



Getting Underway

Royal Naval Association
Bridlington Branch
Newsletter
Autumn 2017

*"More than Just a
drinking club"*

Volume 3, issue 5

Autumn
2017

Once Navy,
Always Navy



Ahoy Shipmates!

Welcome to the autumn edition of "Getting Underway" A busy few months for the branch which saw us mark "D-Day" with a remembrance service on 7th June where most of our senior members were in attendance. We followed this with a stall at the 1940's weekend in the Old Town and then on to Armed Forces Day and Alderson House's summer fair on July 1st.



D-Day
remembrance
service 2017

On Saturday 8th July we had a trip on the Yorkshire Belle and great fun was had by all. Sewerby Gala event was held on the cricket pitch at Sewerby cliff top on Sunday 30th July. Our summer BBQ and tombola at The Old Ship Inn was held on Saturday 5th August. Followed by a few weeks later on Sunday 27th August where we hosted a stall at the final Vintage 1940's Fair of the year at Bridlington Spa.

Thanks to everyone that helped with these events. Lots of hard work from not only committee members but also from volunteers who happily gave up their time to help. The committee would especially like to thank Robin and Pat Stovell, Ted and April Cosford, Barry "Swampy" Riley and Karen Bond all of whom gave their time freely, not only to set up but also to man some of our stalls.

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION BRIDLINGTON BRANCH OFFICIALS



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President: Mike Adams



Chairman & Welfare:
Martin Jolly



Secretary: Mike Rubery



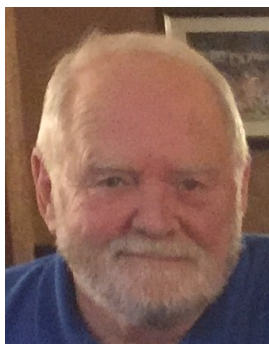
Treasurer: Mike Cook



Std Bearer: Martin Barmby



P.R.O. Mikki Jackson



Delegate: John L'Amie



Social Sec: Vicky Barton



Deputy Chairman &
SLOPS: Mike Blake

Usful contact numbers:

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 Secretary: Mike Rubery.....07722 362949 or 01262 321938
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Getting Underway compiled and edited by S/M Mike Rubery

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



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**A big thank you to
all that donated
bottles and cans
for our tombola
event at the
summer BBQ!**

News

A busy summer is now a memory. Over the past few months Bridlington RNA have taken part in many local events as can be seen in photographic form on the centre pages of this issue.

AFD was excellent for us and we managed to raise the grand total of £202.00. "Soak The Sailor" was extremely popular and shipmate chairman did a sterling job as the "sailor". The whole event saw Alderson House raise a record amount of over six thousand pounds at their summer fayre.

Sewerby Gala on 30th July was a well attended event however the family orientated revelers seemed to overlook our stall and we only managed to make £45.00 all day.

On the flip side our newly launched "Annual BBQ" held at the Old Ship on 5th August raised £132.00 despite the weather being initially unkind to us. Big thanks for a good total go mainly to our treasurer for his addiction to the tombola! Thanks to all that donated prizes.

The second vintage fair of the year was held on Sunday 27th August. Again a well attended event where we collected £151.25.

There are more events forth coming and we will be asking for volunteers to help us at Old Town Dickensian Festival in late November and The Town Council will be organising another Christmas Fair which usually takes place in early December. Further details will be given when dates and times are confirmed.



Shipmate Cliff "Tug" Wilson takes aim at s/m chairman during "Soak The Sailor"

Great Ships of the

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Royal Navy

HMS BELFAST



HMS Belfast is a museum ship, originally a light cruiser built for the Royal Navy, currently permanently moored on the River Thames in London, England, and operated by the Imperial War Museum.

Construction of Belfast, the first ship in the Royal Navy to be named after the capital city of Northern Ireland and one of ten Town-class cruisers, began in December 1936. She was launched on St Patrick's Day 1938. Commissioned in early August 1939 shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, Belfast was initially part of the British naval blockade against Germany. In November 1939, Belfast struck a German mine and spent more than two years undergoing extensive repairs. Belfast returned to action in November 1942 with improved firepower, radar equipment, and armour. Belfast saw action escorting Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union during 1943 and in December 1943 played an important role in the Battle of North Cape, assisting in the destruction of the German warship Scharnhorst. In June 1944, Belfast took part in Operation Overlord supporting the Normandy landings. In June 1945, Belfast was redeployed to the Far East to join the British Pacific Fleet, arriving shortly before the end of the Second World War. Belfast saw further combat action in 1950–52 during the Korean War and underwent an extensive modernisation between 1956 and 1959. A number of further overseas commissions followed before Belfast entered reserve in 1963.

