



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



The Semaphore Circular

No 666

The Beating Heart of the RNA

February 2017



'IPad Storeship' as Central Office staff conduct a RAS IPads (negative lift and up the stairs). There is absolutely no truth in the scurrilous rumour that the GS only helped with one box as seen in the above photo, he even took his tie off!!!

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 and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec.

Daily Orders [follow each link]

1. [Project Semaphore Update –IPads](#)
2. [Guess Where?](#)
3. [Finance Corner](#)
4. [RN VC Series – Chief Skipper Joseph Watt VC](#)
5. [Husband Joke](#)
6. [Charity Commission](#)
7. [HMS QE Return to Pompey](#)
8. [Update – Mini Cruise](#)
9. [Londonderry BoA 2017](#)
10. [Unusual Car Registrations](#)
11. [Pirate Joke](#)
12. [Type 42 Reunion 003](#)
13. [RNRMC Update](#)
14. [Maritime Heritage Tours](#)
15. [Clarification concerning Direct debits](#)
16. [The 60th School reunion](#)

Longcast

“D’ye hear there” (Branch news)

Crossed the Bar – Celebrating a life well lived

RNA Benefits Page

Shortcast

Swinging the Lamp

Forms

Glossary of terms

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

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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Find Semaphore Circular On-line

<http://bit.ly/RNADownloads>

or

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

Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

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

Dear Shipmate,

The Fog sound signals have been going off all day here in Portsmouth and we can't see across the harbour! Hopefully the mist will clear later. I hope that you all had a great Christmas and New Year celebrations – and that you are now starting to plan for the year ahead. Our big news has been the arrival of the first phase of the Project Semaphore iPads, with the first 2 training days fixed in late Feb/early March. If you would like to know more, register yourself, or to register someone not on-line please email Sharon at sharon@royalnavalassoc.com.

We have lots of big events coming this year, here are some:

- **The Conference in Perth, on 3 June**, with the reception event on the Friday night and a Church service and parade on the Sunday. CONA Travel has done a great deal for us and can advise on travel arrangements and find you a good deal. Don't forget to get your delegate registered and your branch motions in before the deadline on 17 February – this will be the last call.
- **The Biennial Parade on 10 September** at the Cenotaph – a fantastic opportunity to meet with shipmates and parade in the most iconic remembrance location on the planet. You'll need to get booking accommodation – again CONA Travel can help you out. We hope to have the Irish and Belgian Naval Associations with us. The Second Sea Lord has agreed to be out reviewing Officer. We have invited Mrs Gill Molyneux, who many of you met at the dedication of the Naval Service Memorial as a VIP. Her husband was shot in HMS ASTUTE. The Civil Service Club is booked for the post parade PU – so come along.
- **The CONA cruise 29 Sept to 3 Oct**. A marvelous trip to Dublin and Cork on the MV Marco Polo with the all inclusive drinks ticket for only £15/day. This should be a great laugh. Transport to and from Bristol and Liverpool by coach.
- **Our Open Days**. This is a great day out with lunch and a briefing followed by a harbour tour (tot included) and tea and cake afterwards. A chance for you to see what is going on in the naval base for the new Carrier and meet with your Central Office staff. Book with Nigel or Andy.
- **The first entry to Portsmouth of HMS Queen Elizabeth**. We don't know the exact date (depends on build and sea trials), but I have bid for an RNA presence on South Railway Jetty or Semaphore Tower. Best guess of arrival date is in the later Summer. Will keep you posted. The National Council has put a bit of cash aside for a small celebration – if the Naval Base Commander gives us a slot (He is an old mate so I am hopeful).

A few admin matters:

1. Please don't forget your annual returns, which should be shaping up nicely now. Don't forget that the financial side has to be approved by the branch at its AGM. Vital to keep branch and Club separate.
2. Deadline for branch motions – 10 Feb 17.
3. Please register your Conference delegates.
4. Due to a resignation on the Standing Orders Committee there is an additional slot available. Deadline for SOC election form is 7 April,

Kindest regards from the Central Office team

Paul

Chairman's Chat

Welcome Shipmates to this my second Chat as National Chairman.



First off, I hope you all had an enjoyable Festive and New Year Season, and you have recharged your batteries ready for the year ahead. I trust our sea-going Shipmates deployed around the globe were able to enjoy their festive season as best they could whilst separated from their families and loved ones.

Apologies for my swipe at the Fleet Air Arm in my last chat. I have received several bol***kings from shipmates about it and the role of the NCh. Message received – I am NCh for all RN, not just my old branch.

Since taking over from my predecessor Chris Dovey, I am beginning to realise what a busy bee he was behind the scenes in representing the Association. First off in September was a visit to the Rhondda Branch to attend the dedication of their new Branch Standard at which I was made most welcome. Well done Rhondda Branch. In October as our General Secretary Paul Quinn's line manager, I was invited to observe Paul in action at HMS COLLINGWOOD addressing 20 senior officers attending the Commanding Officers / Executive Officers Training Course by heightening their awareness of the RNA, informing them of who we are, what we have to offer and how we can help serving members if problems arise when they are on leave as we are closer than their Ship. Congratulations to Paul who gave a superb delivery.

Next came the National Seafarers Service held at St. Pauls Cathedral. This was attended by HRH The Princess Royal, the 1st Sea Lord and no less than 3 former 1st Sea Lords along with our own serving National Council Member, Steve Cass, Warrant Officer of the Naval Service (WONS). Next came attendance at the Sea Cadets Annual Trafalgar Day Parade in Trafalgar Square with some 400 cadets taking part including their own very impressive massed band. The event included a PT demonstration, club swinging demonstration with the Band giving a great counter marching display. The month ended with an attendance at the Huntingdon Branch's Trafalgar Day Dinner with a surprise rendition in period rig of the day by their Branch Secretary S/M Karl Webb reciting from his diary of 1805 of the days leading up to the Battle of Trafalgar. A great performance and an even greater surprise to Karl's wife who was totally unaware of Karl's costume making skills.

November started with sombre duties representing the RNA at Westminster Abbey Field of Remembrance on 10th attended by their HRH's Prince Phillip and Prince Henry (Harry). In attendance was Shipmates from No 1 Area along with our National President S/M Vice Admiral John McAnally, our General Secretary Paul Quinn and the Chaplain of the Fleet Ian Wheatley who in the New Year's Honours received a CB, a personal decoration awarded by HM The Queen. Sadly, our plot looked a little bare with only 36 Crosses. Shipmates, please do your utmost later this year to ensure your Branch orders a Cross from Nigel Huxtable for planting in our plot. Let us not forget those of our Shipmates who made the ultimate sacrifice. The next day I attended the National Remembrance Day Service held at the National Arboretum. Present was HRH Prince Henry (Harry). This was a very moving service and I was proud to lay a Poppy Wreath on behalf of the RNA. A visit to the Naval Service Memorial (NSM) found several people taking an interest in our amazing memorial and our bench seat nearby was in good use. Five days later found me back at HMS COLLINGWOOD as the VIP Guest conducting Annual Captain's Evening Rounds of Part 2 Trainees. This I carried out with Captain Tim Neild RN, Commanding Officer designate

of HMS ALBION which he joins in March. The evening started with dinner in the Junior Rates dining hall and I was hosted by 2 male & 2 female trainees. It was very clear that the trainees had put in a lot of effort in preparation of our inspection. Impressive was how keen they were to complete training and join the Fleet, with many naming the Ship or Submarine they wanted to serve in. Offers of tea/coffee and handmade cakes were made to us on many Messdecks and I now know what the Vicar of Dibley felt like in that Christmas Episode. The evening concluded with Clear Lower Deck of all Part 2 Trainees (approx 500) to the Drill Hall for the wash-up and Prize Giving, at which I presented the prizes, several of which were sponsored by the RNA and which were well received. Well done the trainees, a great effort by all.

