

## Meet a Shipmate: Leading Seaman Martin Jolly



Martin was born in July 1958 in Sheffield. His dad was a para- trooper in the war whilst his oldest brother was a booty “And yes he did play an instrument” says Martin.

“I left school at 15 and I worked as a cabinet makers apprentice for a cutlery case maker in Sheffield. After that and Just prior to joining up I worked for British steel in Corby Northamptonshire in a by product plant.”

In October 1978 Martin joined the Royal Navy and it was whilst at HMS Raleigh he met another of our shipmates, Cheryl who became his wife in August 1980 “35 years ago... And I didn't get a medal but got the scars” he joked.

“After basic training I volunteered for submarines, I was drafted to Dolphin but discharged to general service on health grounds, phew, lucky escape. I was then drafted to

HMS Vernon for sonar training. Whilst at Vernon I did the boats crew at Cowes week, the year of the Fast net disaster.....A bit lively to say the least!”

Martin’s one and only seagoing ship was HMS Ardent, on which he saw deployments to the East coast of America, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos Islands (South East of the Bahamas), Charleston South Carolina and Halifax Nova Scotia. “There was Gulf patrol and a trip to the Holy Land on the way out. I had a great time in Haifa” he remembers “I Had two weeks R&R in Mombasa and shipmate wife came out for the fortnight as I was the only one whose wife came out so I got two weeks shore leave.”

After HMS Ardent Martin went to Defiance, as postmaster “A cushy number no duties, 9 till 5 and every weekend off, result!” Whilst at Defiance Martin was promoted to Leading seaman.



“In 1982 I left the mob and moved to Leeds where I worked as a charge hand for a laboratory furniture manufacturer, British Thornton, in Otley West Yorkshire, I was promoted to contracts manager then sales and estimating manager”

Martin moved to Bridlington in 1991. “I Worked in Hull for Labs systems furniture as contracts/ estimating/ commercial manager (and I cleaned the heads....)”

In 1999 Martin started his own business JOLLY GOOD JOB “I became a self-employed handyman ticking over nicely at the moment thank you, always do with a bit more work though.....good rates to shipmates!”

In 2009 he joined the RNA and after only two months he was given the great honour of becoming the branch standard -bearer. “Three years ago I was elected as vice chairman of the local branch of the Royal British Legion and two years ago I was given the great

privilege of becoming branch chairman of the RNA in Bridlington, a job that I've enjoyed and have been proud to do.....it's more than just a drinking club"

"Just to top things off to top it all I am just about to start training as an adult instructor for our local Sea Cadets."

Martin also holds the position of Welfare Officer for our branch and runs a tight ship as Chairman.