



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



Published 1st
Monday of
the Month

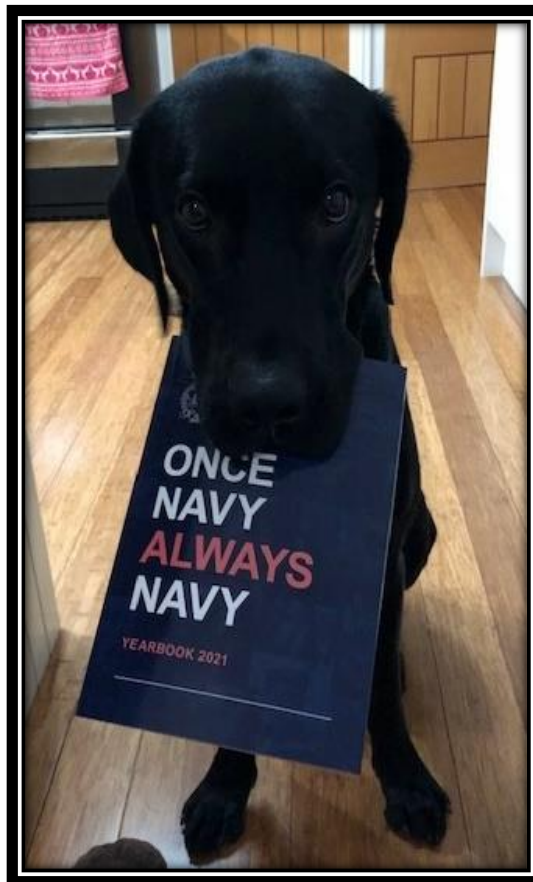


The Semaphore Circular

No 717

The Beating Heart of the RNA

March 2022



***Shipmate NELSON, of Beaulieu Branch, has received his copy of the
RNA Year Book, hope you have received yours.***

You'll be pleased to know he tried to lick the Postie to death!!

	Central Office Contacts	
Admin	023 9272 3747	Admin@royalnavalassoc.com
CEO/General Secretary	023 9272 2983	Bill@royalnavalassoc.com
Operations	07889 761934	Andy@royalnavalassoc.com
Finance	023 9272 3823	Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com
Communications	07860 705712	comms@royalnavalassoc.com
Digital Communications		Mike@royalnavalassoc.com
Fundraising – Special Events	07926 128754	Malcolm@royalnavalassoc.com
Membership Support	023 92723747 07542 680082	Sara@royalnavalassoc.com
Welfare Programmes	07591 829416	Lynda@royalnavalassoc.com
Project Semaphore		Lynda@royalnavalassoc.com
	National Advisors	
National Branch Retention and Recruiting Advisor		Rna.brra@outlook.com
National Welfare Advisor		Geoff@royalnavalassoc.com
National Rules and Bye-Laws Advisor		njpurkis@hotmail.com
National Ceremonial Advisor		Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com

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

1. [National Standard Bearer Competition](#)
2. [Black Tot Day London](#)
3. [RNA HMS Mars Project – RNA Cork and County Branch](#)
4. [F40 Programme](#)
5. [F40 PCC Civic Reception](#)
6. [RBL F40 Commemoration](#)
7. [RBL Invite to Bereaved Families](#)
8. [Invite to Typhoon 3000 Jack Up Barge](#)
9. [Special Interest Group Contacts](#)
10. [Decorative Ropework Interest Group](#)
11. [RNA Cricket Match](#)
12. [Fireside Chat Programme](#)
13. [The making of the Lisbon Maru Memorial](#)
14. [RNRMC Battlefield Cycle Challenge](#)
15. [More Operation Mincemeat](#)
16. [Assistance Please – Mesothelioma](#)
17. [Assistance Please – SODS Opera Scripts](#)
18. [Joke for the Road](#)

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

From the General Secretary

Dear Shipmates,

We are not a political organisation however the outrageous Russian invasion of Ukraine goes beyond that, and I think I speak for many when I say we are deeply saddened by the turn of events and we offer our heartfelt sympathies to Ukraine's citizens. We're not organising anything centrally, but I take my hat off to any branches locally who may be thinking about organising charitable support. I know Edna Clarke, the Ramsey Branch Secretary, is organising a concert to support the humanitarian effort – BZ Edna!



If any Branches want to organise something, NCVO have produced some information on how charities and civil society can support Ukraine, and what the possible impact of the war could be on charities in the UK. [Please click here to find out more.](#)

The Charity Commission and Fundraising Regulator have urged the public to 'give safely' to registered charities helping and supporting those affected by the invasion of Ukraine. [Read more here.](#) The Charity Commission CEO has also released a statement on Ukraine crisis and its implications for charities – [read more here.](#)

Meanwhile, plans are coming together nicely for the Conference weekend in Portsmouth 17-19 June where we will be taking the opportunity to commemorate and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict. With the weekend themed days to *Reunite, Relive and Remember* it promises to be a great weekend and will be the Association's flagship event so please come and support it. There will be something – we hope – for all.



On Friday we are looking for members to take part in a plethora of events which have been put on by the Interest Groups to which everyone is welcome.....we

more golfers to face the RMA at Southwick Park, more cricketers to face the same opposition at Burnaby Road, more course fishermen, more cyclists to bring their bikes, more motorcyclists, and more of you who have an old or interesting car to join the rally. Please, get in touch with the specific organisers who are listed later in this Circular. And, for those who simply want to have a beer and chat to shipmates, please consider doing that at the edge of the cricket ground at Burnaby Road to support our lads on where the bar will be open and the sun will be shining – the Chaplain of the Fleet has booked that as well!

Also, if anyone is worried about obtaining accommodation, Portsmouth University have kindly offered inexpensive accom – please see more detail published later in the Circular.

This month, we've expanded the Team here in Central Office or, as I prefer to call it, the Ship's Office. We are constantly striving to improve our benefits of membership and the latest project we are working towards establishing is an individual mentoring programme which seeks to hook

up service leavers with those of us who have already made the leap into successful civilian employment. With money from the Covenant Trust Fund, we have taken on John Scrivier in a part-time role to develop and lead this project which we are calling Shipmates and Oppos 2.0.

Shipmates will remember we had a transition programme with the same name a few years ago which was tremendously successful for eventually failed to attract charitable funding as the same service was effectively being provided with public money. This version of Shipmates and Oppos will fill a gap which currently isn't available and we hope will help serving shipmates to more confidently make that difficult leap. More to follow and please keep your powder dry for now if you are itching to volunteer.

John is already well connected in the naval charity sector; he has been working with Veterans Outreach Support since retiring from the RN where, in his last post, he was CO of VICTORY. This initiative will directly contribute to one of the Queen's directives in our Charter - *To advise and assist Members and other persons who have served in Our Naval Forces in their search for employment.* Welcome John.

In other news, in brief: at the end of last month, the database membership stood at just over 13400; Sara is dealing with approx 10 new membership applications per day. To help out, the RNRMC will soon take on a large part of our backroom finance duties. The changes will be imperceptible to most members as the transactions which already occur through the membership desk will continue.

Also, working ever closer with RNRMC, we are looking to share a new employee based in Plymouth – the RNA/RNRMC South-West Engagement Officer. The job advert for this post is now live. In short, I'm looking for someone who, should they be punctured, the liquid oozing out would be blue rather than red! [Link to job advert here.](#)

Finally, I had the privilege of visiting the New Entry RNA mentors at HMS RALEIGH last week who were briefed on the new training contract which has come into effect during the Covid period. Although this will limit access to the trainees, the value of the programme was recognised and applauded as the mentors continue to do a fantastic job supporting New Entry training and communicating with the families of the trainees. A big BZ to you all.

Best wishes,

Bill Oliphant

Chairman's chat

Hello again Shipmates,

Time to man up for missing the February edition of Andy's monthly rag. He did chase me up a few times but unfortunately, other National, Area and Branch matters came onto the Radar which filled in my empty RNA life as National Chairman.

First off, whilst the government has eased Covid regulations, Covid is very much out there as I found out following my visit to No 10 Area Meeting at Wallesey (Scouse land) on 29th January, despite having been triple jabbed. Given my diary appointments I decided to run a daily check for several days immediately resulting in being positive for 4 days, 2 negative days and then a positive for just one day, but I am pleased to say I have tested negative ever since. Please be cautious and keep safe. My thanks to No 10 Area, RNA Wallesey Club & Branch for their warm welcome and hospitality when I attended the Area AGM.

I would like to thank Rushden Branch for their warm welcome when I attended their Branch AGM and awarded a Certificate of Appreciation (C.o.A.) to S/m David Hawker for his outstanding contribution to his Branch over a long period.

