



**DECEMBER 2007
CIRCULAR**

No. 568

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Dear Shipmate Secretary,

Winter Fuel Payments - A Reminder

1. During November and December, the Government is making Winter Fuel Payments to help with winter heating costs. If you were aged 60 or over on or before 23 September 2007 you could get a payment of up to £200.

You should get a payment automatically if:

- a. during the week of 17-23 September, you were getting a State Pension or social security benefit (apart from Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Child Benefit); or
- b. you got a payment last year and your circumstances and contact details have not changed.

In other cases you may need to make a claim for a Winter Fuel Payment. If you think you need to make a claim, please call the helpline on 08459 15 15 15 or visit the website at www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/winterfuel.

If you have not had a payment by Christmas but think you should have, please call the office that normally pays your benefit or State Pension. If you do not get a social security benefit or State Pension please call the Winter Fuel Helpline on 08459 15 15 15. All claims for Winter Fuel Payments must be received by 28th March 2008.

e-MAIL ADDRESSES

2. RNA HQ Staff are attempting to build a library of e-mail addresses within the Association. It would be extremely helpful if those Branch Secretaries able to communicate by e-mail would forward a short e-message to HQ on paddy@royalnavalassoc.com so that registration can begin

RNA Club Permits for 2008 - Form RNA C3

3. Application forms RNA C3 to renew club permits are required to generate an Annual Permit to continue to use the title "Royal Naval Association". These forms require the endorsement of the Area Secretary and should reach RNA Headquarters by 30th November. A fee of £3-00 for the club permit will be debited to the branch account. Rule B62(e) requires that two copies of the audited account should be provided to The General Secretary each year and a number of clubs have yet to forward Club Accounts for 2005 - this should be done now as a matter of urgency, as Forms C3 will not be issued until they are received.

The Luton and Dunstable Royal Naval Association Club

4. The Chairman and Committee of the Luton and Dunstable RNA Club regret to report that the Club will cease trading as from 31st December 2007 consequent upon an unacceptable increase in the rent of their premises. The

Luton and Dunstable Branch of the Royal Naval Association will continue as at present but will meet in the Luton Co-op Sports Club (see Misc. Announcements).

Gift Aid

5. Following the change from covenanting to Gift Aid, we have somehow lost momentum. The number of Gift Aid forms, from a membership of 27,680 stands at a modest 3,500. May we remind you that this is free money, which has helped us to maintain our annual subscription at £10.00. A blank Gift Aid form is included with this Newsletter. Once completed, a Gift Aid Declaration lasts until it is rescinded. Thank you.

Navy News Subscriptions - Price Increase and Special Offers for New Subscribers

6. The cover price of The Navy News will soon increase to £1-80 per issue which is the first increase for 3 years following a large rise in the cost of printing and distribution. However,. The Navy News is offering a special deal for annual subscribers with a subscription of £18-00 for 12 issues including postage and packing - the Navy News comes though your letterbox at a very reduced rate. The cover price saving is £3-60 before considering postage and packing - for Overseas please phone 02392-734448 for Airmail prices or contact subscriptions@navynews.co.uk. See the offer each month in The Navy News.

Have Bugle - Will Travel

7. Regular attenders at RNA Conferences will know of the excellent bugling skills of S/M Tony Crisp who is a member of the Waterlooville Branch and a Life Member of the Association. Tony has now retired and is happy to assist at any ceremonial event where bugling is required. He does not charge for his services being entirely happy if his travelling expenses are covered. S/M Tony can be contacted on 02392-711058 or 07950-406712. He is well recommended.

**The Royal Naval Association National Standard Bearers Competition -
14th June 2008**

8. The National Standard Bearers Competition for 2008 will be held in HMS FORWARD (Birmingham RNR Training Centre), 42 Tilton Road, Birmingham B9 4PP on Saturday 14th June 2008 commencing at 1400. The Draw for placing will take place at 1300.

