



# The Semaphore Circular

**No 707**

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

**March 2021**



**A beautiful Spring day in Portsmouth with the nation's finest alongside, not for long though as HMS Queen Elizabeth is at Harbour Stations and has 'singled up' ready to sail for a shake down week. HMS Prince of Wales is berthed behind her and will also be at sea in a few weeks.**

## ***Shipmates Please Stay Safe***

**If you need assistance call the RNA Helpline on 07542 680082**

*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*

	Central Office Contacts	
General Secretary	023 9272 2983	<a href="mailto:Bill@royalnavalassoc.com">Bill@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Financial Manager	023 9272 3823	<a href="mailto:Michelle@royalnavalassoc.com">Michelle@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Finance Assistant	023 9272 3823	<a href="mailto:Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com">Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Communications Manager	07860 705712	<a href="mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com">comms@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Digital Communications		<a href="mailto:Mike@royalnavalassoc.com">Mike@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Membership Support Manager	07542 680082	<a href="mailto:Nigel@royalnavalassoc.com">Nigel@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Membership Support Assistant	023 92723747	<a href="mailto:Sara@royalnavalassoc.com">Sara@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Welfare Programme Manager	07591 829416	<a href="mailto:Lynda@royalnavalassoc.com">Lynda@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Project Semaphore		<a href="mailto:Julie@royalnavalassoc.com">Julie@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Operations Officer	07889 761934	<a href="mailto:Andy@royalnavalassoc.com">Andy@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Admin	023 9272 3747	<a href="mailto:Admin@royalnavalassoc.com">Admin@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
National Advisors		
National Branch Retention and Recruiting Advisor		<a href="mailto:Rna.brra@outlook.com">Rna.brra@outlook.com</a>
National Welfare Advisor		<a href="mailto:Geoff@royalnavalassoc.com">Geoff@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
National Rules and Bye-Laws Advisor		<a href="mailto:njpurkis@hotmail.com">njpurkis@hotmail.com</a>
National Ceremonial Advisor		<a href="mailto:Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com">Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com</a>

**PLEASE NOTE DURING THE CURRENT RESTRICTIONS CENTRAL OFFICE IS CLOSED. PLEASE USE EMAIL OR, IF THE MATTER IS URGENT, THE HELPLINE ON 07542 680082.**



*Staff photo (L – R) Bill Oliphant, Nigel Huxtable, Kathryn Brindley, Michelle Bainbridge, National President Vice Admiral John McAnally, Mike Gray, Charlie Darlington, Andy Christie. We'll update this photo with new joiners Lynda Pearson and Sara Field as soon as circumstances allow.*

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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

## ind Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

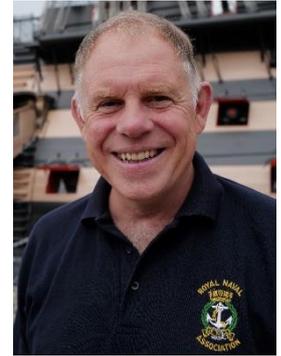
## Snail Mail - Postal Address

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

*From the General Secretary*

*Dear Shipmates,*

Fight, Move, Float. Those of us who have been to sea in a warship will recognise these as the Command Damage Control Priorities given out by the Commanding Officer at Action Stations and when the ship is closed down to NBCD State 1 Condition Z and ready to fight. I'm sure we all remember it especially during a visit to FOST on a Thursday War. For those Associate Members reading this who maybe have not experienced this, it's all about best preparing the ship to be able to sustain damage with the least possible effect on fighting capability. Obviously, if the ship takes a serious hit the Command has the ability to change those priorities as the situation dictates.



*Bill Oliphant*

I bring it up because I had a couple of conversations this month which made me realise that with switching our funding model to become a donation-based income model we needed to think about our strategic priorities as an organisation. You will recall in last month's Edition of the Semaphore Circular, I published the graph which shows the sharp decline in membership numbers since the Millennium, indeed, we had lost approximately 1000 members per year for the last 20 years. Our top priority therefore is our ability to retain and recruit our membership and change the shape of that graph. We need to reach more naval veterans in the community and especially those who, for whatever reason, might find themselves lonely. This doesn't always mean old either but as comradeship is our *raison d'être*, there is always a warm welcome for those wishing to join the Association.

Well, I am absolutely delighted to inform you the strategy is working. At last week's staff meeting, Sara Field was able to report that we had more than 600 new applications for membership since the New Year. This is really exciting, and I am hoping that many of these new members will come to branches once lockdown restrictions are eased and we get back to some sort of normal running. So, at least initially, the priority must be membership numbers over finance. If we can grow the organisation, then I'm confident that the donations element will look after itself.



That leads me onto when branches can reconvene, and we can meet our shipmates again. The diagram opposite is a light hearted interpretation of Boris's programme for the return to normality. To me, what it's really saying is that we can't really conduct full branch activity until 21 June at the earliest but at least it's something to aim for and it does give the opportunity to maybe meet in smaller groups before then outside from the 12th of April and then inside from the 17th of May. These dates of course are all conditional upon progress with

vaccination and hospitalisation numbers and we need to be careful not to maintain of respect for this enemy and not drop our guard too early.

I hope that one of the reasons that membership numbers are increasing is because we are continually seeking to improve the offer. Last month we have launched Jenna Brodie's RNA "Dit On!" podcasts which are well worth a listen. Jenna brings a freshness to the piece not least in the podcast method of delivery but also a realisation that the RNA is for all the Naval Family and gives genuine authenticity to our "Once Navy Always Navy" strap line. She also exposes the lie of the perception that veterans are all contemporaries of the late Major Tom. Although only in her early 30's (I hope I'm not giving away too much Jenna?!) she achieved 12 years' service under the White Ensign before embarking on a civilian career at Barclays and what comes through in her introduction is a young woman who is rightly proud of her service. And, like any good matelot, she certainly can spin a dit! Thank you, Jenna. Listen here [Dit On](#)

In a similar vein, the Special Interest Groups are beginning to take off. Charlie is leading on this in Central Office and can advise on governance and establishing a network of likeminded enthusiasts. Whatever your hobby or pastime, there are sure to be other Shipmates out there



who share your enthusiasm, so the idea is to connect you. More on this later in this edition. Charlie can be contacted on [comms@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com)

Meanwhile, I am overjoyed at the news that we have been successful with a bid to the Covenant Fund to continue Project Semaphore for another 2 years. We were in the process of winding back on the Project last Feb/March but when Covid struck and we went into lockdown, however, we realised that there was a renewed demand from the more senior element of the population to get connected. For many it was the only way to retain some connectivity with family and proved a lifeline. Julie Royston leads the Project now so look out for anyone who you think might benefit from this. Please contact Julie at [Julie@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:Julie@royalnavalassoc.com)

I'm increasingly confident that our Conference/AGM in Nottingham will be able to take place in early September and equally the Biennial Parade on 12 September has been opened up to the wider family of naval associations and already the Submariners Association, the Ark Royal Association and the Yachties have all indicated that they seek to attend and be represented. This year we commemorate not only our war dead but also all of our Shipmates who crossed the bar during the Covid crisis, whether taken by the virus or not, as many were not afforded the customary and traditional marks of respect at their funerals because of the restrictions.

Good news too on next year's AGM/Conference which is due to take place in Portsmouth over the weekend of 17-19 June 2022 to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Falklands Conflict. In discussion with Portsmouth City Council, the Association will parade through Old Portsmouth and conduct a Service of Remembrance at the memorial in the Hot Walls. It promises to be an important event.

Finally, look out for the first of the new membership cards which will be despatched to Branches later this month. *As ever, Bill Oliphant*

## 1. ★ Donations Update....

Just a gentle reminder that there a variety of ways that Branches and individual Shipmate's can donate. Here is a few.....

Website Donate Button by Paypal – link here [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com/donate)

Website Donate Button by Bank Card – same link as above and choose “Donate with a Card”

Website Donate Button by Form – Available at the back of this edition

A few more important bits.....

We have received a lot of feedback from Branches which has been very useful and we have acted upon it. After much discussion, **it has been agreed by the National Council that donations should be a matter between the shipmate and the Association** so there is no requirement for the Branch Treasurer to be involved handling donations. In this way the amount donated will be a matter for the individual and they should not feel pressured into making a donation which has been directed by their Branch Committee.

Having had feedback from Branch Secretaries around the RNA, we realised that many Branches were intending to “require” shipmates to make a donation – possibly to the Branch and then maybe some of that or all of it being passed on to Central Office. The term “**donation**” must be just that and not a levy imposed upon an individual. Branches of course are still entitled to raise a levy on their members for their Branch funds and that can be decided by your Committees and agreed by your members at your AGM however donations to the Association should either be direct to Central Office by means of Standing Order or online through the RNA website or, if shipmate's are genuinely uncomfortable about using this form of banking, then the donation can be put into an envelope along with the Gift Aid Form and passed to the Branch Hon Treas or Secretary who will forward them unopened to Central Office. Clearly, it is much more secure to transfer money electronically these days so this method is very much encouraged.

While there is no pressure on anyone to donate a specific amount, it was my hope that Shipmates might be able to afford say £1/month as a Standing Order. Over the year that works out at £2 less than the subscription was but of course with the Government's contribution through Gift Aid that means that we would receive £15/year. Clearly, we would be delighted and extremely grateful if shipmates felt that they could afford more but, as I said previously, that is entirely a personal decision.

Please take a moment to fill out the Gift Aid form which allows us to claim a further 25% from the Government of all donations from UK taxpayers.

## 2. ★ Change of National Conference Date to Saturday 04 September 2021

In light of the ongoing Covid crisis and the restrictions this poses on gatherings of any kind, the decision has been made to push the date of the 2021 National Conference to **Saturday 4th September**, in the hope that there is a much better chance of it taking place. The venue remains the same as originally planned for 2021 - The Crowne Plaza, Wollaton Street, Nottingham.