In 1967, efforts were initiated to avert Belfast's expected scrapping and to preserve her as a museum ship. A joint committee of the Imperial War Museum, the National Maritime Museum, and the Ministry of Defence were established and then reported in June 1968 that preservation was practical. In 1971, the government decided against preservation, prompting the formation of the private HMS Belfast Trust to campaign for her preservation. The efforts of the Trust were successful, and the government transferred the ship to the Trust in July 1971. Brought to London, she was moored on the River Thames near Tower Bridge in the Pool of London. Opened to the public in October 1971, Belfast became a branch of the Imperial War Museum in 1978. A popular tourist attraction, Belfast receives over a quarter of a million visitors per year. As a branch of a national museum and part of the National Historic Fleet, Belfast is supported by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, admissions income, and the museum's commercial activities. The ship was closed to visitors following an accident in November 2011 and re-opened on 18 May 2012.



Yorkshire Belle Boat Trip

On Saturday 8th July our branch and friends from the Poppy Club took a trip on the famous Yorkshire Belle pleasure cruiser. A beautiful day and a good turn out from members saw us take a trip to Flamborough cliffs. The bar was open and it just so happened to be shipmate chairmans birthday! A rousing version of Happy Birthday and a few beers (and rums) later we returned to harbour to continue our "run ashore" in the local hosteleries.

A big thank you to shipmate social secretary, Vicky Barton for organising this event.

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**Shipmates
enjoying the
trip out on the
Yorkshire Belle**



PHOTOGRAPHS OF OUR BUSY SUMMER 2017



Poppy Club members enjoying Alderson House garden during their summer party. Below Yorkshire Belle Trip enjoyed by all



Above Bridlington Submariners attending BiBs event this summer.....At the same event s/m president wins a bottle of Woods Rum in the raffle!



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SUMMER 2017 IN PICTURES



S/m chairman, Martin Jolly
after his parachute jump for
charity

👉 Vicky Barton and 24 others 9 comments

S/m secretary, Mike Rubery meets associate
member Bill Bolton at the 1940's event in the
Old Town



10 Pin bowling saw RNA vs RBL &
Alderson House Staff...RNA were narrow
victors!



S/m standard
bearer, Martin
Barmby lowers
our standard
during the
remembrance
service for D-
Day





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COMING EVENTS

Wold Top Brewery Trip: Wednesday 20th September 2017.

Spaces are now limited. The cost will be £10 per head which will include entrance, 2 half pints, a light snack plus transport there and back. If you're interested please see the social secretary.

Trafalgar Dinner: Friday 20th October 2017.

The traditional Naval Trafalgar dinner will take place at the Ransdale Hotel on Friday 20th October 19:30hrs for 20:00hrs. Dress code is black tie/association blazer/mess dress and will cost £25.00 per head.

Please see S/m Social secretary for application form/full menu details. Any raffle prizes for the evenings event are most welcome.

Festival of Remembrance: Saturday 11th November 2017.

A Remembrance evening is being held at The Spa, Bridlington on South Marine Drive and will cost £35.00 a head. This will include a three course dinner and entertainment including military bands (TBC), compare and comedian.

Dress code of for this event is black tie, association blazers or No1s/Mess Dress if serving whether it be Regular/Reserve or Cadet Forces.

Doors will be opening at 1800hrs, with the meal being served at 1900hrs and the doors closing at 0100hrs.

For further details and to book seats please contact the secretary of The Royal British Legion in Bridlington, George Collins on 07763836390 or email: georgecollins17@outlook.com

Name the Teddy



Meet our new teddy bear mascot that we will be selling on our stall at future events.

We need a name for him so send your ideas to rnabrid@gmail.com and the committee will make a final decision.

