display the commissioning certificate at their commissioning on Saturday 03 Sep 22. RNA SVGG will be based in Gosport, Hants as part of RNA Area 3. The National Chairman was present, he was camera shy! And left National Council Members, Andy Christie NCM 3 and Vice President WO1 Claire Robson along with Wellbeing and Welfare Programme Manager, Lynda Pearson to offer their congratulations. Welcome aboard Shipmates.

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

1. [Uckers World Championships](#)
2. [Welfare Wellbeing Workshop](#)
3. [Stamp Collectors](#)
4. [Change to Bank Account Details](#)
5. [Liverpool AGM Conference](#)
6. [Royal Navy Shop Discounts](#)
7. [RNBT Charity Concert](#)
8. [HMS Raleigh Veteran Mentors](#)
9. [FAA Museum](#)
10. [Fireside Chat Programme](#)
11. [Top Tip](#)
12. [RNBT - Update](#)
13. [Mystery Naval Artefact](#)
14. [Tri Service Research](#)
15. [Marine Jim Wren – HMS Repulse](#)
16. [RNA 2023 Diaries](#)
17. [Can you help?](#)
18. [SIG – Model Maker Reports](#)
19. [SIG Motorhome & Caravaning](#)
20. [SIG Contacts](#)
21. [Caption Competition](#)

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,
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Scott Road,
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From the General Secretary

Ahoy Shipmates

I hope everyone had a great summer and the drought didn't hinder enjoyment of the sunshine.

I'm starting this month's dit with a BZ for the Christchurch Branch who have been



New recruits - Capt Richard Walley and son William at the Air Festival

doing a great job promoting the RNA at the Bournemouth Air Days last w/e.

The paper RNA hats

certainly proved popular again.

Same goes to No7 Area who rep'd us at Cardiff

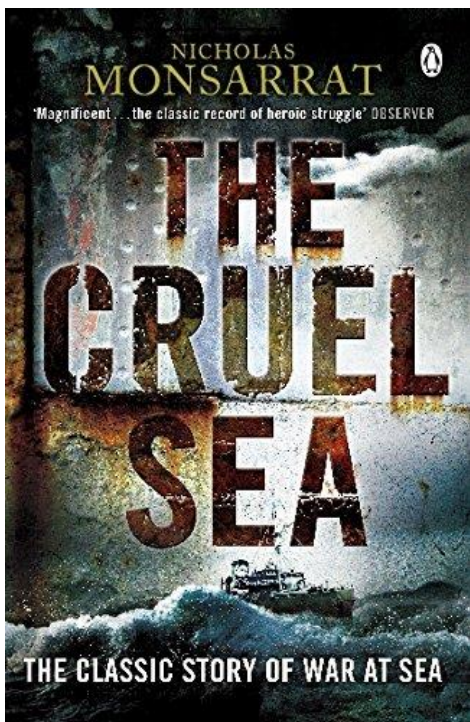
Gay Pride the w/e before.



Navy MCDs - always popular at the Bournemouth Air Festival

I was reflecting the other day on the success of the F40 weekend in Portsmouth in June where we minimised the necessary business of the AGM and put on a package more of social, sporting and cultural activities such as the Falklands Forum where we heard some amazing eye-witness accounts of the Falklands campaign. Next year, in Liverpool, it is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic and the city is gearing up to celebrate and commemorate that momentous achievement and it is our aim to make the RNA Conference and Reunion weekend central to

those activities. We are in close cooperation with the local city and naval event planners, and I have every expectation that this will be another hugely interesting and fun weekend where we can get together and enjoy the camaraderie which our Association fosters.



To coincide with the BOA80 commemoration, we have brought forward slightly the date of the **Reunion Conference to the w/e of 25-28 May 2023**. This will include a Parade on the Sunday and we would like to get as many remaining WWII ex navy – Merchant as well as RN - to Liverpool as possible to honour the unique contribution and sacrifice that generation made. We are happy to make tailored logistic solutions including for carers where necessary – please let us know in Central Office if you have someone in mind who fits the bill and is keen to go.

Some may ask why 1943 is the date chosen to mark the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic when of course we know the battle continued effectively from the outbreak of war until the German surrender in May '45. It was of course Enigma

which allowed us to win the information war and an intercepted and decoded signal from Adm Doenitz to German High Command in the summer of 43, revealed that he no longer believed that the U-Boats could win the war for Germany.

See more in the article in the main body but my advice is to book early as it may be a bit busier in Liverpool that weekend because of all the activity and also because it's a Bank Holiday w/e.

Well, with a new Prime Minister announced – Good day Ma'am - let's hope we can get some with these fuel bills. If you have served or are a widow or widower of someone who served, for those who are struggling, please don't be too proud to lift the phone to the RNBT if it's all much. After all, that's what the RNBT is there for, and you deserve to be looked after. There's more about the RNBT in this issue. For officers and Jennys, don't forget there's the RNOC and WRNS BT too, so don't suffer in silence.

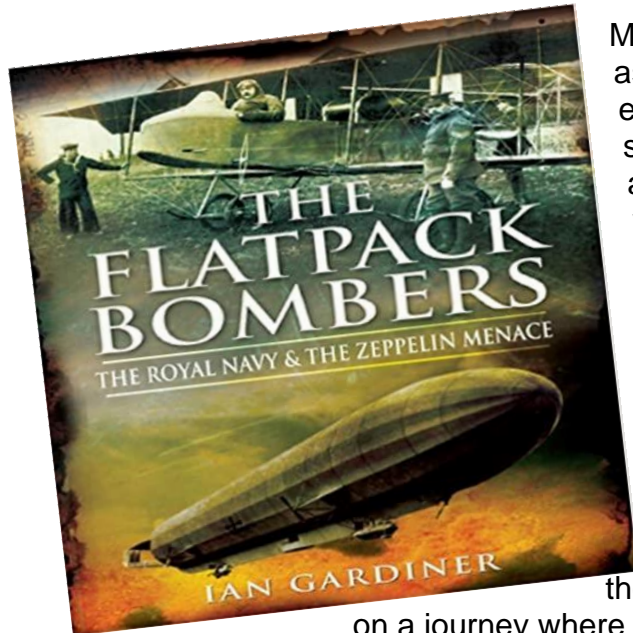


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getting too



Meanwhile, if you can't afford to go out, not to worry, as our Fireside Chats continue unabated on Monday evenings at 1830 with some really interesting speakers. All you have to do is click in this link [here](#) – all welcome. Next up, for those who were at the F40 w/e in Portsmouth and heard Brigadier Ian Gardiner's sobering account of taking his Company across the Falklands to fight at Two Sisters, you'll be glad to hear that he is gracing our screens again this Monday, 12 Sep, with a tale about **The Flatpack Bombers**. The first strategic bombing raids in history were conducted deep into Germany by the Royal Naval Air Service in 1914 and the first aircraft carrier strikes took place the same year. Churchill's fingerprints are all over this story and yet these feats remain largely obscured. Ian will take us

on a journey where we will discover some of the most interesting and important moments of early aviation and where we can marvel at the ingenuity and courage of those early Naval aviators, both German and British.

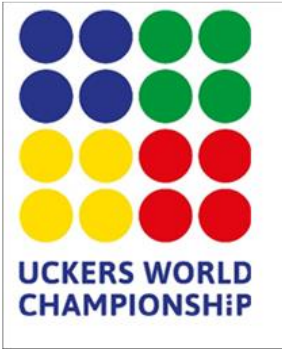
Thanks too for the contributions from both the Modelmakers Group and the Caravan and Campers Group in this edition – both are clearly thriving. Well done!

Finally, on 3 September I had the very great pleasure of attending the reunion of my 40th anniversary of joining the mob – before you say anything, yes, I know, I'm a sprog! I was one of an entry of over 300 boys joining as Tiffy Apprentices in Sep 82 and Grant Nicolson managed to reach an incredible number with about 170 turning up for the Reunion last w/e in Guz – what a night! Top BZs Grant and thank you; just great to see so many old friends again.

Cheers,

Bill

1. ★ 2022 World Uckers Championships – Portsmouth - 29 October 2022



Shipmates.... Hot of the Press By popular demand Uckers is back, so get those dice up and loaded you six throwing people!

