



Minutes of
RNA Portland Branch General Meeting held at
Shaftesbury Hall, Portland Masonic Centre,
on Wednesday 6th May 2026

The meeting was opened at 20.00 by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller. 25 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 16 Members.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and said it was nice to see everyone here in Shaftesbury Hall. He welcomed Pete who has come along to visit us. He presented S/M Gill with a thank you gift for all that she does for the Branch. Other Committee Members received theirs at the Annual Dinner.

S/M Dusty asked if everyone had seen a copy of the Minutes of the April 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 Bob Featherstone

For: 23

Against: 0

Abstention: 2

The Chairman welcomed Helen from the Island Leg Club, who gave us an insight into the workings of the club and how our charity money will benefit them.

Helen thanked us for choosing them as our charity for the last year. They are based in Easton at the C2000 Hall each Thursday morning. Most staff are volunteers and nurses come from the local surgery. The club runs under the Lindsey Leg Club Foundation and there are many of these around the country. They fund raise to pay rent for the hall and any other requirements. As well as treatment for any leg conditions, especially open wounds and ulcers etc. there is also a coffee morning. This is very important on the social side and for general wellbeing as many clients don't get out so much. You can get your legs treated and have a coffee and a chat. A chiropodist visits once a month too. Volunteers are incredibly important, enabling this to run. 20-25 people visit each week.

S/M Dusty thanked Helen for her talk and presented her with a cheque for £800 from the Branch, for which she was very pleased indeed.

4. Secretary's Remarks and Correspondence:

Thank you emails from S/M Andy Christie, RNA National Chairman, Sara Field, Membership Secretary and Kathryn Brindley, Deputy Membership Secretary, for gifts received from the 70th Anniversary Annual Dinner. All were added to our Facebook page.

Thank you email from S/M Andy Christie, RNA National Chairman, ref Portland Branch donation of £250 towards repairs for the Monument at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Email sent by Terry Green from the Masonic Lodge, ref Untidy state of the Main Hall and blocking of fire extinguishers. After checking of dates, this was NOT anything to do with the Portland RNA.

Email from S/M Brett Crabtree, Area 4 Secretary, ref Draft National Charter talk at the forthcoming Area 4 Meeting at St Austell this month.

Matters Arising: Nil

5. Items discussed at Committee Meeting

WWO Items - S/M Lin MacCormack.

S/M Lin contacted Jon Everett (Area Welfare and Wellbeing Officer) last week about the Welfare & Wellbeing Monthly Report and Safeguarding training.

Here are my questions and his answers.

Question 1. Reference the monthly BWWO report. If an RNA member, other than the BWWO and Assistant BWWO, does something for another member (e.g. visits a sick member, gives a member a lift to a station/airport to visit family, etc), do you want us to record that as a wellbeing event?

Jon's answer: Yes please. Everything anyone does in the name of Wellbeing or welfare should be on the monthly reports.

Question 2. Is there any news yet about holding face-to-face Safeguarding Training in Dorchester?

Jon's answer: Not yet. Sorry. Once the online training has completed, I will arrange a visit to you to go over some Safeguarding awareness.

Guest speaker – S/M Dusty Miller.

‘Future Portland’ is an umbrella organisation made up of various other groups e.g. ICA and b-side, who have similar aims. They work towards trying to get more funding for an improved Portland e.g. the purchase of France Quarry. S/M Dusty thought they would be an interesting group to give a talk at a Branch Meeting. It was decided that he sees when a speaker would be available.

6. Reports:

a. Ceremonial Report/ Diary – S/M Ben Cartwright sent in a report:

ANZAC Day was on Saturday 25th April and one Branch Member attended the service on Weymouth Esplanade.

The following events have been confirmed:

Sunday 21st June- Weymouth Veterans Parade. Brunswick Terrace DT4 7RN.

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday

Wednesday 11th November – Armistice Day

More details will follow when they are received.

Unconfirmed event dates are :

Saturday 6th June – Portland D Day Service and wreath laying.

Tuesday 16th June- HMS Sidon 71st Anniversary, Yeates Road.

Monday 22nd June -Armed Forces Flag Raising Event, Victoria Square, Portland.

Saturday 4th July (or Sunday 5th??)- HMS Foylebank 86th Anniversary Commemoration.

Saturday 15th August -VJ Day Memorial Service at the memorial at All Saints Church, Portland.

Thursday 3rd September -Merchant Navy Day Service, St George's Church, Portland.

Sunday 13th September – Avalanche Memorial Service, St Andrew's Church, Southwell, Portland.