He stands 17cm high and will be selling for £5.00 if you are interested in having one (good xmas/birthday present) see s/m secretary or a committee member

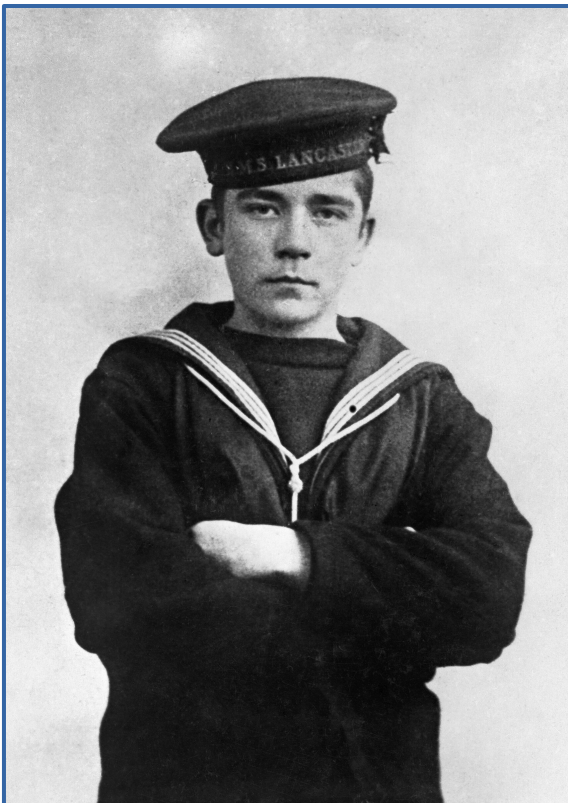


Continuing the
series of RN
VC recipients
Boy 1st Class
Jack Cornwell
HMS Chester

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ROYAL NAVAL VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS



John Travers Cornwell VC (8 January 1900 2 June 1916), commonly known as Jack Cornwell or as Boy Cornwell, is remembered for his gallantry at the Battle of Jutland. Having died at the age of only 16, he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, Jack still remains the third-youngest recipient of the VC.

John "Jack" Travers Cornwell was born third child into a working-class family at Clyde Place, Leyton, Essex (now in Greater London). His parents were Eli and Alice Cornwell. The family later moved to Alverstone Road, East Ham. He left Walton Road School at the then standard age of 14, but was in the Boy Scouts. At the outbreak of the First World War, ex-soldier Eli Cornwell volunteered for service and was fighting in France under Lord Kitchener. His older brother Arthur also served in an infantry regiment on the Western Front.

In October 1915, Jack Cornwell gave up his job as a delivery boy and enlisted in the Royal Navy, without his father's permission. He had references from his headmaster and employer. He carried out his basic training at HMS Vivid Keyham Naval Barracks at Plymouth and received further training as a Sight Setter or Gun Layer and became Boy Seaman First Class. On the Easter Monday of 1916, Cornwell left for Rosyth, Scotland to join his assignment in the navy. He was assigned to HMS Chester.

On 31 May 1916, HMS Chester was scouting ahead of the 3rd Battlecruiser Squadron at the Battle of Jutland when the ship turned to investigate gunfire in the distance. At 17:30 hours, the Chester soon came under intense fire from four Kaiserliche Marine cruisers each her own size which had suddenly emerged from the haze and increasing funnel smoke of the battlefield. The shielded 5.5-inch gun mounting where Cornwell was serving as a sight-setter was affected by at least four nearby hits. The Chester's gun mountings were open-backed shields and did not reach down to the deck. Splinters were thus able to pass under them or enter the open back when shells exploded nearby or behind. All the gun's crew were killed or mortally injured except Cornwell, who, although severely wounded, managed to stand up again and remain at his post for more than 15 minutes, until Chester retired from the action with only one main gun still working. Chester had received a total of 18 hits, but partial hull armour meant that the interior of the ship suffered little serious damage and the ship itself was never in peril. Nevertheless, the situation on deck was dire. Many of the gun crews had lost lower limbs due to splinters passing under the gun shields. British ships report passing the Chester to cheers from limbless wounded gun crew laid out on her deck and smoking cigarettes, only to hear that the same crewmen had died a few hours later from blood loss and shock.

After the action, ship medics arrived on deck to find Cornwell the sole survivor at his gun, shards of steel penetrating his chest, looking at the gun sights and still waiting for orders. Being incapable of further action, Chester was ordered to the port of Immingham. There Cornwell was transferred to Grimsby General Hospital, although he was clearly dying. He died on the morning of 2 June 1916 before his mother could arrive at the hospital.



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Meet A Shipmate

**A/B Communication Information Systems
Specialist Richard Jones**



My name is Richard Jones, but the navy christened me Jonah. From the age of 11 I had a fascination with ships following my obsession with the Titanic. Over the years I dreamed of going to sea and so when I turned 18 I moved from the restaurant job I had held down since school and joined the Royal Navy in November 1998.

