



**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**



# The HQ Roll Newsletter

*Keeping our HQ roll members in touch* Autumn 2018



***The Lamp Light of Peace at rest at the beginning of its 100-day journey in commemoration of the ending of WW1 in the Royal Naval Museum Portsmouth. The LLOP arrived in Portsmouth, escorted by the Chaplain of the Fleet, Reverend Martyn Gough Royal Navy, Shipmate Keith Ridley, RNA National Chairman and WO1 Paul Jackson after a blessing in Westminster Abbey. The LLOP was welcomed by the National Standard, carried by Shipmate David Corrigan, the National Merchant Navy Standard, 15 RNA Standards and 45 Shipmates.***

***The on-line monthly version of the Semaphore Circular is available on the RNA website in the 'Members Area' under 'downloads' at [www.royal-naval-association.co.uk](http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk).***

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## Glossary of terms

<b>NCM</b>	National Council Member
<b>NC</b>	National Council
<b>AMC</b>	Association Management Committee
<b>FAC</b>	Finance Administration Committee
<b>NCh</b>	National Chairman
<b>NVCh</b>	National Vice Chairman
<b>NP</b>	National President
<b>DNP</b>	Deputy National President
<b>GS</b>	General Secretary
<b>DGS</b>	Deputy General Secretary
<b>AGS</b>	Assistant General Secretary
<b>CONA</b>	Conference of Naval Associations

## Contacts

Financial Controller	023 9272 3823	<a href="mailto:michelle@royalnavalassoc.com">michelle@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Digital Media Assistant		<a href="mailto:Mike@royalnavalassoc.com">Mike@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Deputy General Secretary	023 9272 0782	<a href="mailto:andy@royalnavalassoc.com">andy@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Assistant General Secretary (Membership & Slops)	023 9272 3747	<a href="mailto:nigel@royalnavalassoc.com">nigel@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
S&O Administrator	023 9272 0782	<a href="mailto:chrissie@royalnavalassoc.com">chrissie@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
General Secretary	023 9272 2983	<a href="mailto:paul@royalnavalassoc.com">paul@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Admin	023 92 72 3747	<a href="mailto:admin@royalnavalassoc.com">admin@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Project Semaphore Manager		<a href="mailto:Sarah@royalnavalassoc.com">Sarah@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Project Semaphore Deputy		<a href="mailto:Julie@royalnavalassoc.com">Julie@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Branch Support Officer (North)	07964 721849	<a href="mailto:belfastblues_812@icloud.com">belfastblues_812@icloud.com</a>



Central Office Staff – (L to R) Nigel, Michelle, Paul, Chrissie and Andy

### Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

### Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

RNA Central Office,  
Room 209, PP70,  
Semaphore Tower,  
HM Naval Base,  
Portsmouth  
Hants PO1 3LT

## Dear Shipmates,

Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter. I hope all is well with you as the nights get shorter and we start to think of Trafalgar dinners and Remembrance season. The good news is that, naughty sailors notwithstanding, the deployment of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in the Western Atlantic is going very well. She should see the first landing by an F35 by the time this newsletter gets to you - a huge day for the RN – with full fixed wing capability almost here.

The National President and National Council are delighted to announce the appointment of Captain Bill Oliphant RN as my replacement as General Secretary. Captain Bill is a serving Logistics Officer and Captain of the Base here in Portsmouth. He will join Central Office on 7 November, for some induction training with partner charities and take over after the NC meeting at the beginning of December, I am staying to draft the Trustees report before going on leave and draft on 21 December.



Captain Bill saw some tough competition off and was the unanimous choice of the senior Shipmates group, our finance team and the main interview panel. He is a delightful man and I have known him professionally for 20 years – we have had many BZs on his appointment from senior naval figures.

A huge thank you and BZ to all those who made the Royal Navy's temporary custodianship of the Lamplight of Peace such a success. Please read Andy's great article. This was our first gig with the new Chaplain of the Fleet, Rev Martyn Gough (now The Venerable). Our National Chairman gave a moving speech in Westminster Abbey on the RN's contribution to the 1WW. The National Museum of the RN hosted the Lamp in their gallery and provided a rum-soaked breakfast buffet for the participating shipmates. So many thanks to the great turn out of standard bearers and shipmates, it really showed the Army and the RAF how it can be done!

An important date for the diary. After marvellous support for the Jutland Wood, the time has come to plant it! Shipmates, families, cadets etc are all warmly invited to the planting event on **16 March 19** at Langley Vale. The Woodland Trust provides guidance and equipment, and we'll put on a buffet and a tot. We'll provide more details in due course but get booking the LIBOR bus to come and join in the fun. We'll be inviting our Phase 2 friends from COLLINGWOOD and SULTAN and the Sea Cadet HQ. Let us know in good time if those who can't walk 500 metres over rough ground want to come and we'll hire a 4x4 for the day. Royal Marines can do the Commando Crawl.



We are coming up to the Remembrance season. We have a bid in the Circular for shipmates to review placing a cross in our Field of Remembrance plot at Westminster Abbey. As the senior association we get pride of place, but only a few crosses, which are dwarfed by the Merchant Navy, Royal Marines even the WRNS! Please consider having a cross placed in our plot. We have a lovely mini-Service after the senior Royal has visited our plot and you are welcome to join us. Nigel is the contact for tickets.

*The Standard Bearers Competition was held in May in HMS COLLINGWOOD*

Some important matters of business:

- Christmas Card and 2019 Diary order forms are at the back of this Circular, get ordering!
- The NC has approved the establishment of the Riders Branch, the first non-territorial branch in the RNA. The Riders Branch will be just as much of a branch with the ability to have a standard, delegate at Conference etc. This opens the way for other Special interest groups to be established either as branches, or not. If you want to learn more, please give the GS a call. Also, if you'd like to join the Riders Branch (see the website)
- We have now put the dates of the Open Day into the Longcast, so please start booking up with Andy and Nigel, good chance to meet the new GS and have a great day out. Made event better by the fact that our lift is now working!
- If you pay tax can I ask you complete and send us a gift aid certificate, we get back £3.22 per subscription with GA. At the back of the Circular.

The National Council has decided that from **1 January 2020** that the RNA will move to metal beret badges. This allows easier transfer for those who are members of more than one association and aligns more closely with the Royal Navy. We have been working with Forever Jack on adapting the design of the 10 Area badge and we have now taken delivery of our first 1,000. The NC has decided that there will be a free issue to all Area and Branch Standard bearers and that SB should wear the metal badge from 1 January 2019. Those Areas and branches with an appointed Deputy SB may also apply for a grat issue. The remaining 700 or so badges will be available at the highly discounted rate of £2.00 plus postage. Subsequent orders will be at the cost price plus postage of about £4.50. Non-standard bearer members may continue to wear the cloth badge until 1 Jan 2020, but then must move across. Applications for the badges to Nigel please.

Finally, I had a wonderful visit last week to the Royal Alfred Seafarers home at Esher in Surrey. The Project Semaphore Team have issued 9 iPads to them and I had the pleasure of meeting some of the candidates who have benefited. It was humbling to hear the difference it makes to them to be on-line for the first time. A great reminder of this Project. We have:

- Issued over 670 iPads to date (Sept 18)
- Reached Shipmates from 114 RNA Branches
- Collaborated with over 50 services related Charities and organisations
- Engaged with 10 service specific Care Homes and Housing
- The Project is managed by a team of 3 but supported by over 65 Volunteers and Ambassadors.



*The GS trying to work out how to transfer photos from a phone to the iPad! Note highly amused learner*

*Thanks, and best wishes from the  
Central Office team - don't forget those Christmas cards and  
diaries*

*Paul*

## 1. Field of Remembrance – Thursday 8 November 2018



Given the cost of travel to London and increased security in recent years it is sad to report that fewer and fewer branches and individuals have purchased a Cross to be placed in the Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey or attend the short memorial service.