Those eligible for entry are the winner and runner up from the 2006 Competition, the winners and runners up of Area Competitions and nominated Area and Area Deputy Standard Bearers. The rules for the National Competition are laid down in The RNA Guide to Ceremonial (available in hard copy from RNA HQ or on the RNA Website) Articles 0401 to 0415. Each Competitor is to have an Area or Branch Standard, carrying strap, gauntlets, black beret and drape. Winners and runners up of the 2006 Competition are earnestly requested to ensure that trophies are returned in pristine condition.

Entrants are to complete the following form:

**ENTRY FORM
NATIONAL STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITION
2008**

Name of Competitor.....

Home Address.....
.....

Telephone Number.....

(Signatures) Competitor.....

Area Secretary.....

SEND THIS FORM BY 17th MAY 2008 TO:

**S/M A ROBINSON,
NATIONAL CEREMONIAL ADVISER
161 WEST END LANE
HARLINGTON
MIDDLESEX UB3 5LY**

No. 4 Area - Open Standard Bearers Competition - 1st March 2008

9. No 4 Area will be holding an OPEN Standard Bearers Competition on 1st March 2008 in the Falklands Hall, CTCRM Lympstone at 1100. Any Standard Bearer wishing to compete, and any Shipmate wishing to spectate is requested to contact S/m J R PATERSON, Area 4 Ceremonial Adviser, 14 Sunnyside Road, St Judes, PLYMOUTH PL4 9LE, Tel: 01752 261646, E-mail jim@paterson1513.fsnet.co.uk. On completion there will be a buffet in the W O's and Sgts Mess, cost £5.00 per head.

A Proposed RNA Trip to New Zealand - February/March 2009

10. Following a recent successful tour of New Zealand by the Association of Wrens, S/M Vice President Stuart Thorn (a New Zealand resident) would be keen to have expressions of interest for a possible RNA tour of New Zealand in February/March 2009. It has been suggested that such a tour could be organised by Ron McPhail of McPhail Business Tours and a proposed 14 day itinerary could comprise:

Arriving in Auckland, visiting the Naval Base at Devonport with a reception there, a visit to Rotorua, Tauranga with the Ex-Navalmen's Association who would lay on a reception, fly to Christchurch where the RNZN Association would probably offer a reception, a stay in Queenstown and Dunedin, a visit to Nelson where there could be a reception by the local RNA Branch, fly from Nelson to Auckland for the return flight to UK.

Costs have yet to be calculated and would depend largely on the size of the party. Those interested can contact S/M Thorn direct on sbthorn@xtra.co.nz (copy to RNA HQ please) or for those who are not connected to e-mail, RNA Headquarters will be very happy to relay your expression of interest to S/M Thorn.

Royal Naval Association Christmas Cards

11. Regrettably, or thankfully depending on your viewpoint, the, Royal Naval Association Christmas Cards are sold out for this year. A new Christmas Card will be produced for 2008. Many thanks to all our customers.

Contacting the RNA Headquarters Book-keeper

12. The Royal Naval Association's Book-keeper (Miss Vicki Egerton) is employed in a part-time capacity and works from home. From time to time, Shipmates have observed that contacting her to resolve queries was a difficult task because of her other commitments. To improve communication, we have installed a combined Telephone/FAX/Answerphone in Miss Egerton's home and believe that this will help overcome the problem. The number of this combined instrument is **01795-530534**.

Nominations for National Council 2008 / 2009

13. **For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Area No's 1, 3, 4, 5, 10 and 12.**

Nomination Forms

The envelope containing the completed form should be marked NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL and must reach RNA HQ no later than 22nd February 2008.

Each Branch is allowed to nominate ONE MEMBER from any Branch within its own Area, as a Candidate for election to the National Council, Subject to the approval of the Branch to which he belongs. (See Note Below)

NAME OF NOMINEE

PROPOSED BY BRANCH

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

CHAIRMAN SECRETARY

BRIEF HISTORY OF NOMINEE (in the Association)

.....
.....
.....

