



**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**

Published 1<sup>st</sup>  
Monday of the  
Month... ish



# The Semaphore Circular

**No 726**

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

**February 2023**



***HMS Active (possibly!) pictured on her way to the Falklands in 1982. Veterans from the Type 21 frigate were invited to Rosyth to watch the first steel being cut on her successor, the second of the Type 31 or Inspiration-class general purpose frigates. Image is © Imperial War Museum collection item FKD 80***

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Staff Photo (still) coming soon.....

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## Glossary of terms

<b>NCM</b>	National Council Member
<b>NC</b>	National Council
<b>AMC</b>	Association Management Committee
<b>FAC</b>	Finance Administration Committee
<b>NCh</b>	National Chairman
<b>NVCh</b>	National Vice Chairman
<b>NP</b>	National President
<b>DNP</b>	Deputy National President
<b>GS</b>	General Secretary
<b>CONA</b>	Conference of Naval Associations
<b>NCBA</b>	National Charter, Rules and Byelaws Advisor/ Governance Committee

## Find Semaphore Circular online

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or  
RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /  
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## Snail Mail – Postal Address

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## From the General Secretary

### Ahoy Shipmates

I hope it's not too late to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. Firstly, I am delighted to welcome Mike Gray as our new Semaphore Circular editor, having taken over from Andy Christie who retired at the end of last year. Mike is no stranger to publishing, of course, having been the editor of Navy News for many years in the past and is also currently the editor of the Naval Families Federation's Homeport magazine, which comes out quarterly. He's no stranger to the RNA, either, and has been part of our Comms team here since before I started in 2018. I am truly thankful to him for taking on this additional role.



Mike Gray



Delegates at the Branch Welfare/Wellbeing Officers' Workshop - Portsmouth 3-4 Feb 23

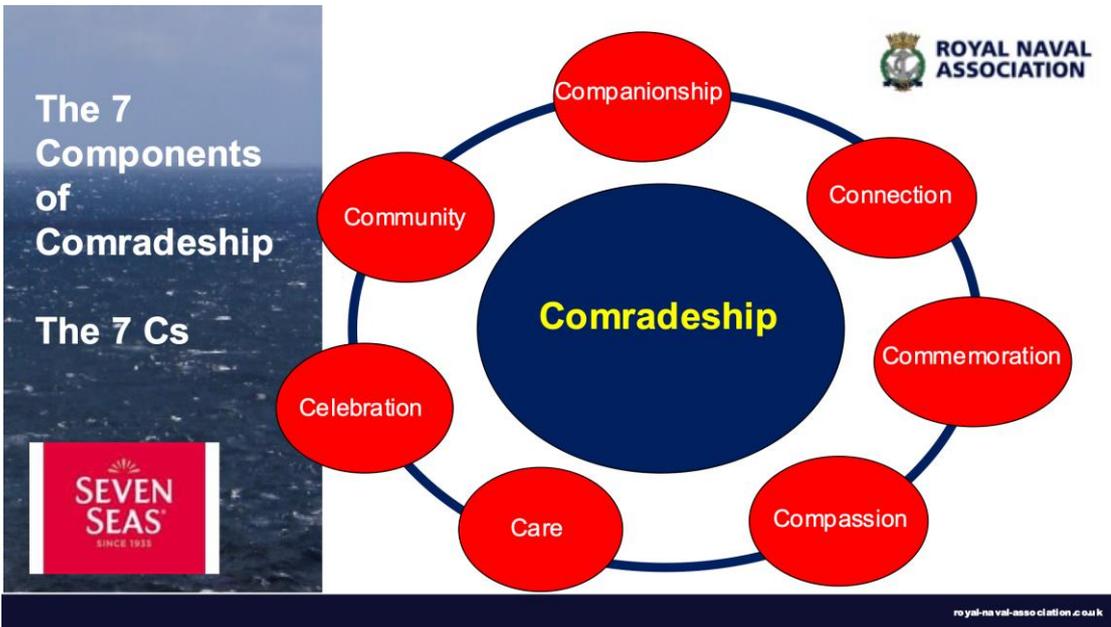
This was the first Welfare Workshop we have conducted in over four years, not least because of the interruption of Covid, and judging by the interest and the very positive feedback, it certainly seems that this was an event which was both desperately needed but also very popular. I think Covid has made us all realise that the *Care* and *Compassion* components of Comradeship are an extremely important part of the RNA offer, so it was essential to be able to update Branch Welfare Officers on their role. As well as my thanks to all who took part, either on the delivery team, as a facilitator or indeed as a Branch Welfare Officer (all volunteers by the way), please can I thank Greenwich Hospital for their extremely generous financial support of £15,000 to allow us to put this on. We are all indebted.

It's been a busy month culminating in last weekend's hugely successful Welfare and Wellbeing Workshop here at HMS Nelson in Portsmouth. Lynda Pearson and her team did a fantastic job of pulling this workshop together where we were able to update and educate 100 Branch Welfare Officers over the two days of the course.



WO1 Clare Robson - a Vice President of the RNA - delivers Safeguarding Training to delegates at the Welfare/Wellbeing Workshop

Just in case I sparked an interest in the Components of Comradeship I mentioned just now, you ought to know that this is how we are now selling the concept of how we foster Comradeship within the Association. Someone more clever than me has come up with the Seven Cs (boom, boom) described on the slide here...



You will see it describes more fully what we are trying to achieve in terms of fostering comradeship and it allows me to sell what the organisation is doing to key backers like RNRMC and Greenwich Hospital.

Meanwhile, there's been a lot

going on in the Branches, and I was particularly glad to be able to accept an invitation to the Norwich Branch in January when they had arranged a talk from Lord Dannatt and Julian Barnwell who are intimately involved with the discovery and recovery of the wreck of the *Gloucester* which sank on May 6, 1682 after running foul of a sandbank off Norfolk with the future James II on board. While he survived, up to 250 sailors did not. One of the most remarkable artefacts found are lengths of ship's cable which we saw photographed on the seabed – rope which has survived nearly 350 years. The intent is to establish a museum eventually – quite a story. It was great to see what Norwich are doing – I especially liked their initiative of creating and distributing Christmas hampers to members in need of a little boost. I also witnessed the presentation of a couple of Life Memberships and the award of membership cards to new members – nice one Norwich!



Former RN engineer S/m Rachel Barber is presented her membership card and lapel badge from the General Secretary, Bill Oliphant

Finally, I'm pleased to introduce Chris Trevethan of the Central Office team, succeeding Andy Christie as Chief of Staff. Who says we're not diverse here – we're introducing a member of the Warfare Branch! Chris, you're very welcome and I'm already glad to have you in the team.

*You'll notice I managed to get through that whole article without mentioning the Calcutta Cup - oops!  
Best wishes, Bill*

## Chairman's chat

Sawadee Krap Shipmates!

No prize for guessing where the Boss and I spent just under four weeks from mid-December until early January. We left Stansted Airport on 15<sup>th</sup> December with two inches of snow, arriving in Bangkok 15 hours later via Dubai in glorious sunshine with a rather more acceptable 32°C. A most welcome break visiting family, and grateful to enjoy their Christmas present to us of 'experiences' comprising wonderful hotels, locations, sightseeing and dining. Sadly, the time came to leave 32°C and land back to 'enjoy' minus 2°C! Neighbours informed me that we missed the minus 2°C to minus 8°C temperatures which made me sad – not! Anyway, it's great to be back.



First off – **our long-serving Central Office Shipmate Andy Christie retired** on 31 December after almost 12 years. His contribution to the RNA cannot be measured. Never a clock-watcher, Andy worked over and above his contracted hours, and worked many weekends supporting the Association Management Committee as its Secretary on Saturday mornings, travelled away to RN bases around the country to promote the RNA to those leaving the Service, and was always at the end of the phone giving endless advice to us, the members. Although shown the Gangway and having had his Station Card cut up, Andy will still be on the scene giving his regular Culture & Value Session talks to Part 2 Trainees from both HMS Collingwood and Sultan when they visit the Naval Base, the highlight being his detailed tour of his old ship HMS Victory... In addition he will frequently be seen at Branches throughout No 3 Area of which he was elected the National Council Member last September – not forgetting he is also the Chairman of RNA Lee-on-the-Solent and Stubbington Branch. A BIG 'thank you' to the Membership, who contributed to Andy's farewell gift in the form of a cheque for £1,000. I had the privilege of presenting this to Andy on behalf of the Membership when he was dined out by Central Office Staff on board HMS Victory in early January. Andy's immediate response was "I can buy two years' season tickets!" meaning Southampton FC. Just how sad is that?

I extend a BIG welcome to our **new member of staff at Central Office, Chris Trevethan**, who has taken over from Andy Christie. Bill Oliphant has already formally introduced Chris, who joins us with a kit bag full of administrative experience having joined the RN as a head-turning AB (RP), and worked hard reaching the height of Lt Cdr, proud to have served on a Type 45 and HMS Queen Elizabeth as their First Lieutenant on BOTH! Be warned – if Chris comes to visit your Branch, you had better make sure everything is squared away and shipshape!