This years event will take place in No 5 Boathouse, courtesy of RNRMC, which is the second building on the right as you enter the dockyard through Victory Gate at the Hard. (Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station)

This year there will be singles and doubles competitions. The single competition will play for the Tacky Two Cup, which is a replacement for the original Taku Cup which remains in the



Submarine Museum

There are already over 20 teams entered so we are now inviting anyone else who would like to enter the singles or doubles competition to email Wally Blagden at - uckersworldchamp2021@gmail.com and he will register your entry.

Church Notices

- Unfortunately, there will be no parking available within the Naval Base on this occasion with the exception of Disabled Blue-Badge holders, who need to let us know in advance. There is plenty of parking around the Hard area and access will be through Victory Gate via a security bag check by the Naval Museum staff.
- Refreshment will be available as last year with sandwich lunch!
- Rules will be as last year. A few competitors last year were unhappy with round table 'coaching' but the Committee felt that We would appeal to 'Gentelmanly / Womanley conduct in relationship to coaching would be observed and that anyone could call for an official to observe to ensure that there is no excessive coaching taking place.
- Fancy Dress / Banyan / Team Uckers Kit as very much encouraged and a prize will be awarded to the best Team / Individual

Let's bring The World Champions 'The Ludo Two' down a peg or two they are already practising..... And claiming another victory is certain this year!

Looking forward to seeing you all even if your from Bluith Wells.....

Snake Eyes All Out



2. ★ Welfare/Wellbeing Workshop – Update

Dear Shipmates – you may recall in the August edition of the Circ that I gave dates for the Welfare & Wellbeing Workshop as 7/8th October and thank you to those who have expressed their interest in attending thus far.

I do have an update – due to unforeseen circumstances the workshop has been rearranged for **3rd & 4th February 2023**. The venue is now confirmed as the Senior Rates Mess HMS Nelson, Portsmouth and I am sure that you will be pleased and feel at home with this venue and in particular the Pickle Bar! Can I ask that you email me with your intention to attend at lynda@royalnavalassoc.com or call me on **07591 829 416**.

This workshop is intended for all Branch Welfare Officers, Area Welfare Officers, those supporting Project Semaphore and those providing mentoring support at HMS Raleigh. If you have an interest in attending this workshop and fall outside of these categories do, please contact me to discuss. It is my intention that all attending have their costs (other than personal beer money) covered and I am looking to securing additional funds to achieve this. Of course, there is the expectation that Branches support you financially in your role to attend but together we can look at needs for assistance be that branch or individual.

I do hope that you will come and join us for what is promising to be an engaging and worthwhile weekend and if you have any topics you would like to see covered please let me know.

Lynda Welfare & Wellbeing Programme Manager

STOP PRESS

The delegate rate at the Royal Maritime Club for accommodation is;

Classic Double for single Occupancy with Breakfast @ £70.65 per room , per night

Classic Double for 2 with Breakfast @ £96.30 per room, per night

Use Room Reference GA000340

3. ★ Stamp Collectors ‘Heads Up’ - RM First Day Cover – Released 29 Sep 02

The Post Office are releasing a ‘first day cover’ featuring the Royal Marines. No further specific details are currently available, however In general the first day cover on envelope is about £12.05 with a choice of two postmarks & presentation pack is about £16.00. With each issue they have quite a few other offers stamps & coins & prices vary with each issue.

Our thanks to Shipmate Michael Hilder for the information.

4. ★ Important Notice - Change of Bank Account details

Branch/Club Treasurers and Shipmates should be aware that the Bank Account details for Central Office have changed.

Royal Naval Association

Sort Code: 16 19 26 Account: 20202327

If you any questions please email Kathryn at Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com

5. ★ 2023 RNA AGM/Conference – Liverpool 26/28 May 2023

The 2023 RNA AGM/Conference will be held in Liverpool over the weekend 26/28 May 2023. The Battle of Atlantic 80th commemorations will be held over the same weekend and Shipmates will be included in the full range of events. Area 10 and Central Office personnel are embedded in the organising committee, which is led by the Naval Regional Commander, Cdre Phil Waterhouse RN to ensure the RNA is fully engaged in this prestigious national event.

Area 10 are putting together a fabulous weekend of entertainment, with bands and singers on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday night. It is hoped that we will have golf, fishing and uckers competitions on the Sunday Afternoon. The gala Dinner will be partly themed around the BOA and will be a black tie event.

Liverpool will be a very busy city over the weekend with a civil reception on the Friday night, a light show on the Saturday night a drumhead service on the Sunday. There will also be a military village on the pier head alongside a number of Warships that will be visiting the city that weekend for the BoA 80.

Area 10 have secured accommodation at two hotels in Liverpool -

- The Adelphi, a 3 star hotel the specialises in events and reunions.
- The Novotel which is about 1/2 kilometre away from the Adelphi and offers a bit more upmarket service, for those that prefer a little luxury.

For information the Gala dinner will be held in the Adelphi Hotel. (Separate Details to follow).

There will be a high demand for hotels over the weekend so **early booking** is strongly recommended as there are limited rooms available (250 at each hotel) and only 600 spaces for the dinner.

The costs, contact numbers and booking forms are available at the rear of this Circular. So get booking and come and join in the fun.....

6. ★ Royal Navy Shop - RNA Products

Shipmates will be delighted to know that the RNA Clothing/Products held in stock by the Royal Navy Shop have been reduced by a 17% Discount so it was cheap as chips but is now 17% discounted cheap as chips!!

Why not have look at this link [Royal Naval Association Products – Royal Navy Shop](#)

Or look at the RNA Website front page 'Launch of the new RNA collection.' You never know you may get a bargain and for once 'dip In!'

7. ★ RNBT – Royal Marine Band Service Charity Concert – New Theatre Royal

The Royal Marine Band Service are holding a charity concert, with all proceeds going to RNBT, on Sunday 11 September at 1500 in The New Theatre Royal Portsmouth.

Please see below the link for ticket details.....

<https://www.newtheatroyal.com/performances/the-royal-naval-benevolent-trust/>

8. ★ HMS Raleigh RNA Veteran Mentors

RNA Veteran Mentors at HMS Raleigh have been awarded a 'Captains Commendation' by HMS Raleigh's Commanding Officer, Captain Suzi Neilson OBE Royal Navy.

Captain Suzi noted the Mentors roles within the divisions is currently in a chapter of change and despite this, as a team, they have continued to embrace the opportunities that accompanied this with a positive mindset.

She went onto say that the RNA Veteran Mentors are a special part of HMS Raleigh and fully deserved the commendation

The General Secretary would like to pass on his congratulations. Well done and BZ



9. ★ FAA Museum

The FAA Museum at RNAS Yeovilton has recently opened its newly refurbished immersive new Carried experience which includes a Flight Deck, although they don't require you to wear coloured surcoats! You you can get up close to some incredible historic naval aircraft, just how large was the Phantom and Gannet!

RNA members can get a large discount on tickets, you just need to show your RNA membership card. Central Office staff visited a few months ago and can thoroughly recommend it.



10. ★ 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 05 Sep	Geoff Parsons	Famous and not so famous naval signals
Monday 12 Sep	Ian Gardiner	Flatpack Bombers
Monday 19 Sep	Gordon Simmonds	Signalling in Nelson's Navy
Monday 26 Sep	Cdre Joll Woodard	Head Combat Aviation Programmes
Monday 03 Oct	Geoff Parsons	Naval heroes and events celebrated and commemorated with sundials
Monday 10 Oct	Angus Konstam	U-47 in Scapa Flow
Monday 17 Oct	TBA	Trafalgar
Monday 24 Oct	David Griggs	SOSUS in the Cold War

* Lecture subjects may change at short notice.

** Shipmates please note that The 'Fireside Chat' commences at 1830

11. ★ Top Tip from RNA Bude in Deepest Darkest Kernow

Shipmate Bob Gelder Hon Sec at RNA Bude has very kindly forwarded the 'top tip reminder'

Might it be of helpful advice to S/ms who might have hoarded a few paper £20 or even £50 banknotes in their ditty boxes to be advised to bank/spend/exchange them as they go out of use on 30th September. These are PAPER notes and include those that were issued in England, Wales, Scotland (cue tissues!) & N. Ireland. They are still legal tender until 30th September. Some of our more elderly s/ms might be hanging on to them - sentimental reasons? - but they are most unlikely to increase in value due to scarcity.

12. ★ Friends of the Royal Naval Benevolent Fund (RNBF) – Update

Dear Friends,

Can I start with two important dates for you.

