



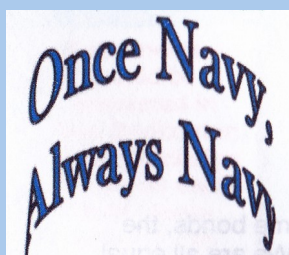
*Happy
New
Year*

Getting Underway

Royal Naval Association
Bridlington Branch Newsletter
January/February 2016

Volume 2, issue 1

Jan/Feb
2016



Ahoy Shipmates!

Happy New Year! And welcome to the first edition of getting underway for 2016. A good time to remind members that subs are now due. This year fees remain the same at £10 and gangway is frozen at £5.00 a year or if you prefer to pay on attendance 50p per branch meeting. Please see the treasurer with your fees ASAP. Your 2016 stamps will then be given on their receipt from HQ.

This years Annual General Meeting will be held at The Old Ship Inn on Thursday 4th February 2016 commencing at 19:00 hrs. If you are able then please attend as we have several committee positions to be filled. This year Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Standard Bearer are all up for election/re-election. Nomination forms are available from the secretary and are to be completed and returned as soon as possible. If you are intending to nominate someone for a position then please ensure that they are willing to fulfill the position should they be elected.

RNA Headquarters have several open days at base in Portsmouth this year and they are hoping to see has many branches as possible attending. A full day is promised with a tour of Semaphore tower taking up the morning before lunch, whilst the afternoon has a cruise of the harbour with several RN spots of interest being visited. If you would like to see our branch attend one of these dates please see a committee member and inform them of your interest.



The dates available are:

Friday	8 th April
Friday	13 th May
Friday	1 st July
Friday	19 th August
Friday	7 th October



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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION BRIDLINGTON BRANCH OFFICIALS

President	Eric Hudson	07837 199903
Chairman	Martin Jolly	07765 895697
Dpt. Chairman	Vacant	
Secretary	Mike Rubery	07722 362949
Treasurer	Lee Broadbent	07809 458760
Standard Bearer	Martin Barmby	07786 228229
Welfare	Martin Jolly	07765 895697
Slops	Mike Blake	07836 798083
Committee	Vicky Barton	
Committee	John L'Amie	

RNA core values:

Unity

Shared backgrounds and equality in rank. We share the same bonds, the same mindset, and even the same language (Jackspeak!). We are all equal. We are the heart and soul of the RNA.

Loyalty

To each other and our dependants. We will always support and look out for each other. Our loyalty is to all our shipmates, our local communities, the personnel and dependants of the Naval Service, along with other charities or organisations with naval connections.

Patriotism

We are proud to serve and proud to represent our country and the Naval Service. Our pride in serving our country never leaves us. Nor do we forget those who have fallen for our country or who fight now. We are deeply honoured to represent them on both a national and international level.

Comradeship

Friends in fun, fellowship and need. Your shipmates will always be here for you, whether it's about a job, ideas for a fun day out or just an arm around the shoulder. We will never leave you or your dependants in despair.

Getting Underway compiled and edited by S/M Mike Rubery

If you have anything you would like entered in Getting Underway please telephone or email on the above number or at secretarybridrna@gmail.com



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Eric Hudson Awarded Chevalier Legion D' Honnuer

Congratulations to our President, Eric Hudson, who was presented with the National Order Knight of the Legion of Honour, France's highest decoration by the Lord Lieutenant of East Riding, Susan Cunliffe-Lister. The medal was awarded "in recognition of his acknowledged military engagement and steadfast involvement in the liberation of France during the Second World War".

On D-Day Eric served in the Royal Navy aboard a landing craft as part of a special operations team. His ship, H.M.S. LCT-E 311, was ordered to support the out numbered American forces at Utah beach. During the operation the landing craft was badly damaged and the crew were ordered to abandon ship. After helping three non-swimming shipmates to safety on another landing craft, Eric swam 300 yards to the beach. Exhausted he slumped to the floor tripping a land mine that exploded and severely wounded him. He managed to stumble 150 yards to the safety of a nearby wall where American soldiers helped him.

Medics carried out emergency surgery on Eric in a field hospital, before swiftly evacuating him back to England, under the cover of night, believing him to be an American sailor. After some weeks convalescing in an American hospital he was released and returned to his base, H.M.S. Westcliffe where he reported for duty. He was then informed he had been listed by the British as "missing presumed dead".

Unfortunately, due to the injuries he sustained, Eric was unable to return to full active service and was pensioned out shortly after the end of the war.

