



**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**



# The Semaphore Circular

**No 689**

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

**May 2019**



***Anzac Day is commemorated with a ceremony onboard the Monitor HMS M33. HMS M33 saw action in the Gallipoli Campaign during the First World War and is on display in the historic dockyard in***

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

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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
<b>NCBA</b>	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Central Office Team (L to R) - Bill Oliphant, Chrissie Hughes, Andy Christie, Mike Gray, Sarah Clewes, Julie Royston, Michelle Bainbridge, Nigel Huxtable, and Alan Magrath

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### Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

RNA Central Office,  
Room 209, PP70,  
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## Dear Shipmates,

First things first. On behalf of the RNA, our National President has taken the opportunity to write a note of congratulations to the Right Hon Penny Mordaunt MP on her elevation to Secretary of State for Defence. She is a Royal Navy reservist, a former minister for the armed forces and the MP for Portsmouth North, home of Portsmouth Naval Base so we're delighted that someone so close to the Royal Navy now holds such an important office of state.

Secondly, if you have not heard this through other means, I am absolutely thrilled to announce that the RNA's Project Semaphore won first prize in the Soldiering On Awards ceremony in London on 5 April as the People's Choice for a project that has provided a significant contribution in support of the Armed Forces community. This is fitting tribute to our Project Semaphore Project Manager, Sarah Clewes and her close team of S/m Julie Royston and S/m Alan Magrath who have worked tirelessly to help naval veterans realise the benefits of being online and to address the issues of social isolation and loneliness. We remain entirely thankful to the Aged Veteran Fund for funding the project and of course the team of 15 or so S/m volunteers who have worked with Sarah, Julie and Al to deliver the project so successfully. A big BZ to all involved and there is an article later in this month's Semaphore Circular with more detail.



I also take great pleasure in welcoming both Greenwich Hospital and AW Ship Management Ltd as our latest Corporate Sponsors. We are of course no strangers with Greenwich Hospital who, as a key naval charity, have already supported the RNA over the years and, indeed, continue to do so now. AW Ship Management however found us on the web and have been keen to support the Objects of our Charity. The sailing of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH afforded us a fine opportunity to invite the new sponsors to the Naval Base and we were able to raise a glass of fizz to toast the occasion. We look forward to extending the relationship in the future and hope to see representation at the Annual Conference in Wyboston.

As stated, QNLZ made it out of Portsmouth on time but had more of a struggle getting into Rosyth at the other end. The whole procedure is a Navigator's nightmare with finding the right tides to get under the Forth Rail Bridge and over the bar into Rosyth before squeezing into the basin with 15" spare on either side. Anyway, it was all completed and safely docked albeit on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of waiting for the wind to be within an acceptable limit.



On the commemorative front, I must thank the Irish Naval Association for turning out with the 12 Area RNA at the recent event in Dublin at the British War Memorial to mark the centenary of the disbandment of the RND after the Great War. Meanwhile, planning for D-Day 75, although a little late in being gripped by the relevant authorities is now in full swing although it appears that the event at Portsmouth on 05 June has been Trumped by a Heads of State visit! Notwithstanding, the RNA will be represented and, it is hoped, that some of our veterans will meet those Heads of State. Ahead of the D-Day commemorations, we had an interesting sight in the Naval Base today as they placed the huge statue made of the very famous photograph taken in New York at the end of the war of a sailor heartily kissing his bonnie

lass. I hope you get a sense of the scale from the photograph – that's VICTORY's bowsprit you can see in the picture.

There's another exciting anniversary on the horizon. Next year, 2020, sees the 50th Anniversary of the cessation of the Rum Ration which we are already in cahoots with Pussers Rum and the RNRMC to commemorate appropriately. By 1970, for matters of safety and for general health, in a modern, high tech and nuclear Royal Navy, it was clearly no longer appropriate to continue to issue the rum ration. And, with this in mind, this commemoration will seek to celebrate the opportunity that "Up Spirits" brought to bring people together.

This year however on 30 July 2019, as a "dry run" for the following year's event, it is proposed to have a 3-course luncheon in HMS BELFAST where the order "Up Spirits!" will be re-enacted. Each Area has been allocated 4 single tickets each and Areas should use their own discretion for the worthy allocation of tickets but should keep in mind that the 4 tickets include spouses/carers. I have reserved 8 tickets for HQ Role members and would invite applications for the ballot by close of play Monday 10 June. While the lunch is all kindly paid by the sponsors, using a funding model akin to the Welfare Seminar, the RNA will offer a contribution towards travel expenses for all members, which will be capped at £50. Unless in exceptional circumstances, there is no funding budgeted for overnight accommodation. On the day, the Ship will be open from 1200 for a 1230 start and participants are encouraged to wear RNA rig. The meal will conclude with a talk from the BELFAST's Yeoman and, for those who wish, a tour of the ship.

Finally, as at 01 May, I must confess I am a tad disappointed that we only have some 48 delegates registered for this year's National Conference in Wyboston especially as it is a relatively accessible location in the country and we have some interesting things on the agenda including a briefing by the Naval Secretary, Admiral Mike Bath and a presentation from 2<sup>nd</sup> Sea Lord's Personnel Liaison Team as well as a full social programme. Can I urge you therefore to consider your attendance and support this event which 6 Area have gone to great lengths to put together for us.

See you there!

*Best wishes from the Central Office Team,*

*Bill*

## 1. ★ Project Semaphore wins National Award

As one of the Royal Naval Association's flagship initiatives, we were delighted to come top in the People's Choice poll at the Soldiering On Awards.

Thousands of individuals and organisations were nominated for the 13 awards, and the short-listed candidates gave judges a tough job to select the worthy winners.

Project Semaphore won in recognition of a group that has provided a significant contribution in support of the Armed Forces community.

BZ Sarah and Project Semaphore Team.

The photo shows NAVSEC, Rear Admiral Mike Bath, recently retired General Secretary Paul Quinn (who couldn't resist the urge to get his hands on the gong!) Sarah Clewes and a representative of the sponsor

General Secretary, Bill Oliphant said: "Project Semaphore is a perfect example of the ethos of today's Royal Naval Association. A need was identified, funding was secured and Sarah, with a dedicated team of volunteers, has managed the project through to the success it is today. Not only does it make life easier and more rewarding for our veterans, but it brings the whole Naval family together for the greater good, reinforcing the RNA watchword of 'once Navy, always Navy.' I am delighted that the project, and Sarah's role in developing it, have been recognised in such a prestigious awards ceremony."

Just in case any Shipmates are unaware or are in need of a small reminder of what it is all about Sarah has very kindly provided a guide to Project Semaphore. please read below;

### ***What is Project Semaphore and who is it for?***



Project Semaphore is funded by the Aged Veterans Fund, to help naval veterans realise the benefits of being online and to address issues of social isolation and loneliness.

Eligibility criteria is set by the Aged Veteran Fund); in order to receive an iPad, Veterans must:

Be over 65 years of age - Have served in the Armed Forces; this is a Royal Naval Association led Project however we are able to offer iPads to eligible members of the Army and RAF too if they can be supported in a group - Not have regular, personal access to the Internet.



The Project has been hugely successful and over 700 iPads are now being used by Veterans exploring the Internet for the first time. We have engaged with over 50 organisations including Care Homes, Associations and armed forces charities: some collective iPad training sessions in RNA Branches has created the added benefit of community spirit and social gatherings.

