



**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**



# **The Semaphore Circular**

**No 729**

***The Beating Heart of the RNA***

**May 2023**



***Our Shipmate King – in this edition of the Circular we celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, former Commanding Officer of HMS Bronington...***

	Central Office Contacts	
For all contacts and general enquiries	<b>023 9272 3747</b>	<a href="mailto:Admin@royalnavalassoc.com">Admin@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
CEO/General Secretary		<a href="mailto:Bill@royalnavalassoc.com">Bill@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
COS (Chief of Staff)		<a href="mailto:COS@royalnavalassoc.com">COS@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Finance / Membership Support		<a href="mailto:Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com">Kathryn@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Communications		<a href="mailto:hoc@royalnavalassoc.com">hoc@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Semaphore Circular		<a href="mailto:Mike@royalnavalassoc.com">Mike@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Planning – Special Events		<a href="mailto:Malcolm@royalnavalassoc.com">Malcolm@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Membership Support		<a href="mailto:Sara@royalnavalassoc.com">Sara@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Wellbeing Programmes		<a href="mailto:Gemma@royalnavalassoc.com">Gemma@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
Project Semaphore		<a href="mailto:Gemma@royalnavalassoc.com">Gemma@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
	National Advisors	
National Branch Retention and Recruiting Advisor		<a href="mailto:Rna.brra@outlook.com">Rna.brra@outlook.com</a>
National Welfare Advisor		<a href="mailto:Geoff@royalnavalassoc.com">Geoff@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
National Rules and Bye-Laws Advisor		<a href="mailto:governancechair@royalnavalassoc.com">governancechair@royalnavalassoc.com</a>
National Ceremonial Advisor		<a href="mailto:Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com">Robertcoburn001@btinternet.com</a>

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 /  
Circulars / Code (shipmate)

## Snail Mail – Postal Address

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

## *From the General Secretary*

### *Ahoy Shipmates*

After a poignant day of tradition and celebration on Saturday, this month's Semaphore Circular will concentrate on the fabulous weekend of celebration for the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III. And, what a splendid event it was! Well done to all the Armed Forces who took part, making it a truly memorable occasion.

The new drill movement for the Royal Navy element of the

Honour Guard, which was caught on camera, and drew praise from the commentary team, was a drill manoeuvre which merged a 12 person front into 6. I've watched it a couple of times, but I've still not worked out how they made the space to fit everyone in without tripping over each other. BZ RN! Big BZs also to our own S/M Steve Champion, RNA National Standard Bearer, who was stationed just outside the Abbey and was amongst the first to recognise the newly crowned Monarch.



*S/m Steve Champion, the RNA National Standard Bearer at the Coronation*



*The Royal Navy element of the Coronation Honour Guard circumnavigate the Victoria Memorial having completed the manoeuvre to shrink their frontage to 6 deep from 12.*

Shipmates will be glad to know that there is no intention to attempt this manoeuvre at the Naval Associations' Biennial Parade on 10 Sept in Whitehall - nor are we planning to march around half of London! Forming up in King Charles Street between the FCO and the Treasury is perfect for us to march out, less than a couple of hundred yards, and take station at the Cenotaph.

We are keen that Branches make a big effort to be represented at this year's Naval Associations' Biennial Parade, even if only by your Branch Standard. By good fortune, it falls on the first Sunday after the first anniversary of our beloved Patron's death and it affords us not only the occasion to commemorate her passing but also the opportunity, in this Coronation year, to reaffirm our allegiance to our new monarch, King Charles III. The Second

Sea Lord will take the salute and the Commanding Officers of both COLLINGWOOD and SULTAN have already committed a squad of sailors from each establishment. Please raise this at Branch committee meetings as we want as much representation as we can muster. HQ Roll members are also extremely welcome. Hopefully, by then, we'll have news of Patronage of the Association.

On an infinitely sadder note, I regret to report that the Ven Martyn Gough, previous Chaplain of the Fleet and as such, Honorary Chaplain to the RNA, crossed the bar last week after an illness. Martyn only retired from the RN in 2021 to take up a position as National Chaplain to the Royal British Legion and officiated at the Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall on 14 November 2021. He had already officiated at our RNA Annual Conference and AGM in Nottingham just a few months before. Our National President has sent condolences on behalf of the membership and our thoughts are very much with his wife and family.

*Best wishes, Bill*

## 1. The Coronation of King Charles III



This month's Semaphore Circular is a little different – we are taking the opportunity to reflect on the coronation of King Charles III, the Royal Navy's role on the big day, and to recall some of the monarch's links with the Senior Service.

The King has a strong connections with the Royal Navy, not only through his family but also as a serving officer himself.

Charles is the son and grandson of Naval officers – Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh and King George VI respectively – and his great-uncle was Lord Mountbatten, a former First Sea Lord.

The future king's military career began with a basic flying course with the RAF's University Air Squadron at Cambridge University, after which he joined a fast-track graduates course at Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, in September 1971, as a 22-year-old acting sub-lieutenant.

By the end of that year S/Lt Wales, as he was known, had joined County-class guided missile destroyer HMS Norfolk for operational experience, including a visit to Toulon, and he was given every opportunity to learn how a modern warship with a ship's company of around 500 men functioned.

The ship spent some time in maintenance, so to give the Royal sailor a broader view of the Service he was put through submarine emergency escape drills at HMS Dolphin in Gosport in January 1972 to prepare him for a period on board Fleet nuclear submarine HMS Churchill (see

image below, taken from the Imperial War Museum collection © IWM A 35379), and he also studied communications and navigation at HMS Mercury near Petersfield.



A last spell of practical training followed on board Ton-class minesweeper HMS Glasserton, after which Charles joined Leander-class frigate HMS Minerva in the Caribbean as Gunnery Officer – adding in some Royal duties as the Queen’s representative when the Bahamas declared independence in the summer of 1973.

After nearly a year with Minerva the Prince spent a short period with sister ship HMS Jupiter in the Pacific before switching to Naval aviation, proving a very able pilot in the Westland Wessex helicopters of 707 NAS before serving on the front line with 845 NAS, including exercises in Canada.

A spell of training with the Royal Marines was followed by an intense period of Royal duties in 1975, but the following year the Prince was given command of his own ship – Ton-class minesweeper HMS Bronington, which was fully engaged in the standard mix of operations (including dealing with wartime ordnance), patrols, exercises and port visits.

The Prince proved to be a popular CO, and was also said to be a very capable ship-handler, winning the respect of his crew and his peers.

Throughout his time in command the Prince’s royal duties were a significant and increasingly important factor, and his active Naval career ended in December 1976 with the rank of Commander, though he has maintained strong links with the ship and his old shipmates ever since.



Bronington itself is still around; though partially submerged at her mooring at Birkenhead on the Mersey, recent surveys suggest the hull is still relatively sound, and there are plans for her to be raised and restored to her former glory.