The first is our Royal Marines Band Concert at the New Theatre Royal Portsmouth on **Sunday 11th September**. This promises to be a rousing occasion, and we hope to fill the Theatre and in doing so raise a few pounds for RNBF. Please



go straight to the theatre booking page to buy your tickets:

<https://www.newtheatreroyal.com/performances/the-royal-naval-benevolent-trust/> I hope to see you there.

The official opening of Admiral Jellicoe House is now scheduled for the afternoon of **Thursday 20th October**. The event will be by invitation only due to limited space in a running care home. We have secured the Minister of State for Veterans' Affairs to be our Guest of Honour. New residents for the Home are joining steadily, and we will be opening the middle floor for residents later this month.

Cost of Living Crisis - The Grant Team are reacting swiftly to increased demand from those of our people in need. We are already paying out more for both essential food and those with rent payment problems, and from April to the end of July we had paid out nearly £300k in individual grants and nearly £390k in regular charitable payments. We will be highlighting the crisis in planned PR for this month in print media and radio as well as regular social media posts. Please encourage those in need to contact us direct: help@rnbt.org.uk or our helpline: [02394 216294](tel:02394216294).

Our thanks to RNBT CEO Rob Bosshardt for keeping us updated on RNBT business.

13. ★ Mystery Naval Artefact ?

Do you know what this is? If not, you can find out the answer after the Caption Competition!



14. ★ Tri -Service Research – Military Families 'Finances

CEO of the Naval Families Federation Sarah Clewes has asked if we could share details of the Tri Service Research into Military Families' Finances below.

This project is being led by the [Army Families Federation](#), supported by the [Forces In Mind Trust](#). The research is being undertaken by [RAND Europe](#) and the programme has been reviewed and approved by the [MoD Research Ethics Committee](#) – the reference number is 2107/MODREC/21. This project has been endorsed by the MoD and the sponsor is Peter Davis, Head of the MoD Armed Forces Families & Safeguarding Team (AFFS)

The purpose of the research is to explore whether Service families are less financially resilient, or not, when compared to civilians. The Research Team will consider what unique elements of service life might affect families' resilience. For example, they will gather evidence about whether families are affected by:

- The lack of a second salary due to issues with spousal employment, as a result of frequent Service postings
- A non-serving spouse being unable to build up a career, even if they are employed, resulting in less income than civilians would access
- A lack of a spousal pension
- Service accommodation costs being taken at source (housing, CILOCT, water etc) which might impact upon budgeting skills
- The impact of the unpredictable Service lifestyle

The Research Team are currently running a [survey](#) which is open to serving personnel, veterans and their families. Key stakeholders who lead the RN career management, welfare and personnel support agencies, will be interviewed to capture their professional perspective. The Research Team has confirmed that they will be able to analyse the completed surveys by Service, and report their findings to us, so that we will be able to identify if there are any RN/RM-specific issues arising that we would collectively wish to be aware of.

Once the survey has closed and the one-to-one stakeholder interviews completed, the Research Team will then host a workshop to discuss their findings and determine what recommendations should be made to the MOD, if any are required. The final Research Report is due to be published in March/April 2023.

If you have any questions concerning the survey please contact Sara Clewes at sarah.clewes@nff.org.uk or tel 02392 654374.

15. ★ Marine Jim Wren – HMS Repulse visit National Museum of the Royal Navy

80 years after the devastating attack on HMS Repulse, one of only two remaining survivors from the attack has visited the National Museum of the Royal Navy to see a key artefact from the ship, and recall his experience of the Second World War..

Royal Marine James (Jim) Wren, now aged 102, luckily survived this devastating attack, which is a key point of commemoration to this day. It saw the sinking of two Royal Navy ships, HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales, and the loss of 840 men.

This attack by Japanese bombers on the 10th December 1941 was a disastrous blow to the British war effort. What inspired Jim and his family to visit was the National Museum of the Royal Navy's commemoration of this event. In the Hear My Story (HMS) Gallery the museum had previously held a pair of bells, one from each ship, on display for a special 80th anniversary exhibition.

Jim was more than happy to share his experience of the sinking and the rest of the war, which was regrettably spent in appalling conditions in a Japanese prisoner of war camp.



On his time onboard Jim said:

“After final training at Stonehouse barracks in Plymouth I was assigned to HMS Repulse... She was a wonderful ship, with a wonderful captain, he was a real gentleman.”

That captain was Captain Bill Tennant, who managed to survive the sinking of Repulse. Onboard HMS Repulse Jim was involved in the North Atlantic convoy, as well as the hunt for the Bismarck.

Will Heppa, curator at the National Museum of the Royal Navy said:

“It was a great privilege to welcome Marine Jim Wren to the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth. The 102-year-old veteran is one of the last two survivors of the HMS Repulse sinking. On 10 December 1941, Jim was on board Repulse when it was repeatedly torpedoed and bombed by the Japanese Air Force off the east coast of Malaysia. The loss of Repulse and Prince of Wales left Singapore weakened and reduced British naval effectiveness in the Far East. As well as seeing one of the bells excavated from Repulse which we hold in the stores, Jim enjoyed showing his family HMS Victory and the dockyard where he worked for several years after the war. He also spoke lucidly and candidly about his experiences of the sinking and his internment in Sumatra after the fall of Singapore in February 1942. It was a particularly sobering experience to meet Jim and hear his stories and it is one which I will find difficult to forget.” Jim’s powerful story has also evidently caught the attention of the Prince of Wales, who had a portrait of Jim commissioned.

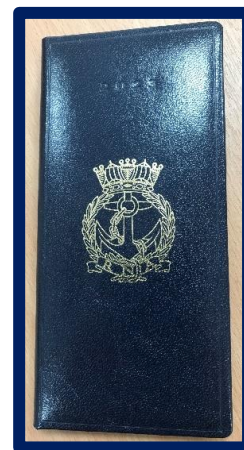
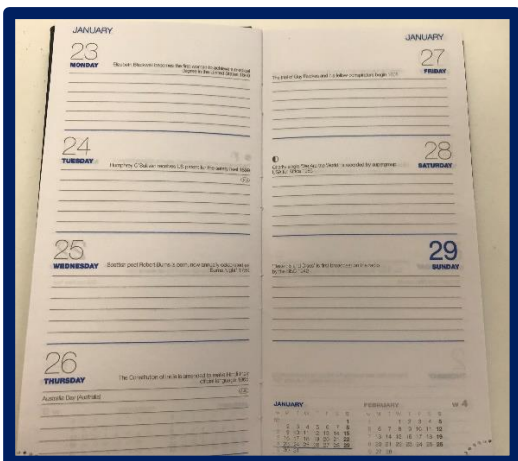
For information, The National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), established in 2009, tells the story of the four fighting forces of the British Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Fleet Air Arm, the Submarine Service and the Surface Fleet.

Ours is the epic story of the Royal Navy, its impact on Britain and the world from its origins in 625 A.D. to the present day.

The museum group has museums nationwide and includes the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard which includes HMS Victory, HMS M.33, and HMS Warrior and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum with HMS Alliance and Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower, both in Gosport, Hampshire; the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton; the Royal Marines Museum (currently closed), HMS Caroline, Belfast, which will reopen soon and NMRN Hartlepool (including HMS Trincomalee).

16. ★ RNA 2023 Diaries

The 2023 Diary is now available to purchase at £5.50 each, please ring 023 92 723747 or email admin@royalnavalassoc.com to place your order. Please note that as our supplier no longer uses plastic binding in the manufacturing process, the diaries are not spiralled bound as in previous years, but come as a complete diary with the cover attached, as per the photograph



17. ★ Can you Assist?

Shipmate Jonathon Gibson, HQ Roll Member, has contacted Central Office requesting your assistance, please see below. If you can then please contact Jonathon directly at gibson25@btinternet.com

Good morning everybody,

My late Aunt Edna served in the Wrens as a radar operator from 16th September 1942- 31st December 1945 when she was released to shore.. Edna was very open about the fact that she was based at Selsey Bill Radar and also claimed she lived in the late Patrick Moore's house on Selsey Bill.

I have managed to obtain copies of Edna's service documents and they confirm that she was in the Wrens and served at the following establishments:- HMS Pembroke iii which was at Mill Hill in North London, HMS Victory iii, which was either Leydene House, or Wooley Park, Wantage, and HMS Ringtail. The latter was a Fleet Air Arm airfield in Lancashire.