After ten months training I joined my first ship HMS Northumberland out in the Caribbean where I got a taste of real navy life when we did a £137 million drugs bust, search and rescue and had some great runs ashore in places like Trinidad and Puerto Rico.

The next six years were spent going to and from the Med/Gulf areas on exercises, gaining my first medal for operations after the September 11th attacks on Afghanistan. It was in 2005 that I left the navy and decided to become a civvy again. This lasted two years before I returned to the fleet!

Since I rejoined I have been selected for promotion to Leading Hand (after only 16 years!) and visited some of the most amazing places in the world. In 2008 I took my research into shipwrecks and disasters to a new level by publishing my first book on the Great Gale of 1871 and by 2017 that had risen to six books published and six plaques installed to commemorate such events.

After 16 years I have served on 12 ships - Northumberland, Fearless, Kent, Grafton, Chiddingfold, Brocklesby, Cattistock, Diamond, Hurworth, Ledbury, Quorn and Richmond - and had 10 deployments (Gulf, Caribbean, Baltic, Med) with one foreign shore draft to Bahrain. In the future I would like to see the Falklands and South Atlantic area as well as serve on the new QE class carriers at some point.

Photo taken during 2015 trip to the Gulf on board HMS Richmond.

Many thanks to Jonah for taking the time to pen this article for us. Jonah lives in Bridlington and has been a member of our branch for several years. When available Jonah can be seen at many Armed Forces and community events.

Richard M. Jones is a published author who specialises in Bridlington history and national disasters. His books are available on Amazon or available from him directly. (Please see next page for a list of Jonah's books and their prices). 10

RICHARD M. JONES' BOOKS



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**Richard M.
Jones' books
are available
to buy
directly from
him contact
s/m secretary
for his
contact
details**



The Great Gale of 1871 - £10.50

On the 10th February 1871 a storm of fatal severity swept into the calm coastal port of Bridlington Bay. Richard M. Jones shows the horror of the disaster alongside the selfless heroism of the rescuers. Among the individual stories of the storm is that of the Harbinger lifeboat and its crews' ultimate sacrifice for their fellow sailors.

Lockington (Crash at the Crossing) - £13.00

On 26th July 1986 a train derailed after striking a van at an open level crossing in a remote East Yorkshire village. The resulting carnage killed nine people, injured 42 and left dozens of survivors and families reeling from the shock for the rest of their lives. Now for the first time the full story of that tragedy can be told by the people who were there.

The Burton Agnes Disaster - £10.50

In the early hours of an autumn day in 1947, a truck laden with German prisoners-of-war and their English guards approached a level crossing in a sleepy Yorkshire village. At the same moment, an express train was thundering towards the crossing. For some inexplicable reason, with the train just yards away, the soldier behind the wheel of the truck did not stop. Instead he pressed the accelerator pedal... The scene was set for a terrible tragedy - one which was largely forgotten, until author Richard M Jones began to investigate the story 60 years later.

The Moorgate Disaster - £9.99

On 28th February 1975 a London Underground train crash led to the deaths of 43 people and injured dozens more. How was a packed train able to overshoot a terminal station and crash with such devastating consequences? How were the rescuers able to pull people out of the wreckage alive over 12 hours after impact? Most importantly

Capsized in the Solent - £5.99

On 4th March 1972 a hovercraft capsized in stormy weather on a voyage from the Isle of Wight to Southsea. Five passengers were killed, but in a dramatic rescue operation involving air and sea units from miles around, the twenty-two others on board were rescued. This book tells the forgotten story of the capsizing of SRN6-012, the heroes who rose that day to save the survivors and the investigation that followed.

Royal Victoria Rooms (Bridlington) - £6.99

From 1847 to 1933 a building complex known as the Victoria Rooms stood overlooking Bridlington harbour in East Yorkshire. In the 86 years it stood tall it was used for both entertainment, leisure and as the Town Hall, being given royal status in 1888 after a visit from the Duke of Clarence.



Summer
2017

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 19:30 hrs**

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

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.

CONTACT RNA HQ

RNAHQ
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Semaphour
Tower
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LT



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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 dependents We will always support and look out for each other. Our loyalty is to all our shipmates, our local communities, the personnel and dependents 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 dependents in despair.



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

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

Facebook: Royal Naval Association – Bridlington

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