



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



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The Semaphore Circular

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The Beating Heart of the RNA

December 2021

**WISHING ALL OUR READERS A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Area 3 Chairman, Shipmate Soapy Watson BEM recruits 'Children in Needs' Pudsey Bear as an RNA Shipmate. It was the first time in many years that Soapy found someone to chat at his level and told Pudsey about life onboard the Victory as a Cabin Boy!!

This edition is the on-line version of the Semaphore Circular, unless you have registered with Central Office, it will only be available on the RNA website in the 'Members Area' under 'downloads' at www.royal-naval-association.co.uk and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec

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Staff photo (L – R) Sara Field, Kathryn Brindley, Lynda Pearson, Malcolm Little, Andy Christie, Charlie Darlington and General Secretary Bill Oliphant.

Missing on this occasion was Mike Gray.

Stood Down since photo was taken..... Nigel Huxtable and Julie Royston.

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

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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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<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

So, as 2021 draws to a close it gives me an opportunity to reflect on the year and look forward to the next. Again, it's been a year dominated by Covid and as I write we wait to see how bad this new Omicron variant is going to be.

Hopefully most Branches will have started to meet again so it's certainly disappointing that once again we find ourselves 2 steps forward and one step back. As my American friend would say, "I'm so done with Covid!"



So, from a strategic point of view, to have an up turn in our membership of 27% this year is a success in anyone's books and of course moving to Zero subs and a donation based income model does make it more attractive for people to join. However, I would implore all Branches to take advantage of this influx of new members and do our utmost to make them feel welcome. This game isn't all about recruitment, it's about retention too. And, to those 500 of you who have joined the Association in the last month – welcome! I joke that we are the “possibly the 2nd best club in the world” – if you've had the honour to serve in the Queen's Navee, you already know which is the best club in the world! 😊

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the Association in some shape or form this year and I especially wish to thank those who have made a donation in lieu of subs which allows us to do more in terms of contributing to broader comradeship and wellbeing across the Association. If you do wish to contribute in 2022, please consider establishing a monthly Standing Order to the Association of no more than a pound or two – that would be fabulous.

So to next year, and we will be making the most of the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict with the Conference weekend taking place in Portsmouth over the immediate weekend after the end of the conflict, 17-19 June. The 3 days of the weekend will be designated “Reunite (Fri), Relive (Sat) and Remember (Sun).”

On the Friday, I'm seeking to exploit the opportunity the Special Interest Groups have afforded us with a golf match, fishing, cycle ride out, classic cars drive out and m/c riders out doing their thing too. We have also been challenged to a cricket match by our sister (or rather brother!) organisation, the Royal Marines Association, on the cricket ground at Burnaby Road. I am looking therefore for a team captain and volunteers to make up the team and, remember, they are getting on a bit too so don't be put off if it's been a while since you last bowled a googly - we're keen to hear from you please. Clearly, we'll be wanting a strong support for that match too, so, if your not quite up to playing, consider yourself already selected for the supporting team.

This will be an important commemorative event and I am conscious that we now have a ratio of 5.3:1 Falklands vets v WWII. And, while we revere and venerate the sacrifices that amazing generation made to maintain our freedoms, by shifting the focus of our commemoration to the Falklands, it makes the commemoration piece that much more relevant to our current membership. I'm also conscious however that these may be difficult memories for some, and we will have trained support available that weekend (and thereafter) for anyone who feels they might benefit.

That ratio is growing by the day as some ships Associations are now joining the RNA as Branches in their own right. The RNA isn't on some takeover bid for smaller Associations, indeed, it is our strong belief that camaraderie is better achieved in smaller groups, especially if you have been in a conflict together. But with RNA permanent staff and a secure server it means that ships' associations membership data can be stored safely and accessed by Branch Secretaries when required without breaching any data protection legislation. A spin off advantage is the connection to the RNA comms (take it or leave it) which connects us across a wider Naval family. All ship's associations are welcome, not just the class of 1982.

Finally, heartiest congrats to Leading Photographer Lee Blease who I had the very great pleasure of meeting in Cleethorpes RNA recently for winning the Royal Naval Association Prize at the recent Peregrine Trophy photograph awards for this outstanding image of a very smart RNA Standard Bearer.



Wishing you all a very merry festive season and don't forget that the next full edition of this publication will not be until early Feb as I do like to give Andy some time off at Christmas and New Year.

Have a good one!

Bill

Chairman's chat

Hello again Shipmates,

With Santa definitely on the Radar Screen this month, it is time to clear the Decks for Santa's Rounds to make space for the Crimbo presents.

Last month I mentioned "where has the year gone?" Looking back more recently, where did November go? With visits to RNA Brentwood, Cleethorpes, Hertford, Southend & Wrexham Branches along with No 5 Area Meeting, a visit to Northampton Royal Navy & Royal Marines Club where they want to form an RNA Branch, but not forgetting Sea Time aboard HMS

BELFAST for four hours attending the Association's 2022 Annual Budget Meeting (does it count as Sea Time?) time ticked by. Being a former **elite** rating and member of the DB & Fuelling Party on HMS TIGER, I immediately noticed a distinct list to Starboard which I was informed was FIVE Degrees and could not be rectified by the IWM due to lack of Funds. The meeting went well with my Wheelspanner accidentally falling out of my document folder onto the table. Unfortunately, time did not permit me to give a guided tour of the Ship's Heartbeat! On a fortunate note, the meeting was interrupted at 1200 when I announced "UP SPIRITS" producing the TOT, what else, after all we were onboard a Ship flying the White Ensign. As a result of my visits, I have certainly become an expert on cheap rail travel and routes (Trainline or Split Tickets – but other sites are available). Commander (E) now has a photograph of me on the fridge door to remind her of the late home visitor! Looking ahead into this month the sea does look calmer. My thanks to all Shipmates who I met on my travels for your hospitality and comradeship, it was second to none. Worthwhile visits if in the locality are the RNA Clubs at Nottingham & Southend, along with the Naval Club at Cleethorpes, and the Wrexham War Memorial Club, but just to name a few. Amazing hospitality and facilities, but not forgetting the very very (not a misprint) cheap liquid refreshments. Shipmates, please support your local Club, use it or lose it.

Remembrance: During November, Shipmates, especially Standard Bearers, have done the Association Proud in attending Remembrance Services throughout the Country be they City, Town or Villages, paying respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and those who have Crossed the Bar since. Our Plot at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey prepared by S/m Sara Field from Central Office was totally full of Poppy Crosses, each bearing a Ship's name, and Sara's extremely early travel from Portsmouth to set the Plot out for which she is thanked. By the way, the Crosses were beautifully spaced and lined out. Are you sure Sara you were a CPO(Wtr) and not a CPO GI? Well done.

Membership news: I will not steal the General Secretary's sandwiches, but just want to say a BIG Thank You to Sara Field our Membership Secretary at Central Office for giving up a Sunday in order to input a staggering number of new applications arising from the Remembrance period. What dedication BZ. Please take note, Sara is not alone when it comes to working over and above contracted hours, all staff continue to beaver away after hours to provide us with a great service which is very much appreciated. Please do not always expect an immediate response to an enquiry as the busy sign is no doubt on the office door. Give a little slack, and if necessary, follow up with a polite reminder.



S/M Keith lays a wreath on behalf of the RNA at the unveiling of the Lisbon Maru Memorial at the National Arboretum.

Uckers: A little Bird told me that Sara Field who is 50% part of the World Uckers Champion Team who paired with Kathryn Brindley (Finance) who is a total novice, accepted a challenge during a lunch break with Bill Oliphant & Dusty Andy Christie. Apparently, Kathryn has the technique of throwing sixes but that does not give Bill & Andy the right to 'UP BOARD' Both Sara & Kathryn are available to give lessons.