As mentioned in my first Chairman's chat, during my term of office I want to see the RNA continue to expand. On that note, Paul Stephenson the National Vice Chairman has this subject on his agenda and you will no doubt be hearing from Paul in due course. However, as a reminder, whilst joining online is steadily increasing, we, the membership cannot afford to sit back on our laurels and expect Central Office to wave a magic wand to increase the membership. Branch Committees and individual members all have an important role to play by spreading the word. Please try and remember to have a membership application form in your pocket when out and about. Branch Secretaries are reminded to ensure that their members are made fully aware of the two very important RNA Projects. These are Project Semaphore (iPads) & the Woodlands Trust, Jutland Wood Project. Information about these 2 projects still does not appear to be getting across to members. Please make sure you add these 2 items to your Branch Meeting Agenda, details can be found on the RNA website on how to apply, regarding both these projects.

2017 National Conference, Perth (Scotland!) A reminder that Branch Motions must be at CO (HQ) by 1600 hrs on 10 February. This year I want to see as many Delegates as possible attending Conference. Remember, your vote counts. There is no point moaning about decisions taken if you are not there to vote For or Against the Motions. All Ships & Establishments/Units are entitled to send a representative subject to the permission of your Commanding Officer and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Just one last thing for our serving Shipmates in the Fleet including all Shore Establishment and Naval Units, please let Andy Christie at Central Office have any dits you have, and there must be plenty, or better still submit news from your Ship or Establishment for inclusion in the Associations Semaphore Circular, as we want to hear from you. Remember, you are Serving Members of this Great Association and we want confirmation you are out there. To those on Deployment may you have safe passage and a safe return. To those of us on land, stay safe and healthy and go grab a new member.

Yours aye

Keith Ridley



1. Project Semaphore Newsletter- iPads



This Month's Update from the Project Manager – Sharon Brown.

It is all go with Project Semaphore!! We have now taken receipt of 600 shiny new iPads and 600 RNA customised protective cases. This alone was a challenging event with both the deliveries arriving within a couple of hours of each other and the lift to the RNA, Semaphore tower, second floor still out of action. A logistic chain was established reminiscent of a

stores ship and a small team from RNA HQ managed to unload and stow with blood pressures raised and more than a glistening brow or two!! However, it was very satisfying to finally see the stock arrive and remind us all how much we have achieved in a very ambitious project. Training for volunteers is now booked in London and Harrogate for the first weekend in Mar and a date for training in Hereford is expected to be announced soon. I have been asked on several occasions why do we need the training and I recognise some of you more IT competent than others, however, our iPads are not straight off the shelf, they have been configured in some ways for our purposes and we also recognise that we all have different ways and habits of using our own IT. The training will address knowledge shortfalls for some, show the variances of the iPads including a bespoke catalogue of preloaded Apps and further training available online. From this we establish a standard common approach to support our Candidates. If we get the support and approach right then this project will be sure to take-off beyond all our expectations. I have been focusing my communications with the Volunteers and matching up the candidates to those who will be supporting them in the future. I have not yet counted up the competition results which will be announce in the next update.

Please continue to spread the word about how this Project can assist our digitally isolated Shipmates. I can see certain areas of the UK have had more applications than others. I don't believe it is because there are more digitally isolated in these areas, it is probably more likely that the branches and Shipmates in these areas are being very proactive and spreading the word which is really appreciated. Keep up the good work!

<http://bit.ly/RNACampaigns>

2. ★ Guess Where? An Establishment



This month can you name this establishment No hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!

The answer will be in next month's edition.

Last month's answer: Alecto Block in Fort Blockhouse/ HMS Dolphin

3. ★ Finance Corner

Apologies to all you Hon Treasurers out there sadly there will be no Finance Corner this month. Michelle and the Finance Office Team are very busy preparing the Accounts for audit and getting their nails and hair done! (Ed Note - I will be really in the dwang for that.....) They will be back as far ever in the next edition!



4. ★ RNVC Series - Chief Skipper Joseph Watt VC



Joseph Watt was awarded the VC when in command of HM Drifter Gowanlea after an action in the straits of Otranto, off the coast of Italy on 15 May 1917. A Scotsman Joseph Watt was born in the fishing village of Gardenstown, Banffshire on 25 June 1887 into the large family of Joseph Sr. and Helen Watt. His father was a fisherman of many years service and his mother was also employed in the fish industry. At age ten his father was lost at sea in an accident, and the family moved to Fraserburgh in Aberdeenshire where his mother remarried. He learned the fishing trade from an early age and served aboard the White Daisy before purchasing a stake in the drifter Annie.

The war changed life in the community as most of the men volunteered for service with the Royal Navy in the Patrol Service, hunting for enemy shipping and submarines, often in small drifters and trawlers similar to the ones they sailed in every day. Joe was no exception, being rated a skipper in the Patrol Service, and marrying Jesse Ann Noble in the days before his posting overseas. Transferred to Italy in 1915, Watt served on drifters in the Adriatic Sea, enduring boring patrol work keeping Austrian submarines from breaking into the Mediterranean Sea. During this time he was highly commended, for his role in the operation to evacuate the remnants of the Serbian Army following their defeat and retreat to Albania in January 1916 for which he was later awarded the Serbian Gold Medal for Good Service.[3]

Shortly before Christmas 1916, Watt's drifter, HM Drifter Gowanlea was attacked by an Austrian destroyer sortie, which was attempting to break the line of drifters and allow submarines to escape into the Mediterranean. Although hit several times by shellfire, the drifter was not seriously damaged and the crew unhurt. It was however a mild precursor to a major raid planned against the Otranto Barrage as the drifter line was now called.



On 15 May 1917 Skipper Watt and his crew of eight men and a dog were patrolling peacefully in the Otranto Strait on the lookout for any suspicious activity following an increase in submarine sightings. Unbeknownst to the allied line, the Austrians had planned a major operation against the barrage, utilising the Rapidkreuzers SMS Saida, Helgoland and SMS Novara under Admiral Miklós Horthy with two destroyers and three submarines. These ships fell upon the drifter line during the night and sank 14 trawlers and drifters which were helpless to reply, as well as two destroyers.

Gowanlea was confronted by the Helgoland, which demanded the surrender of the tiny ship and ordered the crew to abandon ship prior to sinking. Instead, Watt ordered his crew to open fire on their large opponent with the drifter's tiny 6-pounder guns. Gowanlea was quickly hit by four heavy shells, seriously damaging the boat and wounding several crewmen.



The other drifters around Gowanlea followed her example but were also subject to heavy fire, three

sinking and the last lurching away seriously damaged. The Austrian cruisers headed for home but were engaged on their return by British, Italian and French units and became involved in the inconclusive battle of the Otranto Barrage

For Watt and the survivors on their battered boats and in the water the fight now was with the sea, as Gowanlea, despite her own heavy damage and casualties moved amongst the wreckage, rescuing wounded men and providing medical attention to those in most need. In particular Watt saved the wounded crew of the sinking drifter Floandi who otherwise may have drowned.

The Citation for his VC award is as follows;

Admiralty, 29 August 1917

HONOURS FOR SERVICE IN THE ACTION IN THE STRAITS OF OTRANTO ON THE 15TH OF MAY, 1917

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned officer:-

Skipper Joseph Watt, R.N.R., 1206 W.S.A. For most conspicuous gallantry when the Allied Drifter Line in the straits of Otranto was attacked by Austrian light cruisers on the morning of the 15 May 1917.

When hailed by an Austrian cruiser at about 100 yards range and ordered to stop and abandon his drifter "Gowan Lea", Skipper Watt ordered full speed ahead and called upon his crew to give three cheers and fight to the finish. The cruiser was then engaged, but after one round had been fired, a shot from the enemy disabled the breech of the drifter's gun. The gun's crew, however, stuck to the gun, endeavoring to make it work, being under heavy fire all the time. After the cruiser had passed on Skipper Watt took the "Gowan Lea" alongside the badly damaged drifter "Floandi" and assisted to remove the dead and wounded.