In recognition of committed support in operating the Saturday evenings Virtual Tot Times, C.o.A's have been awarded to S/m's Eric Holmwood, Kevin Hackett & Geoffrey Hughes - otherwise known as the Chuckle Brothers of Wrexham Branch, to Karl Webb of Huntingdon Branch for his operation and IT support to his Royal Naval Association Community Site. My thanks go to these Shipmates who through their efforts have brought together numerous S/m's here in the UK and overseas who probably would never met but are now individually or collectively in touch with each other. I also thank our General Secretary Bill Oliphant for introducing the very successful Monday Night Fireside Chats and for organising the numerous speakers on the most interesting subjects. To those S/m's who have not yet joined the Zoomed Fireside Chats and Virtual Tot Times, I highly recommend you tune in. Details are to be found in the weekly Semaphore Short.

Branch Commissioning Anniversaries: Congratulations go to Spalding Branch (No 9 Area) and Torbay Branch (No 4 Area) for celebrating respectively their 60th & 75th Anniversaries of their Commissioning. Unfortunately, due to Covid, Torbay had to wait a further 2 years to celebrate. A BZ to both Branches. As a reminder, commemorate certificates are available from Central Office to acknowledge a Branch's 21st, 30th, 40th, 50th etc anniversary of Commissioning. When required, please make your request as early as possible. As mentioned elsewhere in this month's circular and last week's Semaphore Short, Cork Branch is still seeking donations towards its HMS MARS Appeal to refurbish the memorial and 9 Graves in Cobh Cemetery. A peace time gunnery exercise aboard the Ship in 1902 resulted in an explosion killing 11 men. Being a peacetime incident, the upkeep of the graves does not come under the responsibility of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Two of the men's bodies were repatriated by their families back to England. The memorial and headstones are now looking sad and in need of refurbishment. Donations no matter how small will be appreciated and should either be sent to Central Office either by cheque payable to 'Royal Naval Association' marked "HMS MARS" on the reverse or via Bank transfer to Sort code: 60-05-14 Account No 29671612.



Behind the scenes at Central Office & Membership news: Our Team of staff at Central office continue to be maxed out with work beavering away on all fronts with the continued flow of new memberships, planning the 3 months ahead regarding the National Standard Bearers Competition, F40 weekend, National Conference plus the normal administration tasks associated with running and supporting *probably the 2nd best club in the world* – please do not ask what the Best Club is! As requested before, please do not always expect an immediate response to an enquiry as the *busy sign* is no doubt hanging on the office door. Give a little slack, and if necessary, follow up with a polite reminder.

Branch Admin – Can I remind Branch Secretaries to ensure their Year End Branch Returns are submitted to Central Office no later than 30th April – Branch Bye-Law B19 (c) refers. This must be confused with the Annual Return required by the Charity Commission if your Branch is registered as a charity other than under the RNA's national charity No 266982.

Branch Standards Cover. Branch Treasurers are requested to ensure the annual cover fee has been paid to Central Office. For several years the Association has had a scheme to *self insure* Branch Standards against Damage or Loss for an annual fee of £5. If your Branch has not paid this annual fee, or is in arrear for not having paid it, then a claim is likely to be rejected.

National Council Members (NCM's): Just to say that this year there will be several new faces sitting around the National Council Table as a result from last year's elected candidates', and this year's elections which are taking place. These are important positions as NCM's are also National Trustees of the RNA. Whilst no problem exists with NCM nominees, we do occasionally experience problems with Areas not having a Deputy NCM. Hopefully, come June at National Conference all 13 NCM & DNCM posts will have been filled. It must be noted that if your Branch or is to have a voice at National Council, then your Area needs to be represented.

In December I mentioned having spent four hours Sea Time aboard HMS BELFAST. At the end of February, I spent a further 5 hours Sea Time onboard, supplemented by Bill Oliphant and myself having experienced further Sea Time on the Torpoint Ferry (clunk clunk clunk) when we travelled to Oggie Land to visit HMS RALEIGH to meet training staff and the RNA voluntary Mentors. A most interesting visit with the establishment beginning to get back to a normal Post Covid routine. As of 1st March, some 590 recruits were undergoing training. Bill and I got the opportunity to sit in on a presentation with 60 recruits which Bill spoke about the role of the RNA. I was most impressed that 1/3rd are to serve on Submarines, 1/3rd to serve with the Fleet Air Arm, and General Service 1/3rd. The young lad sitting alongside me apologised for not having known about the RNA as he would have paid for his late Granddad, a former RN Man to have been a member of the RNA. Another newly super excited qualified Seaman who I spoke with was flying out on 3rd March to join HMS MONTROSE in Bahrain. All in all, the lads and lasses were thrilled to be joining the Best Club in the World.

Well Shipmates, that is it for now. To all serving Shipmates including reservists, maintaining the peace, and keeping the sea lanes open, keep up the good work, we are 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.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com

1. ★ National Standard Bearers Competition – 07 May 2022 HMS Collingwood

Standard Bearers are gently reminded that applications for the 2022 National Standard Bearers Competition in HMS Collingwood on Saturday 07 May 2022 are now being accepted.



There are two competitions; The National Standard Bearer Open Competition and the Novice Competition so whatever your level why not come along and join in the fun. Please submit names to either S/M Andy Christie andy@royalnavalassoc.com or the National Ceremonial Advisor, S/M Bob Coburn robertcoburn001@btinternet.com

Please include competitors name with DoB and name of any guests with DoB's - whether accommodation in HMS

Collingwood is required on Friday/Saturday night, Vehicle Reg details,

Spectators most welcome – Forward Name (DoB) and Vehicle Reg to Andy or Bob

Entries for competitors close on 02 April 2022

Programme

Friday 6 May

1500 – 1700	Photo session for Ceremonial Guidelines – NCA / S/M Huxtable
1600 - 1800	Practise and Training on Parade Ground (NCA and Team available for advise/guidance)

Saturday 7 May

0830	Competitors and Spectators arrive HMS Collingwood Main Gate
0900 -1000	Practise on Parade Ground
1000	Novice Competition Commences
O/C	National Standard Bearer RNA & Association of Wrens Competition Commences
O/C	Prize Giving Ceremony and Reception
O/C	Secure

The National Ceremonial Officer is looking forward to receiving entries for at least one competitor from each Area and he would ask Area Committees specifically to encourage Shipmates to volunteer for this vital area of RNA commemoration business and enable the tradition of Standard Bearers to continue.

Training and encouraged in all Areas is provided so please contact Shipmate Bob at robertcoburn001@btinternet.com



2. ★ 'Black Tot' Day London 31 July 2022

Ahoy Shipmates,

Calling all "Tot Time Tigers" HQS Wellington, Blackfriars, London is this year's venue in remembering our last Tot of Rum issued. (www.thewellingtontrust.org)

Plans are being put in place to have on board along with a full Tot of Rum sponsored by "Pusser,s Rum issued to all those attending, the Royal Marines Association Band, and Shep Woolley to entertain us along with on board catering for up to 200 attending at £30 a head.

Unfortunately, there is no wheelchair access available . Our Charity along with last year will be Royal Navy Royal Marines Charity. Those wishing to attend please contact Dave Parry RNA Bromley Branch on dparryparry@btinternet.com

3. ★ RNA Cork and County Branch - Assistance Please - HMS Mars Project

Shipmates RNA Cork and County Branch would appreciate your assistance and are appealing for funds to enable them to refurbish the HMS Mars Memorial to coincide with the anniversary of the tragic accident 120 years ago.

Very tragically twelve Royal Navy sailors were killed when a gun exploded on HMS Mars during gun practice off the coast of Ireland on the 14th of April 1902. Two of the casualties were buried at sea, one of the sailors was repatriated to the south of England and the remaining nine of the sailors are buried in Cobh, County Cork.

As you can imagine, the intervening years have taken their toll on the headstones and professional help is required to refurbish them. As this disaster occurred during training and was pre-war, none of the statutory bodies will consider grant aid towards the refurbishment.



The actual cost of refurbishing the headstones is in the region of €2,500 and it is beyond the small local Branch to cover it. Any assistance with this very worthwhile project would be greatly appreciated by the shipmates of Cork & County Branch.

Donations can be sent by cheque direct to RNA Central Office marked for the HMS Mars Project. Or direct into the RNA Bank Account Sort Code 60-05-14 Acc No 29671612 again ensure you annotate for HMS Mars Project on the payment.

A commemoration will be held on Sunday 24 April commencing at 1430 on Old Church Cemetery Cobh.

Thank you for your consideration Shipmates

4. ★ F40 Programme – Round Up

Dear Shipmates,

Please find below a number of articles relating to events and activities relating to the Falkland 40th commemorations.

Shipmates the aim of the Falklands 40th weekend, which includes the 2022 RNA Conference on 17/18/19 June 2022 is to Reunite, Relive and Remember and just to emphasise this isn't just a weekend for those who took part in the Falklands Conflict; it's an opportunity for our entire membership to pay their respects to those who were lost and who contributed to the effort, whether serving RN, RM, RFA, Merchant Navy, Dockyard workers, spouses, or children of those serving.

