



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



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The Semaphore Circular

No 720

The Beating Heart of the RNA

June 2022



Congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen on reaching her Platinum Jubilee as Sovereign. The photo above shows HMS Queen Elizabeth adding her congratulations.

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Central Office Staff with the famous Falklands HMS Antrim Flight Wessex 'Humphrey'

L to R – Andy Christie, Mike Gray, Mary Prescott, Lynda Pearson, Gemma Swanson, Kathryn Brindley, Sara Field and General Secretary Bill Oliphant. (Missing in action – Malcolm Little, John Scivier and Dave Macaskill)

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

1. [Final F40 Programme](#)
2. [National Standard Bearer Competition](#)
3. [HMS Royal Arthur Memorial – Butlins Skegness](#)
4. [Black Tot Fifty-Second Anniversary](#)
5. [Fireside Chat Programme](#)
6. [HMS Raleigh Mentors Visit Shipmate Minns](#)
7. [Naval Families Federation](#)
8. [Iceland – Cracking Deal](#)
9. [Tot Time Crew Edinburgh Deployment](#)
10. [Naval Children's Charity](#)
11. [RNA Waterlooville Invitation](#)
12. [Project 71 – Michael Jennings](#)
13. [Special Interest Group Contacts](#)

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

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RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
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Snail Mail – Postal Address

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From the General Secretary

Ahoy Shipmates,



HM The Queen accompanied by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and then First Sea Lord, Adm George Zambellas

First things first, it seems only right to start this note with a photograph of Her Majesty - what a splendid weekend it has been of Platinum Jubilee celebrations! It has been the most amazing spectacle and the outpouring of genuine affection for Her Majesty has been quite remarkable, not only from within the nation but across the world. And, a State Secret revealed – we now know what Her Majesty carries in her

handbag! However, the best line I picked up from the weekend was the suggestion that Her Majesty was the original Spice Girl. I loved that. I hope I'm not too irreverent?

For most of us, the steadfast thread throughout our naval careers has been served under Her Majesty's reign and, if I may, I would just like to add my tribute to our amazing Patron, by thanking her for her continued support and interest in our Association. She really is the most extraordinary and inspiring woman who makes us all so proud.

Good to see our own Jeff Hughes (Wrexham Branch) on last Sunday evening's Antiques Roadshow. You will be glad to know that Jeff wasn't the subject of the antique in question, it was actually a fabulous episode centred on HMY BRITANNIA and Jeff was sharing Her Majesty's role on the ceremonial stirring of the Yacht's Christmas pudding. Jeff is pictured just to the right of the Queen.



We have been so absorbed in Central Office working towards the F40 weekend that we have very much left Branches to get on to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee weekend at a local level. I hope that you all enjoyed it as much as we in Central Office did. For any Branches who did put something on, please send in your photos for next month's Semaphore Circular.



I hope those who ordered their Platinum Jubilee pins received them in time to wear last weekend. They only arrived in Central Office on Monday beforehand - yet more supply chain issues – and I can tell you it was a clear lower deck serial to get them parcelled up and sent

out that day. There are still some remaining in Central Office at £5 each – please ring Sara.

The one thing which was definitely to the fore this weekend was the diversity shown across modern Britain and I hope it's not going to be too controversial for Shipmates but I fully intend that our Association goes that extra mile to make ourselves a "safe space" community. To that end, I salute No7 Area for taking out a stand at the Cardiff Gay Pride over the weekend of 27/28 Aug – if anyone wants more info or indeed wants to go to Cardiff to take part or to assist No7 Area with their stand, please contact No7 Area Chairman, Gordon Williams chairman@rna-7area.org



Regarding our Falklands 40 commemorative weekend 17-19 June; despite it not being neatly packaged into a single venue, I am glad to say that it has proven popular with our membership and almost all events are now over-subscribed with reserve lists in operation. Places remain for the F40 Forum, Saturday 1130-1600 and the commemorative parade on Sunday morning.



Finally, heartiest congrats to S/m Steve Champion from Maidstone Branch who was the winner of this year's Standard Bearers' competition at COLLINGWOOD which means that, at the AGM, the role of National Standard Bearer will pass from David Corrigan to Steve. Thank you for your outstanding service as our National Standard Bearer for the last 4 years David; your bearing and dedication to the role has been absolutely exemplary.

The National President, VAdm Duncan Potts awards S/m Steve Champion the National Standard Bearers' Competition Trophy

*Best wishes,
Bill Oliphant*

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....

Congratulations to The Royal Naval Association for being awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Silver Award



1. ★ Final Full Comprehensive F40 Programme Weekend Information Brief

The information below contains comprehensive and specific info for Shipmates to ensure they are ***in the right place at the right time, with the right photo ID, and wearing the correct rig***. If the answer to your question is not contained within the information below, please email us ASAP at F40bookings@royalnavalassoc.com

Shipmates (willing volunteers!) from Area 3 and Central Office staff will be on standby at all F40 events to answer your queries and provide directions / advice should you need it.



This has been a huge complex project to put together involving liaison with a plethora of associations, sponsors and organisations which, we hope, will allow you to enjoy a fantastic weekend.

So here are a few essential **Church Notices**

- Do remember to bring an ID card (e.g. Driver's Licence or Passport) for use at security gates; we must also have your DoB, so if you're unsure whether its on our Database do please email it through to F40bookings@royalnavalassoc.com
- Apply to the RNRMC for branch travel costs ([Falklands 40 Fund | The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity \(nrmc.org.uk\)](http://Falklands40Fund|TheRoyalNavyandRoyalMarinesCharity.nrmc.org.uk))
- There are trained staff members on hand should you require any assistance if the weekend has reignited some difficult memories / scenarios. If you are experiencing any challenges at all, please let one of the Central Office team know so that we can assist you.
- Nelson car-parking is extremely limited, and you will need a RNA dashboard notice in advance for exceptional circumstances (please avoid this requirement if at all possible).
- **If attending the Saturday AGM as an Observer only**, do please let us know for security purposes if not already done so. Sadly you will be allowed entry in to HMS Nelson Wardroom by the Naval Base Security Staff.
- See Rig instructions below. Please assume female equivalent throughout.
- Central Office will check emails up to 1600 on the Thursday. Beyond that for emergencies only please ring Malcolm Little on 07906 128754.

Time	Event	Location	Rig /Comment
Friday - Reunite (17 June 2022)			
All Day	Special Interest Groups	Portsmouth Area	As per SIG Leader instructions
1300	RNA v RMA Cricket Match	Burnaby Road (In Central Portsmouth close to Gunwharf Quays)	Casual Rig – Bar open. Further details.. markmiff1962@gmail.com
1900	Beat the Retreat RM Band	Guildhall Square Steps (small number of chairs available)	RNA Rig or Lounge Suit equivalent (Black Tie and miniatures if attending PCC Civic Dinner)
1900 - 2130 (Bar closes at 2100 with Sunset Ceremony At 2130	Drinks Reception and Ceremonial Sunset	HMS Warrior	Suit/equivalent (no Stilettos or narrow heel shoes); medals /miniatures optional. Remember that a ship is not by nature as warm as other venues, so do dress accordingly. *** Please see below a few other Warrior Guest Notices.....
1930 – 2300 (First call for dinner 1945)	PCC Civic Dinner (Invited Falklands Veterans – Card no cash Bar) R M Collingwood Band Beating Retreat	Portsmouth Guildhall	Black Tie with Medals Please bring your PCC Invitations which been posted out to individuals on 31 May 22 Allocated RNA tables but no seating plan
Saturday - Relive (18 June 2022)			
0830-1045	AGM (Including Bacon Butties)	HMS Nelson - Wardroom	RNA Rig. Note – Photo ID and advance notice essential
1100-1600	Falklands Forum and Q & A (Including S/W Lunch and psycho-social support if required)) Forum opened by The RNA National President Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB at 1100	HMS Nelson - Wardroom	

1600	Field Gun Send Off	Gunwharf Quay marching to the Hot Walls Old Portsmouth for 24 Hour Vigil with Pompey Pals.	
1930- 2300	Buffet Dance (70/80's themed)	HMS Nelson - Wardroom	Informal / Smart Casual Note – Photo ID and advance notice essential
Sunday – Remember (19 June 2022)			
0930	Veterans, Band and Standard Bearers - Muster	East Street, Car Park, Old Portsmouth	RNA Rig with Medals Note – Old ortsmouth Road Closures
1020	F40 Commemorative Parade and Freedom of Portsmouth Ceremony	Hot Walls, Old Portsmouth <i>Specific Parade Detail can be found below</i>	RNA Rig with Medals – Serving No 1 Medals negative Swords
1140	Veterans March Past	Battery Row	
1145	Memorial Service and Civic Refreshments	St Thomas's Cathedral Portsmouth	Note; There is no alternative wet weather routine.