Third Supplement to the London Gazette of Tuesday, 28 August 1917

After the war Joe returned to Fraserburgh and refused point blank to ever speak of his war experience again, even to his wife. His boat *Annie* had been lost in the war to a sea mine, and so he bought *Benachie* as a replacement, on board which he once forgot to remove his cap on meeting the Duke of Kent, an omission which mortified him for

years afterwards.

He served on several other fishing vessels over the next twenty years before joining the Navy again as a drifter captain to serve in the Second World War, which he spent on uneventful duties in home waters accompanied by his son who had been wounded in the Battle of France serving with the Gordon Highlanders and invalided out of the army.

Watt, who always shunned the fame generated by his award, kept the medal in a drawer full of junk on board his boat. Many of the locals who requested to see the medal were surprised to see it being kept in such a place. His VC medal was placed in auction in April 2012 but can now be seen at the Imperial War Museum, London.

Very sadly Joe Watt died of cancer at home in 1955 and was buried alongside his wife and in-laws at Kirktown Cemetery in Fraserburgh. His passing was remarked on by a local politician who visited him and said of the experience that *"He had wonderful faith and courage"*

(Ed Note – Thanks go to S/M Ian Scraggs and Bill Bertram for suggesting this month's VC)

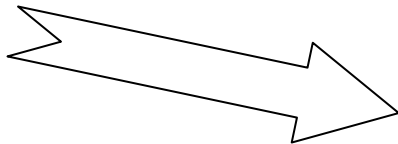
5. ★ Husband Down Joke (Do this at your peril. You have been warned!)

A husband and wife are shopping in their local Aldi supermarket.
The husband picks up a crate of beer and puts it in their shopping trolley.
"What do you think you're doing?" asks the wife.
"They're on sale, only £10 for 24 cans" he replies.
"Put them back, we can't afford them" demands the wife.

They carry on shopping.
A few aisles farther on, the woman picks up a £40 jar of face Cream and puts it in the trolley.
"What do you think you're doing?" asks the husband.
"It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful," replies his wife.

Her husband retorts: "So does 24 cans of beer and it's half the price."

That's him, there in Aisle 5.



6. ★ The Charity Commission



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Charity Commission has reminded all charities, to file their annual return or accounts.

Trustees are legally obliged to submit these documents. Failing to file, or filing late, can affect the charity's

reputation and jeopardise public trust in charities. The commission takes failure to file very seriously and will take action where necessary.

Once a charity has submitted its documents via the online services, they are published on the **register of charities**. The charity's profile will be updated overnight and the accounts and income and expenditure figures will be available for all members of the public to view.

Know what you need to submit and when

You have 10 months from the end of your financial year to do this and what you need to submit depends on your annual income.

If your charity's income is:

- under £10,000, then you just need to provide the CC with your charity's income and expenditure figures – the easiest way to do this is via the annual return
- between £10,001 and £25,000, you need to complete an annual return form
- more than £25,001, you must submit an annual return form along with a set of annual accounts as well as an independent examiners' or audit report and a trustees' annual report (TAR).

Top tips to keep on track with your accounting and reporting requirements

1. Don't wait until you approach the deadline – submit your documents as soon as you can
2. Remember submitting this information is the collective responsibility of the entire trustee body, not just the treasurer or secretary
3. Ensure all trustees know the **password** to access the annual return and other online services
4. Make sure your charity's trustee details are up-to-date before you complete the annual return
5. Record your income and expenditure figures in whole pounds without decimal points or rounding them into thousands
6. Make sure you don't mistakenly tick the box that says your accounts are 'qualified' – accounts are marked 'qualified' when the independent examiner or auditor has doubts

about some aspects of the accounts; it doesn't mean that your accounts have been verified by an independent examiner.

7. Ensure the trustees declare any serious incidents in the annual return.

If you have all the **information you need**, completing your annual return online is straightforward and not time-consuming. However, high demand in the lead up to peak filing times can cause delays to the system; to avoid experiencing this, submit your documents as soon as possible. If you are experiencing problems completing your annual return form, you can speak to one of the CC's technical advisers on 0300 066 9197. The helpline is open from 9am to midday Monday to Friday.

Alternatively, you can **request a callback** via the Charity Commission website;
<http://bit.ly/RNACCharityCommission>

7. ★ HMS Queen Elizabeth (RO 8) – First entry to Home port of Portsmouth



The Queen Elizabeth Class Aircraft Carriers are the biggest and most powerful warships ever constructed for the Royal Navy. The first of class, HMS Queen Elizabeth is expected to enter Portsmouth for the first time during the summer of 2017.

The RN/RM would like to hear from anyone who served on board the previous HMS Queen Elizabeth which was commissioned in 1913 and decommissioned in 1948.

Please forward your name and service number to NAVYPOL-QECFEPENGAGEMENTS@mod.uk copied to NAVYPOL-QECFEP@mod.uk. If you have served on board or indeed know of someone that did.

8. Update of RNA & Naval Associations Deployment to Ireland on the MV Marco Polo (Renamed HMS Marco Polo) - 'Mini Cruise' 29 Sep -02 October 2107

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS



Just a quick update on the Naval Associations Irish Sea Deployment on HMS Marco Polo 'Mini- Cruise'. The ship is under sailing orders from Liverpool at 1900 on Friday 29th September 2017, full details are available below.

The cruise is currently exclusively booked for RNA and CONA shipmates which can only continue for a limited period Shipmates who would like to attend are required to place a deposit of £100. However, to encourage more Shipmates to book early and ensure the exclusivity the RNA have successfully negotiated with CONA Holiday Service to reduce the deposit so it can be paid in two

sums of £50, one now and the other by 31st January.

The full programme of events for the cruise is still being constructed however just confirmed on the entertainment front is the unashamedly famous *Shep Woolley and the Shanty Men*.

Come along and get the feel of the sea under your feet and have a 'stonkingly' great time. The drinks package alone is worth it! Look;

Why not add a '*Drinks Inclusive Package*' at a supplement of £15 per person per night*. This includes: House wine, draught beer and soft drinks by the glass during meal hours in the restaurants: Draught beer, house wines, cocktails and other alcoholic drinks by the glass from all bars during opening hours (excluding premium brands): Soft drinks and juices by the glass from all bars during opening hours.

* *The drinks package is only available if all occupants of the cabin book it in advance for the 3 night duration. (Exclusions apply).*

So Shipmates what are you waiting for please book up as early as you possibly can so that the cruise remains as a 'naval deployment'. Full details of the cruise and the booking form can be found at the rear of this Semaphore Circular.

So why not come along and swing that lantern.....

9. Londonderry Battle of the Atlantic Commemorations 6/7th May 2017



To all Shipmates,

The Battle of The Atlantic Commemorations will be held over the weekend 6th and 7th May 2017 in Londonderry. The Programme is as follows:-

Saturday 6th May - 1900 for 1930 Dinner in the City Hotel.

Sunday 7th May-

1015. Parade musters at The RBL Club Waterside.

1030. Parade marches off.

1040. Parade arrives at All Saints Church.

1100. Church Service Commences

1210. Parade marches past en route to The RBL Club where light refreshments will be served.

Should any Shipmate wish to attend the Dinner the cost will be £30.00 per head the cut-off date for same will be 14 April 2016. Please forward a cheque to cover the cost of relevant number of shipmates attending. The Dress for all Functions will be RNA Rig.

Should any changes to the above programme arise Branches will be informed soonest. For further details please contact Frank Brown Hon Sec Londonderry RNA.

frankjf22brown@gmail.com

10. ★ Unusual Car Registrations



I am sure Shipmates would be delighted to LoL after finding out that this registration was spotted in a Public Heads in Leek Staffordshire!