King Charles is now the head of the Royal Navy, and warships became 'His Majesty's Ships', so it was no surprise that the Royal Navy played a prominent and enthusiastic role in the coronation of King Charles over the weekend.

Coronation day saw the largest ceremonial operation by the UK's Armed Forces in 70 years – that occasion being the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II – and required both detailed planning and plenty of practice.

Many military participants arrived by train in the early hours of the morning, creating an unusual spectacle for the first commuters through transport hubs such as Waterloo station, from where the Servicemen and women marched across Westminster Bridge to their various muster points.



More than 7,000 sailors, soldiers and aviators from the UK and around the world took part in a range of activities, including processions and gun salutes. Among the more visible elements were those Servicemen and women who lined the streets for the procession, with sailors being positioned in the vicinity of Admiralty Arch and Royal Marines in the Trafalgar Square area.





Around 4,000 men and women took part in the actual procession of King Charles and Queen Camilla to and from Westminster Abbey, with 1,000 more lining the streets, 200 making up the Guard of Honour and a further 200 carrying various standards, colours and guidons (swallow-tailed heraldic flags).



Much of the early rehearsing was done away from the capital, with HMS Collingwood in Fareham playing an important role, but the final gloss was added during moonlit parades in London, with passers-by in the small hours of the night being treated to full-scale military parades, complete with Royal carriages and 19 military bands.



One participant was following a family tradition – Lt Victoria Rogers (below) carried the Royal Navy Colour during the military processions, taking up the baton of her father Trevor, who took part in the Coronation ceremonies for Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 when he was serving in the King's Troop Royal Artillery.



Another Naval link was provided by an individual who became an unexpected star of the show – Lord President of the Privy Council and Bearer of the Sword of State Penny Mordaunt had a prominent and eye-catching role at the centre of the coronation in Westminster Abbey; the MP for Portsmouth North was a member of the Royal Naval Reserve from 2010 until 2019, and is currently an Honorary Captain RNR.



After the procession (which stretched for nearly a mile and a half) back to Buckingham Palace following the coronation itself in the Abbey, the newly-crowned King Charles III took the Royal Salute in the gardens of the palace as the Royal Navy and sister forces paid their own tribute to the Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by the Massed Pipes and Drums and other bands, amongst them that of the Royal Marines (see previous page).

The military celebrations were not confined to London of course. Naval crew carried out 21-gun salutes around the country and beyond, including deployed ships and at HMS Drake in Plymouth (pictured below), with ceremonial Naval gunfire being triggered by the placing of St Edward's Crown on the head of King Charles.



(All images UK MOD © Crown copyright 2023 except where stated).

How did your branch or shipmates celebrate the coronation? Let us know, and send us your pictures – we would like to publish a selection in future Semaphore Shorts or on social media. Send your contributions to [comms@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com)

## 2. Annual Conference in Liverpool

It is now just two weeks or so until this year's AGM/Conference, held over the weekend of 26-28 May 2023 in Liverpool to coincide with the Battle of the Atlantic 80th (BOA80) commemorations that are also taking place that weekend (see below).

The finalised RNA programme, centred on the Adelphi Hotel in the city centre, includes entertainment on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, the RNA AGM on Saturday, and a black-tie Gala Dinner on Saturday evening. Details are attached at the end of this Circular.

**Please note, the Adelphi will stop taking bookings for rooms and gala dinners at the end of this week (they have to order the food), so if anyone is unsure of their booking they should check with the hotel directly – including those staying at other hotels (including the Novotel) who are planning to attend the Gala Dinner.**

All Branch/Area Standards and National Standard Bearer please note that they are requested to muster at the Adelphi Hotel **on Friday 26 May** for a Drumhead parade rehearsal from 1400 to 1600. Contact Bob Coburn ([robertcoburn001@btinternet.com](mailto:robertcoburn001@btinternet.com)) to let him know your plans, and cc to Mike Smyth ([projects@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:projects@royalnavalassoc.com)) please.

### **3. Battle of the Atlantic 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations programme**

Liverpool will be busy over Conference weekend as the city is hosting events to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic (BOA 80).

There will be a civic reception on the Friday night, a 1940s-themed military village at the Pier Head with visiting naval vessels alongside (some of which will be open to visitors), and a Royal Marines Band concert at the Philharmonic Hall on the Saturday.

There will also be a drumhead parade and service on the Sunday morning, with some of our BOA veterans taking the salute.

The weekend of commemorative events from 26– 28 May also includes:

- Pop-up music and dance performances
- Special family events at Western Approaches Museum
- Fly-pasts by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and vintage Fleet Air Arm aircraft
- A March of the Medals

The commemorations will conclude at precisely 19.43 hours on Sunday May 28, with the attending merchant ships and Navy warships leading a convoy down the Mersey, while Beating Retreats are performed on both shores of the river.

Other BOA 80 events will see performances by the Band of HM Royal Marines Scotland and Danish and German military bands, a Battle of the Atlantic themed variety show written and performed by students of Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU), '*Blowing a Raspberry at Hitler*', and a one-day academic conference at the Maritime Museum, led by the school of History at LJMU.

Across the water in Birkenhead, Cammell Laird plans to open their yard to celebrate the efforts of shipbuilders in World War 2, and to show how things have moved on.

The partners involved in delivering events for Battle of the Atlantic Commemorative weekend include the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Charity, the Merchant and Royal Navies, the Royal Air



Force, Western Approaches Museum, National Museums Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool City Council, and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

For more details of civic events over the BOA80 weekend see <https://tinyurl.com/4d7dy4vw>

#### 4 . News from the Membership Support Division!

This month's notices, in no particular order:

- This year's Conference raffle tickets are still 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.
- We would still like to hear from shipmates who would like to take part in the Remembrance ceremonies in London in the autumn. The Association has requested an allocation of 'tickets' for the Cenotaph ceremony, and it is hoped that there might be around 100 places available. If you are interested in participating, please get in touch with Sara to make her aware.



#### 5. Unclaimed pensions

As part of their campaign to encourage veterans with unclaimed pension benefits to come forward with their claims, the Forces Pension Society (FPS) encourages you to help identify anyone you think might qualify. They know there are thousands of veterans who have not yet made their claims.

Their recent Freedom of Information request showed that during the 24-month period between 1 June 2020 – 31 May 2022, more than 4,000 Armed Forces pensions went unclaimed.

The AFPS Annual Report (July 2022) identified a larger total of 16,518 unclaimed benefits, with some veterans having more than one entitlement.

FPS Chief Executive Maj Gen Neil Marshall said: "We can all play our part in encouraging veterans we know to come forward if they have not claimed their preserved pensions or preserved lump sums.