.....
If the Candidate put up by the proposing Branch is NOT a member of that Branch, this section must be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's own Branch, and their signature implies Branch acceptance of the Nomination.

Candidate's Branch

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch) Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

I undertake to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and to sit on any Committees to which I may be elected.

Signature of Candidate

This form must be returned even if no nomination is made. It must be, despatched to be received at HQ no later than **22nd February 2008.** Nominations received after this date cannot be included in the Ballot.

NOTE: Only one nomination is needed for a candidate to be included in the ballot

Conference 2008 - Motions and Amendments

**14. PROPOSED MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS
FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2008**

(Proposals must reach The General Secretary by 22nd February 2008)

Name of Proposing Branch:

MOTION / AMENDMENT

EXPLANATION OF THE MOTION / AMENDMENT (Note d)

This Motion / Amendment is put forward as representing the views of the Members of this Branch. If accepted it will be proposed to the Annual Conference.

Date:Hon. Secretary:

Seconded By:Branch

Notes

- (a) A separate form is required for each Motion /Amendment
- (b) A manuscript copy is acceptable for additional Motions /Amendments if the printed form is not available.
- (c) The Motion /Amendment should be as short and precise as possible avoiding ambiguity. A Motion should normally start with the word `THAT'
- (d) The explanation is to assist the Standing Orders Committee in understanding the intention behind the Motion so that they may be able to consider acceptance and the wording under **Rule 15**.
- (e) Motions may be submitted at any time but must reach the General Secretary by **22nd February 2008**.
- (f) Motions of Extreme Urgency should reach the General Secretary not less than 48 hours before Conference. (In accordance with Standing Orders **S8(7)** as amended at 1996 Conference.)
- (g) Amendments to Motions should also normally reach the General Secretary not less than 7 days before Conference. However they can be submitted in writing direct to the Standing Orders Committee during Conference.
- (h) Bye-Laws - Under **Rule 19** only the National Council may make a Bye-Law. A Motion to Conference may propose that a Bye-Law be set aside or it may ask the Council to consider making or amending a Bye-Law.
- (i) The Branch Proposing a Motion must have it Seconded by another Branch before forwarding it to the General Secretary (as carried at item 4 of 1995 Conference.)

16.

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Annual Conference

28th June 2008

**THE CAIRD HALL
DUNDEE**

Delegate for the Annual Conference 2008

Name of Delegate.....

Branch.....

Area.....

Name of Branch Secretary.....

Expected number of Observers from this Branch.....

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2007 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2008 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12©). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

Chingford and Waltham Forest Branch - Decommissioning

17. Sadly, the Chingford and Waltham Forest Branch has decided to decommission. The followings is the text of a letter recently received from the Chairman:

"Dear Shipmates,

Due to circumstances beyond our control it is my sad duty as the Branch Chairman to inform you that the Chingford & Waltham Forest Branch will decommission as a Branch of the RNA on 20th January 2008. We will hold our laying up service at St Edmunds Church, Chingford on that Sunday at 4pm and will return to Chingford RBL, Hall Lane, Chingford on completion of the service to celebrate our 21 years as an active and loyal Branch of the RNA. Any Branches that would like to join us, please be so kind as to write to myself at the address below with names and numbers for catering purposes by 10th January 2008.

God Bless the Queen,

Yours aye,

Jeff Button
Chairman
3 The Retreat
Brook Road
Buckhurst Hill
Essex IG9 5TT"

The HMS LOCH FADA Association

18. The 11th HMS LOCH FADA re-union will take place at Mill Rythe Holiday Resort from 7th to 10th March 2008. For details and booking forms contact Bob Harris on 02380-391848 or e-mail bobharrisf390@supanet.com. Details of the HMS LOCH FADA Association can be found at www.hms-lochfada.org.uk.