11. Pirate Joke



A pirate walked into a bar, and the bartender said, "Hey, I haven't seen you in a while. What happened? You look terrible!"

"What do you mean?" said the pirate. "I feel fine."

"What about the wooden leg? You didn't have that before."

"Well, we were in a battle, and I got hit with a cannon ball, but I'm fine now."

"Well, ok, but what about that hook? What happened to your hand?"

"We were in another battle. I boarded a ship and got into a sword fight. My hand was cut off. I got fitted with a hook. I'm fine, really."

"What about that eye patch?"

"Oh well you see, one day while we were out at sea, and a flock of birds flew over. I looked up, and one of them shat in my eye."

"You're kidding," said the bartender, "you couldn't lose an eye just from some bird shite."

"True, true", replied the Pirate,

Wait for it.....

"But it was my first day with the hook."

12. Type 42 Association Reunion 003

The Type 42 Association Reunion 003 will be held at HMS Excellent on 22 Jul 2017. Open to all who have served on a Type 42 Destroyer, Discounted tickets for all fully paid up association members, new members can sign up to the association via the website.

BGM Start 1230 hrs Finish 1345 hrs
Reunion Start 1400 hrs, Finish 2100 hrs
HMS Excellent, Sports Field

Tickets: Members £10 + 1 Guest £10 & Non Members £30

For Info email: chairman@type42association.co.uk For tickets email: deanpullom@yahoo.co.uk

Web site: www.type42association.co.uk click on forum or visit our Facebook page Type 42 Association

13. ★ Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC)



A six-figure accommodation project for Armed Forces personnel in Portsmouth has been completed and handed over to the Royal Navy, following years of planning and charitable funding. The three self-contained family flats, nicknamed, the 'Navy Mews', have been constructed within the walls of HMNB Portsmouth (HMS Nelson) for the sole use of Service Personnel on a priority basis.

The project would not have been possible without the support of the Royal Navy's principal charity, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), which granted £250,000 of its allocation of LIBOR funds to the flats in 2015. Mark Lancaster, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence Veterans, Reserves and Personnel, officially opened the facility on Monday 9 January. Mr Lancaster met with the Navy Mews' very first resident, Leading Seaman Andy Till, and heard how he and his 17-year-old daughter enjoyed staying in the property for a couple of days over Christmas. Andy was formerly reliant on local hotels to accommodate his daughter over leave periods.



"It's just like being at home," he said. "It really is fit for purpose. It has everything you need and my daughter really enjoyed it. She's asked to come back but I think we should let other families enjoy it before coming back ourselves. I'll definitely recommend it to other guys I know in my situation and encourage them to use it as well."

The minister was welcomed onto the site by Portsmouth Royal Naval Base Commander

Commodore Jeremy Rigby and RNRMC Chief Executive Robert Robson. Other funds supporting the project include HMS Nelson's Leisure and Amenities fund, as well as a series of donations

and discounts from local charities and suppliers – such as the Company of Makers – to help finish the soft furnishings. BAE Systems additionally supported the project, delivering the flats at cost.

Among the community supporters is a team of seamstresses, who are part of service families themselves, who hand-made soft furnishings to bring a homely touch to the flats. The Friends at Number 10, as they are called, formed a sewing group as a support network in the heart of the naval family community in Old Portsmouth.



They started out by turning old uniform into things like cushions, aprons and bunting and were keen to show their support to the navy mews project by making throws, cushions and other soft furnishing for the flats.

The accommodation is able to be booked on a priority service, favouring single parents, or those with other circumstances affecting their ability to see their families regularly.

Following the opening of the Navy Mews, responsibility of the upkeep of the buildings falls to the

Estate Services within HMNB Portsmouth to maintain all buildings within the dockyard. The flats can sleep between three and seven persons and are available to hire for either short periods of time, such as weekends, or as much as two weeks. Each has a full suite of modern appliances, games, televisions, kitchen ware and central heating throughout to create a home from home.

14. ★ Maritime Heritage Tours

"Thinking about your next holiday? Have you seen the options available at www.maritimeheritagetours.co.uk established for you to enjoy a fine holiday in the company of "like minded" travellers. This year it's Malta, Croatia, Russia or Menorca on offer - all led by Mike Critchley (ex Maritime Books of Liskeard).

15. ★ Clarification from December 2016 edition of Semaphore Circular

Please note an error on page 12 of the December 2016 issue of the Semaphore Circular... My thanks to Gary Daisley for highlighting this issue.

"Please make sure your Branch Shipmates pay their subscriptions by Standing Order, Cash or Cheques to your Branch Bank Account and not HQ Bank Account."

Unfortunately under current banking rules, RNA Branches cannot initiate Direct Debit transactions, but individuals are permitted to use the Standing Order protocol for payment transfers.

16. The 60th School Reunion



He was a widower and she a widow. They had known each other for a number of years being school classmates and having attended class reunions in the past without fail.

This 60th anniversary of their class, the widower and the widow made a foursome with two other singles. They had a wonderful evening, their spirits high. The widower

throwing admiring glances across the table. The widow smiling coyly back at him.

Finally, he picked up courage to ask her, "Will you marry me?" After about six seconds of careful consideration, she answered, "Yes,..... yes I will!"

The evening ended on a happy note for the widower. But the next morning he was troubled. Did she say "Yes" or did she say "No?" He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall. He went over the conversation of the previous evening, but his mind was blank. He remembered asking the question but for the life of him could not recall her response. With fear and trepidation he picked up the phone and called her.....

First, he explained that he couldn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the past evening. As he gained a little more courage he then inquired of her. "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say "Yes" or did you say "No?"

"Why you silly man, I said 'Yes. Yes I will.' And I meant it with all my heart." The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat.

Then she continued. "And I am so glad you called because I couldn't remember who asked me!"

RNA Longcast

2017	
04 Feb	Area 5 Quarterly / AGM Meeting - Harwich
09 Feb	Independent Examination
10 Feb	Motions Deadline
17 Feb	SOC
17 Feb	FAC
18 Feb	AMC
25 Feb	Area 6 AGM – 1300 Bracknell RNA
11 March	National Council Meeting
07 Apr	Open Day
07 Apr	Deadline for SOC nominations
06 May	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Beccles
12 May	Open Day
02-04 Jun	RNA Conference – Perth
02 Jun	AMC /FAC / National Council Meeting/SOC
03 Jun	SOC (Wash up)
17 Jun	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Chesham and Amersham
24 Jun	National Armed Forces Day - Liverpool
30 Jun	Open Day
01 Jul	RNA Dublin Summer BBQ
27 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Stowmarket
11 Aug	Open Day
25 Aug	FAC
26 Aug	AMC
01 Sep (ish)	Possible arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth (V flexible date)
06 Oct	Open Day
09 Sep	National Council Meeting
10 Sep	Biennial Parade
29 Sep - 02 Oct	CONA Cruise (Liverpool –Dublin- Bristol)
20 Oct	RNA Dublin- Trafalgar Night Dinner
21 Oct	RNA Chard -30 year Commissioning Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
17 Nov	FAC
18 Nov	AMC
25 Nov	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Royston RNA (Eternit Sports & Social Club)
09 Dec	National Council Meeting

D'ye hear there'.....

News from around the Areas and Branches

- [RNA Rosyth & West Fife Branch](#)
- [RNA Bloxwich Branch](#)
- [Area 2](#)
- [RNA Southend Branch](#)
- [RNA St Neots and District Branch](#)
- [RNA Littlehampton Branch](#)
- [RNA Huntingdon & District Branch](#)
- [RNA Dublin Branch](#)
- [RNA Queensland Branch](#)
- [RNA Trafford Branch](#)
- [Area 6 / RNA Peterborough Branch](#)
- [RNA Chard Branch](#)
- [RNA Bury Branch](#)

RNA Rosyth & West Fife Branch



The Branch has had a busy few months meeting in the Warrant Officer & Senior Rates Mess MOD Caledonia at 19.30 on the first Tuesday of the month

The Branch celebrated the Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar at the Rosyth Civil Club on the 22nd of October. Our guest of honour was Lt Cdr R Hawkins RN the 1st Lieutenant of HMS Queen Elizabeth (and fellow Shipmate) who gave an excellent Immortal Memory to Lord Nelson. He also

provided an excellent brief and update on the progress of HMS Queen Elizabeth.

