



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

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Monday of the
Month... ish



The Semaphore Circular

No 728

The Beating Heart of the RNA

April 2023



National Council Members and officials of the Royal Naval Association gather for a photograph outside Victory Building in Portsmouth on the day of the most recent National Council meeting, March 3. Image by S/M Nigel Huxtable

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

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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
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NCBA	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,
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Scott Road,
HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth
Hants PO1 3LT

Ahoy Shipmates

Short and sweet this month as I'm heading out the door loafing on leave in France for a week leading up to Easter w/e. The big news this month is the fabulous announcement that those personnel involved in the Her Late Majesty's funeral are to be recognised through the Victorian Order. Heartiest congrats to you all, you made us all very proud. Meanwhile, we remain hopeful that His Majesty will confirm his role as our patron and continue the Monarch's line of patronage to the Association.

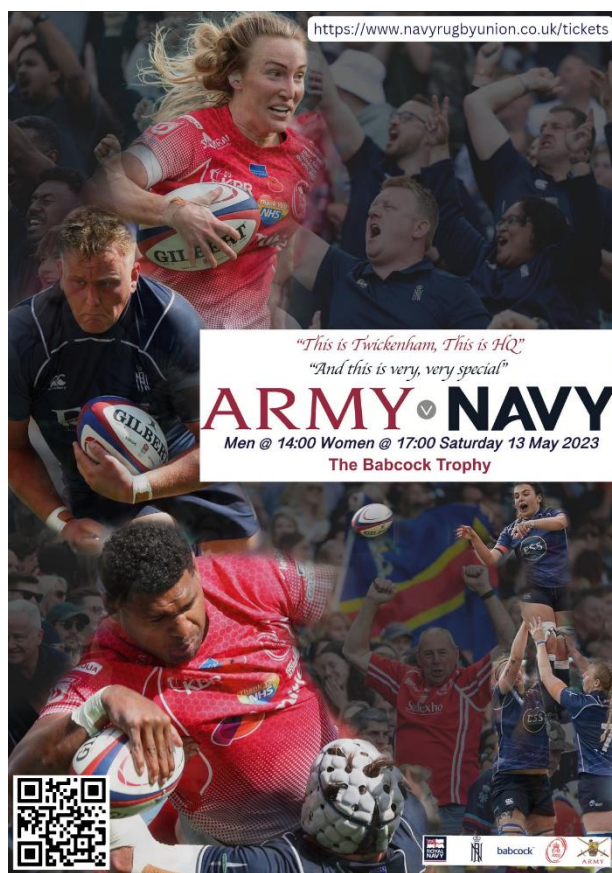


Bill Oliphant - General Secretary

Please may I thank RNRMC for the grant to allow us to continue the Welfare Support piece from Central Office. Gemma Swanson has taken on the role and will maintain the momentum on Welfare/Wellbeing after the very successful workshop in early February. I would also like to thank the legal firm Haynes and Boon for their very generous sponsorship donation of £5,000 and likewise to MW Shipping who will again pay for lunch at the AGM/Conference in Liverpool.

I reiterate my message regarding the Army v Navy tickets. National Council has kindly granted me a wee pot of money to allow me to offer RNA members a £5 reduction on the ticket prices for this year's Army v Navy match at Twickenham on Saturday 13 May. Look out for the booking form which will be promoted in next week's Semaphore Short. Also, if Branches or Clubs are considering organising a coach or minibus, remember, you are able to apply for a grant of £250 from the Branch and Club Support Fund towards this.

I'm also very glad to announce that Alice Farrow has now joined us in Central Office having taken on the Head of Communications role. I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to have a Comms professional back in the team as it's such an important part of the outputs of the RNA. Welcome Alice!



Just a gentle reminder to all Branches who haven't yet done so to please send in their end of year Balance Sheets which you will have prepared for your AGM – thank you.

Finally, nice to see that those involved in the Coronation in May will wear cap badges with the King's cypher. Looks great.

Best wishes, Bill

RNA branding, merchandise and 'gizzits'

As shipmates might be aware, there are a number of changes happening at Central Office.

One is ensuring our branding and communications are aligned so there is consistency in our messaging and how we present ourselves to the wider world with gazebos, pull-up stands, name badges, posters and the like. This is a significant project and will take some time to complete, so we would ask you to bear with us.

Part of the branding and communications work will be to identify and license companies who are authorised to use the RNA logos, which are Trademarked and Copyrighted, to generate income for the Association.

In the interim Central Office would request that branches do not commission designs which include either the RNA Badge or the term 'Royal Naval Association' until this work is completed.

One of the purposes of gizzits/giveaways is to promote the Association and encourage recruitment. Following a number of high-profile events it has been identified that despite giving away large volumes of gizzits/giveaways, they did not generate any new members. Therefore, the decision was taken to only fund paper sailor's card hats and RNA beer mats from the central budget.

However, for those branches who would like to continue to do this, we know by supplying these centrally we can negotiate the best possible prices and ensure the RNA's brand is consistent. As mentioned, there will be a cost involved and as soon as we know what this looks like, we will be back in touch.

If you would like to discuss this, please contact Alice Farrow, Head of Communications (hoc@royalnavalassoc.com).

National test of Emergency Alerts system – Sunday 23 April

Emergency Alerts is a UK government service that will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby. In an emergency, your mobile phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe.

The government does not need to know your phone number or location to send you an alert.

Alerts may be warning about severe flooding, fires or extreme weather for example.

When you get an emergency alert your mobile phone or tablet may make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent, vibrate or read out the alert, which will last for about ten seconds.

An alert will include a phone number or a link to the GOV.UK website for more information.

A **national test** of the National Emergency Alerts system is due to take place on **Sunday 23 April**.

For more information on the service, see <https://www.gov.uk/alerts>

Fighting With Pride signs Armed Forces Covenant

Fighting With Pride (FWP) has signed the Armed Forces Covenant at an event at the Queer Britain Museum. As well as signing the Covenant the event



included speeches from the Ministry of Defence's Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Samantha des Forges, Craig Jones MBE, Executive Chair and Caroline Paige, Chief Executive of Fighting With Pride.