HMS COSSACK Association

19. All past Ship's Company members of the famous WW2 Destroyer (L03) and the C Class Destroyer (D57) are welcome to join. The next re-union weekend will be in The Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing from 11th-13th April 2008. Family members of those who served on either of the ships are welcome as Associate Members. Contact the Membership Secretary (Doug Parkinson) on 01420-83521 or on dougirene@onetel.com. See also the website www.hmscossackassociation. The 70th anniversary of the "Altmark Incident" falls in 2010 and plans are already underway to mark the event.

Vice Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlet KBE CB DSO*, DSC

20. Vice Admiral Sir Arthur Hezlet KBE CB DSO* DSC, who has died at the age of 93 was President of 12 Area for many years following an extraordinarily distinguished naval career during which he was awarded the US Legion of Merit for sinking the Japanese heavy cruiser ASHIGARA as she raced along at 17 knots. To this day, students at naval colleges learn about this June 1945 torpedo attack masterminded by Hezlet, one of the classic submarine attacks of World War II. HM Submarine Trenchant daringly slipped past a minefield into the confined waters of the Banka Strait in the Dutch East Indies and made the attack. It was the largest Japanese warship sunk by a Royal Navy warship during the war, and one of his many exploits at sea.

He became the Royal Navy's youngest captain at age of 36 and it's youngest Rear Admiral at 45. Hezlet was born in April 1914 in Pretoria, South Africa, where his soldier father was serving.

He began following in his family's military tradition at the age of 14 when he entered the Royal Naval College, before serving as a midshipman in the battleships ROYAL OAK and RESOLUTION.

It was with the outbreak of WWII that Hezlet really began making waves in his career, starting out on the small submarine H43 before becoming First Lieutenant of TRIDENT. Operating from Malta in UN UNIQUE, he sank the large Italian troopship ESPERIA, and this success was a factor in him being given command of URSULA.

The importance of wartime signal intelligence was demonstrated by an attack which damaged the supply ship BEPPE - upon leaving Malta, Hezlet set a course to intercept an enemy convoy and never altered it even to attack. Hezlet was then given command of his old boat TRIDENT, engaged in operations exclusively connected with Russian convoys. On one patrol Hezlet sank the German ore carrier HOEDUR. Amid the many battles, the boat also played a role in picking up survivors from merchant ships.

Hezlet was then sent to Scotland to become training officer for midget submarines in preparation for the attack on the German battleship TIRPITZ. After this, Hezlet and his entire crew were transferred to TRENCHANT, the submarine for which he is most renowned. He took TRENCHANT to Ceylon for a series of long patrols during which he landed commando troops on shore as well as sinking numerous small craft. Ordered to patrol off Penang on 23 September 1944, he sighted the German U-Boat 859 on the surface preparing to enter harbour after the long journey from Europe. He sank her with a single torpedo and then rescued 11 of her crew before having to withdraw. He returned to the UK just before the Japanese surrender as one of only a score of men who had begun and ended the war on submarines.

At the end of 1946 he was one of the small group of Britons allowed by the Americans to observe the atom bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. His post-war naval appointments included Captain (D) of the 6th Destroyer Squadron and Director of the Staff College at Greenwich. He was later Flag Officer Submarines before becoming Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland after which he retired to Northern Ireland where he inherited the family ancestral seat, Boveagh House, at Aghadowey, County Londonderry.

Funeral of an HMS KELLY Survivor – An Announcement by S/M J V Rance of Leeds No. 1 (Headingley) Branch

21. On Thursday 18th October 2007, Leeds No 1 (Headingley) R N A attended the funeral of Shipmate Archibald William (John) Hutchinson. Although not an RNA member his family had approached us as they wanted a naval funeral, so remembering the old adage "Once Navy Always Navy" we were only too happy to oblige.

Leeds supplied the coffin drape with a velvet cushion for his medals; a Guard of Honour was formed and his coffin was preceded into the church by our Standard, which was dipped during the Service when the last-post was played.