The placing of crosses is a unique opportunity for all RNA Shipmates, Area, Club or Branch to join together in one RNA act of remembrance in a modest sign of Remembrance commemorating those sailors who have fallen, have served and are still serving our country.

The RNA is very honoured to have the Chaplain of the Fleet conduct a short memorial service

annually before a potential VVIP visit to the gardens. This year sees the new Chaplain of the Fleet, Rev'd Martin Gough RN conduct the service and it would be lovely see as many Shipmates as possible attend. If you are planning to attend you will need to bring your ticket, a form of ID and have entered the garden gate by 1015 and then proceed to muster at the RNA plot.

Shipmates/ Branches wishing to attend or purchase a cross to plant on the day should contact Central Office (Nigel) by Mid October please forwarding your details and ticket requirements. Alternatively, if you would like a cross placed in the garden then please forward details of what you would like transcribed on to it and Central Office will arrange for the cross to be planted. The crosses cost £5 each payable to Central Office.



The Chaplain of the Fleet will conduct a short memorial service and a potential visit from a VVIP. The National President and General Secretary will be in attendance and he can be contacted on his mobile – 07850 646755 (if required).

## 2. Lamp Light of Peace

Shipmates will be interested to know that a parade took place in Portsmouth Naval Base on Sunday 05 August 2018 to welcome the Lamp Light of Peace (LLOP). The LLOP is being passed between the RN, Army and RAF in commemoration of the ending of hostilities in WW1. The LLOP was blessed at Westminster Abbey on 04 August 2018, 100 days before the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated. The blessing was attended by the Chaplain of the Fleet Reverend Martin Gough, WO1 Paul Jackson and the National Chairman, Shipmate Keith Ridley who then transferred the LLOP back to Portsmouth where it resided in St Ann's Church overnight.





On the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> The National Standard, being carried by Deputy National Standard Bearer, Shipmate Dave Corrigan the National Merchant Navy Standard and 15 other Standards along with 45 Shipmates from various branches in N0 3 Area including Shipmate Gordon Williams, NCM 7, who had driven down from the valleys mustered ready to receive the LLOP.

The LLOP arrived Queens Harbour Master's launch, accompanied by the Chaplain of the Fleet, WO1 Jackson and the National Chairman. The LLOP was welcomed by the Deputy General Secretary S/M Andy Christie and Captain of the Base, GS (Elect), Captain

Bill Oliphant Royal Navy and the National Standards.

The procession crossed the road, which was lined by Shipmates to the Jutland Museum where a short service of welcome was held. The parade formed up and escorted the LLOP to its destination next to the gun of HMS Lance, which fired the first RN shot in WW1. On completion the Royal Naval Museum very kindly provided bacon butties and plenty of rum for all those involved in the parade.

Shipmate Mick Arnold MBE and his wife S/M Jean had driven up from Dorset to pay their respects as they both had relatives who served in WW1.

Jean's Father was living in Talbot Woods (part of Bournemouth) when war was declared. In the second week he travelled back to Lichfield (Staffs) so that he could join the South Staffordshire Regiment. Serving in many areas he saw action at the Somme, being awarded the DCM for taking command after the officer had been killed and captured the two machine guns that had been holding up the advance. (These two guns are now in the Regimental Museum Lichfield) at the same time he also captured a high ranking German Officer (Who objected most strongly to being apprehended by a subordinate officer).

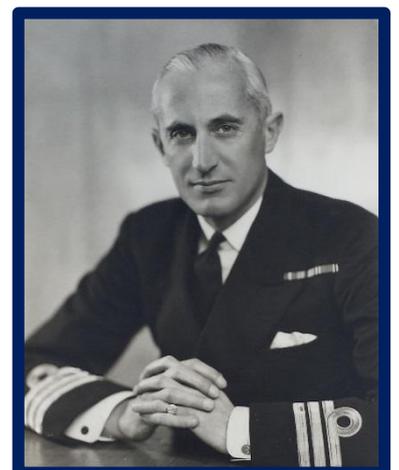


At that time Jean's Father was a CSM. Following this campaign, he served in Arras, St Quentin Canal Hindenburg Line right through to Passchendaele and on to the end. He was wounded three times, Gassed three times. Finishing as a WO1 leaving the Army on the outbreak of WW2. Also Jean's Great Uncle served as a Stoker on HMS Queen Mary, which was sunk at Jutland.

### 3. RNVC Series – Rear Admiral Robert St Vincent Sherbrooke VC CBDSO DL

Robert Sherbrooke was born in Nottinghamshire, on 08 January 1901 and attended the Royal Naval Colleges of Osborne and Dartmouth and joined the Royal Navy in 1917 as a midshipman aboard HMS Canada.

He was promoted to Commander in 1935 and served in the Aircraft Carrier HMS Courageous. His wartime commands were all Destroyers.



In December 1942 in the Barents Sea off North Cape Robert Sherbrooke found himself in Command of HMS Onslow and a number of other Destroyers escorting an important convoy JW 51B heading for Russia. Significant German Forces were deployed to engage this convoy they included; the Pocket Battleship Lutzow and the Cruiser Hipper. The Germans managed to attack JW 51B several times but were forced back.

During the action Sherbrook was seriously injured resulting in him losing his sight. However, he still managed to take command of HMS Onslow and the other escorts until the convoy was out of danger. For his valour he was awarded the Victoria Cross. His citation dated 12 January 1943 read as follows;

*The King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Victoria Cross, for valour in the defence of a convoy to:*

*Captain Robert St. Vincent Sherbrook DSO Royal Navy*

*Captain Sherbrook in HMS Onslow was the Senior Officer in command of the Destroyers escorting an important convoy bound for North Russia. On the morning of 31 December, off the North Cape, he made contact with a greatly superior enemy force which was attempting to destroy the convoy. Captain Sherbrook led his Destroyers into attack and closed the enemy behind a smoke screen to avoid the threat of torpedoes and each time Captain Sherbrook pursued him and drove him outside gun range of the convoy and towards our covering forces.*



*These engagements lasted about two hours, but after the first forty minutes HMS Onslow was hit and Captain Sherbrook was seriously wounded in the face and temporarily lost the use of one eye. Nevertheless, he continued to direct the ships under his command until further hits on his own ship compelled him to disengage, but until he was satisfied that the next Senior Officer had assumed control. It was only then that he agreed to leave the bridge for medical attention, and until the convoy was out of danger. His courage, his fortitude and his cool and prompt decisions inspired*

*all around him. By his leadership and example, the convoy was saved from damage and was brought safely to its destination.*

After the war Robert Sherbrook was promoted Rear Admiral and in 1958 became High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire. He crossed the bar in his home town of Oxtun aged 71 on 13 June 1972.

#### **4. Joke Time – Rude Warning ....Sunburn Joke**

A guy visiting in Hawaii fell asleep on the beach for several hours and got a horrible sunburn, specifically to his upper legs. He went to the hospital and was promptly admitted after being diagnosed with second-degree burns.

With his skin already starting to blister, and the severe pain he was in, the doctor prescribed continuous intravenous feeding with saline, electrolytes, a sedative, and a Viagra pill every four hours.

The nurse, who was rather astounded, asked, 'What good will Viagra do for him, Doctor'?

The doctor replied, 'It won't do anything for his condition, but it'll keep the sheets off his legs.'



## 5. Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

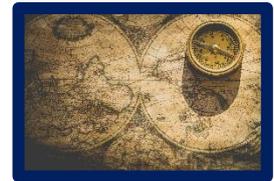
Portsmouth Historic dockyard are running a number of events over late summer and Autumn and Winter please see the list below.