### ***What do eligible Veterans use the iPad for?***

To keep in touch with family and friends using email, create Memory Books to capture stories from their service career and to research ships, learn how to use FaceTime to have video conversations with old shipmates and friends from the comfort of their own homes, explore Facebook and join groups to interact, take up a new hobby (perhaps photography using the iPad camera), reading, puzzles or to access audio books. The options are endless! We have found that Veterans like to learn from each other and those initially not interested often engage when their curiosity gets the better of them!

Project Semaphore aims to combat loneliness and social isolation but also has financial benefits, providing access to considerable savings through energy deals, price-comparison websites, online shopping, paper-free banking and the like which are not available outside cyberspace. Estimates available at the start of the project in 2016 indicated that an individual could be £1,000 a year worse off, if they did not have access to offers available online. A range of benefits and advice services are also most easily accessed through the Internet.

### ***What is the key to the success of this Project?***

Reaching Veterans by working in collaboration with others. The Project team consists three members (all Veterans); Julie in the South West, Alan in the North and I am at RNA Central Office in Portsmouth. Therefore, we couldn't deliver this Project without our network of willing and capable Volunteers as well as those already supporting Veterans in the community.

### ***How can I get involved?***

If you are supporting eligible Veterans, and would like to apply for an iPad, please contact me for an Application Form. The iPads are free of charge and for those without Broadband at home, we provide a model that takes a SIM card; we provide the first SIM card and thereafter costs are met by the Veteran. All is explained in our short Agreement.

If you are IT savvy and can spare time to support others, we would love to hear from you. The key to our success is ensuring that Veterans have someone on hand to answer questions and develop their knowledge...the Internet can be quite daunting and some of the iPad terminology quite confusing at first.

If you already provide training or activities, contact me to explore if we could provide iPads to enhance your programme of events.

Spread the word and help us to promote Project Semaphore in order to reach more eligible Veterans. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah Clewes  
Project Manager – Project Semaphore

## **2. ★ Central Office Open Days - Come to sunny Portsmouth!**

Central Office are holding a number of Open Days over 2019, please dates below. There are plenty of spaces should Branches, HQ Roll members or individual Shipmates like to attend, Central Office staff will be delighted to host them.

For those unaware the fun begins at 1100 in Central Office, Semaphore Tower HM Naval Base Portsmouth.



On arrival you will enjoy a sandwich lunch and brief by a Senior Naval officer on current Fleet issues followed by an update on RNA matters from the GS.

Then it is off on a Boat trip round the Naval Base. There will also be an opportunity to purchase 'Jackets, Buttons and Badges' from Nigel, so bring some cash! The Open Day normally completes by 1400.

Open Days are all held on a Friday. This year they will be held on;

17 May, 21 Jun, 26 Jul, 30 Aug and 11 Oct

If you interested in attending, please forward your details to Central Office. (Contact details at front of Circular)

### 3. ★ HMS Warwick D25 Commemoration

On Sunday the 20th February 1944, 75 Years ago, HMS Warwick was attacked by U413 and sank in the Bristol Channel, with the tragic loss of 66 members of her Ships' Company.

LMEM(M) (Retired) John Puddicombe who is the Archivist for the HMS Warwick Families Association. He is also the Grandson of CPO Hae Ford who was one of the men who died on that day and is buried at St Merryn Cornwall.

S/M John wanted to commemorate the 75 years since the loss of the ship, by organising service's at Naval War Memorials, War Graves, Memorial trees and plaques which record the names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on that awful day. They are listed on the Memorials at Chatham and Plymouth Naval War Memorial, also at the Red Brick Building RNLi Padstow, the National Arboretum, St Merryn, Penzance and Isles of Scilly. Shipmates from RNA Chatham obliged, where some formed up at the Great Lines in Gillingham.

One of S/M Johns Grandfathers shipmates, Sidney Reid, the Canteen Manager, who also very sadly died and went down with the ship was only 25 years old when he crossed the bar. He was the only Chatham based crew member onboard, consequently his name is commemorated on Plaque No 80 at Chatham Naval Memorial.

The photo taken by S/M Christine Sandmann shows Shipmates; Roderick (Spike) Hughes, Chatham Chairman- Tom Stopford and Treasurer – Roger Ide



More information regarding HMS Warwick can be read via this link below created by the V&W Destroyer Association. It is an incredibly moving account on what happened that day,

[Http://vandwdestroyerassociation.org.uk/HMS\\_Warwick/loss.html](http://vandwdestroyerassociation.org.uk/HMS_Warwick/loss.html)

#### 4. ★ RNVC Series – Commander Loftus William Jones VC Royal Navy

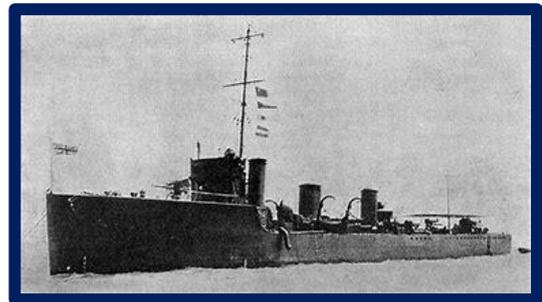


Loftus Jones was born on 13 November 1879 in Southsea and educated at Eastman's Royal Naval Academy. He joined the Royal Navy and after training and promotion to Lieutenant was appointed to HMS Tamar, a shore Establishment in Hong Kong. Arriving back in 'Blighty' at the outbreak of the First World War and, on promotion to Commander, he took command of the Destroyer HMS Shark.

HMS Shark saw action during the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916. During the battle a shell hit the bridge putting the steering gear out of action which was closely followed by another hit which disabled the main engines leaving her stranded.

Commander Jones, though wounded in the leg, went aft to help connect and man the after wheel. Meanwhile the forecastle gun with its crew had been blown away, and the same fate soon afterwards befell the after gun and crew. Commander Jones then went to the midship and the only remaining gun, and personally assisted in keeping it in action. All this time the "Shark" was subjected to very heavy fire from enemy light cruisers and destroyers at short range. The gun's crew of the midship gun was reduced to three, of whom an Able Seaman was soon badly wounded in the leg.

A few minutes later Commander Jones was hit by a shell, which took off his leg above the knee, but he continued to give orders to his gun's crew, while a Chief Stoker improvised a tourniquet round his thigh. Noticing that the Ensign was not properly hoisted, he gave orders for another to be hoisted. Soon afterwards, seeing that the ship could not survive much longer, and as a German Destroyer was closing, he gave orders for the surviving members of the crew to put on lifebelts. Almost immediately after this order had been given, the "Shark" was struck by a torpedo and sank. Commander Jones was unfortunately not amongst the few survivors from the "Shark" who were picked up by a neutral vessel in the night. (The London Gazette, 06 Mar 1917)



Loftus Jones' body was washed ashore in Sweden and he was eventually buried at Kviberg Cemetery Gothenburg. His VC is on display at the Imperial War Museum in London. There is also a memorial to him at St Peter's Church Petersfield.

## 5. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment

Good Luck this is very difficult

... The answer will be in next month's edition. Remember no hovering or looking in google or Wiki!!!

And so, the answer to April's Guess the Establishment.....

It was..... **HMS Fisgard,**



Even the General Secretary, who trained there, albeit many moons ago, took along time to work it out.!

## 6. ★ Shipmates and Oppos

The Shipmates and Oppos programme is going from strength to strength since its re-launch in 2016. The programme which is sponsored by Greenwich Hospital Trust and is **free** to join. The programme assists Sailors and Marines in transition to civilian life by ensuring that they are contacted once a year for five years after leaving the service. The vast majority of service leavers have no issues whatsoever and experience a smooth experience. However, sadly a few have real issues that require a great deal of resources to get them through the process, the programme sign-posts them to organisations who will be able to assist

The programme is extremely grateful to the RN Writers who run the process from the release offices and are our unsung 'ambassadors' so it is vital that the Shipmates and Oppos team, Chrissie Hughes and Andy Christie visit and provide support.

Chrissie and Andy recently undertook a three-day Road Trip to the West Country, covering over 400 miles and visiting HMS Raleigh, HMS Drake, RNAS Culdrose, 42 CDO RM, Bickleigh Barracks and Commando Logistics Regiment at RM Chivenor.



One third of RN & RM Service Leavers are currently joining the programme, thanks to the support of those who work in the Unit Personnel Office Release Sections, who ensure that individuals is aware of the FREE signposting and wellbeing service.

**7. ★ Joke Time - Cows (Sorry in advance.....)**

A farmer goes out to his field one morning only to find all of his cows frozen solid. As far as the eye can see there are cows, motionless like statues. It had been a bitterly cold night, but he'd never thought anything like this would happen.



The realisation of the situation then dawned on him - with his entire livestock gone, how would he make ends meet? How would he feed his wife and kids? How would he pay the mortgage? He sat with his head in his hands, trying to come to terms with his impending poverty.

Just then, an elderly woman walked by, "What's the matter?" she asked.

The farmer gestured toward the frozen cows and explained his predicament to the woman.

Without hesitation the old woman smiled and began to rub one of the cows noses. After a few seconds the cow began to twitch and was soon back to normal and chewing the cud.

One by one, the old woman defrosted the cows until the whole field was full of healthy animals. The farmer was delighted and asked the woman what she wanted as a repayment for her deed. She declined his offer and walked off across the field.

A passer-by who had witnessed the whole thing approached the farmer.

"You know who that was don't you?" asked the passer-by.

"No" said the farmer "who?"

WAIT FOR IT.....

"Thora Hird."

**8. ★ Finance Corner**

*Dear Shipmates,*

**Branch Public Liability**



Central Office has been advised that from 31 May 2019, Ansvar will:

- no longer be possible to purchase a new policy under the facility
- With the effect from 1 June 2019 Ansvar shall not be inviting renewals on existing policies

- A month prior to renewal Ansvar will email Branches and advise that they will no longer be in a position to invite renewal
- They have arranged for Ecclesiastical Insurance office plc to offer insurance cover for you from renewal on a direct basis
- Due to GDPR regulations, the Branch must provide updated contact details and provide consent for Ecclesiastical to contact them otherwise Ecclesiastical will not contact a Branch and provide a quotation
- Based on the current cover provided under Ansvar scheme i.e. £5,000,000 Public & Products Liability / £10,000,000 Employers Liability & £1,000 Money the premium will be £151.20 inclusive of tax. If money cover isn't required, the premium will reduce to £140.00 inclusive of tax.
- After the 31 May if a new Branch wishes to purchase cover this can be done through Ecclesiastical and the contact details are below:-

Telephone: 0345 777 3322, option 3 then ask for New Business

Email: [churchnewbusiness@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churchnewbusiness@ecclesiastical.com) (there is a short form that will need to be completed)

I have some good news for you, I've been doing some research on your behalf and found another Insurance broker which is CHEAPER !

- The Military Mutual
- The premium will be £105.00 which will cover
- £5,000,000 Public Liability with an excess of Property damage £250.00
- £10,000,000 Employers Liability
- £1,000 Money cover with a £75.00 excess
- They can tailor this cover to each Branch requirements
- If you are interested, you can contact them on:-

Name: Florence Everett

Tel: 07880 359438

Email: [Florence.everett@military-mutual.co.uk](mailto:Florence.everett@military-mutual.co.uk) or 0203 9035357

Please be aware that Central Office does not have a centralised insurance policy covering individual Clubs, Branches or events.

Already received feedback from one Shipmate who stated, "I have our house and contents insurance with Military Mutual and can highly recommend them".

***Treasurers Workshop***

It is my intention to hold a Treasurers Clinic in the margins of the Conference on Saturday 8 June, where I will be able to give any advice / assistance as required to anybody who needs help.

I would be grateful if you could indicate if there is any interest.

Look forward to seeing any Treasurers at Conference.

*Yours Aye*

*Michelle*

## 9. ★ The GLARAC Association

*Central Office received the following notification from David G. Emery MBE, the Hon Chairman / Treasurer of the GLARAC's*

The GLARAC Association represents the Family and Friends of HMS Glorius, HMS Ardent and HMS Acasta who all sank in action on 18 June 1940. The Association is dedicated to perpetuating The memory of the 1531 men who were killed in action against The German Battle ships Scharnhorst and Gneisnau.

On Saturday 08 June 2019 commencing at 1600 in the Belvedere Gardens, on The Hoe, Plymouth there will be a short Service of Remembrance and the unveiling of a Bronze Plaque in memory of the loss of HMS **GL**orious, HMS **AR**dent & HMS **AC**asta and the 1531 men who were killed in Action against the German Battleships, Scharnhorst & Gneisnau on June the 8th 1940.

The GLARAC Association would welcome anyone who would wish to attend on this 79th Anniversary.

## 10.★ HMS Ganges Association Solent Division Annual Church Service 2019

*Please see below a message from Bob Campbell (Secretary Solent Division HMSGA)*

Hi All, most of the preparations are now complete but I need to know the numbers for the rum issue and catering asap please. Confirmation that the service will be at St. George's Church, Portsea, on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. May 2019, commencing at 1300.



The Reverend Alan Geddes (HMS Ganges 1952) will be officiating this year and many members of the division will be partaking in the service as well. Parking is available within walking distance of the church; one is a Multi-Storey Car Park adjacent to the Station at Portsea and another is just across the road from the church at the Gunwharf Quays shopping centre.

The service is specifically intended as a memorial service, in remembrance of past shipmates and to

this effect many family members of those past shipmates will be attending the service again, as many did last year.

As is our custom, I will be reading out the names of those shipmates in the Roll of Honour and although I feel confident that I have all the details to hand, just to be on the "safe side", would those family members who are attending the service please confirm their attendance and the name they wish to be recorded at the service in the Roll of Honour please. (Preferably by return of this email)

The service lasts for around 30/40 minutes and is basically a Naval Service in a relaxed atmosphere, with the last post bringing it to its conclusion. Please attend if you are able, I am sure that you will not be disappointed.

After the service a tot will be made available to those that partake, outside of the church. Following this a gathering will be held at The Royal Navy Old Comrades Club in Lake Road, Portsmouth, (On the corner at the roundabout) where light refreshments will be made available. We have been allocated the use of the Ground Floor this year and the bar will be made available.

**Please advise by return –**

- **Your name and the name of the person that you wish to be read out in the Roll of Honour. (If applicable).**
- **Plus the number of guests that will accompany you.**
- **Will you be attending the Church Service? (Total attending)**
- **Will you be attending the gathering at the RNOC? Total attending**

Thanking you all in anticipation and looking forward to meeting you all there.

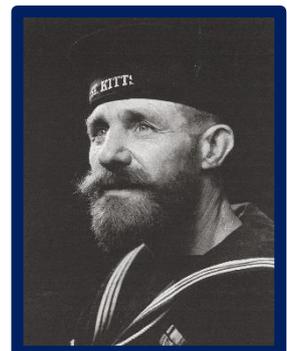
## **11. ★ Able Seaman William 'George' Parker.**

*Our thanks go to Shipmate Dick Moon from Chard Branch who forwarded this very interesting article for publication in the Circular. I am sure Shipmates will find it very interesting.*

It was with great pleasure that the Chard Press officer Sm Dick Moon was able to give a potted history of one of the Royal Naval characters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Able Seaman William Parker BEM.

Sm Dick started out by stating that he had been drawn into the story one evening when Kenneth Parker and his wife Rosemary attended one of the branches socials with the intention of joining as honorary members having just moved into the area.

Ken had informed Dick that his father was known as the longest serving Able Seaman having served over 40 years as an able seaman and that due to his sea service Ken was seven years old when he first met his Father. This information inspired Dick to research further and was able to come up with some very interesting facts on William (some of which were not known to the family until divulged by Dick on the night of the social).



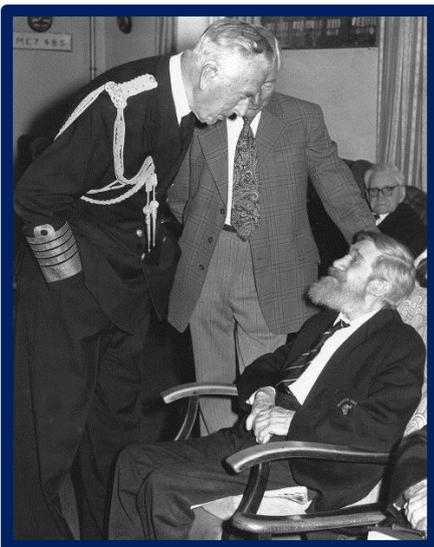
Here is a precise of the information shared:-

William Parker BEM Bn 16.11.1901 was always known as 'George Parker' due to his resemblance to King George V. George joined the Navy as a Bugler in 1918 when he was 16yrs years of age

He saw no action in WWI but was left in no doubt of the sacrifices it demanded. He served on many ships before leaving the service after 43 years in 1961. In 1919 whilst on HMS Emperor of India evacuating Russia troops from Novorossik to Theodosia. George assisted the surgeon in delivering twins born to a woman onboard. He was also involved in the reburial of the dead of Gallipoli campaign four years after the fighting. On HMS Tempest he was involved in bringing home the dead of the fated R101 airship disaster. As a gunner in the Mediterranean notably in Tobruk he allegedly shot down more than a dozen enemy aircraft.

It is alleged that Lord Louis Mountbatten when CinC Mediterranean, gave him permission to mount his own emblem to the mast in view of his long service this consisted of a ballcock with a spike welded to it and allegedly gold leaf covered.

One boy sailor who served with William recalls 'Just prior to The Kuwait Crisis we assembled with various other NATO warships in Naples for a review by the American CinC South in June 1961. He came onboard Camperdown to inspect divisions and was introduced to William resplendent in best suit and medals. One of Williams medals was, as I recall, from a foreign power, possibly Greece, which had a very yellow ribbon. The Admiral asked William about it, what did he get it for etc only to be told by William that he got it 'for making custard under fire Sir' William left the navy in 1961 and settled back in Bracknell



In 1975 he was admitted to Royal Naval benevolent Trust Home, Pembroke House Gillingham Kent. He was visited there by Admiral Mountbatten in full uniform and shortly after that the Admiral was assassinated by the IRA. Parker Crossed the bar on February 1981 aged 79 years and two months.

To sum up Sm Dick Moon quoted that 'William was the longest serving Able Seaman in the Royal Navy in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century totalling 38 years of his 43 years service'. Members of the Parker family present consisted of Son Sm Kenneth daughter in law Sm Rosemary, grandson and grand daughter and her husband.

## RNA Longcast

2019	
30 May	Inter Service T20 Cricket - Lords
01 Jun	COLLINGWOOD Field Gun Day
05 Jun	D-Day 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations - Portsmouth
<b>7-9 Jun</b>	<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
29 Jun	Armed Forces Day - Salisbury
26 Jul	Open Day
03 Aug	Area 3 Meeting - Portsmouth
03 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Rayleigh
30 Aug	Open Day
07 Sep	National Council Meeting /AMC./FAC - UJC
<b>08 Sep</b>	<b>Biennial Parade - Whitehall</b>
21 Sep	Area 4 Meeting - Weymouth
11 Oct	Open Day
02 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
15 Nov	FAC
16 Nov	AMC
23 Nov	Area 3 Meeting - Gosport
07 Dec	National Council Meeting
2020	
01 Feb	Area 5 Quarterly/AGM - Harwich
14 Feb	FAC / SOC
15 Feb	AMC
29 Feb	Area 3 Meeting - Netley
07 Mar	National Council Meeting
TBC Apr/May	National Standard Bearers Competition- HMS Collingwood
02 May	Area 5 Quarterly - Stowmarket
05/07 Jun	<b>National Conference – Liverpool (Area 10)</b>
05 Jun	National Council / AMC/ FAC / SOC Meetings
01 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly - Norwich
21 Aug	FAC
22 Aug	AMC
12 Sep	National Council Meeting
31 Oct	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
20 Nov	FAC
21 Nov	AMC
05 Dec	National Council Meeting

***D'ye hear there'.....***

***News from around the Areas and Branches.....***

***This Month Featuring.....***

[RNA Portland](#)

[RNA Stourbridge](#)

[Scottish Area](#)

[RNA Crosby](#)

[RNA Stowmarket](#)

[RNA Wrexham, Oswestry and Shrewsbury](#)

[RNA Newport \(Shropshire\)](#)

[RNA Bude](#)

[RNA Dorchester](#)

[RNA St Austell](#)

[RNA Isle of Wight](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[RNA Dublin](#)

[RNA Plymouth](#)

### **RNA Portland Branch**

On 27 April 2019 Portland Branch held their Annual Dinner at the Masonic Hall, Victoria Square, Portland. Honoured Guests were recently retired No4 Area Secretary, and now Area Life Vice President Shipmate Mick Arnold MBE and his wife Jean.

The event was very well attended, the food and entertainment were excellent, and thanks must go once again to the Social Sec, Shipmate Dave Prowse. 'Hands to Dinner' was piped by Able Cadet George from TS Penn SCC.

After the dinner Shipmate Mick Arnold was presented with a framed photograph of an aerial view of Portland, along with a £50 donation for the Not Forgotten Association. His wife Jean was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The photos show the Top Table Guests and Branch Officials,



### **RNA Stourbridge Branch – Standard dedication**

RNA Stourbridge and District Branch is intending to lay up their old Branch Standard and Dedicate a new one on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. The service will take place at St Thomas Church, Market Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands, commencing at 1200.

Owing to the location of the church, in the town centre, there will be no marching parade. The plan is for all supporting Shipmates and Standards to muster at the church by 1130. The church hall,

which is immediately adjacent to the church, will be open from 1000 for tea, coffee, toilets etc. and a place for Standard Bearers to prepare. Following the service refreshments will be provided at Stourbridge Royal British Legion Club, in Enville Street, Stourbridge.

It is requested that details of the numbers of Shipmates, especially any Standards, wishing to attend be notified to S/m's David Downing or Angela Downing, Branch Secretary, [Anfrando51@hotmail.com](mailto:Anfrando51@hotmail.com), or [daved47@live.co.uk](mailto:daved47@live.co.uk). or 01384 397219 / Mobile 07980 089198 by **Friday 10 May 19**. This will enable seating arrangements and catering to be confirmed in church. For any further information please don't hesitate to contact us at the contact details above.

## Scottish Area

Following our recent AGM, please see below the dates for this year's RNA Scottish Area Meetings (some venues yet TBC):

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019, RBLs Club Grangemouth (there will also be a social on the Friday evening, contact the RNA Forth Valley Branch for tickets and details)
- AGM and 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting 2020 – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Edinburgh (coinciding with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the re-launch of the City of Edinburgh Branch, social in the evening and Church Service planned for the Sunday morning)

## RNA Crosby Branch

HMS Collingwood welcomed back three “Old Boys” recently when they made the long journey from Merseyside to the Hampshire Base.



John Arnold, Fred Pilgrim and Stirling Simmons are all members of the RNA Crosby Branch and had all served at HMS Collingwood at some stage in their careers. Fred was drafted there for his Phase 2 training in 1963 whilst John and Stirling both served as ships' company as medic and chef respectively. They both went on to become submariners whilst Fred became a naval electrical engineer.

Speaking of his impression of HMS Collingwood today Fred said, “Coming here today is absolutely unbelievable, it's completely different

and the only thing I recognise from my days here is the Chapel. I really enjoyed my time when I was here at Collingwood in the early sixties.”

Their tour began with a talk to today's Phase 2 trainees in Victory Squadron who were fascinated to hear tales of the men's careers and their experiences at Collingwood. From there, they visited the state-of-the-art Bridge Simulator to see how navigation officers are trained on a range of vessels and in a range of challenging conditions.

After lunch in the Wardroom, the veterans were treated to a hands-on demonstration of the Weapons simulators, including the awesome Phalanx Gun which is fitted to the Queen Elizabeth

Class carriers, the 4.5 inch gun and the Automated Small Calibre Gun which is carried on many ships including all Type 45s and which is the loudest gun in the Royal Navy!

The following day was spent in the Base's Heritage Collection where the Curator, Clive Kidd, was keen to show the visitors the Collection's impressive display of wireless, sonar and navigation equipment.

The visit was organised by Lieutenant Kev McAllister RN who said "It was an absolute pleasure to host members from my local RNA branch during their visit to the base and to show them how the site has grown and developed since their day. The added bonus being we were able to give serving members a "quick look" at the RNA and encourage new members to join us."

The men will be busy when they return home as Crosby Royal Naval Association is heavily involved with the RNA National Conference to be held in June 2020 at the Liverpool Adelphi Hotel. The RNA's core values of Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and Comradeship give veteran sailors of all ages the chance to find support and comradeship when they leave the Service.

(Photograph courtesy of Keith Woodland, Crown Copyright.)

## RNA Stowmarket Branch

*News from Stowmarket Branch.....*

Having not written for a while, we thought that fellow shipmates might be interested to hear about one or two things that Stowmarket RNA have been up to. The branch has certainly been keeping itself busy over the past few months, with our forty shipmates still proudly flying the White Ensign here in Mid-Suffolk.

Having now been in commission for three years, it was agreed by our shipmates that it was about time we introduced Stowmarket to the dark art of playing *Uckers*, a game well known to generations of sailors but viewed by civilians as simply being a game of *Ludo*! Oh, how wrong mere mortals can be.

Therefore, and to help 'educate' the ill-informed, a 'training evening' was recently held in our local Legion, which was specifically chosen as it has a large function room where both boards and bits can be launched in all directions, and non-combatants can find space to take cover! Having explained the rules to onlookers, four shipmates sat down for a game. Two tiffs (we couldn't muster four of them to make up a proper pair) versus a submariner and scribes.



No competition then, and it didn't take too long for the shouts and hollers coming up from the *Uckers* players to bring a temporary halt to the pool match being played next door, with those players wondering what all the commotion was about.

Having 'politely' explained that we weren't playing *Ludo* but *Uckers*, they were back to their game of *Billiards!* The evening was a great success and has led to the branch organising a 'derby' match against our nearest branch 'rivals', Ipswich RNA, for the *Edgar Challenge Cup*, kindly donated by one of our shipmates. More news will follow in due course. (Rumours of the local 'rozzers' having cancelled leave on the night of the game cannot be confirmed!)



March saw Shipmates come together for the AGM, with twenty-six of our forty shipmates navigating the roadworks that the town kindly decided to do all at once on the same night. "Must be the end of the financial year" was heard over the 'din' being generated just outside the window. But Jack and Jenny are used to the noise of many a Thursday night 'bop night' over the years, so we simply cracked on. Thankfully, we could just

hear ourselves – even the Chairs report!

We've recently started discussions with our local Sea Cadet unit in Ipswich to see if there is anything that we might be able to help with. And as with any youth organisation, there always is. The Sea Cadets offers so much, yet it is a youth organisation that appears to be overlooked. We hope that we might be able to make a 'small' difference. They're a cracking group, and their CO and instructors deserve a great deal of credit for all their hard 'unpaid' work.

Another venture that we've been actively taking part in, is going along to monthly Veterans Breakfast Club meetings both in Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds, which we've not only enjoyed but unashamedly used to promote our own branch and the RNA. It's surprising how many people didn't know that a local RNA exists, so it's been a very useful exercise.

The main thing has been that everyone is still thoroughly enjoying themselves, with the Social Sec busy organising several events and trips for both shipmates and guests to enjoy over the next few months. It looks most promising and we look forward to seeing shipmates from Ipswich, Colchester, Beccles (and others) join us. After all, working together we can do so much more.

## RNA Wrexham, Oswestry and Shrewsbury Branches

RNA Branches Wrexham, Oswestry and Shrewsbury held a combined visit to the National Memorial Arboretum.

The visit included a Remembrance Service at the Naval Service Memorial and some free time visiting the local RBL Club in Alrewas.





The service was led by Shipmate, Rev Heather Shotton (Wrexham Branch) and wreaths were laid.

The Vice Chairman of Wrexham, Shipmate Kevin Hackett said the Kohima and proposed the loyal toast and to absent friends. Shipmate Kevin was ably assisted throughout by the Branch Welsh Mascot Evie.

## RNA Newport (Shropshire) Branch

On Saturday 6th April 2019, 6 members; S/Ms Gareth Hickman, Alison Hickman, Fiona Lloyd, Ian Edwards, Antony Matthews and Mark Southerton from Market Drayton Royal Naval Association Club, completed a 12-mile sponsored walk from Market Drayton to RNA Newport (Shropshire) Club to help raise funds to save the Newport Club.

Their generous efforts were much appreciated and they raised the magnificent sum of £400 in advance sponsorship and an extra £125 in their donation bucket on the day.

What a tremendous thing they did for someone else to benefit. BZ



Newport RNA Club are trying to raise £100,000 to buy their lovely club. The members of the Club need to try to do this because their landlords have decided to sell the club. Shipmates at Newport have been tenants for 30 years and very sadly have nowhere else to go. So, if the members can buy the club it would be secured for the future. The club is used by many other people within the community, so it is a vital resource.

If there are any Shipmates out there who could assist financially no matter how small, please contact

S/m Patricia Brown (club secretary)  
Newport Royal Naval Association Club, Area 8.  
Bellmans Yard,  
Newport,  
Shropshire.  
TF10 7AJ.

## RNA Bude Branch

The Branch staged its now annual "Fun Quiz" on Monday 8th April @ The Falcon Hotel, Bude. A virtually packed room enjoyed (or should that be 'endured') 10 Sections of 10 Questions each with the Branch Sec acting as Quiz Master and the Branch Chairman as the Checker (so no dodgy FAA Suck-Back Rules!).

With tables of max. 6 and all contestants having been relieved of the weight of a fiver on entry + the option of subscribing to the generous Raffle on offer, it was "eyes down" shortly after a brief

welcome from our Social Sec./M.C. Far fewer multiple answer questions this year and the evening sped along in good humour. We retained the same Charities as last year, namely RNA Bude Branch & Cornwall Palliative Care.

After the essential Winners' Prize (£60 towards a Lunch at The Falcon) + 'Nibbles' expenses, the nett receipts reached £880, i.e. £440 for each nominated Charity. We look forward to an early Branch Meeting visit in order to pass over our cheque to the C.P.C. representative.

The Branch will be repeating the "Fun Quiz" in April 2020, our 4th such event. We would urge all R.N.A. Branches to follow this example - you make lots of new friends, connections, and can make a real difference to both R.N.A. and other local deserving charities in your area.

## RNA Dorchester Branch

It is the end of an era at Dorchester RNA. At this year's AGM, the chairman, Shipmate W George Osborne, decided it was time to step down; well, he is 97.

George joined the Royal Navy in 1938. He served as a gunnery rating and spent much of WWII on HMS SHEFFIELD. As well as being on convoy escort duty, including the arctic convoys and Malta convoys, he was on board at the sinking of the BISMARCK and when the ship took part in the sinking of the battleship SCHARNHORST.

Choosing George as the branch chairman, when the Dorchester branch commissioned in 1999, proved to be an inspired choice. He has worked tirelessly to support his fellow members but also went out of his way to support, and to encourage branch members to support, other veterans associations - particularly at memorial parades when surviving members of those associations were few. Examples are the annual Tirah Memorial service in Dorchester for Samuel Vickery VC and others of the Dorset Regiment and the RAF Air Gunners Association Battle of Britain service at Warmwell, Dorset.



Organising a lunch in Dorchester for veterans, including Land Girls, to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War. George's passion even extended to remembering our allies. It was he who proposed that the branch purchased two Benches and two picnic tables for the Kingston Maurward Visitors Centre. These were dedicated to those who served this country during the World Wars including American and Commonwealth Forces who were based in the Dorchester area just before D-day 1944.

George has always been passionate about supporting veterans and ensuring that the youth of today know of the sacrifices made by many during the Second World War and subsequent conflicts. Each year George speaks to the children of a local school about Remembrance Day and its significance. He was also the driving force in establishing Dorchester's Armed Forces Day.

George's wisdom will not be lost to the committee; he has been elected as the Branch President and as such will be an ex-officio member.

## RNA St Austell Branch

On the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, 8 of our members attended the annual reunion of the Royal Naval Association Area 4 in Bideford which covers the whole of the South West of England. More than 200 Royal Naval Veterans renewed contact with many of the personnel they served with.



During the presentations our Welfare Officer, Shipmate Hugh Walker of Mevagissey was awarded the Vic Cornwell Trophy which is awarded to the Male Associate member of No 4 Area who has been seen to have upheld the traditions of the RNA over the last year. Photo Attached.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> March several members including our Standard Bearer supported the St Nazaire Parade in Falmouth. This is a commemoration in memory of those who lost their lives in Operation Chariot, a British Amphibious attack on the Normandy port of St Nazaire, in what has become known as the greatest of all. 89 members of the raiding party were awarded bravery awards, including 5 Victoria

Crosses. Our Chairman, Shipmate Ray Isted laid a wreath in memory of the fallen.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> March saw 22 members having an afternoon of Ten Pin Bowling at Trethorne Leisure Park followed by what can only be described as an excellent carvery meal. The competition for the bowling this year was very close with the Chairman, Shipmate Ray Isted winning the bowling, followed very closely by the Secretary, Shipmate Mark Bardsley.

Our monthly meeting was held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March at the Royal British Legion Club St Austell where our President Shipmate Ralph Curr formally presented the Trophy's to Shipmate's Ray Isted and Hugh Walker. The meeting concluded with a most interesting talk on the Pentewan Valley by Mr Albert Sanders.



## RNA Isle of Wight Branch

Members of the Isle of Wight branch of the Royal Naval Association (RNA) and members of the Wrens Association recently enjoyed a visit to the navy's newest aircraft carrier, the mighty HMS Queen Elizabeth. The group were welcomed on board by the ship's commander, Charles Guy.

The group toured the ship from stem to stern and up to the bridge and flying control, getting a wonderful bird's-eye view of Portsmouth Harbour as well.

Attached photograph shows shipmates of the IW RNA and Wrens Association on the flight deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth.



Isle of Wight shipmates have also been enjoying the use of the RNA's minibus, with cultural trips to RNAS Yeovil Museum, Bovington Tank Museum and most recently, to Greenwich Maritime Museum and a visit to the Palace of Westminster, with an overnight stay at the UJC (which had secure overnight parking!). The IW branch is looking forward to further trips in the coming months.

## RNA St Neots Branch

It was recently 'Awards' night at St Neots Branch. First up was S/M AB Maureen Ridley who received the Area 6 Shipmate of the Year award from the outgoing Area 6 President Tony Richardson. Maureen often goes above and beyond the call of duty in her position as Branch Welfare Officer and Social Secretary. This was Tony's last duty as the outgoing Area President.



Next up was S/M Tony Webley is presented with the Branch Shipmate of the Year Trophy from John Gibbs the Branch President. Tony is currently the hard working Branch Secretary and Standard Bearer. He and his wife Yvonne are also very regular attendees and organisers at fund raising events for good causes.

Last but not least, S/M Mike Milne was once again elected as chairman of the St Neots Branch.

Mike led the branch in another very successful year in fund raising for worthy causes in the area. He has also been an enthusiastic attendee at all activities relating to the RNA, e.g. parades, flag raisings, fundraising, funerals etc.



## RNA Dublin Branch



On St Patrick's Day (March 17th) the Dublin Branch was invited to parade its Standard, along with other Veterans Organisations in the Annual Parade, through the Centre of Dublin.

This was the first time that the RNA has paraded their Standard at the Parade.

Before the Parade, Shipmates from the Branch we're invited to a reception at the Mansion House in Dublin with the Lord Mayor of Dublin.



After the Parade Shipmates were invited to a reception with the President of Ireland, at his official residence, Aras an Uachtarain in the Phoenix Park in Dublin.



This was a most enjoyable and historic day for the Dublin Shipmates.

On 1st April, the Shipmates of Dublin Branch we're invited to tour Casement Aerodrome in Baldonnell, which is home to the Irish Air Service. The Shipmates got to see and sit in various aircraft of the Irish Air Forces and we're warmly greeted and shown around by the Air Station Manager. The Branch presented the Mess with a Dublin Branch RNA plaque to mark the occasion.



## RNA Plymouth Branch

A Gentle Reminder from Social Sec Sue. Trafalgar Dinner, Plymouth Branch are holding their 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Trafalgar Weekend 2019 at the 'The Livermead House Hotel', Torquay on the weekend 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The branch would like to invite shipmates to join them.

"An exceptional weekend, fine cuisine at an outstanding venue"

Bed, Breakfast, Evening Meal with a formal Saturday Night. 3 nights £190, 2 nights £130, 1 night £65. Deposit £20 (non- returnable). Balance August 2019.

Details from: Sue Gutteridge (Social Sec)  
[suzanne5571@virginmedia.com](mailto:suzanne5571@virginmedia.com) or T. (01752)

849176



## CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

Sadly No crossed the bar obituary this month. Please keep sending them to me for publication.

### 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>

#### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



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 [www.motorfinity.uk/rna](http://www.motorfinity.uk/rna)

## 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.***

Fri 10th May 2019	H.M.S. Tenby Association	Hotel Collingwood, Bournemouth
10-13 May 2019	Bulwark, Albion and Centaur (BAC) Reunion weekend. Contact <a href="mailto:michael.noonan1@ntlworld.com">michael.noonan1@ntlworld.com</a>	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 17th May 2019	Federation of Naval Associations (FNA)	Suncliff Hotel, Bournemouth
Fri 7th Jun 2019	Fleet Air Arm Buccaneer Association	Royal Court Hotel Coventry
Sat 29 Jun 2019	Those interested can access more information via the following link: <a href="http://www.tiffs-reunion.org.uk">www.tiffs-reunion.org.uk</a> Or they can apply for tickets by emailing their Tiffy credential to: <a href="mailto:sultan2019@tiffs-reunion.org.uk">sultan2019@tiffs-reunion.org.uk</a>	HMS Sultan
Sat 7th Sep 2019	847 NAS HMS SIMBANG 69 - 71 Association <a href="mailto:cliff.jones1948@gmail.com">cliff.jones1948@gmail.com</a>	Aztec Hotel Bristol
Fri 20/23 Sep 2019	HMS Ulster Reunion in Torquay. Details can be found at - <a href="https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/reunions.html">https://www.candoo.com/ulsternorrie/reunions.html</a> .	TLH Toorak Hotel, Torquay
Fri 20 /22 Sep 2019	RNCCA Reunion (50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary) – RNCCA (50th Anniversary) Annual Reunion, Dinner Dance and AGM. Royal Beach Hotel Southsea, Hants <a href="mailto:honsec@rncca.org.uk">honsec@rncca.org.uk</a> < <a href="mailto:honsec@rncca.org.uk">mailto:honsec@rncca.org.uk</a> >	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 04 Oct 2019	HMS Lowestoft Association	Royal Beach Hotel Southsea
Fri 04 Oct 2019	HMS Troubridge (Final Commission 66/69)	Adelphi Liverpool
Fri 04-7 Oct 2019	HMS Ajax & River Plate Veterans Association 2019 Reunion.	Holiday Inn Coniston, Sittingbourne, Kent

	<p>Annual reunion for all who served on WW2 cruiser and F114 frigate.  All are welcome including wives/partners/guests  AGM, Up Spirits &amp; Gala Dinner on Saturday  Visit Chatham Historical Dockyard on Sunday  Book through Isle of Wight Tours -  <a href="mailto:enquires@iowtours.com">enquires@iowtours.com</a>  or  Contact Malcolm Collis -  <a href="mailto:malcolm.collis@gmail.com">malcolm.collis@gmail.com</a></p>	
11/12 Oct 2019	<p>Type 21 -10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion .   Friday 11 Oct – Venue TBC  Saturday 12 Oct - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October,  RBL Crownhill, Tailyour Rd, Plymouth PL6  5DH,AM AGM, followed by main event from  1900 - 2345 great raffle prizes, a hot buffet will  be laid on and a tot. Cost will be £22 via  Eventbrite details to follow.  For further information please email Paul Gower at  <a href="mailto:type21clubpro@gmail.com">type21clubpro@gmail.com</a> 07446 196733</p>	RBL Crownhill Plymouth
Fri 25/Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	<p>The Survey Ships Association will be holding  its twenty fifth reunion at the Mecure Chester  North, Woodhey House Hotel Cheshire. From  the W/E Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Monday 28<sup>th</sup>  October 2019.  For information on membership and reunion  please send a SAE to:  The Secretary SSA 16 Quay Ostend Cliff Park  Great Yarmouth Norfolk NR31 6TP.  E mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@surveyships.org.uk">secretary@surveyships.org.uk</a> Phone  number 07974156996</p>	Mercure Chester North
Sat 09 Nov 2019	Fisgard Association AGM and Lunch	Portsmouth, RMC
Sun 1st Dec 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 – May 2019

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



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1707	<i>Grafton</i> (70) and <i>Hampton Court</i> (70), with twenty-two out of a convoy of forty-five sail, taken by nine sail of the line under Cdre Comtede Forbin ( <i>Mars</i> ) 20 miles off Beachy Head. <i>Royal Oak</i> (70) escaped.
2nd	1813	Royal Marines of <i>Redwing</i> , <i>Repulse</i> , <i>Undaunted</i> and <i>Volontaire</i> destroyed the batteries at Morgiou, near Marseilles.
3rd	1905	Fort Blockhouse taken over from Royal Engineers and commissioned as <i>Dolphin</i> .
4th	1982	Destroyer <i>Sheffield</i> hit by Exocet missile from Argentine air force Super Etendard, 163° Pembroke Light 72 miles. Abandoned, proved an unsuccessful lure and sank undertow by <i>Yarmouth</i> on 10 May (52.11S, 53.50W). The first RN ship lost in action since 1945. Operation Corporate
5th	1944	Sloops <i>Starling</i> , <i>Wild Goose</i> and <i>Wren</i> attacked U-473, which was sunk on the 6th in Atlantic (49.29N, 21.22W).
6th	1957	'Off caps' at payment replaced by hand salute. Hitherto cash was placed in sailor's inverted cap.
7th	1765	<i>Victory</i> 'floated' out of the Old Single Dock at Chatham. Designed by Sir Thomas Slade whose plans were finished in 1759, the <i>annus mirabilis</i> in which her keel was laid on 23 July. Her name was determined on 28 October 1760. It had been intended to launch her on St George's Day
8th	1942	Destroyers <i>Active</i> and <i>Panther</i> sank the Vichy-French S/M <i>Monge</i> off Madagascar. Operation Ironclad.
9th	1899	The twin-screw royal yacht <i>Victoria and Albert</i> launched at Pembroke Dockyard.
10th	1917	Experimental convoy sailed from Gibraltar to the United Kingdom with <i>Mavis</i> and <i>Rule</i> (Q 26 and Q 35) as escort.
11th	1943	Sloop <i>Fleetwood</i> and Halifax D/58 sank U-528 in S.W. Approaches. Convoy OS 47.
12th	1996	End of last deterrent patrol by <i>Repulse</i> , the 229th mounted by the four Polaris SSBNs in twenty-eight years' service. FOSM signalled BZ to boat at 1200.
13th	1660	Pepys watched a crown and CR being substituted for the State's arms in a new standard for a new king, who also insisted on the removal of the harp.
14th	1918	Destroyer <i>Phoenix</i> torpedoed and sunk in Adriatic by Austrian submarine U-XXVII.
15th	1829	Experimental manually propelled paddle steamer launched at Portsmouth. One hundred and ninety men produced 3 knots.