Now the good news. Included with the documents was a copy of the information extracted from the Payment and Victual Ledgers. The ledger showed she did serve at Selsey Bill Radar and was accommodated in HMS Victory iii. Unfortunately, the trail has now gone cold and here is the reason why I am asking for your help. Googling Selsey Bill Radar and after examining an Ordnance Survey map have drawn blanks. Does anybody know the location of Selsey Bill Radar? Finally, was there a Radar Station in Formby Lancashire?

I will thank you for any help you can give.

18. ★ Special Interest Group – Model Makers Group Report



The RNA Model Makers SIG was well supported and represented at the June Conference & F40 Reunion in Portsmouth. We had our own display marquee adjacent to Pusser's Rum tent (perfect!), and were joined this year by Mike Tarrant of MT Miniatures who put on a display of 1/700 scale RN model kits that visitors to the Model Makers marquee were able to purchase. Personally, I couldn't resist the temptation and spent far more

than the 'long haired Admiral' would have been happy about!

Special thanks goes out to shipmate Ken O'Brien (Southend Branch) who supplemented this year's model display with his own special brand of scratch-built models and demonstrated his prowess as a fine artist, showing off some of his unique RN & Falklands Task Group based oil paintings. Bill Vernon (Rayleigh Branch) also gets an honourable mention for lending a hand and being a great support for the duration of the weekend.

This year's display was heavily focused on F40 and the Falklands Conflict, with fine scale models from Ken O'Brien, Ralph Dodds, Gary Daisley and a few others. F40 specific models included

HMS Illustrious (with HMS Eskimo), SS Canberra, HMS Invincible, Sea Harrier/Skyhawk, bronzed miniature FAA, RM & SBS busts, bronzed RM Commando, Westland Wasp and a Chinook heavy-lift helicopter. There were many other models on display to keep our visitors happy too! At one point, we even had an armed visit from the other boys in blue..!



Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the Model Makers at HMS

Nelson over the duration of the weekend. Sorry if I didn't get to speak to everyone in person (we were rather busy most of the weekend! The rum tent was next door!!!

Are you interested in joining the RNA's Special Interest Group for Model Makers & Model Making? Search for 'RNA(SIG) - Model Making' on Facebook or contact Gary Daisley at RNA.modemakers@gmail.com

Finally, please see opposite the model of HMS Invincible returning from the Falklands on 17 September 1982.

Lined up on her deck are Sea King Helicopters from 820 NAS (The Flying Tigers) and Sea Harrier FRS 1 aircraft from 800 Squadron and the entire Ships Company in Procedure Alpha.



17 September 1982, Portsmouth, HMS Invincible returns to massive celebrations following the Falklands Conflict. Lined up on deck are Sea King helicopters from 820 Naval Air Squadron and Sea Harrier FRS1 aircraft from 800 Naval Air Squadron, and the entire ships company in Formations-Alpha.
Inset photo courtesy of the Fleet Photographic Unit, HMS Excellent collection.
1/700 Scale model by S/M Gary Daisley



As the Model Makers Group Leader S/M Gary Daisley says do you need anymore inspiration?

Connect – Construct – Create

19. ★ SIG Motorhome and Caravan and Camping Group – Update

Shipmates,

As the Summer Season starts to draw to an end and I hope has been a good year for the Group members, to be able to get out and about.

We now look forward to our first “big” group meeting in 2023

This will take place at Blackmore Camping and Caravan site in the Malvern hills

Dates are Thursday 29 June to ~Tuesday 04 July - 5 Nights

I have Asked for 29 Pitches all with Electric and either Grass or Hardstanding.

And I believe 5 Glamping Tents which have to be booked separately from the group

We now Have 17 confirmed Places + 3 Pending of the 29 pitches I have Asked for Prices and they will be available in November.



Can All of you Wishing to Attend please Email /Pm me your Real Name along with your current Email address Vehicle Registration and your Partners first name if you are bringing one

A non-refundable £35.00 Deposit per Unit is Required once prices have been sent

1. You do not have to be a member of the Club – There have 85 Hard Standing+ 60 Grass with Electric at this site + non-Electric

Ron Shilton

Group Leader Email - Rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com

20. ★ 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

Model Makers – Gary Daisley: RNA.Modelmakers@gmail.com

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

21. ★ Caption Competition

What on earth is going on here??.....



Answer to Para 13 What is this

This is a 'clearance diver lung capacity tester' for those wishing to see if they are capable of passing the course. The Pipebowl is filled with talcum powder or such and if you blow down the silver mouthpiece it blows talc in your face. You need to cover the obvious hole with your tongue and seal round the pipe for your breath to make the spinner work. it was fabricated in the Falklands.

Hope you got it right.....

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.

Hayes Travel - Foreign Exchange Rates

Shipmates will be pleased to know that Hayes Travel are offering all of RNA members special rates on foreign currency at any of the Hays Travel branches nationwide. Your members would simply need to produce membership card for the discount to be applied at the time of transaction.



RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery

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

RNA Longcast

04 Sep	Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service Navy War Memorial Tower Hill
07 Sep	National Employment Scheme Silver Awards Ceremony
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
17 Sep	Area 4 Quarterly Meeting – Saltash Branch
30 Sep	Central Office - Open Day
29 Oct	2022 World Uckers Championships – Portsmouth
29 Oct	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
18 Nov	AMC – F2F
19 Nov	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting – RNA Gosport (Committee 17 Nov)
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas
31 Dec	S/M Andy Christie - Leave's the Building
2023	
21 Jan	Area 4 Quarterly Meeting – Bridport Branch
26 Feb	Area 3 AGM/Quarterly Meeting – RNA Waterlooville (Committee 24 Feb)
06 May	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting (Committee 04 May)
20 May	Area 4 Quarterly Meeting – Bodmin Branch
26 / 28 May	RNA Conference - Liverpool
26 / 28 May	Battle of the Atlantic 80 Commemoration - Liverpool
24 Jun	National Armed Forces Day – Falmouth
05 Aug	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting (Committee 03 Aug)
10 Sep	Naval Associations / RNA Biennial Parade - Whitehall
16 Sep	Area 4 Quarterly Meeting – Frome Branch
18 Nov	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting (Committee 16 Nov)
2024	
Jan (DTBD)	Area 4 AGM – Dorchester Branch
May (DTBD)	National Standard Bearers Competition

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Reigate](#)

[RNA Area 2](#)

[RNA Folkestone](#)

[RNA Aylesbury](#)

[RNA Area 4](#)

[RNA Bude](#)

[RNA Southend On Sea](#)

[RNA Colchester](#)

[RNA Bromley](#)

[RNA Chard](#)

[RNA Rosyth & West Fife](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA City of Glasgow](#)

[RNA Bracknell](#)

[RNA Wallasey](#)

[RNA France Nord](#)

[RNA St Vincent and the Grenadines](#)

RNA Reigate Branch

On Sunday 31 July 1949 HMS Amethyst completed her epic escape down the Yangtse river, re-joining the fleet with the famous signal "Have rejoined the fleet south of Woosung. No damage. No casualties. God save the King".

Sunday 31 July 2022 saw the 73rd anniversary (to the date and the day) of the event and Reigate Branch held their 4th commemoration of the escape and the life of her Captain, Commander John Kerans, DSO, Royal Navy at a ceremony at



St. Peter's Church, Tandridge, where he is buried.



Members of the Branch, Reigate Sea Cadets, families and representatives from the Amethyst Association, the Mayor of Reigate & Banstead and the Royal British Legion gathered at Cdr Kerans' graveside where prayers for the fallen and for reconciliation were followed by the last post,

a minutes silence, the exhortation and reveille. The Branch standard was paraded and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Branch and the Amethyst Association.

Commander Kerans' daughters, Charmian and Melanie, his grand-daughter Leonie and great grand-daughters Eliza and Stephanie were present, together with Gilly O'Reilly, daughter of Lt. Commander K. Stewart Hett, MBE, RN (Ret.) who was an officer on board Amethyst during her escape and who served for many years as President of the Amethyst Association.

The commemoration of HMS Amethyst's escape is now firmly established as part of Reigate Branch's annual calendar of events.

After the commemoration the company accepted the kind invitation of Oxted Branch of the Royal British Legion and retired to their comfortable bar where many health's were drunk and toasts proclaimed.