*Trafalgar Night – 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> October - £95pp*

Due to popular demand, a second date has been added for this historically significant evening. A traditional naval celebration commemorating Nelson's famous victory. Watch the parading of the beef with tradition drummers and join the Captain in a port toast to the memory of Vice Admiral Lord Nelson. Plus enjoy sea shanties as you dine. Book tickets today at [historicdockyard.co.uk/events](http://historicdockyard.co.uk/events)

*Pickle Night – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018*

HMS Pickle, the small ship in Nelson's fleet, was dispatched to Britain to bring news home of the great victory at Trafalgar, and the great loss of Lord Nelson. With entertainment and traditional Georgian mess, come on board and remember this momentous day in true nautical style. Book tickets today at [historicdockyard.co.uk/events](http://historicdockyard.co.uk/events)



*Deck the Decks – 8, 14 & 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018*

Put on your party cap and join us aboard the HMS Warrior for a nautical Christmas extravaganza. See the ship dressed for the festive season whilst enjoying your three-course square meal. Capture your Yuletide memories in our photo booth, enjoy the live entertainment, and dance the night away with our disco. Book tickets today at [historicdockyard.co.uk/events](http://historicdockyard.co.uk/events)

*Burns Night – 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

Put on your kilt and come aboard for this evening of traditional food and entertainment to celebrate the life of famous Scottish Poet, Robert Burns. The originator of the New year's anthem Auld Lang Syne, Burns is one of Scotland cultural icons. Then finish the evening by dancing along to a Ceilidh band. Book tickets today at [historicdockyard.co.uk/events](http://historicdockyard.co.uk/events)



*Sea Shanties – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019*

Enjoy a unique dining experience, eating at sailors' mess tables, surrounded by all the fixtures and fittings of Warrior's massive gun deck. However, you certainly won't be napping in the hammocks as an evening of singing and entertainment will have you 'reeling around the wheels'. Book tickets today at [historicdockyard.co.uk/events](http://historicdockyard.co.uk/events)



## 6. One of a Thousand good RNA Deeds a day – Christopher Weaver

Shipmate Penny Jervis and Shipmates from Letchworth and Hitchin Branch assisted a homeless RN Veteran, Christopher Weaver. With the help of Shipmates, the Branch organised his 'final deployment', funeral service and cremation with dignity which was attended by Branch and Area Shipmates. Penny along with Shipmates Gus Gudgeon, Brian Pyke and Becky Daniels travelled to Portsmouth for Christopher's committal to the sea, just off Spitbank Fort in the Solent. S/M Gus had also travelled down by train a couple of days earlier with S/M Chris's Ashes where he

was met by Andy and Chrissie, from Central Office so that the ashes could be transferred to the Chaplaincy ready for the committal. **BZ** . S/M Penny has written the article below for your information.

*Christopher Weaver*

*I met Chris on Armed Forces Day 2016. My family had noted him living in a bus shelter in Letchworth and found out that he was ex RN. At that time, I had been introduced by the RNA and trained by the RMA as a Veteran Support Officer. This I have found will get me information and open doors to allow me to become involved with veterans in such a way that I can then be of use to them.*



*Had I made contact with Chris before he was evicted I could have been of more use to have prevented that occurring. Sadly, by the time I met him we now could only help to get him rehomed.*

*Having contact with the local homelessness officer, the personnel from the homeless shelter and the police, we were able to get him into temporary private accommodation, and at this point I was able to help him to move over a period of months, twice into private homes and basically keep an eye on him to*

*make sure he was okay, until he eventually moved into the local homeless shelter.*

*I was able to help when necessary in getting him items he needed and helping with officialdom such as writing letters.*

*When in late 2017 the homeless shelter managed to get him into a bedsit owned by the Johnny Johnson homes I then approached SSAFA who helped with his move in financial terms.*

*Sadly, in late 2017 he had a fall which resulted in him having to have his leg amputated and from this he never recovered. Again, through my RMA training I was able to visit the hospital to obtain information not usually given to non-relatives. And at his passing was then able to access everything to do with his personal information and effects.*

*At this point having contact with the hospital bereavement officer, Council environmental health office (who deal with persons with no known relatives) and the homeless shelter personnel.*

*This allowed me to deal with the death certificate, empty his bedsit, tie up his finances with his bank, deal with outstanding correspondence and help to arrange the funeral with the funeral directors. Chris was given a full Naval funeral on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. Since then his ashes have sat on top of my wardrobe whilst arranging for burial at sea.*

*In early June I passed them on to our National Chairman to bring them down to Portsmouth, but sadly that fell through so I picked them up again and passed them onto S/M Gus Gudgeon who handed them over to Chrissie and Andy from CO who kindly went to the station to collect them from Gus. I'm sure Chris would appreciate all that has taken place and it would have appealed to his sense of humour.*



*Thanks then*

*To all the officials who helped Chris when he needed it particularly the personnel from the local Shelters. S/M Rev Paul Bennet. For conducting the funeral. My partner S/M Norris for helping to remove furniture.*

*S/M Daniel (my daughter) for helping with Chris over the two years, putting notices on Facebook and in the local pubs after he died and for reading the eulogy at the funeral*

*S/M Standard Bearers from several local branches and S/M's who attended the funeral*

*S/M Karl Webb (Huntingdon Branch) for his write up on the website (this helped to get S/Ms to the funeral from far and wide)*



*SSAFA who helped Chris with expenses and then through the RNBT helped with my expenses  
Andy from CO who got me Chris's service record and together with Chrissie collected the ashes from the station. And made arrangements for us for the day of the committal*

*S/M Gus Gudgeon for transporting the ashes at 24 hours' notice. 1<sup>st</sup> Garden City Branch for a donation to Chris of a microwave. The Royal Navy for the*

*burial at sea*

Photos - (Top) SD Netley on way to Committal (Middle) S/M Penny and Gus reflecting on SD Netley (Bottom) S/M Christopher Weaver Committal.

## **7. Conference Report 2018 – Dun Laoghaire**

*Our thanks go to the General Secretary for filing this comprehensive report on Conference 2018.*

I am delighted to report that we have just had a wonderful Conference in Dublin in the port of Dun Laoghaire at the estuary of the River Liffey.

Shipmates started to arrive on Thursday taking the excellent 703 Airbus directly from the airport to the front door of the Royal Marine Hotel. Many shipmates found alternative accommodation – but we all found the Wetherspoons with drinks at half price!

The National Council had its various meetings in the sumptuous Royal Irish Yacht Club during Friday – with great business done – including welcoming the Riders Branch as the newest Branch of the RNA.

We gathered in Hardy's Bar in the Royal Marine for our meet and greet – with some migrating to Bar #2 in Wetherspoons. It was great to see a good turnout.

Conference Day started bright and early with the usual Central Office 'Both Watches' to review the arrangements for the big day. Fortunately, we had been able to get the Conference room ready during Friday. We had use of the 'Carlyle Suite' which had a wonderful view of the harbour, and the Flagship of the Irish Navy, LE Ethne, which was visiting in support of the RNA Conference – and open to visitors during the day. I am pleased to report that we had 58 registered delegates for the Conference. Queen Victoria once enjoyed an 18-course breakfast at the Royal Marine, with our sound engineer Lyndon Ford doing his best to try and equal that feat!





Peter Reed in Particular.

After GS read the letter of Patronal greetings from Her Majesty, the Conference was opened by Senator Neale Richmond from the Irish Senate. His remarks included:

- A brief history of the port of Dun Laoghaire and its close connection to the Royal Navy.
- He recommended a walk on the pier and a Teddy's ice cream!
- He warmly reflected that after Brexit that Ireland will be the UK's closest friend in Europe and perhaps in the world
- There are record number of Irish citizens serving in the UK Armed Forces.