Forum Information

Dress - Smart Casual Note – Photo ID and advance notice essential

1100 Forum Intro : V/Adm Duncan Potts (RNA National President)

Historical Account: Stephen Prince (Head of the Historical Branch)

Sandwich lunch

Lived experiences:

- *Adm Lord West (CO HMS Ardent)*
- *Sharkey Ward (Fleet Air Arm)*
- *Cdre Adrian Nance OBE (HMS Sheffield)*
- *Brig Ian Gardiner RM (45 Cdo)*
- *Dr Gordon Brooks (Atlantic Conveyor M.O)*

Q&A – all speakers

Surgeon Captain John Sharpley from DCMH covering psychosocial support

Falklands 40 Forum Closure: VAdm Duncan Potts (RNA National President)

Sunday Parade Specific Detail

10:23 - Turn left onto Broad St

10:45 - Halt in front of Falklands Memorial - at this stage the veteran's will be formed up in platoons

10:59 - Last Post sounded

11:00 - Field gun fired for 2 minutes silence

11:02 - Reveille sounded

11:04 - The unveiling of new Falklands memorial by the senior VIP, short speech followed by a blessing/dedication from the Dean of Portsmouth/ Chaplain of the Fleet

11:10 - Formal wreath laying

11:15 - Presentation with Freedom Scroll and speeches to: Falklands Veterans; Royal Naval Association; Royal Marines Association; Association of Wrens

11:30 - Announcement of Twinning agreement with the Falkland Islands

11:35 - VIPs move to Grand Parade. Senior VIP to take the salute

11:40 - Veteran's march along Battery Row and salute senior VIP who will standing adjacent to Lord Nelson statue on a dais

11:45 - Veteran's march around Grand Parade to the High Street where they will fall out and go into the cathedral for a memorial service

11.45 - St Thomas's Cathedral will hold a short service, to include the reading of the names 250 in total. Refreshments will be available at the Cathedral.

***** Additional HMS Warrior Guest Notices**

- The ship is accessible to the Upper deck via a gangway (this can be very steep at high tide). We have a chair lift on board, which requires the person to be able to get in and out of it themselves. This goes from the Upper Deck to the Main Gun Deck, where the event takes place. There is an accessible toilet on this level as well. 10. Wheelchairs are available from Victory Gate to the ship and on the Main Gun Deck, upon request in advance.
- There is a cash machine within the Dockyard, located by Boathouse 7.
- The bar will close at 2100.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted on board, incl the Upper Deck. However, you may walk off the ship and smoke on the jetty.

2. ★ National Standard Bearer Competition – HMS Collingwood 07 May 2022

The National Standard Bearers Competition was held in HMS Collingwood on Saturday 07 May 2022.



There were nine Competitors competing for the prestigious position of National Standard Bearer in the senior competition as Champion. Furthermore over 11 competitors participated in the Novice Competition.

The event commenced on Friday with the National Ceremonial Officer S/M Bob Coburn (who was allowed down from Inverness unescorted without Mrs Coburn and, believe it or not he managed to be on the right rig and right place!) and S/ M Mick Kieran conducting a training

session for the novices. Some of whom were quite literally on their first outing with a Standard. They must be congratulated for having the courage to enter BZ The Novices.

On Saturday Over 60 shipmates and guests were in attendance on the day to witness a super spectacle resulting in a victory for S/M Steve Champion representing Area 2 Maidstone Branch and Novice winner S/M Ron Dorey, also from Maidstone Branch in Area 2.

S/M Steve was pushed extremely closely with S/M Mike Smyth, Lee/Stubb, Area 2 and former NSB S/M David Corrigan.



Sincere thanks to the National Chairman and Stoker S/M Keith Ridley and Association of Wrens, National President, Alison Towler for adjudicating and both agreed they were glad to do the crash course in Arithmetic!



Many thanks also go to S/M Bob as organiser and his 'Judges' Squad of Shipmates Mick Kieran, Tony 'budgie' Avery and Steve Susan's and not forgetting Duty Vicar, Alan Oliver.

Final thanks to S/M Nigel Huxtable BEM for 'volunteering' his time to take the photo's.

On completion everyone retired to the WO & CPO 's Mess for the prize giving ceremony. National President Duncan Potts was in attendance to kindly present the awards.

2022 Roll of Honour

National Standard Bearer Competitors	Novice Competition
Marie Taylor BEM - York	Niamh Hall - SCC Ashford
David Corrigan – Leighton & Linslade	Martin Evans – Paddock Wood
Chris Walker – AoW (Winner)	John Everett - Salisbury
Mike Smyth - Lee on The Solent & Stubbington	Michael Webb - Romford
Richard Shelton - Worthing	Hazel Evans – Paddock Wood
Steve Champion – Maidstone (NSB Winner)	Andy O'Brien – Fisguard Assoc
Mick Gosling - Romford	Ian Prescott - Christchurch
Ben Cartwright - Portland	Ron Dorey – Maidstone – Winner
Dave Cutler – Edinburgh	Dayfdd Boyle - Rhondda
	George Hathaway - Gosport
	Dave Ives - Riders



Photos - Top Left - NSB Winner S/M Steve Champion
 Bottom Left - NSB Competitors
 Top Right - Novice Winner S/M Ron Dorey
 Bottom Right - Novice Competitors

So, Shipmates- come and join the fun and start practising as the next NSB will be held in 2024!!

3. ★ HMS Royal Arthur Memorial – Commemoration Service

On Monday 09 May 2022 National President, Vice Admiral Potts CB, deployed from Portsmouth to Butlins in Skegness along with the National Chairman, Shipmate Keith Ridley and RNA Ops Manger, Andy Christie for a service of commemoration at the HMS Royal Arthur Memorial Oblesik. Also in attendance were S/M Keith Crawford MBE, NCM 9 and his wife S/M Yvonne, S/M Nigel Huxtable BEM taking the photos. Lt Mat Patterson, WO1 Jan Scott and an AB from Naval Regional Commander in London along with a number of Butlins (Hi de Hi!) Staff and the Local Padre from St Peter and St Paul Ingoldmells.

Admiral Duncan welcomed the ensemble and provided a naval and historical perspective for those attending the service. In particular, he informed everyone that Butlins at Skegness became HMS Royal Arthur opened at the outbreak of WW2 in September 1939 to train 'Hostilities Only' Wireless and Communication ratings and closed in 1947 when it transferred to Corsham in Wiltshire.



The Padre then led a small commemorative service, before starting the service he told the tragic story in which 4 ratings were killed during a bombing raid and are buried in the grounds of his church at St Peter & St Paul a couple of miles away from Butlins at Ingoldmells.

Today the church has a Royal Arthur chapel with a memorial stained glass window.

Shipmate Ron Frost had served at the Corsham Royal Arthur and tells the story below of how the HMS Royal Arthur Memorial materialised.

I was a National Service Artificer who had served a Five year apprenticeship at RAE Farnborough. I was made A/PO Radio Electrical and was drafted to HMS Royal Arthur at Corsham, Wilts on 8 September 1955. I loved it. I served at HMS Gannet in northern Ireland.

In 1988 now not RN, I wrote to Royal Arthur CO, to ask if I might come for a visit. He granted this and I went soon after, and was met at the gate by Warrant Officer Mick O,Shea, who showed me around. Not much had changed since I served there. He asked me if I knew that an ex RN was trying to form an HMS Royal Arthur Association and would I like the address. I wrote to him and offered myself if I could help. He asked me if I would accept a post of "Press and Publicity Officer." I accepted that, I advertised in Navy News and British Legion for any Ex RN who had served at HMS Royal Arthur during the War years. I had 734 replies from the 250,000 who had served there. The chairman and I formed a reunion. They all came, some with their wives.

The Venue was the Embassy hotel ballroom, we had the Royal Marine Band to play dance music. And a Bar and plenty of food. It was a great success.

I turned out to be the youngest and the last to serve a PO,s course at Corsham. So I was asked to marshal a parade through the town. I did. The streets were ten deep with residents and holiday makers, shouting "Thank you for what you did" The RNA membes walked among them, collecting contributions in buckets. We collected £16,000 that first day. I marshalled them to a park where an Admiral, the Lord Lieutenant, the Vicar of Ingoldmells church, and the Skegness Mayor were waiting. After being welcomed we sang the National anthem and marched on, giving eyes left to the Admiral, standing on the Embassy steps. By the town clock , I dismissed them and most of them made their way into the Services Club. I was mobbed by those in the club and forced to take hundreds of £,s to get them all a drink. It developed in a mass of friendship to show their appreciation to those who served in the war.



We did this march every year until 2006. The numbers in each parade was less each year for obvious reasons.

We did this march every year until 2006. The numbers in each parade was less each year for obvious reasons.

In 2006, the committee decided not to continue the parade in 2007 to see the size of the membership in ten years time.



It was at the 1991 AGM when I was on the stage giving my year report, when I said that I had walked around Butlins and I had not seen any thing that told of the use that site had been used during WWII. A voice from the audience shouted, why don't you do something then? I promised that I would try. It took me eleven years to fund raise and get permission to have an Obelisk there.

Part of the reason it took so long was that I had a busy job and the fact that I lived 220 miles away.

I had achieved this, so I designed an Obelisk taking in mind, the Environment it would need to withstand, the many inebriated holiday people that used that area, the Butlins service transport and the sea air weather. I chose a grey granite, and drew a size and shape to meet this requirement. I took my drawings to Woods, Boston Lincs , a monumental masons, to get a price and delivery and erection. I accepted their quotation. And this was done.

The unveiling was done in 2002. The Obelisk has been used very many times by military associations.

In 2020 it needed servicing, so I contacted Woods, Boston and they did this. This time the cost was paid by Butlins. Every reunion always used coaches to convey the Members to Ingoldmells church, for a service conducted by the Bishop of Lincoln.

BZ Shipmate Ron for all your efforts and commitment ensuring that HMS Royal Arthur will be continued to be remembered and honour the 400,000 servicemen who passed through its doors during the war years.

4. ★ Black Tot 52nd Anniversary – 31st July 2022 HQS Wellington

Calling all Shipmates.....Calling all Shipmates.....Calling all Shipmates

31st July 2022 is the 52nd Anniversary of the horrible day that Rum was stolen from Jack (and not forgetting Jenny) So why not come and join us on the oldest but still afloat Atlantic Convoy survivor HQS Wellington (formerly HMS Wellington).

