



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



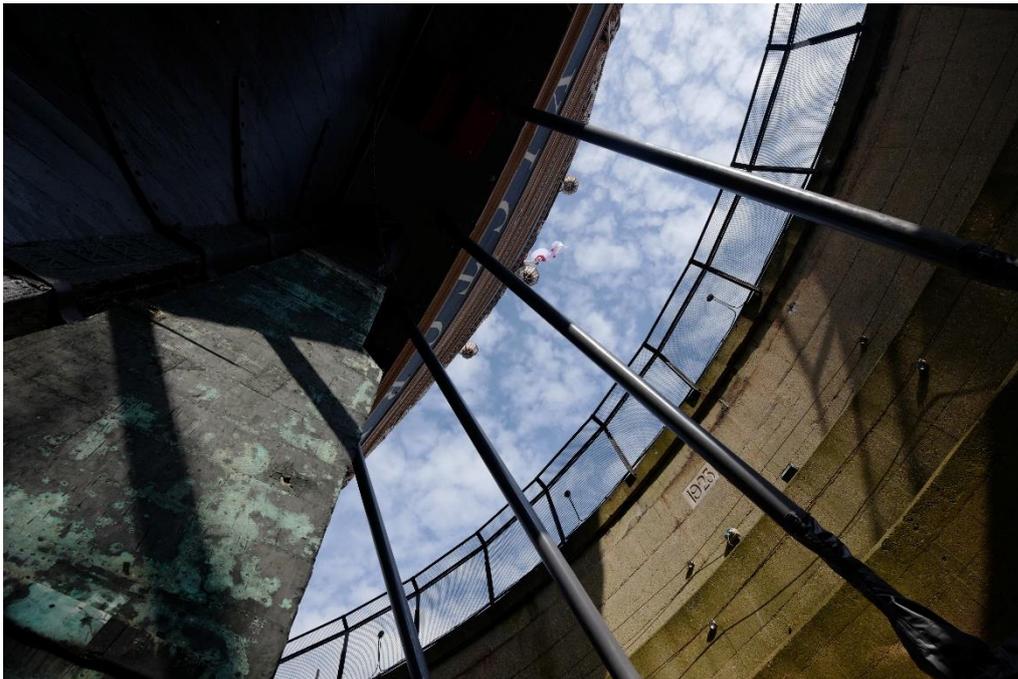
Published 1st
Monday of
the Month

The Semaphore Circular

No 711

The Beating Heart of the RNA

July 2021



HMS Victory bottom side up! Next year see's the ship celebrates being in her dry dock for 100 years and has just opened a walk-way under the hull where you can see the original part of the keel and her innovative design.

Shipmates Please Stay Safe

If you need assistance call the RNA Helpline on 07542 680082

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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PLEASE NOTE DURING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS CENTRAL OFFICE IS CLOSED. PLEASE USE EMAIL OR, IF THE MATTER IS URGENT, THE HELPLINE ON 07542 680082.



Staff photo (L – R) Sara Field, Kathryn Brindley, Nigel Huxtable, Lynda Pearson, Malcolm Little, Andy Christie, Julie Royston, Charlie Darlington and General Secretary Bill Oliphant. Missing on this occasion was Mike Gray.

*** Guest 'Photobombing' courtesy by HM the Queen and the Late Duke of Edinburgh.*

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

ind Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /
Circulars / Code (shipmate)

Snail Mail – Postal Address

RNA Central Office,
Building 1/087,
Scott Road,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to another edition of the Semaphore Circular. I've lots of news today but firstly, I'd like to add my heartiest congrats to that of the National Chairman's who obviously wrote his piece last month after me – BZ Shipmate Geoff Apperley, with your well-deserved, BEM.

Well, it's not turning out to be the best of summers but nevertheless the prospect of being able to meet up again in Branches is tantalisingly close with Boris due to make some announcement this week – fingers firmly crossed. I realise that Branches will take things at their own pace but please remember we have the Branch and Club Support Fund which I am permitted to make grants of up to £250, so please use it to put an event together to get your Branch back up and running. Don't forget there is also the 1000 Good Deeds Fund which you can draw on, for example, to take an elderly shipmate out for the day or buy him or her a birthday present.

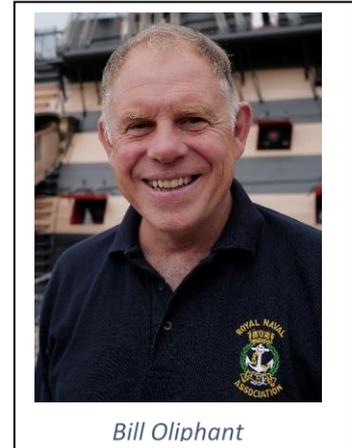
I meant to say a huge thank you to all those who contributed to the St Vincent appeal earlier in the year. As you can imagine our collective efforts were very well received not only by the direct recipients of our benevolence but also our serving shipmates from St Vincent who, having recognised the significance of our Association, are now in the process of setting up their own Branch here in the UK.

Thank you too for all the donations which have been received in lieu of subs, some of which have been extremely generous. The policy of switching to a donation-based income model seems to be working and Central Office have processed over 1600 new memberships since the turn of the year. Considering weekends and public holidays, that works out at an average of 12.9 new applications a day. Some of which included the next generation of Commanding Officers and XO's who I briefed at COLLINGWOOD recently.

There are lots of things going on this summer/autumn. Please see the articles about each later in this edition and please get involved:

- 30 July – Central Office Open Day, HMNB Portsmouth
- 3-5 Sep – Annual Conference, Nottingham
- 12 Sep – Naval Associations Parade, Cenotaph, Whitehall
- 23 Oct – World Uckers Championships Finals, HMNB Portsmouth

In addition, plans for next year's AGM/Conference in Portsmouth are coming along. These coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict where Portsmouth City Council intend to afford the Association the Freedom of the City. Along with the projects to reach more of our elderly shipmates (Projects Semaphore and Sparko) and the revitalisation of the Shipmates and Oppos programme which we are developing in partnership with the RN to establish a mentoring scheme for those leaving and looking for employment in the big bad world, it makes for a busy Central Office.



Bill Oliphant

We've also had talks with the Naval Families Federation recently as we believe that there are touch points where we can work together better for our people. We are all part of the wider Naval Family.

Now, a request for a volunteer, or a group of volunteers, to accept the challenge thrown down by Stuart Barnes who wants to drive a 1904 Oldsmobile from John O'Groats to Land's End next year in support of Service Charities. Please see the article in this edition. Have we got a couple of enterprising shipmates in a Branch who could take this on? I would be very happy to lend an RNA minibus or two as support vehicle(s).

Please note the offers on Forces Cars Direct, Pussers Rum and for those who don't do rum, Sea Urchins Gin. All of whom also support your Association in some shape or form. Finally, thank you also to AW Shipping Management who have kindly sponsored our lunch at Conference this year – much appreciated.

As ever,

Bill Oliphant

Chairman's chat

A busy time in my private & RNA life last month prevented me from submitting my Chat, so please accept my apology.

Congratulations goes to S/m Geoff Apperley of Royston Branch on being awarded the British Empire Medal in The Queen's Birthday Honours for his outstanding National Welfare Support and Advice throughout this Covid crisis. Geoff stepped forward in March 2020 as Deputy National Welfare Adviser when S/m Rita Lock the then National Welfare Adviser became unwell. Earlier this year Rita stood down and Geoff was appointed by the National Council to replace her. Behind the scenes, Geoff beavered away as No 6 Area Secretary and Area Welfare Adviser whilst at the same time providing advice on Welfare at National Level. Where does he get his energy from?