The NP then welcomed Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM PhD FNI, Chief of Defence, Irish Defence Forces. NP noted that Adm Mellett had commanded 3 ships, and had transformed the Irish Navy into a smart and responsive force. Vice Admiral Mellett addressed conference, his key points were:

- His theme was 'No man is an island'.
- Defence Forces underpins civil society and protects it and its interests. We have a volatile world around us and a history of 60 years of Irish commitment to peacekeeping and 70,000 rotations of duty. 87 soldiers have given their lives for international peace.
- Linkage RNA/INA typifies the way that we should work together.
- Leadership is the key to encourage collaboration together. No strength without unity!



NP thanked VAdm Mellett for his thought provoking speech, and presented a decanter of rum to Senator Richmond and Admiral Mellett. He then moved on to his Annual address: key points are:

- A big thanks to Chaplain of the Fleet, Dublin Branch.
- A BZ to Ray Barrclough, standing down after 30 years as Hon Treasurer.
- A reelection on Paul Quinn's time as General Secretary and a welcome to his successor, Capt Bill Oliphant who takes over in December.
- Delighted to announce the award of the BEM to Shipmate Ivan Hunter for his national contribution as NCBA and Chair SOC.
- Sorrow at the passing of 3 NCM, Dick Ascott, Paul Harries and Peter Reed.



- Success of Project Semaphore, LIBOR buses, on-line clothing, Minor grants from the Branch Support Fund, better investment return, CONA and the new Charter with the RN.

The prizes for recruiting were awarded to:

Sword of Honour  
 Briggs Dirk  
 Brigg's Rose Bowl  
 Tasker Bowl  
 Overseas Certificate for larger branches  
 Overseas Certificate for smaller branches

**3 Area**  
**Reigate**  
**Coventry**  
**9 Area**  
**Torre Vieja**  
**Jersey**



Shipmate Ivan Hunter BEM, as Chair SOC announced the results of the NCM and DNCM elections



	<b>NCM</b>
1	M Foley
3	S Maclean
4	A Gutteridge
5	J Hammond
10	D Wright
12	P Stephenson
8	not required

	<b>DNCM</b>
	No Nomination
	R Pullen
	No nomination
	No Nomination
	S Simmons
	R Buchannan
	G Barbrook

S/M Ray Barraclough then presented the Accounts to Conference, for the last time after 30 years. The details are in the annual accounts, but the key points were:

- Reserves increased by 7%, due to high level of legacy and good investment returns.
- The increased subscriptions had led to better balance in the accounts.
- Investments increased under the RNRMC Custodian arrangement.
- Very good cost control of expenses.
- The independent examination saves £4k over an audit.

He summarised that the RNA had seen a sound financial performance with a good legacy return and tight control by the GS and NC.



The National Chair, S/M Keith Ridley made the annual report of the NC to Conference. Key points were:

- Thanks to Dublin Branch for hosting the Conference and BZ to Nick Purkis and Paul Stephenson.
- Welcomed Bill Oliphant to the RNA.
- Reflected on the success of the Central Office Open Days and Phase 1 mentoring by the Plymouth Area branches and the Culture and Values sessions for Phase 2 sailors.
- That it is a branch responsibility to recruit and if 25% of members, got one person to join, we'd increase by 3,500. A branch recruitment advisor (S/M Gareth Booth) has just been appointed to help.



- He reported a superb Biennial Parade, the RN's massed volunteer bands and reps from Belgium and Ireland.
- Congratulated Bob Coburn on winning the Standard Bearers Competition and the success of the novices comp.
- Gave a BZ to Rita Lock for an excellent Welfare Seminar.
- Sought support for a final push on Jutland Wood. Planting event in the New Year.
- The appointment of Mike Gray as our digital Guru.

He then took Conference through the discussions held at NC regarding the arrangements for Conference, required by a motion last year. The AMC had come up with an idea of a reunion every other year and an annual AGM. The NC were split on the idea and wanted the mood of Conference on the issue. The proposal met with universal thumbs down from all the delegates and the idea will be dropped. After a presentation on Project Semaphore the Conference moved to the motions.

Results as follows:



NC motion 1 and 2 – To recognise holders of the Merchant Navy Veterans Badge as full members – **Passed.**

NC motion 3 – To establish Special Interest and Social Groups – **Passed.**

NC Motion 4 - To allow payment of expenses and honoraria – **Passed**

Branch motion 1 – To hold the 2020 Conference in Liverpool – **Passed**

Branch Motion 2 – To have a study to examine central

control of membership. **Passed.**

The results of the Conference Raffle were announced

- 1st - Mawhinney - Bloxwich
- 2nd - Michael Payne Ramsey Essex
- 3rd - Skegness RNA
- 4th - Mike Pomeroy - Blackwater:

With the Conference finishing at lunchtime, many Shipmates took the opportunity to visit the LE Ethne berthed close by. All were impressed by the friendliness of the Ship's company and the immaculate turn out of the ship, despite being over 30 years old. It was very interesting to learn of the work she had done pulling migrants out of the Mediterranean.

The Executive Officer joined over 200 Shipmates at the Gala Dinner on Saturday night in the Hotel. The room looked beautiful with a table raffle provided by Dublin Branch. We were privileged to have as guests the British Ambassador and the Defence Attaché, as well as chums from the INA.



We enjoyed a talented Irish Harpist over our delicious meal. Dublin then sprang a lovely surprise with an unexpected performance of Irish 'River dance' by a local dancing school. An extremely high standard with 4 younger dancers dressed in traditional dress and 3 older dancers who impressed with dazzling footwork. Presentations were made to Ray Barraclough, Maureen Quinn and Rev Ian Wheatley as they leave us. The NP

read a letter of congratulations and thanks from the First Sea Lord for Paul Quinn's contribution to the RNA over 8 years. Dancing went on to the small hours as evidenced by this picture of Central Office staff joining Shipmates on the dance floor.

The Sunday Service was held in the next-door Irish Maritime Museum, once the Church of the Royal Navy in Ireland. There was a good turnout of standards and a high standard of drill, led by S/M Mick Kieran. The Rev Ian Wheatley took the Service and gave a really inspiring sermon on the theme of 'Greater love has no man, than to lay down his life for his friends'.



Drawing a comparison between the gallantry of the Zeebrugge Raid and the work of the RNA.

The National President gave his end of Conference stirring speech, with the naughty GS and CoF

starting the enormous lighthouse lens rotating as he started!

Some shipmates completed their Irish experience with a visit to the Guinness Storehouse! Details of the trip are somewhat hazy!

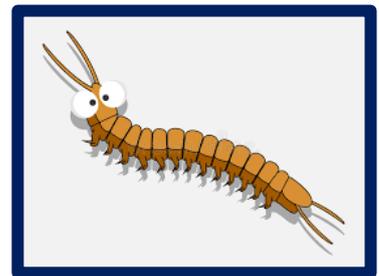


## 8. Joke Time – Talking Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So, he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to the pub for a drink with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go down the pub with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet. This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going down the pub with me?"



But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet.

So, he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation. The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's box and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to the pub with me? .....

Wait for it .....