The branch also welcomed another new member, Hannah Scouler.

The branch believes Hannah is the youngest person to join the RNA at the age of 18 years and 1 day. Hannah has also applied to join the Royal Navy and now has plenty of "Mentors" to help her through the stages.

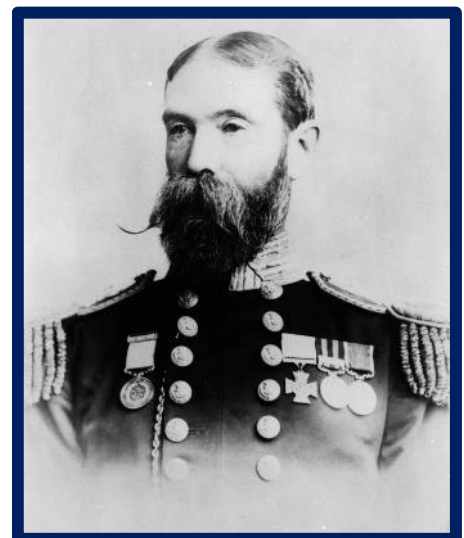
Pictured above is Hannah receiving her membership card from our Life Vice Pres. Bob Pearce, a sprightly 94

RNA Area 2

In the churchyard of St Lawrence Church Mereworth, Kent is the grave of Admiral Charles Lucas who was the first, Royal Naval VC.

Whilst serving as a Lieutenant on board HMS Hecla, which was attacking Moorish Forts, the ship was hit by a live Mortar Bomb. The fuse was fizzing away when, Charles, with great courage picked the bomb up and threw it over the ships side. The bomb exploded before hitting the water and for his bravery the then Lt Lucas was awarded the first naval VC for his prompt action which saved the ship and company.

In commemoration the church holds a small service at the graveside of Admiral Charles Lucas which this year was attended by standard bearers from Paddock Wood, Maidstone, Ashford and Chatham along with members from these branches. Maidstone sea cadets were also present and paid their respects.



RNA Folkestone Branch

Our thanks to S/M Tim Geere who reports from deepest darkest Kent concerning happenings at RNA Folkestone's Branches Black Tot Day.



Thirteen Members of Folkestone Branch marked Black Tot Day with a lunch in a local pub. The event was arranged by our Social Secretary S/M Steve Shaw and the Master of Ceremonies was S/M Doug Martin.

A bottle of rum, purchased before the pandemic and intended for a social function which unfortunately had to be cancelled because of it, was put to good use!



RNA Aylesbury No 1 Branch

On 24th June 2022, four members from Aylesbury No.1 Branch attended Icknield Court Nursing Home, Princes Risborough, Bucks having received an invitation to an Armed Forces event arranged for the residents.

The Staff dressed themselves in a variety of Service uniforms, and a female vocalist ensured that the residents had a good sing along to 40's and 50's music. Refreshments were provided by the Staff and the Homes Catering team.

RNA members mingled with the residents and helped to ensure that they enjoyed their day. Our Submariner (Sun Dodger) member Trevor Hooper, who trained at the Naval School of Dancing and Frolics, made the dance floor to 'Shake the wicked Hoof' ensuring that as many female residents as possible were able to have a dance with a sailor. (There's no truth in the rumour that he is volunteering for Dancing on Ice)!

We were treated to lunch of Fish & Chips or Sausage & Chips before concluding our visit. A good event enjoyed by all and helped to promote the Aylesbury No.1 Branch in the community.

(Photo L-R - S/M Trevor Hooper, S/M Tom Spurrier (Chairman), S/M David Knowles, S/M Ron Hale (Secretary))



RNA Area 4

The funeral of Shipmate Mick Arnold took place on Friday August the 5th 2022 at Bournemouth Crematorium, approximately 130 mourners were in attendance in the chapel.



There was a very large contingent of No4 area officials and shipmates in attendance. The cortege was escorted by 10 standards 5 RNA led by No4 Area RNA Standard, and 5 from the Royal British Legion.

There was a Guard of Honour lining both sides of the avenue approaching the chapel which was superbly organised by Ferndown Branch RNA

The service relayed to the congregation highlighted the many organisations that Mick has contributed to over many years.

He was certainly a stalwart of No 4 Area RNA and will be truly missed greatly by all Shipmates.

Rest in Peace Mick.

(Thanks to S/M Pete Shoemith, Deputy Chairman No 4 Area)

RNA Bude Branch

RNA Bude's, Hon Sec/ Membership Sec / Press Wallah / Bottle Washer and general all round Bon Oueff!, S/M Bob Gelder reports from darkest deepest Kernow.....



Bude Branch staged our latest "Guest Speaker Presentation" when Kingsley Bryant, of A.W. Bryant & Son Undertakers, joined us for a very interesting and amusing half hour (or so).

This was his 2nd invitation from 6 yrs ago, and equally entertaining. With a little bit of 'history' about the firm, and many illustrations of the options currently available for funerals, the ensuing Q&A session resulted in several very sensible and enlightening answers. Kingsley is not one for dodging questions and his replies were sincerely received!

Pictured on the night: Vice Chairman Alan Bicker, Kingsley Bryant and the aforementioned Bob Gelder.

RNA Southend On Sea Branch

Dear Shipmates,

Southend Branch are delighted to announce that this year's Trafalgar Dinner is to be held on Friday 21st October in London on board HMS Belfast.

The meal will include:

- Prosecco reception drinks
- Three course dinner
- Tea & coffee with chocolates
- Half-bottle of house wine (per person) included
- After dinner speeches with VIP guests
- Opportunity to explore the museum

Dress code: Men – Dinner suit & black tie / Mess Dress & miniature medals. Women – Evening gown / cocktail dress.

No.1's – RNA rig *RNA blazer & tie with medals) will be permitted.

All RNA members (and their guests) are welcome.

Ticket price £108 per person, available from S/M Mick Horner on 07931 256302.

Limited numbers available, so please book early.
Max.12-persons per table.

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

TRAFALGAR DINNER
on board
HMS BELFAST
Friday 21st October 2022



Celebrate the Immortal Memory of Lord Horatio Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar at one of the Royal Navy's most prestigious venues!

£108 per person

The package includes:

- Prosecco reception drinks
- Three course dinner
- Tea & coffee with chocolates
- Half-bottle of house wine (per person) included
- After dinner speeches with VIP guests
- Opportunity to explore the museum

Dress code: Men - Dinner suit & black tie / Mess Dress & miniature medals
Women - Evening gown / cocktail dress
No.1's - RNA rig (RNA blazer & tie with medals) will be permitted.

Bookings via S/M Mick Horner (07931 256302)
First come, first served (once they're gone, they're gone!)

RNA Colchester Branch

A decades-old friendship which RNA Colchester has had with its counterpart organisation, the Marinekameradschaft of Wetzlar (MKW) in Germany, began the first stage of revival in the last days of July when a small delegation from the Branch went over to visit.

The newly-created City of Colchester has been twinned with Wetzlar for over 50 years and they have made regular visits in both directions. This year, we received an invitation from the Colchester Twinning Society to send a small sub-group as guests of the MKW and S/ms Maggie, Geoff, Clubz, Carol and David volunteered. S/M Maggie is pictured introducing the RNA Colchester contingent in German (BZ Mein Shipmate)

The party as a whole was treated to some excellent hospitality by MKW in its premises on the banks of the River Lahn in the



town, and in return we supplied some Pussers Rum which went down a treat on all sides (mostly on the inside!). Additionally, we presented MKW with a painting of Colchester Castle by S/m Carol. MKW is affiliated to the Deutscher Marinebund (DMB) – the German Naval Association – which is very similar in structure and function to the RNA. As with RNA, membership of DMB is open to all, regardless of service history. Its landmark is the world-famous Naval Memorial in Laboe, which represents a history of more than 125 years. MKW is, however, somewhat larger than RNA Colchester, having some 78 members. They meet every Sunday at 1100 and those who are still standing come back for a second dose at the same time on Monday morning!

We were able to spend quite some time over the weekend with Manfred Roth, the current chairman of MKW, who demonstrated considerable enthusiasm to renew our relationship.

Indeed, he told us that in the first place he agreed to allow the Twinning weekend to open at the MKW premises only on condition that RNA Colchester was invited.