S/M Hutchinson was born in April 1912 and run away to sea when he was only 13. During the war he was the only man to have served with Lord Louis Mountbatten on three ships, HMS Daring, HMS Wishart and HMS Kelly which many of you will know was finally sunk on May 23rd 1941 off Crete, with the loss of 130 men, more than half the Ship's Company. John became a good friend of Lord Louis at the Kelly reunions and later Prince Charles who took over the responsibility when his uncle was murdered. It was a great honour to be able to wish a Shipmate who had served his country well, a safe last journey into calmer waters.,

Government Boost to Veterans Healthcare

22. Health Secretary Alan Johnson and Veterans Minister Derek Twigg recently announced major improvements to the support available to Armed Forces veterans who have developed health problems as a result of their military service.

Ministers announced the expansion of NHS priority treatment to all veterans, whose injuries or ill-health are suspected of being due to their service. NHS waiting times are at an all-time low but priority treatment could still be significant for a small number of veterans. Clinicians will determine the allocation of priority treatment based on clinical need.

In addition, Ministers announced a new model of community mental health services. This will give Armed Forces veterans access to clinicians with expertise in veterans mental health who will provide assessment and help veterans to obtain suitable treatment. The new model will be piloted at six sites across the UK for two years, after which its effectiveness will be

assessed, with the aim being for the programme to roll-out nationwide. Each site will have a trained community veterans' mental health therapist. Veterans will be able to access this service directly or through their GP, ex-Service organisations, the Veterans' Welfare Service, or Social Service departments.

Alan Johnson said:

"Our service men and women do an outstanding job and we all owe them a debt of gratitude and a duty of care, particularly those who have developed health problems as a result of their military service.

"Under long-standing practice, war pensioners have had priority NHS access but that has not always been fully understood. I want to make sure that everyone understands the current provisions. I also want to expand the eligibility for priority treatment in the NHS to veterans who may not yet have claimed a war pension.

I am also pleased to announce new plans to help all veterans whose mental health problems result from military services. "Together with the MoD, we are today launching the first of a number of community mental health pilots specifically designed to make available within the NHS expert assessment and treatment for veterans with mental health problems. We recognise that some will have mental health problems as a result of their work in the Armed Forces, and we need to provide an expert service capable of understanding and responding to their particular experiences."

Derek Twigg, Veterans Minister, said:

"I am delighted to launch the first pilot of this new community mental health service for veterans. The new community health pilots will be staffed by qualified mental healthcare professionals. By working with us, these professionals will be able to develop further their understanding of the military ethos and military operations, and to enhance and keep up to date their expertise in veterans' mental health, enabling them to give better support to our people. I also warmly welcome the announcement by the Department of Health giving greater priority for treatment to former members of the Armed Forces."

The community mental health model will be NHS-led and reflects NHS best practice. The pilot at the Staffordshire & Shropshire Foundation Healthcare Trust is now open. It will be followed in the coming months by pilots in Camden & Islington, Cardiff, Newcastle, StAustell and Scotland; the location for the pilot in Scotland is still to be confirmed. If these pilots prove successful the model will be rolled out more widely across the UK.

Hull PCT has recently extended priority to all veterans whose conditions are suspected of being service-related. This represents best practice and the Health Secretary has decided that it should be extended across the whole of England. The Department of Health will be issuing guidance to remind clinicians about the current priority treatment provisions for war pensioners and to extend the Hull initiative to veterans everywhere in the country.

A Christmas Reflection by the Reverend Gordon Warren, Rector of St Anne's Limehouse and a former Artificer Apprentice.

23. From a human viewpoint the team that almighty God used to reveal the birth of his Son Jesus Christ was surprising. He chose shepherds – the wise men came later. The biblical physician, Dr Luke, records that it was to shepherds that God revealed the birth of his Son.