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"

## 9. Project Semaphore (iPads) – A reminder and Update of what it is all about?

**Project Semaphore** is a Royal Naval Association (RNA) initiative funded by the Aged Veterans Fund, to address the issue of digital isolation in older Veterans, which exacerbates loneliness and poverty. Whilst we provide iPads, it is not an IT Project: it is a Project to provide friendship, support and practical help, with the outcome of better spiritual and mental health. A recent study equated loneliness in the elderly to the effect of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

Shipmates who qualify for an iPad can make new friends, learn new skills and connect with their family and friends. Project Semaphore has been a huge success, to date, we have issued over 500 devices and the Project is ongoing. Mindful that many Veterans have a fear of technology, they feel overwhelmed at the idea of learning new skills, worry about their personal security and need help and support to realise the benefits of the financial savings offered online. Whilst an iPad is ideal, as it is lightweight and portable, they fear of breaking it by pushing the wrong button and therefore the support of our dedicated (and very patient!) Volunteers has been key to provide reassurance and encouragement. We support Shipmates in their homes if they are unable to join a group or attend a Workshop, we cover the country from Inverness, Douglas IOM, Limavady and Holyhead, Liverpool to York, Kent, Plymouth and Cornwall.

**Care Homes.** The Royal Star and Garter Homes (Surbiton and Solihull), Pembroke House (Chatham), The Royal Alfred Seafarer's Society (Surrey) have embraced the opportunity to offer iPads to their eligible Veterans to enhance the activities they deliver.

Addressing isolation from families, as well as offering the opportunity to explore or develop interests and hobbies including photography, games, researching ships, naval and family history has proved most popular and improved the quality of family visits, sharing images and stories on the iPad and learning from IT savvy children and grandchildren!

**Collaboration.** To reach Veterans, we are delighted that our Project has been embraced by a range of organisation who offer complimentary support and include:

The Royal Navy's Chaplain of the Fleet, Scottish War Blinded, Royal British Legion Industries, SSAFA, Marine Society and Sea Cadets, Apple Southampton, Association of Wrens, The Fleet Air Arm Association, WRNS BT, Merchant Navy Association, Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association, RNA Welfare Officers, RNBT, Conference of Naval Associations (CONA), Royal Marines Association, Dementia UK, Improving Lives Plymouth, Cornwall Rural Community Charity as well as numerous RNA Branches who have promoted the Project, hosted Workshops and presentations.

*The I-pad is a godsend for me, on New Year's Day, put a message on Raleigh Facebook page and had 248 responses. I talk to an old buddy every day, he is 86 I am a young sprig I am only 83. I also read the news from RNA Central Office.*

*"..a whole new way of being in contact with friends and Navy, I would not have known about. I wonder what I did without it."*



**Further funding and support** We are delighted that RNRMC, Navy News, Greenwich Hospital and Royal Naval Reserves have recognised the complexity of this Project and provided financial and practical support in order that we can maintain momentum. Thank you.

**Volunteers** We maintain regular contact with our 'A Team' of Volunteers, to express our thanks for their time and dedication...we couldn't deliver this Project without them! We share iPad tips and tricks and include their experiences and feedback to ensure our Workshops are relevant and pitched at the correct level. Volunteers provide advice and support both face to face, and online using secure and user-friendly technology: Facetime and Skype provide a window on the world, and it is a joy to watch arthritic fingers getting to grips with the concept of a touch screen.

We welcome IT savvy Volunteers who are willing to share their knowledge and contribute to changing the lives of fellow Veterans, we pay traveling expenses and in return Volunteers gain a sense of purpose, pride and the opportunity to impart their knowledge in a safe environment with like-minded people.



**Other service Veterans.** In the early stages of the Project, offering iPads in groups and in particular Care Homes to RN and RM Veterans only was divisive. However due to the success of the Project, the offer now extends to RAF and Army candidates who are part of a Veterans group. First to embrace this opportunity is the Princess Marina House, a centre in Rustington offering respite, care breaks for serving and former RAF personnel as well as a lunch club for Veterans.

Captain Paul Quinn RN (Retd), The Royal Naval Association General Secretary said "Digitally isolated Veterans are blind to and invisible to the digital world. Bringing someone online is like throwing the curtains back in a dark room. Without doubt this is the project I have been involved with that has the biggest impact on individuals – I am so proud to be part of it".

## Applications

Please get in touch for more information, to clarify the eligibility criteria, request an Application Form or to Volunteer: [julie@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:julie@royalnavalassoc.com)

The photos above feature the Christchurch RNA 'iPaders' and Veterans who attended the iPad workshop at HMS Forward in Birmingham. Please see below the email from S/M Rick Squibb to Sarah Clewes, the Project Manager, extolling the virtues of the RNA iPad.

*Hi Sarah*

*I managed to get some of our iPad shipmates together. Unfortunately, a couple are missing. However, I think one important factor is Ron Checkett's on the right (holding the 'iPad for seniors magazine') in the picture must surely be one of our oldest iPad veterans. Ron is 97. Ron is over the moon with his iPad. Who'd have thought a 97-year-old would be able to communicate with his family. Mind you Ron was a communicator in The RN and a 'secret squirrel' at GCHQ so he has background!!*

All the veterans are so happy to be in touch with family and friends. Audrey, left in the picture, talks to her Daughter in Holland thanks to the RNA iPad. I had a request from another 80+ veteran today for a iPad. I will be forwarding the request in a day or two.

Regards Rick

## 10. Union Jack Club

The Union Jack Club [www.ujclub.co.uk](http://www.ujclub.co.uk) is a private members club for Non-Commissioned Serving and veteran members of HM Armed Forces and is located in Waterloo central London. With over 260 bedrooms, a restaurant, bars, private rooms, espresso café, baggage store, games and changing rooms it has a lot to offer its members.



Bedrooms are single, double, twin, and family rooms, as well as our apartments (suitable for up to six adults), are equipped with flat screen TVs, tea and coffee making facilities, toiletries, and luxury towels.

If you have never experienced our Union Jack Club hospitality and friendly atmosphere we would recommend that you come and see first-hand. Check out our reviews on Google or TripAdvisor to see what people are saying about the Club or the video at [www.ujclub.co.uk](http://www.ujclub.co.uk).

Membership currently is £20 for the initial year then £17 after that and can be done via [www.ujclub.co.uk/membership](http://www.ujclub.co.uk/membership) where a long list of benefits is listed.

## 11. Naval Parade Training

Procedure Bravo! One, One Up.....Stand Still etc etc



12.

## RNBT – Assistance with Care Home Fees



**The Royal Naval  
Benevolent Trust**  
Supporting The RNBT Family

Shipmates may not be aware that the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) can help with care home fees.

RNBT can also contribute towards the cost of domiciliary care. If you know someone who is an **ex-RN or RM rating, including reservists, or their widows**, then ask them to get in touch with SSAFA who will arrange a home visit and make a recommendation for funding to RNBT.

RNBT also runs its own care home for older members of the Royal Naval family at Pembroke House which is in Gillingham. More details at: <http://www.rnbt.org.uk/pembroke-house/>

### 13. Can you Assist ?

S/M Tim Jarvis, the Hon Secretary, at RNA Weeley & District has in his possession a Matelot and RNA Crest on a wooden base.

S/M Tim would appreciate any assistance/information that Shipmates could providing as to what they are and what were they originally used for? He is aware of another one owned by a shipmate in Wales. He can be contacted by e-mail; [timrna@sky.com](mailto:timrna@sky.com)



### 14. Assistance Request Please.



The son of AB William George Parker BEM, who is a member of Chard Branch, would like to ask Shipmates for any assistance in locating the Ships Bell of HMS St Kitts.

The bell along with the crest of HMS Camperdown and Ships Ensign were presented to AB George on his retirement from the RN as the longest serving AB after 44 years' service.

If you can assist, please contact Shipmate Dick Moon (Chard Branch) on 01460 929041.

### 15. Jokes for the road.....

*Courtesy S/M Ivan Hunter BEM - It's Ivan's so blame him!*

The Inventor of the Throat lozenge has sadly died..... Wait for it.....  
There will be no coffin at his funeral.....