The new Conference booking form has been distributed with the February Issue of this Circular. Prices range from £106.50 pp for a 1 day stay to 4 nights £224 these prices include the cost of



the Gala night dinner. It can also be found on the website at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/conference>

We understand that many Shipmates will be disappointed that we have had to reschedule the conference once again, but we hope you all understand the reason behind this decision. We are really looking forward to coming together once again and celebrating the end of such a difficult period, in true RNA fashion.

### 3. ★ Special Interest Groups

Over the next 12 months, we are committed to developing more Special Interest Groups, similar to our Riders' Branch. Since our first request in the Semaphore Short for potential group leaders, we have had an amazing uptake in people expressing their interest and are excited to have some great groups in the pipeline. We have people developing SIGs for rugby union, diving, golf, model making, hiking, photography and collecting – all of which will be available to join in the coming weeks.

The groups will be a combination of participants (and teams), and spectators who want to get out to sports fixtures together, or theatre productions and musical concerts. Group members must be a member of an RNA Branch or HQ roll already, but besides that they will be inclusive to all – whether you're a dab hand at the hobby in question, or have absolutely no experience of it whatsoever, just a keen interest.

We'd still love to hear from anyone who would love to run a group – the groups already in the pipeline will need support from second and third group leaders, and we are keen to expand the offering wider. We're looking for leaders for groups such as skiing, snowboarding, sailing, music, horse riding, running, paddle-boarding, brewing, dancing, boxing, cycling...

You name it, we'll support you setting it up! Get in touch with Charlie Darlington if you're keen to take the lead – [comms@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com)

*On that note I have been contacted by Shipmate John Walker, Monmouth Branch who ask if there any Shipmates who would be interested in forming a Standard Bearer SIG. Please see below the 'Call to Arms'.....*

Dear Shipmates,

With the years taking their toll on me I did wonder whether this idea could be applied elsewhere. Being both an RNA Deputy and RAFA Branch Standard Bearer (SB) I have noticed that awareness of Military/SB events in my area could be rather "hit or miss" other than the regular familiar ones. Who would not hear about the RNA Biennial, SB parade at Conference, Armed Forces Day (AFD) and Remembrance Day. But I am sure there are occasions around the country when events are not generally known about and it is this type of situation I would see being covered.

I am aware of the Central Office-Area-Branch communication path for RNA business and it is not the intention to duplicate or replace that and of course, any matters circulated by this SIG/SB Forum would have to abide by the Ceremonial Handbook, in particular, gaining Branch approval.

To give an example – In 2019 the National AFD was held in Salisbury with many ex-Service Association standards in attendance and some of these took part over the whole weekend. To do this we found that a number of them stayed on the City camp site in their caravans and motorhomes using the local bus service to get into the City centre. For the RNA units that took multiple searches for information and organising.

This year the NAFD is at Scarborough on 25-27<sup>th</sup> June and hopefully will go ahead. Therefore, with a SIG/SB Forum interaction, information on the various aspects related to the event could be circulated within the RNA/SB group for those wishing to attend.

Before even attempting to set this up there is a need to find out if this type of networking could be useful to RNA/SBs on such national and local area events. **Therefore, your comments back to Central Office would be appreciated before any further work is done on this proposal.**

Personally, I do not have the expertise to develop this idea but if anybody can offer to produce such a network, even if it is just a “Facebook Closed Group” for RNA/SBs it would be appreciated.

John Walker (Mono)

#### 4. ★ Welfare Spotlight Column – Good and Bad News on Covid.



At last! We have a four-step plan with a suggested end date of 21 June for the lifting of all lockdown restrictions. This, together with the increasing pace of vaccination across the UK, is good news for all of us. Although cautious and slower than many would like this pace may be necessary to avoid a return of lockdowns. The pressure of lockdown and isolation has challenged all shipmates and particularly those for whom isolation was an ongoing pressure before on their mental health and well-being. Having good mental health helps us relax more, achieve more and enjoy our lives more.

**As we count down the days, we must not forget these shipmates or ourselves.** We have all been affected to varying degrees with some seeing lockdowns as no change in their daily lives. The RNA at large has made great efforts to reach shipmates by all possible means and we must continue our efforts at local level to support each other by a phone call, text, email or virtually through Zoom and Facetime. Isolation and the loneliness that it brings can be crippling to mental health. It's not just those we know of and we must not forget as things ease our hidden, lost and lonely shipmates and make efforts to support them as well.



**Loneliness and isolation are bad for our mental health.** Many studies have shown this particularly amongst veterans; we may have experienced it ourselves or seen the effects in others. However how can we help ourselves and others? COVID-19 has made it harder to be with others with limited contact with family and friends and closed social and leisure activities. You might be missing all these things and it's natural to feel like this. You should not blame yourself for feeling like you are struggling, now or at any other time. It's really important to remember these changes will not be forever.

**So, what can you do if you are at home alone?** Different things work for different people, so try to find what suits you, and seek further support if you feel you need it (see <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>). The ten tips below are suggestions to help you can help yourself.

- 1. Do keep in touch and ask for help if you need it.** Asking for help when it's needed is a strength not a weakness! You are not alone if you're belong to RNA in a branch. Many branches continue to run successful virtual support though various means with some also able to offer direct support (but socially distanced) with food and medicines collection. There are also many local community groups operating throughout the country aiming to help who would have already been in contact with you.

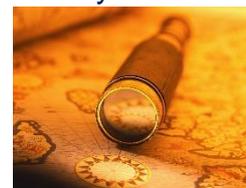


If you're not in a Branch, you may be an HQ Roll member but RNA can still help you. The **RNA Helpline (07542 680082) is still up and running for shipmates**. This was initially aimed at HQ Roll members but any shipmate in need of assistance who cannot raise their Branch or an Oppo can use it. Depending on need, help can be from within Central Office or via the nearest Branch to you. Also **why not become a member of the HQ Roll Buddy Buddy service** via the same number (**07542 680082**) to pair up shipmates who might find themselves on their own.

- 2. Share your feelings but do not compare yourself with others.** It's well recognised that being able to share your feelings with others can help with loneliness, and hearing a familiar voice or seeing a friendly face makes any of us feel less isolated. Telling someone you trust that you're feeling lonely can help, and it may be easier to do this with a shipmate or for some with someone they do not know after a chat first. Avoid the impression that others on social media are doing better than you as many people may only share the good things happening to them on social media and this can make you feel lonelier. Remember no one can ever be sure of what someone else is going through.



- 3. Explore (new) ways to spend time with others.** Even locked down at home you can still spend time with others. There are lots of ways to reach out to friends family without having to meet in person. Why not try a new method of (virtual) social contact? Many have embraced fully the new technology link together and whilst texting remains popular it can be a bit limiting. why not try talking for free to family, shipmates and friends over Zoom, Skype, Google Duo, Face Time or WhatsApp? The technology is relatively simple and a great way to see how shipmates, family, friends and grandchildren are doing. All these apps run over the internet on mobiles or laptops with free calling but, to save going over your mobile data allowance, do remember to use these apps on your Wi-Fi (you should be at home anyway!). There are lots of things to engage online with such as the RNA Fireside Chats, Wrexham Tot Nights and local Branch events such as meetings and quizzes. There are other groups you can join as well.



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- 4. Why not pick up the phone whether mobile or home handset and talk?**

Texting is much used but actual calling and talking is better as chatting on the phone or video-calling can remind you that you're not alone. In these days of 24h e-media, do not forget the value of a good old-fashioned phone call. A regular call to others can make a huge difference. In our branch the Branch Sec and I continue to call shipmates regularly and that chat is much appreciated. I've learnt a lot about my shipmates in Branch since lockdown. It keeps the RNA family and comradeship going.

**5. Be more social and make contact regularly.** It's helpful to create a regular routine of checking in with others and being more sociable as the benefit is to make it easier to reach out at the time you feel lonely. Why not try calling or messaging old shipmates, friends or colleagues on social media or text; reach out to someone you have not spoken to for a while. You'll both benefit! Most of us love hearing from people we have lost contact with and that's very true for us all now. Your contact could encourage them to contact you more, or you could ask if it's OK to have a regular check-in with them.



**6. Treat yourself and do more things you enjoy.** Doing more things that you enjoy fills your time and can stop you from focusing on feelings of loneliness and is seen as good for your wellbeing. If you can go out for exercise a local trip to the park or walk does help but do always follow social distancing guidelines when you are outside your home. When at home, entertaining media shows or podcasts such as the new RNA ones are a good way to occupy your mind and keep you company. Audiobooks are a good resource too to focus on. Why not look for something on TV, radio or to stream to make you laugh which helps all of us with



**7. Explore the benefits of exercise.** It's well known this can lift your mood and help take your mind off things. So why not try walking, cycling or running outdoors if you can or make a home indoor class part of your daily routine? All of these should be tailored to your ability but will help. There's lots of advice on these but it's taking that first step that's important. Alternatively, to relax and calm your mind try a free NHS mental wellbeing audio guide or book or download a relaxation or mindfulness app.



**8. Stay busy by learning something new.** Even with the end of restrictions in sight, invest some of your time starting up a hobby or something you have always wanted to be able to do. It can be a good way to spend time with others in future in conjunction with meeting with shipmates. There are many options out there both online and special interest groups covering usual hobbies. Why not try learning a language to stretch your mind. There are many online courses, from beginners through to advanced classes. For those working improve your work skills access the many free online professional courses out there.

**9. Volunteer to help others.** Another way of helping yourself stay busy is by helping others, which has the benefit of increasing your mental wellbeing. You can volunteer from home or in your community, but remember to follow the current government guidelines if you are going out. Lots of options here but don't forget RNA. You may even make new friends while volunteering.



**10. Try joining an online community.** You belong to RNA and there are groups you can join as above but If you're struggling with feelings of loneliness or other mental health issues, remember you are not alone and can talk to others about how you feel. There are many helplines and support groups that offer expert advice and cover a range of mental health issues in each of the parts of the UK. These have been shared before and will be summarised to share.

If you've read this far, thank you and BZs. I hope the tips helps you. In summary good news for all of us and light at the end of what has been a long and at times dark tunnel. I hope all

shipmates complete their jobs soon but don't forget you will still need to take care after having your job(s) and obey the rules for everyone's sake.

Stay safe and stay well shipmates

**Geoff Apperley Deputy National Welfare Advisor**

[geoff@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:geoff@royalnavalassoc.com)

## 5. ★ Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall - Sunday 12 September 2021

Shipmates an important date for your Diary..... The newly named Naval Associations Biennial Parade will be held in Whitehall on Sunday 12 September..... Please advertise the date as widely to the 'Naval Wider Family Community' as you is possible. Specific details will be issued nearer the time but don't hesitate to contact Central Office if you have any questions. When passing information concerning the parade it is important that consideration is given to the possible security implications. Remember Loose Lips sink Ships!

## 6. ★ Operation One Thousand Good Deeds



Shipmate Ernie Davies (Dagenham Branch) a WW2 Naval Veteran was really surprised when he opened his door to find Shipmate Jim Hammond, NCM 5 Area, standing there with a bottle of Pussers to cheer him up on his birthday.

Ernie Davies was born on 18 March 1925 in Islington, North London and volunteered to join the Royal Navy before his 18th birthday and was enrolled in March 1943 to serve on HMS Cotton. During the D Day Normandy landings, HMS Cotton was patrolling the Channel defending the landing troops from German U boats. In early 1945, HMS Cotton took part in the Arctic Convoys escorting the Merchant Navy supplying the Northern ports of USSR with food, raw materials and military equipment.

Sadly, Ernie lives alone as his wife passed away about 2 years ago. He has home help but is probably the fittest 95 year old in NATO so having Jim pop round cheered him up no end so much so he had to get in rig for this picture...

***(Editors Note – No! that is not the new routine for all Shipmates.... before you start thinking it!)***

## 7. ★ Dit On Podcast Launched.....

We are so excited to announce that we have launched our brand-new podcast, Dit On!

However for those of you who 'haven't a clue' (I know that is a Radio 4 quiz show) an explanation.....

Podcasts are really just a radio show that is pre-recorded and you can listen to them at any time. They are simply called 'Podcasts' instead of 'recordings'. The BBC has its own section of Podcasts available in BBC Sounds which is an 'App' available on your iPad and phone. The new

RNA 'Dit On' podcast is even easier to listen too as all you have to do is log into the RNA Website and follow this link [Dit On \(royal-naval-association.co.uk\)](http://Dit On (royal-naval-association.co.uk)) to get you started.

Or even easier is press ctrl on your keyboard and here with your mouse.



**Listen here!**

We hope this podcast will enable veterans, family and friends of the Royal Navy to stay connected with the RN and give an insight into life both at sea, and on 'civvie street'.



Guests will include veterans from various Naval operations, currently serving Naval personnel, family members of Naval personnel, and the odd celebrity. Our host, Jenna Brodie, is a naval veteran with 12 years of service under her belt. She now works for Barclay's, after leaving the Navy in 2018.

This podcast will enable naval veterans to stay connected with the Royal Navy, their peers and their successors despite the physical restrictions and isolation of Covid-19. For both the older Naval generation (who are accustomed to listening to the radio) and the younger Naval generation (who listen to audio/podcasts most frequently and are often isolated at sea), we hope this podcast will bring comforting and informative stories from multiple generations with a common interest (life in the Royal Navy) into their homes.

The podcast is available on our website now, and will soon be available on Spotify and Google Podcasts, with episodes launched weekly or bi-weekly from today onwards. An intro to our podcast host, Jenna Brodie, and her first episode are ready to listen to now! So why not give it a try, what you got to lose!

Finally, our heartfelt thanks to our sponsor. The podcast has been made possible by a generous grant from [The Morrisons Foundation](#), which will allow us to share the podcast far and wide (on our website, on Spotify, on Google Podcasts and on Apple Podcasts), and attract a wide ranging audience to recognise the stories and work of the RNA.

## 8. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

For Shipmates who are unaware, a series of 'Fireside Chats' featuring some fascinating subjects including; Battle of Jutland, Operation Paraquet (Re-capture of South Georgia 1982), Naval Recruiting in 2020 to name but a few. The presentations are held on Monday evenings commencing at 1800 using 'Zoom'. All are welcome.

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

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 01 Mar	Dr Jan Witt	Mutiny and Piracy
Monday 08 Mar	Ian Cameron	Vaccines and The Immune System-A Layman's guide
Monday 15 Mar	Craig Jones	Fighting with Pride
Monday 22 Mar	Bill Oliphant	The Naval attack on the Dardanelles 1915

Monday 29 Mar	Terry Corner	Submarine Cables
Easter Monday		
Monday 12 Apr	Janet Daykin	Prostate Cancer Briefing
Monday 19 Apr	Terry Corner	The Zeebrugge Raid
Monday 26 Apr	Bill Oliphant	Gallipoli Campaign
Monday 03 May	Jon Pearson	BAE Systems Support to the RN
Monday 10 May	Paul Godfrey	The Story of HMS Ark Royal IV - 1955 to 1978
Monday 17 May	Ralph Dodds	Norway 1940 - War in the Fjords
Monday 24 May	TBC (HOOD Assoc)	The sinking of HMS HOOD
Monday 31 May	Terry Corner	Dunkirk

## 9. ★ Shipmate Alex Johnston – 100 Club

President of East Antrim Branch Shipmate Alexander (Alex) Johnston celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 24th February 2021. Branch Chairman Robert Loughran visited Alex to pass on congratulations and cards from the Branch.

Father-of-four Alexander from Belfast has had an incredible life, serving during the Second World War which saw him cross the globe on North Atlantic convoys, the Mediterranean and in North and South America. His experiences remain vivid to this day - including being a gunner during the Battle of the Atlantic and working on troop ships including the Princess Kathleen.

In 1995 he carried the Royal Naval Association Standard in front of the Queen for VJ Day at Buckingham Palace.

But his greatest memory when he looks back over his life was meeting his late wife Jeanie, who sadly passed away in 1999. He is a grandfather of six, a great-grandfather of nine and also has a great-great grandson.

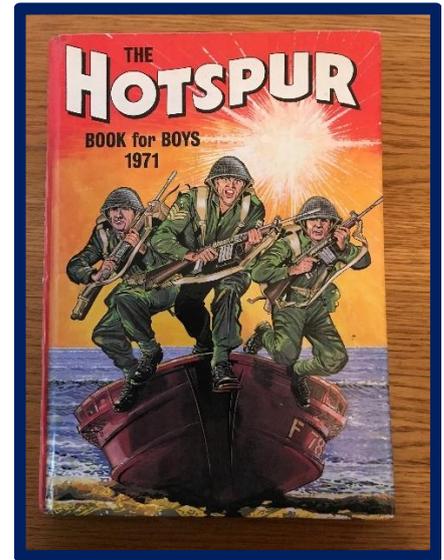


After the war years S/M Alex had many other jobs in his life working as supervisor and manager in many fields and has been on trips around the world with his family - including going on safari when he was 84.

***The General Secretary and team wish you many happy returns and congratulations on joining the 100 Club. BZ Alex***

I thought Shipmates, many of whom may have been at sea in 1971, would appreciate a reminder of what the RN looked like through the eyes of a 14-year-old. I ask myself all these years later is this really why I joined up! But then again, I believed anything in the 1971 'Hotspur' Album, which for those of you who read this kind of comics you may recall some of the stories.....

- The Brampton Keys,
- Johnny Flite (The Flying Postman) not even the great Usain Bolt would have caught him!
- The Lost Regiment
- The Guns of Ambush Island (Great poo kicker)
- Asbestos Blake ( He was king of the Water Wall)



Life Vice President and former Hon Treasurer S/M Ray Barraclough has kindly offered to answer any 'Phantom' questions or concerning 'Carrier Strike Force'.

(Editors Note - What strikes me is how similar it is to the Navy of 2021.... perhaps some of our Senior Naval Team also read the 'Hotspur'.....Only saying!)



## 11. ★ Fleet Commander's Warrant Officer – WO1 Mick Turnbull

*Our grateful thanks go to WO1 Mick Turnbull the Fleet Commanders' Warrant Officer for taking time out of his incredibly busy schedule to take the time to put a few words together so that Shipmates can hear from the frontline what the Navy is up to.*



One year on and I look back and wonder how quickly the first year in position has gone. It has been an absolute privilege to be selected to be the first Fleet Commander's Warrant Officer...although slightly daunting at the same time. As with any job, there is the self-related pressure of getting your feet under the desk and understanding what the demand is, of course I had no one to take over from. That said, I received full support and direction from Vice Admiral Kyd to get out to Front Line units and then look at where I could add value.

Coupled with this I had the fortunate position to be taking up this role simultaneously with WO1 Ian Wilson RN in standing up the new position of Second Sea Lord's Warrant Officer and with WO1 Carl 'Speedy' Steedman RN as the Warrant Officer to the Royal Navy. Together we formed a Senior Command Warrant Officer enterprise along with the Royal Marines Corps RSM and the DE&S Ships Command Warrant Officer. Aside from deciding how best to take the role on has been the added pressure of the implementation of Navy Transformation and the effects of a global pandemic.

The year started well with getting out and about, accompanied CGRM and the Corps RSM for a 3 day for Ex COLD RESPONSE. This was an excellent see Marines training and operating in harsh well the logistical and operational demands of such international exercise. On returning from Norway the 19 were affecting travel; however, even with the distanced requirements that come from face to face have still visited numerous establishments, an Ice both QECs, 5 x T23s, 1 x LPD, 4 x T45s, 3 x OPVs, 4 x P2000s, 1 x SSN, 9 x Naval Air and 4 x Cdo Units on at least one occasion.



very early on I visit to Norway opportunity to extremes as a high-profile effects of CV-socially meetings, I Patrol Ship, MCMVs, 3 x Squadrons



Overall, I have conducted 69 visits, either solo, with the Fleet Commander or with fellow SCWOs. In addition, I have also conducted various virtual (e.g. Zoom) briefs to the RNA, RNR and SCC. While nowhere near what I wanted to achieve, this has been a fantastic opportunity to see the broad spectrum of people that make up the Royal Navy family.

As the full effect of CV-19 hit the Service and country as a whole, my routine changed dramatically over a period of two months working in in an Operational Planning Team to assess the way we could carry on delivering through the pandemic. Ian was assigned to

a team looking at immediate issues, while I was in the team for future considerations and planning. For me it was a good time to dust off some estimate training and skills from ICSC(M) and work with 4 others on how we assessed priorities.

This varied from ISSC/BSSCs through to career courses for pinch point specialisations. It is a credit to all RN personnel that we delivered continuously throughout, keeping Phase 1 running, prioritising training, maintaining operational output and when called upon, assisting local authorities. This is not to say that there wasn't an effect on the experiences that we have come to enjoy from serving in the RN. The lack of port visits has been sorely missed by all officers, sailors and marines. There has been plenty of proactive mitigation, Flight Deck BBQs, hands to bathe, increased welfare packages and fantastic support from the RNRMC, but the chance for a break in a foreign port is top of the wish list. What has come out of the restricted ability to operate is the great response that camaraderie, ethos and an 'in it together' mind-set have been the key strengths.



When Speedy, Ian and I took up these roles we set ourselves 3 objectives; 1. To improve Communications, 2. To improve leadership and No.3 To improve reward and recognition. The first two came together for moving forward with Transformation and for managing the effects of CV-19. The essential part was the setting up WO1 forums, to promote initiatives, share issues, identify risks and provide empowered personnel with the tools to get stuff done.

Ian set up a 2<sup>nd</sup> Line forum for the Base Warrant Officers and I set one up for the Front-Line Warrant

Officers from all the Fighting Arms. This reaped immediate benefit from cutting through organisational chains and informing people on what they needed to know and what the so what was. This was a real opportunity to empower personnel and provide direct relevant support to their Command. Today this continues as the essential forums provide a mutual communication flow, which is used to inform the Senior Command and will be maintained even when we are on the other side of CV-19. For reward and recognition, we pushed the Herbert Lott scheme, which saw an increase a 30% of awards being issued when compared to the previous year, despite the restricted activity due to CV-19. As a SCWO collective we introduced 2 new award schemes, 1 for personnel that serve for over 40 years and 1 for personnel that achieve over 5000 sea days. Plus, through liaison with the Union Jack Club, Victory Services Club and China Fleet Club we have the opportunity to reward personnel with 30 weekend breaks a year and we are now about to introduce a package, in conjunction with the RNRMC and Parkdean Resorts, for families to be rewarded with a week long break at one of the resorts. This will be looked at with the NFF and RN FPS to identify where families may be suffering a hardship and would benefit from a respite break. Overall, these objectives set the baseline for a busy year, but one that has seen real tangible benefit in the outputs.

So, going forward for 2021 where do I see how going forward? This year is being promoted as the 'Year of Delivery' for the Royal Navy. Within my role as FCWO, I am particularly interested in the operational outputs of Transformation. Future Commando Force is progressing at pace and the ability of the Royal Marines to understand, adapt and overcome has ensured that we are on track. The elements that affect Operational Advantage in the North Atlantic have received wide coverage in the general media, especially the work of the Frigates, Destroyers and OPVs which was regularly reported on in the final months of 2020.

However, there is plenty of work that goes on, that understandably does not attract media attention, the ability to operate in all domains of the maritime environment is a key strength of the Royal Navy. Forward presence was a success in 2020 and going into 2021, we have the foundations to now generate full global

capability. Finally, for Carrier Strike, any follower of what the RN has planned for 2021 will be fully aware of the aspiration; however, please keep in mind that this goes beyond 1 carrier and is a full task group concept.

2021 is going to be an incredibly busy year and as a Service we are promoting that we are a Royal Navy that seamlessly integrates with Defence and the national security endeavour – every platform a sensor, an intelligence station, an embassy and a launchpad. This year is my 35<sup>th</sup> of Service and I look at it as one of the most exciting that will happen during my career, we are a Global Navy ready for Global Britain.



## 12. ★ Anniversary of Gallipoli Campaign – 19 Feb 1915

*Thanks to Shipmate Mike Gray for this article which also appears on the RNA website [Anniversary of the opening shots of the Gallipoli Campaign | Royal Naval Association \(royal-naval-association.co.uk\)](https://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk) and while you are visiting the website why not have a good look around?*

19 February 1915 saw the opening shots of the Gallipoli campaign, an attempt by the Entente alliance – chiefly Britain (and her Empire) and France – to attack the 'soft underbelly' of the Central Powers and gain some initiative as the Western Front became mired in trench warfare.

The Ottoman Empire had joined the Great War with a surprise attack on Russian Black Sea ports in October 1914, cutting off the last reliable supply route between the Western European combatants and their ally in the East – the Germans and Austria-Hungary had cut off overland links and the Baltic Sea while the northern sea route was frozen in winter and was a considerable distance from the Eastern Front.

By capturing the Dardanelles – the narrow channel between the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara – the British and French planned to force a route on through the Bosphorus (attacking Constantinople, the Ottoman capital, in the process) and into the otherwise landlocked Black Sea. This, the reasoning went, would take the largest city of the Ottoman Empire – now the Turkish city of Istanbul – out of the equation, the Ottomans would crumble, drop out of the fighting and allow Entente supplies to flow in and out of the warm water ports of Russia.

It could also persuade wavering Balkan states such as Bulgaria and Greece to throw their lot in with the Entente powers and would also secure British interests in the Middle East – including oilfields. In a state of over-confidence (the Ottoman Empire was regarded as the sick man of Europe, and Ottoman troops largely dismissed as a fighting force) the Aegean-based Allied fleet was given the task of forcing the Dardanelles.



On 17 February 1915 a reconnaissance aircraft from HMS Ark Royal flew a mission over the Dardanelles, a strait which stretches south-west to north-east for almost 40 miles and is never wider than four miles and pinches in to less than a mile in places. Two days later

a combined Naval force of French and Royal Navy ships, including dreadnought HMS Queen Elizabeth, opened fire from distance on the Ottoman forts at the southern end of the Dardanelles.

In less than a week the forts had been silenced and mines cleared from the mouth of the waterway, and the Fleet prepared to turn their guns on forts further north, but progress was too slow for First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill. Under pressure, the experienced Admiral Sackville Carden, who headed the Royal Navy force, hastily redrew his plans, and then sent a message to Churchill predicting the Fleet would be off Constantinople in a fortnight.

As it happened, at the end of those two weeks Carden had fallen seriously ill and been replaced as Naval commander – and the combined fleet never quite made it through the Dardanelles, as we shall see in the coming weeks...

*Our image, from the Imperial War Museum collection (© IWM Q 13240), shows a British sailor in one of the 15-inch guns of dreadnought HMS Queen Elizabeth, shortly before the Gallipoli campaign got under way in February 1915.*

### 13. ★ 2021 World Uckers Championship – Update

Allowing for C19 restrictions, the plans are coming together for the competition which we hope we will be able to stage this year. More details will be promulgated shortly but in outline, will follow the following programme;

- Commence late May/Early June
- Semi-Final day on 31 Jul (Black Tot Day) 64 Contestants (Whereabouts /Number of venues still TBD)

Grand Final to be held in Portsmouth on 23 October 2021 with 32 pairs of contestants

### 14. ★ Shipmate Ken Napier and HMS Killiecrankie! (True Dit - 10 Clipper....)

As a Sea Cadet aged 12, I went to sea minesweeping (yes real WWII German ones) in HMS KILLIECRANKIE, the tender to Forth Div RNR. It was a foul night, gales and rain and heavy seas, and she had an open bridge which made being lookout difficult. January in the North Sea. My Sea Daddy was a 20 year old welder. We were in the wheelhouse, reasonably dry. I was on the engine repeat, Alfred was on the wheel.

From the OOW: "Port Ten"

From the QM: "Ten of Port wheel on, Sir".

"Course 270"  
"Course to steer, 270 Sir"  
Shortly, "Course 270 Sir"  
From the bridge, "Roger"  
From the QM, "It's Alfie, No Roger, Sir".  
That one went round Forth Division..

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**Background:**

The Division had plenty of ex officers and senior rates, but not so many able rates, so I was welcome as a Sea Cadet, at sea. Because I was quite small, they gave me a short butt Lee-Enfield, and with two others we shot at the contact mines whose securing lines we had severed. Up went the mine, we launched a boat and collected dead fish..

**15. ★ Assistance from Shipmates Please**

**'Assistance One'**

Central Office has been contacted by the HMS Ajax & River Plate Veterans Association who received an email in June from Mr Clive Petty with a photo attached which showed a metal "Ajax" motif. He asked if the association would be interested in obtaining the motif for our archives.



He informed us that the motif had been passed onto him by his parents and had been in his family for 30-odd years but had no knowledge of how it had come into their possession. His family lived in the West country and were great friends of Sir Casper John, 1st Sea Lord 1960-1963, who lived in Mousehole, Cornwall.



On receipt of the motif we decided to have it mounted in a style similar to a naval guns tampion by our good friends C.H. Munday Ltd. The photos attached show the motif as it was received and the finished item mounted on a wooden base with the appropriate scrolls attached.

What we would like to know is where did the motif originally come from? Do any of your members recognise it? Is it from the WW2 cruiser Ajax or Cold War frigate Ajax? (The 30 years coincides with F114 been de-commissioned in 1985 and scrapped in 1988)

Please contact Alan Phillips – [georgealan1946@icloud.com](mailto:georgealan1946@icloud.com) with any information that can shed light on this subject it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

***Last Months 'Assistance Three'..... Is a success.....***

*Despite extracting the 'proverbial michael', Against the odds S/M Darby (Cheap as Chips) Allen, Chatham Branch offer of.....*

A 1977 Jubilee Fleet Review HMS Hecla Souvenir Mug which Darby sighted with his eagle eye in a charity shop window and offered u[p for adoption has found a new owner and home!!

*(Editors note - There is a scurrilous rumour that Darby, whose son is the GS, had honed his 'Bargain Hunt' skills since he liberated a number of items from HMS Victorious, which was being broken up in Faslane in 1969. Shipmates are advised to take a full day's leave if you allow Darby the a chance to spin that dit! You have been warned.....)*

## 16. ★ WO1 Rob Govier – Life At Naval Regional Commander West

Central Office received a letter from WO1 Rob Govier who is the serving WO1 based in HMS Flying Fox and which I am sure Shipmates will find very interesting.



In reply to your request for a ditty from someone still in uniform; my name is WO1 Robert 'Taff' Govier and I'm now in the twilight years of my career having recently ticked off my 32<sup>nd</sup> year in a uniform. My current role is as the Regional Engagement Officer for Wales and the West Midlands working for Brigadier 'Jock' Fraser RM, the Naval Regional Commander.

As a 'Taffy' it's a brilliant opportunity to be based in the mother land with the purpose of the post create openings to place the

Royal Navy in the Public eye, sharing news of the good work our Sailors, Marines, Submariners, Airwomen and men carry out on a daily basis. It might come as a surprise that most of the public have no comprehension of our role, standing tasks or humanitarian work away from UK waters. The branded outreach vehicle acts as a beacon for many vets so chances are if you have attended events such as the Royal International Air Tattoo, Wales Air show and Gloucester Tall Ships festival we might have had a conversation.



Like so many this last year we have needed to adapt how we engage with an audience with Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Skype calls sadly replacing the 'Grip and Grin' face to face opportunities which tend to help you build rapport on a personal level more swiftly. We have developed a number of challenges, informative talks and sessions where an audience can participate in fun interactive sessions linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), the school curriculum and the Royal Navy. The demand for this form of engagement has never been so great but in our

third round of lockdown I'm definitely sensing some screen fatigue setting in, both for the audience and myself. When this sets in there's nothing better than placing a call to one of the five RN/RM WWII vets that I'm in frequent contact with here in Wales.

I've always been an advocate of the Cadet Associations, the RN and RNA as I get to meet members often at events. I have been meaning to join for some time and am more than happy to pay an annual voluntary subscription. I fully expect and hope that the latest initiative and news of

the painless joining process will see numbers joining the ranks. I will do my best to share my experience on social media.

Here's hoping that restrictions allow me to meet my shipmates in the Cardiff branch soon and those throughout Wales and the West Midlands when on my travels sharing the good word. Always been an advocate of the Cadet Associations, The Service and now the RNA.

Kind regards,

Rob,

## 17. ★ Serving Members Dit..... LET(WE) Jonah Jones – On Parade

*In recent Circulars the National Chairman S/M Keith Ridley challenged serving members to send in their dits, albeit encouraged by his offer of personally supplying a bottle of Pussers to the first one published. So, our thanks and congratulations go to LET(WE) (Old pence = Killick Greenie) Jonah Jones for sending in his excellent parade ground dit. Spin it Jonah.....*

It was mid 2017 and our Leading Engineering Technician class at Collingwood was once again in our No 3's and caps ready to fall in for weekly divisions. Now as with most people, none of us wanted to be there, we much preferred it back in class drinking coffee where it was warm and where we didn't have to march around.

So off to muster we went, stood right at the back of the parade ground while the markers from each platoon were ordered to quick march onto their respective places. This was not a problem, we do it every week. As I was in the middle row, I knew that as soon as we started marching out, we would all have to move slightly to the left otherwise we would walk into the marker from the classes behind. This went well for us, only the front row didn't move at all – their marker was missing leaving a gap at the end of the front row where they could easily walk past without colliding.



However, now our feet were not matching the ones in front of us, our right foot and their left feet were directly in line going in opposite directions. It didn't take long for the inevitable to happen and \*clip\* the noise of my toe touching the heel of the guy in front led to him lurching forward, his shoe coming clean off and disappearing to one side.

Straightening up he continued marching in just one shoe and one sock, unfortunately the killick next to me burst into laughter and couldn't stop, setting several of us off laughing including me. We were brought to a halt at our marker to the sound of the Chief drill instructor marching over looking like he wanted to murder somebody.

"Is there something funny leaderrrrrrrrr!!!"

To which point the poor unfortunate soul missing a shoe said in the most Cornish accent ever –

“Ere...my shoe came off,” which set us off laughing again and even had the drill Chief raise a smile. But due to the unprofessional marching we had to go back the way we came and start again. About turn!

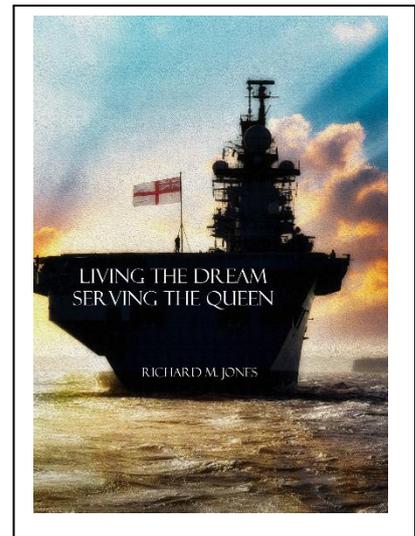
We spun around to see the class behind us holding up a shoe and shouting, “is this anyone’s?”

Cue the laughter starting again. What made this even funnier was that after his shoe was launched out of the class, kicked around the parade ground and then handed back to him, he was then sent to the back of the parade ground for having shoes that were not up to standard. He wasn’t happy, but we were in hysterics by then.

Finally, Jonah has written a book which called ‘Living the Dream’ costing £12 and publish by Juliette Jones Editorial services , Lulu and Amazon the details of which are below.

For over 400 years the Royal Navy has been the pride of the British Isles, but it wouldn’t be the organisation it is today without the people who make up the crews of these ships and establishments.

Here is a collection of over a dozen stories from people who have served their time in the Royal Navy and now recollect their experiences serving their country in the senior service. From the 1950s boy sailor to the sailors who currently serve, we read about the runs ashore, the lifelong friendships, the funny stories, near incidents and the ships they served on.



- What happened in New York harbour when a boat was taking crew to shore?
- Who caused a huge tailback of traffic outside Faslane naval base?
- What did Prince Philip whisper to a Chief Petty Officer during an inspection?
- Which submariner saved a man from certain death from electrocution only to be snubbed later?

These stories plus much more will help the reader understand why matelots, when asked how they are, reply with, “I’m living the dream, serving the Queen!”

**18. ★ RNA Yorkshire Shipmate Joke**

Shipmate from Yorkshire took his good lady wife for a run ashore, prior to Covid before you ask..., and walked past a really swanky posh new restaurant.

“ Did you smell that ? She asked “it smells absolutely delicious”

So being the kind hearted Yorkshireman ..... He though what the hell I'll treat her!

So they walked past again.....

## 19. China Fleet Club

The Royal Navy's own Country Club, CFCC, is already taking family bookings as the 'Staycation' demand is taking off. The Club will be following the Government's directive in opening out its facilities and Family Accommodation (Kitchens)/Hotel Accommodation.

We as Royal Naval Association Members are Beneficiary, subsequently we enjoy reduced rates. Prices in the UK are set to rise by 170%. Though not for us Beneficiary's of the CFCC, **Top Tip - book early** -money back guarantee (COVID).

When booking be sure to make clear you are a Member of the RNA - We will soon have our new posh ID Cards to prove it! Check out the Website [www.china-fleet.co.uk](http://www.china-fleet.co.uk) 01752 848668

## 20. ★ The Forgotten FAA Triplane of.....1914

*Shipmate Ian Cameron from St Neots Branch has forwarded this interesting article.*

It is often forgotten that the RNAS, the forerunner of the Fleet Air Arm, was highly active over the Western Front during WW1. (Numbers on the planes start with RN)

Below is an edited item from the internet and it is worth noting that contrary to popular belief, the British had a successful Tri plane a full year before the more well-known Red Baron one. The Triplane's combat debut was highly successful. The new fighter's exceptional rate of climb and high service ceiling gave it a marked advantage over the Albatross D.III, though the Triplane was slower in a dive.

During April 1917, Manfred von Richthofen, better known as *The Red Baron*, commented that the Triplane was the best Allied fighter at that time, a sentiment that was echoed by other German

senior officers such as Ernst von Hoeppner.

Multiple Triplanes were captured and subject to considerable evaluation and study.

The Germans were so impressed by the aircraft's performance that it spawned a brief triplane craze among German aircraft manufacturers. Their efforts resulted in no fewer than 34 different prototypes, including the Fokker V.4, prototype of the successful Fokker Tri-Plane (Of Red Baron fame) Pilots nicknamed the aircraft the *Tripehound* or simply the *Tripe*.

The Triplane was famously flown by "B" Flight 10 Naval Squadron, better known as "Black Flight". This all-Canadian flight was commanded by the ace Raymond Collishaw. Their aircraft, named *Black Maria*, *Black Prince*, *Black George*, *Black Death* and *Black Sheep*, were distinguishable by their black-painted fins and cowlings. Black Flight claimed 87 German aircraft in three months while equipped with the Triplane. Collishaw scored 34 of his eventual 60 victories in the aircraft, making him the top Triplane ace.

- *The photo above show RNAS Pilots of No 1 Squadron in 1914*



## 21. ★ 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*



## 22. ★ RNBT - Trustee Vacancies



Would you like to be involved in helping to run the naval charity which helps serving and former serving naval and RM ratings and their dependants in times of need and distress?

### **RNBT has vacancies for 'Ordinary Member' Trustees.**

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) helps those who are serving or have served as Warrant Officers and below in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and their dependants, who find themselves in need or distress. Thousands of applicants, both serving and retired, are assisted every year. We also run a Care Home and an Almshouse, and are building a new Care Home in Portsmouth. Find out more from our website: [www.rnbt.org.uk](http://www.rnbt.org.uk).

### **'Sailors and Marines helping Sailors and Marines – now and always'**

This is our mission, based on a founding principle of the Trust, in that it is predominantly run by those who are serving or have served as non-commissioned Sailors and Royal Marines. Accordingly 11 of the 17 trustees that form the RNBT's governing body are drawn from a wide range of serving and retired personnel who have been or are RN ratings and RM other ranks. Trustees wish to continue to encourage diversity, and applications from junior rates / ranks as well as representation from minority groups is encouraged.

