



**Minutes of**  
**RNA Portland Branch General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The meeting was opened by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller at 20.05. 27 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 12 Members.

2. **Chairman's Opening Comments:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. He thanked those Members who attended the HMS Illustrious Memorial Service and also those who went to the Portland TS Penn Sea Cadet Inspection Parade. Thanks also go to S/M Dave for organising the Away Weekend which was enjoyed by all and also the Trafalgar Night Dinner.

The Chairman has received a complaint from the bar at the Masonic Centre that at the Trafalgar Night Dinner, someone took their own wine and did not pay corkage. This gives a poor reputation of our Branch and it is asked that this doesn't happen again. If you wish to bring your own alcohol, please pay corkage.

The Branch is looking for a new Standard Bearer. If you think that you may be able to fulfil this important role, please see S/M Ben.

The Corner House will be open on Sunday and serve a free tot for those in rig after the Remembrance Service.

S/M Dusty asked if everyone had seen a copy of the Minutes of the October General Branch Meeting and the Monthly Newsletter.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** were accepted.

Matters Arising: Nil

Proposed by S/M Doc Foster

Seconded by S/M Dodge Howes

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstentions: 2

4. **Secretary's Remarks and Correspondence:**

Invitation from Lt (SCC) Rachel Harris RNR to the Portland TS Penn Sea Cadets Royal Naval Inspection Parade on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

Thank you email from Lt (SCC) Rachel Harris RNR to those Branch Members who attended the Inspection.

Thank you letter from Cdr Sean O'Reilly RN (Rtd) for inviting him and his wife Tina to be GOHs at our Trafalgar Night Dinner.

Thank you card from S/M Len Christopher for the bottle of medicine he received.

Email from S/M Dennis Matthews, giving his apologies for this evening. He sends his thanks to S/Ms Ben Cartwright and Micky Fox for carrying their Standards at the HMS Illustrious Memorial Service and to all other Shipmates who attended.

Email from S/M Brett Crabtree, No 4 Area Assistant Secretary, ref the funeral details for S/M Alan Cox, No 4 Area Secretary. S/M Pete will explain later in the Meeting.

Matters Arising: Nil

## 5. Items discussed at Committee Meeting

Invitation from S/M Jim Armstrong, Dorchester Branch, to Portland Branch Members to Dorchester's Meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November when Jon Everett RNA National Welfare & Wellbeing Co-ordinator is present. DBS checks will be completed for those requiring one. – S/M Christine Tuck. S/Ms Gill and Lin have responded to this and will be attending the event.

Safeguarding Procedures for the RNA – S/M Bob Featherstone mentioned that this had been in one of the monthly newsletters for members of the committee. Where can this be found? S/M Gill to enquire at the Dorchester Meeting.

Christmas Party Cost \_ S/M Dusty explained that we had a discussion to determine the price and £15 per person was decided.

## 6. Reports:

- a. Standard Bearer's/Ceremonial Report – S/M Ben Cartwright reported:

S/M Ben thanked those who attended the HMS Illustrious Memorial Service.

He reminded Members to be at the Cenotaph at 10.50 for 11.00 on Remembrance Sunday. Should Shipmates wish to march , please be at the Drill Hall by 10.20.

On Armistice Day, meet at the Cenotaph at 10.30 for 11.00.

Diary events include:

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	Time	EVENT
Sunday	9 November	Drill Hall Cenotaph	1000 1030 for 1100 1230	March to Cenotaph Remembrance Sunday  US Memorial
Tuesday	11 November	Cenotaph	1045 for1100	Armistice Day

b. **Social Secretary's Report** – S/M Dave Prowse reported:

Away Weekend – at the Imperial Hotel, Eastbourne seemed to be enjoyed by all. Thanks for your support and for all the kind comments.

Trafalgar Night Dinner – was attended by 46. Unfortunately, three had to drop out due to illness. A good meal, served efficiently by Adrian's team. The Steve Williams disco was popular and has been booked again for the Annual Dinner. Thanks to all who helped before, during and after the event.

Christmas Social – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainer is Georgy Broad. Ticket price £15.00 per person, including buffet. Unfortunately, the price increased due to the rise in catering cost. Please put your names on the list and pay either this evening or at the December Meeting. Wrapped raffle prizes appreciated.

Annual Dinner 2026 – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainment – Steve Williams Disco.

Proposed Away Weekend 2026 – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Daish's Hotel, Shanklin, Isle of Wight. Four nights half board, including coach travel, for £305 per person. There is entertainment at the hotel each evening. There are 2 free places for a total number of 35-44 and 3 free places for a total of 45-50. The single room supplement is £10.00 per person.