The highlight in May, but slightly disappointing was my visit to Pompey to witness the departure of the CSG21 sailing of HMS Queen Elizabeth on 22 May along with her multi nations escorts. The plan had been to treat my wife to 4 days in Portsmouth and witness the CSG21 Fleet at anchor in the Solent from our Sea View Room at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea. In doing so, take the opportunity to invite our National President & General Secretary up to the room for ring side seats.

So, where did it all go wrong? The hotel room turned out to be facing inwards to a courtyard with an excellent view of scaffolding past the window! Being a Stoker and none too familiar where the Officers and Dabtoes parked departing Ships in the Solent, my hotel was approximately 1.5 to 2 miles away, but I could see 2 RN Frigates in the distance, due to the foul weather, the remainder of the Fleet was to meet up over the horizon. The reality was HMS QE had entered the Naval Base early on the Thursday morning and sailed at 2130 on Saturday 22 May as the light faded.

The good news was we did all meet up for a meal in the Still & West on the harbour entrance with a great view (in daylight). So as HMS QE sailed the twinkling lights of Gosport suddenly appeared to get switched off by 65,000 tons of warship passing by in total darkness. The wife asked why the ship was not all lit up? I explained it was a warship and not the IOW Ferry, nor a cross channel ferry or cruise liner.



Just 30 minutes earlier the USS The Sullivans had preceded HMS QE to sea. It was very poignant as the Ship, the second to have been named by the USN, was named after the 5 Brothers; George, Francis, Joseph, Madison and Albert who had had all lost their lives whilst serving onboard USS Juneau in November 1942 which was sunk by a Japanese submarine in the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal. Lest we Forget the sacrifices made by all those who served at Sea.

Looking ahead this month and if Covid-19 keeps its nasty head down, Branches can once again meet face to face. Observing Covid guidelines, my own Branch managed a few socially distanced gatherings. The past 15 months has been a testing, and to some a sad time. To those of us that have lost loved ones and Shipmates to Covid, let us all remember them and the happy times we spent together. We must not and will not forget them. I thank all members for the support you have given to Shipmates throughout the crisis and other ex-service veterans.

Since 1st January recruitment is seriously well up, with approximately 1600 coming onboard. Please ensure they get a warm welcome when attending your Branch Meetings.

The new membership cards have all been sent out to Branch Secretaries where Branches submitted details online. Those Branches that struggled with technology have received a helping hand either from a neighbouring Branch or the Central Office Team. The latter have done a brilliant job not only in sending out the cards, but firstly having to sort them, and then mail them. Like all new systems there have been some teething problems of one sort or another, so I thank all concerned for your patience whilst your queries got dealt with.

One point I wish to stress to Branch Secretaries is please do not amend an incorrect name on a membership card, but instead contact Sara Field at Central Office for a replacement.

For those of you that have not followed the various Facebook Groups Posts, the Fleet have been extremely busy, and notably sailing on a Sunday which was unbeknown in my days.

Time to sign off and again recheck my clothing for shrinkage. To all our serving Shipmates including reservists, who continue to support the frontline against Covid-19, keep up the good work, to 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, and we will all emerge to share our Dits and a Tot together.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ 2021 World Uckers Championship - Operation 'Snakes-Eyes'

*******Gentle reminder closing date for entries Thursday 08 July 2021*******

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is that time to prove..... that you and your Oppo are the best 'six throwing dream team' too sail the seven seas.....

Can you de-throne the current Champions! And become the 2021 World Uckers Champions?

So..... come on, let's get our Naval Game back in vogue and cool to play.

From Port Stanley to Stornoway and RNA Plymouth to HMS Medway the Naval community are entering teams for this year's competition. The Navy Board, featuring the First Sea Lord and Warrant Officer1, Speedy Steerman are leading the way having already entered!

To enter this year's competition all Teams/Competitors should forward their applications as follows;

Navy Board – Carl.Steedman147@mod.gov.uk

RN Service – Admin@royalnavalassoc.com

RNA – Andy@royalnavalassoc.com

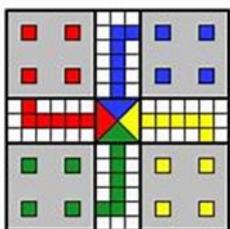
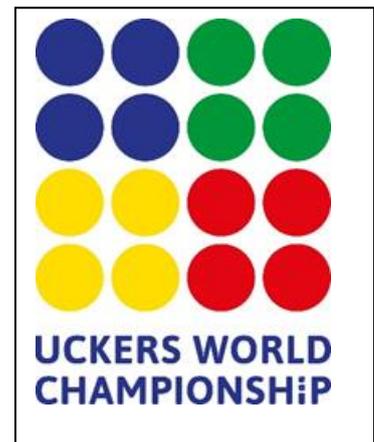
Non RN/RNA - uckersworldchamp2021@gmail.com

Registrations should arrive at the email addresses above by Friday 08 July 2021. The initial rounds will play off in 4 entry groups;

- Navy Board
- RN /RM / RFA
- RNA
- Non RN/RMA/RFA (Everyone else)

Competitors are requested to forward:

- *Group*
- *Team Name*
- *Competitors Names*
- *Email addresses and / telephone contacts*



This year's competitions matches will commence on 31st July 2021 and culminate with the Grand Final which will be held in Victory Arena, HM Naval Base Portsmouth on Saturday 23rd October 2021.

Specific details and Rules can be found on the Royal Naval Association Website

<https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/worlduckerschampionship/>

So come and join in the FUN remember 'you got to be in in it to win it!'

2. ★ 2021 Royal Naval Association Conference – Nottingham 4/5 September 2021



As many Shipmates are now aware the date for Conference has had to be moved to the first weekend in September and will be held in The Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham.

The Conference booking form is now available on the website <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/conference>

Prices range from £106.50 pp for a 1 day stay to 4 nights £224 these prices include the cost of the Gala night dinner.

The Conference agenda will be finalised shortly, and Branches, Clubs and individual Shipmates are encouraged to attend for what is undoubtedly a great AGM, reunion and more importantly a fun 'run ashore' weekend. Branches may also wish to consider submitting a 'Branch Motion' which can still be submitted to the Governance/SOC Committee for consideration. The application form can be found at the rear of this Circular, applications will close on 25 June 2021.

It is also important that as Branches start to hold post crisis meetings that they consider sending a delegate to Conference and enable your Branch to have a say and witness RNA democracy in action. ***Delegate attendance forms can be found at the rear of this Circular, remember you can claim your delegates travel expenses.***

For those who are yet to attend Conference either as a delegate or observer the programme is as follows:

- Friday 3 Sep – 1900 Meet and Greet
- Saturday 4 Sep – 1000 – 1600 AGM (Including presentation by RN Presentation Team with a Fleet update) (Welfare/SIG/Car Club Workshops are held around outside the Conference Hall)
- Sunday 5 Sep - 1030 Church Service

This year additionally the Special Interest Groups (Wheeled variety) will be rallying across the UK to Conference to join in the fun and advertise their various groups.

We understand that many Shipmates will be disappointed that we have had to reschedule the conference once again, but we hope you all understand the reason behind this decision. We are really looking forward to coming together once again and celebrating the end of such a difficult period, in true RNA fashion.

3. ★ Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall - Sunday 12 September 2021

Shipmates last month I reminded you of an important date for your diary, see below. This month could I gently remind you of the need to book your **accommodation**, as I have been made aware that there are one or two other events scheduled to take place in London that weekend. Remember first in the galley queue gets the best choice of scran!!

The newly named Naval Associations' Biennial Parade will be held in Whitehall on Sunday, 12 September. Please advertise the date across the 'Wider Naval Family' who are very welcome to march with us. This year, as well as commemorating our war dead, we will take the opportunity to

honour all our shipmates who crossed the bar during the pandemic, whether taken by Covid or not, as many did not enjoy the marks of respect at their funerals which they might normally have expected due to the restrictions. Also, a good turn-out is requested in recognition of our continued loyalty and respect to our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, who lost her husband and consort this year. Specific details will be issued nearer the time but don't hesitate to contact Central Office if you have any questions. When passing information concerning the parade it is important that consideration is given to the possible security implications. Remember, Loose Lips sink Ships!