"These can be significant amounts of money. For example, a preserved pension of £1,500 for someone who left in April 1985, would now have a value of £4,500 pa.

"Anyone serving after April 1975, now aged 60 or over, could have an unclaimed pension. AFPS pensions earned before April 2005 are payable at age 60 but will not be paid automatically – they have to be applied for.

“We urge you to encourage anyone who might be eligible, to visit the [Veterans’ Gateway website](#) without delay. Of course, the government also has a role to play in signposting the issue to the veterans’ community, and we continue to encourage them to do just that.”

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

Another reminder that visitors to Portsmouth (or locals who want to brush up on their history) can take advantage of discounts at the Historic Dockyard, and for refreshments at the Ship Anson pub on The Hard, just outside the Dockyard gates.

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

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

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

The Ship Anson is offering 10 per cent discount to RNA members on both food and drink.

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

## 7. Help for Households with Cost of Living

With the cost of living still causing hardships, remember that the government has published information that may help you should you need it.

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



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

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

## 8. MoneySavingExpert

While we are on the subject of making your money go as far as possible, shipmates might find it useful to sign up to the free **MoneySavingExpert** weekly email.

MoneySavingExpert is the UK's biggest consumer help website, having been founded in 2003 by consumers' champion and campaigner Martin Lewis, and more than eight million people have signed up for the free weekly MSE email.

These emails, like the website, cover a massive range of issues and subjects, offering news, hints, tips, guides and warnings on matters that affect all of us, whether it's the cost of energy, supermarket discounts, scams, saving on insurance or budgeting with a limited income.

To sign up for the free MSE email go to <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/>

## 9. Monday Evening Fireside Chats

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

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

Date	Presenter	Subject
Mon 15 May	David Lewin	The History of Waterproof Clothing
Mon 22 May	Mike Milne	Western Approaches Tactical Unit
Mon 05 Jun	Mark Calhoun	US National World War 2 Museum

*There will be no Fireside Chat on 29 May, which is a Bank Holiday*

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

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

## 10. Op Telic podcasts from the Company of Makers

The new Company of Makers podcast series of eight episodes is now live and available for everyone to listen – **all 8 episodes can be reached here:**

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/land-sea-air-stories-from-the-armed-forces/id1513953407>

The latest series is dedicated to those who served during Operation Telic and their families, marking the 20th anniversary of the commencement of operations in Iraq. These personal stories are true-life accounts of the realities of war.



In each episode, a member of the Armed Forces community who served in Op Telic, or whose life has been directly impacted, shares their experiences. It is not about the politics; this is about giving the people who served a voice.

### Episodes:

1: The Closer We Got To The Gulf, The More Real It All Got  
Andy Merry - 40 Commando

2: Flying at 100 Feet, 120 Miles an Hour Across the Desert

Pat Patterson - RM Aircrew, 845 Naval Air Squadron 'Junglies'

3: You Don't Know How Good Your Unit Is Until You Go To War  
Sarah Davis - Army Air Corps, Ground Crew

4: The Heat Smacked You in The Face  
Neville Johnson - 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

5: From 'Ops Junky' to 'Combat Intelligence'  
Piers Stacey - 42 Commando

6: The Real Sinister Element Reared its Head  
Kirk Bowett - Cheshire Regiment

7: The First Casualties  
Tip Cullen - RM Commando, Brigade Recce Force

8: And Then The Nightmare Began  
Paula Harding - Widow of Paul Harding, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Green Jackets

The Portsmouth-based Company of Makers supports the Armed Forces community with life on Civvy Street.

They host a podcast featuring members of the Armed Forces community with fascinating stories to tell, a programme of online talks featuring authors, journalists, poets and musicians with a strong connection to the Armed Forces, and a range of online workshops including drawing, guitar, photography, watercolours, poetry and writing.

For more on the Company of Makers see <https://www.companyofmakers.com/>

For talks see <https://www.companyofmakers.com/talks>

For workshops see <https://www.companyofmakers.com/works...>

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

Another call for Royal Navy and Royal Marines Personnel and their families who were stationed at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina, USA. Any such personnel and veterans who served at Camp LeJeune at Jacksonville 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 regarding potential claims over possible exposure to contaminated water which you might not otherwise get to hear about. See <https://lnkd.in/e5znhhWq>

## 12. Cost of Living and easier access to support

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) is already supporting more of the Naval



community in need due to the cost of living crisis – up 23 per cent on last year, with awards up 35 per cent in value.



In January they rolled out a new way to apply for assistance online, using the Lightning Reach portal, which is also being used by the Royal British Legion and the RAF Benevolent Fund. This system is already proving its worth with many applications going to them directly, allowing swift assessment, decision and then response to those who need our help.

The Grants Team of Sam Allardyce, Tracy Mawer and Simon Brickell have handled more applications than at any time in the past four years, with Phil Shuttleworth and Chrissie Hughes following up to offer holistic support and guidance where appropriate. The RNBT is proud to be able to be there for those in their community who need their help.

To learn more about Lightning Reach visit [www.lightningreach.org](http://www.lightningreach.org)

### 13. Naval Associations'/RNA Biennial Parade in Whitehall

Another gentle reminder that no sooner are the events of May out of the way, including the Coronation of S/M King Charles III and our National Conference, than we are looking ahead to the Naval Associations'/RNA Biennial Parade in Whitehall, London, on 10 September.

Further information will be made available in due course through the usual channels – the Semaphore Circular, the weekly Semaphore Short, the RNA website and social media.

### 14. Specialist Interest Groups – Contact details

Shipmates will be interested to know how popular and successful the Specialist Interest Groups has become.

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)

### 15. Russian Arctic Convoy Museum appeal

The Russian Arctic Convoy Museum (RACP) is the premier UK museum dedicated to commemorating the sacrifice of the sailors and airmen of the Arctic Convoys of 1941-45. Located in Aultbea, Loch Ewe, in north-west Scotland, the Exhibition Centre is the centrepiece of the Project, but the entire Loch and its 18-

mile-long shoreline, littered with former gun emplacements and boom defences, are a testament to the important part Loch Ewe and its inhabitants played in the conflict.

Since its inception, the RACP has gone from strength to strength with increasing visitor footfall. The collection, interpretation and display of artifacts and memorabilia in the Exhibition Centre are supplemented by the accumulation of stories and first-hand accounts, carefully gathered to provide the most complete picture of this key wartime campaign.

In 2019, the Project commissioned a Wartime Trail around the Loch, generously funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund with support from the Highland Council. The grounds at the Exhibition Centre will shortly be extended to include the creation of a Memorial Garden, which will recognise the losses from all sides of the conflict.

RACP is a small team of committed Trustees and volunteers, and an even smaller permanent staff. They are looking for new Trustees and volunteers, particularly those located in Northern Scotland and who can take a hands-on approach, to help take the Project forward into the future and ensure that the legacy of the Arctic Convoys, a story of courage and indomitable spirit, is not lost with the passing of the last veterans.