So, the time has come for us all to pause and look back over the past year to remember our family members, Shipmates and friends who have Crossed the Bar. They will always be in our thoughts. Let us also remember and thank our brilliant NHS and all support workers who have been there for us, our families, and friends throughout this dreaded Covid period.

To all serving Shipmates including reservists, who will be on Duty over the Festive Season away from their loved ones and families, maintaining the peace and keeping the sea lanes open, keep up the good work, we will be thinking of you. To all Shipmates and your families in the UK and throughout the world keep safe. For those at sea, a safe return.

Stay safe everyone, we will overcome Covid.

On behalf of the National Council, myself and wife, I wish you all Festive Greetings and a peaceful Festive Season.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley

nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ Scams and Frauds Reminder

As the festive season is fast approaching, Shipmates will be thinking about how they're going to spend Christmas and what they need to do to prepare for the big day and celebrations over the break.

But please see below a gentle reminder concerning the variety of Scams and Frauds that unscrupulous folk use.



Refund scams - You may receive an email or text pretending to be from the council or other organisation promising a credit or tax refund and a link to click to claim the money back. They'll ask for bank details – don't give them.

Look-a-like websites - This year, more than any, we are buying presents online. Criminals sometimes set up fake websites that look identical to steal personal details and money. Secure website addresses start with 'https' and display a padlock.

Phishing emails - Criminals send emails that look genuine to make you click on a link or open an attachment that infects your machine with a virus. Think before clicking.

Phone scams – Criminals ring to discuss a topic and ask you to press a number on your phone. Don't – it will generate huge charges which the criminals will profit from.

Gift card scams - Received an email from a friend asking you to buy gift cards for them? Criminals pretend to be people you know to get you to do this. They are after the code on the card to spend the money.

Fake delivery notifications - Over December you may have many packages being delivered. Criminals are sending chance phishing emails disguised as well-known couriers and hoping to get you to log in and share your details. If you are in doubt, ignore the email and get in contact via the company's official secure website.

Covid-19 scams - Received a letter from the council identifying you as a contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19? The council will provide advice about self-isolation and how to book a coronavirus test. They won't ask for personal details.

Fake charities - Watch out for criminals using legitimate charity names to appeal for a donation. Ask to see their official charity ID which they are required to carry. Trust your instinct.

E-card scams - Watch for those e-cards you receive online. It could be infected with a virus that could shut down your device and you could be held to ransom to restore files. Get anti-virus software installed to alert you.

Shopping scams - Love top brands with low prices? Stay vigilant for counterfeit goods. These range from poorly made clothes to dangerous electronics which fail to comply with safety laws. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Fraudsters use all sorts of methods to target victims – knocking on doors, by phone, sending letters or online. Always be alert and take your time when considering something. Don't allow anyone to rush you, make sure you know who you are dealing with, and don't be afraid to shut the door, hang up, bin it and delete it. Don't let criminals ruin your Christmas.

If you are the victim of a scam, report it to [Action Fraud](#) or for more advice about cyber security, visit the [National Cyber Security Centre](#).

2. ★ Virtual Tot Time

Shipmates may not be aware that every Saturday Night, for nearly 2 years now, members from the Wrexham Branch have been hosting a Virtual Tot, inviting members worldwide to join in with them over Zoom. The log in Details are promulgated in the Events Section of the Royal Naval Association Community Site Facebook group, and change weekly.

It's proven a lifeline and outlet for many of the RNA community, and they don't intend to wrap it up any time soon. With our second Christmas fast approaching and an uncertainty over possible restrictions due to Covid, the Tot Time crew shall be hosting a Santa Special on Christmas Day, details will be published on the community page, but starting at 1845. Please see community site on 20 December for details. You don't have to be on your own, so join us for a Chrimbo Tot.

3. ★ Area 2 and 5 NCM Update – S/M Nick Purkis

Please see below from Governance Committee Chairman, S/M Nick Purkis concerning the Area 2 and 5 National Council Members.

Following the sad passing of Shipmate Jim Hammond, a vacancy has arisen for a NCM for Area 5. Unfortunately, the DNCM is no longer available to step up for NCM. Since NCM's can only be appointed at Conference, we will elect a DNCM for Area 5, who will then immediately step up to be NCM for Area 5. Having advertised the role within the Area, only one nomination was received by the deadline date, which was from Shipmate Peter Chivers of Stowmarket Branch. As such, I will ask National Council to confirm the appointment of S/M Chivers as DNCM and therefore acting NCM, at the next Council meeting.

In relation to Area 2, at Conference this year, Shipmate Victor 'Darby' Allen stood down as NCM. Again, unfortunately we have no DNCM to step up to the NCM role. At the present time, no full or life member from the Area has put their name forward for the role of DNCM Area 2. As such, until such time as a qualified Shipmate comes forward, I will ask National Council to appoint an 'Area 2 Advisor', who will not be a member of or able to vote at National Council, but will be able to give Area 2 input to the rest of the Council. If any Full or Life member in Area 2 is interested in becoming the NCM, then please contact the General Secretary as soon as possible.

4. ★ Dit On Podcast – Terry Catchpole - RNA Website.

Please check out the brand spanking new Podcast in 'Dit On' in the Website featuring Terry Catchpole. If you haven't already visited the site, then please take the time to check it out for a very pleasurable easy listen. If you experience any difficulty, please contact Central Office.

5. ★ 2021 RNA Year Books -

The 2021 RNA Yearbook will be distributed in the next couple of weeks. For information a **single copy** will be supplied to all addresses held in the database. If you haven't received a copy by January, please email admin@royalnavalassoc.com

6. ★ 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 Dec	Richard Jones	The sinking of HMS PoW and HMS Repulse
Monday 13 Dec	Matron Dodds	Confessions of a Health Professional
2022		
Monday 03 Jan	Angus Konstam	The Golden Age of Piracy
Monday 10 Jan	Duncan Potts	Counter-Piracy
Monday 17 Jan	Adrian Bell	RNRMC
Monday 24 Jan		Burns Night
Monday 31 Jan	John Bolt	Royal Marines History

7. ★ Assistance Please – RN Medical Services

Central Office has received a request from Lt Cdr John Lawton-Roberts RN from Navy Command HQ requesting your assistance.

He is trying to find a Standard Bearer that has links with the RN Medical Service to attend a Falklands 40th Anniversary service of remembrance at the Royal Society of Medicine next year. The RAF and Army Medical Reserves Standard Bearers will be in attendance.

If any Shipmate could assist or provide a 'willing volunteer' please contact S/M Andy Christie at andy@royalnavalassoc.com or 07889 761934 and I will forward onto Lt Cdr John.



Thanks for your assistance in advance

8. ★ Cenotaph Remembrance Parade Whitehall – RNA Platoon

18 Shipmates mustered on Horseguards Parade to march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, 14 November 2021. Taking 'Command' of the motley crew (sorry RNA Platoon also known as the 'Dirty Dozen and a half') was National Ceremonial Officer Shipmate Bob 'Is that a Scottish Fiver' Coburn (City of Inverness Branch).

You can see in the photo the rogues gallery after they had survived the march and saluted the Cenotaph, Prince William, who was waiting next to the Guards Memorial and finally saluting the 'announcers caravan' in Horse Guards, which had sadly been placed in front of the Memorial to the Royal Navy. Note to the RBL do not do that again.....

On a serious note, it was disappointing that only 18 Shipmates were available to join the Parade this year. Hopefully next year nationally we may be in a better 'Covid' place and Shipmates can once again attend this wonderful event.



BZ to those Shipmates from the 'Dirty Dozen and a half!'

9. ★ RNA Falklands 40th F40 Anniversary Commemorations and Conference 2022 – Outline programme

Next year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign and Conference plans are starting to shape up and so we thought Shipmates would appreciate an early 'Heads Up' of the programme. Malcolm Little is the RNA point of contact and has provided a guide to the weekend below;

Over the weekend of 17-19 June 2022, the RNA to host an inspiring series of F40 commemoration events, combined with its 2022 Annual Conference & AGM, to '**Reunite, Relive, and Remember**'.