When not involved with MKW, Manfred spends time with Sail Training International, the organisation which promotes sailing as an interest for people of any age, gender, nationality or religion. It is perhaps most widely known for the annual Tall Ships Race, in which Manfred took part in 2004 aboard TS *Thor Heyerdahl*, which is based at Kiel. He participates regularly also in the Hanse Sail Maritime Festival, held each year on the second

weekend of August in Rostock, in north-east Germany, the former East Germany's largest seaport on the Baltic Sea.

It has been several years since last we got together, and Manfred was able to share many memories with S/m David, who was chair of RNA Colchester the last time we went to Germany more than 20 years ago.

The main focus of the weekend, at least from the Civic point of view, was the annual Weinfest. Wine producers from other twin towns of Wetzlar, in Austria and Italy, came to share the excellent fruits of their vines. The town was heaving with those out for a good time, in spite of a short spell of pretty severe rain, and the camaraderie and conversation flowed along with the enhanced grape juice!



Over the weekend, those present were entertained by shanties sung by the „*Achtern Diek*” Shanty Choir of Wetzlar and by its Colchester equivalent, *The Hoolies*, who are based in Wivenhoe. (Photos above)

RNA Bromley Branch

Shipmate Dave Parry, Black Tot Day 2023 chief organiser, has forwarded a report of proceedings from HQS Wellington about the event.



Black Tot Day 31 July 22 onboard HQS Wellington, London. A warship which has been a Royal Navy sloop that had served during the Battle of Atlantic on convoy duty in World War II was this year's venue as guests of the Wellington Trust in remembrance of our last Tot issue. On the quarterdeck was an RMA Band playing many a maritime tune much to the amazement of passing large pleasure craft going up and down the River Thames.

At exactly 1100 'Up Spirits, Stand fast the Holy

Ghost' was piped along with many other toasts in commemoration of our last official Tot of Rum issue.

Pussers Rum presented a number of options to partake in, including this year a cocktail called 'Pussers Pain Killer' Many Rum options were available to test out by those RNA members onboard. Sippers, Gulpers, and half a Tot was consumed and enjoyed with the various Pussers brands made available thanks to Steve Dingle who has supported our Black Tot day event since the 50th anniversary.

Steve Dingley Pussers Rum



'Unashamedly' Shep Wooley entertained us all in the Wardroom Bar and on the quarterdeck with his guitar and many a matelot song or two. £310 was raised at our event towards Royal Navy Royal Marines Charity with RNA members travelling from various branches including France and Spain this year.

2023 Black Tot Day which will be on a Monday is presently planned as a miss musters event at 18.00hrs; so make a note in your diaries to attend and boost our fund raising for the RNRM Charity. Look forward to meeting you all again.

RNA Chard Branch

The branch members were entertained during their social evening on Thursday 11th August by former soldier Terry Williams when he was invited to give his account on the forming up and making of the **Poppy of Honour** which the branch attended when it was dedicated in Wincanton on a cold wet winters day.



Terry served in the army (rifles) and in this link was the guy who realised there was no memorial where all the names of those who died in WW1 were all together and took it on himself to rectify that omission. He remains chairman of a group promoting the poppy and has guided it to completion.

Further information can be obtained by visiting the following site :-

<https://poppyofhonour.org.uk/about>

(Thanks, as ever to Shipmate Dick Moon for forwarding the article)

RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch

Rosyth and West Fife RNA took the branch Gazebo and stall to the Annual Inverkeithing Highland Games gathering to raise Funds for the Association and promote the Association to the local citizens of Inverkeithing. Thanks to the generosity of Central Office the branch had ample RNA Merchandise to handout to visitors to the stall. Although, we did not entice any new members on the day they did arouse a fair degree of interest in what the branch does and what our corporate RNA mission is.



Through the generosity of our Fife supporters we did raise donations of £164.00. A huge thanks for the day's success must go to our the stalwart volunteers from the Branch who selflessly, with the permission of their spouses, gave up their Saturday on the beach to support our cause. (BZ gang)

Featuring in the photo above are L to R - S/M's, Norman Thoroughgood (Schools Liaison and presenter of Power Points Initiatives to local Primary School Children), Richard Wardrope (Branch Chairman dogs body and all round good egg. Dickie never misses a Branch event), Ray Nolton (Vice Chairman and temporary Secretary following the Crossing the Bar of shipmate John Sherwood. Model maker extraordinaire he will be drawing the crowds to our Stall at, Hillend Annual Summer Fair, with his collection of model Ships/Trains on 13th August), Dave Evans (the Branch property custodian, Branch Auditor, intrepid fund raiser and guardian of Branch discipline and good Naval Order).



The photo opposite shows Shipmate Norman Thoroughgood testing his theory that the world goes around and just waiting for his house to pass by. In the stall is our very own self-professed foot soldier Dave Sowden. He is the technical adviser and 'can doer' of the Branch.

On Saturday 13th of October our Branch of the RNA provided a stall at Hillend Village Fair, to promote our Royal Naval Association and to raise funds through public donations at the Fair.

Again, Central Office kindly provided some great quality promotional Merchandise for our Stall which also displayed a number of Ships Models provided by Ray Nolton our Vice Chairman/Temporary Secretary.

Photo L to R S/M Norman Thoroughgood (fined for being out of the rig of the day), S/M James Houghton, S/M Dave Evans, S/M and Brian Blessed impersonator Ray Nolton. Sitting in his banyan rig is our Chairman Dickie Wardrope.

A very professional power point presentation of Naval history of WW11 was delivered by Shipmates Norman Thoroughgood and Dave Evans.

The day was perfect for the event although rather hotter than the Harbour Service Room of HMS Triumph in Singapore. Do I detect some head scratching amongst you old salts?? Anyway, the day proved a great success with donations of £45 raised and quite a bit of interest shown in what our organisation represents and the organisations mission.



It is thanks to those members of our Branch who gave up their Saturday to make our efforts all worth while. Thanks go to Richard Wardrope our Chairman who kept everyone on their toes while he directed operations from the Captains Chair, Ray Nolton who supplied the display models, Norman Thoroughgood our power point editor and producer along with his able assistant Dave Evans, Shipmates Dave Sumner and James Houghton who rattled the buckets and entertained the visitors to our Gazebo.

Our next exciting event is a Branch visit to the National Arboretum with a visit also to Bletchley Park, on the 4th - 7th September which is closely followed by our annual Summer BBQ on 10th September at MoD Caledonia. Watch this space.

RNA St Neots Branch

St Neots Shipmates attended the RAF Wyton open day where the branch gazebo was well situated next to the US Airforce fire engine which was popular with the children and Shipmates! As the firefighters sprayed them liberally with a fire hose.

This drew children to the Children's' tombola followed by parents who were also happy to take a chance for the prizes on display. Other fortuitous attractions such as a Police car with a siren and a Lorry that children could clamber over also aided traffic to the stand. Starring in the photo above areS/Ms from left are Keith Ridley, Maureen Ridley, Geoff Patterson, Karl Webb (Huntingdon Branch) Colin Marsh, Helen Patterson, John Gibbs, and Alys Marsh



The branch also attended, as you would expect, St Neots Armed Forces Day with the RNA stand for good causes was well situated next to the main walkway and was flanked by the RBL and RAFA stands which were also popular. There was continuous music and singing which was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.



The RNA stand also got good joint service co-operation while assembling, from the Air Cadet stand which was situated behind.

S/Ms from left- Simon Stearman (Rehearsing for a dental

Ad), Geoff Patterson, Helen Patterson, and Pete Horner (Off duty but disgracefully out of the rig of the day)

The splendid selection of prizes can be seen in the background. (children's prizes are to the left- in case you were wondering!)



Finally, St Neots Shipmates were very visible at Conference and Falklands 40 weekend in Portsmouth. The parade on Sunday took in the unveiling of a new plaque on the Falklands Memorial at Hot Walls in Old Portsmouth, followed by a service of remembrance in Portsmouth Cathedral.

Many thanks to S/Ms Helen Patterson and Mike Milne for photos supplied for the National Conference and 40th Anniversary events



Photo's show above Mike Milne with S/Ms from Bracknell and Salisbury and a group of ex Wrens showing a leg.... Of whom, St Neots members Jayne Miller (3rd from R) and Helen Patterson (4th from R)



RNA City of Glasgow Branch

Our thanks to City of Glasgow Chairman, Shipmate Kenn McKinnon for forwarding the article below recognising the amazing commitment and effort demonstrated by S/M David Carlin.