The presentation ceremony was held on 17th December 2015 at RBL Alderson House and was officiated by Master of Ceremonies Steve Haynes, formerly the Queens Toastmaster, and was attended by Bridlington's Lord Mayor Councilor John Copsey and several of Eric's close friends.



Legion D' Honnuer



Eric receives the Legion D' Honnuer from Mrs Susan Cunliffe-Lister watched by Mayor John Copsey



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Between the
two charity
events we
have raised
£234

News

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Sadly our shipmate Keith Lewis crossed the bar on Tuesday 24th November 2015, he was 83 years old. Although not a regular attender of branch meetings due to ill health, and also living in Flamborough, he was always seen once a year, at the meeting when his subs were due.

His funeral took place at East Riding Crematorium, Octon, on Friday 4th December. A guard of Honour was formed by branch members and our standard in attendance. Keith's family were happy to see branch members and asked for their thanks to be sent.

Dickensian Festival & Christmas Event

A big thank you to the members that manned the stall at the Dickensian Festival held in the Old Town in November. We managed to raise £160 in what were challenging conditions. Heavy rain at the start of the day didn't put the public off and we were made to feel really welcome.

Bridlington Town Councils Christmas spectacular was held on Sunday 6th December on King Street. Again poor weather greeted us but we managed to raise £74 and met Santa too. Thanks must also go to Karl "The Piper" Linley who played the bag pipes alongside us at both events



Dickensian Festival with
Piper Karl Linley

Christmas Festival





Great Warships of The Royal Navy

H.M.S. NELSON

HMS *Nelson* was one of two Nelson-class battleships built for the Royal Navy between the two World Wars. She was named in honour of Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson the victor at the Battle of Trafalgar. The *Nelsons* were unique in British battleship construction, being the only ships to carry a main armament of 16-inch (406 mm) guns, and the only ones to carry all the main armament forward of the superstructure. These were a result of the limitations of the Washington Naval Treaty. Commissioned in 1927, *Nelson* served extensively in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian oceans during World War II.



Nelson was laid down in December 1922 and built at Newcastle by Armstrong-Whitworth. Launched in September 1925, she was commissioned in August 1927 and joined by her sister ship HMS *Rodney* (built by Cammell Laird) in November. She cost £7,504,000 to build and made partial use of the material prepared for the cancelled Admiral-class battlecruisers HMS *Anson* and *Howe*, planned sister ships of HMS *Hood*.

She was the flagship of the Home Fleet from launch. In 1931 the crews of both *Nelson* and *Rodney* took part in the Invergordon Mutiny. On 12 January 1934 she ran aground on Hamilton's Shoal, just outside Portsmouth, as she was about to embark with the Home Fleet to the West Indies.

Nelson was modified little during the 1930s and was with the Home Fleet when war broke out in September 1939. On 25 and 26 September she performed escort duty during the salvage and rescue operations of the submarine HMS *Spearfish*. *Nelson* was first deployed in the North Sea in October against a German formation of cruisers and destroyers, all of which easily evaded her. On 30 October she was unsuccessfully attacked by U-56 under the command of captain Wilhelm Zahn near the Orkney Islands being hit by three torpedoes, none of which exploded. Later she was again shown up for pace in the futile pursuit of German battlecruisers. In December 1939 she struck a magnetic mine (laid by U-31) at the entrance to Loch Ewe on the Scottish coast and was laid up in Portsmouth for repairs until August 1940.

In June 1941 *Nelson*, then in Gibraltar, was assigned to Force H operating in the Mediterranean as an escort. On 27 September 1941 she was extensively damaged by a Regia Aeronautica torpedo strike and was under repair in Britain until May 1942. She returned to Force H as the flagship in August 1942, performing escort duties for supply convoys running to Malta. She supported Operation Torch around Algeria in November 1942, the invasion of Sicily in July 1943 and the Salerno operation (by coastal bombardment) in September 1943. The Italian long armistice was signed between General Dwight Eisenhower and Marshal Pietro Badoglio aboard the *Nelson* on 29 September. The *Nelson* returned to England in November 1943 for a refit, including extensive additions to her anti-aircraft defences. Returning to action she supported the Normandy landings but hit two sea mines on 18 June 1944 and was sent to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in Pennsylvania for her repairs. She returned to Britain in January 1945 and was then deployed to the Indian Ocean, arriving in Colombo in July. She was used around the Malayan Peninsula for three months. The Japanese forces there formally surrendered aboard her at George Town, Penang, on 2 September 1945. *Nelson* returned home in November 1945 as the flagship of the Home Fleet until reassigned as a training ship in July 1946. She was decommissioned soon after the end of the war and scrapped in 1949.