**Area & Branches Promotion Boards**, otherwise known as Damage Control State 1 – *"HELP, save my Branch from sinking"*.

On my travels I have frequently commented to Branch officials about seeking out your future replacement. Recently I received the following email from a Branch Secretary who shared his thoughts concerning fading and sunk Branches. I have edited part of his email so as to protect his identity:

*"This is a personal and polite set of comments: My Branch in recent years has increased its membership from 45 to 85. Sadly, along the way we have lost a few who have crossed the bar. but the Branch improves because we keep searching out that lingering Oppo! Quite recently, I attended an Area Meeting. The reasons for the fall-off of local Branch membership was obvious. Self-important attendees were mainly concerned with portraying a blazer full of metal badges. The structure of the Meeting(s) was/were weak, poor leadership, and organisation lacking in sequence. If this situation is repeated amongst Branches nationally, then the RNA is going to*

*fade. The 'attraction' of Free Membership has served us well and our Branch Membership both local and far-flung is beginning to thrive, but not new Branches.*

*One of my Branch 'strengths' is that we do not allow our key Officers to grow old in office. They are elected per the Area and Branch Bye-Laws for two years, before being considered for re-election if they wish to re-stand, with 50 per cent of the officers being elected alternatively every two years. It is too easy to 'take root' and be seen as indispensable, and not able to be 'challenged'.*

*Areas and Branches need to consider adopting such a policy to ensure survival.*

*Like most Areas, we have lost Branches in the Area in the recent past because they have not evolved, but more importantly, HAVE NOT GONE OUT AND RECRUITED! RESULT – zilch increase, with Branches having relied on their existing Officers who sadly either have crossed the bar or retired through ill health which has led to the Branch dying”.*

I thank the shipmate for having taken the time to send me his thoughts. In the case of my own Branch we have never sat back and relied on Central Office recruiting new members for us – it is not their responsibility. Whilst just a few new members have come our way over the years via Central Office, the majority have been recruited locally by the Branch, hence our membership has increased from some 45 a few years back to 68.

The best method of recruiting is local advertising and 'Word of mouth'. I will leave it to Area and Branch Committees to think on their own strategy. Shipmates, let us do our bit to build on the success achieved in the past two years by ensuring that both the membership graph and numbers of Branches continues to grow.

That said... **welcome aboard, Torfaen Branch**, located close to Pontypool, which commissioned on 28 January as a part of No 7 Area. Someone has whispered in my ear that there is a strong probability of another new Branch likely to commission just along the road at Caerphilly. Us Welsh may have slipped up against Ireland, but we are incredibly good at creating new RNA Branches! BZ to S/M Gordon Williams and his team.

If the Welsh can do it, so can the English, Irish (Nth & Sth) and the Scottish, along with those overseas.

**Membership news:** In December I reported that our Membership had reached just over 15,900, having dropped to just over 9,900 as at 31 December 2020. The continuing good news is that we are now at 16,400+ Wow! What a success!

That's it for now, Shipmates. To all serving Shipmates, including reservists, and your families keep safe. For those at sea, a safe return.

*Yours aye*

*Keith Ridley*

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

## 1. ★ 2023 RNA Conference - Liverpool

The 2023 RNA AGM/Conference will be held over the weekend 26-28 May 2023 in Liverpool – somewhat earlier than is the normal custom.

That's because the Battle of the Atlantic 80th (BoA80) commemorations are taking place that weekend, and shipmates will be included as they wish – the RNA is embedded in Naval Regional Commander-led plans.

Area 10 are also putting together a golf programme on the Friday, plus fabulous Adelphi Hotel-based entertainment on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. The RNA AGM takes place at the Adelphi during Saturday morning, with a black-tie Gala Dinner at the same venue in the evening.

Liverpool will be busy, with a civic reception on the Friday night, a military village at the Pier Head with visiting naval vessels alongside, and a Royal Marines Band concert on the Saturday (see His Majesty's Royal Marines Band in Concert – <https://liverpoolphil.com/whats-on/all-shows/his-majestys-royal-marines-band-in-concert/5543> - for bookings). There will also be a drumhead parade and service on the Sunday morning, with a few of our BOA veterans taking the salute.

Finally, there is still ringfenced accommodation for shipmates; just mention RNA when you book – Adelphi (3-star hotel hosting our Conference – 0151 709 7200); Novotel (0.5km away, for those preferring a little 4-star luxury – 0151 702 5100). Costs and booking forms are also available at the end of this Semaphore Circular, or in previous editions at <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/2022>.

**Do please book as soon as possible before rooms are withdrawn, and come and join in the fun...**

## 2. ★ Standards for Conference Weekend in Liverpool

We are especially keen for as many Branches and Areas to bring along their Standards for the ceremonial aspects of the Conference weekend in Liverpool this year. Please let Bob Coburn and Mike Smyth know of your intentions on [projects@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:projects@royalnavalassoc.com).

## 3. ★ News from the Membership Support Division!

This month's notices, in no particular order (with one or two repeats as time is flying by)...

- It is now less than four months until the RNA Annual Conference weekend in Liverpool, which this year is on Friday 26 May to Sunday 28 May. Sara is urging Shipmates that they should book their rooms as soon as possible at the Novotel and the Adelphi – don't forget that the city is also marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic that weekend and Liverpool is expected to be very busy.
- And while we are on the subject of Liverpool hotels, please highlight or flag up any dietary requirements you may have to the Adelphi or Novotel as early as possible.

- This year's Conference raffle tickets are now on sale from Central Office. Tickets have been sent out to Branch Secretaries for sale locally, but if individuals and members of the HQ Roll would like to purchase tickets directly, please email Sara in Central Office

on [sara@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sara@royalnavalassoc.com) or call 023 9272 3747. The draw will

take place during the AGM in Liverpool on Saturday 27 May and, as always, all proceeds will go towards the Central Charities Fund which supports the RNA with its charitable endeavours.



#### 4. ★ Items for a Veterans Lounge

We have received a call for assistance from a shipmate who now works in HM Prison Service:

“Hi, my name is Eddie Tarry and I served in the Royal Navy from 1975 until 1980, when I joined the Prison Service, and I have worked for them since then. I am the Community Engagement Manager, and in the past few months have been working on a project inside the prison.

This project involves refurbishing a room which we call the ‘Veterans Lounge’, a quiet space for staff and prisoners who have served in the three Services.

I have had a roll of honour board made for each Service and photographs put on the walls.

I was hoping that you may have some photographs, flags or cap tallies which you could donate that we may use.

The address to send any items would be to me at :

Eddie Tarry  
Community Engagement Manager  
HMP & YOI Styal  
Styal Road  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 4HR

Over to you, shipmates!

#### 5. ★ Discount at Ship Anson and Visits to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

At the time of writing, the 10 per cent discount for RNA members negotiated at the Ship Anson is temporarily unavailable, as the historic pub on The Hard, in Portsmouth, suffered a serious fire in early January. Fortunately no one was injured, but the pub was damaged and is temporarily closed.

Shipmates should be aware, though, that there are still discounted prices available for RNA members when visiting the historic dockyard in Portsmouth.

Annual Ultimate Explorer ticket offer: Save 30 per cent off the annual Ultimate Explorer tickets at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Tickets are valid for the year allowing you to return again and again. The Ultimate Explorer tickets give you access to: • The Mary Rose • HMS Victory • HMS Warrior • HMS Alliance at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum • Harbour Tour • Plus more/

Offer is valid on one family Ultimate Explorer ticket or up to four adult, senior or child Ultimate Explorer Tickets.

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

## 6. ★ Help for Households with Cost of Living

With the cost of living increasing daily the government has published information that may help you should you need it.

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

Use this link – [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#) – to access the website.

If you live in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland there may be additional or alternative devolved policies and help available. Use the same link as above but then scroll to the bottom of the page to access the website that is relevant to where you live.



## 7. ★ Monday Evening Fireside Chats

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

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

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 13 Feb	Mike Milne	Battle of the Atlantic
Monday 20 Feb (tbc)	Capt Katharine Armstrong RN	Head of Naval Intelligence Branch
Monday 27 Feb	Stuart Wright	White Ensign Association
Monday 6 Mar (tbc)	WO1 Jim Wright RM	WORN – Naval Update
Monday 13 Mar (tbc)	Kevin Casey	Diving Museum No2 Battery Stokes Bay
Monday 20 Mar (tbc)	Cdr Tom Sharpe	HMS Endurance near loss
Monday 27 Mar (tbc)	Cdr Bryan McCavour	RN Battlestaff Update
Date tbc	Peter Down	The action at Limbang in Sarawak, North Borneo

\* Lecture subjects may change at short notice.

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

## 8. ★ Ray Barraclough – Obituary

Born in Southampton on 26 September 1945, just after the end of World War 2, Raymond John Barraclough enlisted in the Royal Navy on 11 September 1962, two weeks before his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, as a Junior Electrical Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class.



Following his initial training at HMS Raleigh, Ray found his niche working with the electrics on front-line aircraft, mainly the Sea Vixen and ultimately the famous Phantom. With the gradual demise of the aircraft carrier, his sea time was limited, but he did see most of the world on HMS Centaur and HMS Ark Royal. Ray worked his way through the ranks, and at the early age of 34 became a Warrant Officer, having to leave his precious aircraft behind with each promotion, working in Ground Radio, Security, Transport and even taking on the role of Divisional Officer of a Juniors Division. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in March 1990.

He played an important part in the Falklands War and also the first and second Gulf Wars as Casualty Reporting Officer working from Portland Naval Base. He found it hard remaining in the UK when

he felt he should be on the front line with his comrades but, as always, he put 110 per cent into his assignment.

Many he trained were rewarded in the Honours Lists but Ray neither sought nor received any such accolade, save for his prestigious Commander-in-Chief's Commendation, awarded to him by Admiral Sir Jock Slater in recognition of his "significant personal contribution throughout Operation Granby" [the 1991 Gulf War].