Unlike previous recent RNA AGM/ National Conferences, the events of the weekend will not be centred on a single venue. Delegates and attendees should therefore seek their own accommodation in Portsmouth. To help, a list of accommodation venues and websites is attached.



The RNRMC is supporting this activity and Branches are invited to **apply for grants** for transport for Shipmates to be able to attend the F40 weekend. More details can be found at [Falklands 40 Fund | The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity \(rnrmc.org.uk\)](https://www.falklands40.org.uk)

REUNITE

On the Friday, our Special Interest Groups will gather in their clusters to take part in activities around the Portsmouth area. All our members are invited to be involved in this, whether they've joined a Special Interest Group yet or not. We're hoping that there will be an activity to interest everyone and plans are still being developed to bring more to the programme over the coming months. If you don't find something that sparks your interest but have an idea for an RNA group/activity you would like to be the Group Leader for then please do get in touch with us and let us know. Email us at: admin@royalnavalassoc.com

The Special Interest Groups are a new initiative from the RNA, so these events will be an inaugural activity for most, meaning you can be involved right from the start! Each group has its own Group Leader for you to email and express your interest to.

Golf – The RNA Golfers will be gathering at Southwick Park Golf Course on Friday 17th June for bacon butties and 18-holes across the land that Churchill and Eisenhower plotted the D-Day landings from. To be involved in this, please express your interest to their Group Leader, Colin Dinsdale – rna.golfers@gmail.com

Cricket – Are you a cricketer? Would you be keen to join an RNA Cricket team? The Royal Navy's Burnaby Road will be hosting a cricket match for us, against the Royal Marines Association, and we need a team! The match will start at 1300 on Friday 17th June, with refreshments served at around 1630 on completion. Clearly, this will also be a great spectator event and the bar will be open throughout. To be involved in this, please express your interest to Gordon Williams – chairman@rna-7area.org

Riders – The RNA Riders branch will be gathering in Portsmouth (location TBC) and rallying out to Sammy Miller's vintage bike museum in the New Forest on Friday 18th June. Whether you've been involved in the group previously or would like to join as a new member, anyone on two wheels is welcome. To be involved in this, please express your interest to Simon Zammit – rnarbarea3@gmail.com

Fishing – The RNA Fishing SIG will be hosting a social coarse fishing event on Friday 18th June at Southwick Park Lake. Whether you're an experienced fishermen or new to the sport, everyone is welcome. It's a beautiful and extremely peaceful place to spend the whole day or just a few hours. To be involved in this, please express your interest with an email to rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com

Classic Cars – The RNA Classic Car SIG will be meeting at RHS Wisley on Friday 17th June for a car rally down to Portsmouth, avoiding the A3 by taking A and B roads for a steady amble. All classic cars, their drivers and passengers are welcome to get involved in this. To express your interest in participating in this, would you kindly advise Group Leader, Mike Burnham m.burnham@btinternet.com by 23:59Hrs 15 March 2022 of your:

- Intention to participate
- Your joining point
- Your Vehicle make, model and Registration Number

Camping & Caravanning –

It has been a challenge to confirm location details, but the RNA Motorhome, Caravan & Camping Group will be hosted at a site in the Portsmouth area. If you would like to become a member of the group and camp over the weekend, please express your interest to their Group Leader, Ron Shilton – rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com

On Friday evening, the 17th of June, Shipmates will reunite at 1900 for the Band of the Royal Marines to Beat Retreat at the steps of the Guildhall, followed by evening drinks reception on HMS Warrior*. Members will be invited to walk to HMS Warrior or call taxis from the Guildhall taxi rank. For those less able, the RNA minibuses will run a shuttle from the Guildhall to Victory Gate.



* Please note, Portsmouth City Council will run a separate and free Civic Dinner that evening for Falklands Veterans and one guest– Please see the specific details in Paragraph 2.

RELIVE

Saturday's events will be hosted in a marquee in the rear garden of the HMS Nelson Wardroom. An abbreviated National AGM will take place in the morning, with delegates gathering at 0830 for breakfast rolls with formalities starting at 0900.

This will be followed at 1100 by a 'Falklands Forum' with a panel of Falklands veterans, representing different aspects of the Conflict. Some RMA members will also attend and a sandwich lunch will be provided.



Throughout Saturday afternoon we will have wellbeing support and guidance available for all Shipmates if required. Wellbeing experts will be on hand to give immediate support and signpost to ongoing initiatives. If you have any wellbeing concerns ahead of the event, please get in touch

with our Wellbeing Programme Manager, Lynda Pearson to discuss them in confidence.

lynda@royalnavalassoc.com

Model Making – The RNA Model Makers group will be displaying their crafts in HMS Nelson’s Wardroom during the AGM and the Falklands Forum. If you’d like to join their group and display a model of your own, please express your interest to their Group Leader, Gary Daisley – rna.modelmakers@gmail.com

After a short break (time for a siesta/LLD and a dhobi), members and guests will be invited back to the marquee at HMS Nelson Wardroom at 1930 for an 80s themed dance and buffet dinner. With a live band and 80s tunes playing late into the night, this is an event not to be missed!

REMEMBER

On the Sunday, in Old Portsmouth, those connected to the Naval Service under the leadership of Portsmouth City Council, are invited to march with their Shipmates with the RNA National, Area and Branch Standards for a 1100 Service of Remembrance at the Falklands memorial in the Hot Walls. This will be 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 in Portsmouth Cathedral with a short service, , as well as civic refreshments. Final timings and instructions for this element of the weekend will be published over the coming months, but those Shipmates marching will form up at the Ben Ainsley Building (Before Broad Street is closed to traffic)

List of Hotels to assist.



*******The cost of the functions over the whole weekend (including HMS Warrior reception on Friday evening and Forum sandwich lunch and Buffet Dinner on Saturday) is £30 per person*******



F40 Booking Form
PDF.pdf

The link to the attendance pro-forma is here

Hotel	Location	Postcode
Premier Inn Portsmouth Dockyard	Queen St, Portsea	PO1 3EE
Premier Inn Portsmouth City Centre	Brunel Road, Portsmouth	PO1 2TR
Queen’s Hotel Portsmouth	Clarence Parade, Southsea	PO5 3LJ
Holiday Inn Express Portsmouth, Gunwharf Quays	The Plaza, Portsmouth	PO1 3FD

<u>Ibis Portsmouth</u>	Winston Churchill Ave, Southsea	PO1 2LX
<u>Travelodge Portsmouth City Centre</u>	Stanhope Rd	PO1 1FB
<u>Travelodge Portsmouth</u>	North End	PO2 8AB
<u>Holiday Inn Portsmouth</u>	Pembroke Rd	PO1 2TA
<u>The Duke Of Buckingham</u>	High St, Portsmouth	PO1 2HW
<u>The Ship Leopard Boutique Hotel</u>	Portsea, Portsmouth	PO1 3DT
<u>Hotel Ibis Budget Portsmouth</u>	Fratton Way, Southsea	PO4 8SL
<u>Somerset House Boutique Hotel</u>	Florence Road, Southsea	PO5 2NE
<u>Premier Inn Southsea Hotel</u>	Long Curtain Rd, Southsea	PO5 3XX
<u>Becketts</u>	Bellevue Terrace, Southsea	PO5 3AT
<u>Seacrest Hotel</u>	Southsea	PO5 2JB
<u>Portsmouth Marriott Hotel</u>	Cosham, Portsmouth	PO6 4SH
<u>Village Hotel</u>	Lakeshore Drive, Portsmouth	PO6 3FR
<u>Premier Inn Portsmouth North Harbour</u>	Cosham, Portsmouth	PO6 4SA
<u>Royal Maritime Club (Home Club)</u>	Queen St, Portsea	PO1 3HS
<u>Royal Beach Hotel</u>	St Helen's Parade, Southsea	PO4 0RN
<u>Also, the University have B&B rooms available with city centre & Southsea options (costing around £52 per night)</u>	Email david.goodwin@port.ac.uk or call him on 02392 844567	
Also, check accom at the following sites:		
www.airbnb.co.uk		
https://www.trivago.co.uk/		
https://uk.hotels.com/		
https://www.booking.com/		

5. ★ F40 Civic Reception for RNA South Atlantic Medal Holders

Shipmates,

As part of the commemorations of the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign, Portsmouth City Council (PCC) will be holding a Civic Reception and Dinner for South Atlantic Medal (SAM) holders in Portsmouth Guildhall on the evening of Friday 17 June 2022.



For information there are no more tickets remaining for this event. Successful applicants will be informed individually shortly. A reserve list is now in operation for tickets that become available due to cancellations etc.

6. ★ 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.