We have also had a number of enquiries from our fellow Naval Associations who would like to join us on Parade, the more the merrier, let's make this a proud Naval occasion. Permission has been granted to march in a 'Jack' 'bimble' style manner! Without being presented with a 'around the buoy again coxswain' type disc which meant you had to go round the parade ground again!!

It would be appreciated if Standard Bearers attending, for logistic purposes, inform the National Ceremonial Advisor Shipmate Bob Coburn, details in article below.



4. ★ RNA Uxbridge

Talking of Naval Association Parades Shipmates are cordially invited to call in at RNA Uxbridge on their way home from the parade for a comforting refreshment on route home.....

RNA Uxbridge always opens our doors for anyone attending the Parade to pop in on the way home , we are located just off the slip road Hillingdon intersection West Bound on the main A40 just past RAF Northolt . please contact the Chairman / Club manager Slinger Wood on 07961124459 or the Club phone 01895 230071 or even e mail us at rna.uxbridge@hotmail.co.uk



We will lay on some scran and some entertainment (The 2 good olde boys sing a long) and most important a few Tots just to get you in the mood (All free of charge) all we ask is book in so we have catering numbers and buy plenty of beer but above all come down to a traditional RNA Club and Enjoy (Skylarking is permitted at all times)

There is plenty of free Parking onsite. Looking forward to seeing you Slinger Wood (Chairman)

5. ★ 2021 Central Office Open Day 30 July 2021

Central Office will be holding an Open Day on 30 July 2021, sadly this will be the only opportunity this year as we have regrettably had to cancel the one scheduled for 25 Jun. Hopefully, normal operations will resume in 2022.

Our sincere apologies to those Shipmates who had original booked for the 23 July as due to unavoidable circumstances the date had to be moved to 30 July. Your original booking has been cancelled and it is requested that you book again. Once again very many apologies for the inconvenience.



It should be a great day out and there are currently plenty of spaces should Branches, HQ Roll members or individual Shipmates like to attend. Central Office staff are really looking forward to meeting them and will be delighted to host them.

For those unaware the fun begins at 1100 in Central Office, at our new office in Building 1/087 in Scott Road next to HMS Victory in HM Naval Base Portsmouth. On arrival you will enjoy a sandwich lunch and brief by a Senior Naval officer on current Fleet issues followed by an update on RNA matters from the GS. Then it is off on a Boat trip round the Naval Base. There will also be an opportunity to purchase 'Jackets, Buttons and Badges' from Nigel, so bring some cash! The Open Day normally completes by 1400.

If you would like to come along, please forward your name, HQ Roll/ Branch and car registration details to Admin@royalnavalassoc.com. On the day you will need some form of photo ID. Once your interest is registered Central Office will get back to you with specific instructions. Finally individual Shipmates and Branches that have not attended a previous Open Day will get priority otherwise it is first come first served.

6. ★ Finance Corner - Standing Orders

Shipmates are requested to ensure that the first payment of a Standing Order forms for Donations is at least 28 days after the form is completed, to allow time for processing by Kathryn.

Your forbearance is very much appreciated.

7. ★ 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 05 Jul	Andy Dodds	CRAM – Phalanx on a lorry in the desert in Iraq
Monday 12 Jul	David Griggs	Op Rheostat – Mine clearance in the Suez Canal 1974/75

Monday 19 Jul	Ian Cameron	The Battle of Hastings
Monday 26 Jul	Brig Ian Gardiner	The Dhofar Campaign
Monday 02 Aug	Capt Bill Evans	Marine Accident Investigation Branch DOT
Monday 09 Aug	Zoe O’Gorman	RM Bands
Monday 15 Aug	Tom Palmer	Arctic Star – Writing fiction in a historical context

8. ★ Welfare Spotlight Column - S/M Geoff Apperley BEM (National Welfare Advisor)



What’s happening with covid? We are moving (slowly) towards a life post covid, Step 3 remains paused with the date for lifting England’s remaining Covid restrictions and move to Step 4 remaining as 19 July. Similar pausing is in place in the devolved administrations when appropriate. There is pressure to bring forward lifting restrictions and the date to do so but currently we all need to adhere to the restrictions applicable where we live. However, care is always needed as there is some ambiguity in the guidance’s’. **Do check what is stated for you in your part of the UK.**

This is particularly important in thinking of meeting up again as Branches. We all want it to enjoy that comradeship that RNA is about but Committees must take a very careful risk assessment of the premises, meeting processes and their members before taking this step and be consistent with the guidance operating at the time. It is acknowledged there is frustration with some inconsistency in terms of guidance’s’ both within countries and between countries and these further delays are hard to deal with. Please be careful though shipmates, we need to get through this together.



In England

- Coronavirus restrictions remain in place across the country, including for people who have been vaccinated. In England:
- You can meet indoors in a group of up to 6 people or a group of any size from 2 households
- You can meet outside in a group of up to 30 people
- Work from home if you can and travel safely
- If you have symptoms get a test and stay at home
- From 21 June you were able to have more guests at weddings, civil partnerships and commemorative events following a funeral depending on venue capacity and how many can be safely accommodated with social distancing
- Full details on what you can and can’t do are at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-coronavirus-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>

In Scotland

Mainland Scotland and the Scottish islands not already in Level 0 will move to Level 0 on 19 July. Details on your area’s level at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/> .

In Wales

You can now choose 2 other households to meet in your home, becoming an extended household. Up to 30 people can meet outside. From 21 June weddings, civil partnerships and

wakes can take place in regulated venues that have carried out a risk assessment. The current rules are at <https://gov.wales/current-restrictions> .

In Northern Ireland

Up to 6 people from 2 households can socialise indoors, including for overnight stays and up to 15 people from no more than 3 households can meet in a private garden. You can find what you can do at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-regulations-guidance-what-restrictions-mean-you> .

In Ireland

Ireland has adopted a progressive roadmap of easing with details at <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/7e0924-latest-updates-on-covid-19-coronavirus/>

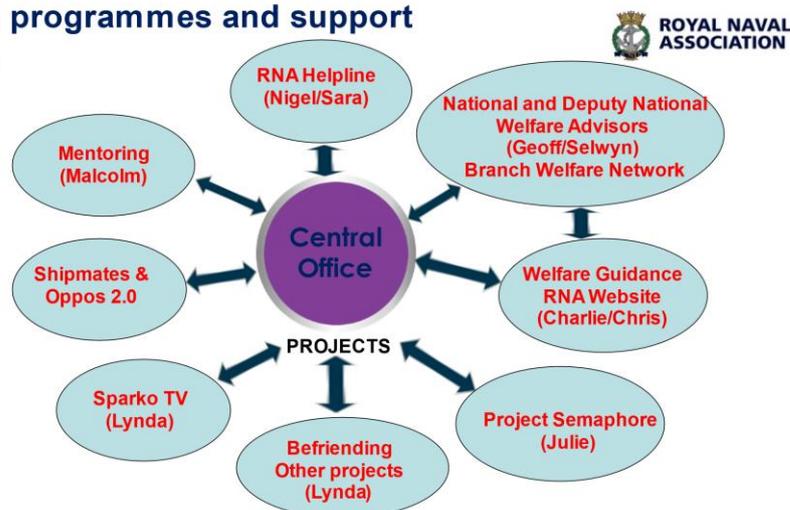


What about vaccination, any good news? Well yes there is. The extent and rate of jabbing continue to increase across the age groups and the evidence suggests vaccination is helping with breaking the link between hospitalisation and deaths keeping those down, if not infections. Other potential good news reported in the media medical press include preliminary that mixing Astra Zeneca and Pfizer jabs give protection for years and that giving a third Oxford vaccine dose gives strong boost to immunity. These need to be supported by further studies but good news as we move to becoming a fully vaccinated nation. Whilst the decision to vaccinate is always a personal one, the evidence is very strong that it helps saves lives directly and indirectly across the age groups including your own. More about vaccination and booking process at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> for England with similar links in other administrations.