Vacancies will occur for four such Trustee positions with effect from 1 April 2021. The election of volunteers to fill this position will happen in the last week of March. We are looking for a wide range of competences.

If you are interested please contact Rob Bosshardt (Chief Executive) (02392 690112). You can also email a request for an application pack via: [michelestanley@rnbt.org.uk](mailto:michelestanley@rnbt.org.uk)

**The closing date for applications is.....12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

## 23. ★ Introducing ..... Pussers Gunpowder Proof 'Spiced'



Pussers Rum LTD is proud to announce the production of its first batch of Gunpowder Proof Spiced Rum. It has been blended to Admiralty specifications (54.5% ABV) and aged for a minimum of three years in once used charred oak bourbon barrels and then mellowed with a subtle blend of spices including Banana, Vanilla, Chocolate, Cinnamon and a hint of Ginger that produce an incredibly smooth Spiced rum with deep flavours and a rich Amber colour that can be enjoyed neat, on the rocks or in a cocktail. The initial batch shall be sold exclusively through Paragon Brands, the Company's UK importer.

This new expression is replacing the old Pussers Spiced, which was bottled previously at 35%. Gary Rogalski (CEO of Pussers Rum) quotes: "We had an outpouring demand from rum aficionados around the world to "spice-up" liquid history and I believe we have accomplished that goal. We have added a nuance of Caribbean fruits and spices without taking anything away from the blend's classic Demerara wooden pot still heritage. I believe our customers will find the sensory perception of this rum be world-class in every respect!"

Pussers Rum Ltd. Bottles blends and distributes the original Royal Navy rum – one of the most historic and traditional rums still available today.

The new Pussers Spiced expression retails at Nauticalia for £43.99 for a 700ml bottle....[www.nauticalia.com](http://www.nauticalia.com)

## 24. Respectful Covid Humour



RNA Longcast

<b>2021</b>	
05 Mar	National Council - Zoom
02 – 05 Apr	Easter Bank Holiday
16 Apr	Open Day - Cancelled
03 May	May Bank Holiday
14 May	Open Day
14-16 May	Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations – Londonderry
21 May	AMC/FAC – Zoom
May TBC	Inter Services T20 Cricket - Lords
31 May	Late May Bank Holiday
04 Jun	National Council (Collingwood)
05 Jun	HMS Collingwood Open/Field Gun Day
18 Jun	IMC
25 Jun	Branch Motions for Conference – Deadline/SOC
25 Jun	Open Day
26 Jun	Armed Forces Day - Scarborough
08 Jul	Staff Day – Office Closed
23 Jul	Open Day
30 Jul	AMC / FAC - Zoom
30 Aug	August Bank Holiday
03 Sep	National Council - Nottingham
03 Sep	NC Dines Out National President (VA McAnally)
04 Sep	AGM/National Conference - Nottingham
12 Sep	Naval Associations Biennial Parade - Whitehall
23 Oct	World Uckers Championships Finals - Portsmouth
05 Nov	Budget Meeting
11 Nov	Field of Remembrance
12 Nov	FAC/AMC
14 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
09 Dec	National Council Dines-In National President (VA Potts)
10 Dec	National Council
23 Dec-4 Jan	Central Office Closed
25 Dec	Christmas Day
26 Dec	Boxing Day

<b>2022</b>	
11 Feb	AMC/FAC – Zoom
04 Mar	National Council Meeting - Zoom
15 Apr	Easter Monday
May	National Standard Bearers' Competition (Collingwood)
May	AMC/FAC (Collingwood)
Jun TBC	HMS Collingwood Field Gun Day
17 Jun	NC meetings
18 Jun	AG/National Conference
19 Jun	Falklands 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parade
Jul – tbc	Covid Commemoration Service - NMA

29 Jul	AMC / FAC – Zoom
10 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Nov	Garden of Remembrance
11 Nov (pm)	Budget Meeting
13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
19 Nov	AMC / FAC – Zoom
03 Dec	National Council Meeting
21 Dec – 03 Jan	Central Office Closed for Christmas

***D’ye hear there’.....***

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

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

[RNA Brightlingsea](#)

[RNA Market Harborough](#)

[RNA City of Edinburgh/AoW Edinburgh](#)

[Model Makers SIG](#)

## **RNA Brightlingsea Branch**

*Thanks to Brightlingsea Hon Sec S/M Mike Fletcher for the story below*

“WHERE THE \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* IS BRIGHTINGSEA?” asked the crew of Motor Torpedo Boat (MTB) 766, on which Shipmate Jim Burrow was serving in 1944. He had been onboard her for patrols in the North Sea, escorting sailing barges as they travelled along the coast, and on a secret mission to Norway.

Entering Brightlingsea (when we were HMS Nemo) he was to await her refit nearby. He noticed the steam train coming into the town with just one coach and, like the other crew, he wondered just where he had ended up.

Well, he ended up meeting Mary on VE Night, 8th May 1945. They married and - WAIT FOR IT – eventually bore a son on Christmas Day. Jim’ real name was actually Joseph so he and Mary almost made history! Their son’s name? Chris!



Jim joined our branch in 1993, its founding year, destined to become our President.

Shipmate Don Stockley was one of our affiliated members, a Royal Artillery veteran. Like most of we Auxiliary Members (plug!) he became an essential part of our branch’s backbone. A kind, cheerful and outgoing man, he always gave of himself to those in need and could always be relied upon to be where and when he was most needed. Arguably our most popular member, he will be greatly missed.

Both were to have their funerals just one day apart, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November respectively. We were honoured to see them off with Standards and a Guard of Honour. We remember them fondly and with gratitude and we wish them fair winds ahead.

Photo Caption: President Jim Burrow (L) and S/m Don Stockley (R) taken by Jim's son Chris on Anzac Day 2016.

## **RNA Market Harborough Branch**

Market Harborough Branch are keeping going despite all the setbacks and difficulties. We keep in touch by phone and email mainly, but next week we are planning to have our AGM via Zoom!! the invitation has been sent out with the 'address' that you just click on to take you to the meeting. We will see!!

it is a big learning curve for some of us but we have decided that it is good for us to be taken out of our comfort zone. One of our members has had both her jabs, but the rest of us that are eligible have had the first one so far. It is wonderful that at last we can see the light at the end of the tunnel when we can resume our meetings and lunch gatherings once more.

Sadly, we have lost two of our members to the dreaded Covid. John Arthur Smith, Merchant Navy. He served in WW2 and was a lovely man, always with a smile and a list of stories of his wartime exploits.

Janet Richardson ex WRNS. Janet was always full of fun. She and her husband Steve met when they were both serving at Culdrose. Another sad loss, although not to Covid is our Social Secretary John Marlow. John was an Associate Member but an absolute backbone of our Branch.

On a happier note our WW2 hero David Hill has been made a life member. His certificate was presented to him at his front door by our Chairman Mike Petch. Socially distanced and masked up as required. Dave was on Russian Convoys at the age of 17 and was mentioned in Dispatches. Tomorrow will be a Good Day.

## **RNA City of Edinburgh and Association of Wrens Edinburgh Branches**

*Thanks to S/M Karen Elliot for this 'wee' article. For those Shipmates unaware S/M Karen is not only the Scottish Area Secretary, PRO for City of Edinburgh but is also Chairman of the Edinburgh branch of the Association of Wrens.*

### **PART 1!**

Inspired by Sir Tom Smith, and our very own Marjorie Lamb of the AOW Glasgow Informal Group (both who turned 100 in 2020 and undertook personal challenges to walk each day), to help target isolation and loneliness during lockdown, Members of the AOW Edinburgh & District Branch have participated in a few challenges over the past few months. We all agreed that this was something which we could do together whilst apart, and whilst ensuring adherence to local protection measures in place. This also helped get us out and active, so has been a huge benefit for fitness and mental wellbeing also. We also raised monies for our Branch, through sponsorship and donations, but this wasn't our main goal. The monies raised through our first two challenges will be put towards the costs of a Branch Post-Lockdown Gathering to celebrate the centenary of the Association, which was in 2020.

### **Challenge 1 – June-July Challenge 2020**

We walked the miles / steps, all 133 miles (212.8km) of the Scottish Coast-to-Coast, John Muir Route, from Helensburgh to Dunbar, only, we did this in our own homes, gardens and areas.

Route	From	To	Distance	Walk Time
1	Helensburgh	Balloch	9miles / 14.4km	4 hours
2	Balloch	Strathblane	18.5miles / 29.6km	6 hours
3	Strathblane	Kilsyth	13miles / 20.8km	4 hours
4	Kilsyth	Falkirk	13miles / 20.8km	5 hours
5	Falkirk	Linlithgow	8.5miles / 13.6km	4 hours
6	Linlithgow	South Queensferry	14miles / 22.4km	7 hours
7	South Queensferry	Edinburgh	15.5miles / 24.8km	7 hours
8	Edinburgh	Prestonpans	10miles / 16km	4 hours
9	Prestonpans	North Berwick	16.5miles / 26.4km	5 hours
10	North Berwick	Dunbar	15miles / 24km	5 hours
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>133miles / 212.8km</b>	<b>51 hours</b>

We undertook this challenge over the course of a month, starting on the date of what should have been our June Branch Meeting (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June) and ended on the date of what should have been our July Branch Meeting (Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July). Steps (approx. 10k steps = 5miles) completed at home (within the current Government Lockdown Guidelines) were added towards the total over the month.

We 'met up' on Zoom over the course of the month and shared stories and pictures of the places we'd virtually walked through from when we'd been there in the past. One of our Branch Members, Val Doole, had actually completed the walk in the past and said it was a lovely walk – well-worth doing – you never know, we might do it in the future for real! We also posted progress updates on our Branch Facebook page.

Collectively, during the Challenge, between 18 participants, we recorded a fantastic:

- 3,186,062 steps (an average of 177,003 steps each); and
- 2,260.85 miles (an average of 125.6 miles each).

A few of us managed to meet for a Picnic at South Queensferry towards the end of our walk – this coupled as this year's Branch Summer Outing 2020 😊!