Friday – Reunite

Friday sees Special Interest Groups and other Shipmates reuniting for a 1900 Beating Retreat at the steps of the Guildhall, followed by a civic function in the Guildhall for invited Falklands

Veterans, and an evening RNA dinner in the HMS Nelson Wardroom, garden marquee for the majority.

Saturday - Relive

Following the AGM, Saturday sensitively relives the Campaign for all attendees, campaign veterans or otherwise, with a number of 'Falklands Forum' keynote speakers. The day will end with a reception in the marquee.

Sunday – Remember

On the Sunday, in Old Portsmouth, those related to the Naval Service are invited to march with their Shipmates with the RNA National, Area and Branch Standards for a 1100 Service of Remembrance at the Falklands monument, followed by the City of Portsmouth unveiling a new memorial, and presenting the RNA, RMA and Falklands Veterans with Freedom of the City scrolls. Commemorations will conclude with a short service, and civic refreshments in Portsmouth Cathedral.

(Acknowledgement – HMS Invincible photo courtesy of Crown Copyright)

10. ★ RAF Manston Families Day

Shipmate Gareth Booth, the National Branch Recruitment & Retention Advisor, recently visited RAF Manston, the home of both RN and Crab Lightning F35's to investigate the feasibility of starting a new RNA Branch there. You can see from the picture opposite that S/M Gareth meant business and left no doubt that the RNA was in attendance.



A successful day was had by all and Gareth was accompanied by 96 year old Shipmate Francis 'Robbie' Burns who you can see in the photo above was 'briefing' the base Commanding Officer Group Captain Philip Marr.....

Whilst at Marham S/M Gareth took the opportunity to ensure that Group Captain Philip presented S/M Robbie with his RNA Life Membership. BZ Robbie.

S/M Gareth who advises the AMC (Association Management Committee) on matters Branch Recruiting and Retention spends many hours assisting Branches on how to find a way ahead whether considering de-commissioning or looking to form a new branch. So if Shipmates require any guidance in these area please do not hesitate to contact S/M Gareth, who is the font of all knowledge in this area and would be delighted to help you. Gareth can be contacted at..... Mob 07713 876846 or email rna.brna@outlook.com

11. ★ Hackney's Crucial Part in 'Operation Mincemeat'

Our thanks to Martin Sugarman for forwarding the very interesting article below concerning the Second World War deception plan 'Operation Mincemeat'.....

A plaque commemorating a WW2 secret deception plan, "Operation Mincemeat", has been erected outside Hackney Mortuary, remembering the saving of thousands of American and British military lives.

In Spring 1943, almost exactly 78 years ago, the British and American Allies began planning to invade Sicily, the first liberation of part of mainland Europe from Nazi Occupation. Heavy Allied casualties were expected.

A Jewish barrister, Commander Ewen Montagu, OBE, KC, RNVR and a wealthy aristocrat, Flight Lt. Charles Cholmondeley, MBE, RAF, both working in Secret Intelligence, were tasked to plan a deception. They used a dead body dressed as a fake Royal Marine Officer, who would carry forged documents in a briefcase, but actually signed by senior Allied generals, saying it had been decided to invade Europe via Greece, and not Sicily.



The body was prepared and dressed at Hackney mortuary by the Intelligence Officers Montagu and Cholmondeley, together with the Chief Coroner for London, with a famous racing driver, who was to drive the Officers and a special container with the body, protected by dry ice, to a secret submarine base in Scotland.

From here, with only the submarine officers knowing what was in the container, the body was taken to near the coast of Spain. It was then floated into the sea at a spot where it was known that the current would wash it ashore near the coastal town of Huelva. Here it was discovered, as expected, and the local Spanish authorities, as sympathisers with the Nazis, ensured the

local Nazi spies saw the contents; they then photographed the letters, and sent the documents to Berlin.

Thus it was that many German soldiers, tanks, aircraft and much artillery were sent to Greece from both Italy and Sicily, resulting in far fewer casualties when the Allies ultimately landed in Sicily on 9th July 1943

The story was recounted in Montagu's 1953 book, 'The Man Who Never Was' and a film (1956) was later made with Montagu playing a small cameo role in one scene; the full story with true names and many details, could not, however, be told in the book and film owing to The Official Secrets Act, but Ben MacIntyre's book, 'Mincemeat' published in 2010 was able at last to tell all.

The Hackney plaque was financed by Jerry Klinger of the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, UK branch, with the initiative of Martin Sugarman and the Hackney and Stamford Hill Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women - AJEX - of the UK, and assisted by Hackney Council and St John at Hackney Church. A ceremony of official unveiling is planned in the future.

12. ★ RNA Bench – Normandy Memorial Trust

Shipmates will be aware that last year the RNA donated a bench to be sited at the British Normandy Memorial and Julie Verne from the Trust has very kindly sent some photos. One of the photos shows where the bench is sited, next to the entrance, and its magnificent view. The Trust are concerned by how quickly the brass plaque had tarnished from the sea air, and they will seek to replace them with marine grade stainless steel.



13. ★ Weather Person Joke

Native Australians in a remote part of Northern Australia asked their new elder if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.

Since he was an elder in a modern community, he had never been taught the old secrets. When he looked at the sky, he couldn't tell what the winter was going to be like. Nevertheless, to be on the safe side, he told his community that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared.

But being a practical leader, after several days he had an idea. He walked out to the telephone booth on the highway, called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked, 'Is the coming winter in this area going to be cold?'

The meteorologist responded, 'It looks like this winter is going to be quite cold.' So, the elder went back to his tribe and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again. 'Does it still look like it is going to be a very cold winter?' The meteorologist again replied, 'Yep, it's going to be a very cold winter.'

The elder went back to his community and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later the elder called the Bureau again. Hey, 'Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?. 'Absolutely,' the guy replied. 'It's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the elder asked.

The weatherman replied, 'Our satellites have reported that the Aborigines in the north are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign.

D'ya get it Boom Boom.....

14. ★ RBL F40 Commemoration Service NMA 14 June 2022

Shipmates may be aware that the Royal British Legion are hold a Falklands Campaign 40th Anniversary commemoration service at the National Memorial Arboretum on 14 June 2022.

The programme for the day will feature Associations holding their own commemoration at their individual memorials and in the afternoon join together for a secular service and interactive ceremony featuring Falkland Campaign veterans both military and civilian at the National Memorial in the centre of the NMA. The ceremony at 1400 will also feature a direct link-up with Port Stanley. The event will be hosted by Max Hastings. There will also be an exhibition hall for attendees to visit and reminisce

The day is aimed primarily at Veterans and their spouses and bereaved families, not Senior Government and Service VIPs, obviously some senior figures will attend in their own right as a Falklands veteran.

It is estimated some 10,000 tickets will be available and details will be released early in the new year. The RBL are currently negotiating with Network Rail to investigate the possibility of free travel, fingers crossed!

Finally, as stated previously the service will feature Veterans and their families telling their stories of the campaign. It does not need historical factual descriptions, although are definitely welcome but some of the lighter personal relocations. Please forward your stories to admin@royalnavalassoc.com we would be delighted to receive them and with your permission forward them to the RBL.

More specific details will be released early in the new year.

15. ★ Veterans UK – Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committees (VAPC) Vacancies

Kerry Wright from Veterans UK has written to Central Office to request that the vacancies on the VAPC's are advertised with in the RNA

Defence Business Services, Veterans UK, has just launched this year's recruitment drive for the Veterans Advisory and Pensions Committee (VAPC), a Non-Departmental Public Body whose Chairs and Members are appointed by The Minister for Defence People and Veterans.