Shipmate David Carlin has been the treasurer and a founding member of our branch. The branch was formed in 1996 and David has been the treasurer for the past 26 years. He is stepping down due to ill health but insisting he still attends meetings.

Our vice chair Alec Thomas at a presentation on 18 August 2022 presented him with a small reminder of his time as treasurer IE:- a bottle of Tipex mounted with a plaque thanking him for his service. The Chairman Kenn McKinnon presented him with a gold watch for his diligence as our treasurer for the past 26 years.

(Editors Note - BZ and Congratulations on your outstanding service to the branch David.)



RNA Bracknell Branch

Since the last Branch Report in January, Bracknell Shipmates have been kept busy with a wide variety of activities. Twelve Shipmates travelled to Greenwich on 10th March and visited the National Maritime Museum, enjoying the many galleries and wonderful exhibits. The Queen's House with its lovely architecture (including that amazing tulip spiral staircase) and fabulous works of art was also explored. Several S/Ms ventured down to the Riverside to view the Cutty Sark and all the local sights. It was a great day out and blessed with glorious sunshine throughout.

Shipmates have taken part in two more local "Veterans' Hub" at both Whitley Wood and Maidenhead Fire Station, in March & June respectively. The Armed Forces Veterans' Hub is designed to offer a place for veterans to come together, listen to speakers and meet organisations who can provide them with advice and support while acting as a meeting place. The Veterans' Hub forms part of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority's commitment to supporting members of the Armed Forces.



On 20th April Shipmates held a most enjoyable St George's Day Dinner at Mill Ride Golf Club where the "banter" and excellent "scrans" went down a real treat - our thanks to the Golf Club staff for looking after us so well and giving free use of the room. On 19th May fifteen Shipmates travelled to Chatham Historic Dockyard for another great day out. Actually thirty Shipmates had requested to go, but, on discovering the (extortionate) cost of hiring a coach to take all, it was agreed to make two visits using the Council-owned minibuses. The second outing will be

on 14th October.

Shipmates took part in the lighting of the local beacon on 2nd June at the start of the celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and also manned a stall at the "Party" on 4th June, gaining two new members to the Branch.

Sixteen Shipmates, including the Area Chairman (& wife), Vice Chairman and Area Standard Bearer made up the local "contingent" at the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel in Pangbourne College for the 40th Anniversary Memorial Service. An opportunity was taken to view the Lectern Bible, presented by Area 6 to the Chapel on its opening in 2000. As usual the staff and pupils of the college looked after us very well and the occasion was much enjoyed.



Branch meetings continue to be well supported and have included some enjoyable talks on a wide range of subjects such as: "Where Were You When?"; "Enoch Powell"; "William Edwards – Bridge Builder"; "Lawrence Before & After Arabia"; "Personal South Atlantic Reflections" and "The White Mouse – Nancy Wake". Since January the Branch has gained four new Full and six new Associate "members", making forty-eight Shipmates in total.

Most recently, twelve Shipmates had a most enjoyable day out on 12th August in Portsmouth's Royal Naval Base with "colleagues" from Central Office. The visit followed the "regular" format of a "chat", buffet lunch and a boat trip around the harbour, seeing both the Carriers and other ships alongside or in the various docks. A great day out – with thanks again to all the CO S/Ms and volunteers.

Bracknell S/Ms preparing to "come aboard" for the trip around Portsmouth Harbour – ably "supervised" by S/M Andy Christie



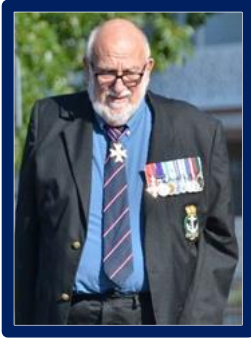
RNA Wallasey Branch

Wallasey RNA recently held a charity BBQ for the Forces Children's Trust reports S/M John Williams. A big thank you to everyone who attended and supported this worthy course.

Also to Kevin and Brian who kept the Burgers and Hot dogs flowing. And all the staff well done. The BBQ was a great success with great weather and raising over £478.00.



The France Nord branch was represented at three memorial services this year.



Firstly, our President (Alex White) laid a wreath at the Memorial Gardens of the Caen Peace Memorial.

Secondly, combined with the Weymouth Branch of the Merchant Navy Association, Standards were paraded and wreaths laid at the Royal Marine and Landing Craft Memorial at the entrance to the ferry terminal Ouistram.



Finally, at Hermanville Sur Mer (Sword Beach) we joined members of Polish, Norwegian and French to lay wreaths at the Royal Naval Memorial, the Naval Attache from the Embassy in Paris also attended .



By exceptional request of branch Chairman (Derek Powell, ex submariner) a special note.....

Representing the Royal Norwegian Navy was Admiral Solveig Kaey, (Photo opposite) who is the World's first female submarine commander. (Hero Worship !)

RNA St Vincent and the Grenadines

03 September saw the latest Branch of the Royal Naval Association commissioned in the Cockleshell Naval Community club Southsea. After the recent volcanic eruption and national response by RNA embers it became clear that there was a loyal group of serving sailors and their families big enough to warrant forming an RNA Branch. Indeed the first time the RN held a recruiting event on the Islands 400 applicants came forward, with 150 passing their recruitment tests. The Commissioner revealed his hope that St Vincent and the Grenadines becomes the main recruiting hub for those in the West Indies hoping to join the RN.



Shipmate Ted Hawkins of the Portsea Branch of the RNA presented the new Branch with a pennant and volunteered to come over and help them hang it in their new meeting place! Sadly Gosport not Kings Bay!



Following the ceremony around 40 Founder Members and their families along with, VIPs, Guests and Shipmates from local branches enjoyed a splendid West Indies style buffet and discovered a few more tastes they had in common and along with a raffle to raise initial funds for this fledgling branch.

CROSSING THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Kevern Flanagan](#)

[George Hockney](#)

Kevern Flanagan - Colchester Branch

Shipmate Kevern Flanagan had not been well for some time and sadly crossed the bar in July.

An ex-Merchant Navy man, Kevern was an Associate Member of RNA and a stalwart member of Colchester branch. He will be sorely missed.

George Hockney - Peterborough and District Branch

It is with deep sadness to report that Shipmate George Hockney BEM Crossed the Bar on Saturday, 20th August 2022, aged 103. George served throughout WW2 and beyond as an Engine Room Artificer. In 2019 George was presented with the Norwegian Commemorative Medal by the then Defence Attaché Colonel John Andreas Olsen from the Norwegian Embassy recognising the service George and his comrades provided in the Norwegian Campaign during WW2 whilst on board HMS Auckland.



George was a Life Member of the RNA and a long serving Member of the Peterborough & District Branch. "RIP Shipmate. Always to be remembered"



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 2022/2023 to andy@royalnavalassoc.com 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	
07 Oct	<p>Loch Class Frigates Association: Annual Reunion takes place at The Sketchley Grange Hotel, Hinckley, Leics October 7 - 9 2022. All Members of the Association welcome. For details please contact Andrew Nunn Hon. Sec. LCFA Email: andrew.nunn@blueyonder.co.uk Tel: 0117-9505835</p> <p>Membership is open to all who served on any of the Loch Class ships or their variants (Bay Class, Admirals Yachts, survey ships and repair ships). Some of these types of ships have their own 'Associations' but you can always join both.</p>
07/10 Oct	<p>HMS RELENTLESS 80th Anniversary Reunion</p> <p>To be held at the Cambridge Bar Hill Hotel, Cambridge</p> <p>Friday 7th - Monday 10th October 2022</p> <p>All ex-Rusty Rs from any commission are most welcome to attend</p> <p>Contact SFEVENTS - sarah@sarahfletcerevents.co.uk</p> <p>or the Association Secretary - contact@hmsrelentless.org</p>