Ray finished his time again at Portland, this time as Manpower Control Officer, in September 1995 having served 33 years, with his Certificate of Discharge showing his Character on Discharge as 'Exemplary'.

He officially joined the Bridport Branch of the Royal Naval Association in January 1980 and held most positions within the Branch, save that of Chairman which he had to decline due to his Naval commitments during the Falklands War.

As Social Secretary he organised many events, arranged trips to St Vaast (Bridport's French twin town), and also promoted the Barton Hall Annual Area 4 Reunion (which he helped to organise for 12 years from 1988 until 2000). In recognition of so many years' contribution, he was awarded Life Membership of the Branch.

Having attended many Area 4 Meetings as the Bridport Delegate, he was elected as Area 4 Treasurer in 1988, a position which he retained for 34 years until his untimely death.

In the same year, following an initiative by Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidy supported by Capt Christopher Craig to promote serving RN onto the National Council, he was appointed the National Treasurer, serving 30 years in post and subsequently being honoured and made a Life Vice President of the Association.

Ray passed away peacefully at home on 4 December 2022 at the age of 77.

## 9. ★ Fisgard veterans visit HMS Sultan museums

A group of Royal Navy veterans paid a visit to the Marine Engineering Museum and Air Museum at HMS Sultan.

The group of eight ex-Service personnel (shown right in a picture taken by RN photographer PO Phot Pepe Hogan) were all part of the Fisgard Association, and who all joined the Royal Navy at HMS Fisgard as Artificer Apprentices between 1954 and 1964. After a year's training at HMS Fisgard, trainees were offered the choice of training to become an Artificer ('Tiffy') in one of five categories, namely Engineering, Ordnance, Electrical, Air and Shipwright.



HMS Fisgard ceased training in 1983 and the Fisgard Squadron was set up to accommodate the Artificers at HMS Raleigh. Then, when the Fisgard Museum closed in 2004, its collection of artefacts and memorabilia moved to HMS Sultan where the final Artificer training class had passed out in 2010.

Among the group of visitors was John Rochester, who served for 24 years in the RN, having joined at the age of 15. John said: "I never even knew this museum existed, but it's a seriously great place to visit." Ken Ridley agreed. He had joined up with John, serving a total of 37 years in the Royal Navy. Ken said: "This is all bringing back such great memories, and I'm really looking forward to seeing the records they hold, too."

Colin Robertson travelled from East Sussex to visit the museum with the group, and was also visiting for the first time. Colin said: "This is really fascinating. Every time I go round, I see something else that interests me or stirs some memories. My training as an artificer gave me an excellent grounding for the rest of my career."

The Fisgard Association offers all artificers a great opportunity to revisit the old times and share stories. If you are an ex-tiff and not a member of the Fisgard Association, then please visit [www.thefisgardassociation.org](http://www.thefisgardassociation.org)

Details of the Marine Engineering Museum can also be found on the website <http://marine-engineering-museum.org.uk/index.html>

## 10. ★ Northumbria University Northern Hub – Tri-Service Food Poverty Survey

Lynda Pearson, our Welfare and Wellbeing Programme Manager, invites shipmates to read the article below received from Prof Matthew Kiernan, who is a former Royal Navy officer:

"Northumbria University's Northern Hub for Veterans and Military Families Research is carrying out research on food insecurity and financial hardship within the veterans and families community in the UK. There is currently very little research or understanding of the risk of financial hardship, food insecurity and how that is impacted by Service-attributable injury or illness after retirement within our community.

We will be asking you to participate in a survey so that we can better understand the current situation. All members of the RNA will be asked to take part. The survey will be online, which means that you will receive an email with a link to take part. We understand that for some this might not be ideal, but the cost of paper-based surveys has made it impossible for us to send out surveys in this project. The survey will take five to ten minutes to complete and the questions will cover your food situation over the last 30 days as well as some questions on disability and Service-attributable injuries. If you have received an Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payment or are in receipt of Armed Forces Compensation Scheme regular income, we are very keen to understand that more and will ask you, if possible, to provide the details of your award in the survey. In particular we would ask for the Table Number, Item Number and Level Number given in your award letter.

In light of the current living crisis, the government and the Armed Forces sector are very keen to better understand the current situation that veterans and their families face, and we would be very grateful if you would consider taking part in this survey.

Please email [lynda@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:lynda@royalnavalassoc.com) if you would be interested in taking part.

Professor Matthew Kiernan  
PhD, RN(MH), RGN, FHEA  
Professor: Mental Health and Veteran Studies  
Lieutenant Commander RN(Retd)  
Director Northern Hub for Veteran and Military Families Research  
Chair Independent Advisory Panel British Army Infantry Training Centre and School of Infantry.”

## 11. ★ RN/RM Personnel who served at Camp LeJeune between 1953 and 1987

Calling on RN and RM Personnel and their families who were stationed at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina, USA. Any Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel and veterans who served at Camp LeJeune in the United States between 1953 and 1987 should see the press release from Irwin Mitchell in the link below. It contains very important information which you might not otherwise get to hear about.

See <https://lnkd.in/e5znhhWg>

## 12. ★ RNA No 6 Area Social and AGM/Meeting

On Friday 17 February 2023, No 6 Area is putting together an evening's entertainment in the company of the singing Ex-Gunnery Instructor, shipmate and entertainer, Shep Woolley, at Welwyn Garden City RNA Club, Black Fan Road (off Mundells), Hertfordshire, AL7 1HA from 6.30pm.

Tickets £10 to include buffet refreshment. All RNA members and friends of the RNA are invited.

On the following morning, Saturday 18 February, No 6 Area will conduct its Annual General Meeting at the same location from 10.30am followed by the No 6 Area Meeting and light refreshment, to which RNA Branch observers are also invited to attend as well as Branch delegates.

We can advise of hotel accommodation near to Welwyn Garden City RNA Club for those travellers that prefer an overnight stop on Friday evening, and then to join us on the Saturday morning.

So get booking and please come and join in the camaraderie and fun.

For further information, or to register your interest, contact Geoff Apperley BEM, Hon Secretary RNA No 6 Area, at [geoff.apperley@googlemail.com](mailto:geoff.apperley@googlemail.com) or telephone 07969 101113.

We are looking forward to the pleasure of your company for the weekend.

### 13. ★ HMS Raleigh Mentors

On Thursday 12 January three Veteran Mentors were invited to the Week Four MPARs a fireside chat with the Gould Division 22/26 Port Class at HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall.

In the picture are (left to right) S/M Billy James, S/M Susan Goldfinch and S/M Terry Whitty.

A very enjoyable and entertaining chat with the recruits was had by the Mentors, a few seadits and lots of words of wisdom about the coming weeks of Phase One training. First time for our new Sweatshirts to be on parade for the Raleigh staff and recruits, too...



### 14. ★ First steel cut for next HMS Active

The first steel has been cut on the next HMS Active – and veterans from the last ship to bear the name were invited to watch work begin on the second of the Type 31s. Defence Minister Alex Chalk and Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Martin Connell travelled to Rosyth to join shipwrights in starting the cutters which sliced through steel plates for the 5,700-tonne Inspiration-class ship.

No veterans from the wartime Active – a submarine that left service in 1946 – could make the ceremony, but five men who served in the Type 21 frigate in the Falklands Conflict were invited along. The visitors presented a plaque featuring the Type 21 ‘meeting’ her successor, which will be displayed on board the new ship. It was commissioned from Plymouth-based artist Melanie Wright by former LRO Mark ‘Joe’ Davis.

“As soon as we heard that a new ship was to be named Active, we thought it would be great to be involved,” said Joe, from Plymouth. “It’s not very often that a ship you served on is given to a future ship in your lifetime. We are so proud that Active’s name lives on and hope that her crew will add to the history. And we cannot wait to one day spend a day at sea on her.”

Commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1977, the Type 21 frigate served extensively around the globe during her 17 years in service but is probably best remembered for her deeds in the Falklands, when she provided cover for the San Carlos landings and bombarded Argentine positions in the mountains around Stanley in the final British push to the capital.

For the full story, see <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2023/january/24/20220124-going-active-work-starts-on-royal-navys-second-type-31-frigate>

## 15. ★ Campaign to save HMS Bronington

A campaign to save the 'King's ship', HMS Bronington, has been boosted with the trust hoping to restore the minesweeper being granted charitable status, opening up a path to new sources of funding, grants and support.

The HMS Bronington Preservation Trust – since December, registered charity No 1201325 – is hoping to replicate the success of restoring D-Day landing craft tank LCT7074, which was salvaged, restored and now sits in a prominent position at the D-Day Museum on Southsea seafront.

The Bronington team acted last year as the state of the Ton-class wooden-hulled ship continued to deteriorate. She has been partially submerged in a basin at Birkenhead since 2016, but crowdfunding and local veterans raised enough money to conduct a comprehensive dive survey – which determined Bronington can be saved – and support the application for charitable status.

It is hoped Bronington can be refloated this year – the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ship's launch, and her former Commanding Officer's coronation year – then moved to a slipway where conservation can begin. Options after that include making her a museum ship, putting her on static display or even returning her to working order.

Lt Wales took command of the minesweeper in 1976, and remained in charge for ten months. He is said to have "many fond memories" of his time in Bronington.