It is 'Tot Time Tigers' with an added 'Snorker' or two (Good Oh!) and some Pussers Rum by kind permission of the Worshipful Company of Master Mariners and supported by Pussers Rum. So why not come and join us on the Thames by Blackfriars Bridge. 'Up Spirits' at 1100 for an issue (maybe a sandy bottom or two) accompanied with some rousing or rowdy drinking songs provided by, the Royal Marines Association Band and the magnificence that is the Young Shep Wooley, all washed down with a 'Snorker'. This promises to be a great day with views of the Thames and London Eye in touching distance with a private bar remaining open following the tot tasting so there will be plenty of time to spin quite a few dits!



Due to the location being afloat (Sea Dodgers very much welcome from the WAFU family) we are limited to 200 spaces and unfortunately there is no wheelchair access. There is an early bird discount of £30 per head until the end of June and then the price will increase to £35, with our charity RNRMC being well supported. All remaining funds are paying the Band, catering etc will go to RNRMC.

Shipmates who wish to attend should contact Dave Parry (RNA Bromley) at dparryparry@btinternet.com or the Honourable Company of Master Mariners quoting 'Black Tot Day 2022' on 0207 7836 8179 info@hcmm.org.uk

5. ★ 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 06 Jun	Geoff Parsons	HMY Britannia and other naval 'dits'
Monday 13 Jun	2SL - Vice Admiral Martin Connell CBE	View from the Bridge (Zoom details to below)**
Monday 20 Jun	Post Conference Break	
Monday 27 Jun	Ken Holberg	The return of Naval Shipbuilding to the Solent – a National Shipbuilding Strategy success.
Monday 04 Jul	Mike Milne	Admiral Byng

* Lecture subjects may change at short notice.

** View from the Bridge – 2SL <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81879637319>

6. ★ HMS Raleigh Mentors – S/M Bob Minns

The Veteran Mentors currently operating in HMS Raleigh invited a 94yr old veteran to witness a Passing Out Parade in May. Bob Mims joined the RN at HMS Royal Arthur for initial naval training as an Ordinary Seaman in 1947 and later HMS Raleigh before a draft to HMS Ulster. Later, HMS Ready (Minesweeper), HMS Cambrian and had his National Service extended by 6mths due to possible hostilities with Russia following the isolation of Berlin. Demobbed in 1949.

Bob and his family thoroughly enjoyed their day being introduced to the visiting VIP and chatting with many Raleigh personnel. S/M Steve Tinney and S/M Les Yeoman, along with six other veteran/mentors ensured his day was one to remember.



7. ★ Naval Families Federation – Update

Sara Clewes the CEO of the Naval Families Federation has written the article below to update Shipmates on the work of NFF.

The Naval Families Federation (NFF) continues to take every opportunity to shape change and improve support for families as a critical friend and by sharing our knowledge: your understanding of your network and your reach into a range of communities can help us to do more, championing Royal Navy and Royal Marines families.



heightened further for Naval personnel and their families due to their mobile lifestyle; whether weekending, moving between devolved nations where entitlements and costs differ or where precious family time is affected as difficult financial choices are being made more than ever before.

Your help to reach Naval families, wherever they live and whatever they need help with, is very much appreciated. As you would expect, we work in collaboration with the Army and RAF Family Federations to prevent duplication of effort and as a well-established and proactive member of the Naval charity network, NFF can offer a range of advice and signpost (without incurring the dockyard run around!) to a number of charity partners, all of whom want to do the right thing for the Naval community.

You can contact the NFF head office on 023 9265 4374 by email contactus@nff.org.uk, or find us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

8. ★ Cracking Deal at Iceland Supermarkets...

Our grateful thanks to Shipmate Ian McQueen for advising of us this little gem! Which I know Shipmates would like to be aware of.

The supermarket chain has announced that from 24 May 2022, customers aged over 60 will receive a **10 per cent discount** on their groceries every Tuesday with no minimum spend. The discount will be available in-store at Iceland and The Food Warehouse branches. You must provide proof of age ie Passport, Driving Licence or Bus pass. This must be done at the checkout.



Enjoy.....OBW make sure you defrost the tucker first!

(Picture courtesy of Belfast Telegraph)

9. Saturday Tot Time Crew Deployment to Edinburgh

Our thanks to Scottish Area NCM, S/M Stephen Elliot reports on happenings north of the border!

Edinburgh Weekend 2022 - Throughout lockdown and as friendships on Saturday Tot Time grew a cunning plan was developed to allow Shipmates to meet (some for the first time) in Edinburgh for a weekend of comradeship.

Stalwarts, Shipmates Andy Fletcher, Jeff RVM and Jeff the Chef got their contacts book out and called on an Admiral they knew to arrange a reception on The Royal Yacht. They also told Shipmate Karen Elliot of the City of Edinburgh Branch that she was part of the planning team and they worked together for a year sharing ideas and planning.

On Thursday 28 April Shipmates started arriving in Scotland's Capital, some attended a military band concert in the famous Greyfriars Kirk and others graced the famous bars of the Grassmarket. By the time the crew were together there was an unbelievable atmosphere, many lamps were being swung and we ran out of bollards!

On Friday 29, nearly 80 Shipmates from across the UK attended a reception onboard The Royal Yacht Britannia, guests included many former Yachties, who were in their element, including Shipmate (Admiral) John, the General Secretary and National Chairman. It was wonderful to be able to dress for the occasion and the food, wine and company was first class. The beautiful sunset finished off a wonderful evening.

Shown in the photo opposite is S/m Kayleigh Thomas (Area 7) who was observed chatting up a lonely matelot! Prior to going onboard!



On Saturday 30, Shipmates visited Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, The Yacht (for Yochtie tours) and many of Edinburgh's finest pubs! In the evening 90 Shipmates, many later to be Shipwrecks, joined together for a massive dose of comradeship. Admiral John spun a few dits and everyone sang their hearts out on the karaoke. The RNA certainly has talent and highlights of the night were the Welsh Choir and Shipmate Buster Brown's rendition of My Way, let's just say he did it his way!

On 1 May, Shipmates got into their No 1's and made their way to the Canongate Kirk. They were joined by a friend of the RNA, the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, Frank Ross. 11 Standard Bearers took part in the service and Admiral John and the Lord Provost delivered the readings. At the conclusion of the service our Standard Bearers became the centre of attention as attendees and tourists took photographs of what was a wonderful spectacle. Admiral John managed to cadge a lift to the station in the Lord Provost's official car, waving to everyone as he departed!

The weekend wasn't over and Shipmates again headed for a refreshment or three, some headed back to The Yacht for afternoon tea and others went for a quiet bumble about the city.

A great weekend was had by all and in the views of all who attended this is what our association is all about.

BZ to all involved. Roll on National Conference.

10. ★ Naval Children's Charity



At the Naval Children's Charity, we believe it's our responsibility to support young people as they transition into adult life.

Part of that commitment is providing opportunities that can teach them about themselves, and develop valuable interpersonal skills.

In collaboration with the Tall Ships Youth Trust, we're giving a small number of children and young adults aged 12-25 the chance to [sail the coast of the British Isles on iconic 72-ft Challenger Yachts](#).

Subsidised by the NCC to cost just £75, this experience will teach our children the self-reliance, teamwork, communication and leadership they'll need to thrive in their future careers.

From the 16th to the 21st August, a group of younger children (aged 12-15) will sail from Liverpool to Greenock. The older cohort (aged 16-25), will be at sea for a full week, departing Greenock on the 24th August and arriving at Peterhead on the 31st.



This opportunity is open to the child of any parent or guardian who is serving or is a veteran of the Royal Navy. If you're worried about the cost of the voyage, we would still love to hear from you.

Please register your interest by filling in our [interest form](#). Applications are open until the 30th June.

Best wishes, Clare Scherer

11. ★ RNA Waterlooville Post F40 Invitation

Hello Shipmates-

If any of you are participating in the Falklands 40 parade on Sunday 19th June in Portsmouth, you are cordially invited to join the chairman and members of RNA Waterlooville post the parade for "big eats" & a few tots back at our club. At RNA WATERLOOVILLE - ASTON ROAD , WATERLOOVILLE, PO7 7XD

If you are intending to visit and take up our invitation You will be most welcome., however can you let us know by contacting the chair Andy Beattie- beatts25@yahoo.co.uk with numbers so we can make sure you are duly catered for,

Hope to see you on parade

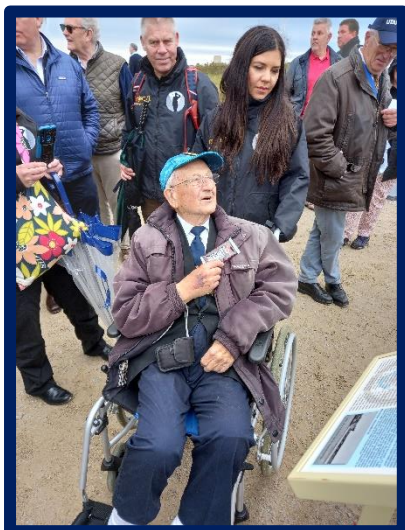
12. Project 71 – Seaman Michael Jennings (D Day Veteran)

Shipmates may be aware that Project 71 arrange annually for D Day and WW2 Veterans to go over to Normandy and visit the landing beaches. After a couple of years off due to the pandemic, the Veterans were transported over to France using the Portsmouth based RNA minibus.

This year one of the Veterans was RN Wireman (Electrical Mechanic) Michael Jennings D/MX574620 served on D Day in HM Landing Craft Tank (Mark 4) 795 - LCT (4) 795 on D Day LCT (4) 795 delivering USA Forces onto Utah beach.

Michael desperately wanted to ensure that RN Shipmates who paid the ultimate sacrifice were commemorated in the form of a memorial. Sadly, to achieve this prior to his visit, proved administratively difficult as France had gifted the beach to the USA. However, a local Mayor provided a simple solution by proposing that a memorial could be placed on French soil at Utah just a few metres away. As a surprise the Project erected a memorial listing the 74 Sailors who died during the D Day landings at Utah Beach in a surprise for S/M Michael who was treated like a 'Pop Star' by all the locals and visitors.