If you are interested in being involved, please in the first instance email Capt Chris Connolly OBE RN (Rtd) on [chris@theracmproject.org](mailto:chris@theracmproject.org)

For more details of the museum see <https://racmp.co.uk/>

## 16. Plastic-free Remembrance poppies

This year's Remembrance poppies, available from October, will be plastic free and can be recycled in normal paper recycling collections.

The Royal British Legion has announced that after three years of development, the new poppies will be made of a blend of renewable fibres (half from the waste used in the production of coffee cups) and will thus be economical, sustainable and less impactful to the environment, eliminating single-use plastic all together.

Although this is the first new poppy design in almost 30 years, the iconic poppy-and-leaf appearance, made from red and green paper, will remain the same.

For more details see <https://tinyurl.com/4evu8a9a>

## 17. D-Day 79 Ceremony at British Normandy Memorial

The British Normandy Memorial, which officially opened in June 2021, will for the first time play host to the annual international ceremony marking the 79th anniversary of D-Day.

Organised by the Comité du Débarquement, the international ceremony hosts representatives from the nine principal Allied nations (Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the UK, the Netherlands, Poland, Norway and the United States) as well as Germany. The service includes speeches from representatives, the raising of each Allied flag in turn, and music from a French military band.

The Memorial remembers the 22,442 Servicemen and women from 38 different countries who died under British command on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy in the summer of 1944.

In the morning, the Royal British Legion's Service of Remembrance will take place, a small but significant ceremony which recognises the sacrifice of the sailors, soldiers and aviators who died under British command on 6 June 1944 and throughout the Battle of Normandy, and will be attended by Normandy Veterans.

Both of these events, as well as the Youth Ceremony on 5 June, are open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further details of the services and the Memorial see <https://tinyurl.com/yc4ww495>

## 18. RNRMC Stand Easy for Mental Health Awareness Week

The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) invites you to host your own Stand Easy coffee morning to coincide with Mental Health Awareness Week (15-21 May) and to help raise vital funds to support sailors, marines and their families.

Stand Easy is the traditional break in the RN and RM, normally between 1000 and 1030, when personnel sit down with a wet (drink) and connect with their oppos (colleagues and friends).

The charity is suggesting you organise your own Stand Easy, enjoy a cup of tea and slice of cake, and in doing so raise some funds that would go towards vital projects, from improving the social spaces on ships to helping elderly veterans stay connected

For more details, and to register with the RNRMC, see <https://www.rnrmc.org.uk/stand-easy>

### \*\*\*\*\* 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



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

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

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

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

## **D’ye hear there’ ...**

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

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

- [Wallasey branch](#)
- [Marlborough branch](#)
- [Newton Abbot branch](#)
- [Torrevieja branch](#)
- [St Neots branch](#)

- [Chard branch](#)
- [RNA Riders branch](#)
- [Model Makers SIG](#)
- [Southend branch](#)
- [Bude branch](#)
- [Chatham branch](#)
- [Bracknell branch](#)

**RNA Wallasey branch**

RNA Wallasey branch shipmates collected more than 500 Easter eggs – but don't worry, the initiative is not going to send members' blood-sugar levels through the roof.

The eggs (pictured right) were collected to be given to children who unfortunately, for various reasons, would not receive an Easter egg, and the scheme was carried out with the help of with the help of the local food bank.



Shipmates also attended a remembrance service for the Zeebrugge Raid of St George's Day, 1918.

The service was held on the local ferry, and wreaths of real flowers – not plastic – were laid on the river. Families also scattered loved ones' ashes.

The service then moved to the Memorial Stone for the laying of wreaths (see below) – S/M Brian Antrobus laid the wreath on behalf of Wallasey branch.



## RNA Marlborough branch

RNA Marlborough branch might be small, and not too close to the sea, but the drumbeat of such branches is the very essence of comradeship in the Association.

Shipmates have mapped out a number of events over the coming year that will appeal to all in the “wilds of Wiltshire”, including a barbecue when funds are raised for a charity chosen by members.

The branch Trafalgar Night dinner will be held on 21 October, and members are also hoping to attend one of the Central Office open days in the coming months.

They will also make the annual pilgrimage to nearby West Overton Church, where they will pay their respects to local man John Chivers, who was a Marine on board HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar, and is said to have been the man who gained a measure of revenge by shooting the French marksman who fatally wounded Admiral Lord Nelson.

Shipmates also intends to end the year on a high with a Christmas drinks night.

Marlborough branch members now hold their monthly meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at the Lamb Inn, The Parade, Marlborough SN8 1NE.

## RNA Newton Abbot branch

HMS Triumph, which affiliated to Newton Abbot in September 2019, finally exercised its Freedom of the Town after delays caused by operational commitments and Covid by marching through the Town on 1 April this year.

Leading the march was TS Rame Head Sea Cadet Band. The Guard was inspected by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor of Newton Abbot.

Standards were paraded by RNA Newton Abbot and Torbay branches, RBL Newton Abbot and RBL Paignton.



HMS Triumph is the seventh and last of the Trafalgar class of hunter-killer nuclear submarines, and the only one of the class still in service.



RNA Torrevieja Branch shipmates spent another exhilarating time together at Little Italy for a Menu del Dia without having to put in any sea time across the Mediterranean – this Little Italy was near Cabo Roig, a beach resort to the south of Torrevieja.

The event (pictured above) was oversubscribed, and with the restricted number of 40 shipmates in attendance the restaurant was ‘ull to the gunwales, or in civilian terms bursting at the seams. Nevertheless, the restaurant staff coped admirably, and the scran was top notch.

Shipmates left in high spirits, including those who had not been drinking alcohol;, and all are champing at the bit in anticipation of the next Menu del Dia.

Almost 60 shipmates and four guests at a recent branch meeting were entertained by four fabulous Torrevieja MusiKhome Ukrainian child singers who were conducted by the mother of one of them (pictured right).

The outstanding performances were very emotionally moving and included some traditional Ukrainian folk songs along with some modern songs which received a standing ovation.

The performance was organised by Shipmate Polina Uchaieva, who also gave a very heartfelt and emotional introduction on behalf of the Torrevieja MusiKhome Head of School, Taras Khomyak, (<https://www.facebook.com/Taras.MusiKhome>), as a way of thanking shipmates for the ongoing support they have provided.





Shipmates wish them and their families a happy and successful integration into either their temporary or permanent life in the Torrevieja area, along with a swift and peaceful conclusion to the conflict in Ukraine.

Following the musical soiree, shipmates awarded several certificates as acknowledgement of significant milestones within the branch membership system, which includes award certificates on the anniversary of 10, 15 and 20 years of membership.