If you would like to attend the event you will need to register with the RNA at admin@royalnavalassoc.com **before 22 April 2022** where you will need to supply the following information;

Forename/s Surname
Full Address (including Post Code)
Place of Birth – City
Country of Birth
Will you be bringing a Guest
If so... All of above information Please
Accessibility requirements and Do you possess a Blue Badge
Service Number
Details of your service in the Falklands Task Force.

Thank you for your assistance with this information. Specific details on the event can be found on the RBL F40 Website at [Falklands 40 | Remembrance | Royal British Legion](#)

7. ★ Invitation to Bereaved Family Members to attend the RBL Falklands Conflict 40th Anniversary at the National Memorial Arboretum 14 June 2022

Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Falkland's Conflict at the National Memorial Arboretum

The 40th Anniversary of the end of the Falklands Conflict will no doubt be time of great personal reflection for all those connected with the military and civilian effort to liberate the Falkland Islands and, most especially, for those whose loved ones paid the ultimate price.

In recognition of this sacrifice, I am writing on behalf of the Royal British Legion to extend a warm invitation to you and a companion to join the RBL and veterans of the conflict in remembering the anniversary at the National Memorial Arboretum on Tuesday 14 June 2022.

On the morning of the event, there will be an opportunity for unit Associations to conduct intimate commemorations at their respective memorials within the Arboretum. In the afternoon, there will be a tri-service commemorative event, culminating in an Act of Remembrance, based around the Armed Forces Memorial. This will feature veteran testimony from key moments in the conflict.

Should you require it, accommodation will be provided at a local hotel for you and your companion on the night of Monday 13 June 2022. Transport will be provided to take you to and from the Arboretum.

It would be a privilege to have you join us on 14 June 2022. If you would like to accept this invitation, please email falklands@britishlegion.org.uk with your name and contact details as well as those of your chosen companion. We will be in touch to discuss the finer details of the event in early March.

For further information on the Falklands 40 Commemorative Event, please visit our [website](#).

I hope very much to welcome you to the Arboretum in June.

Kind Regards,

Catherine Parums
Head of Commemorative Events

8. ★ Invitation for 12 RNA Members - Typhoon 3000 Jack-Up Barge Naming

A very kind invitation, for 12 RNA Members, has been received at Central Office from the Naval Base Commander, Commodore J J Bailey Royal Navy to attend the Naming Ceremony of the Royal Navy's newly acquired Jack-Up Barge (JUB) which will take place in Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth on 4 April 2022 from 0930-1130.

The JUB, which was procured from Ravesteyn BV in the Netherlands will be used for the lifting of Hunt Class warships for delivery of their deep maintenance projects delivered from within the Ship Hall. This unique and critical asset will provide reduced upkeep duration and cost, achieving greatly improved ship availability.

The vessel will be named Typhoon 3000 in recognition of RMAS Typhoon's contribution to the Falklands conflict 40 years ago. Typhoon, under the command of Captain John Morris, who was later relieved by Captain Bruce Stephens, was the first ship to sail south, departing Portland Naval Base on 4 April 1982, with a civilian crew augmented with Royal Naval personnel. She returned home on 24 September 1982 after providing essential and sterling logistics support, including transferring fresh water to the Task Force,



playing a key role in the preparations for the San Carlos landings and towing RFA Sir Galahad out to sea to be scuttled.

We hope to be able to welcome you alongside our Falklands Veterans and former crew of RMAF Typhoon and would be grateful if you would RSVP to admin@royalnavalassoc.com by 15 March 2022. Tickets will be allocated on a first come basis.

9. ★ Specialist Interest Groups – Contact details

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

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

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

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

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

Cricket – Mark Smith : Markmiff1962@gmail.com

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

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

Divers – Bill Lawless: billylawless40@yahoo.com

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

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

Riders – Dave Ives: secrnariders@gmail.com

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

10. ★ Decorative Ropework – Special Interest Group

Ex Buffer, Shipmate Bob Jones, Vice Chairman at Portsmouth Branch is organising a Decorative Ropework Special Interest Group and would like to invite interested Shipmates to contact him with a view to getting this group up and running.

Bob can be contacted at oldsalt69@hotmail.co.uk or 02392 696794 or mob 02392 696794 (not always switched on)

Decorative ropework (tiddly ropework in “Jack speak”) Was one of the mainstays of lower deck life on board sailing ships, being a hobby that offered almost unlimited materials and little else to do when off watch and not working ship. Ships of the line would carry in excess of twenty-five miles

of natural fibre cordage of one type or another. This would regularly be renewed so there was plenty of “old stuff” to go around.



Many books are available on the subject and there are literally thousands of knots to choose from. Many of these were working knots, bends and hitches used in the rigging of sailing ships.

Sailors would use their knowledge of these knots to produce items of a decorative nature to enhance the look of their ship or make items for themselves. Examples of these are knife lanyards, coverings for knife handles, sea chest handles, ship's bell ropes, coverings for officers' telescopes and many other items.

This practice has largely disappeared in today's Royal Navy mostly due to coming of modern entertainment available on ships. Also, the seaman branch in the Royal Navy is, these days, very small compared to the days of sail when they were the largest branch on board by far.

The basic material has also changed almost beyond recognition. Then, it was mostly hemp and manilla rope and various twines, all made of natural fibre. Today almost all cordage on ships is man made with nylon and other modern materials. The advantages of these new materials are that they come in a variety of colours and textures. However, by and large they are more expensive.

Like most things, this subject goes from the very basic and simple, such as macrame, up to the highly complex such as star knots, etc. Work such as grafting, senniting and matting are also included in this subject. Much good work can be achieved by using simple knots. From these beginnings more complex work can be attempted. This hobby can be likened to stamp collecting in as much as people swap knots with each other therefore building up their repertoire.

A small number of people are keeping this art alive. An organisation calling themselves “The International Guild of Knot Tiers” is an example of this. RNA members visiting the dockyard in Pompey can see some of this work being carried out in number 6 boathouse (the restaurant). This work is being done by an ex-Leading Seaman who makes a reasonable living selling his items. A similar set-up can be found in Chatham Historic Dockyard as part of the working ropery.

If we can establish a special interest group we will be helping this almost forgotten art form to remain as part of the Royal Naval tradition.

Should we get a special interest group going I see it as doing two things.

1. A gathering together of members who already count this as a hobby and are proficient at it.
2. People who are unfamiliar with it but would like to learn.



11. ★ RNA Cricket V RMA - T20 Match Friday 17 Jun 2020

The RNA Cricket Team will take on the RMA at Burnaby Road in a T20 Match on Friday 17 Jun 22 by kind permission of the Naval Base Commander.

F40 spectators are most welcome, so bring a deck chair and enjoy a refreshment or two!

The match will commence at 1300 and will be followed by post-match drinks at RMA Eastney. So, Shipmates come and support our Team.

For further information contact S/M Mark Smith – markmiff1962@gmail.com



12. ★ 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 07 Mar	Mike Bullock	The Northern lighthouse Board (More than Lighthouses)
Monday 14 Mar	Anthony Moth	Captain Godfrey Herbert
Monday 21 Mar	Cdr Richard Sturman	CO 845 NAS
Monday 28 Mar	Adm Roy Clare	Gale Warning! Sea Area 'Fitzroy'
Monday 04 Apr	Geoff Parsons	Coats of Arms and Flags

13. ★ The Making of the Lisbon Maru Memorial

The Editor received this interesting article from Mr Christopher Allanson concerning the making of the Lisbon Maru Memorial at the NMA.

It is now getting on for six months since the Lisbon Maru memorial was unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum. The link to the article can be found below and can also be found on the Queens Regimental Association web site.

The photographs of the construction process in the Westbury workshop give some indication of the highly skilled work involved and I thought it would be appropriate for these photographs to be circulated as a record to all those who supported the initiative.

We have received numerous messages of approval since the event.

[The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru Service of Dedication \(queensregimentalassociation.org\)](https://queensregimentalassociation.org)

14. ★ RNRMC – Battlefield Cycle Challenge

Calling all Cycling Shipmates – How about a bit of a cycle while raising funds for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity by taking on this exciting challenge!



Cycle from Portsmouth through northern France to Cherbourg, visiting some of the region's most significant World War 2 battle sites, including Pegasus Bridge and the Normandy Landing Beaches.

We have some long days in the saddle as we pedal through this historic region, but we stop to pay our respects at many sites, and our tired bodies seem a small price to pay for the sacrifices made by the armed forces in WW2 and more recent years.



When – Wednesday 14 Sept 2022 – Monday 19 Sept 2022

Where - Portsmouth – Cherbourg

Registration Fee - £150

Fundraising Target - £1,600

Physical rating : 3 - Entry level grade perfect for first challenges, although moderate fitness levels are required as the trip includes some challenging distances and uphill cycles.

Group size: 40 max

To register and read more information, visit.....