The adverts for Members are now on the Public Appointments website. I circulate the details as widely as I can in order to generate more interest and a diversity of candidates. Not all of the regional committees are recruiting this year and I apologise if your area is not one of them.

However, if you are aware of anyone that falls into one of the 8 regions needing new members I would be grateful if you would make them aware. I would be very grateful if you could assist in promoting the vacancies by circulating the following links to the adverts, that are currently posted on The Public Appointments website, as widely as you can, to anyone who you think maybe interested and, if possible, publish them on your intranet/internet sites. I have attached a 1 page flyer which would be a really good promotional front page from which to access the links.

A separate advert has been published for each region, so rather than send you 8 different links here is the link to the Public Appointments vacancy page: <https://publicappointments.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/search-appointments/> if you type the word veterans in the "keyword" search box at the top of the page the list of adverts will pop up.

16. ★ RBL Festival of Remembrance – People Spotting

Very sadly HM Queen was unable to attend national events during the recent Remembrance weekend.

A lot of people had no idea that the Duke and Duchess of Beaulieu had been asked to step in and attend the RBL Festival of remembrance on the Saturday night.

You can see in the photo opposite they made no secret of it when they were spotted by an eagle eyed reporter from the Semaphore Circular



Not again Ridley!



More People spotting..... Sadly I have to report a severe case of 'snivelling' by the National Stoker..... Unused to royalty he grabbed the Duchess of Cornwall's hand and addressed her as Shipmate! You can see the National President smiling in the background

17. ★ Naval Childrens Charity

As the year draws to a close our attention will naturally be turning towards Christmas.

Last year many civilian families learned what people in service have known for generations: being separated at this time of year is hard. Even if you don't celebrate, the constant reminder that this is a time for seeing loved ones can make absences hurt all the same.



We thought we'd take the opportunity to remind you that we are here to help. Is your partner away on deployment? [Our children's books](#) help your young one's cope with missing a parent, and remind them they'll be reunited soon.

We've also put together some [tips on how you can celebrate as a family](#), even if you can't all be together. For those that want to chip in over the festive period, we're always on the lookout for [willing knitters that can bring the characters from our stories to life](#).

As Black Friday marks the start of our festive shopping, you can make automatic donations through our [Amazon Smile](#) or [Easy Fundraising](#) links.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Scherer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Scherer
Chief Executive Officer, Naval Children's Charity

18. ★ The Trafalgar Way – Raising Funds for the Sea Cadets

The Trafalgar Way issues a long-distance 'virtual' challenge to walkers and runners around the world in support of Sea Cadets

Could you walk or run 271 miles in ten months? Whether you are a reluctant exerciser or cardio enthusiast, if you're considering a motivational fitness challenge for the year ahead then you may wish to consider entering The Trafalgar Way's End-to-End virtual event, in association with Sea Cadets (<https://www.sea-cadets.org>).

The Trafalgar Way project (www.thetrafalgarway.org) promotes the story behind the Naval Officer, Lt John Richards Lapenotiere, who in 1805 returned to London carrying the official news from the Battle of Trafalgar - news which stunned the nation. His important message of victory and tragedy, informing the world of the death of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson, had to be personally delivered. It involved a perilous journey at sea over 9 days, followed by a harrowing non-stop

chase from Falmouth to the Admiralty in London, racing to deliver the news before a rival naval officer.

Many in the naval community will be familiar with the growing tradition of holding November 'Pickle Nights' as an alternative to the more formal Trafalgar Dinners held in late October. HMS Pickle was the name of the naval schooner which carried home to British shores the official dispatches from Vice Admiral Collingwood stationed off Cape Trafalgar - and Lt Lapenotiere was her commanding officer. His ensuing land journey from Falmouth in a post-chaise-and-four express coach service covered 271 rugged miles, which he completed in under 38 hours, scarcely pausing on his journey except for essential stops to change horses.

Speaking on behalf of the charity The 1805 Club (www.1805club.org) who promote and care for The Trafalgar Way, project coordinator Kathy Brown explains how their 2022 challenge works. "Over the lockdown period, many runners and walkers have turned to virtual events such as 'Lands End to John O'Groats (LEJOG)' to keep them motivated and occupied. With these events there's no need to run along the *real* route, you do it wherever you like and the experience is mapped for you onto a virtual representation of the journey. Drawing on this increasingly popular activity, we have teamed up with experienced online virtual platform, End to End Run, to create this year-long initiative which will support the charities behind The Trafalgar Way and Sea Cadets. In a way, you could say we are championing the maritime past and future in one go. Now we'd like more serving, reserve and retired Royal Naval and Royal Marines personnel to take up the challenge and have a go!"

Today, the 271-mile route of The Trafalgar Way passes through 8 modern English counties. What was once a series of rutted turnpikes and toll-roads is today a set of busy A-roads and tiny country lanes, often without pavements; too dangerous to stage a real-world event, but perfect for mapping a 'virtual' one. Participants can take part from anywhere in the world, log their runs and walks online, and see their progress along an interactive map. As they reach certain milestones of the journey, participants receive electronic 'postcards' giving them historic information about the original journey, the places on the route and other things of interest. It's a novel way to learn a bit of history while keeping fit out of doors.

Kathy is undertaking the challenge in her own right. "I'm a keen casual runner and having a goal to work towards is always a good thing. We've set up this challenge to appeal to walkers, runners and wheelchair users of all ages and abilities. If you can cover 5 to 10 miles a week, you'll manage to 'reach' the Admiralty in under a year, and hopefully have a bit of fun along the way!"

"This challenge is open to everyone, and we especially hope to see Sea Cadets and their families and supporters, plus members of the RN and RM communities whether serving, volunteer or retired, taking it on.

The challenge went live on November 4th 2021 and participants need to complete the distance by 'Pickle Night' November 6th 2022 in order to claim the exclusive tee-shirt and medal recognising their achievement. There is no obligation to raise funds on top of the entry fee of £29.99, but entrants can opt to use the challenge to fundraise for their own causes if they wish.

To enter and find out more, visit <https://www.endtoend.run/trafalgar-way/> or more media please contact Kathy Brown (kathy@thetrafalgarway.uk) - 07817 401403

19. ★ CPO REA Stuart Osmer – Naval Career 1943 - 1958

Shipmates may recall that the sad news that S/M Stuart had crossed the bar at the end of September was relayed in last month's edition of the circular under RNA Wantage. Stuart had written a very illuminating and interesting article concerning his career in the RN from 1943 until 1958. It is 3MB (36 pages and lots of photos of planes for FAA types, who like pictures of planes....) so, it will be forwarded separately with the distribution of this edition.

Our thanks to Stuart's grandson Flt Lt Jason Omer who is a member at Wantage Branch and Molly Osmer, Stuart's wife of 70 years for forwarding the article.



***** Members Offers *****

Gin Lovers.....

Ideal Christmas 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](#)



Branch Insurance

Now that Lockdown has eased, and Clubs and Branches are starting to meet again now might be the right time for Shipmates to review their Club/Branch Insurance.

Military and Mutual Insurance are offering Basic PLI (Public Liability Insurance for £105, which includes;

- £5,000,000 Public and Products Liability
- **£10,000,000** Employers Liability
- **£1,000** Money
- Member to Member Liability
- Excess- £250 (Property Damage and Money)

Or PLI Plus

- **£5,000,000** Public & Products Liability
- **£10,000,000** Employers Liability
- **£1,000** Money
- **£250,000** Trustees Liability (Committee Member)
- Member to Member Liability

For details contact business@military-mutual.co.uk or 0204 526 8672



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: 07983 151011 E Mail: ray@rnaslops.clothing



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

Just for Groups

Shipmates should be aware that just For Groups, which is a part of the UK Holiday Group return 5% of turnover to the RNA to reinvest in CONA and other programmes.



‘Tailor Made’ Holidays – for the RNA

Please find below a couple of proposals for your consideration one for a possible self-drive stay in Leatherhead with coach transfers to Chessington World of Adventures and the other for Hampton Court Palace.