What's going on in RNA Welfare? All shipmates must be aware that RNA has increased the priority given to welfare. This is clear in the increased welfare numbers working in welfare inside and outside Central Office. One aim is to support and grow our network of Welfare Officers with encouragement and training as well as giving advice and support on queries plus exciting new developments such as Project Sparko and the provision of a Welfare Seminar at the 2021 Conference. Regular Zoom Welfare Officers are now being held. We are also in process of updating all our welfare information such as Handbooks and FAQs with hoped for launch at Conference. Current welfare programmes and support are shown below. Welfare starts locally though with support from Central Office.

Welfare programmes and support in RNA



The team meets regularly as a Welfare Working Group to ensure co-ordination of our efforts and will produce a Welfare Strategy for the future. As part of that, we would like to know from shipmates how you see welfare and what would you like from us in the team. Initially we intend to survey the membership but input/comment is always welcome to the team. More information on the team next month.

Remember though that this Spotlight is written for you shipmates. So, suggestions for Welfare Spotlight articles or requests for advice are welcome at any time, please do send to me in the first instance. Selwyn as volunteer Advisers working closely with Central Office shipmates as Lynda Pearson, the Welfare Programme Manager, to continue and develop the increased focus of RNA on welfare support in 2021 and beyond. We'd all like to hear from you.



your
and I
such

Stay safe and stay well shipmates
Geoff Apperley National Welfare Advisor
geoff@royalnavalassoc.com

9. ★ History of Cap Tallies

Our thanks to the all-round bon oeuf and editor of RNA Stowmarket Newsletter 'GEN DIT' Shipmate Peter 'Chiv's' Chivers for this enlightening article.

Did you ever wear a Cap Tally?



Ratings were wearing cap tallies in the 1840s as part of their uniform, when the uniforms for ratings as we know them now were being established. Cap tallies were first formalised in the Uniform Regulations for Petty Officers, Seamen and Boys published 1857, with hat ribbons bearing the name of the ship of the wearer were recognised as part of the uniform. The regulations did not state specifically how the cap tally would be marked, but it had been customary for sailors to print the names of their ship in large capitals.

In February 1858, gilt wire lettering was officially introduced, and it was adopted first by the Commanding Officer of HMS WATERWITCH, Commander P.R. Sharpe. He had purchased some tallies from Thomas Stevens in Coventry and issued them to his ship's company at one shilling each. In the same year ribbons with letters woven in silk were submitted for issue as an article of seaman's clothing but the gilt wire woven ribbons issued to WATERWISH were adopted as official uniform issue.

At first the regulations did not state how the cap tally were to be tied, although there were illustrations in the Uniform Regulations published 1879 that show ribbons tied at the back of the cap with long ends hanging down. Between 1893 and 1911 cap tallies were tied in a bow over the left ear. From 1911, they were tied with the ends of the bow equal and not more than two inches (5cm) long.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, the Admiralty issued orders that cap tallies were not to be worn ashore as a security measure, though in 1915 orders were issued that ship's companies when ashore should wear the cap tally of their depot.

In the Second World War, Royal Navy cap tallies were only issued with HMS, or HM Destroyer/Minesweepers, and in the Royal Canadian Navy, it was ordered that only HMCS was to be worn on cap tallies. In May 1942, followed by the Royal New Zealand and Australian Navies giving orders for HMNZS and HMAS respectively. At the end of the war cap tallies were reissued with ship's names, which remains the standard practice for Junior Rates in the Royal Navy, RAN, and RNZN and other navies.



The shortest ship's name the Editor had on a cap tally was F.O.F.3. What was yours and does anyone know what ship or establishment name has the longest name on a tally? The Editor remembers FLAG OFFICER PORTSMOUTH, which if you count the letters is longer than H.M.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH.

10. ★ Platinum Jubilee Medal Petition

Shipmates, as you know we are not a politically motivated organisation, so it is entirely up to you whether you sign up to it or not, however, for your information, there is a petition going round which states that there are plans to issue a Platinum Jubilee medal to honour Queen Elizabeth II.

The criteria for the medal should include all personnel, serving or retired, who have had 5 years continuous service during Her Majesty's reign.

[Petition](#)

For information as we go to print over 10,000 people have signed the petition which requires 100,000 signatures to prompt a parliamentary debate.

11. ★ Views of Portsmouth Harbour

Shipmates may not be aware that you can view shipping comings and goings from Portsmouth Dockyard from the comfort of your armchair/ hammock! Check out this link.....

www.historicdockyard.co.uk/warrior-webcam

Enjoy.....

12. ★ Falklands Campaign 40th Anniversary Commemorations

Next year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign and thought you would appreciate an early 'Heads Up' of events that have been scheduled so far;

Sunday 29 May 22 – Falklands Veterans Foundation 40th Anniversary Memorial Service – Falklands Gardens Gosport followed by Freedom of the Borough Parade and Reception.

Sunday 12 Jun 22 – SAMA Annual Falklands Memorial Service – Pangbourne

Tuesday 14 Jun 22 – RBL Falklands Commemoration Event – details to be confirmed, however Attendance 10,000 including spouses. National Memorial Arboretum

Sunday 19 Jun 22 – RNA/Naval Associations Parade – Old Portsmouth – details to follow

The photo above shows HMS Hermes coming alongside after her return from the Falklands on what was then North Wall, now Princess Royal Jetty. (Photo courtesy Crown Copyright IWM (FKD 684)



13. ★ 100 Club - Shipmate Vic Coombes (City of Glasgow Branch)

City of Glasgow RNA member Vic Coombes celebrated his milestone birthday with a 'surprise' garden party. Vic enjoyed celebrating his birthday with the chairman of the branch Kenn McKinnon and the Scottish Area Chairman Brian MacKenzie along with family and friends. 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 is a keen member and supporter of the Glasgow branch of the RNA.



BZ Vic - congratulations and many happy returns.

14. ★ 100 Club – Shipmate Ron Checketts (Christchurch Branch)

Shipmate Ron Checketts reached his 100th Birthday on 30th May 2021. Photo opposite shows Ron with his Birthday card from HM Queen. Ron is proudly wearing his new Life Membership blazer badge presented to him by the Branch on being granted Life Membership as a WWII veteran.

Due to Covid we, as a Branch, have not been able to celebrate with Ron. However, we have moved our next Branch Meeting to 24th June post stage four lockdown on 21st June so that we can celebrate with S/M Ron with a tot and a specially made cake.





S/M Ron has been a member Of Christchurch & District Branch RNA for many years and continues to attend Branch meetings. Ron stays connected with friends and family via his 'Project Semaphore' iPad (pictured on the right). He is also a member of HMS Ganges Association & Dorset Division.

BZ Vic - congratulations and many happy returns.

15. ★ RNA 'SPARKO' TV Project

Comradeship is one of the core values of the RNA, and the Association works hard to ensure that older shipmates who cannot get out and about very easily do not feel isolated.

The Internet and social media make it easy connecting people around the world – so long as you can use the technology. Some people just find it tricky to get their heads around the finer points of Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, Youtube and the like – logging in can be a faff, establishing connections, updating software and the like are not always straightforward, and people can feel vulnerable with regards to online security. But there is now a way to make video calls, join online classes or talks and enjoy entertainment tailored for the senior community, all through a simple, dedicated system that plugs in to your television set. Essentially, Sparko is a simplified version of the Internet which can be accessed from the comfort of your sofa/armchair, through your TV. And thanks to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), that option is available for free to shipmates in the RNA.