[Battlefield Cycle Challenge 2022 | The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity \(rnrmc.org.uk\)](https://rnrmc.org.uk)

15. ★ Further information concerning Operation Mincemeat (Dec 21 Edition)

Shipmate Phil Mountain from City of Newport Branch forwarded further revealing information to Central Office concerning the article on Operation Mincemeat in the December 21 Edition of the Semaphore Circular.

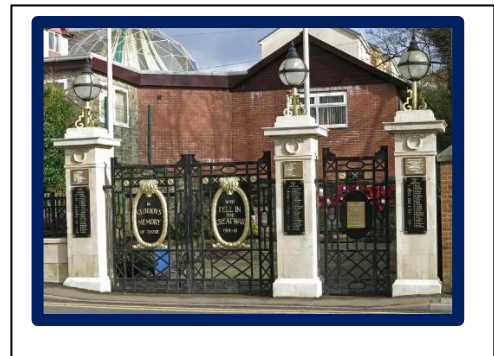


S/M Phil was interested to read in December's circular about the new memorial to Operation Mincemeat recently erected in Hackney. There is a connection to an existing memorial in Wales. The article didn't mention that "the dead body dressed as a fake Royal Marine officer" was Glyndŵr Michael, a miner's son and native of the Rhymney Valley, Gwent. His sad and lonely demise in London in January 1943 was crucial to the creation of the imaginary Major William Martin, Royal Marines.

On 30 April 1943, the captain of HM Submarine Seraph (P219), Lieutenant Norman Jewell, read Psalm 39 ("O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more") and Michael/Martin wearing Royal Marine battle-dress and insignia was

gently pushed into the sea off the Spanish coast with a briefcase padlocked to his wrist. The body was recovered by a local fisherman and the Fascist authorities, as expected, passed on details of the fake secret documents he was carrying to the Nazis.

After the deception was complete, the non-existent Major Martin was buried with full military honours in Nuestra Señora Cemetery, Huelva. In 1998, the British Government revealed Martin's true identity, and the epitaph: 'Glyndŵr Michael; Served as Major William Martin RM', was added to the gravestone. In 2002, the Royal British Legion and village of Aberbargoed dedicated a commemorative plaque to Mr Michael on their impressive War Memorial gates.



16. ★ Assistance Please - Mesothelioma UK – Armed Forces Memorial

Central Office received an appeal from Anne Moylan a specialist Mesothelioma Nurse who is highlighting that funds are currently being raised to site an Armed Forces Mesothelioma memorial to veterans and serving personnel at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

Dear RNA Members,

I am a Mesothelioma Clinical Nurse Specialist based at Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth and am contacting you about the 'Mesothelioma UK – Supporting Our Armed Forces' service for armed forces personnel and veterans that may be of interest to your members.

Mesothelioma UK is the national charity for the asbestos-related cancer, mesothelioma. Mesothelioma is perhaps the most challenging cancer known to man and sadly the UK has the highest incidence in the world of this avoidable cancer. The charity is dedicated to providing specialist information, support and education and to improving care and treatment for all UK mesothelioma patients and their carers.

Since starting the Supporting Our Armed Forces project in 2017 with LIBOR funding from the Government we have focussed on raising awareness of asbestos exposure in the military, campaigning against the inequalities in compensation available to veterans and developing bespoke information for veterans diagnosed with mesothelioma.

<https://www.mesothelioma.uk.com/armed-forces/>

We also undertook a research study into the experience of mesothelioma in military personnel - The Military Experience of Mesothelioma Study (MiMES). The purpose of MiMES was to generate insights into the experience and health/support needs of British Armed Forces veterans with mesothelioma and identify how best health professionals and support agencies can support them https://www.mesothelioma.uk.com/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2021/02/MiMES_Report_FINAL.pdf

The project was awarded a prestigious Health Service Journal award in the Military and Health Service Partnership category in 2020.

We are also raising funds to site a memorial to veterans and serving personnel at the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. I have attached some information regarding this.

'Mesothelioma UK - Supporting our Armed Forces' Donate to help create a memorial at The National Memorial Arboretum

Give a donation to forever remember them

You can support the creation of a new memorial to honour a loved one, or to pay your respects to all those who have served in the Armed Forces and have lost their battle against mesothelioma.

A memorial like no other

The 'Mesothelioma UK – Supporting our Armed Forces' memorial is a unique concept depicting the building blocks of life, engraved with vital awareness information about mesothelioma, asbestos and our Armed Forces.

We want the families and friends of those affected to be able to visit the memorial and pay their respects or celebrate a key milestone. Let's keep all these memories alive.

We're looking for your support through donations as this will help us to create and build the memorial, and one day bring together family, friends and donors to remember our heroes.

How to donate

The 'Mesothelioma UK – Supporting our Armed Forces' memorial will be made up of over 60 blocks. Our target is £40,000 and we're thankful to everyone who has donated so far. The sooner we can raise the funds the quicker we can have the memorial made.

we're accepting donations from as little as £10, right up to sponsoring a block for £500. You can support the creation of the new memorial by;

- *Sponsoring a block at £500 each or a number of blocks*
- *Donating any amount to help us reach our target*

To donate online visit:

www.mesothelioma.uk.com/armed-forces-memorial-donation/

For further information contact Anne Moylan at amoylan@nhs.net or call the information line on 0800 169 2409.



17. ★ Assistance Please – Sods Opera / Renditions

In those long-gone days of the pre–Falklands Navy, we used to entertain ourselves with Instant 'Sods Operas' in the Dockyard Canteens etc. There were a whole host of songs, poems and renditions that may well be remembered by us older members of the Association. Some time ago the Navy News invited readers to send in copy of such songs and renditions and they were published in Navy News. Does any Shipmate still have a copy? There was also a book published by and ex Artificer, Cyril Tawny. S/M Darby Allen, Maidstone Branch and ex NCM Area 2 has for a 'starter for ten' a copy of an Area 10 re union 'Sods Opera' song book' that was compiled by the late Shipmate Dave Tollington.

So, if anyone has copies of old song sheet or scripts, would they be kind enough to drop an email to admin@royalnavalassoc.com. Once received Central Office will investigate whether there is enough 'stuff' to put together a book with the forwarded materiel.

I am sure Shipmates will agree that it is important to preserve such memories that add substance to the Royal Naval association.

18. ★ Joke for the Road

My mate was telling me the other day that he failed hi Native Australian music exam.....

Wait for it.....

I said..... 'didja re do it' Boom BoomIt's the way I tell em!

Gin Lovers.....

Ideal Gift for GIN LOVERS! Read On.....

We gave you the opportunity to buy your warming "1921 Reserve" Gin in April which many of you did and it proved very popular, but now it is time to top up your drinks cabinet (or garden bar) with the refreshing summer "1921 Reserve" Gin.

You may have spotted that this is just a marketing ploy - it is of course, the same Gin but we are sure you have run out and your visitors would appreciate the special qualities that go to make this a Gin to remember as well as a very useful Birthday present for any upcoming birthdays.

Now on sale at £35 plus £4.50 P&P but if you buy 2 or more, the Postage is free! What an incentive! Please also remember that the RNA receives 10% for each bottle sold, so apart from drinking a very smooth Gin, you are helping the Association! Don't forget to click the button for RNA when you are on the gin website.
[Sea Urchins Navy Strength Gin - Mygin](#)



Pussers

Calling all 'Rum Rats'

Shipmates may wish to know that 'Pussers' is now available from the very new online 'Navy Shop' with all profits from Rum going back to the charity.

Please follow the link <https://royalnavyshop.co.uk/collections/rum>

www.pussersrum.com



Forces Cars Direct

Veteran-owned Forces Cars Direct is celebrating 20 years of service to the military community and we're delighted to welcome them to the Royal Naval Association and our members in an exclusive partnership.

Offering unique new car discounts with savings up to 35% on a full range of makes and models, you can be sure to find the right car for you! Forces Cars Direct is endorsed with 5-star TrustPilot ratings from its customers, was named Veteran Business of the Year in the English Veterans Awards, and has support from the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, so you not only save thousands, but can be assured of the highest level of service too.



With Forces Cars Direct you will also benefit from:

- UK nationwide, Covid-safe delivery
- Cash purchase and full finance options available
- Leasing service available
- All part exchange vehicles welcome
- Serving and veterans

Find out more about the service and savings available at <https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna> where you can browse and make your enquiry.

RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery



RNA SLOPS

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

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



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

2022	
05 Feb	Area 5 Meeting - Harwich
11 Feb	AMC – Zoom (0900)
25 Feb	FAC - Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
24 Apr	HMS Mars 120 years Commemoration, RNA Cork & County Branch. 1430 – Old Church Cemetery Cobh
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
09 May	HMS Royal Arthur Memorial Rededication - Skegness
13 May	FAC
14/15 May	Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration, Londonderry Branch.
20 May	Central Office - Open Day
27 May	RNA Christchurch – Standard Dedication Service Christchurch Priory 1100
17 Jun	NC meetings
12 Jun	No 12 Area - Falklands 40 Commemoration, , Belfast Branch
18 Jun	AGM/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 th Anniversary Parade
02 Jul	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day
08 Jul	Central Office - Open Day
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA
29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
06 Aug	Area 5 Meeting – Harwich
12 Aug	Central Office - Open Day
01-04 Sep	Bournemouth Air Days (Christchurch Branch)
04 Sep	Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service Navy War Memorial Tower Hill
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 Stowmarket](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Falmouth](#)

[RNA Chatham](#)

[RNA Area 3](#)

RNA Stowmarket Branch

In the film *The Cruel Sea*, which follows the lives of a group of Royal Navy sailors fighting the Battle of the Atlantic during the Second World War, with their ship, the Flower-class corvette *COMPASS ROSE* having a starring role. Flower-class corvettes were built to escort convoys, and in February 1942, Stowmarket Urban & Gipping District Councils adopted their own such corvette during Warship Week. Just one of many communities throughout the country who did likewise and adopted their own ships. *HMS BORAGE* would go on to earn six battle honours during her distinguished service.



Nearly 80 years to the day when it was announced that Stowmarket & Gipping were adopting BORAGE, Stowmarket branch of the Royal Naval Association hosted an evening at Cedars Park Community Centre to mark that anniversary, despite Storm Eunice having done its best to spoil everything. As sailors will say, "The good sailor weathers the storm he cannot avoid and avoids the storm he cannot weather."

Joining shipmates from Stowmarket RNA for the evening, were the Mayor of Stowmarket, Councillor Keith Scarff; the Mayor of Needham Market, Councillor Josephine Lea; Commodore Rob Bellfield CBE ADC RN, Commander – Naval Regional Command (Eastern England); S/M Tim Jarvis, Chairman of Area 5 RNA; S/M Peter Holden, ex Hon Secretary of the Flower-class Corvette Association; Keith Cooper, whose father served on the Flower-class corvette HMS BLUEBELL during WW2; shipmates from Beccles, Ipswich, and Norwich, and many other guests. Stowmarket RNA shipmate, Sub Lieutenant Tom Doughty RN was also able to join the evening, and though his standing at the main door to the hall in uniform looked like he was waiting for the Commodore's arrival, the pint he had had in his hand was quickly removed by his granddad as the Commodore stepped through the door!

S/M Peter Down, who is also Vice Chairman of the Ton-class Association, presented an interesting film on the Flower-class, which was followed up by S/M Peter Holden giving a very personal account of the class of ship, which his father served on.



Commodore Bellfield gave an informative talk about the role of today's Royal Navy, which was followed by the presentation to Councillor Scarff of a specially commissioned ship's crest on hardwood, with a brass plaque reading, "Presented to the town of Stowmarket by Stowmarket Royal Naval Association, to mark the 80th anniversary of the adoption of HMS Borage – 18th February 2022."



We were delighted to have three naval veterans from the same family, all still living in Stowmarket, present the crest to Councillor Scarff. Vic, Nick, and Liam Huffee. Dad, son, and grandson. The ship's crest will be placed alongside the plaque presented to Stowmarket Urban & Gipping District Councils in March 1942, which to this day hangs in Stowmarket's town council offices.

Both Councillor Scarff and Lea spoke of their thanks for having been invited to the evening, with Councillor Lea's, husband's father having served in the Royal Navy.



Through ticket sales and the generous support of Associated British Ports, D S Mead Ltd, Tothill Services Ltd, a sailor's mum, and holding a raffle and auction on the night, in addition to the money raised by Stowmarket RNA at their Trafalgar Night Dinner last October, a total of £1,600 will be heading to the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity, the principal charity of the Royal Navy, supporting sailors, marines and their families, for life.

The following message was received from Commodore Bellfield after the event.

"Thank you so much for the invitation to join you for your dinner in celebration of the adoption of HMS BORAGE. You had clearly put so much time and effort into the arrangements and despite the dreadful weather – it was a delightful evening. It was good to meet so many of the branch and the other guests – lots of connections made."



May I wish you all the best as you emerge from COVID and return to normal operations."

(Photo L to R- Commodore Rob, Mrs Zoe Bellfield and S/Lt Tom Doughty RN)

Further information: BORAGE was one of twenty ships and vessels adopted by communities across Suffolk following Warship Week in 1942 and remained in service with the Royal Navy until 1946, when she was handed over to the Irish Navy, who she remained with until 1970.

A total of 294 Flower-class corvettes were used by Allied navies during WW2, with 33 being lost in action. Between them, they sank 47 German U-boats and 4 Italian submarines.

Between 1941 and 1942, the concept of National Savings was introduced by the British government. Each region in the country was provided with a savings target to achieve. This was based on the region's population, with each general level of savings having a class of warship assigned. This became known as Warship Week, due to its similarities with War Weapons Week – which was a drive to replace the material lost at Dunkirk through a savings campaign. The total amount realised in the weeks specifically designated Warship Weeks was £545,640,770. The equivalent of £24.6 billion in 2019.

Our grateful thanks to Shipmate Pete Chivers for forwarding this lovely article. No wonder the Ships office was constantly closed during the writing of the article!

RNA St Neots Branch

Our thanks to St Neots PRO S/M Ian Cameron.

St Neots branch held a first collection for worthy causes since lockdown on Saturday 23rd October at the local Farmers Market. S/Ms attending were very gratified by the positive response from the general public.

The children's Tombola was particularly popular and good team participation ensured that when public interest was high there was always someone to give them attention.

An important aspect was that the SumUp card reader was used for the first time and performed very satisfactorily. This was important for attendees at the stand who were not carrying cash



(L to R -S/Ms Geoff Patterson, Gary Newton, Helen Patterson, Tony Webley, and Mike Milne)



The branch also held a Rum Tasting evening! You can see in the attached photo S/Ms Geoff Patterson (taking his duties very seriously) and Mike Milne ensure that everything goes to plan and ensuring that no one purloined any of the bottles!

S/Ms were asked to blind taste three separate rums and guess whether it was A, B or C.

At the same evening S/M Pete Horner (below) was given the PP Trophy (No prizes for guessing what PP stands for), because he disgracefully forgot to contribute to a branch lunch. Some say he climbed out the venue toilet window! (Surely not!)



St Neots branch held a (chilly)good causes collection at the Christmas light switch on market in the town.

Once again, the St Neots public did not disappoint, and the Tombola was a great favourite with both adults and children.

Here, from left -S/Ms Tony Webley, Geoff Patterson, Keith Ridley (Disguised to hide from his bank manager) and Mike Milne.

The St Neots Branch were visited by the Area 6 Riders under the able leadership of S/M Mark Gayton. Their attendance certainly livened up an already enjoyable breakfast.



RNA Chatham Branch

Chatham Branch took time out recently to recognise Branch Secretary, Shipmate Christine Stout.

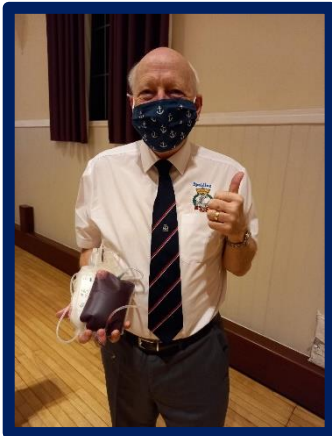


Chairman Tim Stopford presented Christine with her life membership certificate at the meeting on Wednesday 9th February.

Christine has given 10 years service as Secretary to RNA Chatham Branch which, Chatham Shipmates are all extremely grateful for. She also served as Area Secretary for 2 years,

BZ and Congratulations Christine and a huge thank you from all at RNA Chatham.

RNA Spalding Branch



Spalding Branch S/M **Terry Day**, made his 100th Whole Blood Donation recently, at Bourne Corn Exchange in Lincolnshire.

Whilst serving at HMS Drake, Terry “was encouraged” to make his first Blood Donation on **19th October 1971**, which was taken in the Sick Bay , when the Blood donation team visited the establishment and he still retains the original Blood Donation Certificate, that was issued to him, at the time. Attempts were made to arrange for his 100th donation to be taken on the 50th Anniversary at HMS Drake, but because of the Covid 19 Pandemic, this was not possible.

Terry who is also a member of the Governance Committee and Spalding Branch Project Semaphore Volunteer, feels immensely pleased and proud to be able to reach such a milestone, has no intention of calling it a day and is determined to continue donating, for as long as his health allows.

Each blood donation can potentially save the lives of up to three people, so if a donor has made 100 donations, they could have potentially helped save the lives of up to 300 patients.