The charity is now pressing on with fundraising – see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-restore-hms-bronington> – with any money donated going to Forces charities if the restoration attempt ultimately fails.

## 16. ★ Specialist Interest Groups – Contact details

Shipmates will be interested to know how popular and successful the Specialist Interest Groups has become. There has been huge interest from Shipmates across the UK and to kick start our F40 weekend a selection of SIG's created a fun-filled day of activities on Friday 17 June, our Reunion day.

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

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

**Camping and Caravanning** – Ron Shilton: [rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com](mailto:rna.camping.caravan.motorhome.club@gmail.com)

**Classic Cars** – Mike Burnham: [hon.secretary@rnarayleigh.org](mailto:hon.secretary@rnarayleigh.org)

**Cricket** – Mark Smith : [Markmiff1962@gmail.com](mailto:Markmiff1962@gmail.com)

**Cycling** – Craig Fulton: [craig@govguide.co.uk](mailto:craig@govguide.co.uk)

**Decorative Ropework** – Bob Jones: [oldsalt69@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oldsalt69@hotmail.co.uk)

**Divers** – Bill Lawless: [billylawless40@yahoo.com](mailto:billylawless40@yahoo.com)

**Fishing** – Gus Honeywood/Selwyn Davies/John Stephenson: [rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com](mailto:rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com)

**Golf** – Colin Dinsdale: [rna.golfers@gmail.com](mailto:rna.golfers@gmail.com)

**Riders** – Dave Ives: [secnariders@gmail.com](mailto:secnariders@gmail.com)

**Model Makers** – Gary Daisley: [RNA.Modelmakers@gmail.com](mailto:RNA.Modelmakers@gmail.com)

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

## 17. RNA National Conference 2024 – Cardiff

Organisers of the 2024 RNA National Conference, due to be held in Cardiff, are aware that the date initially proposed would mean the event would take place on the weekend of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, so a number of officers, including the National President, would be otherwise engaged.

Following discussions and a number of phone calls, it was proposed that the Conference should be moved to the weekend of 14-16 June 2024, and organisers were able to do this with no loss of deposit as the venue had not yet been booked.

As preparations are still in the very early stages, it is anticipated any disruption to plans should be minimal.

## 18. New medal for British nuclear test veterans

More than 20,000 people are thought to be eligible for a new medal honouring the “significant contribution” of the nation’s nuclear test veterans.

Almost 30,000 members of the UK Armed Forces – including a significant number of Royal Navy personnel – took part in the military nuclear test programme of the 1950s and 1960s.

The Nuclear Test Medal will be a commemorative medal that can be worn by recipients, and it can be awarded posthumously. Veterans, their families or next of kin will need to apply for the medal, which is free of charge. The Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA) will release more details on eligibility and how to apply in the near future.

To further recognise the contribution of veterans of Britain’s nuclear tests, the government is investing £450,000 into projects which will commemorate and build further understanding of the experiences of veterans who were deployed to Australia and the Pacific.

As part of that funding, the Office for Veterans’ Affairs is launching an oral history project to chronicle the voices and experiences of those who supported the UK’s effort to develop a nuclear deterrent.

Due to start in April 2023, the project will run for two years, giving nuclear test veterans the opportunity to be interviewed, and contribute to an accessible digital archive of testimonies about their time working on the tests.

For more information on the OVA, see their website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-veterans-affairs>



*A mushroom cloud from British nuclear test in the 1950s. Picture from the Imperial War Museum collection, © IWM TR 65682B*

## 19. 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday – BZs and Congratulations – S/M John Morris



On 11 December 2022 S/M John Morris celebrated his 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday.

John has been a long and valued member of the Corby Branch. He served during World War 2 on board World War 1 veteran W-class destroyer HMS Walker on Arctic Convoys, for which John was awarded the Arctic Star. He was also awarded the Ushakov Medal, which he received from the Russian Embassy in London.

John is always proud to wear the white beret that marks him out as a participant in the Arctic Convoys, which Winston Churchill described as “the worst journeys in the world”.

Although travel is somewhat limited, visitors to John are always offered a tot...

Pictured with John is the Corby Branch Chairman and Treasurer.

### \*\*\*\*\* Members Offers \*\*\*\*\*

## Pusser's...

Calling all ‘Rum Rats’ ...

Shipmates may wish to be reminded that ‘Pusser’ s’ is now available from the online ‘Navy Shop’ , with all profits from Rum going back to the charity.

Please follow the link <https://royalnavyshop.co.uk/collections/rum>

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



## Forces Cars Direct

Veteran-owned Forces Cars Direct is celebrating 20 years of service to the military community and we're delighted to welcome them to the Royal Naval Association and our members in an exclusive partnership.

Offering unique new car discounts with savings up to 35 per cent on a full range of makes and models, you can be sure to find the right car for you! Forces Cars Direct is endorsed with 5-star TrustPilot ratings from its customers, was named Veteran Business of the Year in the English Veterans Awards, and has support from the Chairman of the Defence Select Committee, so you not only save thousands, but can be assured of the highest level of service too.



With Forces Cars Direct you will also benefit from:

- UK nationwide, Covid-safe delivery
- Cash purchase and full finance options available
- Leasing service available
- All part exchange vehicles welcome
- Serving and veterans
- 

Find out more about the service and savings available at <https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna> where you can browse and make your enquiry.

## Hayes Travel - Foreign Exchange Rates

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



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

## RNA Slops – RLP Embroidery

**WWW.RNASLOPS.CLOTHING**

*The RNA Officially Licensed supplier of embroidered garments.*

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

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

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



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

## RNA Longcast

<b>2023</b>	
11 Feb	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting (Including AGM) at Harwich
17 Feb	CONA (Conference of Naval Associations) Mtg – RMC Portsmouth
26 Feb	Area 3 AGM/Quarterly Meeting – RNA Waterlooville (Committee 24 Feb)
03 Mar	National Council Meeting - Portsmouth
03 to 04 Feb	Welfare / Wellbeing Workshop – Royal Maritime Club Portsmouth
06 May	<b>His Majesty King Charles III Coronation</b>
06 May	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting – Cromer
11 to 14 May	Londonderry Branch will be Commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic
20 May	Area 4 Quarterly Meeting – Bodmin Branch
26 to 28 May	RNA Conference - Liverpool
26 to 28 May	Battle of the Atlantic 80 Commemorations - Liverpool
16 Jun	Open Day – Central Office
24 Jun	National Armed Forces Day – Falmouth
14 Jul	Open Day – Central Office
05 Aug	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting (Committee 03 Aug)
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting – venue TBD
11 Aug	Open Day – Central Office
10 Sep	Naval Associations / RNA Biennial Parade - Whitehall
16 Sep	Area 4 Quarterly Meeting – Frome Branch
29 Sep	Open Day – Central Office
28 Oct	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting – Harwich
18 Nov	Area 3 Quarterly Meeting (Committee 16 Nov)
<b>2024</b>	
21Jan	Area 4 AGM – Plymouth Branch
May (DTBD)	National Standard Bearers Competition

# D'ye hear there' ...

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

*This Month Featuring.....*

[RNA Torbay](#)

[RNA No 12 Area \(Ireland\)](#)

[RNA St Neots](#)

[Lincoln RNA Club](#)

[RNA Bracknell](#)

[RNA Colchester](#)

[RNA Plymouth](#)

[RNA Portsea](#)

[RNA South Bristol](#)

[RNA Rosyth and West Fife](#)

## RNA Torbay Branch

Despite what seems like an ever-growing Sick Bay list, RNA Torbay Branch safely navigated a hectic final week in January.

Their well-attended AGM acknowledged the efforts and outcomes of the Committee and other Shipmates that helped them recover from the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.



Although the branch did not run as many fundraising events as in previous years it was still able to make sizeable donations to Central Office, the RNBT and Paignton Royal British Legion.

Members were saddened to learn that long-standing Patron Capt Chris Wreford-Brown RN was relinquishing his role, so the search begins for a worthy successor. However, spirits were lifted (in more ways than one!) a few days later when the Branch enjoyed a very successful

Festive Lunch at the Livermead House Hotel in Torquay.

More than 40 people attended, and Shipmates were joined by local MP, Kevin Foster, and his wife Hazel, Torbay Council Armed Forces Member Champion Cllr Nicole Amil and friends from RNA Newton Abbot Branch and Paignton RBL. A plentiful supply of raffle prizes and a Rum Draw rounded off the meal. BZ to Shipmates Anne and Alan Port, who expertly organised the festivities.

Regular branch meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at Raffles 2 Club in Torquay, so if you are visiting the sunny English Riviera feel free to join them.

## RNA No 12 Area (Ireland)

The RNA was well represented – including the Bangor Branch standard – when Henry Morrell Murphy celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with an evening reception at the Clondeboye Lodge Hotel, which was also attended by the serving Royal Navy and various civic dignitaries.

Morrell, as he is known, joined the Royal Navy in 1942 and went on to specialise in submarine detection. On Christmas Day 1944 his ship, Captain-class frigate HMS Capel, was involved in the hunt for a U-boat but the German vessel escaped.



On Boxing Day afternoon the frigate herself came under attack, and sank after being struck by a torpedo. Morrell was blown clear of the ship, and when he came to his senses in the freezing water he managed to clamber onto a raft, and was rescued a couple of hours later.

After recovering overnight at an American hospital near Cherbourg, Morrell – barefoot, with few clothes and nothing to eat – managed to hitch a lift on a sister ship and gradually made his way back to Belfast, shortly after his family had received a telegram and letter saying he was missing in action, presumed dead.