The kit and service is provided by Sparko, a British 'virtual retirement community' which operates through interactive TV equipment. The Sparko TV kit is a small box which plugs in to a standard TV and comes with a small camera and a very simple remote control. The whole package comes with help and technical support if you need it.

Sparko brings people together using simple digital technology – your nearest and dearest can access the system using a free smartphone app. Once setup, Sparko enables you to make video calls to family and friends, watch specially-chosen films from an extensive library (including some of the old classics), learn new skills, pick up a new hobby, or take part in games. The system was trialled with the help of branches of Age UK, who welcomed Sparko with enthusiasm.

Some shipmates are already on board – S/M John King said: "Sparko has enabled me to stay in touch with other RNA members even when I've been forced to stay at home." And S/M Ernie Davies said: "I can ring anyone and I can actually see them. At last, we can see each other!"

The Sparko tool does not interrupt or interfere with your normal TV programmes – the camera is only activated if a person is on a video call or taking part in a live/class activity, and will show a small light when it is in operation. A privacy slider for the camera is included to cover the lens when it is not in use to ensure peace of mind. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from joining Sparko, they need to complete an Expression of Interest form which is available online at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/sparkotv/>

16. ★ Company of Makers

Central Office have linked up with the Company of Makers which exists to support Veterans and their families struggling to transition to civilian life, no matter how long ago they left the Armed Forces. They are based at Fort Cumberland, an 18th century fort built to guard the entrance to Langstone Harbour in Portsmouth, now a Scheduled Monument administered by Historic England.



As well as providing wellbeing support, they run practical workshops where people make things. 7 years down the line, demand for their workshops gets higher all the time. Never-the-less, CoM keep our groups small because you tell us that you love the individual attention and guidance.

Over the years, we've developed a wide range of activities driven by what you tell us you want to do; from drawing to photography, art to sewing, podcasting to woodwork.

Military people adapt and overcome! We often hear at the start, 'I haven't got a creative bone in my body' ... 'I'm no good with my hands' ... yet everyone ends up surprising themselves and is chuffed with what they make and take home to keep.

In today's Covid-world, you'll need to bring your own tea, we'll still lay on the banter. Men and women of action, join us, this is for you! Please see our website just open the link below <https://www.companyofmakers.com>

17. ★ A poem for our more Senior Shipmates

Shipmate Alan Rootes RN has forwarded the poem below to stir a few fond memories.....
Courtesy of D Howell.

Back in the day of bobs and tanners
Sailors from Guzz we all called Janners.
Bases in Malta and Honky Fid
And Kai in a Fanny without a lid.

A bucket you'd need to skirmish the yard
But the Buffer would take your station card
Watch on deck I've got the first
But it's all night in, so it's not the worst.

Back in the day when the navy had a fleet
Ships of the line, all tiddley and neat.
Cruisers and Destroyers in the FES and the Med
Make and Mend leave and swinging the lead

Back in the day, when bubbly was drawn
Round the mess table the G men would swarm
Favours earned sippers or a gulp of your tot,

For a week's dhobey you'd see off the lot.

Back in the day, of roughers and spray
When oilskins and seaboots was rig of the day
In the Med it was sixes all gleaming white
The trousers were Bells and the jumpers were tight

Back in those days when we all joined "THE MOB"
We all had a pride; it was more than a job
Civvies weren't allowed, the "Rig" is what we wore.
And we all walked tall when going ashore.

But those days are gone we've lost half the fleet
The pubs are all shut where we all used to meet
The bars where we sang have all lost their buzz
From Chatham to Weymouth, Pompey to Guzz

Carriers built but planes yet to come
Fifth fivers brought back, it's alright for some
The Andrew we knew has been terribly mashed
With establishments shut and manpower slashed.

So we spin dits and yarns, of times we were in
Wearing bellbottom trousers and we were all thin
But we're glad that we left and walked out of those gates
Because we've had the best times, when Pusser was great.

Up spirits (stand fast the Holy Ghost)

(Editors Note – Translation service is available to members of the RNA Youth Wing!)

18. ★ Falklands ride of Respect

Shipmates may wish to be aware about the Falklands Ride of Respect commencing on the 31 st July and completing on 15 August 2021. It which features four motorcyclists touring the UK and paying their respects to the fallen in the UK.

Paul Moore a former Para is leading the team and explains more (no pun intended!) below.....

Dear all,

Only seven weeks to go before we launch our third Falklands Ride of Respect.

The attached itinerary is the final version. **Locations, dates and timings will not alter unless there are unforeseen circumstances** therefore please plan on these and we would be grateful if the Service Associations would publish them on your websites and publications in the run-up to the ride, and we would be delighted to meet supporters on the ride.

In the past, volunteers from the various Associations, Ships and Units have provided guides and escorts to ensure we get to the right place as quickly as possible. This is always welcome as it saves us a load of time, and this can be spent with the families and friends of the fallen as we

make our act of Remembrance. We would also be grateful if the Service Associations could inform the families of the ride so that they can attend if they wish to do so.

Our aims have always been: **Remembrance - Respect - Awareness - Support**

and we know that our ride has achieved all of that in so many ways, and most importantly, families gain a little comfort from knowing that 39 years later, their loved one is not forgotten. We also know that around the country the graves are looked after and visited more than they were before by their Service pals, and that our ride has sparked a series of other similar rides around the UK.

Finally, we are very grateful for the support we have received from everyone in the last three years. In 2022 we hope to complete the series of Falklands Rides by visiting on motorbike the last 15 graves which are located in the Falkland Islands. Thank you for your continued support.

Paul Moore, Charlie McColgan, Phil Damant, Tony McKie - 2021 Falklands Ride of Respect Team

Tel: 07931446344

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Falklands-War-SAMA-Ride-of-Respect-2021-369572600436147>

JustGiving: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/falklandsrideofrespect2021>

SAMA82: <https://sama82.org.uk/4374-2/>

Airborne Forces Riders: <https://airborneforcesriders.com/ride-of-respect-2021-outline-route/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SjfPTel4_g

19. ★ 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.

20. ★ Joke for the Road

On the first day, he sadly packed his belongings into boxes, crates and suitcases.

On the second day, the removal company came and collected his things.

On the third day, he sat down for the last time at their beautiful dining-room table, by candle-light; he put on some soft background music, and feasted on a pound of shrimp, a jar of caviar, and a bottle of spring-water.

When he'd finished, he went into each and every room and deposited a few half-eaten shrimps dipped in caviar into the hollow centre of the curtain rods.

He then cleaned up the kitchen and left.

On the fourth day, the wife came back with her new boyfriend, and at first all was bliss.

Then, slowly, the house began to smell. They tried everything; cleaning, mopping, and airing-out the place. Vents were checked for dead rodents, and carpets were steam cleaned.

Air fresheners were hung everywhere. Exterminators were brought in to set off gas canisters, during which time the two had to move out for a few days, and in the end they even paid to replace the expensive wool carpeting. Nothing worked! People stopped coming too visit.

Tradesmen refused to work in the house. The maid quit.

Finally, they couldn't take the stench any longer, and decided they had to move, but a month later - even though they'd cut their price in half - they couldn't find a buyer for such a stinky house.

Word got out, and eventually even the local estate agents refused to return their calls.

Finally, unable to wait any longer for a purchaser, they had to borrow a huge sum of money from the bank to purchase a new place.

Then the ex called the woman and asked how things were going. She told him the saga of the rotting house. He listened politely and said he missed his old home terribly and would be willing to reduce his divorce settlement in exchange for having the house.

Knowing he could have no idea how bad the smell really was, she agreed on a price only 1/10th of what the house had been worth ... but only if he would sign the papers that very day.