In the photo you can see Mick with a 'Hershey Bar'. On D Day he had to jump in a fox hole on Utah Beach with a GI who shared his K Rations with him, part of which was a Hershey Bar.



His amazing story can be found at this link <https://www.combinedops.com/HMLCT%20795.htm> and really is worth a read.

13. ★ Specialist Interest Groups – Contact details

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

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

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

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

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

Cricket – Mark Smith : Markmiff1962@gmail.com

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

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

Divers – Bill Lawless: billylawless40@yahoo.com

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

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

Riders – Dave Ives: secrnariders@gmail.com

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

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.

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: 07988 151011 E Mail: ray@rnaslops.clothing



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

RNA Longcast

10 Jun	National Council Meeting - Zoom
12 Jun	No 12 Area - Falklands 40 Commemoration, , Belfast Branch
14 Jun	Opening of HMS Sheffield and HMS Coventry Memorial Benches and Naming of Central Office Building by Naval Base Commander Portsmouth Cdre JJ Bailey RN
16 Jun	National Council - Trustee Training
16 Jun	Armed Forces Cricket - T20 Mens and Womens – Lords Cricket Ground
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AGM/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
25 Jun	National Armed Forces Day - Scarborough
25 Jun	HM Naval Base Portsmouth – Armed Forces Day
02 Jul	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day
08 Jul	Central Office - Open Day
16 Jul	HMS Nelson Families Day
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
31 Jul	2022 World Uckers Championships (TBC)
06 Aug	Area 5 Meeting – Harwich
06 Aug	Area 3 Quarterly meeting - Portsea (Royal Maritime Club)
12 Aug	Central Office - Open Day
01-04 Sep	Bournemouth Air Days (Christchurch Branch)
04 Sep	Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service Navy War Memorial Tower Hill
07 Sep	National Employment Scheme Silver Awards Ceremony
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
30 Sep	Central Office - Open Day
29 Oct	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
19 Nov	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting – RNA Gosport
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan 2023	Central Office Closed for Christmas
25 Feb	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting – RNA Waterlooville

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Area 7](#)

[RNA Newport](#)

[RNA Purley](#)

[RNA Rosyth and West Fife](#)

[RNA Plymouth](#)

[RNA Chesham and Amersham](#)

[RNA Birchington](#)

[RNA Chard](#)

[RNA Area 8](#)

[RNA Wansbeck and District](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Uxbridge](#)

[RNA Forth Valley](#)

[RNA Isle of Wight](#)

[RNA Falmouth](#)

[RNA Area 3](#)

RNA Area 7

The dedication of the Cwmparc blitz memorial took place on the 30 April 2022. 81 years after the event. It had been planned for the end of April 2021 which would have been the 80th anniversary.

On the night of 29/30 April 1941 at the height of the German bombing offensive against Britain during World War 2, the small village of Cwmparc was subjected to a devastating bombing raid by the Luftwaffe. Although the coal mining valleys of South Wales were vital to Britain's war effort they had been left more or



less alone. The Germans concentrated their efforts on

infrastructure – coastal ports, railways, RAF air bases and industrial centres. The valleys were thought to be 'blitz free' which is why so many evacuees were sent there from England. Twenty eight people died that night. Four of whom were evacuees from England. A fifth evacuee was left



disabled for life. Her final wish was to be cremated when she died and her ashes scattered over the graves of her three siblings buried in Treorchy cemetery as she said, 'I've been buried once in Cwmparc and have no wish to be buried again'. She died in 2006.

There are many theories as to why Cwmparc and Ystrad were bombed that fateful night but, the reality is that we will never know for sure. There are no records to confirm a failed mission to bomb Swansea/Port Talbot. Theories on targeting the munitions factory in Bridgend, the Rhondda Tunnel where coal was trained down to Swansea or, that a plane attacking Cardiff was lost due to bad weather are all plausible.

It's highly probable that the plane above Cwmparc that night was part of the Cardiff attack and could well have been lost due to bad weather, or, on its way to a specific infrastructure target and either dropped its bombs on the wrong target or indeed was being chased by British aircraft and dropped its bombs to lighten their load to escape back to base. It is almost certain that the bombing of Cwmparc was not planned or pre-meditated. It simply was a case of wrong place, wrong time.

The day of the dedication of the memorial was bright and sunny with just the occasional breath of wind. It was attended by approximately 400+ people.

Standard bearers from Rhondda RNA, RBL, Rhondda RAA and Salvation Army also attended.

Rhondda Chairman S/M Kevin Rowan laid a wreath on behalf of the RNA and S/M Graham Warner (Rhondda Hon. Sec.) acted as parade marshal.



RNA Newport Branch



The RNA rewards those members that go the extra mile so Members of Newport RNA, Pat Foley age 90 and Branch Padre Frank Wells age 84 were rewarded with a lunch where Pam was presented with a bouquet of flowers and Frank a traditional bottle of Navy Rum. They were escorted by Area 7 Chairman S/M Gordon Williams.

During the Covid pandemic 'lock down' Pam and Frank phoned all 50 members of the branch fortnightly in order to check on members Mental Health and Wellbeing . It was also important to talk to partners of the Shipmates.

The lunch was funded by the RNA '1000 Good deeds a day' fund. The Fund was set up recently by the National Council to recognise Shipmates that go that extra mile to assist RNA members.

BZ Shipmates Pat and Frank for going that extra mile.....

RNA Purley Branch

At the AGM of Purley Branch, the President, S/M Pat Cannon was presented with the award of RNA Life Membership by the Chairman S/M Glenn Jack, aka "Jacko". The Life Membership was given to reflect Pat's devotion and numerous contributions he's made to the Branch in many ways over a long period, including having served on the Committee and holding various positions as an Officer of the Branch.



Also at the AGM, the award of Shipmate of the Year was awarded to S/Ms Julia and Bob Knowles, for setting up monthly Zoom meetings so that all members of the Branch could stay in contact during the restrictions imposed due to Covid, including a virtual raffle with amusing 'prizes', and for their efforts to give care and support to those in need.

A Big BZ to them !

(Photos shows – Top Right - Life Membership Award photo: S/M Pat Cannon on left, S/M Glenn Jack (aided by the stage platform and suddenly the same height as Pat - 😊!) on the

right. Shipmate/s of the Year Award: From left to right: S/M Bob Knowles, Shield presented by S/M Pat Cannon and S/M Julia Knowles.



RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch

Our thanks to Shipmate Richard Wardrope for providing a report on proceedings at RNA Rosyth and West Fife.

Our Branch suffered a major blow in March as our Secretary, S/M John Sherwood suddenly and unexpectedly crossed the bar. John was a dedicated and diligent Secretary and will be sorely missed. This report has therefore been raised by the Chairman and Vice Chairman whilst we find a replacement.

The year 2021-2022 has been another mixed year for the Branch due to the ups and downs of COVID. Meetings were held monthly by Zoom from April through to August, and for the rest of the year we were able to meet in person in the Senior Rates Mess of MoD CALEDONIA thanks to the generosity of Mess President WO Munro and his Committee. Unfortunately, the Omicron outbreak has meant we had to revert back to Zoom meetings for the beginning of the year. Although too late for the period of this report, it is noted that with the easing of restrictions we were again able to hold a "real" meeting in April and it is hoped this will continue with the delayed Branch AGM planned for the May meeting.

On a positive note, the first full year of the new Membership system has seen a rise in Membership of the Branch from 51 to 61. The system appears to be working well, and donations to the Branch are maintaining our funds – a full set of financial records for the year will be

presented to HQ shortly. We have also been fortunate enough to recruit a Branch Padre, Piper and Bugler to

During the period under review, we unfortunately lost three of our long-term members: Our last World War 2 veteran and Branch Vice President S/M Jim Thompson crossed the bar in November, and S/M Bob Liddle the previous July. S/M John Sherwood, our serving Secretary has been mentioned already. Each funeral was marked with the normal respects.

During early May the Branch paraded for the laying of a wreath at Inverkeithing War memorial, and the following day at the Parish Church for the Blessing of our Standard and Renewal of Members Vows. The COVID situation found most of the events we would normally attend cancelled during the summer months. We were finally able to hold a very successful "reunion" social night in the Senior Rates Mess of MoD CALEDONIA in October, complete with musical accompaniment and two "Fun Nights" in a local Tavern as part of our fund-raising activities. November saw the Branch parade for well-attended Remembrance Services at Pattiesmuir Cemetery on the Saturday and Inverkeithing on Remembrance Sunday. In early December we were also fortunate to be able to hold our Annual Carol Service in the CALEDONIA Wardroom which was as well attended as the limited numbers social distancing allowed us.

RNA Plymouth Branch

Following an invitation by the Patron of the Royal Naval Association's Plymouth Branch, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Cnclr Mrs Terri Beer, members of the Branch visited the Lord Mayor's Parlour on Thursday 8th April.

After an informative talk the members had a tour of the Parlour and admired the Mayor's formal apparel and regalia, this being followed by tea and stickies.



RNA Chesham and Amersham Branch



This lovely photo was taken at our AGM in March. The first photo of our branch in many years.

Our membership is still strong and we are enjoying getting out, including visits to Uxbridge RNA Club and RAF Hendon museum.

Our thanks to S/M Tim Pridham the Branch Secretary for keeping us up to date with happenings in deepest Bucks!

RNA Birchington Branch



Thanks to Birchington Shipmate Dave Harris for letting us know that the Branch along with The wardroom from the Minster/Monkton RBL Club in deepest darkest Kent celebrated VE Day in a members back garden.