Swinging the Lamp – Sep 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	1870	First successful RN firing of Whitehead torpedo.
2nd	1945	Merchant ship losses from 3 September 1939 to 2 September 1945: 4,786 vessels of 21,194,000 grt.
3rd	1939	War declared against Germany. Winston Churchill appointed First Lord of the Admiralty for the second time. 'I . . . sent word to the Admiralty that I would take charge forthwith and arrive at 6 o'clock. On this the Board were kind enough to signal to the Fleet "Winston is back". So it was that I came again to the room I had quitted in pain and sorrow almost exactly a quarter of a century before, when Lord Fisher's resignation had led to my removal from my post as First Lord.
4th	1995	RN Detention Quarters (RNDQs) at Portsmouth closed and all personnel in detention transferred to the Military Corrective Training Centre (MCTC), Colchester.
5th	1979	Funeral of Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma in Westminster Abbey. Interred later that day in Romsey Abbey.
6th	1993	HM The Queen approved the eligibility of all ranks of the armed forces for appointment to the Distinguished Service Order.
7th	1959	Keel of frigate Nubian laid by Mrs Unwin, wife of Rear-Admiral J.H. Unwin, Admiral Superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard. She was paid 5s which represented the piece rate for the job.
8th	1983	Minehunter Waveney launched, fourth of name and first of class.
9th	1754	William Bligh, future Captain of HM Armed Transport Bounty, Director (64 guns) at the Battle of Camperdown and Glatton (56 guns) at Copenhagen, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, born at Plymouth.
10th	1862	Britain's first timber-hulled ironclad, Royal Oak, launched at Chatham. She carried 25,000 sq ft of canvas, and her reciprocating engines, powered by 20-psi steam, drove a 19ft-diameter hoisting propeller.
11th	1919	Hermes, first ship to be designed, ordered, and built as an aircraft carrier, launched at Armstrongs on the Tyne. Completed at Devonport. Sunk by Japanese naval aircraft off Ceylon 9 April 1942.
12th	1920	The Nab Tower, a 9,000 ton concrete and steel structure designed as a permanent link in the anti-submarine barrage in the Dover Strait but incomplete when the war ended, was towed from Shoreham by two naval tugs and sunk off Portsmouth as a replacement for the Nab lightvessel. The structure settled with a 1.5 degrees list to the S.W. A workforce of 3,000 men

		had been secretly drafted-in for the construction project which cost £ 1,250,000.
13th	1985	Orpheus made last submarine visit to Manchester. There was a firm liaison with Exide, which made submarine batteries.
14th	1918	HMS Argus commissioned: first flush-deck carrier.
15th	1995	HMS Thunderer, RN Engineering College, Manadon, paid off. Training transferred to Southampton University.
16th	1940	First German parachute mines dropped on London. Seventeen out of at least twenty five failed to explode or were fused to delay detonation.
17th	1965	The Admiralty Board have approved in principle a recommendation by the Committee on Television in HM Ships that suitable ships (frigates and above) should be fitted with the basic installation to enable recreational television sets to be used on board. DCI(RN) 1397/65.
18th	2009	The National Museum of the Royal Navy formally launched at Portsmouth Naval Base.
19th	1914	Royal Marines landed at Dunkirk.
20th	1941	Gibraltar harbour attacked by Italian submarine Scire with chariots.
21st	1867	The first 'time and percussion fuse' introduced.
22nd	1914	The RNAS mounted the first British air raid on Germany. Four aircraft left Antwerp, flying over the Rhine and Ruhr, to bomb the airship sheds at Cologne and Dusseldorf. Three turned back because of fog but FI/Lt C.H. Collet– a captain RMA – pressed on and dropped three bombs at Dusseldorf: one missed and two failed to explode. DSO. (Collet was the first RNAS officer to loop-the-loop.)
23rd	1977	Frigate Complex at Devonport Dockyard, originally known as Leander Frigate Complex, developed over No. 2 Basin and enclosing Nos 5, 6 and 7 Docks, opened by Dr David Owen. Galatea docked as demonstration of facility.
24th	1850	Rum ration halved by withdrawal of evening issue.
25th	1953	First Type 14 frigate HMS Dundas launched by J. Samuel White at Cowes. First of the Blackwood-class to be completed was HMS Hardy by Yarrows, Scotstoun, on 15 December 1955
26th	1776	Horatio Nelson appointed acting lieutenant in HMS Worcester.
27th	1941	The Navigation School housed since 1 January 1906 in the Old Naval Academy, Portsmouth Dockyard, and seriously damaged in an air raid on 10 March 1941, completed a move to the requisitioned Southwick House over Portsdown Hill and was commissioned as HMS Dryad.
28th	1969	First RM deployment to Northern Ireland, 41 Cdo RM on Spearhead duties.
29th	1758	Horatio Nelson born.
30th	1950	RM Barracks at Chatham closed.

Annual Conference 2023
 Room Rates 25th - 28th May 2023
 For those not attending the Gala Dinner

Rates per room (2 Nights minimum stay)			
		B&B	H/B
2 Nights (Fri & sat)	Single	£205	£212.50
	Double/Twin	£320	£335
3 Nights (Fri to Sun)	Single	£299.50	£314.50
	Double/Twin	£377	£407
4 Nights (Thurs to Sun)	Single	£370	£392.50
	Double/Twin	£476	£521

Afternoon Tea/ Coffee & Cakes on arrival in the grand lounge area.
 Dinner in restaurant
 Breakfast served in the Pearce Suite.

Live entertainment Friday and Sunday

Happy hour in the Wave Bar between 11am - 5pm each day .

Car Parking £15.00 per car for duration of weekend.

Accommodation can be booked on

0151 709 7200 Ex 2 or 3

ADELPHI HOTEL LIVERPOOL

Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023

Room Rates 25th - 28th May 2023

250 Rooms available for the Gala Dinner

Rates per room (2 Nights minimum stay)			CODE
2 Nights (Fri & Sat)	Single	£240.00	RNA2
	Double/Twin	£390.00	
3 Nights (Fri to Sun)	Single	£342.00	RNA3
	Double/Twin	£462.00	
4 Nights (Thurs to Sun)	Single	£420.00	RNA4
	Double/Twin	£576.00	

Afternoon Tea/ Coffee & Cakes on arrival in the grand lounge area.

Dinner in restaurant on Friday and Sunday.

Breakfast served in the Pearce Suite.

Saturday Gala Dinner in the Banqueting Hall.

(Wrist bands will be given to you on arrival and must be worn to gain entry to the Gala Dinner).

Live entertainment Friday, Saturday and Sunday Evenings

Happy hour in the Wave Bar between 11am - 5pm each day

Car Parking £15 per car for duration of weekend.

Accommodation will be booked centrally on 0161 923 9170 (Using the code)

Or on the electronic booking form on

<https://forms.gle/9HEhMk9iUDVtJSNe9>

NOVOTEL HOTEL LIVERPOOL CENTRE

(4 Star Hotel)

Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023

Room Rates 25th - 29th May 2023

Rates per room (2 Nights minimum stay)		
2 Nights (Fri & Sat)	Single	£350
	Double/Twin	£370
3 Nights (Fri to Sun)	Single	£450
	Double/Twin	£480
4 Nights (Thurs to Sun)	Single	£525
	Double/Twin	£565

Rate inclusive of - Breakfast, guest Wi-Fi,
use of leisure facilities [pool, gym, Sauna] and VAT

Guests to pay in full 28 days prior to arrival

The Gala Dinner (£27.50 pre-paid) can be booked
directly with the Adelphi on 0151 709 7200 ext. 2 or 3

Those staying at the Adelphi have the dinner included with their package so additional places will be limited. For those who are able to book, wrist bands will be available at the Adelphi reception from Friday evening and must be worn to gain entry to the Gala Dinner.

You are welcome to attend the live entertainment
at the Adelphi on Friday and Sunday nights.

The hotel does not have car parking. They advise their guests to use Q park Hanover Street, just opposite to the hotel, postcode L1 4AF. They provide 30% discount at the reception which only needs to be obtained when taking the car out of the car park

To book email the booking form to H6495-sb@accor.com

Hotel contact details

40 Hanover Street, Liverpool, L1 4LN
Tel: 0151 702 5100

Booking and Payment Form for



Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023

26th -28th May 2023, 2 nights minimum, Bed and Breakfast

GUEST DETAILS

Main occupant name:

Occupant name:

Nights per stay:

Room Type required:

Date of check in:

Email:

Contact number:

Additional comments:

PAYMENT DETAILS

Total Rate of Stay: £

Name of the Cardholder [as it appears on the card]:

Full Address of Cardholder:

Credit card type and number:

Card expiry date:

Name of the bank that issued the card:

I authorise Novotel Liverpool to debit my credit card as per the above details, payment is due 28 days prior to the arrival date of this booking only.

Name:

Signature: