



**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**



# **The Semaphore Circular**

**No 731**

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

**July 2023**



***Royal Naval Association standards were prominent at events around the country as the people of the UK showed their gratitude to those who serve, those who have served and those who will serve in the Armed Forces. This image was taken at the national Armed Forces Day event in Falmouth.***

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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>CONA</b>	Conference of Naval Associations
<b>NCBA</b>	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor/ Governance Committee

### Find Semaphore Circular online

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

### Snail Mail – Postal Address

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

*From the General Secretary  
Ahoy Shipmates*

**It's here! The RNA weekly lottery is launched and live!**

By playing the RNA lottery, you will not only have the chance to win some wonderful cash prizes, but you will also be backing everything we do, particularly in the welfare space. It's only £1 per line, per week. Every Friday, six numbers are selected at random, and if the player matches three or more in the correct sequence, they will win one of the cash prizes on offer – up to £25,000! Once players have registered online, they will be given a six-digit sequence, which will be entered into the draw. Sign up by downloading the form here:

<https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/uploads/postal-lottery-form-royal-naval-association.pdf>

Since Covid, we've done so much more in the welfare/wellbeing space with our veterans, and having an RNA Lottery will allow us to do even more. Thank you and good luck!



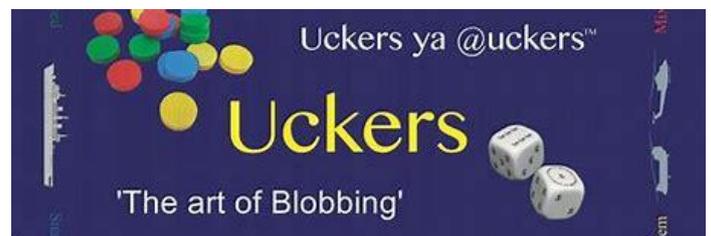
*Central Office flying the RNA House Flag*

Plans for this year's **Naval Associations Parade**

are well-developed, and it promises to be a great occasion at the Cenotaph on Sunday 10 September. The date falls on the first Sunday after the anniversary of Her Late Majesty crossing the bar, so not only does this afford us the opportunity to pay our respects to our revered former Patron but also to reaffirm our allegiance to our new Monarch, King Charles III. The Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Martin Connell CBE, has agreed to take the salute. The Chaplain of the Fleet will conduct the service and we will be supported by the Royal Naval Volunteer Band Association and squads of sailors from both HMS COLLINGWOOD and HMS SULTAN.

I know several Branches are making a big effort and booking buses to get shipmates to London that morning but it's also a great opportunity for HQ Roll members to join us too – all are very welcome.

Please note that the **2023 World Uckers Championships**, to be held at the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth, have been brought forward a week to **Saturday 14 October**. It had originally been planned for 21 October but we have adjusted after feedback suggested that many Branches who wanted to take part had planned to have their Trafalgar Night dinners that night. Entries welcome to Dave at [engagement@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:engagement@royalnavalassoc.com)



Finally, it was great to host the Norwich Branch at our recent **Open Day** at Central Office in June. I hope the Branch enjoyed the day as much as we did hosting them. There are still spaces available in our forthcoming Open Days on 14 July, 11 August and 29 September. Please contact Sara on [sara@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sara@royalnavalassoc.com)

*Best wishes,  
Bill*

# Chairman's chat

Ahoy Shipmates.

Hopefully this Chat will get into the July edition given I have been in Sick Bay since 1 June having undergone my right hip replacement, so I am now still in recovery mode finding it uncomfortable to sit at the Boss's computer. So, to catch up with activities over the past couple of months.

As mentioned in the June edition, sadly, the former Chaplain of the Fleet Rev Martyn Gough Crossed the Bar, a great loss to all that knew him. Amazingly, on the several occasions I met him he always remembered my name. Such a wonderful man.

The month of May proved to be a busy month for me, preceded in mid-April by attending the Riders Branch 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Leicester at the Leicester Senior Servicemen's Club, which was well attended by over 100 Shipmates – a venue well worth a visit if you are in Leicester.

The weekend of 12–14 May found me visiting RNA Londonderry Branch to take part in the Battle of the Atlantic 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations with representations from the Royal Navy, Royal Canadian Navy and veterans, the German Ambassador to Ireland, supported by RNA Londonderry Branch and the local community – a busy but well-organised weekend.

Arriving home on the 15<sup>th</sup>, I was off the following morning to the National Arboretum to represent the RNA at the Royal British Legion's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Service of the ending of National Service.

**National Conference Weekend:** It certainly was a busy weekend and I thank all those who attended and supported the weekend. A BZ goes to the No 10 Area organising committee and Central Office Staff who made it a success. Preceding the conference business, the RNA was granted the Freedom of Liverpool by the Lord Mayor who was in attendance, which was accepted by our National President Vice Admiral Duncan Potts. This was the second such honour bestowed on the Association within twelve months and indeed the history of the Association. We were most fortunate to have as our three speakers the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Ben Key, who gave us an update on the Royal Navy, Dr Jann Witt, the German Naval Historian who spoke about the U-Boats in the Battle of the Atlantic, and Vice Admiral (Ret'd) Michael Gretton, who spoke about Atlantic Convoy ONS5 in which his late father Commander Peter Gretton (later Vice Admiral) took part. Pending an immediate hip operation a few days later, I was unable to take part in the one-mile march from the City Centre to the Drumhead Service on the Sunday which was a quite moving ceremony, but I applaud all Standard Bearers and Shipmates that took part – you all looked very smart and did the Association proud.

**Branch News:** So far this year we have had two new Branches commission in No 7 Area (South Wales & Gloucester) – Torfaen in January followed by Caerphilly on 10 June. There is a possibility of two more coming through the pipeline in South Wales. Stop Press news is that the former Stoke-on-Trent Branch (No 8 Area) may possibly recommission. Time for all Area Committees and Shipmates to take note that Jack and Jenny are out there in those towns and cities just waiting to get together and possibly form a Branch. Shipmates, keep your ears to the ground, spread the word and Area Committees might consider advertising in local newspapers and village magazines, which is mainly free.

In April I carried out a casual inspection of Branch Year End Balance Sheets for the year end 31 December 2021 and was concerned to learn that a substantial number of Branches had neither paid the £5 Standards Fund Fee, nor had Public Liability Insurance (PLI) or indeed both. Failure to pay into the Standard Fund means a Branch cannot make a claim against the Fund. More concerning is that the lack of PLI exposes a Branch to a possible claim for damages/compensation against the Branch and not the RNA. Whilst Central Office is looking into the possibility of PLI cover for all Branches under a blanket policy, I must stress the current situation Branches face by not having PLI.

Branch & Club Support Fund: This exists to support as stated, Clubs and Branches for specific purposes grants and loans. However, failure by a Branch to submit its Annual Year End Balance Sheet for the preceding year to Central Office by the 30<sup>th</sup> April in accordance with Branch Bye-Law B19 (c) will prohibit a Branch or Club being eligible for assistance from this fund.

**A polite reminder from last month:** A large number Year Books have been returned to Central Office, mainly because S/Ms appear to have moved and may not have informed their Branch Secretary or Central Office (if HQ Roll Members). If you have moved, please advise one of those mentioned above.

Trying to sit at the Boss's computer recovering from my recent operation is most uncomfortable so I will call Time, so that is it, Shipmates, for now. To all serving Shipmates including Reservists, and your families keep safe. For those at sea, God Speed, and a safe return.

*Yours aye*

*Keith Ridley* - [nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:nationalchairman@royalnavalassoc.com)

## Focus on... HMS Glamorgan



County-class guided missile destroyer HMS Glamorgan is the subject of the first of our 'Focus on...' features, which will take their cue from a date, event or ship that is relevant to that particular month.

Glamorgan qualifies on two counts.

First, the destroyer – one of a class which were originally conceived as a cruiser-destroyer hybrid – was launched during July 1964 at the Tyneside yard of Vickers-Armstrongs, on the same day as her sister ship, HMS Fife, was launched on the Clyde.

The second reason is that the ship will be the subject of a ceremony at RNA Central Office this month, when a memorial tree will be planted to honour the 14 men who died on board the destroyer as a result of an Argentine missile attack during the Falklands Conflict.

HMS Glamorgan, named for the county in South Wales, was commissioned in October 1966, and in 1974 she underwent a refit that saw her twin 4.5in gun B turret replaced by four Exocet missile launchers. A further, more extensive, refit in 1977 saw a significant upgrade in her command system.

The ship had a busy Falklands campaign. She was already at sea in the vicinity of Gibraltar in early April 1982 when the decision was made to send a task force to retake the Falkland Islands from Argentine invading forces, and Glamorgan was diverted to join the group.

For part of the voyage south Glamorgan was the flagship of Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward, the Commander of the Carrier Battle Group, until he could transfer his flag to the aircraft carrier HMS Hermes.

The pattern of Glamorgan's contribution was set in her first action, on 1 May, when she joined frigates HMS Arrow and Alacrity in bombarding Argentine positions near the Falklands capital Stanley, sustaining minor damage when a bomb landed near her.

The second half of May saw her constantly involved in bombarding Argentine positions using her 4.5in guns, although she also fired a Seaslug missile at Stanley airfield, killing an Argentine officer and wounding several men.

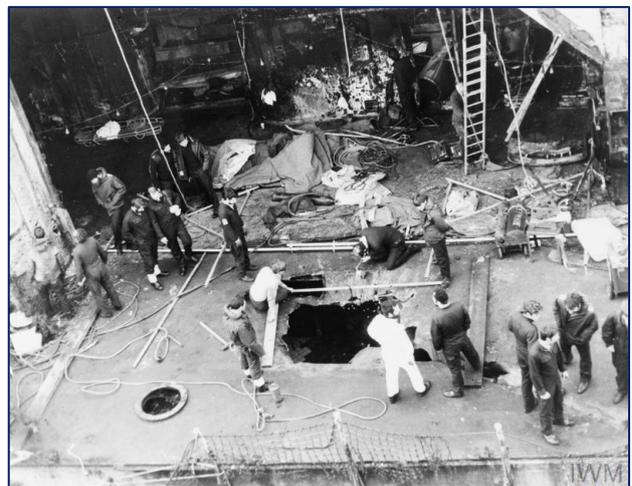
After a spell protecting the offshore 'engineering hub' (the TRALA, or Towing, Repair and Logistics Area) Glamorgan was brought back inshore to support the Royal Marines assault on Two Sisters Mountain.

Early on the morning of 12 June Glamorgan was steaming at around 20 knots some 18 miles offshore when she was tracked by the radar of a makeshift Exocet launcher, patched together from the system taken from an Argentine destroyer and flown out to the Falklands to be mounted on a trailer.

The first missile launched misfired, the second missed, but the third locked onto Glamorgan, and was spotted just seconds away from impact.

The ship turned sharply away from the missile but was struck close to the hangar, blowing a significant hole in the deck and starting a fire in the galley below.

The ship's Wessex helicopter, fuelled and armed in the hangar, exploded and caused a second, fierce fire. 13 men died in the attack – six from the ship's flight of 737 Naval Air Squadron – while a 14<sup>th</sup> man died of his wounds more than a month later.



Thanks to a courageous, professional response from the ship's company the fires were put out by late morning and the ship was under way again, later heading out to sea for initial repairs; she took no further part in combat operations, with the Argentines surrendering just two days later.

With the fighting over, Glamorgan was brought into the sheltered waters of San Carlos Bay for further repairs, and she sailed north on 21 June, reaching Portsmouth on 10 July after more than 100 days continuously at sea.

After extensive repairs and a refit Glamorgan was once again ready for front-line duties, and she helped evacuate British peace-keeping troops from Lebanon in October 1983.

She was decommissioned by the Royal Navy in September 1986 and sold to the Chilean Navy the following month, arriving in her new home as the Almirante Latorre at the end of the year.

She was finally decommissioned by the South Americans at the end of 1998, and seven years later sank in the Pacific Ocean while under tow to the breakers' yard.

The tree-planting ceremony will be staged in front of the RNA's Central Office in Scott Road, in Portsmouth Naval Base, next Monday – 10 July. See the August Semaphore Circular for a full report.

Our two images, taken from the extensive Imperial War Museum collection, show HMS Glamorgan at sea (© IWM MH 27570) and the damaged deck and hangar following the Argentine Exocet attack in June 1982 (© IWM FKD 73)

To access the Imperial War Museum collections see <https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections>

## 1 Armed Forces Day 2023



The UK's Armed Forces community took centre stage once again as the nation thanked Service personnel, veterans and cadet forces for their dedication to keeping us all safe.

More than 1,000 people took part in a tri-Service parade at this year's National Event, which was hosted by Falmouth in Cornwall, with the Duke of Gloucester taking the Royal Salute.

Now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, Armed Forces Day (AFD) is the culmination of a week of events celebrating the Armed Forces community and their supporters, their contribution to the welfare of the nation and the sacrifices made in the course of their duty.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said: "From Estonia to the Indo-Pacific, as well as here at home, our Armed Forces personnel protect and defend our freedom every day of every year.

“Much of that service we do not see and often take for granted, but this year we have been privileged to watch thousands of our military on parade for the Coronation, in what was a showcase of our Forces’ phenomenal precision and professionalism.



“So I know I speak for the entire country on this Armed Forces Day, when I say thank you to every soldier, sailor and aviator, and their families, who form part of our brilliant Armed Forces.”

Across the UK more than 100 events were staged on the day itself, with Royal Navy veterans featuring prominently in the parades, fairs and shows.

Hosted by Cornwall Council, the National Event welcomed around 100,000 visitors to Falmouth – the county is home to around 39,000 veterans, and one in five people there have a personal or family connection to the Armed Forces, making it an ideal backdrop for the occasion.

Leader of Cornwall Council Cllr Linda Taylor said: “The Armed Forces are at the heart of every Cornish community, and these celebrations have been based on respect, admiration and real gratitude.

“Cornwall has always been of strategic importance – as guardian of the world’s busiest shipping lane, as an innovator of military invention, and as a proud home to Service personnel and their families. May it always be looked on by them as safe harbour, a brave ally, and the source of an enduring and welcoming homecoming.”

The images here and on our front cover are from MOD photographers on duty at Falmouth.







## 2 Veterans at AFD 2023 – and what is a veteran?

Veterans played a prominent role in the Armed Forces Day (AFD) celebrations across the nation, including the National Event itself in Falmouth. Communities gathered to showcase their support and demonstrate how veterans have had a positive impact on those around them.

Supporters of veterans took the chance to explain what it all means – supporters such as Kate Hughes, from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), who said: “As a veteran myself I know what it is like to transition from a military career into a civilian career. I understand the pressure that could bring to veterans and their families. With one word I can describe veterans as proud.”

Events across the United Kingdom, from Northern Ireland to Cornwall, included Armed Forces veterans’ charities markets, the annual Armed Forces Veterans’ Conference, veteran parade marches, and stalls and displays from across the Armed Forces community.

### **But what is a veteran?**

Veterans are defined as anyone who has served for at least one day in His Majesty’s Armed Forces (Regular or Reserve) or Merchant Mariners who have seen duty on legally-defined military operations.

There are currently 2.4 million veterans in Great Britain, with 40 per cent of them aged between 16 and 64. The percentage of working-age veterans is set to increase to 44 per cent by 2028. 60 per cent of veterans are over 65; 75 per cent of veterans own their home or have a mortgage, but it is estimated that 3 to 6 per cent of those sleeping rough have served in the Armed Forces.

Three out of four veterans say they are healthy, 17 per cent describe their health as “fair” and 8 per cent have bad health.

If you would like to know more about the military veterans community – including tuning in to the MOD’s ‘being Forces friendly’ podcast – see the Veterans News and Communications Hub page of the MOD website at <https://tinyurl.com/yc2uyfpt>

### **3 Flagship HMS Caroline**

National Historic Ships UK (NHS-UK) has made HMS Caroline a Flagship of the Year for 2023.

The First World War light cruiser, permanently berthed in the Titanic Quarter of Belfast, received the coveted award “in recognition of her planned public engagement into 2024 as well as the level of social media output and learning resources for schools.”

Operated by the National Museum of the Royal Navy, HMS Caroline will fly the flag as an ambassador for the UK’s maritime heritage and will receive a special broad pennant and a brass plaque to denote her coveted status.

Now a floating museum, Caroline is the sole survivor of the Battle of Jutland, and later served as the Royal Navy hub in Belfast until just 12 years ago.

For more details, see <https://www.nmrn.org.uk/news/hms-caroline-awarded-flagship-year-2023-status-0>

### **4 Biennial Parade in London – 10 September**

The RNA/Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall will be held on Sunday 10 September, and final arrangements will be agreed with the relevant authorities and interested parties this month.

This year the parade falls just after the first anniversary of the death of our Queen and Patron, Elizabeth II, so the gathering will give us a chance to mark the occasion in appropriate fashion.

Specific details of timings and locations will be made available as soon as possible, bearing in mind security and logistical implications, but please don’t hesitate to contact Central Office if you have any questions. Keep an eye on the Semaphore Circular and Semaphore Short.

### **5 Report considers impact of Armed Forces ‘gay ban’**

A report published in June has shone a light on the lifelong impact of the ‘gay ban’ in the Armed Forces. The study, carried out by Northumbria University on behalf of specialist LGBT+ military charity Fighting with Pride (FWP), found that thousands of ex-Service people are paying the price of the policy both mentally and economically. The ban existed until 2000.

Among the findings are the fact that 86 per cent of LGBT+ veterans felt dismissal for sexual orientation or gender identity from the Armed Forces affected their mental health, while 74 per cent of those dismissed said their finances have been affected.

The first academic study of its kind involved interviews and surveys with more than 100 veterans with first-hand experience of the ban, many dismissed after traumatic military police investigations and even highly invasive medical examinations, and has revealed ongoing poverty; homelessness; poor mental and physical health.

For more details see <https://tinyurl.com/mry7fa3a> To read the full report go to <https://tinyurl.com/2887edz8> – but please be aware that Fighting With Pride state that The report will be upsetting and they want to trigger warn you before reading. The Fighting With Pride website is at <https://www.fightingwithpride.org.uk/>

### **6 RNA Weekly Lottery – win up to £25,000!**

Capt Bill Oliphant, Chief Executive of the RNA, has already written about the new RNA Weekly Lottery, but it’s worth mentioning it again – play the new lottery and you could win up to £25,000!

The lottery was officially launched at the RNA’s National Conference in Liverpool in May, and by playing the lottery supporters will not only have the chance to win some wonderful cash prizes, they will also be backing a rank-blind network of serving, veterans and family members of the Royal Navy.

Once players have registered online they will be entered into the draw every Friday they are in credit (£1 per line, per week).

Bill said: "Our lottery is an exciting way of fundraising, and with at least 50 per cent from each £1 donated supporting the work we do, we will be able to help those in our community who need it most.

"The RNA is free to join but relies on donations to help continue the good work. Since Covid, we've done so much more in the welfare/wellbeing space with our veterans, and having an RNA Lottery will allow us to do even more. Please do sign up and play our lottery, and if you're not a member – join us!"

Visit [www.RNALottery.co.uk](http://www.RNALottery.co.uk) to sign up.

## 7 Uckers World Championships date change

Another matter of note that Captain Bill mentioned in his briefing is the fact that the date of the forthcoming World Uckers Championships has been changed.

After much consideration it has been decided to move the event from the original date of the 21 October (Trafalgar night) to the week before; Saturday 14 October from 9.30am (playing time from 10am) at the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth.

As many of you will know, the Royal Maritime Club has all the facilities we need, including disabled access, catering, accommodation and a licensed bar as well as being very close to transport links.

This decision was NOT taken lightly and we have endeavoured to give as much notice as possible so as not to inconvenience anyone – if you have any questions contact Dave MacAskill on [engagement@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:engagement@royalnavalassoc.com) or 07596530499.

In the future, after a successful event at Built Wells (see below), we will be staging events throughout the year at different venues as well as Portsmouth, in the hope we can stage five or six tournaments per year to get people playing in different regions. We hope you understand and look forward to welcoming you to the event – and look forward to seeing pictures of your participation at branch-level Trafalgar evenings!

## 8 Classified Uckers results from Wales



The results are in from the Welsh Uckers Championships, which could prove to be a blueprint for further regional RNA Uckers tournaments in future.

The winners of the doubles competition were Tony Prynne and Bettie Cude in the Windsors team (a reference to Tony's time in the Life Guards), triumphing over the two submariners S/Ms Mark Grinall and Steve Bellis in the Deep and Dirty team.



The winner of the fiercely-contested singles competition was S/M Paul Mawhinney, who narrowly beat S/M Mick Connor, another submariner.

Pictured, thanks to Bwlth Wales branch chairman S/M Dave Buckingham, are scenes from the tournament and the doubles competition winners.



## 9 News from the Membership Support Division

This month's notices, in no particular order:

### Veterans Parade:

We are delighted to have been allocated 120 tickets to this year's Cenotaph Veterans Parade in Whitehall on Sunday 12 November. To register your intention to parade, please email Sara at Central Office – [sara@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sara@royalnavalassoc.com) – by 11 August.

### Database:

The Membership Support Division will be undertaking some updates on the database over the coming months and Branch Secretaries are asked to please look out for emails from Sara.

Branch Secretaries have a fundamental role in ensuring our membership details are kept up-to-date, and Central Office is hugely grateful to them for their support to their Branches and the wider RNA.

## August Semaphore Circular deadline:

Please note that there will be some developments with regards production of the Semaphore Circular, the current process having resulted in some delays to recent editions, and deadlines will be rather earlier for a month or two – please get your contributions for the August edition in to [comms@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com) by Monday 24 July.

## 10 Opening of Admiral Ramsay Museum



A new museum dedicated to the memory of a brilliant Naval wartime leader has opened in the Scottish borders

The Admiral Bertram Ramsay Museum, at Bughtrig House near Coldstream, aims to give a fully-rounded impression of the man who masterminded the so-called 'Miracle of Dunkirk' at the end of June 1940, when he oversaw the evacuation of a third of a million British and Allied troops who had been trapped on the French coast by advancing German forces – Operation Dynamo.

Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, a First World War veteran who had retired in 1938 but was persuaded to go back on active service by Churchill, went on to plan the incredibly complex maritime element of the Normandy Landings in June 1944 as Naval Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Naval Expeditionary Force for the invasion.

He died in an air crash in France in January 1945.

The Museum, created in a garden store at the home chosen by Ramsay and his wife Margaret (the Admiral died before he could retire to the house), was officially opened by representatives of all three Services on 4 June, the anniversary of the end of Operation Dynamo, with the Royal Naval Association in attendance.

The current occupier of Bughtrig House, Ramsay's grandson retired Army Captain William Ramsay, said that the museum was designed to show his grandfather as the modest man that he was; it would also educate future generations about the huge sacrifices made by serving personnel then and ever since.

For more details see the Museum's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/admiralramsaymuseum/>



## 11 Discount at the Ship Anson and Visits to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Discounts are available to members of the RNA for refreshments at the Ship Anson pub on The Hard, just outside the Dockyard gates – a 10 per cent discount to RNA members on both food and drink.

The historic Greene King pub rates 4.4 stars out of 5 from more than 2,000 reviews on Google.

There is also a members' discount available on the Historic Dockyard Annual Ultimate Explorer ticket offer: Save 30 per cent off the annual Ultimate Explorer tickets at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Tickets are valid for the year allowing you to return again and again. The Ultimate Explorer tickets give you access to: • The Mary Rose • HMS Victory • HMS Warrior • HMS Alliance at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum • Harbour Tour • Plus more/  
Offer is valid on one family Ultimate Explorer ticket or up to four adult, senior or child Ultimate Explorer Tickets.

To get this discount, simply show your Royal Naval Association Membership card in the Visitor Centre, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The discount is only available for 'walk ups'

## 12 Monday Evening Fireside Chats

For Shipmates who are unaware, a series of 'Fireside Chats' featuring some fascinating subjects including; Battle of Jutland, Operation Paraquet (Re-capture of South Georgia 1982), Naval Recruiting in 2020 to name but a few. The presentations are held on Monday evenings commencing at 1830 using 'Zoom'. All are welcome.

Meeting ID – 288 830 5105 Password – Shipmate (case sensitive) Or, click on the link [here](#)

Date	Presenter	Subject
Mon 10 July	Sandra Peaston	Director of Strategy, Policy and Insight at the Credit Industry Fraud Advisory Service

Mon 17 July	Cdr Brian Boxhall-Hunt	Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society
Mon 24 July	Dr Jann Witt	World War 2 German strategy for defeating the Royal Navy
Mon 31 July	Hannah Prowse	Portsmouth Historic Dockyard – Future Plans

*Fireside Chats will be taking a summer break on 7 and 14 August*

*\* Lecture subjects may change at short notice.*

*\*\* Shipmates please note that The 'Fireside Chat' commences at 1830*

### 13 Information booklet for Scottish veterans

A new Veterans Scotland information booklet has just been published, giving details of support, resources, dedicated services, veterans champions and more which are available to the veterans community north of the border.

The booklet can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/2dmv7y3d>

### 14 Tackling the school summer holidays

Catherine is a parent of two boys and was the wife of a Naval Officer; her husband left the regular Navy a few years ago but is still a Reservist. His civilian job involves him being away regularly. Catherine is also a teacher who has taught military children and children whose parents are regularly absent.

Here Catherine (pictured below right with her family) shares some thoughts on getting through the long summer holidays when you have children to keep entertained...

“Being on your own when your other half is away can be challenging. I was lucky as my friends and family would come and help out for a few days here and there, but it doesn't change the feelings of loneliness when your partner isn't around.

“How did I cope? I have to admit I fell back on my teaching experience and ran our holidays very much like I would run a day at school and planned activities.”

Here are Catherine's suggestions on how to keep schoolchildren engaged over the long summer holidays.

#### Keeping the learning alive– mental stimulation:

##### Read every day

- Children who read regularly and/or are read to often perform better academically
- Try to keep to a regular reading time, turn off mobile phones and focus. All children enjoy being read to, and one-to-one time will not only develop their reading, vocabulary comprehension and inference skills, it also gives children the opportunity to talk to you
- Try to read a variety of texts: fiction, non-fiction, picture books, poetry and prose



## Keep maths skills honed

You don't need to sit a child down with a sheet of questions (if they enjoy this ask the child's teacher to point you in the right direction)

- Playing board games, online maths programmes, cooking together, days out – all of these involve a lot of real-life maths
- Schools teach children the skills they need for exams; it is down to parents, grandparents and relatives to teach life skills. Embed the skills of telling the time, working with money, reading timetables and weights and measures into your discussions and activities

## Get out and about

We are surrounded by some amazing places to visit, which are often free. Many organisations offer children's trails and activities that you can access which encourage learning. (Remember, if you live in the area, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard offers a special rate: RNA Members get tickets for just £20 each (plus three guests £20 per ticket) and a 30 per cent discount on Annual Ultimate Explorer Tickets – you can [join here](#))

## Exercise!

- It's important for children to exercise their brains and bodies. If you are in the UK there are many free places with trails and playgrounds
- Look locally as well at council-run sporting activities, go online and join a local group, parents are always willing to share a great find!
- If you don't want to travel far design your own quiz/scavenger hunt for you and the children to enjoy on a walk.

## 15 Model Makers Special Interest Group – 'Expanding My Horizons'



S/M Ray Nolton MBE, of Rosyth and West Fife Branch, writes:

The members of the Modelling SIG will probably have come across "The Chris and Ray Maritime Roadshow" on Facebook – either on the SIG site or one of the other warship modelling sites.

My oppo Chris Hewitt and I have been exhibiting our small-scale ship models, mainly on the Scottish and Northern England circuit and latterly at the main IPMS Telford show, for about ten years now, having developed the display from part of our Dunfermline and District Model Club to an entity in its own right.

A bit of background – I'm an ex-Clanky Officer, having served from 1972 to 2004, finally retiring as Senior Engineer of HMS Illustrious.

I spent much of my career living in the Rosyth area, having first moved there permanently in 1982 with an appointment to Caledonia (where I'm still a member of the Wardroom Mess Committee!) I've been a lifelong modeller since I was about five, and still remember my first kit –



an Airfix Bristol Bloodhound missile. In fact, I still have the wee dog that came with that kit! I was an avid ship modeller in the 1960s, making most of the conversions which appeared in the Airfix magazine, but lapsed as I didn't feel the models I was making were 'real enough'. I did, however, become a keen railway modeller and have tried my hand at nearly every other genre of plastic modelling as well.

I got back into ship modelling in 2011 when recovering from a hip replacement and started a 'modern generation' kit of a World War 2 German destroyer as a form of recovery. Soon after, I met my now bezzy oppo Chris Hewitt at the Dunfermline and District Model Club, and we discovered a common interest in small-scale ship modelling (mainly 1:700, 1:350 and 1:144 scales) as well as finding we were living less than a quarter of a mile apart.

Now, Chris is an ex-Pongo, having driven Chieftains and Scorpions with the RTR during his career, but in his defence, he has redeeming features as his dad was a Charge Chief OA (Pat Hewitt – anyone remember him?).

Meanwhile, my interest in railway modelling had continued, as a member of Dunfermline Model Railway club and latterly as part of the East of Scotland 4mm Group (an Area Group of the Scalefour Society working in P4 standards) in which I have been involved for the last 30 years, including our highly-respected "Burntisland 1883" layout. More recently I have my own wee industrial layout ('United Mills') on the exhibition circuit as featured in the May 2019 edition of British Railway Modelling.



Probably enough about me! Chris and I quickly became firm friends, and he was instrumental in introducing me back in to the world of 21<sup>st</sup> Century ship modelling. At the time, the main change since the early 70s was the introduction of photoetch (PE) for the finer aspects of parts, especially things like railings and sensors for which plastic is far too chunky – this revolutionised ship modelling for me along with an absolute cornucopia of new releases in both injection-moulded plastic and resin which have raised the bar in the standards of kits.

In the past ten years another revolution has taken place with 3D printing of everything from complete ships to the most exquisite individual items of equipment.

Cards on the table – both Chris and I are looking to make models of individual ships as accurately as we can. This includes deep research, modifications to kits as produced and using whatever after-market upgrades are available in PE or 3D or whatever where applicable. Some will call us rivet counters, we call it accuracy!



Having said that, there is space for everyone’s approach in this hobby, and we are happy to advise or just have a natter whether face-to-face, on Facebook or elsewhere. The world of ship modelling has never been more vibrant with new releases coming out regularly – fancy a 1959 Belfast, a 1960s Type 15 or a Ton-class Minesweeper? All these are available!

Images from the top are as follows: 1 – my 1:350 scale Flower-class Corvette HMCS Chilliwack; 2: – on the workbench, a 1:700 scale RN Escort Carrier; 3 – our stand at the Scottish nationals in Perth in April this year; 4 – not only warships: a Clyde Puffer diorama

**16 Specialist Interest Groups – Contact details**

If S/M Ray’s thoughts have fired your imagination, Shipmates might be interested to become involved with the popular and successful RNA Specialist Interest Groups.

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

For more information on each group please contact the designated leaders, listed in no particular order:

<b>SIG</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>
<b>Camping and Caravanning</b>	Ron Shilton	<a href="mailto:rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com">rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com</a>
<b>Classic Cars</b>	Mike Burnham	<a href="mailto:hon.secretary@rnarayleigh.org">hon.secretary@rnarayleigh.org</a>
<b>Cricket</b>	Mark Smith	<a href="mailto:Markmiff1962@gmail.com">Markmiff1962@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cycling</b>	Craig Fulton	<a href="mailto:craig@govguide.co.uk">craig@govguide.co.uk</a>
<b>Decorative Ropework</b>	Bob Jones	<a href="mailto:oldsalt69@hotmail.co.uk">oldsalt69@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Divers</b>	Bill Lawless	<a href="mailto:billylawless40@yahoo.com">billylawless40@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Fishing</b>	Gus Honeywood/ Selwyn Davies/John Stephenson	<a href="mailto:rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com">rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com</a>
<b>Golf</b>	Colin Dinsdale	<a href="mailto:rna.golfers@gmail.com">rna.golfers@gmail.com</a>
<b>Riders</b>	Dave Ives	<a href="mailto:secrnariders@gmail.com">secrnariders@gmail.com</a>
<b>Model Makers</b>	Gary Daisley	<a href="mailto:RNA.Modelmakers@gmail.com">RNA.Modelmakers@gmail.com</a>

If you are interested in forming a Special Interest Group please contact [admin@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:admin@royalnavalassoc.com)

## 17 Armed Forces Covenant Fund consultation

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust supports the Armed Forces Covenant by delivering funding programmes that create real change to Armed Forces communities across the UK – and the fund is worth around £10m each year.

Grants are awarded through specific programmes, which are developed through evidence of issues that affect the Forces community, such as tackling loneliness or mental ill-health in veterans, supporting family life and looking at ex-Service people in the criminal justice system.

The Trust is running a consultation during July and August to help them ensure the funding they provide reaches those who need it most. What do you think the Covenant Fund should focus on over the next three years?

To read more about the Armed Forces Covenant, and how the Trust helps support its delivery – and to have your say on how the Fund could be spent – go to <https://bit.ly/covenantfund24-27...>

## 18 Royal Navy Logistics Hub on LinkedIn

For those current or former members of the Royal Navy Logistics Branch the Royal Navy Logistics Hub is a fantastic LinkedIn page to keep an eye on.

The Royal Navy's Logistics branch plays a crucial role supporting and enabling operations around the globe. This LinkedIn page aims to provide a bridge between the current branch and those in the veteran/retired community who still have an interest in the goings-on of their former colleagues and 'professional descendants'!

See <https://uk.linkedin.com/company/royal-navy-logistics-hub> for more details.

## 19 Help for Households with Cost of Living

Inflation may be falling, but the high cost of living is still causing hardships. Remember that the government has published information that may help you should you need it.

This includes details of different types of support which are available in England, as well as energy-saving tips that could save you money.

Use this link – [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#) – to access the website. If you live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland there may be additional or alternative devolved policies and help available. Use the same link as above but then scroll to the bottom of the page to access the website that is relevant to where you live.



**Pusser's...**

Calling all 'Rum Rats'...

Shipmates may wish to be reminded that 'Pusser's' is now available from the online 'Navy Shop', with all profits from Rum going back to the charity. Please follow the link <https://royalnavyshop.co.uk/collections/rum>

For those who would like to find out more about Pusser's Rum, go to [www.pussersrum.com](http://www.pussersrum.com) where there is plenty of information on the history of the brand, the rum itself, cocktails and loads more besides.



**Hayes Travel - Foreign Exchange Rates**

Shipmates will be pleased to know that Hayes Travel are offering all of RNA members special rates on foreign currency at any of the Hays Travel branches nationwide.



Your members would simply need to produce membership card for the discount to be applied at the time of transaction.

**RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery**

**WWW.RNASLOPS.CLOTHING**

*The RNA Officially Licensed supplier of embroidered garments.*

*Polo Shirts, Hoodies, Sweatshirts, Fleece, Jackets, Knitwear, Blouses, Pilot Shirts, Softshell, Headwear,*

*The RNA Logo is included in your garment price. All you have to do is select New or Blazer Style badge and add your Branch Name, of which is optional.*

*Tel: 07983 151011 E Mail: ray@rnaslops.clothing*



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



<b>2023</b>	
14 Jul	Open Day – Central Office
05 Aug	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting (Committee 03 Aug)
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting – Harwich, starting at 14.00hrs
11 Aug	Open Day – Central Office
09 Sep	NC meeting, London
10 Sep	Naval Associations / RNA Biennial Parade - Whitehall
16 Sep	Area 4 Quarterly Meeting – Frome Branch
29 Sep	Open Day – Central Office
14 Oct (new date)	World Uckers Championships (Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth)
21 Oct	Trafalgar Day
28 Oct	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting – Harwich
11 Nov	Armistice Day
12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
18 Nov	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting (Committee 16 Nov)
08 Dec	National Council meeting (via Zoom)
25-31 Dec	RNA Central Office closed
<b>2024</b>	
01 Jan	RNA Central Office closed
20 Jan	Area 4 AGM – Dorchester Branch to host
May (DTBD)	National Standard Bearers Competition
Jun 14-16	RNA National Conference, Cardiff

Please check the RN Shipmates.co.uk website for a comprehensive list of further reunions:  
[www.rnshipmates.co.uk](http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk)

## **‘D’ye hear there’ ...**

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

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

- [RNA Caerphilly Branch commissioning](#)
- [RNA Area 12 Armed Forces Day](#)
- [RNA St Neots Branch](#)
- [RNA Brixham Branch](#)
- [RNA Area 4](#)
- [RNA Beccles Branch](#)
- [RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch](#)
- [RNA Bude Branch](#)
- [RNA Portsea and Portsmouth Branch](#)
- [RNA Torrevieja Branch](#)
- [RNA Southend-on-Sea Branch](#)

## RNA Caerphilly Branch commissioning



The Branch was commissioned on Saturday 10 June at the Conservative Club, Caerphilly, with VIP guests including the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, Brig Robert Aitken CBE, Cdre Mark Slawson Deputy National President of the Royal Naval Association, and the Mayor of Caerphilly, Mike Adams, as well as 60 other shipmates with family and friends.

Amongst them were the founding members of the new Branch – S/Ms Paul Pritchard, Chris Beckwith, Ashley Leaver, John Davies, Steve Drew, Dave Richards

The Commissioning Officer was the Deputy National Council Member for RNA Area 7, S/M Graham Warner.

The commissioning began with Area 7 Chairman S/M Gordon Williams explaining what was about to take place, after which former Master at Arms Colin Gent read the service and led prayers and hymns.

The Lord Lieutenant was then asked to cut the Commissioning Cake using a Naval Sword provided by WO Rob Govier RN. The Rum Bosun then informed the Chairman of the Branch that 'the Sun was over the yardarm', so the Chairman announced "Up Spirits", which meant everyone present was issued with a tot of rum, leading to the Loyal Toast by WO Govier to His Majesty the King.

S/M Steve Drew then proposed a Toast to the new Caerphilly Royal Naval Association Branch.

With the formalities over the occasion seamlessly developed into a lively social event. An impressive buffet was provided by Associate Member Annie Powell, and a raffle, organized by Associate Member Pauline Pritchard, raised £168 towards Branch funds.



## RNA Area 12 Armed Forces Day



Armed Forces Day in Northern Ireland takes place on the Saturday before the main National Event, and this year the honour of organising the Northern Irish version went to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, with the town of Larne acting as host.

Shipmates from Northern Ireland played their part, with Area 12 setting up a display with the RNA (pictured above) for the thousands of visitors who flocked to the Sandy Bay Playing Fields.

The day also included a parade of serving personnel, veterans and cadets, a drumhead service and several military displays, as well as children's entertainment and a funfair.

Pictured above (left to right) are Lt Cdr Will Murray (MA to ACNS/Dir Strat Pol), Rear Admiral Anthony Rimmington (ACNS/Dir Strat Pol), S/M Ray Cook (Chairman RNA Limavady branch) and Cdr Rob Milligan MBA FCMI CMgr RN (Senior Naval Officer Northern Ireland). Common factor – all Fleet Air Arm at some point in time!

## RNA St Neots Branch

The past few weeks have been a busy time for Shipmates from St Neots and District Branch representing the RNA out and about the Area.

In response to a request by Central Office to all Branches to have a fundraising day for RNA central funds, contributing 50 per cent of money raised, St. Neots Branch shipmates rallied to the cause by holding a Tesco foyer collection.



The photograph (above right) depicts the Duty Watch of Fundraisers proudly displaying a presentational cheque for £750 as a result of their efforts.

Being a Branch that has an IT-savvy Treasurer – S/M Mike Milne – the Branch's contribution winged its way to Central Office via BACS.



On 29 May members of the branch attended the American Cemetery at Madingley, Cambridge, to take part in the Annual Memorial Day Commemorations.

Within the grounds of the cemetery are 3,811 graves of American Servicemen who died during World War 2 during the Battle of the Atlantic, the Battles in Europe or the Strategic Bombardment of Northeast Europe.

There is also a Memorial Wall listing 5,127 names of those killed in action who have no known graves.

The photograph (left) shows Branch Standard Bearer S/M Tony and Neil Donoghue, Standard Bearer for the St. Neots Branch of the RAFA.

More recently, branch member made a joint visit on 21 June to the Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands with members of RNA Rushden Branch.

This was a 'Behind the Wire' visit, given the nature of the tri-Service work that is undertaken there. Fortunately, Branch Chairman S/M Paul Main was lucky enough not to be arrested and was allowed to exit the Base, given that he was adrift in arriving took a little while to rendezvous with his shipmates!



At one point, having got a tad rusty with his former Officer navigating skills, seeing the sign 'Royal Navy Intelligence' he simply wandered in. "WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?" he heard in a loud voice. "GET OUT!" (Time to brush up on those navigating skills Paul? – Ed)

The day proved to have been most interesting and a great success.

Pictured are those shipmates who made the visit, including (front row, far left) the wandering Chairman!

## RNA Brixham Branch

Brixham Rugby Club recently hosted Brixham RNA and a very special returning guest, together with Dartmouth RNA and Brixham Royal British Legion.

Former Chairman of Brixham Branch, S/M Edgar Lawrance, aged 89, left the area in September 2022 to become a Chelsea Pensioner.

This was Edgar's first visit back to Brixham and he was delighted to give a talk about his new life in London.

Edgar was granted permission by Royal Hospital Chelsea, to attend the area meeting in his scarlet Chelsea Pensioners uniform – and looked quite resplendent!

There was also a talk from Blind Veterans UK, followed by a fish and chip supper and a tot to round off the evening.

Pictured is Edgar Lawrance with current Brixham Branch chairman S/M Vic Williscroft.



## RNA Area 4

A recent RNA Area 4 meeting, held in Bodmin, Cornwall, almost seemed to feature more presentations than you could shake a stick at!



Following the recent highly-successful Area 4 Flotilla Reunion in Bideford, funds raised were in excess of £2,000, and a £1,000 donation was made to Fay Lawton, on behalf of the Blind Veterans Association, by Mike Lawton, the Committee Chairman (pictured left).

Another charity to benefit was Help for Heroes, with this £1,000 cheque being presented to H4H Ambassador and Hon Secretary for Bodmin, Annette Laurie (below right).

Sea Cadets Bridgewater unit was given a donation of £100 as a thank you for the use of their training facilities, used throughout the year for the RNA's standard bearers training and competition.

The Mike and Mary Hannan Trophy was awarded to Plymouth Branch, and was accepted by S/M Carl Beeson on their behalf (pictured below left). This trophy is awarded to the Branch in the Area which has recruited most new members through 2022 – Plymouth recruited 38.

Unfortunately in this area, more shipmates seem to be leaving or crossing the bar than those joining – there are currently 1,337 members in Area 4, with 195 new members in 2022.

That question was addressed at the Area 4 meeting when the question was posed: "What can be done as numbers in the RNA generically are increasing?"

New joiners are urged to consider affiliating themselves to a Branch near where they live or their birth towns.



It is also appreciated that operational reasons mean they cannot always attend, but by being present at ceremonial events, members agreed it is great to see a uniformed serving member in attendance.

Serving members who wish to rally to the cause can get in touch with their local branch – details can be found here:

<http://no4arearna.co.uk/index.php/branches/>

Finally, recent retiree from the Area 4 Committee, Christine Payne, aged 93, is to be awarded a lifetime Vice Presidency for all her exceptional work for the Area – her recent story was published in the May edition of Navy News – you can read it here <https://tinyurl.com/4ye4p3xm> on page 31.



Before the meeting finished on a high note of Cornish cream teas and pasties, there was a very successful rum raffle and other tasty treats (raising £522 for the Bodmin Branch) which was attended by many branches and Cllr Phil Cooper, the Mayor of Bodmin, who gave a history of military links with Bodmin and the Royal Navy.

The next Area 4 meeting will be in Frome, Somerset on 16 September.

## RNA Beccles Branch



It was a busy and rewarding Armed Forces week for RNA Beccles Branch, out and about participating in events and promoting local veterans' services in East Suffolk/South Norfolk.

Monday 19 June saw the official opening of the Veterans Safe Garden in the James Paget Hospital, an initiative promoted by the Armed Forces Advocate on the staff of the hospital. This was followed a few days later by a veterans' coffee and information event (pictured above).

The culmination of the week saw branch shipmates at the Armed Forces Day event in Lowestoft (pictured below) – a hugely enjoyable day. S/M Andy McMahon paraded the Beccles Branch standard at the drumhead service, with other shipmates on a recruiting stand.

The Branch looks forward to welcoming several new members who signed up on the day.



### RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch



***Pictured, from left, are: Mike Firth, Charles Haffey, Cdr Bob Hawkins MBE, Andy McDonald MBE (Forth Valley RNA), Ena Cochrane, Isabel Stewart, Jim Stewart and Mike Gilbert***

Members of Rosyth and West Fife Branch attended a flag-raising ceremony and civic reception at the Glen Pavilion, Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline, on 19 June as part of the Armed Forces Day initiative which celebrates Britain's Armed Forces past and present. The reception was sponsored by Fife Council and hosted by Dunfermline City Provost, Mr. Jim Leishman MBE. Other dignitaries in attendance were the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, Robert Balfour, and Cdr Bob Hawkins MBE, Commanding Officer of HMS Caledonia.

Dignitaries and invited guests comprising serving members of the Royal Navy, Army, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Armed Forces Veterans, SAAFA representatives and members of the emergency services, formed a parade outside the pavilion in front of the standards, for the address and prayers by the Minister of Dunfermline Abbey, the Rev Mary-Anne Rennie, and the raising of the Armed Forces Day flag.

Following prayers, the parade fell out and participants retired to the pavilion, where speeches were delivered by Provost Leishman, on behalf of Fife Council, in appreciation of the loyal service given by the Armed Forces, Reservists, Armed Forces Cadets, veterans and emergency service workers past, present and future.

This was followed by a speech by Cdr (and RNA Shipmate) Bob Hawkins, who spoke of the close relationship between the Royal Navy in Rosyth and the local community and the important role of HMS Caledonia in providing a home for serving personnel, the Royal Marines Band, the Royal Naval Reserve and the local Sea Cadet and Royal Marine Cadet Units.

Readings from the Bible were then read by the Lord Lieutenant's designated Armed Forces Cadets, Leading Cadet Sky Challis and Army Cadet Kyle Brock.

There followed a splendid finger buffet, tea and coffee.

At the conclusion of the buffet entertainment was provided by a very talented local singer, Lily Mentiplay, who treated guests to a medley of popular songs including Highland Cathedral, Caledonia and the well-known hymn, *I Vow to Thee my Country*. Her performance was concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

The day's proceedings were brought to a conclusion with an address by the Lord Lieutenant Robert Balfour, who also presented Cadet Kyle Brock with his Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Service.

## RNA Bude Branch

Members of Bude Branch chose to meet up on the beach as a relief to enjoy a Banyan in June (pictured right).

Before the hordes arrived, a few 'wets' and victuals were enjoyed, with grateful thanks to the Branch Welfare Secretary, who kindly supplied a light dusting of local sand to the ingredients!

Nothing to beat a gritty burger!



## RNA Portsea and Portsmouth Branch

Portsea and Portsmouth Branch members joined with Falklands veterans at a Royal British Legion-led Falklands commemoration service in Old Portsmouth on 11 June.

A shower of rain did not dampen spirits, and there was a good turn out by all – especially in the case of the Royal Marines Voluntary Cadet Corps, who turned out immaculately again for the second week running.

The new Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Cllr Tom Coles, and Portsmouth South MP Stephen Morgan were also in attendance

Less than a week later Branch members turned out in strength at Portsmouth's Armed Forces Day event on 17 June. The



Branch fielded lots of positive feedback and some potential new joiners – all in all a good public relations event for the Branch.

Name the Teddy and Tot time went down well, especially with shipmates from Aldershot Branch who showed up!

The Branch also had MP (and Branch Member) Stephen Morgan visit them for a tot, as well as the New Lord and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth Cllr Tom and Nikki Coles.

Shipmates Sally Ridley and Richie Farman created lots of interest in their Pirate outfits...



## RNA Torrevieja Branch

Torrevieja Branch continues to support local charities on Spain's Costa Blanca by making another donation, this time to the Cruz Roja (Red Cross) Torrevieja branch.

Branch Treasurer, S/M Carl Loudon presented the donation to El Presidente, Bibiano Vera (right) in the presence of the Branch Committee and shipmates and staff of the Cruz Roja, including television director Lara Garcia – the proceedings were captured on camera by the Red



Sauce production company which was filming for Channel 5's **Bargain Brits in the Sun** programme.

Torrevieja shipmates feel privileged to make donations to local charities from collections through raffles and voluntary contributions at monthly meetings.

Filming continued while the Branch Committee and shipmates went on to join more of the 'motley crew' of shipmates at their monthly Menu del Dia (MdD) at Piccolino Pizzeria, Aguas Nuevas, Torrevieja for a three course Italian meal and, of course, the raffle, which again collected for charity.

The MdD was the usual lively event with some 38 very talkative shipmates forgetting that they were being filmed – you know Jack, never miss an opportunity to be noticed. We will all now have to wait until the programme is aired to find out what they actually said in an endeavour to raise the profile of the RNA in Spain.

The shipmates, as usual, left the event in high spirits (and that's without alcohol) and gearing up for the next MdD, which will be oriental cuisine – the Branch aims to keep travelling around the world while being shoreside, through varied culinary experiences.

## RNA Southend-on-Sea Branch

On Saturday 10 June, RNA Southend-on-Sea enjoyed a Community Choir concert in support of a school building project in Costa Rica. The event organiser and participant in the choir was Alison Stainton, granddaughter of one of their shipmates, SM Mick Vanner. The event raised more than £500 for the project.

The Essex Branch of the Submariners Association (part of RNA Southend ship's company), who hold their monthly meetings at the RNA Club, Southend-on-Sea, took a trip down memory lane by way of a visit to Gibraltar last month.

Despite poor weather conditions on arrival midweek, the 13-strong group embraced the spirit of the visit by enjoying a 'welcome' dinner at the Little Rock restaurant. On Friday the sun came out, and throughout the weekend the group embarked on various excursions and investigated the considerable changes that have taken place over the many years since most last visited Gib, especially the large areas of reclaimed land and ongoing building work.

The areas visited included Top of the Rock, St Michael's Cave, Monkey Feeding Stations, Moorish Castle, Pillars of Hercules, Alameda Botanical Gardens, Trafalgar Cemetery and Europa Point.



Each evening was spent enjoying a meal together at one of the many restaurants, and on Sunday, after dinner, the party accepted an invitation to visit the Senior Ranks Mess at Devil's Tower Camp for 'refreshments'.

On Friday, whilst Jeff and Debbie were enjoying cocktails at the Rock Hotel, they engaged in a chance conversation with the CEO of SSAFA, Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory (Ret'd), who was on the Rock to mark the renewal of the Royal Artillery's Freedom of the City of Gibraltar, and he expressed a wish to meet the group on completion of the parade, which would march along Main Street on Saturday at 11:00.



Having witnessed the parade from a position adjacent to the saluting base, the party was introduced, not only to Sir Andrew, but also Cdre Tom Guy, the Commander of British Forces Gibraltar, and Carmen Gomez, the Mayor of Gibraltar (pictured above).

On 6 June, Southend RNA was represented at the dedication of a new D-Day Memorial at Rettendon, to remember those who fought and died on the beaches of Normandy. Shipmates were joined by RNA Branches from across RNA Area 5, together with Army and RAF veterans,

families & friends.

The Armed Forces Day parade in Southend-on-Sea on 24 June was well supported by the Branch again this year (pictured above).

Uckers practice is becoming a recurring theme in the branch these days, ahead of the planned tournament against Rayleigh Branch scheduled for December.

## RNA Members Benefits

### UK Holiday Group /Just for Groups

Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 5% of turnover returned to RNA to reinvest in CONA and other programmes.

[www.justforgroups.com](http://www.justforgroups.com)

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

- RNA member - Day Ticket Offer just £20 plus 3 guests at £20 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.
- RNA Member – 30% discount on Annual Ultimate Explorer Ticket (featuring all attractions)

### 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)

## Swinging the Lamp – July 2023

*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, and to use this excellent book as a source of inspiration. If you would like to read more it can be purchased from The History Press, ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5*



Date	Year	Entry
1 <sup>st</sup>	1971	Submarine HMS Artemis foundered alongside at HMS Dolphin in Gosport, sinking stern-first because of trim errors, and hatches were fouled by electricity cables. Three men escaped.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1853	Admiral Sir Charles Bullen died at the age of 84 in Southampton. Bullen, who had a reputation as a fine Naval officer, was the last surviving captain of Nelson's fleet at Trafalgar, having commanded the first-rate HMS Britannia at the battle.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1803	HMS Minerve ran aground in evening fog off Cherbourg while chasing merchant ships. Pounded by gunboats, as well as a shore-based fort, a dozen sailors were killed before she was surrendered. This put her back under the Tricolore, as she had started life as a French frigate and was captured by the Royal Navy in 1795. The recaptured ship was renamed Cannoniere by the French and served far and wide for seven years before being re-recaptured in the Bay of Biscay by the British (I hope you are following this!) in 1810. Renamed HMS Confiance, she never saw active service and was broken up in 1814.
4 <sup>th</sup>	1940	Converted 5,500-ton freighter HMS Foylebank was attacked by 26 Stuka dive bombers in Portland Harbour, being hit more than 20 times. The anti-aircraft ship sank the following day. One of the 176 sailors who died in the attack was 23-year-old LS Jack Mantle, who was operating the starboard pom-pom gun. His left leg was shattered by a bomb blast early in the action, but he continued to fire, using hand-gear after electric power was lost. He sustained numerous further injuries as he fought on, eventually falling by his gun and dying. Mantle was awarded the Victoria Cross – only the second to be given for action in the UK
5 <sup>th</sup>	1941	Submarine HMS Torbay torpedoed and sank Italian submarine Jantina in the Aegean Sea during the British boat's (very successful) third Mediterranean

		patrol. The T-boat sank 17 merchantmen, five warships and 17 sailing vessels during the war, and was scrapped in 1947.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1971	C-class destroyer HMS Cavalier won the much-envied title of 'Fastest Ship in the Fleet' by beating another war veteran, Type 15 frigate HMS Rapid, in a two-hour race in the Firth of Forth. Rapid, originally built as an R-class destroyer, was favourite as she was a training ship for Tiffies at HMS Caledonia and thus her machinery was in very good order, and she was indeed ahead in the closing stages, but a blown boiler valve slowed her sufficiently for Cavalier to win the 64-mile race by a short distance.
7 <sup>th</sup>	2002	Type 42 destroyer HMS Nottingham was badly damaged when she ran onto Wolf Rock on Lord Howe Island, almost 400 miles off the east coast of Australia. The ship spent a couple of months being patched up in Newcastle before being loaded onto the heavy lifting vessel MV Swan and transported back to the UK, arriving in mid-December. Because she had been extensively upgraded just two years previously she was deemed worth fully repairing, and she served until 2010.
8 <sup>th</sup>	1950	Six men died and five more were injured when Fiji-class light cruiser HMS Jamaica was struck by a 75mm shell fired by a North Korean shore battery near Imwon-jin – the first British casualties of the Korean War.
9 <sup>th</sup>	1964	County-class guided missile destroyer HMS Glamorgan was launched at the Vickers Armstrong yard on the Tyne. She served with the Royal Navy until 1986 – seeing service in the Falklands Conflict – and was then sold to the Chilean Navy, serving as the Almirante Latorre until 1998. She sank under tow in the South Pacific in April 2005 while under tow to the breakers yard.
10 <sup>th</sup>	1987	HMS Norfolk, the first of the Type 23 or Duke-class of frigates, was launched by Princess Margaret at Yarrows in Glasgow.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1944	Capt Frederic 'Johnnie' Walker, the brilliant anti-U-boat tactician who played a major role in the Allies winning the Battle of the Atlantic, was buried at sea from the destroyer HMS Hesperus off the Mersey bar.
12 <sup>th</sup>	1941	Bangor-class minesweeper HMS Portland was laid down at Taikoo Dock in Hong Kong.. She was captured on the stocks by the Japanese in December and eventually completed in April 1944 as Minesweeper 101, though her active career was short – the ship was sunk by American aircraft in March 1945.
13 <sup>th</sup>	1860	RMLI Pte John Dalliger became the last member of the Royal Navy to be hanged from the yardarm. The execution was carried out on board the wood screw gunboat HMS Leven at Taliwan Bay in China for the crime of attempted murder.
14 <sup>th</sup>	1950	An ammunition lighter alongside Bedenham Pier in Portsmouth Harbour exploded while being loaded for transfer to a specialist vessel departing for the Far East the following week. The explosion caused extensive damage to vessels (a second lighter exploded 30 minutes later and nine barges were sunk) and buildings in the vicinity, and broke windows in Portsmouth, Gosport and Fareham. 19 people were treated in hospital for minor injuries.
15 <sup>th</sup>	1960	Boom defence vessels HMS Barbican and HMS Barrington delivered essential food supplies to the Scottish islands of Coll, Tiree and Eigg during a seamen's strike.
16 <sup>th</sup>	2003	Island-class offshore patrol vessel HMS Anglesey paid off. The ship was sold to the Bangladesh Navy as BNS Gomati the same year, and continues in service today.
17 <sup>th</sup>	1945	The first combined attack on the Japanese mainland – the Hitachi area of Honshu island – was carried out by ships of the British Pacific Fleet and American battleships..
18 <sup>th</sup>	1959	Diesel-electric submarine HMS Oberon, the first of her class, was launched at Chatham Dockyard by the Duchess of Kent. The boat, which cost £2.43m to build, was paid off in 1986 and scrapped five years later.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1941	New submarine HMS Umpire was sunk in an accidental collision in the North Sea just nine days after being commissioned. The boat was heading for

		Dunoon from Chatham as part of a coastal convoy, but dropped back with engine problems and was rammed by armed trawler Peter Hendriks which was escorting a southbound convoy. 22 men died in the sinking, while 16 were rescued.
20 <sup>th</sup>	1968	Frigate HMS Exmouth became the first major Royal Navy warship to be powered entirely by gas turbines when Chatham Dockyard workers completed the installation of one Bristol Siddeley Olympus and two Bristol Siddeley Proteus power units. The Type 15 frigate was then used as a test bed for COGOG (COMbined Gas Or Gas) gas turbine propulsion trials.
21 <sup>st</sup>	1811	Frigate HMS Thames and sloop HMS Cephalus captured 11 gunboats, an armed sailing ship and 14 merchant vessels off Porto del Infreschi in Campania, Italy, then sent marines ashore to destroy military installations and capture the fort
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1903	Formal opening of the first Royal Navy School of Music, created alongside the Royal Marines Band Service. The original school was at Eastney Barracks in Portsmouth.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1759	HMS Victory's keel was laid down in the Old Single Dock (now known as the Victory Dock) at Chatham Dockyard. The event was witnessed by William Pitt the Elder, the unofficial leader of the British government which had initiated a major building programme of first rate ships the previous year.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1797	Horatio Nelson led an amphibious assault on Santa Cruz in Tenerife, but insufficient troops and superior Spanish defence caused the assault to fail. Nelson was struck in the aright rm by a musket ball as he stepped ashore, shattering the humerus, and most of the arm was amputated when he returned to HMS Theseus.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1944	Launch of Operation Crimson, a British-led naval bombardment and air attack on Japanese airfields in Sabang, Kutaraja and Lhoknga in Indonesia. The attacks were deemed a success by British planners.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1956	President Nasser of Egypt announced that he was nationalising the Suez Canal Company, which operated the canal – a move which helped bring about the Suez Crisis later the same year.
27 <sup>th</sup>	1918	A naval force left Baghdad by road to operate on the Caspian Sea. Lorries carried naval guns to Enzeli, and the so-called British Caspian Flotilla, created as part of the Allied response to the Russian Civil War, later took delivery of a dozen coastal motor boats which had been transported part of the way by train.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1963	Frigate HMS Leopard was damaged in a collision with South African minesweeper Pietermartitzburg during the Capex exercise programme off Cape Point, south of the Simon's Town dockyard.
29 <sup>th</sup>	1954	Lt Cdr J R Overbury set a point-to-point air speed record between London and Amsterdam. Flying a Sea Hawk FB3 from Bovingdon, the Naval officer completed the 224 miles in 23m 39.7s at a speed of just over 571mph.
30 <sup>th</sup>	1949	Modified Black Swan-class sloop HMS Amethyst slipped her mooring in the dark and started her incredible dash down the Yangtze River, having been trapped by Communist Chinese forces since April. Despite the dangers of the river, and the risk of being discovered, the ship made it to safety the following day.
31 <sup>st</sup>	1970	Black Tot Day – the final tots of rum were handed to sailors around the world that morning, signalling the end of the centuries-old tradition of issuing alcohol to Royal Navy sailors.

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