18 Members were in attendance with many toasts of Pussers and Pussers painkiller!

RNA Chard Branch

Our grateful thanks to Shipmate Dick Moon for forwarding the article below.

We have been absent since this dreaded Covid and kept our heads down, however as all is relaxed we are up and running once more and as you will see back with a vengeance although having had four members cross the bar in that time. Please bear with me as here I go..

Members from Chard branch have returned onto the circuit with some gusto. The week of 2nd to 8th May saw members attend HMS Sheffield memorial service in Sheffield, attendance at the County Class Destroyers Association reunion (First since 2019) and rounded off with members at the Poppy of Honour tree dedication in Somerset Wood, Taunton.

Our newest member S/M Andy O Brien and S/M wife Liz attended the Sheffield event as Andy paraded the Fisgard Artificer Apprentices Association Standard then again for the same reason at the dedication of the new HMS Sheffield (Shiny Sheffield) memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.



No rest for the wicked as Andy then transferred to HMS Collingwood to attend the annual Standard Bearers Competition as a novice.

Following this he rushed back West to his home town of Taunton along with S/M Liz O Brien and S/M Mike Kirkwood to attend, with his standard to partake in the dedication of a tree planted in the Somerset Woods. The tree will be one of 11,281 planted to represent the 11,281 men and women killed from Somerset during the Great War and who are recorded in 'The Somerset Book of Honour' housed in Wells Cathedral.





During the weekend of 6-8th May a further two Shipmates Paula and Dick Moon attended the County Class Destroyers Association reunion (which had been put back since their last one in 2018) in the Queen's Hotel Southsea during which time they were entertained along with other CCDA members to a Buffet lunch and Tots many on the Sunday hosted by Portsea RNA. All in all branch members represented the RNA as best they could coming from land locked Somerset.

The first social to be held at Chard since the introduction to the Nation of Covid was held on Thursday 12th May when they were entertained to an introduction of the activities of a small Charity based in Exeter who train and place dogs with former service men and women who are suffering with PTSD and would benefit from the dogs support abilities.

Veterans with dogs Volunteer, Bryan Maddams, aided with his dog Ferris enlightened all members and RBL guests to a very informative talk and demonstration of the support their dogs can provide to their individual PTSD sufferers.

The talk was enjoyed by all present and their interest was evident on the number of questions asked at the end of the presentation.



(Images and report compiled by S/M Dick Moon.)

Area 8

Shipmates from Area 8 attended a weekend of festivities on the beautiful banks of the River Severn at Ironbridge Gorge in Shropshire in support of Combat Stress where they recreate the experience of life during WWII on both the home front and in occupied Europe with civilian, Allied and Axis re-enactors. Over the course of the weekend, there were numerous displays, fly-pasts of historical WWII aircraft and many, many other attractions including the 1940's pub (which went down particularly well with our shipmates) and we've been invited to join the organisers at other events across Area 8.

The whole purpose of attending was to raise awareness of the Royal Naval Association and to recruit new members across the whole of Area 8 and beyond and we are glad to report that we were successful on both counts.

Area 8 Chairman, Shipmate Paul Mawhinney, was ably assisted by members of several branches on both days who took a watch on the stand and had lots of free time to enjoy the event too. Each new member recruited over the weekend received a tot of rum as did the shipmate who recruited them.



The Royal Navy Ensign (courtesy of Bloxwich RNA) was flying high above the gazebo and we must give a special thank you to shipmate Charlie Hussein who loaned us his tot Barrell.

Throughout the weekend the ladies of the Women's Institute provided veterans with delicious cakes (baked using 1940's recipes only) and therefore it was only fitting that we let them indulge in a tot or two also.

BZ and a massive thank you to all who helped out over the whole weekend and we look forward to attending other such events in

the future.

RNA Wansbeck Branch

Thanks to S/M Derek Wilkinson (Wansbeck hon Secretary) for forwarding the article below -

On Saturday 23rd April 2022 the Branch Secretary and his wife attended a St. George's Day event at Alnwick in Northumberland, with the Fusiliers Parade and March through the streets from and to Alnwick Castle. It started with a church service at St. Michael's church near the castle, followed by a march through the town, with an eyes left at the Saluting Dias on Bondgate, the Main Street in Alnwick. The salute was taken by two senior officers in No. 1 Dress, one being the Officer in charge of the Fusiliers, Brigadier Ed Swift, the other being the former C.O. Of the Battalion. Also at the Dias were the Mayor and Mayoress of Alnwick, and the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland.

The March was led by a 21 piece Fusiliers band wearing Bearskin Busbies, and a red uniform, followed by 3 contingents of marchers, each pointed by 2 standards.

The first contingent was from Battalion in lovat, the second was reservists in combats, and the third was the Veterans and Bikers. The march was halted and dismissed inside the castle grounds. Refreshments were later provided for the marchers at the Alnwick Working Mens Club near the bus station. It was a market day and the weather was ok, so there was plenty of people to watch the procession etc.



On Sunday 24th April there was a parade and service for ANZAC DAY at Chevington Cemetery, Nr.South Broomhill in Northumberland, to remember the airmen who lost their lives during WW2 from Australia and New Zealand while stationed in the region with the RAF at RAF Acklington, a former fighter base during the war, their average age was 22 years.

Some lost their lives in aerial combat, some in training, and some on board bomber aircraft

which crashed in the Cheviot Hills in bad weather.

It was the first time in two years that the Anzac Day service could be held because of the COVID restrictions , and was organised as always by Newcastle & Gateshead R.A.F.A.

4 Main flags were flying, the Union flag, the RAF flag, the Australian flag, and the New Zealand flag, as well as 10 Standards from various different sources. Dignitaries and Councillors laid wreaths at the memorial stone, 16 in all, and RAF Cadets from University Air Squadron laid Poppy crosses on ten individual graves.

The service was conducted by Padre Richard Clement, Station Padre from RAF Boulmer in Northumberland, there was also a brass band in attendance with a female bugler to do “reveille” and “last post”. It was a very windy day causing a lot of problems for the Standard bearers, and one of the Councillors collapsed after the wreath laying ceremony, causing a hold up to the service.

After the wreath laying and service, there was a march past the Saluting Dias, with an eyes left, the Salute being taken by Squadron Leader Bernard Higgins RAAF, Sqd.Ldr. Jeff Price RAAF, Air Commodore Richard Corney, RAF, and Gp Capt. Davis Keighley RAF Boulmer . Also in attendance were veterans from all the Services and the Bikers, including 5 of our branch members. Refreshments were later taken at nearby Hadston Community Centre next to the club.

On Tuesday 26th April was the funeral of our former branch Chairman Len Dyer, who crossed the bar on 5th April aged 82, at Blyth Crematorium , followed by refreshments at Blyth Masonic Hall in Beaconsfield Street. A good turnout from our branch members for the guard of honour, plus family members and Masonic staff etc. There was about 30-35 people in attendance including 10 from our branch, and 2 buglers. Our new branch chairman Ian Robson carried the Standard in the absence of our Standard bearer who could not get time off work to attend.

RNA St Neots Branch

Waiting to board the Royal Yacht on Friday 29TH April are- from Left S/Ms Geoff Patterson, Keith Ridley, Maureen Ridley, Vice Admiral, John McAnally RNA Vice Patron and Pete Horner.

They were very impressed with the professionalism of the staff and were given access to areas not normally permitted to the public.

A reception on Friday evening was hosted by the Association of Royal Yachtsmen and organised by S/Ms Geoffrey Hughes, RVM, Wrexham branch and Andy Fletcher Southend on Sea branch (Both Royal Yachtsmen)

The evening was bolstered by a ceremonial “Up Spirits” on the Veranda Deck.



RNA Uxbridge Branch

In November 1805 a messenger was sent from Falmouth to London with the news of the Battle of Trafalgar . He had to cover 271 miles travelling on Horse and carriage and it took him less than 38 hours . When we heard of this challenge for others to complete this distance by walking and running RNA Uxbridge Donated to this worthy cause the 1805 Club charity .

The Chairman of RNA Uxbridge S/M Kevin (Slinger) Wood threw down the Challenge to Vet Royal Marine WO2 Lawrie (Dinger) Bell MSM/BEM. Dinger Bell accepted the challenge providing all his sponsorship monies collected went to the RNRM Charity .



Veteran WO2 Lawrie Bell MSM/BEM Served his country from February 1959 -February 1996 and is 81 Years old and covered this distance (271 miles) by running and walking and completed it in 58 Days !!!!! That's an Average of 4.7 miles a day !!!!!!! An Amazing Achievement so its true ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE !!!!

Dinger took donations and sponsorship from Shipmates of RNA Uxbridge , Royal Marine Vets , Family and close friends and also from people that saw him out running on a day to day basis .



The Grand total collected came out at £930 so the Uxbridge Branch made it up to £1000 which will now be given to the RNRM Charity

In the photo Left to right S/M President of RNA Uxbridge Donald Thorpe and S/M Lawrie (Dinger) Bell

A huge BZ Dinger from the General Secretary

RNA Forth Valley Branch

Grateful thanks for S/M Andy Macdonald for keeping us briefed....

Shipmates from Forth Valley Branch attended the dedication of a new War Memorial in a village in our area CARRONSHORE.

The photo shows I-r Shipmates ; Robbie Burns, Ian Barber, Jimmy Mann & Andy Mc Donald

There was much Celebration of the event on completion which took place in our home port RBL Grangemouth.



RNA Isle of Wight Branch

Shipmates from the Isle of Wight branch recently gathered in East Cowes Cemetery to attend the 80th anniversary commemorative service of the terrible air raid carried out by the Nazi Luftwaffe on Cowes and East Cowes.

On the night of 4/5th May 1942 two raids took place, the first at about 2230 and lasted for about 2 hours followed by a lull during which the bombers returned to their bases to refuel and rearm before setting out to carry out the second raid on the already devastated towns, resulting in heavy loss of life to the civilian population, rescuers and firefighters.