A man was arrested yesterday after falling into a combined harvester whilst trying to steal it....  
He's due to be bailed tomorrow!

New on the market are Viagra Tea Bags. They don't improve your sex life but they do stop your digestives from going soft!!!

## RNA Longcast

2018	
05 Oct	Open Day
21 Oct	Trafalgar Day
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – Rayleigh
07 Nov	Captain Bill Oliphant arrives for handover as GS
08 Nov	Field of Remembrance – Westminster Abbey – Sunday rehearsal
11 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – NCh to lay wreath DGS as wreath bearer <b>100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice for 1WW</b> Battles Over commemorations nationally – many RNA taking part
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
23 Nov	IMC Executive Council Portsmouth and WW1 commemoration
08 Dec	National Council Meeting. Captain Bill Oliphant assumes duties as GS.
13 Dec	Battle of the River Plate Day
21 Dec	Captain Paul Quinn goes on leave and draft, rest of staff have party!
22 Dec to 2 Jan 19	Central Office Christmas closed period
2019	
02 Feb	Area 5 AGM & Quarterly - Harwich
15 Feb	FAC
16 Feb	AMC
16 Mar	Jutland Wood Planting – Langley Vale
16 Mar	National Council Meeting
04 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich
18 May	Open Day – Central Office
7-9 Jun	<b>Conference – Wyboston Lakes (Area 6)</b>
7 Jun	National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings
8 Jun	Main Conference Day – Gala Dinner.
21 Jun	Open Day – Central Office
26 Jul	Open Day - Central Office
03 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Rayleigh
16 Aug	FAC
17 Aug	AMC
30 Aug	Open Day - Central Office
07 Sep	National Council Meeting
<b>08 Sep</b>	<b>Biennial Parade - Whitehall</b>
11 Oct	Open Day - Central Office
02 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
07 Dec	National Council Meeting

## RNA Members Benefits

### UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA. <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/news/323/members-holidays-service>

### Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

- Discounted Branch and House hold Insurance - 01323 744149  
<http://bit.ly/RNACona>

### Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Co-op Funeral Service – contact Central Office.

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



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

### Legal Services



Free 30 minute legal advice with Coffin Mew.  
[armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk](mailto:armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk) 0800 827168

### Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service  
[asec@arno.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk)



*Discounts on a large range of new Cars*

## Shortcast

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

***I would be very grateful if organisers of reunions would oblige me by obtaining a quote from the CONA Travel Service, who will not be beaten on like for like price. CONA Travel Service donate 1% of their CONA business back into the Conference totalling to date £2,400 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh and by the way their service is first class as well.***

### **Lascaris Malta Association – September 2018**

Lascaris Malta Association visited SS. Great Britain during their annual reunion visit to Bristol in September. If you would like more details of this association contact Pat Middleton at [patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciamiddleton@hotmail.com)



Semaphore Circular is extremely grateful to Mike Crowe of RN Shipmates who has forwarded the RN Shipmates 'Reunions' section from their website <http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk/reunions.php> where you will find specific contact details.

### **ASWI Association – 29 September 2018**

ASWI will be holding dinner on Saturday 29 September 2018 at the Royal Beach Hotel in Southsea PO4 0QJ. Accommodation is at a special rate. Please contact the hotel direct for your room booking. The dress code is; Gents: Black Tie, Mess undress, NO1's (Medals as appropriate) Ladies: Long ball gown or a knee length dress

Weekend package, Friday & Saturday bed & breakfast	£160.00 per twin/double room (two sharing)
Saturday only bed & breakfast	£90.00 per twin/double room
Saturday only bed & breakfast	£70.00 per single room
Gala Dinner	£40.pp Inc. Wine and Port

### **Programme / Time table**

#### *Friday evening*

Arrival as required  
Informal evening meal  
Lantern swinging in the bar

#### *Saturday*

Day at leisure

#### AGM

1845 Reception Members and guests arrive

1920 Hands to Dinner.

2130 Raffle.

2359 Finex

For full menu and booking form please see ASWI website. Payment to be made to the association treasurer.

## Royal Naval Writers Association – 12 October 2018

131<sup>st</sup> Reunion Dinner will be held at The Royal Beach Hotel Southsea on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018; see [www.rnwa.co.uk](http://www.rnwa.co.uk). All serving and ex-serving 'Scribes' (member of the RNWA or not) together with 'oppos & guests' welcome. For further information or details contact the RNWA Secretary, Les Heyhoe, email: [les@heyhoe.com](mailto:les@heyhoe.com) / Mob: 07950 934888 or 023 9235 7181



Admiral Sir Philip Jones VC RSC  
First Sea Lord & Chief of Naval Staff  
with Les Heyhoe MCAR RNWA Secretary & Membership  
RNWA Reunion Dinner 12/10/2017 U/C London

GOH for 2017 was 1SL – 2018 GOH TBA.

## Type 21 Club Reunion – 12/13 October 2018

The Type 21 Club reunion will be held over the weekend 12/13 October 2018. Friday night meet and greet - Saturday at the Royal British Legion Crownhill PL6 5DH. Cost £22 subject to final confirmation.

Full Details will be confirmed in due course or on the web site at [www.type21club.org](http://www.type21club.org) or Contact Paul Gower PRO Type 21 Club, email [type21clubpro@gmail.com](mailto:type21clubpro@gmail.com)

## Survey Ships Association – 26-29 October 2018

The **Survey Ships Association** will be holding its twenty-fourth reunion at the Holiday Inn, Hull Marina on the w/e of 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, e-mail: [secretary@surveyships.org.uk](mailto:secretary@surveyships.org.uk), or telephone 023 9232 4795.

## HMS Mohawk Association – 2 November 2018

HMS Mohawk Association will be holding a reunion in Plymouth on the weekend of 2nd November. Please contact IOW tours for information. We would also welcome anyone who served on any Tribal Class Frigate.

## HMS Relentless Association – 2-5 November 2018

The annual Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association will take place over the weekend of Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Aztec & Spa, Bristol. All ex-Rusty Rs welcome. To book, or for further information, please contact IOW Tours ([info@iowtours.com](mailto:info@iowtours.com) - Tel: 01983 405 116). Alternatively, contact the Association Secretary ([Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk](mailto:Secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk) - Tel 02392 599 640).

## HMS Loch Fada F390

HMS Loch Fada Association F390 will hold their 22<sup>nd</sup> Reunion & AGM at the Cedar Court Hotel, Huddersfield from 11 to 15 April 2019. This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> 4 day reunion after the great successes of our 1<sup>st</sup> two.