Alternative attractions which we could look at with this particular hotel which also might be suitable are RHS Gardens Wisley, Denbies Wine Estate and Thorpe Park



Federation House, Leatherhead

Federation House is located just a short stroll from Leatherhead Town Centre and its train station. The hotel hosts 55 en-suite rooms all with hairdryer, TV, tea/coffee making facilities, safe and a fridge. There are 90 on-site complimentary car parking spaces.

Option 1

Location: Leatherhead

Hotel: Federation House

Date: 23rd– 25th September 2022 (Friday – Sunday)

Price: £199 per adult sharing (or first two occupants of a room)

£149 per child under 16 sharing with 2 adults

Basis: 2 nights' Dinner, bed & breakfast

Supplements: £25 per person per night (£50 total) on single occupancy rooms within allocation below

Excursions: Coach Travel and admission fee for Chessington World of Adventures

Insurance: £25 per person optional extra

Proposed allocation: 5 twin rooms, 5 double rooms, 10 family rooms & 5 single rooms, Total 49 places

Option 2

Location: Leatherhead

Hotel: Federation House

Date: 23rd– 25th September 2022 (Friday – Sunday)

Price: £185 per adult sharing (or first two occupants of a room)

£125 per child under 16 sharing with 2 adults

Basis: 2 nights' Dinner, bed & breakfast

Supplements: £25 per person per night (£50 total) on single occupancy rooms within allocation below

Excursions: Coach Travel and admission fee for Hampton Court Palace

Insurance: £25 per person optional extra

Proposed allocation: 5 twin rooms, 5 double rooms, 10 family rooms & 5 single rooms, Total 49 places

For further information please contact Cheryl.barnard@justforgroups.com or check out www.justforgroups.com or call 01603 886740

RNA Longcast

2021

09 Dec	National Council Dines-In National President (VA Potts)
10 Dec	National Council
23 Dec-4 Jan	Central Office Closed
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day

2022

05 Feb	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
11 Feb	AMC/FAC – Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
30 Apr	Navy v Army Rugby Match – Twickenham
07 May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
07 May	Area 5 Meeting – Stowmarket
20 May	Central Office - Open Day
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
08 Jul	Central Office - Open Day
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
06 Aug	Area 5 Meeting – To be advised
12 Aug	Central Office - Open Day
01-04 Sep	Bournemouth Air Days (Christchurch Branch)
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
30 Sep	Central Office - Open Day
29 October	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas

D'ye hear there'.....

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

This Month Featuring.....

[RNA Colchester](#)

[RNA Helston](#)

[RNA Aylesbury](#)

[RNA Portland](#)

[RNA Wansbeck](#)

[RNA Lee on the Solent and Stubbington](#)

[RNA Chard](#)

[RNA Reigate](#)

[RNA Plymouth](#)

[RNA City of Glasgow](#)

RNA Colchester Branch

Thanks go to Shipmate Ron Carr (Chairman and Hon Sec Colchester Branch) for forwarding this lovely article.

After many weeks awaiting the relaxing of Covid restrictions, within the Springfields Nursing Home Colchester, where S/M John Hilliard is a resident, I together with S/M Michael Newstead Colchester Branch Welfare Officer, were kindly permitted to visit him to make the presentation of Life Membership, as John is a WW2 Naval Veteran. After the obligatory Covid checks” and as we were blessed with excellent weather, their garden provided the perfect backdrop.



Shipmate John joined the Royal Navy at the beginning of the war 1939 and after training spent most of his war time, serving on HMS Sheffield and went on to complete sixteen years' service.

Joining the Colchester Branch in the early 50's, John had been a very active member until having to resign himself into the Nursing home, and has remained a fully paid up member to date, and is our oldest Branch Member, although there are two others snapping at his heels.

Up until the Covid virus and lockdowns struck, the Branch Welfare Officer had visited John on a monthly basis for many years.

John now only a few weeks away from achieving 99 years of age, remains in excellent spirits, very proud of his Naval career and especially now receiving this recognition of his service, which he extends his gratitude and thanks to the RN Association. **(BZ Shipmate John from all at Central Office.)**

RNA Helston Branch

Thanks to Helston Hon Sec Joe Locke for keeping us informed about RNA happenings in deepest Kernow!

On Armistice Day our Standard Bearer S/M Alec Willet was at Tregonning Hill, S/M Peter Brooke was at the funeral of Dennis Hutchings, S/M Joe Morton was laying the RNA wreath at HMS Seahawk. S/M Peter Cherry was at Falmouth's ASDA poppy selling, S/M George Scott at Helston War Memorial & S/M Joe Locke at Porthleven War Memorial along with S/M Tony King in Torpoint.



On Remembrance Sunday S/M Ron Burdekin laid a wreath at Morgan & S/M Peter Brooke at Newlyn. The branch paraded at Breage where Chairman, S/M George Scott laid our wreath, in the pictures our standard bearer is flanked by Mike Rayant (former Lt.Cdr) RBL & his wife Susan for the Association of WRENS. The Rev. Kirsten Richards took her first Remembrance Service at Breage Church. The other

picture shows the branch

enjoying a roast dinner at Trevena Garden Centre after the service. The branch may be small but we try a get a representative in as many areas as is possible.

From the General Secretary - BZ Shipmates Brilliant Remembrance effort.



The branch also had their first official commitment since lockdown at Marazion with the Warspite Association. A service at the HMS Warspite stone located on the Mounts Bay Sailing Club Pen at 1030. After coffee in the Cutty Sark Hotel, at 1215 a dedication of the newly erected stone at the entrance of a new housing development "Warspite Way" was made.

The first photo shows Helston Standard Bearer S/M Alec Willett & the Warspite Standard Bearer S/M Alan Smith with Branch

Chairman S/M George Scott & member S/M Tony King. The photo below shows S/M Tony King, S/M Joe Locke, S/M Alec Willett, S/M George Scott & S/M Alan Smith at the memorial stone at the service.

The Branch held it's second meeting at the new venue of Helston Guildhall this month. On the 27th the branch had their first lunch out at the Trevena Cross Carden Centre

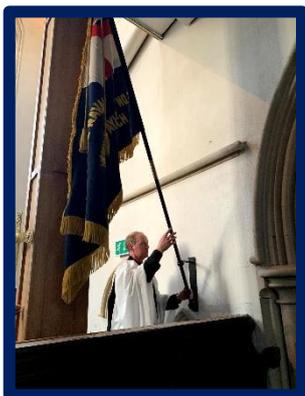


RNA Aylesbury No 1 Branch

On Sunday 5th September 2021, Aylesbury No.1 Branch held a Church service to 'Lay Up' their old Standard (1985-2021) and to 'Dedicate' a new one. The service was held at St. Mary's Church, Aylesbury with the service being conducted by Reverend Doug Zimmerman, Vicar of St. Mary's.

The Guest of Honour was the Mayor of Aylesbury, Councillor Anders Christenson who also read the Lesson.

The 'Laid Up' Standard was carried by S/M Ken Satterthwaite, Branch Deputy Standard Bearer, and the new Standard was carried by S/M Tom Spurrier, Branch Standard Bearer. Parade Marshall was S/M Ron Hale, Branch Secretary.



Support was provided by Aylesbury Sea Cadet Unit with Cadets as Ushers. The CO, Lt Cdr Gary Hamilton is a Branch Member and his wife Jude is the Branch Treasurer.

On completion of the service Tot time was held followed by light refreshments courtesy of St. Mary's Church.

Picture 1 – S/M Ken Satterthwaite, S/M Joe Clements, Branch Vice President (age 98) S/M Tom Spurrier. Rev'd Doug Zimmerman at rear.

Picture 2 – Laid Up Standard being wall mounted by Rev'd Doug.