The Branch also paraded at HMS Scotia's Remembrance parade at Pattesmure Cemetery on Saturday 12th November 2016. They also paraded at Inverkeithing Remembrance Parade organised by the Rosyth and West Fife branch and took place on Sunday 13th November 2016. The Parade gets bigger every year and it was gratifying to see so many youth organisations including for the first time TS Fife Sea Cadets taking part. The Salute was taken by Lord-Lieutenant of Fife Mr Robert Balfour, MOD Caledonia 1st Lt, Philip Gamble, S/M Allen Bayliss and witnessed by Cllr Gavin Yates.



The Branch held its Annual Carol Service on the 7th December in MOD Caledonia

Wardroom. Our guests of honour where the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, Mr Robert Balfour his wife and Mrs Margaret Dean GVO and her Husband. The service was conducted by Rev Colin Alton and for the first time they were joined by the Rosyth Military Wives Choir.

RNA Bloxwich Branch



The photo shows Bloxwich Chairman, S/M Christine Mawhinney, President Bill Platt and Hon Sec Alan Brown delivering the cheque.

Bloxwich Branch raised £500 throughout 2016 through raffles and our Chairman, Honorary Secretary and President went along to present Walsall Palliative Care with a cheque for £500.

Each year, the branch nominates a local charity that has been used by our members or their families. The 2017 charity is The Watermill, an incredible facility for those suffering from dementia.

The photo shows Bloxwich Chairman, S/M

Area 2

Training for this year's Area 2 Standard Bearers Competition is from the 23rd & 30th April, 7th, 14th and 21st May starting at 1030 at TS Narvik, Magpie Hall Lane, Bromley Kent BR2 8EH. The Competition will be held on 27th May starting at 1100 sharp at Raglan Primary School, Raglan Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 9NL. Refreshments will be available. On completion of the competition, competitors, judges and supporters will be invited back to TS Narvik for presentation and fish & chips. All welcome ~ see you there

Also please find below a list of events for 2017.

Sat 11th Feb	Area 2 AGM & Delegates Meeting at Gravesend RNA Club.13:00
Sun 12th Feb	*Channel dash 75th Anniversary Service Ramsgate Harbour 10:45 Coffee available in the Oak hotel f.o.c. from 10:20
Sat 8th April	Area committee meeting King Charles hotel Gillingham 11:00
Sat 8th April	Area 2 dinner dance 18:30 King Charles Hotel Gillingham £35pp
Sat 13th May	Area 2 Delegate meeting T/S Narvik Bromley.
Sat 27th May	*Area Standard Bearers Competition Bromley. Practice days at T/S Narvik April 23,30, May 7,14,21.
Sat 8th July	Area committee meeting Minster WMC.
Sat 12th Aug	Area 2 Delegates Meeting Dartford RNA
Sat 19th Aug	Ashford RNA Summer soiree Lydd golf club.
Sun 10th Sept	*Drill shed 100 years' remembrance HMS Pembroke Chatham11:00
Sun 10th Sept	*RNA Biennial parade Whitehall London
Sat 30th Sept	*Channel Dash Service Dover. 1SL attending Big event fly past etc.
Sat 7th Oct.	Area committee meeting Minster WMC.
Sat 11th Nov	* Armistice Day 11:00 services- The Lines Chatham & Margate Cemetery.
Sun 12th Nov	* Remembrance Sunday Local events
Sat 4th Nov	Area 2 Delegates meeting Paddock Wood.

*Items marked * Standards are invited to attend*

If you have an event planned, please forward details to the area PRO. Please note if you receive an invite it is only polite to reply even in the negative. Visit our web-site at www.rna2area.org

RNA Southend Branch

Southend Branch held a Christmas Tea Party for their lovely widowed ladies. Duty 'Stewards' for the day were Shipmates Mike Tunley, Peter Witham and Alan Mott. As you can see in the photos the Ladies had a marvellous time.



RNA St Neots and District Branch

On Monday 12th December members of the St Neots and District Branch of the Royal Naval Association gathered together for their annual cheque presentation evening for local good causes. Pictured receiving a cheque for £600 each are Shirley Scotcher from Sue Ryder's St Johns Hospice, Moggerhanger, Jo Bullace from New Saints Amateur Boxing Club, St Neots, Michelle Allison from St Neots Volunteer Bureau and Samatha Smith the mother of Zachery Smith of Offord Darcy. Zach suffers from cerebral palsy and our donation helps to support the fundraising for corrective surgery to help in his mobility.

A big thank you to members of the branch and in particular the public for their generosity over the year for supporting our fundraising events to make these donations possible.

For information The Royal Naval Association meet on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the RAFA Club in Huntingdon Street. If you would like to join us then please come along or contact Maureen Ridley, Branch PRO, 01480 810848 or email

RNASTneots@gmail.com. You need not to have served in the Royal Navy or Royal Marines to join us. Everyone will be made welcome and we look forward to meeting new members.



RNA Littlehampton Branch

Shipmates should be aware that Littlehampton Branch have changed meeting venue with immediate effect. The new venue is;

The CO CO Lounge,
8 to 10 Clifton Road,

Littlehampton, BN17 5AS.

The Branch would like to wish one and all their good wishes for 2017.

RNA Huntingdon & District Branch



Shipmates from Huntingdon & District Branch have enjoyed a successful year in promoting the values of the Royal Naval Association. Members have attended 28 parades and activities which included 3 SCC presentation evenings, Freedom of Huntingdon parades, Standard Dedication and parades marking the 90th birthday of HM The Queen.

The year ended with our attendance at the T.S. Cromwell S.C.C. presentation evening in which we presented a trophy and shield for the Branch 'Cadet of the Year', Cadet 1st Class,

Charlotte Smith. The Branch were also present at the Mayor of Huntingdon's annual Christmas Carol Service, and finally, members gathered for Christmas drinks at one of the town's favourite pubs, the Market Inn.

We hope that 2017 is as successful as last year, in February, we will man the first charity stall of the year, and will attend both the Branch and Area AGMs.

Photographs show S/M Bill Small discussing our Branch commitment to the Sea Cadets, and also presenting the Cadet of the Year trophy to Cadet 1st Class, Charlotte Smith.



RNA Dublin Branch

Dublin Branch announces with very great pleasure that Branch Member Shipmate Ruairi Holohan received a 'Millie' award last week for saving countless lives in the Mediterranean, under the category of best Reservist. The Millies are awards issued in the UK to recognise outstanding service by members of the Armed Forces during the year.

The award to Shipmate Holohan, who is still serving as a Lieutenant with the RNR, was richly deserved.

(BZ and very many congratulations)

RNA Queensland Branch

Queensland Branch Shipmate Roy Cox received the Legion D' Honour from the French Ambassador in Australia at one of the leading Hotels in Brisbane for his services in the Liberation of France on D Day June 1944.

S/m Roy was 18 at the time and serving as an Anti Aircraft Gunner onboard HMS Cottesmore whose job was to be part of the Escort guarding G Force Minesweeper Flotilla in clearing mines from the Gold Beach Channels prior to the main invasion force arriving. Roy described his part

on the day as being a bit scary being so near to the enemy coast but the worry soon turned excitement when the main force arrived and the action began.

