



Minutes of
RNA Portland Branch General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre
Wednesday 7th January 2026

The meeting was opened at 20.03 by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller. 29 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 6 Members.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and wished all Members a Happy New Year. He asked everyone to be upstanding in memory of S/M Janet Evans who Crossed The Bar on Wednesday 3rd Dec ember 2025. Jan's funeral is on Monday 12th January at 12.00 at All Saints' Church, Easton, followed by a private family cremation. A celebration of Jan's life will take place at the Blues Club, Grove Road, afterwards, to which everyone is welcome. S/M Dusty asked if everyone had seen a copy of the Minutes of the December General Branch Meeting and the Monthly Newsletter.

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

Matters Arising: Nil

Proposed by S/M Dodge Howes

Seconded by S/M David White

For: 25

Against: 0

Abstention: 4

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

Election of Branch Committee Officers 2026 – Next month's Meeting will be our AGM where there will be the election of various Committee Members whose tenure is up for renewal. Please could all Life and Full Members look at the form this evening and Propose or Second any nominee that they wish to support. If you would like to join our Branch Committee then please add your name to the list.

Thank you card from S/M Anna Harte ref good wishes and a plant from the Branch. She looks forward to seeing everyone soon.

Thank you card from Mrs Iris Jones ref Christmas gift and card from the Branch. She thanked everyone for remembering her at a difficult time.

S/M Ben has received a thank you from Mrs Jean Darke and S/M Lin has received thanks from Mrs Jill Court for their Christmas cards and gifts.

Matters Arising: Nil

5. **Items discussed at Committee Meeting**

Nil- No Meeting in December.

6. **Reports:**

- a. **Ceremonial Report** – S/M Ben Cartwright reported:

Nil Report

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

Christmas Social – Saturday 20th December was an enjoyable evening for those who managed to attend. Thanks to those who helped before, during and after the event. Thanks also to those who donated many raffle prizes and their generosity in raising £125.

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

Proposed Away Weekend 2026 – Thursday 8th to Monday 12th October at the Daish's Hotel, Shanklin, Isle of Wight. There are 29 who wish to go and have agreed to pay the extra cost estimated to be £296. S/M Dave contacted Daish's today to confirm that the basic price would be the same and that we would have sole occupancy of the coach. They stated that for the basic price we would need 35 people for sole occupancy of the coach. For 29 people we would have to share with another coach with only one pick up. To have our own coach the basic price would go up to £339. After discussion, this was put to a vote of those going. It was decided that we share the coach with others and keep the same price. Hopefully the pick up point could be on Portland at Victoria Square. S/M Dave to follow up with Daish's.

Trafalgar Night Dinner – Saturday 24th October in the Masonic Centre Main Hall.

Christmas Social – Saturday 5th December in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Please note a change of date from 19th December.

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

Nil report, although S/M Dusty added that HMS Portland sailed from Plymouth today.

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

She has sold some of her jigsaws to help raise funds for our charity. Also some friends have donated items for sale raising another £35 between them all.

Please have a think of which charity you would like the Branch to support next year and let us know next month..

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

All those present here tonight have paid their subscriptions. Thank you very much.

National Area/Conference Report – S/M Pete Shoemith reported:

The Annual Reunion at Bideford 2026 – thanks to all those who have paid tonight. There will be 172 attending including some from Aldershot in No 3 Area.

The Area AGM will be at Bude on Saturday 17th January. Area President David White will be standing down. S/M Malcolm Day from Chard Branch has put his name forward for this position.

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

There have been a number of cosmetic changes to the Website, mainly the events entries in the right column, which now only shows 5 future entries. Previous events can still be found through the Events Calendar tab.

The Branch Website continues to remain stable and up to date.

g. **Wellbeing Report** – S/M Gill Essom reported:

S/M Peter Hall had a hospital procedure just before Christmas. S/M Gill has been to see him and taken a card and some chocolates (as he is not drinking).

S/M Joan Seal has been unwell and admitted to DCH. S/M Gill has sent a 'Thinking of You' card to her and S/M Tony.

Mrs Iris Jones is due to be admitted to DCH for shoulder surgery. It was her birthday yesterday and a card was sent from the Branch.

h. **Treasurer's Report** – S/M Pete Shoemith reported:

S/M Pete stated that he is standing at the election next month but only wishes to remain in post until next Christmas when he will have completed 40 years. Would Members please think about taking on this position in the future?

The Branch Account stands at £3,839.57

The Social Fund stands at £510.19

The Annual Charity Fund (Island Leg Club) stands at £602.60 (after 9 months)

Matters arising: Nil

Proposed by: S/M Ginge Sarsfield Seconded by: S/M Daz Askew

For: 29 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

7. Any Other Voting Items : Nil

Proposed by: Seconded by:

For: Against: Abstentions:

8. AOB

S/M Karen stated that local man Wayne Ingram has a book published which may interest you, 'A Soldier of Conscience.' Would people be interested if he came to talk to the Branch? To be discussed at Committee.

S/M Pete has received a letter from S/M Malcolm Baldwin of Bridport, who many may remember. He is not too well but sends his regards to everyone.

S/M Ben wished S/M David White all the best when he moves to his new home. He will be welcome back here at any point.

S/M Dusty has spoken with S/M Roger Barnes who has a lot of Portland RNA early memorabilia which was his father's. Dusty will call round to see him.

9. Chairman's Closing Comments:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight's Meeting. Next month we will have the AGM first, followed by the normal Meeting. We look forward to seeing you all then.

10. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 4th February 2026.

11. Meeting Closed at: 21.05

Chairman

Secretary