The signing of the Armed Forces Covenant represents FWP demonstrating its commitment as an employer which values and supports members of our Armed Forces family.

This was witnessed by representatives from across Government including James Gray MP, Chairman of the Armed Forces All-Party Parliamentary Group, the Armed Forces charity sector as well as some of those LGBT+ veterans who served during the ban.

Minister for Defence People, Veterans and Service Families, Dr Andrew Murrison said: "We are immensely proud of all our LGBT+ personnel and are truly grateful for the significant contributions they continue to make to our security, national interests and safeguarding our prosperity. We are committed to furthering equality and ensuring our personnel feel valued, and are celebrated after they leave, which is why I am so pleased to see Fighting With Pride sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant and expand our support for our LGBT+ veterans."

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Johnny Mercer said: "Fighting with Pride is an important organisation and I'm pleased that their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant is deepening. I look forward to continuing to engage with them on key issues affecting the LGBT+ veteran community."

Samantha des Forges, Director of Diversity and Inclusion at the Ministry of Defence said: "[The Armed Forces Covenant](#) is a promise from the nation that those who serve or have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. So, I particularly want to pay tribute to the role Fighting with Pride have played, and continue to play, supporting our LGBT+ veterans' community and their families.

"We have been missing a vital part of our Defence family for too long and today is another step to embracing those veterans impacted by those injustices, of whom we are so proud and for whose service Defence, and the nation, are eternally grateful. "

Chief of Defence People Vice Admiral Philip Hally CB, MBE said: "I am really delighted that Fighting With Pride has signed the Armed Forces Covenant. Their tireless campaigning for fairness and respect for our LGBT+ Service personnel, veterans and their families is synonymous with the values which the Armed Forces Covenant represents."

Fighting With Pride is a lived experience LGBT+ military charity and is campaigning to support the health and wellbeing of LGBT+ Veterans, serving personnel and their families. Their focus is to raise awareness and recognition of those most impacted by the historic 'gay ban' on LGBT+ military service, before it was finally lifted in January 2000.

The charity has been working with the Office for Veterans Affairs (OVA) to achieve the aims of the Veterans' Strategy Action Plan 2022-2024, which seeks to make the United Kingdom the best place in the world to be a veteran by 2028. FWP is also working alongside the LGBT Veterans' Independent Review team, led by Lord Terence Etherton who was a previous Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice from 2016 to 2021.

Fighting With Pride have been instrumental in assisting LGBT Veterans submit their testimony during the 'Call for Evidence' stage of the Independent Review.

The Armed Forces Covenant is the pledge to acknowledge and understand the needs of the Armed Forces community, building a more open and honest relationship between employers, the Ministry of Defence and reservists.

For more information on FWP see www.fightingwithpride.org.uk

1. Annual Conference in Liverpool

It is now less than two months 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.

The RNA's programme is centred on the Adelphi Hotel, in the city centre, and will include entertainment on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights, the RNA AGM on Saturday, and a black-tie Gala Dinner on Saturday evening.

The full programme for the RNA Conference is available at the end of the Circular – click here

Liverpool will be busy, with a civic reception on the Friday night, a military village at the Pier Head with visiting naval vessels alongside, and a Royal Marines Band concert on the Saturday. There will also be a drumhead parade and service on the Sunday morning, with some of our BOA veterans taking the salute.

If you are attending the Gala Diner on the Saturday evening, Area 10 have requested that you forward to them your full names, Branch and Area, for the table plan, as well as indicating if a vegetarian option is required or you have any food allergies. Please pass this information on to Fred Pilgrim - fredpilgrim@msn.com – by 1 May.

See [here](#) for more details of the BOA80 civic programme, and booking forms are available at the end of this Circular – click [here](#).

2. Golf Special Interest Group event on Annual Conference weekend

There is still time to sign up for a Special Interest Group (Golf) event on Friday 26 May at the start of the National Conference and BOA80 weekend activities. This event builds on the success of last year's event in Portsmouth.

The event will be held at West Derby Golf Club, and organiser Kev 'Mac' McAllister has ten four ball tee times reserved. For mor information on the course see <https://www.westderbygc.co.uk/>

Timings:

Arrival: 0900-0930 Tea, coffee and bacon baps on arrival
First Tee: 1018
O/C Tea and coffee available

If you wish to take part in the above event, which is open to all genders, please send Mac the following details:

Name
Handicap
Area / Branch

He will need details of all those wishing to play **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 28 April 2023** – this will give him enough time to sort playing groups, tee times and confirm numbers with golf course caterers

Email: kevinmac31@tiscali.co.uk

West Derby Golf Club can easily be reached from the M62, M57 and M58, and is four miles from the centre of Liverpool. Please use the link above to view the golf club and course – there are practice areas available pre tee times to warm up and an ample car park.

If there are any questions please contact Mac soonest.

3. News from the Membership Support Division!

This month's notices, in no particular order:

- This year's Conference raffle tickets are now on sale from Central Office. Tickets have been sent out to Branch Secretaries for sale locally, but if individuals and members of the HQ Roll would like to purchase tickets directly, please email Sara in Central Office on sara@royalnavalassoc.com 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 are barely into Spring just now, but shipmates are encouraged to cast their minds forward to November and the Remembrance ceremonies in London. 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.



4. Battle of the Atlantic 80th Anniversary Commemorations programme

Liverpool is gearing up to host veterans and serving personnel from far and wide for the Battle of the Atlantic 80th anniversary commemorations over the weekend of May 26-28.

Veterans who served during the most decisive and long fought battle of World War 2 – the Battle of the Atlantic – were the guests of honour at an event in Liverpool to launch an 80-day countdown for the 80th Battle of the Atlantic commemorations.

98-year-olds Denis Rose, from West Kirby, and John Dennett BEM, from Wallasey, were welcomed into the Ops Room at the Western Approaches Museum in Liverpool, which was once home to the Western Approaches Command and the centre of joint RAF and Navy operations to protect Allied merchant shipping in the Atlantic.