He agreed, and within two hours her Solicitors delivered the completed paperwork.

A week later the woman and her boyfriend stood smiling as they watched the moving company pack everything to take to their new home

and to spite her ex-husband, they even took the curtain rods!

21. ★ Introducing Pussers Gunpowder Proof 'Spiced'



Pussers Rum LTD is proud to announce the production of its first batch of Gunpowder Proof Spiced Rum. It has been blended to Admiralty specifications (54.5% ABV) and aged for a minimum of three years in once used charred oak bourbon barrels and then mellowed with a subtle blend of spices including Banana, Vanilla, Chocolate, Cinnamon and a hint of Ginger that produce an incredibly smooth Spiced rum with deep flavours and a rich Amber colour that can be enjoyed neat, on the rocks or in a cocktail. The initial batch shall be sold exclusively through Paragon Brands, the Company's UK importer.

This new expression is replacing the old Pussers Spiced, which was bottled previously at 35%. Gary Rogalski (CEO of Pussers Rum) quotes: "We had an outpouring demand from rum aficionados around the world to "spice-up" liquid history and I believe we have accomplished that goal. We have added a nuance of Caribbean fruits and spices without taking anything away from the blend's classic Demerara wooden pot still heritage. I believe our customers will find the sensory perception of this rum be world-class in every respect!"

Pussers Rum Ltd. Bottles blends and distributes the original Royal Navy rum – one of the most historic and traditional rums still available today.

The new Pussers Spiced expression retails at Nauticalia for £43.99 for a 700ml bottle....www.nauticalia.com

22. ★ Assistance Required Please

Help Required – Two or more Project Managers urgently required to honour the dream of Joy Rainey – one of the bravest and fastest racing drivers. This will additionally showcase the skills of injured ex service personnel and raise monies for associated charities.

Joy Rainey had completed 2 epic journeys after a career in business and spectacular success as an amateur rally and racing driver. She was planning a third and final adventure but died prematurely after a lifelong battle against achondroplasia. Her premature death meant she was unable to complete her third self-imposed challenge. John O'Groats to Land's End in her 1904 Oldsmobile that she had already piloted across the US (West to East) and Australia.

As long term friends we are want to honour her by making the final journey to celebrate her life and her successful struggle to beat Achondroplasia.

Her aim was to drive the Oldsmobile from John o Groats to Land's End using disabled military personnel as Pit Crew. As a Charitable Activity she would have liked to see the proceeds go to the relevant disabled veterans' charities. So, according to Joy's wishes the Oldsmobile will be driven from



John o' Groats to Land's End supported by a support staff of principally disabled ex Service personnel, with the dual intent of showcasing their abilities and raising monies for their nominated charities. Joy can be seen pictured with Sir Stirling Moss in the photo above.

As this now coincides with the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War we will kick things off with a prologue in Portsmouth in the first week of April 2022, then start the run later in the year.

We have the car and the time!

We are looking for a couple of Project Managers to take on the task of planning the whole venture; Charitable activities, media and PR, detailing the route, selecting the support team (mechanics, catering...) , locating support vehicles. The whole shebang.

If you are interested, please contact me Stuart Barnes stuartrbarnes@btinternet.com

23. ★ Gin Lovers.....

Shipmates the RNA is very pleased to offer the "1921 Reserve" Navy Strength Gin to our members.

This Gin was blended by the Handmade Gin Company on the Wirral in conjunction with the RNR Officers' Club, Liverpool (Sea Urchins) to celebrate their Centenary this year.

This refreshing Gin contains botanicals from around the world to reflect our maritime heritage, including Lingonberries, Norwegian Angelica Root, complemented beautifully by Elderflower, Grapefruit, Licorice and Lemon at 57% ABV.

The good news is that this available at only £35 (+£4.50 P&P) and 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.

[Sea Urchins Navy Strength Gin – Mygin](#)



RNA Longcast

2021

30 Jul	Open Day
05 Aug	FAC – Zoom 0930
06 Aug	AMC – Zoom 0930
30 Aug	August Bank Holiday
03 Sep	National Council - Nottingham
03 Sep	NC Dines Out National President (VA McAnally)
04 Sep	AGM/National Conference - Nottingham
12 Sep	Naval Associations Biennial Parade - Whitehall
03 Oct	Lisbon Maru Dedication – NMA Alrewas
23 Oct	World Uckers Championships Finals - Portsmouth
05 Nov	Budget Meeting
11 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	FAC
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
18/19 Nov	AMC Meeting in Cleethorpes
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

11 Feb	AMC/FAC – Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
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.....

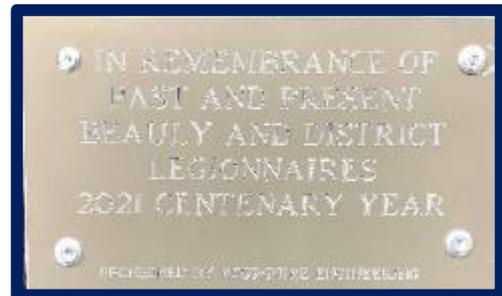
[RNA Inverness Branch](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA City of Glasgow](#)

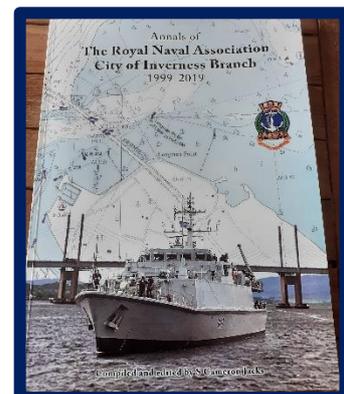
RNA Inverness Branch

Members of the RNA Inverness Branch and their Standard Bearer, Gordon Ross were invited to attend the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Royal British Legion Scotland at the unveiling of a new memorial bench in Beaulieu.



An unnamed correspondent reported that shortly after the commemoration Shipmate Bob Coburn was sighted at Wembley with the rest of the Tartan Army wearing his magnificent Scottish Bonnet (pictured above.....) it was also reported after a few wee drams/tots and 15 pints of McEwans and a swim in the Trafalgar square fountain (Nelson was one of his personal heroes) much later he had a tattoo to celebrate the famous 0-0 Win! He now has the word 'Freedom' and I love 'Wee Nicki Wembley June 2021' on his Buttocks! Mrs Coburn has failed to comment to date.....

Shipmates may also be interested in purchasing 'Annals of the RNA City of Inverness Branch 1999-2019' by member Sonia Cameron-Jacks. Copies of this 147 page A4 size Book are available from Bob Coburn, robertcoburn001@btinternet.com Price £10 + £3 p&p, or copies will be on sale @£10 at Conference in Nottingham



RNA St Neots Branch

On Saturday 15th May St Neots branch commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the Royal British Legion. At 0900 on 15 May **1921** a representative from each of 4 ex-Service organisations laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in Whitehall to mark the foundation of one organisation which would speak for all ex-Service personnel. To mark the occasion, at 0900 on 15 May **2021**, wreaths were laid at War Memorials throughout the UK.



In St Neots prayers were said by Rev Paul Hutchinson Vicar of St Neots Parish Church. Present from left were- S/M Tony Webley, RNA Branch Standard Bearer, John Lee S/M but also branch chairman of the RBL St Neots and RBL Branch Standard Bearer, Neil Donoghue, RAFA Branch Standard Bearer. Standards were dipped for the duration of the church bells chiming 0900, and a

wreath was laid by S/M Keith Ridley, RNA National Chairman and President of the St Neots and District Branch of the Royal British Legion. Also present were Stephen Ferguson, St Neots Town Mayor, S/M John Gibbs, Peter Plant (S/M and RBL) and S/M Mike Milne (Also photographer).

More St Neots activity.....