Picture 3 – Branch Members in attendance.

(Our grateful thanks to S/m Ron Hale, Hon Sec Aylesbury No 1 Branch for forwarding this article)



RNA Portland Branch

Portland Shipmates have been busy attending a number of events including witnessing Type 23 Frigate HMS Portland's rededication ceremony in Devonport Naval Base on Thursday 09 September 2021.

The Commanding Officer, Cdr Tim Leeder RN was very pleased to receive the Portland Plate back onboard after a four-year absence.



The Branch also saw an excellent turn out for the Merchant Navy Day Civic Service at St George's yesterday on Friday 3rd September.

There is more.....

On 7th November 2021 S/M President Ben, S/M Chairman Alex, S/M Treasurer Pete, S/M Secretary Christine and Vice Chairman S/M Nigel were invited on board HMS PORTLAND at Portland where we had coffee, stickies and a chat with the Commanding Officer, Commander Tim Leeder, alongside his Executive Officer and Executive Warrant Officer.

This was followed by a small ceremony of remembrance at the RN Cemetery, where a wreath was laid and some poignant poems were read out.



HMS Portland will not be able to be in Portland for Remembrance Sunday because of operational commitments, The Captain brought the ship in at the weekend so that they could pay their respects and lay a wreath at the Naval Cemetery, he then passed the wreath for Remembrance Sunday to the Portland RNA Chairman who will lay it at Portland Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday on their behalf.

Wansbeck Branch Shipmates attended the annual Submariners Remembrance Sunday on the 7th November 2021 at Blyth in Northumberland at the Tiptoe Anchor Memorial. This well attended with around 200 people including 2 buglers, 10 standards. Twenty wreaths were laid by various Associations and Organisations dignitaries as well as serving and ex forces personnel and veterans from all services, including the local police. The weather was reasonable, with the sun shining but a cold westerly wind.



Four Shipmates representing the branch were in attendance. A buffet and refreshment after the parade was served up at the High Street Club, with a raffle which raised a very substantial amount of money for the fund.

Branch Secretary Derek Wilkinson attended the annual Remembrance Day Sunday at Blyth in Northumberland for the 1100 service and wreath laying at the cenotaph in Ridley Park in Blyth. On a damp morning it was well attended by about 300-400 people.

10 standards were on parade, a simulated bugler, and 32 wreaths laid by various personnel led by Cdr.A.S.Collier RN, as the Queens representative, followed by the Blyth Town Mayor who laid the Civic Wreath, and Blyth Council members, followed by all kinds of Service personnel, both serving and ex forces plus veterans and other organisations (fire, police, ambulance, RNLI, Royal British Legion etc.)



On the same day the Secretary also attended and laid a wreath at Bedlington at an afternoon parade and Service at 2-30pm, where about 500+ people attended including a Salvation Army band and a bugler, and 3 contingents of Army, Navy, Airforce, as well as all the other organisations, including the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland, the Mayor of West Bedlington, the Chairman of East Bedlington Parish Council, an MP from Wansbeck Constituency, children from the local area schools. A total of 47 wreaths were laid at Bedlington.

Also, on the 14th at Ashington our Branch Treasurer laid a wreath on behalf of our branch members, which was also attended by some of our members.

The Duchess of Northumberland led the Wreath laying party as the Queens Representative, followed by quite a few other Town Council members, and armed forces personnel and veterans and other organisations. All the car parks were full with A very good turnout.

Finally, at Lynemouth our Branch Vice Chairman laid a wreath on behalf of the Merchant Navy and our branch members.



RNA Lee on the Solent and Stubbington Branch

Shipmates from Lee/Stubb had all bases covered when it came to representation on Remembrance Sunday.



First Up - Branch Hon Sec, Shipmate Kate Webb and Shipmate Sam Allardyce along with Standard Bearer Mike Smyth attended the Parade at the 'Sunken Garden' on Lee on the Solent sea front. This was S/M Mike's first operational deployment with the Standard and deserves a bir BZ and thankyou from the Branch.

Second up - Shipmate and Branch President John Lavery and S/M Alan Rootes attended the event in Stubbington

Third up – Shipmates Tim Hamlin and Richard 'Dick' Hobbs represented the Branch at the 'HMS Hornet' event which includes laying a wreath in remembrance for all Empire and Commonwealth countries who fought with us during WW1 and WW2 (Tim represented India and Dick Australia)

Finally – Branch Chairman S/M Andy Christie marched at the Cenotaph Whitehall Remembrance Parade

RNA Chard Branch

It was a busy weekend in Portsmouth on 21 November when 4 Chard members were involved and present in the Dedication of the Artificer Apprentices Fisgard Association Standard held in St Anne's Church in the Portsmouth historic dockyard.

The standard bearer on the occasion was our very own member S/m Andy O Brien, being a former 'Tiff:' himself and the main organiser of the event.



The event was well supported with 30 plus members from as far a field North as Scotland.



On completion of the service all involved retired to the Maritime Club where warmth was restored via rum's and Curry or Stew.

Well done Andy and all involved.

(Thanks to S/M Dick Moon for forwarding this article)

RNA Limavady Branch

Limavady RNA took part along with Ballycastle RBL in the annual Rathlin Island Remembrance Service held on 21st November 2021.

Wreaths were laid at the War Graves in St Thomas' Church Graveyard after a Remembrance Service.

On the return ferry crossing an Act of Remembrance was carried out and Wreath was cast at the site of the HMS Drake wreck .



List of some of the War Graves : Three graves marked " Sailors of the Great War".

CAPELLA	GIUSEPPE	55	02/07/1940	Civilian	Italian Civilian	
ASHMORE	ROY ALAN	28	08/07/1942	Sergeant	Royal Air Force	
HOLDER		41	09/01/1918	Stoker 1st Class	Royal Navy	H.M.S. "Racoon."
WALTON		0	13/01/1915	Petty Officer 2nd Class	Royal Navy	H.M.S. "Viknor."
McCURDY	SAMUEL PATRICK	24	12/04/1943	Seaman	Royal Naval Patrol Service	H.M.S Europa.

RNA Reigate Branch



Reigate Branch held their annual two minute silence parade on Armistice Day Thursday 11th November in our local Shopping Centre. Over a thousand shoppers joined branch members, other veterans, and local cadet forces. 30,000 poppy petals were released on those below during the silence and Buglers from T.S. Ark Royal SCC played The Last Post. The Borough's Mayor read the exhortation.

The Branch Secretary acted as Parade Commander. The Belfry Shopping Centre Manager was delighted to host the event again, which has been held every year since 1995.

The Branch also manned the Poppy Appeal stand within the centre and raised over £18,000 for the poppy appeal. We now look forward to Remembrance Sunday and marching to our local memorial behind our Sea Cadet Band



RNA Plymouth Branch



A surprise gift was made to the Plymouth Royal Naval Association at their monthly meeting on Tuesday 16th November, when former Royal Marine Doug Liggertwood presented the Branch's Chairman S/M Des McCarthy with a cheque for £100.00 to be used in the Branch's charitable donations.



At the 2021 Dinner/Dance of the Plymouth Royal Naval Association held in the WO and S/Rates Mess, HMS Drake and in the presence of the Branch's Patron, the Lord Mayor and her Consort, Councillor Terry Beer

And Colin Beer, a farewell present of a Glass Decanter and a bottle of Navy Strength Plymouth Gin was presented to Shipmate Vice Admiral John McAnally, CB, LVO on his departure as President of the Royal Naval Association. Other presentations that took place were the award of Life Membership to S/M Richard Tipping for his work as Branch Welfare Officer and the award of Life Vice President to S/M John Whiteman for work as Vice Chairman and Branch Photographer.