As Torrevieja branch was first commissioned on 2 October 1990 there are a number of shipmates who are reaching these milestones; some of them permanently based in Spain as residents and others who may be considered as 'wanderers', splitting their time between UK and Spain.

In attendance were S/M Joe Billet and S/M Rose Lyon who were both presented by the branch chairman S/M Tony Jenkins with their Silver Award Certificates for 15 years membership.

Shipmates also gave a resounding round of applause to welcome aboard four new Associate Members – Dave Parle, Brenda Maw, Anna Verberge and Rita Poissonnier – who hail from the UK, Holland and Brussels.

Torrevieja branch has a diverse mix of members, a friendly and engaging group of people who embrace the Association ethos of Comradeship, Loyalty, Patriotism and Unity while enjoying a range of social events.

## RNA St Neots branch

St Neots branch kicked off their 2023 fundraising season with a bucket collection at the local Tesco superstore on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 April.

Shipmates manned the foyer in teams of three or four from 0900 to 1800 each day, efficiently organised into three-hour watches by secretary Tony Webley in best Gunnery Office style (knees and backs aren't up to four-hour watches these days).

Shipmates were very pleasantly surprised by the public's generosity, particularly considering the cost of living issues, and raised more than £1,500.



They also received any number of favourable comments on their smart turn-out, as you can see from the likely lads in the photo. They also recruited a retired RSAN Commander and his son-in-law, who they think was a killick, so BZ to all involved!

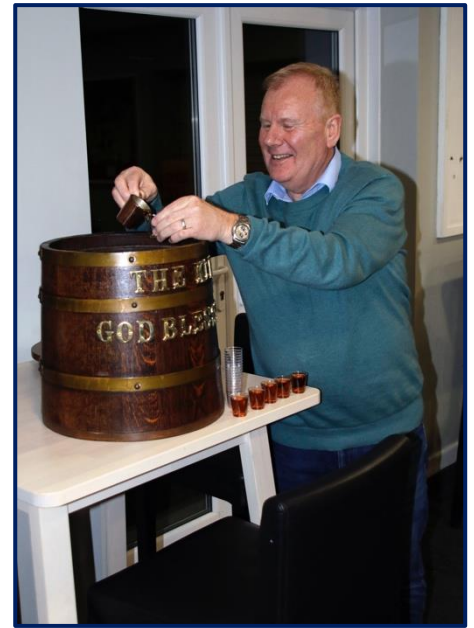
Pictured (left to right) are Tony Webley, John Gibbs, Paul Main and Robin Norman

## RNA Chard branch

The Chard Branch of the Royal Naval Association recently hosted two guests – hopefully soon to be members – together with 18 shipmates at the recent commission of the Branch Rum Tub.

The evening, which also saw a successful quiz session, went well with a few humorous moments although it was tinged with sadness at the announcement that one of their long-serving members, Colin Middleton, had crossed the bar. RIP Shipmate – time to stand down, your duty is done.

The branch are now proud owners of a rum tub and members' thanks went to shipmates Mike and Brian Kirkland for their hard work in producing it. It was duly christened with Mike Kirkland acting as 'Rum Bosun' for the occasion (pictured right) – a job well done.



A most enjoyable evening was had by all and the Branch were especially thankful to the Chard Cricket Club for their support to the branch. Image by Dick Moon.

## RNA Riders branch



The RNA's unique branch (*their claim – Ed!*) have celebrated their fifth anniversary – and they have come a long way in those five years.

From the first AGM with five shipmates, to close on 200 across the country, from Land's End to John o'Groats, from Cardiff to Great Yarmouth, the branch has expanded dramatically in that time.

To celebrate, a branch rally was held at the Leicester Senior Service Club. The gathering on Friday was greeted sadly with rain, which kept numbers lower than expected, but those who attended made the most of it by starting the Uckers tournament with free flowing drinks.

Saturday started bright and sunny for breakfast – most made it by 0830. RNA National Chairman Keith Ridley officially opened the rally before the riders left to navigate around the Leicestershire/Lincolnshire countryside for the obligatory ride-out.

They called in to pay their respects to 10 Para at their memorial at Burrough on the Hill, Leicestershire, and after a short service and wreath-laying ceremony, they continued to the Cranfield Aviation Heritage Museum, then made the short trip to the Royal Oak in Auburn, Lincolnshire.

After a successful lunch stop, the riders arrived safely back at base to ready themselves for the evening's entertainment. With shipmates from Hinkley, Rushden, Market Harborough and as far away as Cosby joining in the fun, the



evening's entertainment got under way with none other than Elvis – well, Mickey Vegas as Elvis (above), to be strictly truthful.

Around 100 shipmates from half a dozen different areas settled in, got drinks and waited with anticipation and he didn't fail to deliver. The first 45 minutes ended with rapturous applause.

The raffle took up a good part of the interval, as it offered a staggering 44 prizes, then shipmates tucked in to one of the best hog roasts they had eaten.

Elvis then did a second set, and during all this, the uckers tournament carried on to yield two semis and a final game on Sunday morning.

Sunday saw breakfast for most, some maybe with sore heads. The two semi finals and final of the uckers was played, and the honour of the Riders branch was upheld as Secretary Dave Ives and partner Rob Copland won against a spirited fight from Ian Robinson and partner from the LSSC.

Then it was time for the long rides home after packing up of tents – yes, some did brave the rain and camp out!

Thanks were expressed to all who have gone before and built this unique branch of the RNA, and to all at Central Office over the years for backing them.



## RNA Model Makers Special Interest Group

The RNA's Special Interest Group (SIG) for Model Makers and Model Making now has 86 members on its database.

Unfortunately, organisers do not have everyone's email address, so they have been unable to plan the group's first AGM, which they are required to do under the conditions and guidance of SIG rules.



S/M Gary Daisley is looking to all SIG members to get in touch with him to confirm their email address – contact the SIG at [rna.modelmakers@gmail.com](mailto:rna.modelmakers@gmail.com)

You can join the Model Makers Group on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/434544820928061>

## RNA Southend branch

Southend branch has had a busy quarter already, with Shipmate Christine Cox (Branch Welfare & Wellbeing Officer) spending time at the Welfare Seminar in Portsmouth with the Training Team, making sure that the branch is kept up to speed with regard to all things Welfare related.

S/M Christine Cox receiving her Branch Welfare Officer Badge from Branch Chairman John Hawes (left of picture) and Branch Treasurer Mick Horner (right) during the branch Christmas Carol Service in December.



If you are in need of the branch's Welfare support, please contact the team on [rnasos.welfare@gmail.com](mailto:rnasos.welfare@gmail.com).

February came and went, and with it the branch AGM, where CPO Paul Dawes, OiC of Southend Sea Cadets Corps (TS Implacable) received a donation from funds collected during the branch's charity fundraising events late last year.