Three shipmates from St Neots branch, along with their wives/partners recently visited HMS Trincomalee at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Hartlepool, as part of a U3A trip to the North-East.

From L to R: Kay Castle, Stella Gibbs, Jim Lawson, Dave Thompson, Mavis Thompson and John Gibbs, enjoying the fine weather on the dockside.

The three old salts were pointing out various aspects of the ship to each other when they found they had attracted an audience listening in to their explanations, and they became tour guides (temporary, acting, unpaid) for a short while. During his time in the RN, John had been a tour guide on HMS Victory and is a mine of facts about square-rigged ships of this type, so he slotted easily into this new role.



Jim and Kay then mentioned that they had first met in the town of Trincomalee, on the east coast of Ceylon, as it then was (now Sri Lanka), when Jim was serving in the RN.

John commented "We found a rum tub in the Captain's cabin, but it lacked the required nectar, so we settled for a cuppa in the dockside canteen."

Our thanks go to Ian Cameron and Mike Milne for keeping us briefed on St Neots branch activities.

RNA City of Glasgow Branch



On Saturday 5th a commemorative service was held at Knightswood War Memorial to commemorate VE Day and The D Day landings.

S/M Brian MacKenzie carried the Branch Standard and S/M Kenn McKinnon laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch. Also in attendance was S/M Eddy Pollar.

CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Richard J Holden BEM](#)

[Joyce Ablitt](#)

[Pat Dunne](#)

Richard J Holden BEM - Bognor Regis Branch

Chairman of the Bognor Regis branch, S/M Ron Hargest, is saddened to announce the passing over the bar of a deeply respected and dear member.

Shipmate Richard J. Holden BEM was a founder member of the Bognor Regis branch who also served as the Treasurer for many years.

Richard retired from the Navy and RNVR as a CPO Coxswain. Serving from February 1945 until June 1983. Serving on HMS Bickington, Fittleton, Kellington, Blazer, Royal Arthur, Glendower, NAS Fulmer, NAS Raven and HMS Sussex (RNVR).

WWII Campaign medals include the Victory, Defence and War Service also Long Service and Good Conduct and Bar. Having retired from the Navy he worked as a gas fitter.

His absence at meetings of the branch will be sorely missed.

May he find safe anchorage.



Joyce Ablitt - Bognor Regis Branch

Bognor Regis branch are saddened to announce that a very popular shipmate Joyce Ablitt passed away on the 25th May 2021. Aged 95.

Former Leading Wren Joyce Ablitt joined the Navy at the age of 17, hoping this would give her a chance to see more of the world and to serve her country. Serving from 27th April 1943 until 14th January 1946 on the following establishments: HMS Victory, HMS Daedalus (Ford Naval Air Station) and HMS Excellent (HMS St Barbara). Whilst at Ford Air Station, she worked with pioneer aviator Sir Alan Cobham.



Drafted to the anti-aircraft gunnery training establishment HMS St Barbara, which in fact was Bognor Regis pier. She worked alongside 3 other Wrens in the galley, providing meals for the trainees and crew. She had to transport the food between the two sections of the pier, this entailed crossing over by a gangway. A favourite trick of the sailors was to bounce on the gangway whilst Joyce was in the middle, it resulted in her being scared, however she had the last laugh, when the sailors were under punishment, they were given additional work in the galley, where Joyce added an additional sack of potatoes to the work load.



The Wrens seemed to have had a whale of a time but were always aware that this was a dreadful period, there was war going on. Joyce was drafted to the Isle of Wight after she left HMS St Barbara. Unfortunately, Joyce never achieved her ambition of travelling to far distant corners, her Naval career was spent very close to her home of Bognor Regis. After the war she worked in Marks and Spencer as a display assistant.

She will be sorely missed by her shipmates at the Bognor Regis Branch.

May she find a safe anchorage.

Pat Dunne - Basildon Branch

Basildon Branch, Hon Secretary S/M Sheila Reynolds, reports with great sadness that our dear Shipmate Pat Dunne, "Crossed the Bar" on Friday, 11th June, 2021.

Pat was our last serving ex L/Wren 121610. She served at the following establishments:

Dauntless - December 64 - January 65
Victory - January 65 - July 65
President - July 65 - September 65
Dolphin - September 65 - February 66
Rayleigh - February 66 - February 67
St.Vincent - February 66 - October 67
Dolphin - October 67 - February 69
Rest in peace Shipmate.

UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/offers/members-cona-holidays-service/>

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- RNA member entry just £10 plus four guest at £10 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.

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.
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 2021/22 and I will publish them here

Note from the CONA (Conference of Naval Associations) Secretary -

I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,700 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk
2021	
24 Jul	HMS Intrepid Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea – Contact iansrich@outlook.com for booking form and itinerary.
Aug	RMBS 1/70 and 2/70 squads is planned for August 2021 in Deal. Contact Nick Buckley on nickbuckley55@aol.com
13/15 Aug	The HMS Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association will hold their 42nd Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea from 13th to 15th August 2021. Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details. askhamd3@gmail.com
04 Sep	2nd HMS Manchester Association's 20th Annual Reunion at the in the WO, SR & SNCO's Mess, HMS Nelson. For more details, please read the website www.2MA.org.uk .
24 Sep	HMS Tiger Reunion – St Pierre Hotel Newmillerdam Yorkshire
01 Oct	HMS Tartar Reunion – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
8/10 Oct	HMS Llandaff Reunion – Please contact Slinger Wood at kevin.wood@blueyonder.co.uk or 07961124459 or Web site www.hmsllandaff.co.uk The reunion packages to include Gala Dinner Saturday and Tots with wine reception and all entertainment and Half board accommodation with breakfast and evening meal 3 nights £ 160 per person 2 nights £ 120 Per person 1 Night (Sat) £80 inc Gala Dinner Great value for a great weekend and if covid restrictions are lifted our usual now world famous Llandaff Sods Opera on the Sunday Afternoon watch produced and directed by our very own Entertainments Officer - Ex Leading Seaman John 'Tomo' Thompson.

8/10 Oct	HMS Troubridge Final Commission Association Reunion to be held at Royal Beach Southsea 8/10 Oct. Contact Bryan Pace at Romft1@gmail.com or website HMS Troubridge.com
08 Oct	HMS Carysfort Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
08/11 Oct	<p>South West ex RN Social Group – Inaugural Autumn Reunion. Livermead House Hotel Torquay. Ex Serving, Serving, Partners and Friends are most welcome. Dinner Bed and Breakfast .</p> <p>3 nights £204, 2 Nights £136 Saturday evening ; Black Tie or best ‘Bib and Tucker’ Excellent Cuisine</p> <p>For further Details contact Sue at chikuai2920@gmail.com</p>
	
29 Oct	HMS Eagle/ Yarmouth/ Undaunted - Hallmark Hotel Derby
5/7 Nov	HMS Cleopatra Old Shipmates Association Reunion – For details contact Honorary Secretary Warwick Franklin at Warwick_franklin@outlook.com or call 10752 366611
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
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool

Swinging the Lamp – July 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	1831	'Weeovil Yard' renamed Royal Clarence Victualling Yard Portsmouth.
2 nd	1950	The start of United Nations operations in Korea. The light cruiser <i>Jamaica</i> , Capt J.S.C. Salter RN, in company with US cruiser <i>Juneau</i> (flag) and sloop <i>Black Swan</i> , destroyed five enemy MTBs off Imwon-jin, E. coast of Korea in the first naval action of the campaign. Battle Honour: Korea 1950–3.
3rd	1970	Admiral Sir Michael Le Fanu promoted Admiral of the Fleet on retiring early as First Sea Lord. In that post, the ginger-haired admiral presided over the demise of the Tot; his biography by Richard Baker was consequently entitled <i>Dry Ginger</i> . Admiral Le Fanu was mortally ill and died later that year.
4 th	1940	VC: A/LS Jack Foreman Mantle in <i>Foylebank</i> , sunk by German Aircraft at Portland.
5 th	1969	Frigates <i>Arethusa</i> and <i>Mohawk</i> , with Royal Marines embarked, arrived in Bermuda on a routine visit coincident with start of a three day international Black Power conference held in the Island.
6 th	1918	First recorded use of 'Asdics', in memorandum from Admiralty research establishment at Harwich.
7th	1988	Frigate <i>Phoebe</i> and MCMV <i>Blackwater</i> led SAR operation at Piper Alpha oil rig explosion, 120 miles N.E. of Aberdeen.
8th	1944	Light cruiser <i>Dragon</i> (Pol) damaged and minesweeper <i>Pylades</i> sunk by German one-man submarines in Juno area, Seine Bay. <i>Dragon</i> became blockship. Operation Neptune.
9th	1794	Captains' Servants remustered as Boys, in three grades.
10th	1911	King George V granted the title of Royal Australian Navy to the Permanent Naval Forces and the Citizen Naval Forces (Reserves) of Australia, which had been formed in 1901 at a federation of the individual state navies, thus creating the RAN and RANR. Royal Assent signed in October 1911.
11 th	1941	Destroyer <i>Defender</i> , returning to Alexandria after running supplies into Tobruk, damaged by a heavy bomb in bright moonlight which exploded under her engine room and broke her back in Gulf of Sollum 7 miles N. of Sidi Barrani. <i>Defender</i> taken in tow by destroyer HMAS <i>Vendetta</i> but had to be torpedoed by <i>Vendetta</i> (31.45N, 35.31E). No casualties.
12th	2001	The Captain General Royal Marines, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, presented new Queen's and Regimental Colours to 40 Cdo (Lt-Col David Capewell RM), 42 Cdo (Lt-Col David Hook RM) and to 45 Cdo (Lt-Col Tim Chicken RM) at a parade on Plymouth Hoe. The three units had last received colours at Malta in 1952.

13 th	1965	Submarine <i>Tiptoe</i> , Lt-Cdr Charles Henry Pope RN, in collision with frigate <i>Yarmouth</i> , off Portland Bill. Flag Officer Flotillas, Home Fleet, Rear-Admiral J.O.C. Hayes, was embarked in the frigate. Court martial CO <i>Tiptoe</i> at Portsmouth 8 September: Severe Reprimand.
14 th	1749	Execution by 'a file of musketeers' of Lt Samuel Couchman and Lieutenant of Marines John Morgan on board <i>Chesterfield</i> (40) in Portsmouth Harbour for having led a mutiny in that ship off Cape Coast Castle, West Africa, the year before. The ship's former carpenter and three men were hanged.
15 th	1971	Submarine Service dolphin badges first issued at ceremonial divisions. FOSM made presentations at <i>Dolphin</i> . Other divisions held at Faslane; Vickers, Barrow; Dounreay; Birkenhead; Chatham and Devonport.
16 th	2003	<i>Anglesey</i> , Island-class fisheries patrol vessel, entered Portsmouth for the last time to pay off after twenty-four years' service. She had steamed 644,000 miles since joining the Fleet in 1979.
17 th	1945	First combined attack on the Japanese mainland (Hitachi area of Honshu) by the British Pacific Fleet and US battleships. Task Force 37. Ships: <i>King George V</i> , <i>Formidable</i> , <i>Black Prince</i> and <i>Newfoundland</i> with five destroyers.
18 th	1961	45 and 42 Cdos RM relieved on station in Kuwait where they had been landed by 845 NAS (Whirlwinds) from <i>Bulwark</i> (supported by Sea Vixens of 892 and 893 NAS, <i>Centaur</i> and <i>Victorious</i>). 42 Cdo left on 20 July.
19 th	1545	<i>Mary Rose</i> capsized and sank at Spithead when sailing to engage the French. Raised 11 October 1982.
20 th	1918	Submarine E 34 lost, probably mined, off Vrieland in Heligoland Bight, the last of twenty-eight E-class submarines lost in First World War. The body of her Captain, Lt Richard Pulleyne, was washed ashore in the West Friesian Islands. He had been the sole survivor from B 2, lost in collision with the Hamburg-Amerika liner <i>Amerika</i> on 4 October 1912.
21 st	1995	Rear-Admiral John Tolhurst, Flag Officer Sea Training, hauled down his flag at Portland and embarked in the frigate <i>Argyll</i> , the last ship to leave Portland before the closure of the base. The last ship to do OST at Portland was <i>London</i> . Sea Training HQ transferred to Devonport where FOST flies his flag in <i>Drake</i> . DCI(RN) 266/95.
22 nd	1942	10th S/M flotilla returned to Malta from ten week exile up the Mediterranean, to find its piggery in maximum production and to prepare for Operation Pedestal.
23 rd	1964	HM The Queen, principal guest at a Royal Marines Tercentenary dinner at RNC Greenwich presided over by the Captain General, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, directed that in future the Loyal Toast should be drunk seated in all Royal Marines officers' and non-commissioned officers' messes ashore and afloat. The Queen further directed that the health of the Captain General should also be drunk seated. The decisions were probably unplanned: Earl Mountbatten wrote the suggestion on his menu at the dinner and passed it to the Queen. Royal Marines Routine Order 201/64 dated 28 August 1964 made it so.

24 th	1915	The first success by a RN surface Q-ship deployed in anti-submarine operations. The 400-ton auxiliary fleet collier <i>Prince Charles</i> (Lt W.P. Mark-Wardlaw, seconded from the staff of Admiral Hon. Sir Stanley Colville, Flag Officer Orkneys and Shetlands, and whose merchant service crew had volunteered to a man), armed with concealed two 6-pdrs and two 3-pdrs, sank U-36 (Kapitanleutnant Ernst Graeff) off North Rona Island, 100 miles W. of Scapa (59.07N, 05.30W).
25 th	1797	Nelson's right arm, shattered in the repulsed attack on Santa Cruz in Tenerife in the Canary Islands, amputated on board <i>Theseus</i> by French surgeon M. Ronicet, a French Royalist refugee from Toulon.
26 th	1953	Aircraft maintenance carrier <i>Unicorn</i> liberated SS <i>Inchkilda</i> , which had been taken by three Chinese pirate gunboats and which she surprised off Ockseu Roads.
27 th	1973	Fleet Laundry Training Unit at <i>Drake</i> closed due to lack of use following the employment of Chinese laundrymen in home waters. DCI(RN)T.238/73.
28 th	1914	British fleets ordered to their war bases.
29 th	1943	Wellington G/172 sank U-614 in S.W. Approaches (46.42N, 11.03W).
30 th	1943	RMS <i>Queen Mary</i> , in her wartime troopship role, arrived on the Clyde from New York with 16,683 souls on board, the greatest number of people ever embarked in one vessel. Had departed New York 25 July; 3,353 miles covered in 4 days 20 hours 42 minutes at average speed of 28.173 knots.
31 st	1987	HRH Don Juan de Borbon y Battenberg, Count of Barcelona, appointed an honorary admiral in Her Majesty's Fleet. He was the son and designated heir of King Alfonso XIII of Spain and Victoria Eugenie of Battenberg; his father was replaced when the Second Spanish Republic was declared on 14 April 1931. Don Juan died 1 April 1993. His son is His Majesty King Don Juan Carlos I of Spain.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2021 Nottingham

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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 payment of subscriptions 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.

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 2019 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members 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. Please note. Conference packs are NOT sent out before Conference but collected on the day by each delegate. A full set of background paperwork will be sent to each Branch before Conference. Having sent in your application by mail or e mail you may wish to phone Nigel on 023 9272 3747 to confirm receipt of your application.