At the time of the attack a Polish destroyer, ORP Blyskawica, (built by the local shipbuilding company J Samuel Whites and launched in 1936) was undergoing a small refit in J Samuel Whites yard. The ships company, called to action stations, carried out incessant anti-aircraft fire to add to the fixed AA guns already in action against the raiders. This gallant defence has become a piece of local folklore, a part of which, it is said, the decks were 'awash with shell casings'.



The service took place by the side of the mass grave in East Cowes Cemetery where our Standard was displayed and a wreath laid. Also in attendance were a lot of local dignitaries, a detachment of Naval Officers and Ratings from a visiting Polish warship and a good many of the general public.



Afterwards our member shipmates retired to a local hostelry for refreshments and a very fine dinner!

In the photo's, member shipmates can be seen with the detachment from the Polish ships company. Shipmates present were Shaun Greenwood (Branch Chairman), Dave 'Buster' Brown (Secretary), Barbara Blacklock (Treasurer), Eddie Dickens (Social Sec and temporary Standard Bearer), Tony Richards (our very own Padre) and his wife Annette, Jeff Reid (Committee), Mike North (Life Vice President), Gary Newman (there as the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission representative), John Checkley and caught photo bombing is the RBL Standard Bearer!

RNA Falmouth Branch

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

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

RNA Area 3

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

The package includes:

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

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

Caption CompetitionWhat on earth is going on here?? Just to encourage you there is bottle of Pussers in it for the best caption.



Ridley This is a another fine mess you've got me into!!! Bl**dy Stokers!

Did I tell you the dit about the Old Grey Ghost when I was a nipper stoker in Borneo blah Blah ...

CROSSING THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Peter Barley](#)

[Derek Wright](#)

[Austin Healey](#)

[Bill Taylor](#)

[Alexander Scaife](#)

Peter Barley - South Bristol Branch

South Bristol Branch RNA's Chairman Shipmate Andy Andrews reports with great sadness that Shipmate Peter Barley 'Crossed the Bar' on 30th March 2022, aged 82 years.

Peter joined the Royal Navy (RN) at HMS St. Vincent as a boy seaman in 1956 and completed RN service in December 1966.

He served as a Radar Operator (RP) in the following HM Ships: Hermes, Ocean, Carysfort, Paladin, Armada and Penelope.

Peter's funeral service was held in St. George's Church, Easton in Gordano, North Somerset on 10th May and was live streamed to friends and family members in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Donations collected in Peter's memory have been forwarded to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Fair Winds and Calm Seas Shipmate.



Derek Wright - Stourbridge & District Branch



S/M Dave Downing has sadly to report that Shipmate Derek Wright, PO/SBA, C/SMX850228. Crossed the Bar on 9th April 2022 aged 91yrs.

Derek served from 1948 to 1955. His ships included Triumph, Lioness and Michael and served in various R.N. Hospitals.

He was a popular and stalwart member of Stourbridge and District Branch for over 40 years.

He served as Secretary, Chairman and Branch President and is seen in the photo wearing his specially made Branch Presidents Medallion! He was always up for laugh.....

He will be sorely missed by all his Shipmates.

Austin Healey - Forth Valley Branch

With huge sadness Forth Valley Branch are reporting that they have lost their Centurion!



We learnt from our visiting Welfare Officer Shipmate Duke Wain that our oldest member Austin Healey had crossed the bar on April 25.

The Care Home, although they knew of our visits, stated that because of data protection reasons they could not inform us of his passing and that decision to release this information was in the families behest. Needless to say our visits outward the family but the home were sympathetic as we as a Branch regerrettably didn't have the opportunity to say our farewell's.

Austin unfortunately didn't make 102 but didn't he have a one heel of a life story to tell!

Calm sea and a fair wind Shipmate.

Bill Taylor – RNA Colchester Branch

Shipmate Bill Taylor (1924-2022) - A cat of nine lives...

S/M Bill's funeral took place on 12th April and his memory was honoured by a goodly compliment of shipmates, family and friends. Bill was reticent about his Naval career until comparatively recently, but once he was persuaded to tell his tale his reputation grew and grew, culminating in his being chosen as the "pin-up boy" to advertise the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal in 2020, the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

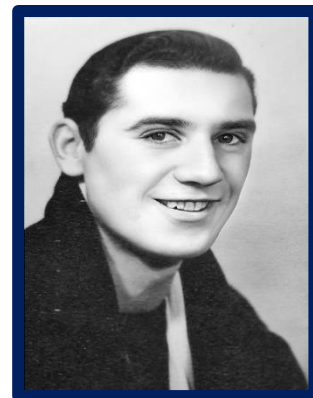
That year also, he was one of the first to talk of his Naval service in the RNA Fireside Chats. And what a story it was to tell...

Seymour William Taylor was born in 1924 in London and volunteered for service in the Royal Navy at the age of 17½ in 1942. He served first in the Eastern Fleet in the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal and off the Burma Coast.

In 1944, he was part of the 10th Cruiser Squadron which crossed the Channel with the Invasion Force on D-Day. He met with several "near misses" and spoke of the occasion that his ship, HMS Emerald, was the target of an enemy bomber. Three bombs were dropped: one fell in the sea to starboard, another to port, and as they exploded the ship was lifted from the water.

The third bomb hit the hoist to the ship's magazine and scooted across the gun deck, where Bill and his shipmates were stationed, before ending up on the gun deck. Thankfully, it failed to explode.

The ship sent to relieve them, HMS Dragon, anchored alongside in preparation for relief but had the misfortune to be over a mine and lost its stern. From there, they returned to Portsmouth and a few days later they were posted to HMS Farnham Castle K413, which was assigned to the Home Fleet and became part of the Russian Arctic Convoys.



On the last convoy they escorted, Quartermaster Bill was on duty in the wheelhouse when the Asdic sonar detected a U-Boat nearby. After a while there was an explosion and the order "Hard to Starboard, Full Ahead". Another of the convoy patrol ships, HMS Goodall K479, had been torpedoed and Farnham Castle was called to take men aboard from the damaged ship.

A large fuel oil slick soon developed on the surface and was set alight by a flare in the water, becoming eventually a wall of fire about twenty feet high. The crew managed to keep the fire away from the ship long enough to recover about eight of the crew of Goodall, all but one of whom were resuscitated in the galley. They were put ashore in Polyarny and the convoy returned to duty.



A short while later, orders were received that U-Boats on the surface were not to be attacked, an early sign that peace was coming. By the time, the convoy reached Greenock, the news had been confirmed and celebrations were well under way. Bill joined in the party but he had to catch the overnight train to London and spent most of the journey asleep!

After some leave, Bill was assigned to a Radar Course which he passed and spent the last couple of months with his Radar Badge until being demobbed in July 1946.

Shortly afterwards, he married Eileen and they celebrated their platinum anniversary in 2016, shortly before Eileen passed away and Bill and their daughter Janet moved to Colchester. Bill continued his long-standing affiliation with the Royal British

Legion and, much to our delight and pleasure, he and Janet joined Colchester RNA. Bill always looked forward to attending RNA meetings and seeing his fellow members.

(Our thanks to S/M Geoff Whittaker RNA Colchester for forwarding the Obituary on S/M Bill)

Alexander Scaife – RNA Wallasey Branch

RNA Wallasey is saddened to report that S/M Alexander Scaife crossed the bar on 08 April 2022.

Able Seaman Alexander Scaife was born and raised in Kirkdale, Liverpool. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and served onboard LCG 14 in the Mediterranean.

In January of 1944, during the first days of Operation Shingle, on the assault of Anzio. Alexander displayed courage and leadership during German low level bombing raid by shooting down a war plane attacking a hospital ship, saving countless lives. For his actions he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

He would later go on to receive the D.S.M for a second time and on that occasion it was awarded for rescuing a shipmate who had gone overboard.



RNA Members Benefits

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

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- 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)

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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	
23 July	<p>The 21st Reunion of the Second Manchester Association will take place in Southsea on Saturday 23 July 2022.</p> <p>For full details please contact Ian Tidbury on 07710 282633</p> 
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 – June 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
1 st	1998	Lt Katherine Babbington, first woman to win the Queen's Sword at Dartmouth, presented with the sword by Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace. Lt Babbington was serving in <i>Sandown</i> in the Gulf when Divisions were held.
2 nd	1854	Parliament passed an Act 'to empower the Commissioners of the Admiralty to construct a tunnel between H.M. Dockyard at Devonport and H.M. Steam Yard at Keyham'.
3 rd	1747	Captains who were not to be employed again were automatically promoted to flag rank and became 'Superannuated Rear-Admirals'. Nicknamed the Yellow Squadron.
4 th	2007	Universal right to elect trial by court martial. Any officer or rating whose offence was capable of being tried summarily could henceforth elect for court martial instead. RN Regulating Branch re-mustered as RN Police. Regulating ranks and rates unchanged. New slides and boards for officers and ratings with RN Police added to standard designs first shipped on 17 December 2008.
5 th	1939	Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham arrived at Alexandria in cruiser <i>Penelope</i> and took over next day from Admiral Sir Dudley Pound as C-in-C Mediterranean.
6 th	1944	D-Day Ships taking part in the Operation - of which 78 per cent were British (including Canadian), 17 per cent were American, and 5 per cent were French, Norwegian, Dutch, Polish and Greek. Over 10,000 Royal Marines took part, including 5 RM CDOs, an Armoured Support Group, an RM Engineering CDO, Landing Craft Obstruction Units, signallers, drivers etc. Marines manned two-thirds of the assault landing craft. Warships 1,212 Landing Ships and Craft 4,026 Ancillaries 731 Merchant Vessels 864 Total 6,833
7 th	1973	Second Cod War. First collision between frigate <i>Scylla</i> and the Icelandic Coastguard vessel <i>Aegir</i> . Eleven further collisions were to follow.
8 th	1915	King George V opened Rosyth Dockyard.
9 th	2005	The bow section of <i>Daring</i> , the first Type 45 destroyer, built by Vosper Thornycroft in Portsmouth Dockyard, left Portsmouth on a barge