After the initial shock of his unexpected appearance, there was much rejoicing in the Murphy household, though Morrell never forgot the 80 or so shipmates who died in the sinking.

The evening reception at the Clondeboye Lodge Hotel featured much music, including one of Northern Ireland's leading sopranos, Clara Wilson, and Morrell was presented with a framed letter from the First Sea Lord and his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday card from King Charles.

For full details see <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2023/february/03/20230203-royal-navy-personnel-help-veteran-mark-his-centenary>

## RNA St Neots Branch

The branch Christmas lunch, which also included Shipmates from the Royston and Letchworth branches, was greatly appreciated, as can be seen by the smiling faces (*right*).

BZ to S/M Maureen Ridley for organising the event.

St Neots Shipmates have also been contributing generously to the local foodbank.



S/M Maureen Ridley (*centre of picture below*) is seen delivering the branch's contributions – plus a box of chocolates for food bank staff to eat while they are busy putting food boxes together.



It is an amazing and very well organised place, and they are almost like a forgotten army of volunteers.

S/M Maureen said of her visit that it was also quite an emotional experience, as the workforce there, as with other such facilities around the country, are not always recognised for the work that they do.

## Lincoln RNA Club



Lincoln RNA Club, under Club Chairman S/M David Buckingham's 'Charity Initiative', set out to support a local Lincolnshire charity that is a little 'under the radar' and may not get the support the larger and more well-known charities receive.

With this aim, a grand total of £1,410 was raised by the Club Committee, Bar Staff and the Membership throughout 2022. RNA No 9 Area Chairman S/M Keith Crawford presented the cheque at the RNA Club in Coulston Road, Lincoln, to the Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikers.

Lincolnshire Emergency Blood Bikers are volunteers who freely give their time to deliver lifesaving blood and plasma all over the county 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Members of the RN and RNA have and will continue to benefit from this service. One major part of their work is to transport blood to the Lincolnshire/ Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance on a nightly basis, and at other times as required.

This donation will help pay for fuel and maintenance needed to keep the bikes on the road and save lives in Lincolnshire. The RNA Club is pleased to be able to support this local charity in these challenging times when charity donations are falling in this area as well as nationwide.

## RNA Bracknell Branch

Since the last Branch report in August 2022, Bracknell shipmates have been kept busy with a wide variety of activities.

Branch meetings continue to be well-supported and have included some enjoyable talks on a wide range of subjects such as 'How Rio Became a French Defeat' and 'The Identity of Jack the Ripper Revealed', there has been an excellent Quiz, many "home-spun" Dits and finally, to round off the year, our usual Christmas Buffet and Annual Skittles Competition for the Norman Webber Silver Trophy.



Due to popular demand and the restrictions of one 17-seater minibus, a second visit was made to Chatham Historic Dockyard on 14 October. A dozen Shipmates had a most enjoyable day out, with the usual (Branch) fine weather – there always seems to be more to see and the time passed far too quickly.



We had a most successful Trafalgar Night Buffet at Binfield Club, with around 40 attendees. The evening included an excellent raffle which raised £145.

The Branch held three days of charity collections during December at a local branch of Tesco, raising £1,540.17, with £800 of this already donated to relevant charities, including the Maidenhead Sea Cadets.

Our Branch Standard was paraded at the local Remembrance Day Parade and Service, while four other Shipmates represented the Branch at the Bracknell Town Remembrance Service and Parade; Branch wreaths were laid at both locations.

Since August the Branch has gained three new Full Members (including two more South Atlantic Medal holders), making the Branch now 50 Shipmates strong.

At the January Annual General Meeting, former Branch Chairman S/M Mike Daley was unanimously elected as Branch President, with S/M Ron Nicholas elected as Vice Chairman.



Looking forward to 2023 it is proposed to make outings to the Poppy Factory at Richmond, Brooklands Museum at Weybridge, Bletchley Park near Milton Keynes and a Central Office Open Day.



The Romans founded Camulodunum in AD43 when they landed in Britain. Six years later, they created a permanent settlement for Army veterans here, and classified it as a Colonia, the Roman equivalent of modern-day city status.

Celtic queen Boudica objected to the Roman occupation of her territory and eventually took over and destroyed large parts of the city. It still, however, proudly boasts of being 'Britain's First City'.

As part of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee celebrations last year, Colchester's status as a city was reinstated and, at a ceremony on 23 November, the Letters Patent – one of the last documents signed by the late Queen – were presented to the Mayor, Cllr Tim Young. The ceremony was originally due to take place on 12 September, but had to be postponed.

Three reasons were cited by the government for the award – the history of Colchester; its continuing military background as a Garrison Town for the past 165 years; and its cultural infrastructure, referring particularly to the award of the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2021 to the Firstsite Gallery.

RNA Colchester Branch was honoured to be invited to attend the ceremony, for which more than 200 people assembled in the Moot Hall to witness the presentation of the Letters Patent by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst. Lord Lt Tolhurst commented on the "modern, vibrant and multi-faceted" nature of the city and drew attention to its military heritage.



Current Garrison Commander Lt Col Ed Rankin, symbol of that continuing heritage and a supporter of the campaign, said there was a "real sense of shared pride" at Colchester's newly-revived city status. That sentiment was repeated by several speakers on behalf of the Council, notably its leader Cllr David King, and Colchester's High Steward, Sir Bob Russell, who has been a leading campaigner for city status for many years.

The campaign began in earnest when, as part of the Queen's Ruby Jubilee in 1992, a competition was opened for towns in England to apply for city status. Colchester was one of 20 to enter. Further competitions were launched in 2000 as part of the Millennium celebrations and in 2002 for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Colchester voted in 2009 to increase its efforts to achieve the award and Destination Colchester, which had been founded to promote and improve the town, was brought onside to help the movement. Thirty years of work has now been rewarded.

The presentation ceremony was immediately followed by a resolution, unsurprisingly unanimously passed, that changed the name of Colchester Borough Council to Colchester City Council.

## RNA Plymouth Branch

With the presentation of a bottle of Pusser's Deptford Dockyard Reserve Rum by the Branch President, Brig Mike Tanner RM (*pictured right*), Plymouth Branch bid goodbye and 'bon voyage' to their Branch Padre Martin Kirkbride.

Having ceased ministering in the Guzz area, Martin has moved to a different home port. However, he will not be giving up his RNA membership as he has now taken over the role of No 4 Area RNA Padre.

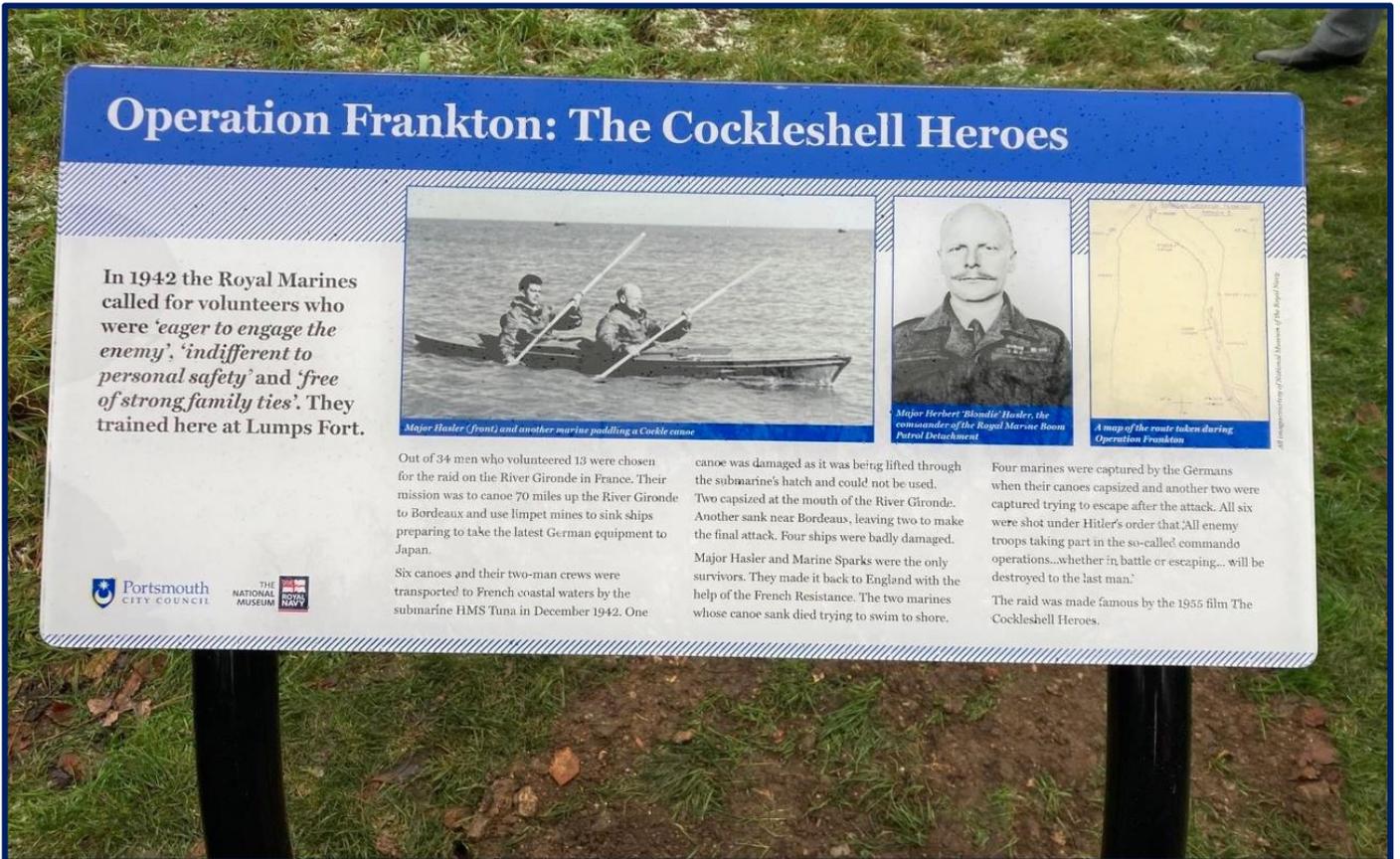
He leaves many oppos within the Branch, and his neverending supply of jokes and funnies will be missed.