RNA City of Glasgow

The Chairman of the Trustees of The Clyde Maritime Trust Mr Colin Botfield invited the City of Glasgow RNA chairman Kenn McKinnon and Vice Chairman Alex Thomas onboard the Glenlee to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the ship. The Lord Provost Philip Bratt was present and gave a speech. They had a special whiskey made for the occasion and snifter glasses engraved with the ship and dates. At the end of the evening, we were given a momentum of the occasion. A box containing two miniatures and an engraved glass.



CROSSING THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Alan Arnel](#)

[Vic Coombes](#)

[Colin Flood](#)

[Norman Cosford](#)

[Gerald Allen](#)

[Thomas Murdon](#)

Alan Arnel - Bognor Regis Branch



The Chairman of the Bognor Regis Branch, West Sussex. S/M Ron Hargest is deeply saddened to announce the crossing the bar on the 18th October 2021 of a well-respected and popular member. S/M Alan Arnel served in the Fleet Air Arm. Finally leaving the service as a L.A.M. A/E.

Serving between November 1955 and December 1964. He served on the aircraft carriers HMS Hermes, and Bulwark also serving on various shore establishments. HMS Gamecock, Fulmar, Condor, Ariel, Daedalus and Heron.

S/M Alan Arnel was a founder member of the Bognor Regis Branch. His humour and presence at future meetings will be sorely missed.

May he find safe anchorage.

Vic Combes - City of Glasgow Branch

S/M Vic Combes Aged 100 has sadly crossed the bar. Vic was born in Sussex and joined the Royal Navy in 1939 aged 18. He served in Malta during the Siege of Malta and received serious injuries to his arm, legs and face.

Vic proudly marched in the annual Armed Forces Day Parade and the Remembrance Parade in Glasgow and was a member and supporter of the Glasgow branch of the RNA.

Colin Flood - Basildon Branch

Shipmate Michael Byrne wishes to convey the sad news that S/M Colin Flood PK970586 has crossed the bar on Armistice Day 11 November 2021.

Although not an RNA member, S/M Michael is sure that there are S/M's out there in branches who may know Colin and will raise a tot to a lovely ex ME Submariner.

S/M Michael knew him for a short time and didn't learn much about his service, but did share some yarns whilst swinging the lamp.

He moved away during the summer and having been healthy, felt 'poorly' in October. He was diagnosed with Cancer and very sadly passed away four weeks later.

Norman Cosford – Chard Branch

It is with the deepest sympathy that Chard Branch have to report the crossing of the bar of our dearest and long serving member of Chard Branch - 101 year old Norman Cosford.

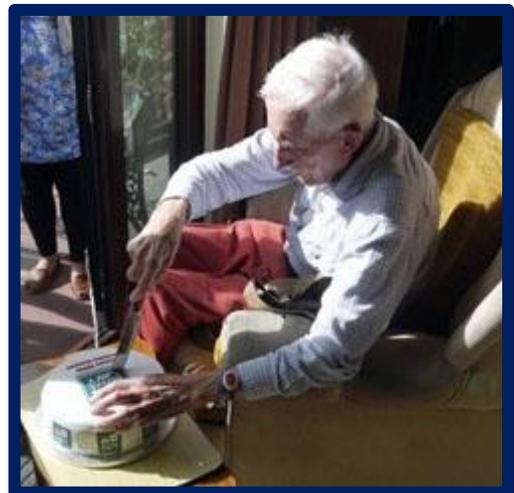
It was unfortunate that Norman had a fall and was admitted to Musgrove Hospital where under treatment he unfortunately caught Covid. The family were able to see him in hospital.

Yet another shipmate gone, having served in WWII carry out the infamous Arctic Convoys.

The photo shows S/M Norman cutting his 100th Birthday Cake which he received from Chard Branch last year.

Stand down Norman duty fully carried out. RIP shipmate.

(Thanks to Shipmate Dick Moon Chard Branch)



Gerald Allen – Folkestone Branch

It is with great sadness that the Shipmates of the Branch have to report that our well respected and dedicated Chairman 'Crossed the Bar' on Friday 6th November 2021 aged 91 years.



Shipmate Gerry joined the Royal Navy for National Service in 1949 and volunteered for Radar duties but a medical revealed that his vision was not good enough and he transferred to Chatham to train as a Sick Berth Attendant, his second choice. Whilst undergoing training he was involved in the tragic accident of the sinking of the submarine HMS Truculent and was part of the rescue service helping to carry fatalities for transfer. Gerry completed his service at the Naval Hospital, Chatham.

Gerry joined the Royal Naval Association in 1995, he was Standard Bearer for 8 years, Vice-Chairman for 6 years and Chairman for 10 years. He had an easy-going nature and an ability to talk and care for people. He was also Chairman of the Folkestone Ex-Servicemen Liaison Committee for 10 years.

During his long service in the RNA he has given loyal and excellent service to the Branch and we will miss him greatly! Rest in Peace Shipmate,

Thomas (Tom) Murden – Port Phillip Bay Branch

S/M Mike Bennett has forwarded this sad news from Australia.

It with great sadness that I must inform that Shipmate Thomas (Tom) Murdon Crossed the Bar on Monday 8th of November 2021, in Box Hill Hospital Victoria Australia.

Tom was not only one of our remaining WWII Normandy Veterans but also the Standard Bearer of the Normandy Veterans Association (NVA) Melbourne Branch.

In accordance with Tom's wishes: he requested a 'simple funeral with no frills and no RSL service'. Port Phillips Bay Chairman and Hon sec S/m Mike Bennett represented the branch at the funeral.

Our sympathies and condolences go to Joy Murdon and the family. VALE Tom Murdon – May your final journey be on smooth seas.

Lest We Forget

RNA Members Benefits

UK Holiday Group /Just for Groups

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

www.justforgroups.com

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- RNA member - Day Ticket Offer just £20 plus 3 guests at £20 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.
- RNA Member – 30% discount on Annual Ultimate Explorer Ticket (featuring all attraction's)

Legal Services



Free 30 minute legal advice with Coffin Mew.
armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk 0800 827168

Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service
asec@arno.org.uk or 0207 4025231



Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you.
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The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

[Please forward any reunions for 2022 and I will publish them here](#)

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk
2022	
11/13 Mar	R.N. Communications Association - AGM/Dinner Dance Royal Beach Hotel Southsea - For further details contact C Beeson07807347509 or noseeb@sky.com
12/13 Apr	The 10 th HMS Lowestoft Association reunion will take place on Tues/Wed 12/13 April 2022 at the Royal Beach Hotel Southsea. For details and a booking form please email: admin@hmslowestoft.uk
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool (HMS Eaglet – Invitation Only)
13 May	HMS Bulwark, Albion and Centaur Association – Red Lee Hotel, Scarborough
21 May	HMS Broadsword Association - HMS Drake
28/29 May	<p>HMS Fearless 1982 Crew Royal Maritime Club (Home Club) Portsmouth To attend the gala dinner evening at The Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth, you will need to book your dinner tickets in advance. Please use the link to make your booking. Cost £60.00 per head.</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hms-fearless-82-40th-anniversary-reunion-tickets-189862392527</p> <p>Please note that accommodation at the hotel is not an option, as the hotel is already fully booked. If you plan to stay overnight in the local area, you will need to book alternative accommodation as soon as possible as availability will be limited, as there are many Falkland Reunions taking place the same weekend.</p> <p>Your Dinner Ticket includes a welcome drink, three course dinner, a cheese course and Port. Wine will be included on the table. Menu choices will be provided at a later date. We have a great toastmaster to smooth things along.</p> <p>Plus-ones are encouraged and there will be a DJ for the those that wish to boogie, while the rest of the salts mingle by the bar swapping sea dits about our time down south.</p> <p>Dress Code for the Dinner is black tie or lounge suit plus mini medals for men & evening gowns or cocktail dresses for the ladies. Mini medals may be worn in honour of those no longer with us.</p> <p>Sun 29 May</p>