S/M Brian Cox and his team have also been collecting for Naval charities at the David Lloyd Leisure Centre this year, and the branch is grateful to S/M Garry Moore for the loan of his wireless card reader, which helped tremendously this year,

In mid-April, the sun came out and the tide came in for a Southend branch Member's Luncheon at the Halfway House Toby Carvery in Southend...

The branch is still running its daily photo quiz on its Facebook Page – take a look at that, and see what else members have been up to  
<https://www.facebook.com/RoyalNavalAssociationSouthend/>

Some branch meetings will see S/M Margaret Quantrill (Social Secretary) presenting guest speakers – once again, keep an eye on the Facebook page to find out who's talking, about what, and when. All are welcome.

A family day of fun and entertainment was organised at the RNA Club in Southend to celebrate and witness the Coronation of King Charles III, with full television coverage and the bar open from noon. There was also a BBQ and pool & darts competitions planned in for later in the day.

The club will be hosting a karaoke session on Sunday 14 May from 1300 – non-members welcome. Similar events are regularly staged on the second Sunday of the month.

Looking slightly further ahead, RNA Rayleigh branch will be hosting a Summer Dance and Buffet on Friday 2nd June at 7pm. Tickets at £17 are available from S/M Mick Horner.

On Saturday 10th June at 1930 there will be a fundraising concert at the Southend RNA Club, featuring the Great Wakering Community Choir. The £5 entry fee will help fund school building projects in Costa Rica, and the price includes refreshments.

Southend shipmates invite you to show your support for the military by joining them for the Armed Forces Day Parade in the city's High Street on Saturday 24 June from 1000.

An ABBA night is planned for Saturday 1 July – fancy dress is optional but 70s and 80s music is obligatory...

And the branch's 2023 Trafalgar Night Dinner is also on the calendar – due to be held on 21 October, please keep an eye on the usual channels for further details of cost, timings and menu – and make sure you book early to secure your place!



## RNA Bude branch

Bude branch's Annual Fun Quiz returned in mid-April at the Falcon Hotel, Bude.

A total of 16 tables signed up to face ten rounds of ten questions on a variety of topics. With the Quizmaster (aka Branch Secretary) ably assisted by his 'Verifier' and a team of volunteer

members on the night, all went well, with the usual cries of "Oh no!", "Why didn't I say that!", and "Now now you remind me!"

However, credit to all contestants (in teams of maximum six members) for supporting the cause and also for their generosity in the raffle.

The winners went away clutching a £60 voucher to enjoy a meal of their choice at the Falcon, the raffle prize winners also looked very pleased, and all seem to have enjoyed their evening.

Shipmates will be back on 8 April 2024 – the Events Manager already has it in the diary. Book early to avoid disappointment!

## RNA Chatham branch



On Tuesday 17th Of April Shipmates RNA Chatham Chairman Dennis Potter and Secretary Chris Stout attended the Presentation evening hosted by Medway Towns Sea Cadets unit TS Cornwallis.

This is the first award ceremony to take place post covid restrictions.

Many Cadets were awarded Badges Shields Scrolls for their sterling efforts which included two berths on TS Royalist.

It was a very enjoyable evening and well supported by many very proud parents, and of course the endless commitment of the staff who lay on the food, drink and helped in many ways to bring this evening together. They are often in the background but never forgotten.

As with all Cadet units the brilliant Instructional staff (pictured here) are a very well respected crew whom give up endless hours of their time and experience to make this cadet unit the success it is.

## RNA Bracknell branch

Over a quarter of the way through the year already – where does the time go?

Following the AGM in January branch members have enjoyed three entertaining monthly meetings with a talk by a shipmate on Admiral John Arbuthnot Fisher, otherwise known as 'Jacky', by Air Chief Marshal Sir William Wratten on the flypast he led over Buckingham Palace in 1990 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain, and, most recently, the April meeting which was followed by another excellent quiz by a fellow shipmate, including rounds on the alphabet, Navy Things, Firsts and "Chocolate" – something for everyone...



Two shipmates attended the excellent two-day Welfare and Wellbeing Workshop in the WOs SR' & SNCOs Mess in HMS Nelson at Portsmouth on 3 and 4 February. Supper in the Pickle Bar on Friday evening enabled good bonding between shipmates from around the country and made all feel very much part of a team.

The branch was represented at the latest local Armed Forces Veterans' Hub event run by the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service held at Crowthorne Fire Station on 24 March, run as a coffee morning with hot food and drinks provided. The branch's usual 'stall' was arranged to attract new members. Among those attending were friends from Op Courage and the RAF Benevolent Trust.

Sixteen shipmates had a very enjoyable visit on 23 March to Southwick Park, visiting the amazing D-Day Map Room (pictured above) and the Naval Police Museum. Lunch in the Officers' Mess was excellent! Lt Cdr Michelle Thompson, Executive Officer of the Defence Policing College, who was the guest of honour at our last Trafalgar Dinner, made us very welcome on arrival and at lunch, and our old friend Willie Dick, Master-at-Arms and Curator of the Police Museum, did an excellent job in bringing the planning for D-Day very much alive.

## CROSSING THE BAR – the Venerable Martyn Gough



Tributes have been paid to a former Chaplain of the Fleet – and therefore honorary Chaplain to the Royal Naval Association – the Venerable Martyn Gough, who has died at the age of 57.

Martyn's rise to become the Royal Navy's most senior chaplain was the culmination of almost a quarter of a century of service, both at home and abroad, from the front line with troops in Afghanistan to the day-to-day work of the Fleet in frigates, survey vessels and aircraft carriers.

Although he left the Navy in 2021, Martyn continued to support the Services as National Chaplain to the Royal British Legion, and officiated at that year's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

Martyn is pictured (above) reading a blessing at the commissioning of HMS Tamar into the Fleet at PNB in late 2020 (©UK Ministry of Defence Crown Copyright, 2020).

For a fuller reflection of Martyn's life, see <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2023/may/05/20230505-navy-loses-the-chaplain-of-the-fleet>

### **CROSSING THE BAR – S/M George Good (Bude branch)**

Bude branch has sadly lost another senior Member with the death of S/M George Good on 15 April.

George was the Branch's eldest Full Member at the age of 98, having been born at the end of October 1924.

He joined Royal Navy in January, 1943 at HMS Gosport for training, then headed up to Dunoon and HMS Curlew for further training in ASDIC, Cable Laying, and Mine control before returning back south to Portland (HMS Boscawen) for more Cable training.

He took part in the invasion of Sicily in the summer of 1943 (Operation Husky), and served in destroyer HMS Quail, which was badly damaged by a mine while on patrol in the Mediterranean out of Bari later the same year.

George was also involved in the Anzio landings in Italy in 1944, then returned to the UK for further ASDIC training in depot ship HMS Helvig.