(Bravo Zulu Shipmate Roy)

RNA Trafford Branch



Shipmate Fred Garner, Aged 94, was joined by family, close friends and shipmates from Trafford Branch and members of Greater Manchester FAAA at an intimate and moving ceremony at Trafford Town Hall. The Mayor, preceded by his Mace Bearer, presented S/M Fred with his Legion D'Honneur. The Mayor, Cllr Lloyd said "it was a delight and an honour" to present him with his medal.

S/M Fred joined the RN in 1941 at HMS Raleigh and then transferred to the FAA serving at HMS Blackcap and at RAF Wroughton. This was followed by a draft to HMS Pursuer (896 Squadron) which,

with Fred onboard, saw action during the attack of the German Battleship Tirpitz in Northern Norway and the invasion of Sicily and the D-Day landings. He later served in HMS Malaga in South Africa and left the RN in 1946.

Fred is a founder member of the Trafford Branch and in 2013 became President he is also a founder member of the FAAA in Trafford. The branch shipmates were absolutely thrilled to have been part of the award ceremony and have joined Fred and his family on such a special day.



Area 6 / RNA Peterborough Branch

Please be kind enough to circulate the below message of thanks to all within Area 6 who made the effort to attend and lend support to Harvey's family, on the sad occasion of his passing, and the subsequent funeral that followed.

On behalf of the Family, Committee, and Branch members of Peterborough RNA, I should like to extend our grateful thanks to all the members of Area 6 who made the journey to Peterborough, to attend the funeral of our late Shipmate Harvey-Hall.

The family will have been proud to have known how well liked Harvey was by all his Shipmates, far and near.

Once again, on behalf of the Branch our grateful thanks.

Shipmate John Lallyette
Secretary
Peterborough RNA

RNA Chard Branch



Two new members of Chard RNA were lucky enough to be invited to attend the 2016 Royal British Legion, remembrance service held in the Royal Albert Hall. Shipmates' husband and wife team Peter and Deborah Hammond were invited to attend the service with Deborah being the escort for her sister in law Barbara McAulay a Falklands war widow.

The ladies found the whole episode to be very moving and on occasions were very apprehensive, the long walk was amazing

said Deborah but I did find it difficult not to look down when descending the stairs onto the floor. On completion of the service the three were entertained by the cast of media stars in the forms of Alexander Armstrong and Michael Ball OBE.



The group stayed overnight and Peter marched past the cenotaph on remembrance Sunday with his former shipmates from the Fleet Air Arm consisting of former Aircrew members.

This was a first for the branch and all shipmates were pleased and proud for the three who attended well done shipmates.



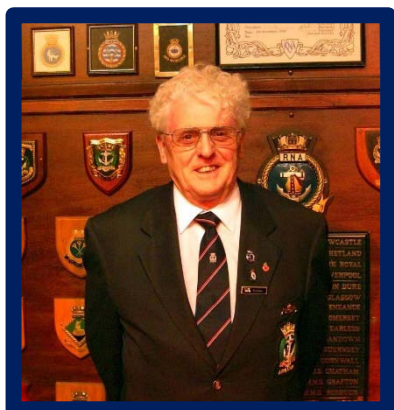
RNA Bury Branch

Bury Branch are very sad to announce the following Shipmates recently crossed the bar;
S/M J G Bridge, S/M F Haworth (HMS Grey Goose), S/M G McNally (HMS Cavalier),
S/M B Taylor (HMS Rapid).

CROSSED THE BAR – Celebrating a life well lived

- [Bernard Leaver - Atherton Branch](#)
- [Sylvia Majorie Kemp Johnston – Hereford Branch](#)
- [Tony Asher – Bromley Branch](#)
- [Derek \(Teddy\) George Cassar - HQ Roll](#)
- [Ernest Collins BEM - HQ Roll](#)
- [Mary Gordon \(nee Chase\) – South Bristol Branch](#)

Bernard Leaver - Atherton Branch



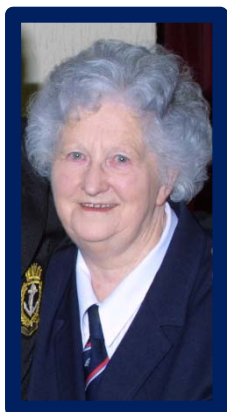
It is with deep regret that Atherton Branch we have to report that S/M Bernard Leaver, the President of the Branch crossed the bar on Thursday 12th January 2017, following a long illness.

Bernard had held the post of President of the Branch for 25 years and would have been put forward for re-election on the date of his passing. He was also a long serving officer of the Hindley Model Flying Club and Atherton Swimming Club.

He joined the Royal Navy as a National Service Engine Room Artificer in August 1950 and this service was followed by Reserve Service up to 1959. He served on board HMS Ocean during the Suez Crisis and other service included the Minesweeper Maintenance Crew at HMS Lochinvar, as well as a spell at HMS Drake.

Bernard was a very popular member of his Branch and RNA No.10 Area and was well known for conducting of the 'Last Night of the Proms' finale to the Branch Trafalgar Night Social Events. He will be sorely missed by his shipmates and friends and will be a hard act to follow.

Sylvia Majorie Kemp Johnston – Hereford Branch



S/M Sylvia, affectionately known as Marge, sadly “Crossed the Bar” peacefully on Monday 19th December 2016 at the age of 90.

S/m Marge followed her childhood sweetheart S/m Ernie who had joined the Royal Navy, and joined the WRENS in 1944 serving in HMS Devonport and Drake before being discharged in 1946. She joined the Hereford Royal Naval Association in January 1979 and along with her late husband was always an active member of the Branch until about 3 years ago when her health deteriorated.

She was a Committee Member for many years and took pleasure in talking about the many trips and outings they both used to enjoy. She always sold the raffle tickets at meetings and had the

tickets prepared beforehand, folding them during the week, saying it gave her something to do to pass the time. When buying tickets from her she would say "One from the top and one from the bottom".

In 2000 she was appointed an Honorary Life Vice President of the RNA Hereford Branch an award that was given to S/m Ernie the year before. She was immensely proud to receive posthumously the Arctic Star on behalf of Ernie. S/m Marge was a very independent lady, never complained, and was extremely popular and will be greatly missed by her fellow Shipmates at Hereford RNA.

Tony Asher – Bromley Branch



On Monday 16th January 2017, seven Standards proceeded a hearse bearing S/M Tony's on his final deployment. His coffin was dressed with a union flag, surrounded by flowers and poppy wreaths from the RNA, Legion, and Algerines Association. Also in attendance was a representative and Standard from HMS Exeter.

The Eulogy was read by Tony's Grandson Christopher who spoke of his time in a Barnardos Children's Home; at 16, his journey through Naval School and his short time in HMS Exeter before he became a Japanese Prisoner of War. Truly, one of his kind – a Gentleman and a legend who will be greatly missed.

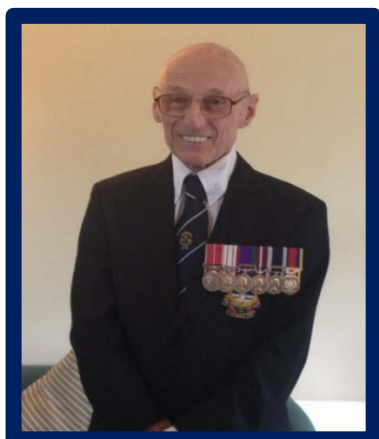
Derek (Teddy) George Cassar - HQ Roll



Lt Derek George Walling RN born on 22 January 1922 crossed the bar 22 November 2016. Derek was the last of the Veterans who survived the sinking of HMS Eagle. The ship was attacked in the Mediterranean off Cape Salinas, Majorca on the 11 August 1942 by U-73 who hit her with four torpedoes, very sadly she sank in four minutes with the loss of 131 lives. S/M George was an Engine Room Artificer at the time and was working in the port wing engine room when the ship was attacked and somehow managed to escape. He was scooped to safety, covered in oil, by the Destroyer Laforey and taken to Gibraltar.