Denis volunteered with the RNVR, joining up at 17, and served on Atlantic and Arctic Convoys. John is originally from Wiltshire but has lived in Wallasey since the end of the war. He joined the Royal Navy as an able seaman aged 17 and served as an anti-aircraft gunner.

The veterans were joined by guests from the Royal and Merchant Navies, the Canadian Navy, the RAF, Lord Mayor Roy Gladden, Liverpool Pilots, Sefton Sea Cadets, and trustees of the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Charity. The guests assembled for a welcome speech from Gary Doyle, chair of the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial charity, and watched a specialy commissioned film about the Atlantic Campaign. A Corps of Drums from the Royal Marines closed the event with a performance in Exchange Flags, above the Western Approaches Museum.

The BOA80 weekend, which is being led by the [Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Charity](#), will bring together partners from across the city region and beyond, including Armed Forces friends and allies from the Commonwealth, Europe, and the USA.

In a key part of the commemoration weekend, the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial charity will unveil a new national memorial to those who were lost. The new garden of reflection will be unveiled on Friday 26 May at the Church of Our Lady and St Nicholas at the Pier Head.

Lord Mayor of Liverpool Roy Gladden, said: “The Battle of the Atlantic was, according to Winston Churchill, one of the most important battles that took place, and if we’d lost that we would probably have lost the war.

“Tens of thousands of Merchant Seamen died to keep the supply lanes open and without them our nation would have starved.

“It is therefore vital that we remember the important role our city played, and I am very much looking forward to the series of events the city is putting on to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.”

The weekend of commemorative events from 26– 28 May will include:

- A riverside 1940s-themed military village at the Pier Head
- Visiting vessels open to visitors in the Mersey
- 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 concert by HM Royal Marines Band at Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall
- A drumhead ceremony at the Pier Head
- 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 BoA80 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 WW2, and to show how things have moved on.

Bookings are now being taken for the next in the series of BOA80 lectures – **The Cable and Wireless War: the battle beneath the U-boats**, by Steven Jones, held on Tuesday 4 April , 1730 for an 1800 start, at The Athenaeum in Liverpool city centre (close to the Bluecoat), which - as before - is totally free to attend thanks to the generosity of sponsor Peel Ports.

The lecture considers that while the Battle of the Atlantic raged on the surface, an information war was also being fought. Thousands of miles of telegraph cables – and the pipeline of information they carried – was the prize. Steven's lecture will examine the battle which raged far beneath the German U-Boats and Allied vessels, and the vital role that undersea cables still play today.

Tickets can be booked at <https://battleoftheatlantic.org/events/boa80-lecture-2-the-battle-beneath-the-u-boats-by-steven-jones/>

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. You can find more information about all the Battle of the Atlantic 80th commemoration events at battleoftheatlantic.org/boam-events/

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

With (fingers crossed) better weather on the way, don't forget 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 newly-reopened Ship Anson, which suffered a fire at the beginning of the year, 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,.

6. 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.

7. 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.

The latest email, for example, offers a 'wallet workout' that could save you hundreds of pounds, advice on pet insurance and the return of fixed energy deals.

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

8. Monday Evening Fireside Chats

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

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

Date	Presenter	Subject
Monday 03 April	Malcolm Farrow	The Union Jack
Monday 17 April	Cdr Bryan McCavour	RN Battlestaff Update
Monday 24 April	Dr Mark Barton	Duelling in the Royal Navy
Tuesday 09 May	Steve Dingley	Pusser's Rum to propose a Toast to His Majesty King Charles III
Mon 15 May	Capt Andrew Ainsley	RN Carrier Strike Group
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 Chats on 10 April, 01 May, 08 May and 29 May, which are all Bank Holidays

** Lecture subjects may change at short notice.*

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

9. 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 - 2nd 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, 2nd 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...>

10. Changes in Leadership at RNBT

On 10 February Cdre Russell Best OBE RN took the reins from Capt Nick Fletcher RN as Chair of Trustees at a meeting of the Central Committee of Trustees at the RNBT.

The Trustees thanked Nick for his outstanding leadership during a period of many challenges for the Trust, not least the Covid pandemic, but also very significant achievements which included the successful delivery of Admiral Jellicoe House, the Trust's centenary care home project, to time, performance and cost.

Russell Best, already the Admiralty Governor, was warmly welcomed to his new leadership role.

On 28 February Admiral Sir Tim Fraser KCB accepted the position of President from Vice Admiral Sir Charles Montgomery KBE at a dinner held in the Great Cabin onboard HMS Victory, by kind permission of the First Sea Lord, and with the Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Connell in attendance.

Sir Tim was warmly welcomed to RNBT, and Sir Charles was thanked for his nearly 10 years of support to the Trust.

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

13. Biennial Parade

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

Further information will be made available 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

Classic Cars – Mike Burnham: hon.secretary@rnarayleigh.org

Cricket – Mark Smith : Markmiff1962@gmail.com

Cycling – Craig Fulton: craig@govguide.co.uk

Decorative Ropework – Bob Jones: oldsalt69@hotmail.co.uk

Divers – Bill Lawless: billylawless40@yahoo.com

Fishing – Gus Honeywood/Selwyn Davies/John Stephenson: rna.fishing.sig@gmail.com

Golf – Colin Dinsdale: rna.golfers@gmail.com

Riders – Dave Ives: secrnariders@gmail.com

Model Makers – Gary Daisley: RNA.Modelmakers@gmail.com

If you are interested in forming a Special Interest Group please contact admin@royalnavalassoc.com

15. Free residentials for veterans – Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust

The Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund is offering free residentials for veterans, to enjoy a getaway in rural mid-Wales, taking part in activities promoting physical and mental wellbeing and connecting with other veterans while taking time out from everyday life.



Subjects covered include cooking and nature, and photography and hillwalking.

For more details see the [flyer](#) at the end of this Circular.

16. Chefs/Cooks/Caterers reunion, Cardiff, 12-14 May

Calling all RN Chefs / Cooks / Caterers past and present – you are invited attend the next reunion in Cardiff on 12-14 May 2023.