He was demobbed in June 1946 as a L/Seaman.

George will be particularly remembered for his great skill in moulding rope figures. He was always a highly respected member of the branch who will be sorely missed.

"Safe passage, calm seas and harbour, Shipmate" – your watch is over.

### **CROSSING THE BAR – S/M Alan Litchfield (Bude branch)**

It is with the deepest regret that Bude branch advises that their highly-respected S/M Alan Litchfield crossed the bar on 13 April. Not just the RNA, but also the RBL and RMA branches have lost a real gentleman, friend and generous colleague who gave so much to the whole area.

Born on 29 December 1924, Alan joined the Royal Marines at Lympstone in April 1942 and after initially being drafted to various locations, found himself in charge of a landing craft off Normandy on D-Day.

After some hospital time, he then proceeded through Belgium, Holland and Germany, eventually being demobbed at Eastney Barracks in June 1946.

Alan had served as RNA Branch President and also held office in the Royal British Legion. A recipient of the Legion d'Honneur, he was a man who was known to so many and held in total respect by everyone.



An excellent Dinner had been staged in his honour for his 98th birthday celebrations – typical of his generosity that he sponsored it himself, just so long as there was a portion of apple pie available... Please raise a glass to his memory – farewell Royal" calm seas and a safe harbour. RIP Alan.

**CROSSING THE BAR – S/M Roy Haigh (Maidstone branch)**

National Standard Bearer S/M Steve Champion, Area Standard Bearer of the Royal British



Legion Les Smart, Royal Marines Bugler Mike and shipmates, including Rhoderick (Spike) Hughes and Ron Dorey attended the funeral of Roy Arnold Haigh RN Rtd at Woodlands Cemetery in Gillingham. Shipmate Roy crossed the bar on 7 December 2022. This gentleman served on many ships, including HMS Gannet, light cruisers HMS Swiftsure and HMS



Liverpool, and HMS Terror.

The picture above shows Roy in his Merchant Navy uniform, which includes the Medway Queen badge on his cap worn whilst serving many years helping to restore the paddle steamer Medway Queen.

**CROSSING THE BAR – S/M George Kirsopp (Wansbeck branch)**

There was a large turnout for George Kirsopp's funeral on 31 March at Blyth crematorium, followed by refreshments at the Cherry Tree pub at Stakeford, Choppington in Northumberland.

He got a good send-off from friends and relatives alike, as well as members from two of the local branches of the RNA, including their branch standards.





A guard of honour was formed prior to the arrival of the hearse comprising 12 members from Wansbeck & District, & Tyne branches of the RNA, including a welcome appearance by Cdr Chris Craddock, Branch President from Wansbeck branch in Northumberland, of which George was also a member.

S/M George had served in the Royal Navy for 18 years, mainly on board aircraft carriers HMS Eagle and HMS Ark Royal.

He was a Wansbeck RNA branch member for over 30 years, 25 of them as branch secretary, before becoming branch Vice President.

It was only in the last few years that he started missing attendances at the meetings, which are held twice monthly at Hirst Progressive Club on North Seaton Road in Ashington Northumberland, as his eyes and legs were failing him.

In the last few weeks of his life he had to go into hospital because he was having breathing problems, where he was diagnosed with cancer, which could not be treated.

He was 87 when he died on 16 March, and had been married to Margo, an ex-Wren for more than 60 years. His family were with him at the end.

He will be sadly missed by all those who knew him, especially his grandson Daniel. who was also in the Royal Navy for 11 years.



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## Swinging the Lamp – May 2023



*The RNA is grateful to the Author, Lt Cdr Lawrie Phillips TD, RD, RNR for allowing us to publish a selection from the RN Day by Day, and to use this excellent book as a source of inspiration. If you would like to read more it can be purchased from The History Press, ISBN 978 0 7509 8266 5*

Date	Year	Entry
1 <sup>st</sup>	1970	The Admiralty's Nuclear Reactor Testing Establishment at Dounreay on the north coast of Scotland is commissioned as HMS Vulcan.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1982	Argentine light cruiser ARA General Belgrano was torpedoed and sunk in the South Atlantic by nuclear submarine HMS Conqueror with the loss of more than 320 lives – almost half the number of Argentine military deaths during the Falklands Conflict.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1977	Light aircraft carrier (or 'through-deck cruiser') HMS Invincible, the lead ship of her class, was launched at the Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering yard at Barrow-in-Furness by the Queen.
4 <sup>th</sup>	1982	Destroyer HMS Sheffield, the first of the class of Type 42 destroyers, was hit by an Exocet missile while on picket duty for the Falklands task force carrier group, resulting in the death of 20 sailors. The ship burned for hours and had to be abandoned, sinking while under tow six days later.
5 <sup>th</sup>	1962	Submarine HMS Ocelot, one of 13 Oberon-class boats, was launched – the last Royal Navy warship to be built at Chatham. After 27 years of service she paid off, and is now on display back at Chatham Historic Dockyard.
6 <sup>th</sup>	1943	The end of the so-called Battle of Convoy ONS 5 in the North Atlantic, which lasted some ten days. The Allies lost 13 merchant ships, totalling 63,000 tons, en route from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia, while seven German U-boats were sunk, and another seven damaged to varying degrees. Regarded as the turning point in the Battle of the Atlantic.
7 <sup>th</sup>	1947	705 Naval Air Squadron formed up at Gosport with the Sikorsky Hoverfly – the Royal Navy's first full helicopter squadron, initially acting as the Fleet Helicopter Requirements Unit.
8 <sup>th</sup>	1945	Victory in Europe Day – officially the end of World War 2 in the European theatre of operations.
9 <sup>th</sup>	1975	Type 21 frigate HMS Ardent was launched at Yarrow Shipbuilders on the Clyde. The frigate sank on May 22 1982 in the Falklands campaign, the third successive Ardent to be lost in action.
10 <sup>th</sup>	1968	The Queen Mother officially opened the Clyde Submarine Base at Faslane on Gare Loch in Scotland.
11 <sup>th</sup>	1969	Royal Naval Phantom aircraft took part in the Daily Mail Trans-Atlantic Air Race, marking the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first crossing of the ocean by Alcock and Brown. Lt Cdr Brian Davie, CO of 892 NAS, set a new world air speed record between New York and London in a time of 4h 46m 57s, while Lt Cdr Peter Goddard lifted the Alcock and Brown Trophy for the fastest eastbound crossing between the Empire State Building and the Post Office Tower in 5h 11m.