## Challenge 2 – September 2020

Following the success of the June-July walk, we set ourselves a Branch September Challenge! This time to virtually walk the 113.5 miles (182.8km) of the Fife Coastal Trail, from Kincardine to Newburgh.

### STAGE DESCRIPTIONS:

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	TIME
Kincardine	North Queensferry	16.8miles / 27km	6-8hrs

North Queensferry	Burntisland	11.5miles / 18.5km	4.5-5.5hrs
Burntisland	East Wemyss	11.7miles / 18.75km	4.5-5.5hrs
East Wemyss	Lower Largo	7miles / 11.5km	3-3.5hrs
Lower Largo	St Monans	8.7miles / 14km	3-4hrs
St Monans	Anstruther	3.6miles / 5.75km	1.5-2hrs
Anstruther	Crail	4.2miles / 6.75km	1.5-2hrs
Crail	Kingsbarns	5.9miles / 9.5km	3-3.5hrs
Kingsbarns	St Andrews	8.4miles / 13.5km	3-4hrs
St Andrews	Newport on Tay	18miles / 29km	6-8hrs
Newport on Tay	Newburgh	17.7miles / 28.5km	7-8hrs
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>113.5miles / 182.75km</b>	<b>43-54hrs</b>

Collectively, during our September Challenge, between 11 participants, we recorded a massive:

- 2,464,033 steps (an average of 224,003 steps each); and
- 1,792.5 miles (an average of 162.95 miles each).

Again, our collective steps / miles (cycled or walked) were combined and an average taken. We did so well with this shorter walk that we actually doubled-back on ourselves and almost completed a round trip!

### Challenge 3 – January 2021

To start us off on a positive this year and with hope, we agreed to undertake another challenge – something that we could all do together yet apart, in our own homes, gardens and areas, so as to adhere to the ongoing protection measures. Our challenge started on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and ended on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January. This time our virtual walk was round the flight deck of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH!

One of our Branch Members, Anne Cameron, worked on the Aircraft Carrier Alliance programme, as the Software Manager, on both HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and HMS PRINCE OF WALES. Some of us were lucky to get a wee visit onboard the Carrier(s) and saw HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH sail from Rosyth for the first time in June 2017.

HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH is:

- 280m / 920ft long; and - 73m / 240ft beam overall (29m / 128ft beam on the waterline).

Two RN sailors recently completed the first ever marathon onboard HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and they ran 88 laps round the aircraft carrier's 4-acre flight deck to achieve the 26mile run in 5 hours!

As it still gets dark early (albeit that we're now thankfully past the shortest day of the year and so the days will start to get longer, slowly, but surely), we opted to do less miles / steps for this challenge and we were each looking to do 2.2miles / 3.5km / 5,000 steps per day (some doing more and some less, but balancing out between us all 😊).

Despite the long nights/short days, some really stinky weather and lockdown, we smashed our Branch & Friends January Challenge, collectively achieving:

- a total of 5,296,033 steps;
- an average of 254,667 steps each;
- a total of 529.6 miles;
- an average of 25.5 miles each (just shy of a marathon!);
- a total of 1,795.3 laps of the flight deck of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH;
- an average of 86.3 laps of the flight deck each.

We had 21 participants – thank-you all for your dedication and commitment. By participating and pushing through we all supported each other during these challenging times – doing something together whilst apart 🤝

Ladies who were unable to participate in the Virtual Walks have supported by encouraging participants along the way and through making donations – it has been great to be able to do something together whilst apart and has helped get us through lockdown.

Finally, monies raised via our Branch January Challenge are being split between the Association and WRNSBT (our Benevolent Trust). Please do not hesitate to contact me direct should you require any additional information.

**BZ From Central Office Karen**

## RNA Model Makers SIG

# ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) FOR MODELMAKERS

For all model making enthusiasts!

Find us and 'Like' us on Facebook. Just search for **RNA SIG**  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/434544820928061>



*The Facebook page is a closed (Private) Group and will need your RNA Membership Number to join.*  
**Collaborate, Construct and Create!**



[Alexander Gillian](#)  
[Robin Hargrave](#)

### Alexander Gillian - RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that Shipmate Alexander Gillan Crossed the Bar peacefully on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

Alexander joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and after completing basic training at HMS Drake he was drafted to Liverpool and on to the Mediteranean Fleet in Algiers. After a brief time in Malta, Alexander was despatched to Arctic Convoy Duty on the Russian Convoys. Alexander was serving on HMS Sheffield in 1943 and witnessed the sinking of the German Battleship Scharnhorst at the Battle of North Cape, Boxing Day 1943.



At the end of WW II Alexander went on to serve in Korea for three years and was awarded an Ambassador for Peace Medal for Korea to mark his 'dedication and sacrifice' in the Korean War he also received a medal and commemorative watch from the Consul General of the Russian Federation in 2015 during a ceremony to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

In June 2018 Alexander was awarded one of the highest honours from the Russian Government, the Ushakov Medal for his efforts in braving freezing conditions in the the Arctic Convoys. (Seen with his daughter Angela, above.) Sir Winston Churchill deemed the Arctic Convoys as the 'worst journey in the world'.

Alexander was a well loved and respected member of the Rosyth Community, he will be sorely missed.



The RNA Rosyth & West Fife Guard of Honour salutes Alexander on his final voyage.

Fair winds and following seas  
Shipmate, Stand Easy, your watch is over. RIP



### Robin Hargrave - Torrevieja Branch

Robin was born on 10/06/1942 in Bristol and also went by his mother's maiden name as a stage name of Bob Brailey, 'Crossed the Bar' in Santa Pola, Spain on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 after metaphorically speaking, "recently steered his ship through rough seas" medically.

His funeral took place at 0845 hrs on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021 at Tanatorio Crematorio D'Elx in Alicante where standard bearers from the RNA Torrevieja branch, the RBL Gran Alacant & La Marina Branch and the RBL Spain District North were able to salute him on behalf of his family, friends and shipmates who were, regrettably due to the current COVID19 restrictions, prevented from attending.

His Eulogy was conducted by the RBL Gran Alacant & La Marina Branch Chairman, Paul Kane.

He will be sadly missed by his friends and shipmates but no more so than by his grieving family in UK which includes; his Sister Jacqueline Ryan (Nee Hargrave) and Brother-in-Law Paul Ryan, along with 2 Nieces: - Simone and Beth Ryan, 2 Nephews Damian and Mark Ryan. 3 Great Nephews: - Tom, Matthew and Alfie Ryan and 1 Great Niece: - Molly Ryan, who will all take comfort from the following extract from his eulogy at his funeral:

*"Nothing can detract from the joy and closeness you shared with him; nothing can destroy Robin's love for you, nor your love for him. The past with all its meaning, remains sacred. It cannot be taken away!*

*It's in the bank – safe and secure: Locked in your hearts. Be grateful that Robin was part of your lives and let his character, his influence, his warmth, his deeds live on".*

It is impossible to give justice to his exciting and event packed life within a short exposé as it would have to encompass a variety of aspects which not only helped shape the UK Entertainment Industry, but also the RNA Torrevieja Branch where he had been a member since 06/10/2004 following his retirement and subsequently took up the mantle as the President from 2008 to 2012 after moving to Santa Pola, Spain in 2008.

His dedicated time to the RBL Gran Alacant & La Marina branch where he served as the Chairman, along with his support to the RBL Spain District North where he served as Poopy Appeal Co-ordinator from 2011 and where his fundamental nature to care and support others

contributed to the spectacular achievement in raising €169,622.40 for the 2018 appeal when he then handed over to Esther Navarro.



As well as his time as a Sea Cadet prior to his contribution during his service in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) from when he joined on board HMS Flying Fox on 27/11/1958 and then through each year of his 17 days annual service which included taking part in several NATO exercises, in addition to all his performances at various entertainment events until his discharge on 17/11/1975.



Let alone from all the significant and versatile experiences of his career in showbiz through many roles within UK entertainment industry, right from when He was living in Leicester with his parent's and his first soiree at the Leicester Opera House with an involuntary appearance in a Christmas Panto and where he got 'hooked on the theatre', then through his 'tap dancing, banjulele playing reciter of monologues' as a member of a local church group when he moved back to Bristol with his family.

Followed by his time performing with the Mary Reynolds Juvenile Dance School and his first venture into the 'big time' at the age of 12 when the Juveniles appeared live on BBC TV during Saturday Prime Time on the Charlie Chester Show.

Then through his multitude of appearances where he was telling a few jokes, singing and performing magic tricks at numerous concert parties, local clubs and his first residency as the regular Sunday night compere at the Bristol Rovers Supporters club and through some successes in talent shows culminating in being invited to appear at the Lord Mayors Variety Command Performance, billed as Bristol's Teenage Comedian, then on through his time as a Redcoat Entertainer at Butlins following an audition for Wally Goodman, followed by a stint managing the TOP Rank bingo hall at Smethwick before returning to performing in the clubs in Bristol and all of this was only in his early years!

Including his time from 1971 when presenting a Bristol local television channel pub quiz programme with an element of darts, appearances in Dr Who and Northanger Abbey as well as presenting Radio shows for BBC Radio Bristol where his guests included local personalities and other celebrities including Tony Blackburn.

And especially the period from 1977 when he received a life changing phone call from Cunard who were looking for a DJ to join a world cruise within 3 days and in Robin's own word, "My feet didn't touch the ground as I wrapped up my affairs in Bristol and flew out to join the ship in Genoa" and on through his career to Senior Cruise Director and his retirement in 1991, during which time he had the fortune to work with celebrities such as Norman Collier, Max Bygraves, Hermione Gingold, Dame Alicia Markova, Reg Varney and Pearl Carr & Teddy Johnson where in his own words "with whom I spent many happy days in absolute hysterics."

Not forgetting to all the rich and rewarding times he spent with his family and friends. to the Far East for operations against the Japanese but, after the nuclear bombs were dropped; his unit subsequently remained on general security duties in Egypt and Palestine. He was posted to HMS Nile at Ras el-Tin Point and HMS Sphinx at Sidi Bishr.