The Branch were graced with the presence of their Patron, the Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Plymouth, Cllr Sue Dann accompanied by her Consort and Husband Aldm Chris Mabern, at the Branch's 2022 Dinner Dance (*pictured below*).

Also present was the Branch President and Naval Base Commander, Brig Tanner, accompanied by his wife Helen, along with the Naval Base Warrant Officer and WO & SRs Mess President, WO1 Steve Harvey and Miss Marie Quinn.

About 180 guests, including members of the Bodmin Branch of the RNA, the Royal Marines Association and RAMC, gathered to enjoy the evening.





December was a quiet month in terms of events for Portsea Branch, with only two events attended compared to the seven in November.

The first featured a cold and frosty morning at Eastney to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Operation Frankton, otherwise known as the Cockleshell Heroes, which took place in December 1942.

Op Frankton saw ten Royal Marines of the RM Boom Patrol Detachment (forerunners of the Special Boat Service) leave submarine HMS Tuna off the coast of Western France with the aim of paddling their flimsy kayaks 70 miles up the Gironde River to Bordeaux, where they would sink ships preparing to transport German equipment to Japan.

Only two kayaks, or 'cockles', made it to the port, where the four commandoes managed to damage six ships. Just two men made it back to the UK – unit Commanding Officer Maj 'Blondie' Hasler and Mne Bill Sparks. Two of the other eight died of hypothermia after their kayak capsized, while the remaining six were captured and swiftly executed under Hitler's Commando Order.

The commemoration event was attended by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and Brig Sean Brady RM.

Then on Saturday 17 December, after the Branch monthly meeting at the Royal Maritime Hotel, Portsea members were joined by shipmates from the Portsmouth Branch for a Chrimbo Lunch.

## RNA South Bristol Branch

The South Bristol Branch held its Annual Candlelit Carol Service in the Lord Mayor's Chapel (St Marks) located on College Green, Bristol, on 9 December 2022.

The principal guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol and Honorary Captain RNR Mrs Peaches Golding, the Lord Mayor of Bristol Cllr Paula O'Rourke, Naval Regional Commander Brig Jock Fraser RM and the Commanding Officer of HMS Flying Fox, Lt Cdr Samantha Imrie RNR.



Also in attendance was Chairman Designate of RNA Abbey Wood Branch (which is yet to be commissioned) Rob Mainwaring and wife.

Other local maritime organisations were also invited to the Carol Service, and the Branch Standard was paraded along with those of the Fleet Air Arm Association, Merchant Navy Association and Royal Corps of Transport Association (see *image above*).

During the Carol Service, the candle lights within the Chapel were supplemented by blue flashing 'disco lights' from the road outside, courtesy of Avon and Somerset Fire and Rescue, who were attending an incident at an adjacent pizzeria.

Mince pies and hot beverages were provided on completion of the Carol Service.

## RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch

With the kind permission of Mr Paul Smyth, MOD Caledonia Head of Establishment, and Lt Col Peter Kemp RM, Wardroom Mess President, RNA Rosyth and West Fife Branch held our annual Carol Service in the Wardroom of MOD Caledonia on 6 December 2022.

The service was conducted by the Revd Colin Alston, Chaplain to St John's Parish Church, Inverkeithing. Colin has given his services to our Branch for a number of years, performing the role of Branch Chaplain, conducting our Remembrance Services and Carol Services year after year.

Sadly, this was Colin's final service before his retirement, and following his Christmas Message to the assembled audience – one which proved to be very educational and certainly gave tangible meaning to the story behind Advent – our Branch Chairman, Richard Wardrope, presented Colin with a pair of crystal whisky glasses in appreciation for his services to the Branch.



Special guests in attendance were Mrs Margaret Dean, former Lord Lieutenant of Fife, Capt Tom Sunter, former Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Fife and former Captain of HMS Cochrane, shipmates Stephen Elliot, Scottish Area Chairman, and Karen Elliot, who is the current Scottish Area Secretary.

The turnout was most encouraging with more than 60 very vocal choristers who enthusiastically heralded the arrival of the festive season. Accompaniment for the carol singing was provided by pianist Cpl Chloe Massie of the Royal Marines Band Scotland – a big thank you to her for giving her time and services.



Following prayers, the Reading of the four lessons and carols and the address, the congregation were entertained by a medley of popular Christmas songs by our own female choir made up of Branch Members and Members' Wives, who certainly gave a resounding festive ring to the evening.

A highlight of the evening was a bucket collection made in support of our local Rosyth Food Bank, which raised the grand sum of £227.48 for this

most worthy cause. S/M Jim Stewart presented the proceeds to the Manager of EATS Rosyth on the afternoon following the Service.

The establishment catering organisation, Aramark, generously provided hot mince pies which went down a treat with everyone, and our after-service wash-up with refreshing festive spirits, beer and wine rounded off a thoroughly entertaining and enjoyable end to what has been a very rewarding year for all of our members.

## **CROSSING THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived**

[Ken Perryman](#)  
[Jim Stewart](#)  
[Jack Harris](#)

### **Ken Perryman - Newport Branch**

It is with great sadness that Newport City Branch announces that S/M Ken Perryman crossed the bar on Christmas Eve 2022.



Ken was a hugely popular member of the branch, a regular at the monthly meetings, and great company when he participated in the many group activities. He was always proud to take part in the Remembrance Day parade as well as many other special occasions.

He particularly loved selling poppies in Sainsbury's every year, meeting the public and swapping stories with so many people who had a personal connection with the military.

Ken began his Naval career in 1959, joining St Vincent as a 15-year-old Junior Seaman, and over the years he amused family and friends with his colourful accounts of his time on the various ships in which he served.

A favourite story was when, as ship's writer in HMS Messina, he mistyped the Daily Orders, advising the gunnery team to ensure they clear their bowels instead of their barrels.

His happiest times were in HMS Eastbourne (1961-62) and HMS Carysfort (1966–69), and his proudest time was on the Royal Yacht Britannia (1969–70).

After returning to Civvy Street Ken went to work in Llanwern Steelworks in Newport, South Wales, and he and Lynda raised their three boys, Paul, Barry and Leigh, in Bettws, Malpas.

They are all married now with children of their own.

Sadly Covid took its toll on Ken in February 2020 and he never recovered.

So stand easy, Shipmate. Your duty is done. You'll be sadly missed.

### Jim Stewart – Rhondda Branch

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 saw Rhondda Branch say a final farewell to their Welfare Officer, Shipmate Jim Stewart.

S/M Jim crossed the bar on 19 December 2022 after a short stay in hospital.

Jim had been unwell for some time, but still carried out his duties as Welfare officer to the best of his abilities.

All through the pandemic he would phone those members of the branch he knew were unwell or had family members who were unwell, only letting on just how serious his own condition was to a trusted few.

He was the much-loved husband of Christine and father of Tracey and Lindsey, and will be missed greatly.



His love of the bagpipes stemmed from his childhood when his dad was a Sergeant Major in the Black Watch, hence the lone piper who was there to see Jim on his final journey (*pictured left*).

During Jim's final journey he was escorted by standards from Rhondda and Merthyr Tydfil branches, the Royal British Legion and No 7 Area.

Rest in Peace Shipmate.

## Jack Harris – Chatham Branch

S/M Jack Harris, a Life Member of Chatham Branch, has died at the age of 98.

So many Shipmates will remember Jack from the numerous AGMs, Area Meetings, Branch Meetings and parades that he attended throughout the years.

Jack served as Chatham Branch President and Chairman, and was Parade Marshall at the massively-attended Chatham AGM 2003.

He initially served in the Army for the East Kent Buffs 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, serving in Burma, and he also played a major role organising the Guard at the Tehran Conference in 1943 in the presence of Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin. From 1947 to 1957 served with the Royal Artillery, then in 1964 he joined the RNR – HMS Wildfire in Chatham (Collingwood Block Brompton Barracks) where he rose to the rank of Fleet CPO, serving 15 years.



He joined the RNA in the summer of 1982 and became a life member in 1994. Jack was a very well-respected man inside and outside the RNA, and a great friend to many.

Thank you, Jack Harris BEM.