Shepherds were an interesting group of people. They were away from home for months on end carrying out a multi-role task with the flocks which were the wealth of the nation. The religious authorities didn't much like them because they never got to attend the synagogue or the many religious festivals in the temple. The local populace weren't too taken with them because of the smell of sheep that invaded every pore of their beings and the way they behaved on a rare night of coming into town. And, life could be short for a shepherd either from sickness, injury or attack by wild animals. An unenviable job and not much loved by the world at large.

But God loved them. He displayed his love not only to them but to every person that acknowledges that in their deepest heart they are not, from God's perspective, a very loveable person. The message he gave the shepherds that night has never changed. The message was an offer of peace between himself and the men and women of his creation. The shepherds were being shown that almighty God actually loved them, unconditionally, infinitely, compassionately and with practical concern. God gave them a message. What the shepherds did with that message was up to them. It is still up to each and every person.

God is far too much of a gentleman to force anybody to do anything. But he offers the same message of peace between himself and each individual – the message is personal. With God's offer ringing in their ears the shepherds responded with faith and in haste. They discovered the truth about Jesus the Christ and, as Dr Luke records, 'went on their way glorifying and praising God'. From then on it didn't much matter how they were treated on earth, they had seen and met the Saviour of their eternal souls.

I hope and pray that somewhere this Christmas, wherever you are in God's world, you will make the time to go and hear that same message of peace from almighty God to you. Having heard, I urge you not to delay but to respond.

May you come to know real joy and peace in your hearts and lives this Christmas.

With my love and prayers in His name to you all.

24. **Branch & Miscellaneous Announcements.**

Changes to; Diary & Year Book.

Area 1

Mitcham, Morden & W – New Venue; The Poppy Club
RNA CLUB Closed 31/12/07 26 St. Marks Road, Mitcham
Frequency; 2nd Wednesday (from **09/0/08**)

Area 3

Worthing – Branch Sec. is; S/M J Pannett
76 Brighton Road
Lancing BN15 8LW
E-mail; josephpluto@aol.com

Area 4

Falmouth – Branch Sec.'s E-mail; ronurdekin615@msn.com

Area 6

Luton & Dunts. – New venue is; Luton Co-operative Sports Club
Stockingstone Road
Luton LU2 7NF
Frequency; 1st & 3rd Thursday @ 2030

Area 8

Birmingham (Shard End) - Act. Sec, S/M D Cheshire
305 Gressel Lane
Tile Cross
Birmingham B33 9UU
Tel. 0121-779 6451
E-mail; david.cheshire2@tesco.net

Area 9

Worksop – New Venue is; The Stanley Street Sports
& Social Club
2, Stanley Street Worksop
Frequency; 3rd Tuesday @ 1930

Area 10

Luton & Dunstable - New Venue is; Co-operative Sports Club
To visit contact Sec.; 01582-575 327 Stockington Road
/ 738 463 Luton LU2 7NF

Area 12

Ulster South – New Area code is; **028-38** -----
(Incorrect in 2008 Diary)

O/Seas

Malta - Branch Secretary's E-mail; g0cjm.reb@googlemail.com
The British Legion Telephone; 00-356-2123 6282

25. Donations

CENTRAL CHARITIES FUND: Donations received previously and
acknowledged
with thanks:- £ 9.512.44

Donations since and now
acknowledged with thanks;

Edgware & Mill Hill	30.00	
Romford & Hornchurch		50.00
Wigston & District	250.00	
Peterborough		1000.00
Harlow–In Memory of James Brown & Anthony Blunnie	50.00	
Cardiff	50.00	
G H Hughes Legacy		6000.00
Donations £10 or less		<u>262.50</u>
Total		<u>£17,204.94</u>