During 1946, Marine Blackborow acted as driver and armed escort for the Senior Naval Intelligence Officer, Middle East, and undertook two tours of Palestine. Marine Blackborow was deployed to the base at Haifa Dockyards (NOIC, Palestinian Ports) and military establishments in Jerusalem. The first photograph shows him outside the King David Hotel shortly before the Irgun terrorist bombing of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1946.

## 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 <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/offers/members-cona-holidays-service/>

## 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)

**The ‘Shortcast’ Editors Note**

**Due to the current Coronavirus situation Shipmates should contact the individual Association to ensure that the reunion is still going ahead.**

**Please forward any reunions for 2021 and I will publish them here**

*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 £2,700 which provides funds to assist members Associations. Oh, and by the way, their service is first class as well.*

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. www.rnshipmates.co.uk	
<b>2021</b>		
13/15 Aug	The HMS Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association will hold their 42nd Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea from 13th to 15th August 2021. Please contact Secretary Denis Askham for more details. <a href="mailto:askhamd3@gmail.com">askhamd3@gmail.com</a>	Bulwark, Albion & Centaur Association
24 Sep	HMS Tiger Reunion – St Pierre Hotel Newmillerdam Yorkshire	
01 Oct	HMS Tartar Reunion – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth	
08 Oct	HMS Carysfort Reunion – Royal Beach Hotel Southsea	
<b>2022</b>		
07 May	HMS Nottingham (D91) – Liverpool	

**Swinging the Lamp – February 2021**

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



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1907	Cap ribbons and bedding issued in lieu of a gratuity, and ready-made uniforms instead of material to be made up. Loan clothing introduced.
2nd	1911	First four officers, chosen from over 200 applicants, reported to the Royal Aero Club’s aerodrome at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey

		for pilot training in private aircraft provided free of charge: Lt C.R. Samson, scout cruiser <i>Foresight</i> ; Lt R. Gregory, armoured cruiser <i>Antrim</i> ; Lt A.M. Longmore, HMTB 24 and Lt E.L. Gerrard RMLI, cruiser <i>Hermione</i> .
3rd	1807	The squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir John Duckworth engaged the Dardanelles forts on the return passage from Constantinople.
4th	1941	Transportation of Imperial troops from Egypt to Greece. Ended on 24 April, when the evacuation began. Operation Lustre.
5th	1902	Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service constituted by Order in Council, replacing the naval nursing sisters.
6th	1993	Retirement of CPO W. Price, last of the promised men' who joined the RN in 1948 and in 1970 were guaranteed employment until age 65. He served for twenty-two years at the RN Detention Quarters, Portsmouth.
7th	1841	Provisions of uniform regulations of 19 September 1810 extended to the Governors of the RN Hospital and Asylum, and the Lieutenant-Governors of Greenwich Hospital and of the RN College, Portsmouth.
8th	1872	The wood screw frigate <i>Ariadne</i> , sailing to Gibraltar, hove to when a seaman fell overboard from the main topmast crosstrees 130 miles off the Portuguese coast (40.15N, 12.10W) In an unsuccessful rescue attempt both ship's cutters were swamped and two officers, Sub-Lt's Jukes and Talbot, and eight men were drowned.
9th	1686	Pepys signed contract for purchase of rum in lieu of brandy for HM ships at Jamaica.
10th	1956	World air speed record of 1,132 mph (1,823 kph) set by Lt-Cdr Peter Twiss, OBE, DSC and bar, RNVR, flying from Boscombe Down in a Fairey Delta 2 between Chichester and RNAS Ford, Sussex. The first person to fly at over 1,000 mph.
11th	1708	The Cruisers and Convoys Acts allocated prize money to captors at the Crown's expense; a great incentive to captains and crews.
12th		The first woman in RN to win the MC. Able Seaman Kate Louise Nesbitt (21), a medical assistant attached to 3 Cdo Brigade, for 'exemplary gallantry' during a Taliban ambush in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Kate, all 5ft tall, ran under enemy fire and saved the life of L/Cpl John List of 1 RIFLES who had been hit in the neck. Her MC was awarded by HRH Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on 27 November 2009. Operation Herrick. Citation: 'Nesbitt's actions throughout a series of offensive operations were exemplary; under fire and under pressure her commitment and courage were inspirational and made the difference between life and death, "She performed in the highest traditions of her service."
13th	1823	Admiral of the Fleet the Earl of St Vincent died. 'We expect too much of men; we do not make sufficient allowances, and perhaps we are too apt to over rate the services we render them'

14 <sup>th</sup>	1757	Admiral Byng executed on board <i>Monarch</i> after being court-martialled for dereliction of duty. 'At 12 Mr Byng was shot dead by six marines and put into his coffin' – Master's Log, HMS <i>Monarch</i> .
15 <sup>th</sup>	1980	Fire in A1 boiler room in the commando carrier <i>Bulwark</i> during a visit to Philadelphia. Damage considered too costly to repair.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1858	<i>Shannon's</i> Naval Brigade at the capture of Lucknow by the forces under General Sir Colin Campbell. Naval Brigade manned all the breaching artillery on one side of the Gumti River. Indian Mutiny Medal: clasp 'Lucknow' Battle Honour: Lucknow 1857.
17 <sup>th</sup>	1912	Capt Lawrence Oates, 5th Inniskilling Dragoons, died in Antarctica by walking out into a blizzard in a vain attempt to improve the chances of survival for Capt Scott's party: 'I am just going outside and may be some time.' It was his 32 <sup>nd</sup> birthday.
18 <sup>th</sup>	2002	<i>Fearless</i> , last RN steam-powered surface warship, entered Portsmouth for the last time on return from the Indian Ocean.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1847	Admiralty order that Wednesday 24 March be observed as a Day of Public Fasting and Humiliation, Divine Service to be specially performed in recognition of Irish Famine. Reaction of ship's companies and their pursers not recorded
20 <sup>th</sup>	1832	Navigating, Medical and other non-executive officers adopted the uniform jacket of the Executive branch, distinguished by the pattern of their button.
21 <sup>st</sup>	2007	Explosion of a self-contained oxygen generator (SCOG) in submarine <i>Tireless</i> while submerged under the Arctic ice killed two crew members.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	2003	Two Sea King Mk VII of 849 Sqn A Flight, flying from <i>Ark Royal</i> on vital ground surveillance missions to support Royal Marines ashore on the Al Faw peninsula, collided over the northern Arabian Gulf. Two pilots and five observers killed. Posthumous MiD to observer, Lt Tony King. Operation Telic.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1922	Submarine H42, Lt D.C. Sealy RN, sunk with all twenty-six hands in collision with the destroyer <i>Versatile</i> , Cdr V.L.A Campbell RN, during 3rd Submarine Flotilla tactical exercises with the Atlantic Fleet off Europa Point, Gibraltar. The submarine surfaced 40yds ahead of the destroyer which was steaming at 20 knots.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1960	<i>Yarmouth</i> , first of the nine Rothesay Class Anti-Submarine Frigates, commissioned at John Browns shipyard on the Clyde. She was the first ship equipped with the Seacat missile system and became Capt(F) 6 <sup>th</sup> Frigate Squadron under Capt H R Hewlett RN.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1945	World's first deck landing of a high-performance twin-engined aircraft; a de Havilland Mosquito Mk 6 from RAE Farnborough on <i>Indefatigable</i> off Ailsa Craig and Arran piloted by Lt-Cdr Eric 'Winkle' Brown RNVR.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1912	Leonard James Callaghan, later Lt RNVR and Prime Minister, born at Portsmouth.

27 <sup>th</sup>	2007	The last Sea Harrier FA2 squadron, 801 NAS, paid off at RNAS Yeovilton, having completed operational flying on 9 March.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1968	The beginning of the end of the fathom. The first of the new metric Admiralty charts, No. 3105 of Chiba Ko in Tokyo Bay, published, with depths and heights shown in metres and decimeters. This was followed on 5 April by Chart 2247 of ports in the Black Sea, and on 12 April by Chart 438 of Boulogne.
29 <sup>th</sup>	1996	RM School of Music, Deal, closed and band training moved to old RNDQs in Portsmouth Dockyard. RM at Deal since 1861
30 <sup>th</sup>	1912	Captain Robert Falcon Scott Royal Navy and the remainder of his party died in the Antarctic. "It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more. "For God's sake , look after our people"
31 <sup>st</sup>	1956	HMS <i>Siskin</i> , RNAS Gosport, paid off and following day commissioned as HMS <i>Sultan</i> as a TE for ratings of the Mechanical Engineering Branch. The new establishment was named after the old ironclad <i>Sultan</i> which served until 1943 as the RN mechanical training ship in Portsmouth Harbour.

**2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE - BRANCH MOTIONS**

**Branch Motion**

Proposed by ..... Branch, Seconded by .....Branch

Proposed Motion (to begin; That the ..... )

**Explanation**

**Proposing Branch Contact details**

S/M.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode .....

E Mail .....

Telephone number .....

Please return completed form to Central Office for consideration by the NC and Governance Committee (SOC) by the **25<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

**NOMINATION FORM  
ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL  
2021/2022 (Revised RNA Bye-Law 7)**

**For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Areas. 2,6,7,8,9,11 and Scotland.**

Each Branch may nominate **one full or life member** from any Branch within its own Area, as a Candidate for election to the National Council, and **one full or life member** for election as the Deputy National Council Member **subject to the approval of the Branch to which both persons belong.** (See Note Below)

**Names of Nominees**

**NCM** ..... **DNCM** .....

**Proposed by** ..... **Branch** ..... **Area**

**Address of Nominee NCM**.....

..... **e mail** .....

**DNCM**.....

..... **e mail** .....

**Brief history of nominees in the Association.** (Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

**NCM**

**DNCM**

Chairman ..... (signed) .....(dated).....

Secretary..... (signed) .....(dated).....

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If the Candidate is **not** a member the proposing Branch, this section is to be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's **own** Branch.

Candidate's Branch .....

We are aware of the above nomination.

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

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

**Candidate**

**I accept the nomination and promise to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and to sit on any Committees to which I may be elected.**

Signature of Candidate ..... Dated .....

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA HQ no later than **1600 1st June 2021.**