## RNA Members Benefits

### UK Holiday Group /Just for Groups

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

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

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

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

### Legal Services



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

## Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service  
[asec@arno.org.uk](mailto:asec@arno.org.uk) or 0207 4025231



*Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you. 0844 264 2122*

[conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk](mailto:conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk)



- Discounts on a large range of new cars  
<https://www.forcescarsdirect.com/rna>

## Shortcast

### The 'Shortcast' Editor's Note

**Please forward any reunions for 2023/2024 to [mike@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:mike@royalnavalassoc.com) and I will publish them here**

	Please check go to link for RN Shipmates.co.uk for a comprehensive list of further reunions. <a href="http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk">www.rnshipmates.co.uk</a>
<b>2023</b>	
17 February	RNA No 6 Area social evening featuring Shep Woolley, at Welwyn Garden City RNA Club, Black Fan Road, AL7 1HA, from 6.30pm, tickets £10
18 February	RNA No 6 Area AGM at Welwyn Garden City RNA Club from 10.30am, followed by Area meeting.
	<b>Calling all RN Chefs / Cooks / Caterers past and present. You are invited attend the next reunion in Cardiff on 12-14 May 2023.</b> Reunions have taken place reunions in Birmingham, Liverpool and Paisley, which have been well supported. We have a raffle, a book of remembrance for fallen chefs / caterers, an auction in aid of Bravehound, which supports former Servicemen and women and their families, by providing training and dogs to support veterans. We were delighted to have one of the dogs named Paisley, after a previous reunion, and its veteran owner to come and chat with us all. For further details please contact Martin McDonough (ex-Leading Cook) at <a href="mailto:martin.mcdonough@sodexogov.co.uk">martin.mcdonough@sodexogov.co.uk</a>

## Swinging the Lamp – February 2023

*The RNA is grateful to the Author, Lt Cdr Lawrie Phillips TD, RD, RNR for allowing us to publish a selection from the RN Day by Day, and use this excellent book as a source of inspiration. 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
1 <sup>st</sup>	1911	Orion-class dreadnought HMS Thunderer was launched at the Thames Iron Works yard at Poplar, leaving the same slipway as the game-changing HMS Warrior – now on permanent display in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard – had more than 50 years before. Thunderer, a 22,500-ton battleship with a ship's company of over 1,100, played a very minor role in the Battle of Jutland in 1916, and was scrapped in 1926. The battleship was the last major warship built at the Blackwall yard; by 1912, with no new orders, the yard was forced to close.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1943	The historic term 'frigate' was reintroduced by the Royal Navy to describe a warship larger than a corvette but smaller than a destroyer, though the application of the term varies widely between navies. The wartime RN frigate was generally a twin-screw escort vessel, but in time it evolved to describe classes of anti-submarine warships, though the frigate has always been something of an all-rounder, reflecting its forebears in the ocean-going 'great frigates' of the mid-17 <sup>th</sup> Century.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1940	Loss of Halcyon-class minesweeping sloop HMS Sphinx, bombed in a snowstorm 15 miles north of Fraserburgh in the North Sea on 2 February. Around 50 men died in the incident; another ship attempted to take the badly-damaged Sphinx in tow but it capsized in heavy seas on 3 February. The hull later washed ashore and was sold for scrap.
4 <sup>th</sup>	1786	A new church, dedicated to St Ann and replacing an earlier building dating from 1704, was opened in Portsmouth Dockyard. It is the oldest surviving chapel in a Royal Navy yard, having escaped serious damage in the air raids of May 1941.
5 <sup>th</sup>	1836	Schooner HMS Pike wrecked on the Pelican reef off Bare Bush Key, Jamaica, through the negligence of her Commanding Officer. Her Mate was also dismissed the Service for having torn a page from her log, which earned him three months in the Marshalsea Prison, a grim establishment in Southwark which was notorious as a debtors' prison, but also housed men accused of crimes at sea.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1845	HMS Terrible, the largest steam-powered wooden paddle wheel frigate built for the RN to date, was launched at Deptford in London. The four-funnelled, three-masted warship had an interesting career; she ran aground at least twice, served in the Crimean War, helped SS Great Eastern lay the first successful transatlantic telegraph cable in 1866 and acted as a makeshift rudder when she was lashed to a giant dry dock that was towed from Madeira to Bermuda over the course of 39 days in 1869. She was scrapped in 1879.
7 <sup>th</sup>	1941	Western Approaches Command was moved from Plymouth to Liverpool, and it was from Merseyside that the Battle of the Atlantic was co-ordinated for the rest of the war.

8 <sup>th</sup>	1918	Ardent-class destroyer HMS Boxer sank after colliding with merchantman SS St Patrick in poor weather in the English Channel, with the loss of one life. The 265-ton warship was serving as part of the Portsmouth Local Defence Flotilla.
9 <sup>th</sup>	1944	Sloops HMS Kite, Magpie and Starling sank U-boat U-238, while Starling and HMS Wild Goose sank U-734, both in the South West Approaches in a protracted three-hour struggle that saw the warships launch 150 depth charges, one of which destroyed a torpedo just yards from Starling's quarterdeck. Both submarines went down with all hands, a total of more than 100 men. Starling was command ship of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Support Group, and was under the command of one of the great Naval heroes, the charismatic Capt Johnnie Walker, who had a crucial role in the winning of the Battle of the Atlantic.
10 <sup>th</sup>	1944	The ominously-named U-666 was sunk by depth charges dropped from a Fleet Air Arm Fairey Swordfish in the Western Approaches. The Swordfish was part of 842 Naval Air Squadron based on board escort carrier HMS Fencer at the time. The German U-boat, which was lost with all hands, had sunk River-class frigate HMS Itchen the previous September, killing 230 sailors – only three men survived.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1938	Singapore Naval Base was inaugurated by the Civil Lord of the Admiralty Col J J Llewellyn MP and the Governor of the Straits Settlements Sir Shenton Thomas. The new base covered 21 square miles, had the largest dry dock in the world at the time, had sufficient stores of fuel to keep the Royal Navy supplied for six months – and was intended to act as a deterrent to the expanding Japanese empire.
12 <sup>th</sup>	1970	The No 1 Battery of submarine HMS Auriga exploded around 1.30am, leaving just emergency lighting and essential service running. Ten men suffered injuries in the incident, the forward accommodation space was badly damaged and much of Auriga was filled with thick smoke. The boat was engaged in NATO exercises off Gibraltar at the time, and was fortunately on the surface when the explosion occurred. Prompt, calm action by the CO and crew ensured the damaged submarine was able to reach Gibraltar under her own power.
13 <sup>th</sup>	1892	Admiral of the Fleet Sir Provo Wallis died at the age of 100, having served (on paper) for almost 97 years. His father signed Provo up to his first ship as a sailor at the age of four, and he was on the books of two frigates and a third rate before he physically joined a ship – HMS Cleopatra – as a midshipman at the age of 13, but with a decade of seniority already behind him. He had an action-packed career, being captured, surviving a shipwreck, and briefly commanding the frigate HMS Shannon after its epic victory over the American frigate USS Chesapeake. His six days as CO (the ship's captain was killed in the battle) meant he was able to remain on the Active List for life, and was thus still in theory able to (and stated he was willing to) accept a seagoing command even at the age of 100.
14 <sup>th</sup>	1942	HMS Li Wo, an auxiliary patrol vessel of 700 tons, single-handedly attacked a Japanese invasion convoy heading for Sumatra. Her CO, Temporary Lt Thomas Wilkinson RNR, was taking the passenger riverboat, requisitioned in Singapore in 1940, to Batavia when he spotted the Japanese convoy, protected by a squadron of warships. Li Wo steamed at full speed towards the leading transport, opening fire with her old 4in gun (for which she only had 13 live shells) and causing the troops on board to abandon ship. Out of shells, she then attacked

		a second ship with her two machine guns but was heavily shelled by a cruiser and two destroyers; before she sank she managed to ram the abandoned transport, which later sank. Her CO was awarded a posthumous VC; only seven of her crew of 84 (which included survivors of HMS Prince of Wales and HMS Repulse) survived.
15 <sup>th</sup>	1968	First British Polaris missile was fired, by HMS <i>Resolution</i> , Port Crew, Cdr M C Henry, while submerged 30 miles off Cape Kennedy in Florida. The submarine – the lead ship of the Resolution class - was approaching the end of an extensive period of trials.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1888	The Calliope Dry Dock in Auckland, New Zealand, was officially opened, and is still in use by the Royal New Zealand Navy today. The dock, at Calliope Point, was the largest dry dock south of the Equator, and used 1.5 million bricks which were made nearby. Coincidentally, one of the first ships to use the facility was steam corvette HMS Calliope, along with HMS Diamond. According to some reports, the sailors of both ships were given several casks of beer as part of the day's festivities, resulting in a brawl between the bluejackets and local police which was broken up by a platoon of Royal Marines...
17 <sup>th</sup>	1943	Two more U-boats were sunk as the Battle of the Atlantic gradually began to swing in the Allies' favour. Destroyer HMS Fame sank U-69 while destroyer HMS Viscount accounted for U-201 (by depth charge then ramming) around 500 miles out from Newfoundland. The ships were part of the B6 escort group for slow convoy ONS 165 from Liverpool to New York, which only lost two ships out of more than 30.
18 <sup>th</sup>	1944	The famous 'HMS Pepperpot' was torpedoed and sunk by U-410 off Anzio in Italy. Light cruiser HMS Penelope gained her nickname from the bomb damage she suffered operating out of Malta with Force K – her funnels were shot through by shrapnel. More than 400 sailors went down with the ship – just over 200 were rescued – and Penelope was the last Royal Navy-manned cruiser lost in action in World War 2.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1915	Destroyer HMS Goldfinch ran aground and was wrecked in fog in the Orkneys. The 780-ton warship was commissioned in 1911 and served as part of the Grand Fleet until the night of February 18-19, when she went aground at Start Point. No one was killed, but the ship was abandoned and the remains of the wreck were sold for scrap in 1919.
20 <sup>th</sup>	1945	Flower-class corvette HMS Vervain was sunk by U-1276 20 miles south of Waterford, Ireland with the loss of 60 men – 33 of their shipmates were rescued. She was the last of 28 RN corvettes lost in World War 2. The German U-boat that sank her did not have long to celebrate the kill – U-1276 was sunk by depth charges from sloop HMS Amethyst the same day, going down with all 49 hands.
21 <sup>st</sup>	1790	Convict ship/transport HMS Guardian reached Table Bay in South Africa against all the odds. The fifth rate left Portsmouth bound for Botany Bay in Australia on 8 September 1789 with more than 300 people on board, as well as livestock, machinery and plants. She re-stocked provisions in Cape Town, sailing again in mid-December, and on Christmas Eve, 1,300 miles out, the ship spotted a massive iceberg. Boats were sent to fetch ice for fresh water, but at dusk a fog bank shrouded the iceberg. Guardian inched away from danger, but caught an underwater projection and a gust of wind smashed her stern-first into the berg, destroying the rudder, breaking frames and gashing open her hull. Inrushing water was slowed by a sail used as a patch, but the ship appeared to be sinking, and by Boxing Day, with more