	<p>0945 Muster at the Gosport Bus Station (be warned - the last ferry across is 1030)</p> <p>1100 Service. Dress of the day. Jacket/Tie with Medals</p> <p>1140 Gosport Parade via High Street to Reception at Walpole Park Gosport.</p> <p>On completion Disperse and safe journey home</p>
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Swinging the Lamp – December 2021

The RNA is grateful to the Author, Lt Cdr Lawrie Phillips TD, RD, RNR for allowing us to publish a selection from the RN Day by Day. If you would like to read more it can be purchased from - The History Press and is priced £60 ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1941	Light cruisers <i>Aurora</i> and <i>Penelope</i> , and destroyer <i>Lively</i> sank the Italian destroyer <i>Alvise da Mosto</i> off Kerkenah Bank (33.45N,
2nd	1796	<i>Southampton</i> captured the Spanish privateer <i>Corso</i> off Cape delle Mele.
3rd	1993	<i>Nurton</i> , the last of 118 original Ton-class MCMVs, which had been converted for service in the Northern Ireland Patrol Squadron, and the Royal Navy's last wooden seagoing ship, entered Portsmouth to pay off.
4th	1827	The first steam vessels commissioned as HM ships; the Duke of Clarence, Lord High Admiral, signed commissions for Lt George Evans, G.J. Hay and T. Bullock to command <i>Lighting</i> , <i>Echo</i> and <i>Meteor</i> . The ships appeared in <i>The Navy List</i> next month.
5th	1969	Chinese Unofficials. 'Tailors, Cobblers and Barbers are not to be employed in HM ships west of Suez. The only Chinese Unofficials who may be brought west of Suez are Laundrymen and may not remain west of Suez for more than 12 months. When in Home Waters Laundrymen are not to work as Tailors, Cobblers or Barbers.' – DCI(RN) 1511/69.
6th	1954	The former royal yacht <i>Victoria and Albert</i> arrived at Faslane for breaking up. Following custom, coins of the realm had been placed beneath her three masts during construction at Pembroke

		Dockyard. These were recovered; all are dated 1899, the year of her launch.
7th	1817	William Bligh, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, late Captain of HM Armed Transport <i>Bounty</i> , of <i>Director</i> (64) at the Battle of Camperdown and of <i>Glatton</i> (56) at Copenhagen, died at Lambeth. Buried in churchyard of St Mary, Lambeth, now the Museum of Garden History.
8th	1778	Horatio Nelson promoted master and commander into the brig <i>Badger</i> .
9th	1942	Destroyer <i>Porcupine</i> torpedoed by U-602 off Cape Ferrat (36.40N, 00.04W). Reached Gibraltar and towed to UK in two parts nicknamed <i>Pork</i> and <i>Pine</i> . But CTL, so no second <i>Zubian</i>
10th	2008	<i>Daring</i> , first of the Type 45 destroyers, accepted from her builders, BVT Surface Fleet Ltd, at Scotstoun by Capt Paul Bennett RN and White Ensign hoisted. Ship is affiliated with Birmingham and Guernsey
11th	1807	<i>Grasshopper</i> captured the Spanish <i>San Jose</i> under Cape Negrete.
12th	1936	Destroyer <i>Fury</i> , escorted by destroyer <i>Wolfhound</i> , carried Prince Edward (later Duke of Windsor) to France after his abdication as King Edward VIII the previous day.
13th	1711	The wall around Portsmouth Dockyard completed. 'This WALL was Begun the 4th June and finish'd ye 13th Decembr 1711.' 'In order to meet the needs of modern road traffic and with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty this gate built in 1711 was increased in width from 12ft to 22ft, November 1944' – plaques at Victory Gate.
14th	1809	<i>Defender</i> , gun-brig of fourteen guns, Lt John George Nops RN, sailing from the Downs to Spithead, anchored off Folkestone to avoid a gale, wrecked on Cob Point when both her anchor cables parted. Crew saved.
15th	1805	The body of Vice-Admiral Viscount Nelson, preserved in a cask of spirits after Trafalgar, transferred into an elm coffin on board <i>Victory</i> at anchor off Dover while on passage from Portsmouth to The Nore. On 21 December, Mr Whitby, Master Attendant at Woolwich, and Mr Tyson, Nelson's former secretary, arrived at Sheerness with the 'exterior coffin'.
16th	1921	<i>Victory</i> , first rate, moved into No. 1 Basin, Portsmouth Dockyard; the first move towards her restoration and preservation
17th	1941	<i>Blankney</i> , <i>Exmoor</i> , <i>Penstemon</i> , <i>Stanley</i> , <i>Stork</i> and <i>Martlet</i> aircraft of 802 Sqn (<i>Audacity</i>) sank U-131 W. of Gibraltar (34.12N, 13.35W). Convoy HG 76. Cdr F.J. Walker's first kill, with 36th Escort Group.
18th	1827	Uniforms for officers reduced to a double-breasted coat, always to be buttoned up, with gold laced trousers for dress wear and plain for undress (white in summer). Breeches and dress swords restricted to Drawing Room. Buttons to be slightly domed rather than flat.
19th	1963	Assault ship <i>Fearless</i> launched at Harland & Wolff, Belfast, by Lady Hull, wife of Gen. Sir Richard Hull. Vice-Admiral J.B. Frewen,

		VCNS, and Lt-Gen. Sir Malcolm Cartwright- Taylor, CGRM, were present. The media were ordered not to photograph the stern of the ship, a security attempt negated by a Soviet merchant ship alongside at an adjacent berth.
20th	1808	The Royal Navy's second <i>Dauntless</i> , an 18-gun ship sloop, launched at Deptford Dockyard. She served in seas as far apart as Archangel, Newfoundland and the East Indies but, unlike the first of the name, she stayed out of trouble and was sold in 1825.
21st	1941	Escort carrier <i>Audacity</i> sunk by U-751 500 miles W. of Cape Finisterre (44.00N, 20.00W), and <i>Deptford</i> and <i>Samphire</i> sank U-567 in Atlantic (44.02N, 20.10W). Convoy HG 76.
22 nd	1875	<i>Goliath</i> , former 80-gun second rate, reduced to training ship 'for pauper boys from workhouses', accidentally burned out in Medway.
23 rd	1796	<i>Minerve</i> captured the French privateer <i>Maria</i> 30 miles S.W. by W. of Cape Spartivento, Sardinia
24 th	1798	Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, having precipitated a French attack on Naples, embarked the Sicilian royal family in <i>Vanguard</i> (74) and sailed for Palermo, the second capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.
25 th	1965	The 500th day of patrol work by the Royal Navy in Malaysian waters since the start of Indonesian 'Confrontation'. During 1965 British warships steamed 1 million miles and killed or captured 1,400 Indonesian raiders for the loss of two officers killed and eleven men injured.
26 th	1944	Frigate <i>Capel</i> sunk by U-486 off Cape de la Hogue, Normandy (49.50N, 01.41W): capsized slowly. <i>Affleck</i> also torpedoed by U-486; made her way home but CTL.
27 th	1831	<i>Beagle</i> sailed on five-year circumnavigation carrying Charles Darwin, subsequently author of <i>On the Origin of Species</i> .
28 th	1975	Third Cod War. The first collision of the 'War' between Icelandic Gunboat Thor and frigate Andromeda; fifty-six collisions were to follow, many severe enough to force the frigates to return to the UK.
29th	1860	<i>Warrior</i> , first British seagoing ironclad, launched at Blackwall. Became tender to <i>Vernon</i> , reduced to fuelling hulk at Pembroke Dock and subsequently restored at Hartlepool. Returned to Portsmouth as ' <i>Warrior 1860</i> ' on 16 June 1987.
30 th	1941	Light cruiser <i>Ajax</i> and river gunboat <i>Aphis</i> bombarded Bardia.
31st	1915	RNR and RNVR officers to wear gold lace, and not braid, but narrower stripes than RN.

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