26. History Notes

- 1st January 1910 David Beatty promoted Rear Admiral. At 38 (17 days short of 39) he was the youngest Captain promoted to the Flag List since Nelson in 1797. "Rear Admiral Beatty will not only be the youngest officer on the Flag List, but will be younger than 90% of the officers now on the Captains' List – The Times (3rd Jan 1910).
- 2nd January 1945 Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay killed in an air crash – fourth and last Flag Officer killed on duty during WWII (Henry Blagrove in ROYAL OAK, Tom Phillips in PRINCE OF WALES and Lancelot Holland in HOOD).
- 5th January 1807 HMS NAUTILUS wrecked on uncharted reef north west of Crete. Many of the ship's company of 122 got ashore but only 64 were alive when relief arrived six days later. One of the few authenticated cases of cannibalism in RN history.
- 8th January 1806 Body of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson taken up river from Greenwich to the Admiralty by barge.
- 10th January 1912 First aircraft launch from British warship. Short S27 Box Kite, Lt C R Samson, from the battleship AFRICA, at anchor.
- 12th January 1950 TRUCULENT sank after collision with SS DIVINA in Thames Estuary.

- 14th January 1991 The first Wrens to serve at sea as members of a ship's company sailed for Operation GRANBY in HMS BRILLIANT.
- 17TH January 1912 Captain Robert Falcon Scott reached the South Pole.
- 20th January 1946 Completion of operation to scuttle 110 surrendered U-boats in deep water 30 miles north of Malin Head – Operation Deadlight.
- 24th January 1994 Admiral Sir Frank Twiss died. CinC Far East Fleet 1965-67, Second Sea Lord 1967-70, Black Rod 1970-78. Gunnery Officer of HMS EXETER, sunk 1942. POW of the Japanese until 1945 – when asked what it had been like, he replied “Oh, not so bad I suppose, if you had been to Dartmouth”.
- 27th January 1976 RN Regulating School opened in the old Armourer's School on Whale Island.
- 30th January 1965 State funeral of Sir Winston Churchill in St Paul's Cathedral.

STOP PRESS: We are acutely aware that as always many of our Service personnel will be absent overseas this Christmas particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. A number of Branches have sent parcels to the Royal Marines and Sailors of 40 Commando currently in Afghanistan, and these have been greatly appreciated. The Tenbury Wells Branch sent 240 parcels, the Central Charities Fund sent 210 (packed by the ladies of Gosport Branch) and other Branches have contributed generously also. The recipients are extremely grateful and a number of expressions of thanks have already been received – keep up the good work – advice on the contents of parcels for the future may be obtained from The National Charities and Welfare Adviser (S/M Rita Lock) on 02392-642234.

Seasonal Greetings

We will not be writing to you again until 2008 and would at this time offer our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year. The Headquarters Staff are encouraged (and frequently cheered) by the telephone calls and letters we receive from our Shipmates - thank you for them all and we wish you all you wish yourselves.

Paddy, Tony, Noeline and Vicki

James McClurg
General Secretary
Paddy@royalnavalassoc.com

GIFT AID DECLARATION

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Title Forename(s) Surname

.....

Address (Area no; -----)

.....

..... Post Code

I want the charity to treat all donations I have made from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid Donations

Signature:-

Date:-

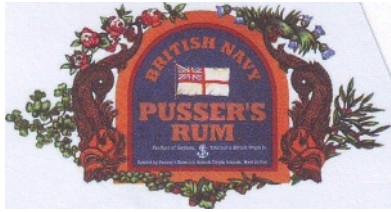
Notes

1. If your declaration covers donations you may make in the future:
 - . Please notify the charity if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force.
 - . You can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying the charity - it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity. Or you can ask you local tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid.