Saturday 17th October – HMS Illustrious Memorial Service.

Sunday 6th December – Civic Carol Service.

Hopefully we will receive details of these events soon.

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

70th Anniversary Annual Dinner 2026 – Saturday 18th April was a great success by all accounts. As usual, thanks to all who helped, particularly Karen, Dusty, Bob, Nige and Ben. By the time S/M Dave arrived in the morning, they had finished setting up.

Skittles Night – Friday 5th June at the Trinity Club, Dorchester, along with Dorchester and other branches. Further details to follow. Ben has booked the minibus, but we need a volunteer driver (must be under 70).

Vitality Blast 20-20 Cricket – at the Utilita Bowl near Southampton. Sunday 5th July.

'Double header' v Kent Spitfires – women's match at 11.30, men's at 15.30. S/M Dave has booked 9 early bird group tickets at £20.40 (15% discount) and parking, which was £35.00. Ben has booked the minibus and Nige has kindly agreed to drive. There's no parking available in the disabled park so any disabled passengers will be dropped at the gate and the minibus parked in car park 1 or 2. Dave posted on Facebook that there's room for 2 more but no takers. There will be an extra charge of £3.90 per person for parking. Fuel charges to be calculated on the day.

Buckham Fair - Sunday 2nd August. Advance tickets £20 available now. It is supporting Dorset County Hospital. 7 have expressed interest. Further details to follow.

Away Weekend 2026 – Thursday 8th to Monday 12th October at Daish's Hotel, Shanklin, Isle of Wight. There are 31 on the list. We will be sharing a coach with pickups at Bridport bus station, Victoria Square and Weymouth Esplanade. All interim deposits of £30.00 per person have been paid and sent to Daish's. The balance is required in August. S/M Dave will collect any amount you wish to pay at each meeting to spread the cost.

Trafalgar Night Dinner 2026 – Saturday 24th October in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainer is Donna.

Christmas Social 2026 – Saturday 5th December in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. As the Steve Williams Disco has been so popular Dave has booked them.

S/M Bob added that the Veterans Breakfast last Sunday at the Masonic Lodge went very well. This will be held monthly on the first Sunday of the month. There is an advert on our Website and Facebook page. Payment is by BACS but if anyone wants to go contact Bob for assistance if you don't use BACS.

c. **HMS Portland Liaison Officer Report** – S/M Nigel Rimell sent in a report:

Nil report.

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

The coffee morning is booked for Saturday 15th August at Easton Methodist Church Hall. S/M Berni Cranny has suggested having a Tombola so Karen is making a list and asking for contributions. There will also be a raffle and prizes and needed.

S/M Dusty thanked Karen for her fundraising for the Island Leg Club.

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

There are a total of 97 Members plus our friends from Bridport and Dorchester.

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

Bideford Reunion weekend - the Portland Sea Cadets are to receive £500 from the 'slush fund.' This will be presented to Rachel at next month's Meeting when she is coming to give us a talk about their latest fundraising campaign. She does not know about the £500 so we need to keep it a secret until then.

The next Area Meeting is on Saturday 16th May at St Austell. S/Ms Ben, Bob, David and Monica White will be going.

Nationally, two people are leaving. Firstly, Bill Oliphant, the General Secretary is retiring and Sara Field, the Membership Secretary is moving to the RNRMC.

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

The Branch Website is now protected by free enhanced security software and continues to be stable and up to date. Work has been carried out to enable webpages to load faster.

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

S/M Bob took S/M Steve Skerman to the Heathrow airport as he's gone to visit his family in the USA.

S/M Dennis Matthews of Dorchester Branch has moved nearer to family in Buckinghamshire. He will be missed here. Cards will be sent to him from Portland and Bridport Branches.

S/M Len Christopher is now out of hospital and on the mend.

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

The Branch Account stands at £3,238.00

The Social Fund stands at £510.19

The Annual Charity Fund (Portland Sea Cadets) stands at £50.50 (after 1 month)

Matters arising: Nil

Proposed by: S/M Ginge Sarsfield Seconded by: S/M Tony Seal

For: 25 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

7. Any Other Voting Items :

Proposed by: Seconded by:

For: Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

8. AOB

S/M Pete has Conference Draw tickets @ £1 each if anyone wants any.

S/M Dave said everyone has now paid for the cricket trip but he needs £4 from each for parking.

9. Chairman's Closing Comments:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight's Meeting. Thank to you Ralph for running the bar. Thank you to Christine and Kevin for setting up the room.

10. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

11. Meeting Closed at: 21.00

Chairman

Secretary