		than 7ft of water in the hold, 260 people were given permission to take to t boats while Lt Riou stayed on board with 61 men – 21 of them convicts – and one woman. Over the next nine weeks the crippled ship was somehow nursed back to Cape Town and safety, where it was finally driven ashore and wrecked in a gale in April. Only 15 of those who opted to abandon Guardian mid-ocean survived, while 14 of the 21 convicts who remained with Guardian to sail her back were pardoned as a result of Lt Riou’s report.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1940	‘Royal Marines Depot Exton’ in Devon opened. The depot, which was renamed RM Depot Lympstone later in World War 2, is now the Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines (CTCRM).
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1943	HM Ships Bicester, Lamerton and Wheatland, all Hunt-class destroyers, sank U-443 off Algiers after a dogged three-day action. U-443 was on her third patrol, having sunk three merchantmen and the Hunt-class destroyer HMS Blean (with the loss of 89 men) on her first two sorties. The submarine sank with all 49 hands.
24 <sup>th</sup>	1943	HMS Vandal lost in Scottish waters with all 37 hands – the shortest career of any Royal Navy submarine as she had been commissioned just four days earlier. She disappeared in the vicinity of the Isle of Arran during a working-up exercise out of Holy Loch, and it was assumed she sank during a deep dive. In 1994 the Scottish branch of the Submariners Association persuaded the Royal Navy to search north of Arran, where a spotter plane had reported seeing an oil slick in 1944, and where trawlers nets had been snagged. The wreck of Vandal was found 100 metres down by minehunter HMS Hurworth in June 1994, and the exact cause of her loss is still unknown.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1991	Type 42 destroyer HMS Gloucester destroyed an Iraqi Silkworm missile with her Sea Dart system just short of battleship USS Missouri during Operation Granby – the first time an anti-air missile had successfully engaged and destroyed an enemy missile during combat at sea. From detection to destruction took just 89 seconds.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1948	Cruiser HMS Nigeria was at anchor in Port Stanley in the Falklands when a rating, LS Hughes, slipped from a ladder and fell into the bitter cold, churning sea. Weighed down by oilskins, Hughes could barely cling to the ladder. CPO Joseph Lynch, hearing the pipe for a lifeboat, ran on deck and, seeing the desperate plight of his shipmate, climbed down and went into the sea. He managed to swim with the now-unconscious Hughes to a motor launch, which could not get near because of the heavy seas, and as the boat crew dragged Hughes on board Lynch attempted to swim back to his ship to avoid interfering with the recovery of the junior sailor. The rough seas prevented him climbing the ladder; with his strength failing he managed to swim once again to the motor launch, where he was plucked from the sea. Lynch was awarded the Albert Medal, later translated to the George Cross
27 <sup>th</sup>	1966	Rothsay-class frigate HMS Lowestoft was moved into position to prepare for the establishment of the Beira Patrol off Mozambique, establishing oil embargo on the rebellious landlocked colony of Rhodesia after its Unilateral Declaration of Independence. The patrol, intended to block the passage of oil tankers bringing oil for Rhodesia into the Mozambican port of Beira, ran from 1 March 1966 until 1975.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1996	Service at St Paul’s Cathedral in London in the presence of the Queen to dedicate a memorial to the 47 British Servicemen who died during the Gulf War between August 1990 and July 1991.

Annual Conference 2023  
 Room Rates 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
 For those not attending the Gala Dinner

Rates per room (2 Nights minimum stay)			
		B&B	H/B
2 Nights (Fri & sat)	Single	£205	£212.50
	Double/Twin	£320	£335
3 Nights (Fri to Sun)	Single	£299.50	£314.50
	Double/Twin	£377	£407
4 Nights (Thurs to Sun)	Single	£370	£392.50
	Double/Twin	£476	£521

Afternoon Tea/ Coffee & Cakes on arrival in the grand lounge area.  
 Dinner in restaurant  
 Breakfast served in the Pearce Suite.

Live entertainment Friday and Sunday

Happy hour in the Wave Bar between 11am - 5pm each day .

Car Parking £15.00 per car for duration of weekend.

Accommodation can be booked on

0151 709 7200 Ex 2 or 3

## ADELPHI HOTEL LIVERPOOL

### Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023

Room Rates 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023

250 Rooms available for the Gala Dinner

Rates per room (2 Nights minimum stay)			CODE
2 Nights (Fri & Sat)	Single	£240.00	RNA2
	Double/Twin	£390.00	
3 Nights (Fri to Sun)	Single	£342.00	RNA3
	Double/Twin	£462.00	
4 Nights (Thurs to Sun)	Single	£420.00	RNA4
	Double/Twin	£576.00	

Afternoon Tea/ Coffee & Cakes on arrival in the grand lounge area.

Dinner in restaurant on Friday and Sunday.

Breakfast served in the Pearce Suite.

Saturday Gala Dinner in the Banqueting Hall.

(Wrist bands will be given to you on arrival and must be worn to gain entry to the Gala Dinner).

Live entertainment Friday, Saturday and Sunday Evenings

Happy hour in the Wave Bar between 11am - 5pm each day

Car Parking £15 per car for duration of weekend.

Accommodation will be booked centrally on 0161 923 9170 (Using the code)

Or on the electronic booking form on

<https://forms.gle/9HEhMk9iUDVtJSNe9>

NOVOTEL HOTEL LIVERPOOL CENTRE  
(4 Star Hotel)  
Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023  
Room Rates 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Rates per room (2 Nights minimum stay)		
2 Nights (Fri & Sat)	Single	£350
	Double/Twin	£370
3 Nights (Fri to Sun)	Single	£450
	Double/Twin	£480
4 Nights (Thurs to Sun)	Single	£525
	Double/Twin	£565

Rate inclusive of - Breakfast, guest Wi-Fi,  
use of leisure facilities [pool, gym, Sauna] and VAT

**Guests to pay in full 28 days prior to arrival**

The Gala Dinner (£27.50 pre-paid) can be booked  
directly with the Adelphi on 0151 709 7200 ext. 2 or 3

Those staying at the Adelphi have the dinner included with their package so additional places will be limited. For those who are able to book, wrist bands will be available at the Adelphi reception from Friday evening and must be worn to gain entry to the Gala Dinner.

You are welcome to attend the live entertainment  
at the Adelphi on Friday and Sunday nights.

The hotel does not have car parking. They advise their guests to use Q park Hanover Street, just opposite to the hotel, postcode L1 4AF. They provide 30% discount at the reception which only needs to be obtained when taking the car out of the car park

To book email the booking form to [H6495-sb@accor.com](mailto:H6495-sb@accor.com)

Hotel contact details

40 Hanover Street, Liverpool, L1 4LN  
Tel: 0151 702 5100



## Booking and Payment Form for

### Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023

**26<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 2 nights minimum, Bed and Breakfast**

#### **GUESTDETAIL**

Main occupant name:

Occupant name:

Nights per stay:

Room Type required:

Date of check in:

Email:

Contact number:

Additional comments:

#### **PAYMENT DETAILS**

Total Rate of Stay: £

Name of the Cardholder [as it appears on the card]:

Full Address of Cardholder:

Credit card type and number:

Card expiry date:

Name of the bank that issued the card:

**I authorise Novotel Liverpool to debit my credit card as per the above details, payment is due 28 days prior to the arrival date of this booking only.**

**Name:**

**Signature:**

## Delegate to Annual Conference 2023 Liverpool

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

<b>Branch</b>		<b>Area</b>	
<b>Name of Delegate</b>			
<b>Car registration</b>		<b>Passenger Name</b>	
Delegate's Address	<b>Telephone No</b>	<b>Post Code</b>	
<b>e-mail</b>			
<b>Number of Observers if known</b>			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			
Contact telephone No:			
Contact e-mail address			
<b>Name and Address for correspondence</b>			

**NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2022 and Branch Annual Report for 2022 have been received in RNA Central Office (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received in Central Office, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.**

Please forward the completed form to RNA Central Office, Building 1/087, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LU or email to [sara@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sara@royalnavalassoc.com)

**If you would like to check confirmation ahead of Conference please call Sara on 023 9272 3747**