Anyone requiring information on donating blood should visit

[Home - NHS Blood Donation](#)

RNA Falmouth Branch



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

Sea Sunday Falmouth 2022 will be held on Sunday 17 July with the Parade forming on the Moor at 1230. The church service will be held in the King Charles the Martyr Church, which will be followed by a reception in the Civic Office Reception Suite

All are welcome to attend Branch/Club

members and Standards.

RNA Area 3

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

The package includes:

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

The total cost for a three-night package is £275pp

For further information please contact S/M Ken Chandler 07970 686301 or kencathcpa@hotmail.co.uk

CROSSING THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

[Terry and Vera Betts](#)
[Stephen Sidney Boulton](#)
[David Clark](#)
[James Alexander Macleod](#)
[John Headley](#)
[Wilf Smith](#)

Terry and Vera Betts - Uttoxeter Branch

It is with great sadness that Uttoxeter Branch RNA report the "Crossing the Bar" of Honourary Member Mrs. Vera Betts on the 18th January 2022. The funeral on the 14th February 2022 was attended by Branch Secretary S/M Mike Bell, a remembrance service for S/M Terry Betts who caught the dreaded Covid 19 and "Crossed the Bar" during the pandemic was included.

Because of the Covid restrictions, only a limited number of people could attend Terry Betts funeral service but S/M Phil Davis Uttoxeter Branch Standard Bearer and Branch Secretary S/M Mike Bell managed a salute and saw Terry off with a tot of rum. We managed to sneak a tot to Vera and her grandson who is serving in the RAF.

Both Vera and Terry were staunch supporters of the Branch and attended Meetings and functions on a regular basis following Terrys' Dad S/M Tom Betts who was a regular Member originally from the Chadsmoor Branch and transferred to Uttoxeter. S/M Tom Betts joined the RN in 1926 and moved from the Midlands to Portsmouth becoming CGI on Whale Island after serving with distinction during the War years, he was demobbed in 1952. Terry Betts grew up in Portsmouth and Whale Island was his playground.

Terry and Vera met at the TA drill hall dance in Rugeley Staffs and both became ardent dancing partners for life.

Stephen Sidney Boulton - Uttoxeter Branch

It was with a great deal of sadness that the Uttoxeter and District Branch heard the news that S/M Stephen Sidney Boulton had "crossed the bar" at the great age of 97. Although "Steve" wasn't a Member of the branch it was felt that we should honour this old shipmate and comrade. With the COVID 19 restrictions in place, only one Member could attend so S/M Mike Bell(Sec) attended.



Stephen Sidney Boulton was born in Rugeley Staffordshire on 6th September 1923 and after working at Rugeley Tanyard he, at 19 volunteered to join the Royal Navy joining HMS Raleigh as an Ordinary Seaman then to HMS Victory.

On transfer to HMS Europa he trained as a Stoker second class and then further training on an ICE course, then onto HMS Beaver in Hull which was home to numerous small vessels. Going back to the Europa he was promoted to War.Eng.ICE (Mechanician) and went on to serve on many Harbour Defence Vessels, MLs, MFV. His last ship a Motor Minesweeper BYMS2188 which was built in the USA and the crews had fetch them either from the USA, Canada or Iceland.

Stephen "crossed the bar" on 4th September 2020 and was cremated at Stafford Crematorium on Monday 28th September 2020. He remains very much loved by his family and friends and will be sorely missed. R I P.

David Clark - World Uckers 'Timbershifters'

Some of you will already know, but sadly half of the World beating Uckers team known as the 'Timbershifters' has departed, and is now playing on that 'big uckers board in the sky' against St. Pete, whom I reliably informed is a bigger 'six throwing 'barsteward' than David ever was!!

The funeral of our 'shipmate' David Clark PJX 921736 will take place 1215 18th March at St.Swithins Catholic church, Waverley Road, PO5 2PL and then burial at Milton Cemetery, Velder Avenue, Portsmouth. PO4 8RS. Any donations to the RNLI please. The wake at the Portsmouth Sailing club, Old Portsmouth. (yes we will be playing Uckers and wearing our baseball caps) Dave taught all his grandchildren how to play.



The 'Timbershifters' winning the 2019 World championships again, having won it on the Victory 2017 and of course David and I are/were/was the current HMS GANGES UCKERS champions having won it at the last reunion at Gunton Hall. The Ganges and HMS DAINTY Standards will be paraded. David had been unwell for sometime, and was taken into hospital three days before the 2021 Championships, and had been in and out of hospital ever since.

Sue and her family would be pleased to see you on the day. May he find a safe anchorage, adios partner, 'snake eyes all out'. Wally Blagdon

(Photo L to R - Wally, Steve Dingley (Pussers) and David)

In the world today we often hear celebrities and sporting stars described as “brave and heroic,” all this while true heroes keep their brave actions to themselves. Living quietly in the Kernan area of Portadown, we find a true, brave and heroic man, Jim MacLeod; for 97-year-old Jim, a holder of the Burma Star, is one of only two known remaining Portadown veterans of the Second World War. The other veteran being Muriel Nevin who served with Women’s Royal Navy Service, Muriel served in A36 and A37 Fleet Air Arm Squadron, based at Maydown Airfield on Lough Foyle.

Jim MacLeod was born in Scotland; the MacLeods’ originally hailing from the Isle of Skye, where the family had a long association with the sea. Jim’s father was a Scotsman, his mother a lady from Northern Ireland. In 1943, after completing his apprenticeship, 20-year-old Jim volunteered for service, with his engineering skills and family background, Jim was quickly snapped up by the Royal Navy.

After completing his training, the now Petty Officer Jim MacLeod set sail for the Far East, which would be no cushy number since the war against Japan was in full swing at this time. Here, Jim would serve both on ship and shore stations, recently recalling how he took part in mine sweeping operations off the Philippine Islands. While serving on the heavy cruiser H.M.S. London, Jim engaged in sea battles with the Japanese navy. Like the majority of veterans, Jim skipped quickly over these nightmarish artillery battles. For him, he was only doing his duty like all the other young men and women of his generation; instead, he prefers to remember his shipmates and the fun times they had together.

As we approach the seventy-fifth anniversary of VJ-Day on 15th August, it is hard for us today to imagine the happiness and relief experienced by Jim and his shipmates on that day. As the Petty Officer, it was his duty to distribute the rum ration onboard ship, a duty that quickly made him everyone’s friend, and as the news of the Japan’s surrender broke, Jim recalls with a laugh and a cheeky smile that there were more than a few extra rum rations taken that day.

It was now after Japan’s surrender that Jim experienced an event the horror of which has never faded from his memory. His ship received orders to dock at Singapore to take onboard Allied prisoners of war. Many war crimes had been committed against these men and women, making them almost unrecognisable, some little more than skeleton figures were taken onboard. While being witness to the true horror of war, this experience was also one of the most rewarding of Jim’s time in service. His ship was now a rescue ship, repatriating hundreds back home and into the arms of their loving families; families that many believed they would never see again.

Jim tells the story of his time in Singapore which shows how despite his age and experiences, his sense of humour has never faded. Coming ashore, Jim and his shipmates encountered what seemed like endless lines of Japanese prisoners discarding their weapons as they marched into captivity. Spotting a prized war souvenir, Jim helped himself to a Japanese officer’s sword. The sword made its way back to Jim’s home in Glasgow, and as Jim recalls, he had to destroy it a few years later because younger family members kept playing with it, not realising just how dangerous this sword could be.

After the war, Jim maintained his love for the sea, serving for a number of years in the Merchant Navy. Life onboard ship, shipmates, travelling and the smell of the fresh salty sea air brought happiness and contentment to Jim for many years.

The young sailor would find love, marrying Sarah (Sadie) settling down and having two daughters. His daughters would both marry men from Portadown. It was as a result of this that Jim and Sadie moved to Portadown in the late 1970's to be close to their family.

Jim had always been a member of the Royal British Legion in Scotland, and this continued as he became a very active member of the Portadown Branch. The love of all things military also resulted in Jim becoming a member of the Royal Irish Fusiliers Old Comrades Association. He enjoyed his time with those with which he shared a common service history.

Today, 75 years after the victory over Japan, Jim does not claim to be a hero. A modest family man, he keeps his war memories to himself. Despite this, the Portadown Branch of the Royal British Legion are proud to have this man as a member; while he does not seek praise, the Portadown Branch of the Royal British Legion would like to thank this true hero, a man who by his actions helped free the world from Fascism and Tyranny.

Petty Officer Jim MacLeod, holder of the Burma Star and British War Medal, we thank you for your service. BZ

John Headley - Wicklow RBL Branch

We are deeply saddened to tell you that our oldest member, WW2 veteran, Mr John Headley of Wicklow Branch has crossed the bar at the age of 101 years.

Late of the Royal Navy, John was taken prisoner after the torpedoing of his destroyer Bedouin during the convoy Relief of [#Malta](#).