Shipmates may wish to know that S/M Derek's funeral was held on Hayling Island and was well attended by Naval Personnel. He was a great lover of Malta and will be missed by the Maltese community in Portsmouth May he rest in Peace.

Ernest Collins BEM - HQ Roll



S/M Jumper Collins (ex Fleet Chief Petty Officer Aircraft Handler) sadly crossed the bar after a short illness on 5th January 2017, aged 86.

He was a Life Member of the Royal Naval Association number 81201. His funeral will be held on Monday 30 January 2017 at North East Crematorium Morden. Shipmates who knew him are invited to attend. Please contact Jumper's son Nigel at Lindacollins724@gmail.com.

Mary Gordon (nee Chase) – South Bristol Branch



It is with great sadness that South Bristol Branch report that S/M Mary Gordon crossed the bar on 24 November 2016. Mary joined the WRNS at the age of 17 1/2 and during her service was stationed at HMS Ganges and the Wrens Quarters at Soberton Towers she left the service on 10 January 1952 as a Leading Wren.

After her time in the WRNS she was employed by the Local Authority in Bristol where she worked firstly with children and latterly with the elderly in Local Authority care homes. She retired in 1989. Mary joined the South Bristol Branch in 1992 and became an active member, becoming a dedicated Committee member in 1993. For her service and dedication to the Branch she was presented with Life Membership in 2003. She remained an active Committee

member until 2008 when she was forced to resign as a result of ill health. Mary was a valued member of the South Bristol Branch and will be sadly missed.

RNA Members Benefits

UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

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

Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

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

Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Veterans UK www.veteranfunerals.co.uk Tel 07889 009393

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 0800 827168

Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service 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

Shortcast

- [R.N. Communications Association – 10-12 March 2017](#)
- [Loch Class Frigates Association - 30 March 2017](#)
- [HMS Newfoundland & HMS Kenya - 31 March 2017](#)
- [HMS Iveston \(Jan –May 1991\) - Reunion](#)
- [HMS Loch Fada F390 Association – 20-24 April 2017](#)
- [849 Squadron Gannets – 5 May 2017](#)
- [HMS Arethusa Association – 13-16 October 2017](#)

2017

R.N. Communications Association – 10-12 March 2017

The R.N. Communications Association, AGM and Dinner/Dance will be held in Hull , 10 – 12 Mar 2017 in Hull, for more information please contact the Sec. Carl Beeson, 01752 253746 and 07807-347509 or noseeb@sky.com

Loch Class Frigates Association - 30 March 2017

Annual Reunion takes place at the Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport PR8 1RB from March 30 to April 3 2017.

Two and Three day packages available. Reservations: 01704 533771 quote “372601”, or email: sales@royalclifton.co.uk

All members welcome. Membership is open to all who served on any of the Loch Class ships or their variants (Bay Class, Admirals Yachts, survey ships and repair ships). Some of these types of ships have their own ‘Associations’ but you can always join both.

For details please contact Andrew Nunn Hon. Sec. LCFA at andrew.nunn@blueyonder.co.uk

HMS Newfoundland & HMS Kenya - 31 March 2017

Veteran’s annual get together will be held from 31 March to 3 April at the 4* Sketchley Grange Hotel, Burbage, Leicestershire. Reunion includes 3 nights half board accommodation, Gala Night Saturday night. Saturday coach tour to Nottingham and River Trent Cruise including a cream tea and sandwiches. Sunday coach tour to Leicester (King Richard III) and Foxton Locks. Also three night’s entertainment.

If you served on any of the Fiji/Uganda class cruisers, aka the Colony Class, you and your family members are welcome to join us. There is no official business, just a weekend of meeting friends and lamp swinging so come and join us. Also available for 2 nights. Contact Isle of Wight Tours, tel 01983 405116 or Alan Waite at alan04@live.co.uk

HMS Iveston (Jan –May 1991) - Reunion

There will be a 26 year reunion for the Ship's Company involved in this memorable five month deployment to be held in the Portsmouth area on 1 July 2017 for all those wanting to attend. We recently held a 25 year reunion where 40% of the crew attended and we would like more to attend the next one.

Anyone who served on the Iveston during this deployment who wants more information, or if you know of someone who served onboard during this period, please contact Shaun at shaunmckeever@yahoo.com

HMS Loch Fada F390 Association – 20-24 April 2017

HMS Loch Fada Association F390 will be holding their 20th Annual Reunion & AGM at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea, PO4 0RN from 20th – 24th April. This will be our first 4 day reunion weekend.

Friday will be an outing & tour of the Isle of Wight via the Hovercraft. Saturday sees the AGM at 1030 with a 1200 Tot time. The reunion dinner is at 1830 with our Guests of honour being the Lord & Lady Mayor of Eastleigh (our Warship Week Town). Loch Fada was allocated to Eastleigh as their replacement Ship in 1944. Sunday sees our coach outing to Chichester Cathedral & Town. Monday sees us wishing our Shipmates a Safe journey home & looking forward to meeting up for our first 'Foreign' reunion in Cardiff in 2018.

Bookings are being made through IOW Tours email enquiries@iowtours.com or Tel No 01983 405116 Info & Queries F390. sec11@virginmedia.com or Tel 01252 310767 or Snail mail F390 Secretary, 91 Ayling Lane, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 3ND

849 Squadron Gannets – 5 May 2017

849 Squadron Gannets. Regroup 2017 at the Mariners' Hotel, Haverfordwest, SA61 2DU May 5 & 6. Contact John Rawling at jsrawl@aol.com

HMS Fisgard, Artificer Apprentices Reunion – 9 June 2017

A reunion to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the entry classes S29, S30, and S31 joining HMS Fisgard in 1957, will take place from June 9 to 11 2017 with the Reunion dinner Saturday 10th June. The venue, the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea, situated opposite South Parade Pier, has been booked, with a deposit paid to secure the booking.

For details and booking form contact Malcolm Howard at malcolmhowardexrn@yahoo.co.uk

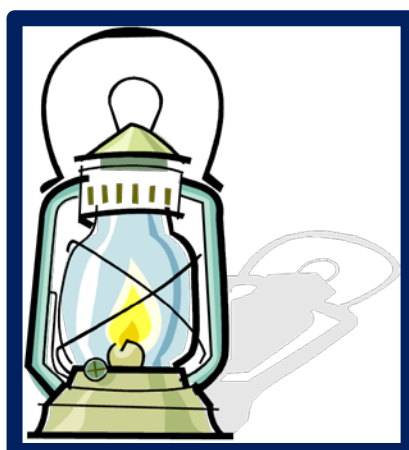
HMS Arethusa Association – 13-16 October 2017

HMS ARETHUSA Social weekend - October 13th to 16th 2017 at The Risboro Hotel, Llandudno. Details and booking forms from - IOW Tours Ltd.

HMS Relentless Association – 24-27 November 2017

HMS RELENTLESS Association. 75th Anniversary Reunion to celebrate the first commissioning of HMS Relentless will be held at the Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford, November 24th-27th 2017. All ex-Rusty R's welcome but numbers are limited so call Isle of Wight Tours Ltd asap on 01983 405116 or contact HMS Relentless Association Secretary 02392 599640, email secretary@hmsrelentless.co.uk.