Reunions have taken place in Birmingham, Liverpool and Paisley, which have been well supported. We have a raffle, a book of remembrance for fallen chefs / caterers, an auction in aid of Bravehound, which supports former Servicemen and women and their families by providing training and dogs to support veterans.

We were delighted to have one of the dogs named Paisley, after a previous reunion, and its veteran owner to come and chat with us all.

For further details please contact Martin McDonough (ex-Leading Cook) at martin.mcdonough@sodexogov.co.uk

17. Forces Employment Charity – Women into Employment

The Forces Employment Charity (FEC) is delighted to announce the launch of their Women into Employment event series, developed to help you understand the current employment market, where your skills might fit and how best to find that first or next important job role.

Join them at both their Networking Evening on 11 May and day Conference on 5 June, and take the opportunity to meet people invested in supporting you on your next career journey, no matter what direction you take.

For details of the 11 May networking event see <https://tinyurl.com/t9f4ak6z> and for the 5 June conference see <https://tinyurl.com/5xhwzxw7>

The FEC provides life-long, life-changing support, job opportunities, and training to Service leavers, veterans, reservists and their families, regardless of circumstances, rank, length of service, or reason for leaving.

For further information see the FEC website at <https://tinyurl.com/4bhu8k94>

***** 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 where there is plenty of information on the history of the brand, the rum itself, cocktails and loads more besides.



Forces Cars Direct

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2023	
14 April	National Council meeting, HMS President
14 April	County-Class Destroyers Association reunion in Rosyth.
15 April	Scottish Area AGM and 2 nd Quarterly Meeting, 12.30 for 1300, at RBLs Club, The Square, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3HF.
06 May	His Majesty King Charles III Coronation
11 to 14 May	Londonderry Branch will be Commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic
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
2024	
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

D'ye hear there' ...

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

This Month Featuring.....

- [RNA Bognor Regis branch](#)
- [RNA Falmouth branch](#)
- [Area 4 Standard Bearers competition](#)
- [RNA Grantham branch](#)
- [RNA St Neots branch](#)
- [Area 4 South West Flotilla reunion](#)
- [RNA Paddock Wood branch](#)
- [RNA Torrevieja branch](#)
- [RNA Wansbeck branch](#)
- [RNA Wrexham branch](#)

RNA Bognor Regis branch

Having used the Royal Air Force Association Club at Bognor Regis for several years as their base, Bognor Regis branch were kindly given permission to erect a flagpole alongside the RAFA flagpole on the front of the building.

This will enable the RNA house flag to be flown whenever the shipmates are in attendance or on special occasions such as Bognor Regis Armed Forces Day, Trafalgar Day and Remembrance Sunday.

The photograph (right) shows S/M Ron Hargest, Chairman of Bognor Regis RNA, hoisting the RNA house flag for the first time at the March branch meeting. Unfortunately there was very little wind on the day, but shipmates are pretty sure that will change over the seasons.



Another new flagpole was also erected for use by other organisations.

RNA Falmouth branch



At Falmouth branch's recent AGM the Branch Chairman, S/M Mick Stevens, who had spent 20 years in the role, handed over the reins to S/M Roy Wright. Pictured left is a presentation to Mick (on right) by Roy in recognition of and thanks for all his work for the branch.

Area 4 Standard Bearers competition

After an absence of two years, Standard Bearers training again took place at Bridgwater Sea Cadet HQ.

The first three Sundays in February were taken up with training sessions, and the last Sunday 26th February was the Number 4 Area Competition. S/M Malcolm Day, the Number 4 Area Ceremonial Advisor, took the Standard Bearers through their paces in February - several Standard Bearers then went on to parade their Standards at the Annual Area 4 Reunion at Bideford at St. Margarets of Antioch, Newham at the beginning of March (pictured above with Rev Julie Harris).



Despite there being only three competitors taking part, the winning place was fiercely and proudly contested, with the winner being S/M Ben Cartwright of Portland Branch, the runner up was S/M Mike Morton of Street Branch and third place went to S/M Lisa Lambert of St. Austell Branch. S/M Lisa a complete novice, was full of enthusiasm to learn, and her effort was very commendable.

S/M Mike Glendenning was the adjudicator, and S/M Jan Morton provided the much needed refreshments.

The competition was attended by 10 Shipmates who provided raffle prizes and victuals for a buffet lunch. £30 was raised from the raffle and duly passed on to Bridgewater Sea Cadets who once again were thanked for the use of their premises.

RNA Grantham branch



Grantham RNA Branch held a Fish and Chip Supper which was enjoyed by all the branch shipmates.

It was also attended by Area 9 Chairman Keith Crawford MBE and his wife Yvonne, who presented S/M Julie Schofield and S/M Helen White with a Meritorious Service Award for 2022 for all their hard work in the Branch (see picture).

RNA St Neots branch

The St Neots Branch held their annual AGM and it attracted a good turnout of shipmates.

S/M Paul Main was elected as the new Chairman, S/M Mike Milne was re-elected Treasurer and S/M Don Barltrop was re-elected as Independent Financial Examiner.

BZ to S/M Geoff Patterson for the excellent job he did as Chairman – and Geoff will remain on the St Neots Branch committee.

S/M Pete Horner was awarded the coveted title of S/M of the Year at the AGM by Branch President John Gibbs (pictured right – Pete is on the left).



The award was to recognize Pete's many contributions to Branch activities, including the RNA bench refurbishment, when he mustered with a vanload of power tools! Pete is the shipmate wearing the mask in the picture below, accompanied by S/Ms Tony Webley (on left) and John Gibbs.



St Neots branch had their first 'Worthy Causes' collection in Bedford in 2022, and (below) S/M Keith Ridley is seen presenting a cheque to Lt Cdr (SCC) Mark Steggall RNR, CO of Bedford Sea Cadets' TS Victorious.

The St Neots delegation were shown around the different activities and were extremely impressed by the keenness and enthusiasm of the cadets, as well as their leadership.

S/M Geoff Patterson also assisted in a pancake-tossing competition - the most tosses in a minute were thirty-six. He felt empathy with the young cadet who managed to toss his pancake down the back of the cooker!