As usual, S/M Dave will divide the value of the free places and the total cost of the single room supplements between all of us. This would make the total cost approximately £291.00 per person for 40 or £286.00 for 45.

The booking must be confirmed with a non-refundable deposit of £250.00, regardless of the number intending to go. So Dave will need your non-refundable deposit of £7.50 per person and your commitment at the December Meeting. An interim deposit of £30.00 per person would be required in March and the balance in August. He will collect any amount that people wish to pay at each Meeting to spread the cost. 35 people will be needed to make this viable. Please put your names on the list if interested.

c. **HMS Portland Liaison Officer Report** – S/M Nigel Rimell reported:

Nil report.

d. **Fundraising Report** - S/M Karen Miller reported:

Some prizes have come in tonight for the Christmas Draw to be held at next month's Meeting. Thanks to those people. If anyone else has anything suitable, please let Karen have it by this Friday as she is going away.

e. **Membership Secretary's Report** – S/M Karen Miller reported:

Membership donations of £10 are being collected.

f. **National Area/Conference Report** – S/M Pete Shoesmith reported:

S/M Alan Cox, No 4 Area Secretary has Crossed The Bar. Many of you will have known him especially if you went to Bideford. Funeral details have now come through. It is on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 13.45 at Weymouth Crematorium. Area & Branch Standards are welcome. Only 2 are allowed in the Crem but it would be good to see as many outside leading the hearse as possible.

Donations, (if desired), in memory of Alan will be for: Naval Children's Charity, Registered Charity Number 11601821 RNLI, Registered Charity Number 209603 There will be collection facilities at the Crematorium or Contact the Funeral Directors, (Abbott and Rees) directly on 01305 766711.

Please advise of intentions to attend so that all numbers can be catered for after the funeral (for light refreshments), at the Weymouth Football Ground, (Bob Lucas Stadium, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, DT49XJ). All replies to S/M Alan Mirams via text (07970 066740) or email, [alanmirams@icloud.com](mailto:alanmirams@icloud.com).

The Area Reunion Rally at Bideford 2026 is 6-9<sup>th</sup> March. 3 nights will cost £205 per person. 2 nights will be £165 per person. Deposits have been paid this evening. There are 16 on the list. The balance will be required at the January Meeting. S/M Ben will be presenting the Jackie Ward trophy.

The next Area Meeting is the AGM in January at Bude.

g. **Webmasters Report** – <https://rnaportland.org> S/M Bob Featherstone reported:

The Website remains stable and is up to date.

A Member has reported they received a message indicating that the password to Shipmates Locker may have been compromised. The Webmaster has checked online to see whether the password appears in the public domain and can confirm that it still appears to be a safe password. Members are requested to let the Webmaster know if they encounter this problem.

h. **Wellbeing Report** – S/M Lin MacCormack reported:

Thank you card received from S/M Len Christopher.

Gill has spoken to Iris Jones, she is alright and she will be coming to Bideford.

i. **Treasurer's Report** – S/M Pete Shoesmith reported:

Our account is changing to a Charity Account and we are not able alter this. Further information from the bank has stated that monthly charges for our account will be £4.50. Each time there is a pay-in it will be 42p. However, it now looks like from December we will still be able to pay in cash, for free, at the Post Office. Cheques will incur a charge. So if you are able to pay cash this would be most welcome.

The Branch Account stands at £4,084.32

The Social Fund stands at £510.19

The Annual Charity Fund (Island Leg Club) stands at £354.85 (after 7 months)

Matters arising: Nil

Proposed by: S/M David White      Seconded by: S/M Ginge Sarsfield

For: 27                  Against: 0                  Abstentions: 0

7. **Any Other Voting Items** :

Proposed by:                  Seconded by:

For:                  Against:                  Abstentions:

8. **AOB**

S/M Karen reported that she has a new Member – a serving Member, S/M Elliot Gover.

S/M Bernie Cranny informed members that her father served in the Royal Navy and also on the tug boats at Portland. She has a large number of photos and will bring them to the next Meeting for Members to see.

S/M Ben stated that he had recently met some of our former members in Parkstone – Mike Beattie and Mick Harvey. They sent their best wishes to all.

9. **Chairman's Closing Comments:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight's Meeting. He hoped to see everyone on Sunday at the Cenotaph. Also after our December Meeting we will have our Christmas Draw.

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

11. **Meeting Closed at:** 21.15

Chairman .....

Secretary .....