Swinging the Lamp - February 2017



Date	Year	Entry
1st	1806	Naval Academy at Portsmouth renamed Royal Naval College at request of King George III.
2 nd	1859	<i>Pearls</i> Naval Brigade returned on board from operations in the Gorakhpur District.
3rd	1885	Capt Lord Charles Beresford (<i>Safieh</i>) rescued Col Sir Charles Wilson's party on River Nile, Unsuccessful in attempt to relieve General Gordon at Khartoum.
4 th	1997	Able Seaman Jack Gearing, the then oldest surviving naval rating and the last survivor of naval operations in the 1915 Gallipoli campaign (cruiser <i>Theseus</i>), died aged 102. Left the Service in 1919. Trained as a lighterman in the family sailing barge <i>Mayflower</i> on the Thames, Gearing was turned down by the RN in 1939 due to age but accepted by the Royal Engineers. Sgt Gearing, aged nearly 50, towed a crane to Normandy in 1944 with the orders follow that destroyer'.
5 th	1918	Royal Air Force established by Order in Council, formed on 1 April 1918 by Amalgamation of Royal Naval Air Service and Royal Flying Corps.
6 th	1842	<i>Charybdis</i> (6) and crew of fifty-five under Lt de Courcy took the Cartagena corvette <i>Coretta</i> , sank a brig, and put two schooners to flight.
7th	1944	Midget submarine X 22 sunk in collision with <i>Syrtis</i> in Pentland Firth. During towing exercise, OOW in <i>Syrtis</i> washed overboard and while turning in rescue effort <i>Syrtis</i> sank X 22 with loss of CO and three crew. <i>Syrtis</i> lost, probably mined, off Bodo, Norway, 23 Mar44
8th	1916	British government requested naval assistance from Japan, leading to deployment in April of two Japanese destroyer flotillas in the Mediterranean.
9th	1825	First operational use of steam vessel: <i>Diana</i> , built at Kidderpore Dockyard, 1823, and bought into the Service on advice of Capt F. Marryat in 1824, engaged a 36-gun stockade with her rockets, receiving 160 shots. First Burmese War.
10th	1913	A search party found the bodies of Capt R.F. Scott, Dr Wilson and Lt Henry Bowers in their tent in Antarctica.
11 th	1841	Order in Council authorised a £ 50 pay rise to the Surgeon of Pembroke Dockyard to enable him to keep a horse for the purpose of visiting his distant patients in consequence of many of the men being obliged to reside at a considerable distance from the yard'.

12th	1942	Destroyer <i>Maori</i> sunk by aircraft in Grand Harbour, Malta. Caught fire, blew up and damaged destroyer <i>Decoy</i> .
13 th	1830	Disease remained by far the greatest killer of seamen until the First World War. Throughout the nineteenth century, surgeons struggled to overcome the most common killers. How heroically they struggled is illustrated by the story of Dr McKinnel of <i>Sybil</i> off Lagos. The ship's company had contracted yellow fever from <i>Eden</i> , and 101 men had died out of a complement of 160. Morale was so low that McKinnel believed many were dying of sheer fatalism when they perceived a symptom. He therefore took a pint of black vomit from a patient who was dying of disease, publicly drank it down and walked around the deck until it was clear to all that it was no trick. The improvement in morale had a dramatic effect on the death rate.
14 th	1942	First RM Commando formed; now 40 Cdo RM.
15 th	1940	Germany announced that in future all British merchant ships would be treated as warships.
16 th	1854	Wood paddle sloop <i>Barracouta</i> and two boats of <i>Winchester</i> captured seven pirate junks off the Lema Islands, near Hong Kong.
17th	1912	PO Edgar Evans died, returning from the South Pole with Capt Scott.
18th	1861	Landing parties from <i>Arrogant</i> and <i>Torch</i> , with detachments of the 1st and 2nd West India Regiments, burned two towns up the Gambia River.
19th	1653	Second day of the battle between Blake and Tromp off the Isle of Wight.
20th	1998	<i>Ocean</i> named by HM The Queen at yard of prime contractors, Vickers, Barrow. The first purpose-built helicopter carrier in RN.
21st	1779	Remains of Capt Cook buried at sea from <i>Resolution</i> off Kealahou, Hawaii.
22 nd	1940	RM Depot at Lympstone opened. Now Commando Training Centre, Royal Marines.
23 rd	1746	Navy Club resolved to send three officers to wait upon their Lordships and ask for a uniform for officers.
24 th	1991	UN ground offensive against Iraq began. Operation Desert Sabre. RN MCMV continued to sweep battleship fire support areas for battleships USS <i>Missouri</i> and <i>Wisconsin</i> . Operation Granby
25 th	1994	HMY <i>Britannia</i> completed 1 million nautical miles.
26 th	1916	Completion of evacuation of Serbian Army by RN and Italian force.
27 th	1900	Capture of Cronje's final laager at Paardeberg. Naval Brigade of sixty-four men, more than half of whom were killed, from <i>Barrosa</i> and <i>Doris</i> with Grant's guns. South Africa Medal.
28 th	1866	Grapeshot declared obsolete in RN.

NOMINATION FORM

ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 2017/2019

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries in Areas. 2,6,7,8,9,10, 11 and Scot

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	
Address of NCM	
Email Address of NCM	
DNCM	
Address of DNCM	
Email Address of DNCM	
Proposed by	
Branch	
Area	

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

NCM	
DNCM	

Chairman		Date	
Secretary		Date	

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	
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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 undertake to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and to sit on any Committees to which I am elected.

Signature of Secretary

Signature of Candidate		Date	
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The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA Central Office no later than **1600 10th February 2017. (Scot 10th March 2017)**

PROPOSED MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

Proposals must reach The General Secretary by **1600 10 February 2017**

Name of Proposing Branch			
Motion / amendment			
Explanation of motion / amendment (To be included in the notes for Conference)			

Hon Secretary (signed)		Date	
Name of Seconding Branch:			
Hon Secretary (signed)		Date	

Notes

- a. A motion is submitted in the name of a Branch. Secretaries of proposing and seconding Branches are **certifying** that the motion or amendment reflects the view of the Branch meeting (not a committee); and that voting was conducted in accordance with Rule 20.
- b. A separate form is required for each Motion or Amendment
- c. A manuscript copy is acceptable for additional Motions or Amendments if the printed form is not available.
- d. The Motion or Amendment should be as short and precise as possible avoiding ambiguity. A Motion should normally start with the word 'THAT'
- e. The explanation is to assist the scrutiny of the Standing Orders Committee in understanding the intention behind the Motion so that they may be able to consider its presentation so it can be improved and implemented as soon as possible (Conference Bye Law C4)
- f. Motions may be submitted at any time but must reach the General Secretary by **10 February 2017**.
- g. Motions of Urgency should reach the General Secretary not less than 48 hours before Conference. (In accordance with Conference Bye Law C6.) and include an explanation about the urgency.
- h. Amendments to Motions should also normally reach the General Secretary not less than 7 days before Conference. The provision for the submission of amendments during Conference is in the Conference Bye-Laws.
- i. Bye-Laws. A Motion to Conference may propose that a Bye-Law be set aside or it may ask the Council to consider making or amending a Bye-Law.
- j. The Branch Proposing a Motion **must** have it Seconded by another Branch before forwarding it to the General Secretary. (Conference Bye Law C3a)

Nominations for Standing Orders Committee 2017

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries

Three members of the standing Orders Committee need to be elected/re-elected at Conference 2017. Those standing down are eligible to be re-elected.

Each Branch may nominate **one Full or Life member** as a candidate for election to the Standing Orders Committee, **subject to the approval of the Branch to which the candidate belongs**. A nil return is not required.

Name of nominee	
Branch	
Proposed by	
Address of nominee	
Postcode	
Email	

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

Chairman		Date	
Secretary		Date	

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	
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We support the above nomination.

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

Candidate

I accept this nomination and undertake to attend as many Standing Orders Committee Meetings as is possible.

Signature of Candidate		Date	
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This form should be dispatched to be received at the Central Office no later than 7 April 2017. Nominations received after this date cannot be included in the Ballot.

Delegate to Annual Conference 2017 Perth

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2016 and Annual Subscriptions for Branch Members for 2017 have been received in RNA Central Office (Rule 12 C). Should either not have been received the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

A letter confirming a delegates attendance will be sent prior to Conference. This letter should be brought to Conference to confirm eligibility to be a Delegate. There will be no additions to the delegate list on the day.