They were a great bunch of youngsters. Let us hope at least some of them go on to join the Navy.

Finally, S/M Mike Milne received the Pembroke House Shield from Area 6 President Anthony Boddrell-on behalf of the St Neots Branch for the most fund-raising in Area 6 – the presentation is pictured left.



Area 4 South West Flotilla reunion

The RNA Area 4 held its annual South West Flotilla reunion over the first weekend in March at the Durrant House Hotel in Bideford, raising hundreds of pounds for Service charities at the same time.

The reunion, organised by S/Ms Mike and Fay Lawton and their committee of Pat Knight and Ian Scraggs, is the 46th to take place, having taken a forced break for the past two years. 168 Association members and guests attended the three-day reunion on 3rd March and they enjoyed a packed program of events.

Friday night saw the return of the hot and cold buffet dinner, with shipmates getting together, some of whom had not seen each other for many, many months. There was entertainment and dancing, repeated again on the Saturday night at the formal four-course gala dinner, where shiny medals, shoes, DJs and long frocks were the order of the evening.

The Guest of Honour was National RNA President Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB, accompanied by his wife Pamela. Also in attendance was the Area 4 President and Area 4 Chairman, as well as members from 18 branches across Devon, Cornwall, Somerset and the South West.



The National President was able to present S/M Gill Essom, from Portland branch, with the Jacqui Ward Trophy, awarded to the Associate female shipmate who had contributed most, selflessly within branch during the past year (pictured above right).

Sunday morning saw standards from 13 branches being paraded at the Church of St Margaret of Antioch with the Area 4 Padre Martin Kirkbride and Revd Julie Harris – who was conducting her first service in the Parish, having received her licence only the week before.

Later in the day there was a quiz – fiercely contested and won by Liskeard branch; the funds raised from that, the Saturday night raffle and the rum raffle raised around £1,400.

The rum raffle was eagerly anticipated as this was a rum that could not be bought from retail and was only made for the RN, RNA and RM. There were two bottles up for grabs and the winners soon because extremely popular people!



The Saturday night star prize was a crystal decanter, donated by Bodmin branch member Betty Tiller, now well into her nineties, but still wanting to share that camaraderie that is the backbone

of what the Association stands for. The £1,844 raised will be shared amongst Naval and Veteran charities.

S/M Mike Lawton, on behalf of the Reunion Committee, said: “It all went very well and it was delightful to see so many people able to get out and back together again. Covid 19 has prevented the event taking place for the last two years and much has changed for so many, but the coming together and seeing everyone has been wonderful.

“The Durrant House Hotel has, once again, done us proud and we can’t wait to see what we can do for next year”.

RNA Paddock Wood branch



Paddock Wood branch Vice Chairman S/M Kevin Norman is pictured receiving his lifetime membership certificate, blazer badge and pin from Branch Chairman Shipmate Bob Broad on 13 March.

RNA Torrevieja branch

The RNA Torrevieja Branch (RNATB) Annual General Meeting was a resounding success in March as their membership swelled by 40 over the last year to 116 shipmates.

Although many of the shipmates spend time between the UK and Spain, there were still an impressive 57 shipmates in attendance to vote in the Vice Chairman, S/M Dusty Miller, Branch Secretary, S/M Steve Hemingfield and Social Secretary, S/M Sally Miller, for a two-year cycle and maintain the Committee strength of five.

The financial stability of the branch was duly reported, along with the tremendous growth in membership of civilians as well as ex-RN matelots and Wrens.

It was also reported that in addition to the Committee, there had been an immensely successful growth of the support team, including Welfare Volunteers, now numbering over 14, all of whom are called Facilitators and help maintain the exciting, dynamic and caring support for all the shipmates.

The RNATB enthusiastically reviewed their very accomplished year and particularly in regard to the increased attendance at the numerous and varied social events that they had hosted during the last year.



The S/M's also voted overwhelmingly in favour of continuing to use the Lakeview Bar & Restaurant, Calle Toledo 16, Ciudad Quesada, 03170, Alicante as their monthly meeting venue.

Once the formal requirements of the AGM were conducted and the meeting formally closed, shipmates were able to hold their less-formal and more boisterous branch meeting, where they continued to expand on their many social engagements, including the recent and

successful **Valentine's Lunch**, the forthcoming **Murder Mystery Dinner** and excitedly looking forward to the **Cava Reception and High Tea Event** to celebrate the coronation of **King Charles III**, as well as their **Trafalgar Night Dinner** in October.

A bouquet of flowers was presented, on behalf of shipmates, to Raffle Coordinator Nicola Loudon (pictured above) as special recognition for achieving, with her support of her team, the significant increase on last year of raffle prizes and collections, which boosted the branch funds and donations to charity.

This was then followed by shipmates tucking into some scran of chilli, chicken curry, lasagne and quiche, along with all the trimmings – and all paid for from branch funds.

After concluding with their traditional raffle, where more than 20 prizes were won, they sailed off home to relax after an exhilarating afternoon.

RNA Wansbeck branch

Presentation of longest (founder member) serving member and Certificate of Appreciation from Wansbeck Branch of the RNA to Joan Venables.

At a lunch-time celebratory meal at the Half Moon pub in Stakeford Ashington on Tuesday 28 February a presentation was made to S/M Joan Venables, who has been a member of Wansbeck branch since it started in 1982.

A former Wren in the Royal Navy for a number of years, serving at various places throughout her career, S/M Joan was also the Branch Area Representative for more than 30 years in Area 11 NE. Branch Treasurer S/M Ken Walton and Branch Secretary S/M Derek Wilkinson made the presentation in the absence of the Branch Chairman, who was unable to attend.

RNA Wrexham branch

The shipmates of Wrexham branch held their Annual General Meeting in the first week in March at the Wrexham and District War Memorial Club.

The chairman reminded the meeting of the very busy year following the Covid lockdown, and that the branch had attended and supported many events in Wrexham, including the Welsh Armed Forces Day, the Proclamation of King Charles III and the celebration of Wrexham becoming a city.