Friday Coach outing to 'Last of the Summer Wine' country

Saturday 1030 AGM & 1830 Reunion Dinner

Sunday Coach outing to York

Bookings & Arrangements are being made through IofW Tours; email [iowtours.com](mailto:iowtours.com) Tel 01983 405116 or [F390.sec11@virginmedia.com](mailto:F390.sec11@virginmedia.com) or F390 Sec, 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants GU11 3ND

## Other Reunions

September 21st - 23rd	H.M.S. Protector Association	<a href="mailto:Dougatspindrift@aol.com">Dougatspindrift@aol.com</a>	Hadleigh Hotel Eastbourne
Sept, 21st - 24th	H.M.S. Ulster Association	<a href="mailto:ulster@candoo.com">ulster@candoo.com</a>	Hallmark Midlands Hotel Derby
September 21st	RNCCA	<a href="mailto:honsec@rncca.com">honsec@rncca.com</a>	Rob Roy Hotel Aberfoyle
September 21st	H.M.S. Tiger association	<a href="mailto:turbine52@gmail.com">turbine52@gmail.com</a>	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
Sept 28th - Oct 1st	R.N.E.W.E.B. Association	<a href="mailto:enquiries@iowtours.com">enquiries@iowtours.com</a>	Hallmark Hotel Preston
Sept 28th / 29th	H.M.S Caprice 1968 Association World Cruise	<a href="mailto:gl@hmscaprice1968.org.uk">gl@hmscaprice1968.org.uk</a>	RMC Portsmouth
September 29th	Royal Navy Stewards Past and Present	<a href="mailto:shugstero1@yahoo.co.uk">shugstero1@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Plymouth
September 29th	BRNC Dartmouth September 1978 Entry	<a href="mailto:brncclassof78@gmail.com">brncclassof78@gmail.com</a>	BRNC Dartmouth
October 5th	H.M.S. Lowestoft Association	<a href="mailto:ian@hmslowestoft.co.uk">ian@hmslowestoft.co.uk</a>	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 5th	H.M.S. Troubridge Final Commission	<a href="mailto:Romft1@gmail.com">Romft1@gmail.com</a>	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 6th	Royal Naval Patrol Service Association	<a href="mailto:hq@rnpsa.co.uk">hq@rnpsa.co.uk</a>	Lowestoft
October 8th	Bay Class Frigates Association	<a href="mailto:Doug Turk">Doug Turk</a>	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Naval Writers' Association (RNWA)	<a href="mailto:les@heyhoe.com">les@heyhoe.com</a>	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
October 12th - 15th	Royal Navy Photographers Association	<a href="http://www.rnpa.org.uk/">http://www.rnpa.org.uk/</a>	Plymouth
October 13th	Type 21 Club Association	<a href="mailto:davidwoollard813@btinternet.com">davidwoollard813@btinternet.com</a>	Crownhill RBL Plymouth
October 14th	H.M.S. Neptune Association	<a href="http://www.hmsneptune.com">www.hmsneptune.com</a>	National Arboretum Alrewas
October 20th	H.M.S Nubian	<a href="mailto:robertholland54@btinternet.com">robertholland54@btinternet.com</a>	Caledonian Hotel Rosyth
October 26th - 29th	HMS Eagle / HMS Yarmouth / HMS Undaunted but open to all	<a href="mailto:alan666@blueyonder.co.uk">alan666@blueyonder.co.uk</a>	Tillington Hall Hotel Staffs
November 9th	H.M.S. Intrepid Association	<a href="mailto:andywalmsley_uk@yahoo.co.uk">andywalmsley_uk@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Liverpool
October or November	H.M.S. Endurance Association First Commission 1968 - 69	<a href="mailto:jansbolt@btinternet.com">jansbolt@btinternet.com</a>	TBA
<b>2019</b>			
April 26th - 28th	Royal Navy Safety Equipment & Survival Association	<a href="mailto:gordon.parkes7@btinternet.com">gordon.parkes7@btinternet.com</a>	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Sept. 7th -	847 NAS H.M.S.	<a href="mailto:cliff.jones1948@gmail.com">cliff.jones1948@gmail.com</a>	Aztec Hotel

10th 2019	Simbang 69 -71		Bristol
December 2019.	H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veterans	<a href="mailto:malcolm.collis@gmail.com">malcolm.collis@gmail.com</a>	Trip to South America

## Swinging the Lamp – September and October 2018



Date	Year	Entry
8th	1943	Italy surrendered after three years and three months of hostilities and most of her fleet passed into Allied control.
9th	1754	William Bligh, future Captain of HM Armed Transport <i>Bounty</i> , <i>Director</i> (64) at the Battle of Camperdown and <i>Glatton</i> (56) at Copenhagen, Vice-Admiral of the Blue, born at Plymouth.
10th	1862	Britain's first timber-hulled ironclad, <i>Royal Oak</i> , launched at Chatham. She carried 25,000 sq ft of canvas, and her reciprocating engines, powered by 20-psi steam, drove a 19ft-diameter hoisting propeller.
11 <sup>th</sup>	2006	Fleet submarine <i>Sovereign</i> , Cdr S.R. Drysdale RN, Britain's oldest operational submarine, paid off at Faslane after thirty-three years' service.
12th	1920	The Nab Tower, a 9,000ton concrete and steel structure designed as a permanent link in the anti-submarine barrage in the Dover Strait but incomplete when the war ended, was towed from Shoreham by two naval tugs and sunk off Portsmouth as a replacement for the Nab lightvessel. The structure settled with a 1.5 degrees list to the S.W. A workforce of 3,000 men had been secretly drafted-in for the construction project which cost £ 1,250,000
13 <sup>th</sup>	1782	Repulse of the Spanish attack on Gibraltar, all ten Spanish battering ships being destroyed. Seamen from <i>Brilliant</i> reinforced the garrison
14 <sup>th</sup>	1939	So long as hostilities last, the use of the Blue Ensign, whether plain or defaced, and the defaced Red Ensign by merchant and other private vessels is to be discontinued. – AFO
15 <sup>th</sup>	2009	Frigate <i>Iron Duke</i> , Cdr Andrew Stacey RN, On anti-narcotics patrol in the Caribbean, intercepted a fishing boat carrying 5.5 tons of cocaine reported to be worth £ 240 million on the street. This was the ship's third major drugs haul in three months
16 <sup>th</sup>	1719	<i>Weymouth</i> and <i>Winchester</i> destroyed two Spanish warships (one the ex-British <i>Greyhound</i> ) and a battery at Ribadeo, and captured a merchantman
17th	1879	Battleship <i>Agamemnon</i> launched at Chatham. She and her Pembroke- built sister ship <i>Ajax</i> were plagued with erratic steering and considered 'the most unhandy capital ships ever to fly the White Ensign – Oscar Parkes.
18th	1900	War Course for Captains and Commanders, later the Senior Officers' War Course (SOWC), established at RN College, Greenwich. Capt H. Moore, Captain of the College, became the first Director

19th	1944	<i>Terpsichore, Troubridge</i> and <i>Garland</i> (Pol) sank U-407 off Crete (36.27N, 24.33E). Last enemy submarine to be sunk in the Mediterranean in Second World War.
20th	1799	<i>Rattlesnake</i> and <i>Cameleon</i> fought the French <i>Preneuse</i> in Algoa Bay.
21st	1944	10th Submarine Flotilla disbanded. White Ensign hauled down at HMS <i>Talbot</i> , Malta
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1812	<i>Saracen</i> captured the French privateer <i>Courrier</i> 7 miles S.E. of Beachy Head
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1977	Frigate Complex at Devonport Dockyard, originally known as Leander Frigate Complex, developed over No. 2 Basin and enclosing Nos 5, 6 and 7 Docks, opened by Dr David Owen. <i>Galatea</i> docked as demonstration of facility.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1850	Rum ration halved by withdrawal of evening issue.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1761	Dr Cuthbert of the Royal College of Surgeons appointed to analyse water at Weovil or Weevil Yard. Ships' cisterns were lead-lined to protect the wood, which was unfortunate for those who drank the contents.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1827	HM King George IV granted to the Royal Marines the globe for their badge and his cypher for their colours
27 <sup>th</sup>	1914	Allied forces captured <i>Duala</i> , Cameroons. Ships: <i>Challenger</i> , <i>Dwarf</i> . Niger Flotilla: <i>Ivy</i> , <i>Porpoise</i> , <i>Remus</i>
28 <sup>th</sup>	1652	Admiral Robert Blake ( <i>Resolution</i> ) defeated the Dutch fleet under Vice-Admiral de With ( <i>Prins Willem</i> ) off the Kentish Knock. Ships: <i>Andrew</i> , <i>Diamond</i> , <i>Garland</i> , <i>Guinea</i> , <i>Nightingale</i> , <i>Nonsuch</i> , <i>Pelican</i> , <i>Resolution</i> , <i>Ruby</i> , <i>Sovereign</i> , <i>Speaker</i> , <i>Vanguard</i> , <i>Triumph</i> , <i>Foresight</i> , <i>Lion</i> , <i>Advice</i> , <i>President</i> . Battle Honour: Kentish Knock 1652.
29th	1758	Horatio Nelson born
30 <sup>th</sup>	1998	<i>Dolphin</i> , the home of the Royal Navy's Submarine Service for nearly a century, paid off and closed 1 April 1999. Training task transferred to <i>Dryad</i> and <i>Raleigh</i>