		for the Clyde where it was united with the ship's main hull at BAE Systems yard at Scotstoun.
10 th	1960	'A case has occurred in which items of officers' clothing have been damaged whilst stored in their cabin wardrobes. The damage was attributed to intermittent rubbing of the clothes against fittings which projected inside the wardrobes, resulting in excessive wear of clothes in direct contact with such items . . . Commanding Officers of HM Ships are to arrange for all officers' wardrobes to be examined . . .' – AFO 1549/60.
11 th	1847	Sir John Franklin, naval officer and Arctic explorer, died on his ill-fated expedition in <i>Erebus</i> and <i>Terror</i> to find the North–West Passage. While his fate was still uncertain he was promoted to rear-admiral of the blue 26 October 1852. When it was ascertained that he had died earlier, the Admiralty annulled the promotion and removed his name.
12 th	1652	Capt Sir George Ayscue (<i>Rainbow</i>) with a squadron of four men-of-war and seven hired merchantmen, captured six ships of the Dutch outward-bound Portuguese trade off Lizard Head.
13 th	1514	Henry VIII launched <i>Henry Grace à Dieu</i> at Woolwich and paid the Chaplain who blessed her 6s 8d.
14 th	1853	Chief Petty Officers. Admiralty Circular No. 121: 'My Lords consider that it would improve the discipline of her Majesty's ships, and be in other respects advantageous to the Service, to establish a class of Chief Petty Officers, and they therefore direct that the following be established accordingly: Chief petty officers – Masters-at-Arms, Chief Gunner's Mate, Chief Boatswain's Mate, Admiral's Coxswain, Chief Captain of Forecastle, Chief Quarter-Master, Chief Carpenter's Mate, Seamen's Schoolmaster, Ship's Steward, Ship's Cook. As an inducement to render themselves proficient in all branches of their duty . . . My Lords are pleased to direct that a higher class of able seamen be established under the denomination "leading seamen" . . . to be exempted from corporal punishment, except by sentence of a court martial, or for mutiny.'
15 th	1944	<i>Sickle</i> sunk by mine in Aegean. The forty-fifth and last submarine lost in the Mediterranean.
16 th	1987	<i>Warrior</i> (1860) arrived at Portsmouth. Ex-Hulk C77, removed from the <i>Navy List</i> as <i>Vernon III</i> in 1904, ex- <i>Warrior</i> , second of the name.
17 th	1918	<i>Lychnis</i> , the only First World War Q-ship to serve in Second World War, sank U-64 off southern Sardinia (38.07N, 10.27E).
18 th	1940	RNAS Yeovilton (HMS <i>Heron</i>) commissioned. 'The new fighter training station . . . was nothing but three runways in an ocean of mud.' – Capt Eric Brown, <i>Wings on my Sleeve</i> , p.12.
19 th	2003	<i>Albion</i> , Capt Peter Hudson RN, commissioned at Devonport in the presence of her sponsor, HRH The Princess Royal and Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, Captain of the previous <i>Albion</i> .
20 th	1982	<i>Illustrious</i> commissioned. The first RN warship to be commissioned at sea.
21 st	1997	Cdr Charles Eckersley-Maslin, naval aviator, died aged 96 in Tasmania. In 1918, lying about his age, he enlisted in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and was wounded in France. Found to be still only 16, he was returned to Bedford School 'where he was treated with some awe'. Served five years in RAF; resigned his reserve commission in February 1939 and joined the Royal Navy as a

		lieutenant-commander. Wartime service in carriers in Far East and Mediterranean and commanded HMS <i>Simbang</i> , the RNAS in Singapore, during Korean War. Father of Rear-Admiral David Eckersley-Maslin.
22 nd	1841	<i>Trafalgar</i> , first rate, launched at Woolwich in the presence of HM Queen Victoria and HRH Prince Albert by Nelson's niece, Lady Bridport, using a bottle of wine which had been in <i>Victory</i> at Trafalgar. The figurehead is in the RN Museum, Portsmouth.
23 rd	1915	First successful action of a RN decoy ship in anti-submarine operations. Disguised trawler <i>Taranaki</i> , Lt H.D. Edwards, towing submerged submarine C 24, Lt F.H. Taylor, intercepted by U-40, Kapitanleutnant Gerhardt Furbringer, off Aberdeen. U-boat put a shell across her bows and the trawler's crew simulated panic. Telephone link to C 24 failed and she could not slip her end of the tow. <i>Taranaki</i> therefore cast off her end and with 100 fathoms of 3.5-in wire hawser, 100 fathoms of coir hawser and 200 fathoms of telephone cable trailing from her bows C 24 torpedoed U-40 (57.00N, 01.50W). C 24 surfaced but had twenty turns of the telephone cable wrapped around her propeller shaft.
24 th	1340	Battle of Sluys, Edward III (<i>Thomas</i>) captured or destroyed the whole of the French fleet of about 200 vessels in the Zwyn, thus pre-empting a French descent on England, and recaptured the <i>Christopher</i> . His letter of 28 June to the Black Prince may count as the first naval dispatch.
25 th	1908	<i>Indomitable</i> commissioned. First battlecruiser and first of the name.
26 th	1857	Queen Victoria held the first VC investiture in Hyde Park, decorating sixty-two of the eighty-five men gazetted. Thirteen of the twenty-seven RN and RM recipients had been attached to Naval Brigades.
27 th	1734	First official recognition of the title Commodore as a temporary rank made by King George II. 'Our Will and Pleasure therefore is . . . That Commodores with Broad Pendants have the same Respects as Brigadiers General, which is, to have one Ruffle.'
28 th	2005	2005 HM The Queen reviewed an international fleet at Spithead from the Antarctic patrol ship <i>Endurance</i> led by the THV <i>Patricia</i> . HM Ships present: <i>Albion, Archer, Bangor, Blazer, Bulwark, Cattistock, Cardiff, Chatham, Cumberland, Endurance, Enterprise, Example, Exeter, Explorer, Gloucester, Gleaner, Grafton, Grimsby, Invincible, Illustrious, Iron Duke, Lancaster, Ledbury, Marlborough, Middleton, Montrose, Nottingham, Ocean, Pembroke, Puncher, Raider, Ramsey, Ranger, Roebuck, Scott, Shoreham, Sovereign, Southampton, St Albans, Tracker, Trafalgar, Trumpeter, Turbulent, Tyne, Walney, Westminster.</i> RFAs <i>Argus, Fort George, Fort Victoria, Hurst Point, Orangeleaf, Sir Bedivere, Sir Galahad, Sir Tristram, Wave Ruler</i> , HMAS <i>Anzac</i> , HMCS <i>Montreal</i> .
29 th	1950	The Communist North Korean Army attacked the South Koreans across the 38th parallel. Within a week the Royal Navy was operating in Korean waters, sinking coastal shipping and attacking communications ashore. The Chinese reinforced the North Koreans and advanced into North Korea during the winter, driving the United Nations forces back. Allied sea power was used to the full, both in

		<p>launching seaborne air attacks against North Korean forces, and in evacuating and landing troops as required. Russian-built MiG jet fighters were deployed against the Fleet Air Arm in Korea.</p> <p>Lt P. Carmichael shot down the first Russian MiG to be destroyed by the Royal Navy and, remarkably, by a piston engined aircraft.</p>
30 th	1997	<p>Hong Kong returned to China at midnight. Prince of Wales and former Governor, Mr Chris Patten, embarked in HM Yacht <i>Britannia</i> at 0022 1 July, completing British withdrawal. Ship sailed at 0045 and, with Royal Marine band playing 'Rule Britannia' and 'Jerusalem', amplified by ship's broadcast, she led <i>Chatham</i>, <i>Peacock</i>, <i>Starling</i>, <i>Plover</i> and RFA <i>Sir Percivale</i> out of harbour. Group rendezvoused with seventeen ships of Ocean Wave Task Group commanded by Rear-Admiral Alan West, which had been standing by over the horizon. All ships steamed past <i>Britannia</i> on 1 July.</p>

Delegate to Annual Conference 2022 Portsmouth

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

- (a) **Each Branch which has complied with Rule 16(c)**, (*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the Branch Annual Report and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference.*) but subject to Rule 10(c), (*Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate*) and has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.
- (a) Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty four hours before the Conference.

Branch		Area	
Name of Delegate			
Car registration		Passenger Name	
Delegate's Address	Telephone No	Post Code	
e-mail			
Number of Observers			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			
Contact telephone No: (if not branch Hon Sec)			
Contact e-mail address			
Name and Address for correspondence (if not branch Hon Sec)			

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2021 and Branch Annual Report for 2021 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

A letter confirming a delegate's attendance will be sent prior to Conference. This letter should be brought to Conference to confirm eligibility to be a Delegate. There will be NO additions to the delegate list on the day.