At the end of the meeting, the opportunity to photograph the 28 shipmates who attended was taken (above right), as well as presentations to three of those present

S/M Keith Pritchard, who stepped down as Chairman and Secretary in March 2022, S/M Eric Holmwood and S/M Jeff Hughes RVM were all presented with branch Certificates of Appreciation.

A refurbished, now emblazoned with the badge of the Royal Naval Association, was presented to the branch by Chairman S/M Kevin Hackett.

The ladies of the branch who have served as nurses in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and the Women Royal Naval Service, also took the opportunity to have their photograph taken as a group.

Once the business of the night had been completed Shipmates enjoyed a chicken curry supper.

CROSSING THE BAR – S/M Eddie Linton (City of Newport branch)

It is with the greatest sadness that City of Newport (Gwent) Branch report the passing of their shipmate and founder member, Eddie Linton, RNA Life Member and Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, who crossed the bar on 18 March.

He celebrated his 97th birthday in January.

Eddie joined up at the age of 17 in 1943, and after training at Torpoint and Portsmouth he was posted to HMS Cardiff (D58), a C-class light cruiser built for the Royal Navy during World War 1. At the start of World War 2 she was initially assigned to the Northern Patrol but became a gunnery training ship in late 1940 and continued in that role for the rest of the war.



Eddie was then drafted to the River-class frigate HMS Mourne (K261) which was part of the Fifth Escort Group (led by the renowned submarine hunter Capt Donald MacIntyre) which was assigned to defend the Western Approaches to the Normandy invasion beaches against U-boat attacks.

On June 15 1944, HMS Mourne and the other ships were deployed to sweep the Channel further away from the landing zones. She was hunting a U-boat when, around midday, HMS Mourne was torpedoed by another submarine, U-767, off Wolf Rock. The vessel sank rapidly after the forward magazine exploded. Eddie and a shipmate, Edward Bowen from Cardiff, were at the aft depth charge throwers when the torpedo hit and they both got blown up. That was the last time Eddie would see his close friend.

The submarine had used an acoustic Gnat torpedo which homed in on the sound of the ship's propellers, and 110 sailors died in the ship that day, with only around 20 men – including Eddie – surviving. HMS Mourne was U-767's only victim, and the submarine was itself sunk on 18 June south-west of Guernsey with only one survivor.

The other ships in the flotilla dispersed but left floats for those in the water. The explosion had obviously attracted attention because a Sunderland flying boat arrived shortly afterwards and also dropped a large rubber dinghy. While he was clinging to a Carley float, Eddie also remembers that this was then followed by a Liberator bomber. The plane circled over the wreckage low enough for him to see one of the aircrew leaning out of the waist gunner's position

clutching a camera and taking photographs. The survivors were eventually picked up by HMS Aylmer after several hours in the water and taken back to Devonport.



Able Seaman Linton was transferred to RNH Stonehouse for treatment to the facial injuries and hearing loss he suffered during the explosion. Eddie's description of the action and its aftermath was featured in the Navy News February 2014 edition and the Western Mail – see <https://tinyurl.com/32aafn66>

Eddie was demobbed in 1947 and worked in a power station and a factory assembling armoured vehicles. He'd met his first wife Dorine Hannett, a Wren, in Rosyth towards the end of the war and they

married in 1946 but she died tragically of tuberculosis aged just 21, leaving Eddie with two very young sons. Eddie remarried in the 1950s but his second wife, Rose, also passed away unexpectedly at the age of 45.

He visited Normandy twice, including for the 70th Anniversary and, thanks to the crew of the cross-Channel ferry, was able to lay a wreath at sea in memory of his shipmates from HMS Mourne. Eddie received his Légion d'Honneur in January 2016.

He was confined to barracks for the past couple of years, looked after by his devoted grandsons and with regular calls from Newport branch Welfare Reps. He was last visited in January on his birthday by the Branch Chairman, who presented him with a bottle of his favourite Navy-strength rum.



Despite the ordeals he'd suffered, Eddie was always composed, easygoing and sanguine, and he will be greatly missed.

Fair winds and calm seas, shipmate.

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Swinging the Lamp – April 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 st	1963	The British Military Hospital in Gibraltar, first opened in 1901, was formally transferred to the Royal Navy and renamed the Royal Naval Hospital Gibraltar. The RNH finally closed in 2008.
2 nd	1969	The White Ensign was lowered for the final time at HMS St Vincent, the Boys Training Establishment in Gosport. The site had previously been home to barracks, a wartime Fleet Air Arm officers training centre and a signals school, but the final classes finished in 1968 and a closing ceremony was held on 8 December. The site is now occupied by St Vincent College.