Post war John made Ireland his home and lived on his own terms at home with family support until very recently. His life has been a matter of much celebration and his passing an occasion of great mourning. He was featured in the Legion Magazine Centenary issue



(<https://secure.viewer.zmags.com/publication/f15685ab...>)

We offer our deepest sympathies to his son Nick and all the Headley family.

Farewell dear dear man... thank you for your service and your contribution to the Legion and veterans.

Wilf Smith – Falmouth Branch

Shipmates of the Falmouth Branch were saddened to hear that their oldest Branch Member, Shipmate Wilf Smith, had Crossed the Bar on the morning of Friday 14th January 2022 following a period of illness.



Wilf will be fondly remembered by Branch members as a staunch supporter of both the Branch and the Association, actively involved until age caught up with him. Wilf was enthusiastic in his support, through the Branch, of the local youth organisations, the Sea Cadets at T.S Hichens and the Falmouth Sea Scouts.

For many years he took on the role of auditing the Branch accounts and twice received "Falmouth Branch Shipmate of the Year" awards, Wilf, along with wife Vi, enjoyed Branch meetings and events and his sage advice will be missed. The photograph shows Wilf in 1946 at the start of his career.

Fair Winds and Following Seas old friend.
The Falmouth Branch

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.
0844 264 2122 conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk



- Discounts on a large range of new cars
<https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna>

The 'Shortcast' Editors Note

Please forward any reunions for 2022 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 Beeson 07807347509 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) Reunion (incorporating 20 th Anniversary of Wolff Rock) For booking details please contact Alan Murrell at brown_pyjamas@hotmail.com
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>
--	---

Swinging the Lamp – March 2022

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



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1907	Cap ribbons and bedding issued in lieu of a gratuity, and ready-made uniforms instead of material to be made up. Loan clothing introduced
2 nd	1911	First four officers, chosen from over 200 applicants, reported to the Royal Aero Club's aerodrome at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey for pilot training in private aircraft provided free of charge: Lt C.R. Samson, scout cruiser <i>Foresight</i> ; Lt R. Gregory, armoured cruiser <i>Antrim</i> ; Lt A.M. Longmore, HMTB 24 and Lt E.L. Gerrard RMLI, cruiser <i>Hermione</i> .
3rd	1807	The squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir John Duckworth engaged the Dardanelles forts on the return passage from Constantinople.
4 th	1941	Transportation of Imperial troops from Egypt to Greece. Ended on 24 April, when the evacuation began. Operation Lustre.
5 th	1902	Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service constituted by Order in Council, replacing the naval nursing sisters.
6 th	1993	Retirement of CPO W. Price, last of the promised men who joined the RN in 1948 and in 1970 were guaranteed employment until age 65. He served for twenty-two years at the RN Detention Quarters, Portsmouth.

7th	1814	Provisions of uniform regulations of 19 September 1810 extended to the Governors of the RN Hospital and Asylum, and the Lieutenant-Governors of Greenwich Hospital and of the RN College, Portsmouth.
8th	1872	The wood screw frigate <i>Ariadne</i> , sailing to Gibraltar, hove to when a seaman fell overboard from the main topmast crosstrees 130 miles off the Portuguese coast (40.15N, 12.10W) In an unsuccessful rescue attempt both ship's cutters were swamped and two officers, Sub-Lts Jukes and Talbot, and eight men were drowned.
9th	1686	Pepys signed contract for purchase of rum in lieu of brandy for HM ships at Jamaica.
10th	1956	World air speed record of 1,132 mph (1,823 kph) set by Lt-Cdr Peter Twiss, OBE, DSC and bar, RNVR, flying from Boscombe Down in a Fairey Delta 2 between Chichester and RNAS Ford, Sussex. The first person to fly at over 1,000 mph.
11th	1708	The Cruisers and Convoys Acts allocated prize money to captors at the Crown's expense; a great incentive to captains and crews.
12th	2009	The first woman in RN to win the MC. Able Seaman Kate Louise Nesbitt (21), a medical assistant attached to 3 Cdo Brigade, for 'exemplary gallantry' during a Taliban ambush in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Kate, all 5ft tall, ran under enemy fire and saved the life of L/Cpl John List of 1 RIFLES who had been hit in the neck. Her MC was awarded by HRH Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on 27 November 2009. Operation Herrick. Citation: 'Nesbitt's actions throughout a series of offensive operations were exemplary, under fire and under pressure her commitment and courage were inspirational and made the difference between life and death, "She performed in the highest traditions of her service."
13th	1823	Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of St Vincent died. 'We expect too much of men; we do not make sufficient allowances, and perhaps we are too apt to over rate the services we render them'
14th	1757	Admiral Byng executed on board <i>Monarch</i> after being court-martialled for dereliction of duty. 'At 12 Mr Byng was shot dead by six marines and put into his coffin' – Master's Log, HMS <i>Monarch</i> .
15th	1980	Fire in A1 boiler room in the commando carrier <i>Bulwark</i> during a visit to Philadelphia. Damage considered too costly to repair.
16th	1858	<i>Shannon's</i> Naval Brigade at the capture of Lucknow by the forces under General Sir Colin Campbell. Naval Brigade manned all the breaching artillery on one side of the Gumti River. Indian Mutiny Medal: clasp 'Lucknow' Battle Honour: Lucknow 1857.
17th	1912	Capt Lawrence Oates, 5th Inniskilling Dragoons, died in Antarctica by walking out into a blizzard in a vain attempt to improve the chances of survival for Capt Scott's party: 'I am just going outside and may be some time.' It was his 32nd birthday.
18th	2002	<i>Fearless</i> , last RN steam-powered surface warship, entered Portsmouth for the last time on return from the Indian Ocean. See 10 September 1971, 23 November 1979, September 2000, 2 August 2002.

19th	1847	Admiralty order that Wednesday 24 March be observed as a Day of Public Fasting and Humiliation, Divine Service to be specially performed in recognition of Irish Famine. Reaction of ship's companies and their pursers not recorded.
20th	1832	Navigating, Medical and other non-executive officers adopted the uniform jacket of the Executive branch, distinguished by the pattern of their button.
21st	2007	Explosion of a self-contained oxygen generator (SCOG) in submarine <i>Tireless</i> while submerged under the Arctic ice killed two crew members.
22 nd	2003	Two Sea King Mk VII of 849 Sqn A Flight, flying from <i>Ark Royal</i> on vital ground surveillance missions to support Royal Marines ashore on the Al Faw peninsula, collided over the northern Arabian Gulf. Two pilots and five observers killed. Posthumous MiD to observer, Lt Tony King. Operation Telic.
23 rd	1922	Submarine H42, Lt D.C. Sealy RN, sunk with all twenty-six hands in collision with the destroyer <i>Versatile</i> , Cdr V.L.A Campbell RN, during 3rd Submarine Flotilla tactical exercises with the Atlantic Fleet off Europa Point, Gibraltar. The submarine surfaced 40yds ahead of the destroyer which was steaming at 20 knots.
24 th	1960	<i>Yarmouth</i> , first of nine Rothesay-class antisubmarine frigates, commissioned at John Brown's, Clydebank, by Capt H.R. Hewlett RN, shortly to be Captain (F) Sixth Frigate Squadron. The first ship to be equipped with the new Seacat missile.
25 th	1945	World's first deck landing of a high-performance twin-engined aircraft; a de Havilland Mosquito Mk 6 from RAE Farnborough on <i>Indefatigable</i> off Ailsa Craig and Arran piloted by Lt-Cdr Eric 'Winkle' Brown RNVR.
26 th	1912	Leonard James Callaghan, later Lt RNVR and Prime Minister, born at Portsmouth.
27 th	2006	The last Sea Harrier FA2 squadron, 801 NAS, paid off at RNAS Yeovilton, having completed operational flying on 9 March.
28 th	1996	RM School of Music, Deal, closed and band training moved to old RNDQs in Portsmouth Dockyard. RM at Deal since 1861.
29th	1968	The beginning of the end of the fathom. The first of the new metric Admiralty charts, No. 3105 of Chiba Ko in Tokyo Bay, published, with depths and heights shown in metres and decimeters. This was followed on 5 April by Chart 2247 of ports in the Black Sea, and on 12 April by Chart 438 of Boulogne.
30th	1912	Capt Robert Falcon Scott RN and the remainder of his party died in the Antarctic. 'It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more.' 'For God's sake, look after our people.'
31st	1956	HMS <i>Siskin</i> , RNAS Gosport, paid off and following day commissioned as HMS <i>Sultan</i> as a TE for ratings of the Mechanical Engineering Branch. The new establishment was named after the old ironclad <i>Sultan</i> which served until 1943 as the RN mechanical training ship in Portsmouth Harbour.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2022 Portsmouth

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 has 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 Central Office on 023 9272 3747 to confirm receipt of your application.