16 <sup>th</sup>	1908	D 1, first British diesel submarine, launched at Barrow. (A 13 carried experimental diesel engine and, though launched in April 1905, was not completed until 22 June 1908.)
17 <sup>th</sup>	2003	The Sovereign's Colour for the Royal Navy presented to the Royal Naval Reserve by the Prince of Wales on Horse Guards parade. The centenary of the establishment of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1903.
18 <sup>th</sup>	1709	<i>Falmouth</i> , escorting a convoy, fought a French 60-gun ship 70 miles W. of the Scilly Isles. The French cut away her shrouds and chased the convoy but Capt Riddell made such rapid repairs that he was able to retrieve the situation and bring his convoy safely home.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1973	Second Cod War. RN units deployed inside Iceland's unilaterally imposed 50-mile fishing limit exclusion zone after the Icelandic Coastguard had fired on British trawlers. Frigates <i>Plymouth</i> (OTC) and <i>Cleopatra</i> , supported by RFA <i>Wave Chief</i> and the tugs <i>Irishman</i> , <i>Englishman</i> and <i>Statesman</i> .
20 <sup>th</sup>	1811	<i>Astraea</i> , <i>Galatea</i> , <i>Phoebe</i> and <i>Racehorse</i> engaged the French <i>Clorinde</i> , <i>Néréide</i> and <i>Renommée</i> , capturing the <i>Renommée</i> off Tamatave, Madagascar. Battle Honour: Tamatave 1811.
21 <sup>st</sup>	1941	Destroyer <i>Juno</i> , Lt-Cdr St J. R.J. Tyrwhitt, sunk in less than two minutes by German and Italian aircraft (34.55N, 26.34E) during the Battle of Crete. Tyrwhitt was Second Sea Lord 1959–61.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1660	Pepys recorded that <i>Naseby</i> had been renamed <i>Royal Charles</i>
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1757	Capt Richard Howe of <i>Dunkirk</i> (60) elected MP for Dartmouth at age 31. Seven Years War
24 <sup>th</sup>	1988	Lt Charles Esme Thornton 'Jim' Warren RNVR, one of the first RN human torpedo charioteers, died. Joined RN as a stoker in 1931 and commissioned into RNVR 1944. With James Benson wrote wartime history of the 12th Submarine Flotilla in <i>Above us the Waves</i> (1953). In 1942 he was 'probably the only Stoker Petty Officer ever to be married in St George's, Hanover Square' – <i>Daily Telegraph</i> .
25 <sup>th</sup>	1496	First dry dock in England completed at Portsmouth at a cost of £193 0s 6¼d. First used by <i>Sovereign</i> . Dock infilled in 1623.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1940	Evacuation of the BEF from Dunkirk. Operation Dynamo – lasted until 4 June. Battle Honour: Dunkirk 1940.
27 <sup>th</sup>	1982	RMS <i>Queen Elizabeth 2</i> arrived off Grytviken with 5 Infantry Brigade, cross-decked next day to <i>Canberra</i> and <i>Norland</i> who sailed for the Falklands on the 29th.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1794	Admiral Earl Howe's first action with Rear-Admiral Villaret-Joyeuse, 400 miles W. by S. of Ushant. Classic confusion. Howe was searching for Montagu, who was seeking Nielly.
29 <sup>th</sup>	1992	Malta Siege Bell Memorial dedicated in the presence of HM The Queen at Valetta, to the memory of the 7,000 who died, 10 June 1940 to 13 May 1943.
30 <sup>th</sup>	1951	Admiral of the Fleet Sir Reginald Tyrwhitt died. Commanded Harwich forces in the First World War. C-in-C China Station, 1927–9; C-in-C The Nore, 1930–3.
31 <sup>st</sup>	2001	<i>Herald</i> paid off after twenty-seven years Hydrographic service. Last of class of four, sister ships being <i>Hecate</i> , <i>Hecla</i> , <i>Hydra</i> .

## Delegate to Annual Conference 2019 St Neots

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

- (a) **Each Branch which has complied with Rule 16(c)**, (*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the payment of subscriptions and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference.*) but subject to Rule 10(c), (*Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate*) and has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.

(a) Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty-four hours before the Conference.

<b>Branch</b>		<b>Area</b>	
<b>Name of Delegate</b>			
<b>Car registration</b>		<b>Passenger Name</b>	
Delegate's Address			
	<b>Telephone No</b>	<b>Post Code</b>	
<b>e-mail</b>			
<b>Number of Observers</b>			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			
Contact telephone No: (if not branch Hon Sec)			
Contact e-mail address			
<b>Name and Address for correspondence</b> (if not branch Hon Sec)			

**NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2018 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2019 have been received in RNA Headquarters (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in HQ, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.**

A letter confirming a delegate's attendance will be sent prior to Conference. This letter should be brought to Conference to confirm eligibility to be a Delegate. There will be NO additions to the delegate list on the day. **If you have not received confirmation one month before Conference please call Nigel on 023 9272 3747**

# THE ROYAL NAVY INTERNATIONAL AIR DAY RNAS YEOVILTON - SAT 13 JULY 2019



## UK ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL & VETERANS' DISCOUNT CODE

The Royal Navy International Air Day will take place at the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton in Somerset on Saturday 13 July 2019. RNAS Yeovilton, the spiritual home of the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm, will open their gates to up to 40,000 visitors to enjoy the magnificent five hour flying display, meet our Armed Forces personnel and see their equipment up close.

As one of the Southwest's largest one day events, the award-winning Somerset airshow offers an action-packed day out for all the family with amazing displays in the air and on the ground. Over five hours of incredible flying displays will feature UK and foreign military fast jets, historic warbirds, helicopters and formation display teams.

There are already some rare and exciting aircraft confirmed. Watch the world's only flying Westland Wessex HU5 open the show; see the Red Arrows perform one of their last UK Displays before their tour of North America and get ready to be blown away by the Typhoon when it 'Brings the Noise'. They will be joined by many other military aircraft from around the world.

There will also be a huge array of educational ground attractions from interactive Service displays to engineering fairs and state-of-the-art defence technology exhibitions. Families will also be able to enjoy an extensive range of trade and catering stalls, arena displays, helicopter pleasure flights, simulators and fairground rides.

**Service Personnel and Veterans are entitled to purchase discounted Adult Tickets at £25 each (normal Advance Price £28 and Gate Price £35). Child Tickets (aged 5-15) are available at £5 each (Gate Price £10). Please visit the Defence Discount Service website at [www.defencediscountservice.co.uk](http://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk) to acquire the discount code and book your tickets at [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/airday](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/airday) before Monday 8 July 2019.**

### Further Information

**Website:** <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/airday>

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