3 rd	1944	The Royal Naval Navigation School (HMS Dryad) moved out of Southwick House, north of Portsmouth, making way for the headquarters of the Allied commanders of Operation Overlord, the invasion of France.
4 th	1966	The RN Armaments Depot at Coulport in Scotland opened for business, three years after the signing of the Polaris Sales Agreement.
5 th	1982	Aircraft carriers HMS Hermes and HMS Invincible sailed from Portsmouth for the South Atlantic during the Falklands Conflict.
6 th	1958	Fiji-class light cruiser HMS Bermuda visited its namesake island for the first time – 16 years after she was commissioned. The warship saw plenty of action during the war, and continued in service until 1962.
7 th	1932	D-class destroyers HMS Defender and Diamond both named by Lady Eyres-Monsell, wife of the First Lord of the Admiralty, at Barrow. Defender was launched the same day, but Diamond's launch was delayed for a day by bad weather. A third ship of the class, HMS Daring, was also launched on 7 April, on the South Coast at Woolston. All three ships had been sunk by the summer of 1941.
8 th	1944	Modified Black Swan-class sloops HMS Crane and HMS Cygnet sank U-962 during the Battle of the Atlantic. The submarine was on her second wartime patrol, and had not managed a single strike when she was lost with all hands off Cape Finisterre. Both British ships survived the war, and were scrapped in the 1960s.
9 th	1958	HMS Turpin arrived in Devonport after a 5,200-mile 30-day tow from Kingston, Jamaica, by Fleet tug RFA Samsonia, the longest by a submarine. Turpin had developed engine problems while operating in the Caribbean, and she had also developed something of a reputation for engine trouble, the matter even being raised in Parliament that same year.
10 th	1786	Vice Admiral John Byron was buried at St Mary's Church, Twickenham, having died nine days earlier. Known as 'Foul-Weather Jack' because of his frequent encounters with bad weather at sea, the officer survived an astonishing episode when serving in HMS Wager, which was wrecked on an inaccessible island off the coast of Chile in 1741, the survivors making herculean efforts against immense odds to return home to England. One of Byron's grandsons was the Romantic poet Lord Byron. For a brief account of the Wager episode see https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/mutiny-at-sea-the-forgotten-story-of-murder-and-brutality-aboard-hms-wager/ or, even better, read the full, chilling story as recounted by former RN officer Rear Admiral Kit Layman in his book 'The Wager Disaster: Mayhem, Mutiny and Murder in the South Seas'.
11 th	1997	The White Ensign was hauled down for the final time at Stonecutters' Island, almost 100 years after the Hong Kong establishment was commissioned. Tamar was Britain's last naval base east of Suez. The British military in the former colony remained at the Prince of Wales Building, the Naval HQ in central Hong Kong, until the official handover to the Chinese later that year.
12 th	1945	U-486, starting her second wartime patrol, was sunk with all hands by submarine HMS Tapir off Bergen in Norway. The U-boat had a short but bloody career – on her first patrol she sank the troopship Leopoldville off Cherbourg on Christmas Eve 1944 with the loss of more than 800 men, the majority of them American troops, and shortly after sank frigate HMS Affleck and badly damaged HMS Capel. Her first victim of the patrol had been the British merchantman Silverlaurel off the Eddystone Light on 18 December.

13 th	1940	A force of 250 Royal Marines disembarked from heavy cruiser HMS Suffolk to occupy the Faeroe Islands and deter an Axis occupation. Operation Valentine, as it was known, was implemented as soon as the Germans invaded Denmark and Norway – the Faroes were an administrative part of the former – and the British were said to have been welcomed by the local population.
14 th	1940	A small party of Royal Marines landed from cruisers HMS Glasgow and Sheffield at the start of the ill-fated Namsos Campaign in Norway. British and French troops attempted to retake Trondheim, around 100 miles to the south, after the German invasion of Norway, which would cut off their supply of iron ore and secure airfields for the Allies in northern Norway, but after fierce fighting against worsening odds the Allied forces withdrew in early May.
15 th	1982	Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward boarded a Sea King helicopter on the flight deck of destroyer HMS Glamorgan, north of Ascension Island, and flew some 200 miles to carrier HMS Hermes, transferring his flag as the Commander Carrier Battle Group which was heading south on Operation Corporate, the retaking of the Falkland Islands.
16 th	1953	HM Yacht Britannia launched by the Queen at the John Brown yard on the Clyde. The Royal Naval College that trained officers in Devon, which at the time was known as HMS Britannia, thereafter took the name HMS Dartmouth, but subsequently retained a link with its former identity when it became known as Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC).
17 th	1968	HMS Dreadnought, the Royal Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine, was commissioned. The name was chosen as the vessel, like her namesake battleship of 1906, was a revolutionary design that indicated a significant step forward for the Royal Navy.
18 th	1947	The Royal Navy created the largest man-made non-nuclear explosion when it detonated more than 7,000 tons of surplus and unstable ammunition on the island of Heligoland in Germany. The object of Operation Big Bang was to destroy the military bunkers, submarine pens and installations on the North Sea island, and it was thought possible that the island would be completely destroyed, but in the end much of the island survived, though severely damaged. The main explosion, primed and set off by Royal Navy engineers and weapons specialists from cable ship HMS Lasso some ten miles distant, included the detonation of some 4,000 torpedo warheads, almost 9,000 depth charges and more than 90,000 shells, sending a column of debris more than two miles into the air; earth tremors could be felt nearly 50 miles away. A smaller explosion was set off first to scare away migratory birds. A British Pathe report of the event is available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtatVS-Tk3c .
19 th	1945	First flight of the de Havilland Sea Hornet, the Royal Navy's first twin-engined, single-seat fighter. Developed from techniques used in creating the outstanding Mosquito, the Hornet, originally envisaged as a fast wooden night bomber, morphed into a long-range fighter. Fleet Air Arm considerations were built into the final design to make it carrier-capable. The Sea Hornet, which was praised by legendary RN test pilot Eric 'Winkle' Brown, served in the late 1940s and early 1950s.
20 th	1949	The start of the so-called Amethyst or Yangtze Incident, when the modified Black Swan-class sloop was fired on by Communist Chinese gun batteries on the Yangtze River east of Nanking. Amethyst was heading to Nanking to relieve embassy guardship HMS Consort during the Chinese Civil War, and although unscathed by the first salvos