If you have not received confirmation one month before Conference please call Sara on 023 9272 3747



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Saturday 18 June 2022

to be held in

The Wardroom, HMS NELSON

Portsmouth

Patron:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

AGENDA

Central Office

Building 1/87, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LU

Registered Charity 266982

Annual General Meeting for 2022

0900-1045

Health and Safety brief by Nelson Staff/GS

1. March on: The National Standard
2. Opening Prayers – The General Secretary
3. Silent tribute in memory of Shipmates who have crossed the Bar
4. Opening remarks: National President
5. Patronal message: General Secretary
6. Conference Standing Orders (S1-S13) as circulated; and proposed and seconded by Delegates present, will be adopted subject to any amendments approved by the Delegates.
7. The National President's Address: Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB
8. President's Awards
9. Standing Orders Committee:
 - a. Report by Chair SOC
 - b. National Council Elections – (NCM & DNCM)
 - c. Election of Members of the Standing Orders Committee
10. Minutes of the 2021 AGM
 - a. Acceptance
 - b. Matters Arising
11. Annual Accounts for Financial Year 2021 - Honorary Treasurer.
12. The National Council's Annual Report - National Chairman – S/M Keith Ridley

13. Motions of Urgency

14. National Council Motions:

National Council Motion One

1. **That Number 7 Area hold the 2024 National Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Association in Cardiff.**

Reasoning:

Area 7 last held Conference in 2006 in Aberystwyth. Having enjoyed Conferences and hospitality around the UK, we feel that Shipmates would enjoy a weekend in the Welsh Capital and take the opportunity to explore the City of Cardiff and surrounding area, from Tiger Bay to the Mumbles and beyond.

15. Branch Motions:

No branch motions have been submitted for consideration.

16. RNA Central Charities Fund Conference Raffle Draw.

17. Closure of AGM:

- a. National Anthem
 - b. March off the National Standard
-

PROPOSED STANDING ORDERS FOR CONFERENCE 2022

In these Orders use of the suffixes [L] means this item is a Statutory Requirement, [F] means this item is Fixed in the Agenda order, and [A] means this is an AGM compliance item. The paragraph numbers are pre-fixed by the letter "S".

- S1 These Standing Orders for the conduct of a National Conference of the Royal Naval Association are issued in accordance with Article 14 and Rule 18.
- S2 Prior to proceeding to its business Conference shall:
- (a) Receive a public safety announcement [L][F]
 - (b) Receive the Platform Party [F]
 - (c) March on the National Standard (Heart of Oak) [F]
 - (d) Transfer of National Standard to new Standard bearer (if required) [F]
 - (e) Conduct Opening Prayers [F]
 - (f) Remember those Shipmates who, since our last Conference, have 'Crossed the Bar' [F]

S3 ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS

The business to be transacted at the Annual Conference shall include the following:

- (a) To receive a welcome address from The National President [F]
- (b) Opening of the Conference by a Civic Dignitary [F]
- (c) To receive a topical address from a Guest Speaker [F]
- (d) To receive a proposal duly seconded that Standing Orders be adopted or amended as per S5 and/or to consider any amendment to Standing Orders [F]

- (e) To receive a State of the Association Address (President's Address)
- (f) President's Awards for Recruiting
- (g) To receive the report of the Standing Orders Committee on the business of the Conference and the motions to be discussed.

- (h) To receive the report of the votes cast for the election of Council Members, Deputy Council Members and to confirm the results.

- (i) Under the scrutiny of three NCMs, to announce the nominations for election of Members to the SOC and if required, to hold elections.

- (j) To receive the minutes of the previous Conference for ratification and any necessary consideration of matters arising [A]
- (k) To receive the Annual Accounts of the Association for the previous financial year, together with the Honorary Treasurer's Report on them for consideration and ratification [A]
- (l) To receive and consider the Annual Report of the Council [A]
- (m) Motions shall be presented to Conference as follows: See Articles 19 & 16 (2)
 - i. A Council Motion of urgency.
 - ii. A Branch Motion of urgency.

- iii. A Council Motion about an Article.
- iv. A Council Motion about a Rule
- v. A Branch Motion about an Article.
- vi. A Branch Motion about a Rule.
- (n) Conference Raffle
- (o) National President's closing remarks [F]
- (p) March of the National Standard (Heart of Oak) [F]

S4 **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Conference Chairman may recommend to a Conference a variation of the order of business as shown in the Agenda, except for those items marked [F]

S5 **AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders shall be presented to Conference by the Standing Orders Committee. They may be adopted by a majority vote of Conference Delegates on the proposal of The Council or a Delegate duly seconded, however amendments to them require the approval of at least two-thirds $\frac{2}{3}$ of those present and entitled to vote.

S6 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

A motion to suspend a specific part or parts of these Standing Orders or C Bye-laws for a specific period may be proposed. If seconded the Conference chairman will study the proposal carefully and shall, if he deems it to refer to some matter of urgency or importance, put such a motion to Conference Delegates for a decision. The suspension of a Standing Order or C Bye-Law shall require two-thirds $\frac{2}{3}$ of those present and entitled to vote to be in favour. Standing Orders marked [L] cannot be suspended [L]

S7 **GENERAL PROCEDURES**

- (a) Unless prevented by physical disability, delegates shall stand when speaking and shall address the Chair. They shall speak from the appropriate rostrum and shall preface their statement by announcing their name and Branch.
- (b) Whenever the Conference Chairman rises during a debate, any delegate speaking or offering to speak shall remain silent until given permission to speak by the Conference Chairman [L]
- (c) All speeches shall be directly relevant to the motion or amendment under discussion [L]
- (d) The proposer of a motion or amendment shall be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes. The seconder and succeeding speakers and the proposer in his reply shall each be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes.
- (e) A delegate, at any time, may move either:
 - i. "That the Conference proceeds to the next business". If seconded, and if the Conference Chairman considers sufficient debate has taken place, this motion shall be put without further discussion and if carried, the motion or amendment under discussion shall be considered dropped; or
 - ii. "That the question be now put". If seconded and the Conference Chairman considers sufficient debate has taken place the question shall be put without further discussion and the motion or amendment shall be decided.

- (f) The motions in (e) above shall not be moved or seconded by a delegate who has spoken in the debate [L]
- (g) Any delegate, whether he has spoken or not on the matter under discussion, may rise to a point of order. The delegate so rising shall be heard forthwith. The ruling of the Chairman of the Conference on a point of order shall be final and not open to discussion. A point of order must deal with the conduct or procedure of the debate. [L]

S8 PROCEDURES FOR DISCUSSION OF MOTIONS

- (a) The Chairman of the Conference shall introduce each motion and call for the relevant Delegates to propose and second "the motion as printed on the agenda". It is only after this formality that the subject may be debated. The proposer shall be the first to speak [L]
- (b) A motion from a Branch shall be proposed and seconded by Delegates present. A motion from the Council shall be proposed and seconded by Council Members present.
- (c) A motion may not be withdrawn after it has been seconded without the consent of Conference. Such consent shall be ascertained without debate and no delegate shall speak upon it after consent for withdrawal has been given.
- (d) An amendment shall not be put to Conference for discussion until it has been seconded [L]
- (e) When an amendment to a motion is moved and seconded, no further amendment to the motion shall be moved until it (the amendment) is disposed of, although it will be in order for an amendment to the amendment then under discussion to be moved and, if seconded, discussed. No Delegate shall propose or second more than one amendment to any one motion.
- (f) A vote on the substantive motion shall not take place until all amendments have been voted on. (L)
- (g) An amendment replaces the motion as the subject of debate until it is decided. If it is defeated the debate returns to the original motion; if it is approved the amended motion will become the substantive motion and put to a further vote; it may be subjected to further amendment.
- (h) No Delegate except the proposer shall speak more than once on the same motion or amendment. The proposer may exercise a right to reply confining the reply to answering previous speakers and not introducing any new matter. He may exercise the right either before the first amendment is put to a vote, or before the final motion is put to a vote.
- (i) Should a motion or motions not be debated because of shortage of time, the Conference Chairman may determine if it is the will of Conference to vote on any such motions without debate. Any motions not dealt with in this way will be placed on the agenda for the next regular Conference. They may also be considered by the Council for possible interim action.

S9 VOTING

- (a) Shall be as prescribed in Rule 20 [L]

- (b) Each Delegate shall be entitled to one vote at each division [L]
- (c) Voting shall normally be by showing a hand and need not be counted if the Conference Chairman rules that there is an overwhelming vote “for” or “against”. However, any Delegate may ask that the votes shall be counted, and such action shall then be taken.
- (d) It is permissible to abstain from voting. Delegates should be aware that an abstention does not indemnify the abstainer from any penalty caused by an unsound decision. In weighted votes an abstention will have the same effect as a vote against the proposal.
- (e) The Scrutineers shall record those votes cast “for” and “against” and the number “abstaining”.
- (f) If there are two or more conflicting proposals on the same subject (e.g. “Where to hold an Annual Conference” but not one that will create or amend an Article or Rule) and none can achieve a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in favour, the simple majority voting system may be used; the Conference Chairman shall have a casting vote.

S10 DUTIES OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE AT CONFERENCE

- (a) To provide advice to the Conference Chairman on procedural matters pertaining to the Conference business.
- (b) To organise and control entry to the Conference
- (c) To monitor the distribution and collection of ballot papers.
- (d) To be the scrutineers for the counting of ballots or votes, except those for the election of the Committee for which the Council will appoint three of its members.
- (e) To scrutinise and announce the result of election of NCMs and DNCs.
- (f) To provide, through its Chairman, advice to the Conference Chairman on procedural matters pertaining to the Conference business

S11 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Members of the Council may:

- (a) Attend Conferences and speak with the permission of the Conference Chairman.
- (b) Propose or second a Council motion to Conference
- (c) Not be a Delegate to, or vote at, a Conference.

S12 DISORDER

Any person disregarding the ruling of the Conference Chairman may be suspended for the remainder of the Conference upon the ruling of the Chairman or on the motion of two Delegates put without debate and carried. His conduct may be reported to his Branch [L]

S13 CHAIRMAN, RULING AUTHORITY

The decision of the Conference Chairman shall be final upon any point as to the interpretation placed upon any Standing Order or upon the point whether a motion has been carried or not [L]