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FLEET AIR ARM

Meet A Shipmate: Aircraft Engineering Technician Vicky Barton

I joined the navy on the 6th January 2008 aged 19. Before the navy I did 3 years at Headlands 6th form but instead of going to university I decided to join the navy as my grandad was a radio officer in the merchant navy. A few months before I joined I went to Dartmouth and did a one week course to see if I wanted to be an officer, but I decided to join as a rating.

After my initial training I went to HMS Collingwood to train as a Warfare Specialist. One week before I passed out of phase 2 I decided to branch transfer to an Aircraft Engineering Technician. This resulted in me having to do phase 2 again at HMS Sultan. I successfully passed my course and I opted to work on fixed wing aircraft. I was then sent to RAF Wittering to complete Phase 2B on the Harrier GR9's and T10's. My first draft was 800 Naval Strike Wing at RAF Cottesmore. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there, the 'crabs' were great people to work with and I have lots of amazing memories of my time there. My job title was Plane Captain as I had my own jet that I looked after and was responsible for along with a buddy..

I never got to go on any detachments but I did get a chance to go to Bavaria for a 1 week intense leadership course. I worked on the Harriers until they were decommissioned and I feel privileged to be one of the last people to ever maintain one. After our squadrons disbanded and the base slowly shut down I decided the time was right for me to leave and pursue my next career in civvy street. After leaving I got a job as an assistant bar manager at a local pub, then I was a crematorium operative and now I am currently a Funeral Director at Ernest Brigham's.



Other News!

Shipmate Roy Smith has moved home and now resides in Stockton-on-Tees. During the time he lived in Brid he was a very active member of our branch. As well as being vice chairman and deputy standard bearer, Roy was also poppy collection organiser for RBL. Last year collecting in excess of £20,000 even with a shortage of volunteer collectors a stirring job. We wish Roy and his wife Helen all the best in the future. He has promised to visit us regularly and when he becomes a member of Stockton RNA he assured us there will be an invite to visit him.





**For all of
your slops
needs
contact
shipmate
Mike Blake
our slops co-
ordinator**



Slops

Wooly Jumpers and wooly hats/beanies are now available from our slops co-ordinator s/m Mike Blake. RNA or forces veteran are priced at £7.00 for hats and £20.00 for jumpers a great gift for the love of your life! Also available are bespoke coasters/key-rings with a picture of your ship and crest. Coasters at £1.50 each key-rings £1.00 each. Also available at £1.00 each are RNA toffees, RNA Milk Chocolate and RNA notebooks with a free retracting pencil!

Please contact shipmate Mike Rubery for bespoke orders of coasters and key rings



BURNS NIGHT:

Burns Night Supper is to be held in the Old Ship Inn Bridlington, Saturday 23rd January. 19.30hrs to be piped in at 20.00hrs.

Menu is Scotch Broth followed by the Haggis Supper. There will be a Vegetarian option available and the price is £12.00 per head which will include free tot of Whisky for the toasts.

There will be a raffle so please bring a prize. No formal Dress apart from some form of Tartan to be worn. Forfeits will be in place!

This years event will be run as Bridlington Veterans and not the Royal British Legion because the funds raised will go to the York Sea Cadets who need funds to replace equipment lost in the floods. Hopefully this will help future veterans of our country.

Contact a committee member for more information.



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BRIDLINGTON BRANCH MEETINGS

Come and join us for a social drink, some banter and a few dits. All serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and their families are welcome as well as our comrades from all other branches of the Armed Forces

**We muster on the first Thursday
Of the month 19:00 hrs**

The Old Ship Inn, St. John's Street, Bridlington

CONTACT RNA HQ

**RNAHQ
Room 209
Semaphour Tower
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LT**

The Royal Naval Association has over 20,000 members across 370 branches in the UK and overseas, we are a family of current and former Naval Service personnel, relatives and supporters of our country's Royal Navy.

Whether we are catching up with friends at our regular social events; fundraising; advising on welfare and employment matters, or just providing an arm around the shoulder, our natural willingness to help others stems from the tradition and camaraderie that only Naval Service life can instil. Everything we do is inextricably linked to our core values: Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism and comradeship.



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

HQ Website: www.royal-naval-association.co.uk

Branch Website: www.bridlington-rna.co.uk

Facebook: Royal Naval Association – Bridlington

Twitter: @RNA_Bridlington