		(which she could have mistaken for Communist forces bombarding Nationalist forces on the opposite bank), a second gun battery further upstream caused Amethyst to go aground, killing a number of sailors and badly damaging the ship. 22 men, including her captain, died in the incident, which lasted until the sloop made a daring night-time dash for the open sea more than three months later.
21 st	1989	HMS Quorn, last of 13 Hunt-class MCMVs, was commissioned. She was decommissioned in December 2017 and three years later sold to the Lithuanian Navy.
22 nd	1916	Battlecruisers HMAS Australia and HMS New Zealand collided when patrolling in the North Sea. Hidden by fog and alerted to the possible presence of a submarine, the ships came out of the collision with very different results – Australia’s hull was ripped open and her stern damaged, while New Zealand suffered damage to a propeller. Australia had to limp to Tyneside (one of the dry docks was taken up by New Zealand by the time she arrived) then on to Devonport to undergo repairs, which meant she missed the Battle of Jutland; she is thought to have only ever fired twice in anger, once at a German freighter in 1915 and the second at a suspected submarine, though the contact was never confirmed. Sister ship New Zealand, considered a ‘lucky ship’ because of Maori artefacts on board, was given Australia’s spare propeller on Tyneside and she rejoined the Fleet the day before Jutland, playing a full part in the battle.
23 rd	1856	Queen Victoria reviewed her Fleet at Spithead, which included the first illumination of the ships. It is thought almost 250 vessels took part, including around 100 gunboats, with many having only recently returned from service overseas in the Baltic and Black Seas.
24 th	1959	HMS Osprey formally commissioned at Portland in Dorset. For four decades the station would be a bustling airfield, training aircrew and supporting the development of helicopters and tactics, particularly in the anti-submarine role. The first FAA squadron based at Portland actually arrived before the commissioning – 815 NAS had flown in a dozen Westland Whirlwinds ten days before the ceremony.
25 th	1916	Submarine HMS E 22 was torpedoed and sank with just two survivors in an attack by German UB-18 off Yarmouth. The British submarine was perhaps unlucky to tangle with this vessel –UB-18 was the 17 th most successful U-boat of both World Wars, sinking nearly 130 ships in 31 patrols. UB-18 met her fate when she was rammed by trawler Ben Lawer in December 1917, being lost with all hands.
26 th	2011	Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach died at the age of 87. Amongst Leach’s achievements was his success in 1982 in persuading Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher that the Falklands not only could be recovered from Argentina, but must be recovered, explaining that “if we do not, or if we pussyfoot in our actions and do not achieve complete success, in another few months we shall be living in a different country whose word counts for little.”.
27 th	1937	The National Maritime Museum at Greenwich was formally opened by King George VI who was accompanied by the Queen and Princess Elizabeth. The Royal party had sailed down the Thames in the launch of CinC The Nore, accompanied by destroyer HMS Wishart and four MTBs, disembarking at the RN College Greenwich.
28 th	1941	World War 1-vintage destroyer HMS Douglas sank U-65 with depth charges while part of the 2 nd Escort Group tasked with protecting Atlantic Convoy HX 121.

29th	1802	<p>Marines styled 'Royal Marines' by George III 'for meritorious service'. This was on the recommendation of St Vincent, who reflected in 1823 that he had never known 'an appeal made to them for honour, courage or loyalty that they did not more than realise my highest expectations. If ever the hour of real danger comes to England they will be found the Country's Sheet Anchor'.</p>
30th	1968	<p>Phantom Intensive Flying Trials Unit 700P NAS was commissioned at Yeovilton, starting off with three of the American McDonnell-Douglas F-4K Phantom 2 FG.1 jets which had touched down in Somerset the previous day. The Phantoms were operated by both the RN and RAF, and versions of the aircraft had been in service with the Americans since the start of the decade.</p>



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023



ADELPHI HOTEL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 26TH MAY

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, 27TH MAY

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, 28TH MAY

Breakfast in the Sefton Suite 0730 – 1000

Adelphi Holy Communion (0930) with Drumhead parade/service late am

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

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

Guy King (Singer)

Gill Ross (Comedian/Singer)

Sole Sistas (Duo)

Disco - Raffle - 'Up Spirits'

MONDAY, 29TH MAY

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

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

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

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

Live entertainment Friday and Sunday

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

Car Parking £15.00 per car for duration of weekend.

Accommodation can be booked on

0151 709 7200 Ex 2 or 3

ADELPHI HOTEL LIVERPOOL

Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023

Room Rates 25th - 28th May 2023

250 Rooms available for the Gala Dinner

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

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

Dinner in restaurant on Friday and Sunday.

Breakfast served in the Pearce Suite.

Saturday Gala Dinner in the Banqueting Hall.

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

Live entertainment Friday, Saturday and Sunday Evenings

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

Car Parking £15 per car for duration of weekend.

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

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

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

Rate inclusive of - Breakfast, guest Wi-Fi,
 use of leisure facilities [pool, gym, Sauna] and VAT
Guests to pay in full 28 days prior to arrival

The Gala Dinner (£27.50 pre-paid) can be booked
 directly with the Adelphi on 0151 709 7200 ext. 2 or 3
 Those staying at the Adelphi have the dinner included with their
 package so additional places will be limited. For those who are able
 to book, wrist bands will be available at the Adelphi reception from
 Friday evening and must be worn to gain entry to the Gala Dinner.

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

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

To book email the booking form to H6495-sb@accor.com

Hotel contact details

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



Booking and Payment Form for

Royal Naval Association Annual Conference 2023

26th -28th May 2023, 2 nights minimum, Bed and Breakfast

GUESTDETAIL

Main occupant name:

Occupant name:

Nights per stay:

Room Type required:

Date of check in:

Email:

Contact number:

Additional comments:

PAYMENT DETAILS

Total Rate of Stay: £

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

Full Address of Cardholder:

Credit card type and number:

Card expiry date:

Name of the bank that issued the card:

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

Name:

Signature:

Delegate to Annual Conference 2023 Liverpool

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

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

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

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

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

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



FREE RESIDENTIALS FOR VETERANS 2023

THURSDAY 2ND TO SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

Cooking and Nature

MONDAY 20TH TO THURSDAY 23RD MARCH

Photography and Hillwalking

MONDAY 8TH TO THURSDAY 11TH MAY

Cooking and Nature

WEDNESDAY 14TH TO SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

Art and Cyanotype

SATURDAY 22ND TO TUESDAY 25TH JULY

Cooking and Nature

TUESDAY 22ND TO FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST

Photography and Hillwalking

Join us for a relaxing getaway in rural Mid Wales; take part in activities promoting physical and mental wellbeing, connect with other veterans and take time out from everyday life.



"All expectations were exceeded and I had a wonderful time. The hospitality, food and accommodation was outstanding... met some great people and the location is perfect!"



Our residential experiences are free of charge, including accommodation and meals provided by Hafren Forest Hideaway and Caffi Clywedog. Peer mentors / buddies are welcome to accompany any veteran.

CONTACT

If you would like to take part or contact us on behalf of someone, please get in touch at office@radiatearts.co.uk, 07860 609991 or www.radiatearts.co.uk



Address:
Clywedog Creative Hub
Clywedog Dam, Y Fan
Llanidloes, SY18 6NU