BOOKS

Swan Hunter Built Warships The Swan Hunter shipyards have been one of the main builders of British naval vessels for over 100 years, having completed over 200 ships. Starting off before WW1 building destroyers, it expanded into cruisers, submarines and sloops. From WW2, aircraft carriers and one battleship were built. This book catalogues the building of ships on Tyneside and the different companies which bore the Swan Hunter name. Photographs of all the larger Swan Hunter warships appear in the book plus a selection of destroyers, frigates and landing ships. A very interesting and well produced book which will appeal to all who have served on the Tyne or in a Swan Hunter ship. It is available from Maritime Books, Lodge Hill, Liskeard PL14 4EL (01579-343663) (www.navybooks.com) at £17-99

A History of Seafaring - Navigating the World's Oceans This is the best naval book by a long way that I have seen and read in 2007. It is a definitive volume on navigation and exploration as it pieces together the advances of astronomy, navigation, ship building and cartography through the ages - the book covers a 2,500 year spectrum, is lavishly illustrated with rare maps, manuscripts, maritime paintings and photographs and the text is impressive. The authors, Donald Johnson and Juha Nurminen are both well known trans-Atlantic sailors and the text is both erudite and elegant. At £40-00 it is not cheap but neither is an Audi - the book may be obtained from Conway Books, 10 Southcombe Street, London W14 0RA (0207-605-1466) (e-mail kpatel@anovabooks.com).



PUSSEY'S

**Pusser's Rum 15 year
old is released in UK**

*One of the 'Ten Great Rums of the
World'*

Pusser's Navy Rum 15 year old 40% abv sipping rum from the West Indies has been aged in wood for 15 years, and is also distilled in wood. Its production is similar to that used for single malt whiskies and the finest brandies, to impart a fuller, richer flavour. It is best served slightly chilled at 13 to 16 degrees C. Retail guide price is £40 plus for 70cl bottle.

Pusser's Rum's historic connection with the Royal Navy proudly features on the bottle label with the words 'Nelson's Blood' - reflecting naval legends. Forbes Magazine, the international financial publication, also known as an arbiter of luxury and good taste for world business leaders, selected Pusser's 15 Year Old as one of the Ten Great Rums of the World (2005). It states that Pusser's 'still uses the traditional Royal Navy formula and is still made the same way it was at the time of Trafalgar - in wooden-pot stills, as opposed to modern industrial-column stills. This results in the most full-flavored, intense rum available anywhere.'

Pusser's is indeed the only rum that is distilled in the same original wooden pot stills of the Admiralty. There are only two production-capacity wooden pot stills remaining in the world, and these are both dedicated to producing Pusser's. Other rums today are distilled in the modern continuous stills that are very efficient, stripping out about 98.5% of the alcohol from the mash. Pusser's old wooden stills are not at all efficient. They operate at about 67%, which greatly increases the cost of distillation. But nothing can touch the flavour that the wood imparts to the spirits when distilled in this way. It's a flavour that can be produced only in these old, inefficient pot stills.

The Pusser's range also includes:

Pusser's Blue Label Rum (54.5% abv) is the same rum at the original strength (95.5° proof Sykes) that was served on board Royal Navy ships for over 330 years. 70cl, £22 to £25. Stockists include www.nauticalia.com, National Maritime Museum shop Greenwich, Royal Naval Museum Shop in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, and Speciality Drinks Ltd, www.specialitydrinks.com tel 0208 606 9388, www.thedrinkshop.com 0800 169 6760. Plus many independent specialists ***Pusser's Red Label Rum*** has the same full flavour as the Blue label but at a lower strength (42% abv) making it ideal for cocktail mixing. 70cl, £19 to £20.

For enquiries please contact Cellar Trends Ltd: 01283 217703.

Terry Barker, Marketing Director at Cellar Trends, comments, "Over the past year, Pusser's Rum has been actively promoted and sold at regattas and Naval events around the UK. This has certainly helped to extend awareness of Pusser's beyond traditional Royal Naval circles, and the prestige of the brand's authentic connections have encouraged a lot of trial".

Cellar Trends have been staunch supporters of RNA activities with generous donations of Pusser's Rum at various events, notably the Annual Conference 2007 hel in Torquay.

For further press information and photo, please contact: Su-Lin Ong, PR 020 8747 4843 sulinong@aol.com