12 <sup>th</sup>	1976	The first of the Type 22 frigates, HMS Broadsword, was launched by Yarrow at Scotstoun in Glasgow.
13 <sup>th</sup>	1937	Destroyer HMS Hunter was badly damaged when she struck a mine south of Almeria in Spain during the Spanish Civil War, killing eight of her crew. She was eventually towed to Gibraltar by the cruiser HMS Arethusa, then repaired in Malta. Hunter was sunk in the First Battle of Narvik in April 1940.
14 <sup>th</sup>	1941	HMNZS Puriri, a coaster converted to a minesweeper, struck a German mine and sank off the North Island of New Zealand, losing five crew in the incident.
15 <sup>th</sup>	1957	The UK's first thermonuclear bomb was detonated over the coral atoll of Malden Island, in the central Pacific, during Operation Grapple 1. Although hailed a success at the time, Grapple 1 was far less powerful than predicted.
16 <sup>th</sup>	1966	Passenger train services to Devonport Dockyard, used to transport personnel to other bases and for special excursion services at leave periods, ceased to run.
17 <sup>th</sup>	1946	Cruisers HMS Orion and Superb were fired on by Albanian shore batteries while passing through the Corfu Channel, regarded by the UK as international waters. It was a precursor to a much more serious incident in October when 44 sailors died in HM Ships Saumarez and Volage.
18 <sup>th</sup>	1945	The accidental firing of a the guns of a Vought Corsair fighter into a Grumman Avenger torpedo-bomber in the hangar of carrier HMS Formidable led to a serious fire which raged for more than an hour, resulting in the loss or damage of 21 Corsairs and seven Avengers, requiring the ship to detach from Pacific operational duties for repairs in Australia.
19 <sup>th</sup>	1845	Capt Sir John Franklin's expedition to transit the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic – the 'Lost Expedition' – sailed from Greenhithe in Kent in HMS Terror and HMS Erebus. The men of the expedition were last seen by Europeans in July 1845 in Baffin Bay; the wrecks of the ships were discovered in 2014 (Erebus) and 2016 (Terror).
20 <sup>th</sup>	1937	King George VI reviewed the Fleet (including German heavy cruiser Admiral Graf Spee) at Spithead – the first time such ships were illuminated. It gave rise to a famous piece of commentary for the BBC by expert commentator Lt Cdr Thomas Woodroffe, who had been enjoying the company of some former shipmates in HMS Nelson before the live broadcast... <a href="https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/anniversaries/may/thomas-woodroffe-at-the-coronation-fleet-review">https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/anniversaries/may/thomas-woodroffe-at-the-coronation-fleet-review</a>
21 <sup>st</sup>	1982	The start of the Battle of San Carlos, when 3 Cdo Brigade successfully went ashore and established a bridgehead at San Carlos Water in the Falklands, while the British Task Group was subjected to fierce air attacks – frigate HMS Ardent was fatally damaged, frigate HMS Argonaut took a pounding, and most other ships in 'Bomb Alley' sustained damage.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	1941	HM Ships Fiji, Gloucester, Greyhound and York (wrecked) were sunk during fierce German air attacks in the Battle of Crete. HM Ships Kashmir and Kelly were sunk the following day.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	1822	Wooden-hulled paddle tug HMS Comet was launched at Deptford – the first steam ship built for the Royal Navy. She remained in service until 1869.

24 <sup>th</sup>	1941	Admiral-class battlecruiser HMS Hood was sunk during the Battle of the Denmark Strait with the loss of 1,415 of her ship's company – just three men survived. One of the ships that sank her, Bismarck, was hunted down by Royal Navy forces and sunk three days later.
25 <sup>th</sup>	1943	Victoria Cross awarded posthumously to Cdr John Wallace 'Tubby' Linton for his exploits as CO of submarine HMS Turbulent He, his crew and his boat were posted missing in the Mediterranean on 23 March 1943.
26 <sup>th</sup>	1918	Armed yacht HMS Lorna sank submarine UB-74 in Lyme Bay while escorting a Channel convoy. The vessel, originally built as luxury steam yacht Beryl and renamed in 1911, Lorna served in both World Wars and was finally scrapped in 1968 in Greece following a collision two years earlier.
27 <sup>th</sup>	1993	A Royal Fleet Review in Liverpool Bay to mark the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic went ahead despite a fierce gale which forced several smaller vessels to drop out of the event.
28 <sup>th</sup>	1941	A landing party from submarine HMS Upright blew up a railway line near to the Punto Stilo lighthouse in Calabria, southern Italy .
29 <sup>th</sup>	1940	World War 1-vintage W-class destroyer HMS Wakeful was sunk by a German E-boat during the Dunkirk evacuation, Operation Dynamo. The warship had already safely carried more than 600 troops to Dover on 27 May, and had another 640 troops on board when she was torpedoed in the approaches to Zeebrugge harbour; only four of these men, plus 25 of her own crew, survived.
30 <sup>th</sup>	1906	Duncan-class pre-dreadnought battleship HMS Montagu grounded off Lundy Island in fog during wireless telegraphy experiments in the early hours of the morning. Hopes that the stricken 14,000-ton ship could be salvaged were dashed over that summer as she suffered further damage, and she was eventually scrapped in situ over the next 15 years.
31 <sup>st</sup>	1968	The Royal Naval Fleet Club on the Corradino Heights in Malta, formerly known as the Fleet Canteen, closed its doors for the final time after 71 years.

## 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**



# ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023



## ADELPHI HOTEL PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY

*Afternoon Tea/Coffee in the Lounge 1400 – 1600*

*Dinner in the Main Dining Room 1800 - 2130*

*ENTERTAINMENT: Banqueting Suite 1900 till late (rig casual)*

*Preston D Barnes (Team Ricky The Voice)*

*Good Times (Group)*

*Disco - Raffle - 'Up Spirits'*

### SATURDAY

*Breakfast in the Sefton Suite 0700 – 0930*

*National Conference begins 0900 (Pearce Suite) Coffee from 0815 – all welcome to attend*

*Gala Dinner in the Banqueting Suite 1800 for 1830 (Rig Black Tie or Equivalent)*

*ENTERTAINMENT*

*Love Shack (Group)*

*Disco - Raffle - 'Up Spirits'*

### SUNDAY

*Breakfast in the Sefton Suite 0730 – 1000*

*Adelphi for Holy Communion (0930) with Drumhead parade/service late a.m*

*Dinner - Hot Buffet in the Sefton Suite or a meal in the Main Dining Room 1800 - 2130*

*ENTERTAINMENT: in Banqueting Suite - 1900 till late (Dress Casual)*

*Guy King (Singer)*

*Gill Ross (Comedian/Singer)*

*Sole Sistas (Duo)*

*Disco - Raffle - 'Up Spirits'*

### MONDAY

*Breakfast in the Sefton Suite 0700 – 0930*

*Departure*

*'Happy Hour' daily in the Wave Bar (entrance by reception) 12:00 till 17:00*

*For more information or to book your slot visit: [www.royal-naval-association.co.uk](http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk)*