<b>Swinging the Lamp - October 2018</b>		
Date	Year	Entry
1st	1748	Rear-Admiral Charles Knowles ( <i>Cornwall</i> ) intercepted a Spanish squadron under Vice-Admiral Don Andres Reggio ( <i>Africa</i> ) 12 miles N.E. of Havana. Ships: <i>Tilbury</i> , <i>Strafford</i> , <i>Cornwall</i> , <i>Lenox</i> , <i>Warwick</i> , <i>Canterbury</i> , <i>Oxford</i> .
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1699	Half-pay limited by Order in Council to 9 flag officers, 51 captains, 100 lieutenants and 30 masters
3rd	1806	Boats of <i>Minerva</i> cut out two Spanish gunboats in Arosa Bay
4 <sup>th</sup>	1905	<i>Ganges</i> , the principal Boys' Training Establishment at Shotley Point, near Ipswich, commissioned
5 <sup>th</sup>	1967	Surveying ship <i>Dampier</i> sailed from Singapore to pay off at Chatham after nearly twenty years' service in the Far East, a post-war naval long service record for continuous duty east of Suez.

6 <sup>th</sup>	1779	<i>Quebec</i> blew up in action with the French <i>Surveillante</i> 45 miles N. of Ushant. <i>Rambler</i> fought the French <i>Expedition</i> in the same area.
7 <sup>th</sup>	1853	The Keyham Steam Yard at Devonport inaugurated when the first-rate <i>Queen</i> (110) moved from No. 2 Basin into No. 7 Dock
8 <sup>th</sup>	1943	Submarine <i>Unruly</i> sank the German <i>Bulgaria</i> (ex-Bulgarian) in Aegean
9 <sup>th</sup>	1994	Armillia Patrol deployed to northern Gulf to deter new Iraqi threat to Kuwait. Operation Driver. Ships reverted to Operation Armilla 15 November. Frigate <i>Cornwall</i> , destroyers <i>Cardiff</i> and <i>Liverpool</i> , RFA <i>Bayleaf</i> , 45 Cdo.
10 <sup>th</sup>	1891	Second, illustrated edition of the Uniform Regulations. Major changes – full dress coat lost gold lace from skirts, cocked hat centralised instead of athwart, and undress coat became ball dress. Monkey jacket confirmed as normal day dress. Flag Officers' buttons reduced in size. White and blue dress and undress waistcoats introduced. Dress boat cloak, brown gloves and black gaiters, too.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1746	<i>Nottingham</i> captured the French <i>Mars</i> 70 miles S.W. of Cape Clear, after a gallant defence by an ailing crew
12 <sup>th</sup>	1817	Frigate <i>Trincomalee</i> (46), built of Malabar teak, launched at Bombay. Sold May 1897 and, as TS <i>Foudroyant</i> , was youth training ship at Portsmouth. July 1987 taken on a heavy-lift barge to Hartlepool for restoration and now preserved there. The oldest British warship afloat
13 <sup>th</sup>	1913	Flag of Admiral Sir George F. King-Hall, C-in-C Australian Station, struck in the light cruiser HMS <i>Cambrian</i> at Melbourne and that of Rear-Admiral Sir George Patey hoisted in the new battlecruiser HMAS <i>Australia</i> . The first Australian-born officer to command the Station.
14 <sup>th</sup>	1997	Frigate <i>Monmouth</i> and RFA <i>Orangeleaf</i> , with FNS <i>Surcouf</i> , stood by off Pointe Noire until 30 October to evacuate nationals during unrest in the Congo. Operation Kingfisher
15 <sup>th</sup>	1799	Boats of <i>Echo</i> cut out a Spanish brig in the forenoon and a French one in the afternoon in Aguadilla Bay, Puerto Rico.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1815	Bonaparte landed on St Helena
17 <sup>th</sup>	1917	Destroyers <i>Strongbow</i> and <i>Mary Rose</i> , escorting a Scandinavian convoy, sunk by the German light cruisers <i>Bremse</i> and <i>Brummer</i> in Norwegian Sea (60.06N, 01.06E). Battle Honour: Scandinavian Convoys 1917
18 <sup>th</sup>	1949	Lt HRH The Duke of Edinburgh RN joined the destroyer <i>Chequers</i> (Capt J.E.H. McBeath RN, Captain (D) 1st DF) at Malta as First Lieutenant
19 <sup>th</sup>	1797	<i>Anson</i> and <i>Boadicea</i> captured the French privateer <i>Zephyr</i> 45 miles S.W. by W. of Belle Ile
20 <sup>th</sup>	1849	<i>Columbine</i> , <i>Fury</i> , <i>Phlegethon</i> (Ben. Mar.), with a party from <i>Hastings</i> , destroyed fifty-eight pirate junks in the Kua Kam, Indo-China. Battle Honour: Kua Kam 1849.
21 <sup>st</sup>	1794	<i>Artois</i> , assisted eventually by <i>Diamond</i> , captured the French <i>Révolutionnaire</i> off Ushant. Battle Honour: <i>Révolutionnaire</i> 1794.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1805	Five Trafalgar prizes – <i>Redoutable</i> , <i>Bucentaure</i> , <i>Fougueux</i> ,

		<i>Santissima Trinidad</i> and <i>Algésires</i> – wrecked, and five more would be taken within a fortnight.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1918	Dame Agnes Weston died, aged 78, still at work in Devonport
24 <sup>th</sup>	1943	Destroyer <i>Eclipse</i> sunk by mine off Kalymnos Island in the Dodecanese (37.01N, 27.11E).
25 <sup>th</sup>	1856	Capture of Canton in Second China War by a squadron commanded by Sir Michael Seymour in <i>Calcutta</i> (84).
26 <sup>th</sup>	1944	Corvette <i>Rose</i> (Nor) sunk in collision with <i>Manners</i> 500 miles E of Cape Race (45.10N 39.40W). Convoy ON 260.
27 <sup>th</sup>	1651	'General at Sea' Robert Blake defeated the Royalist fleet under Prince Rupert
28 <sup>th</sup>	1798	French garrison on Maltese island of Gozo surrendered to RN blockading squadron. Capt John Cresswell landed with his Marines from <i>Alexander</i> (74) and hoisted British colours.
29 <sup>th</sup>	1801	Nelson, having been created a Viscount after Copenhagen, made his maiden speech in the House of Lords.
30 <sup>th</sup>	1917	M 15, M 29, M 31 and, occasionally, M 32 and <i>Raglan</i> , and <i>Ladybird</i> , <i>Aphis</i> , <i>Comet</i> , <i>Staunch</i> and <i>City of Oxford</i> , began bombardment of Gaza coast. Ended 11 November with loss of M 15 and <i>Staunch</i> .
31 <sup>st</sup>	1762	<i>Panther</i> and <i>Argo</i> captured the Spanish <i>Santissima Trinidad</i> , with \$3 million on board, off Kapul Island, Philippines

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**Royal Naval Association**  
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PO1 3LT            **W**    royal-naval-association.co.uk