



Getting Underway

Sept/Oct
2015

Royal Naval Association
Bridlington Branch Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 5

Ahoy Shipmates!

Welcome shipmates to Septembers issue of "Getting Underway". There are several invites outstanding over the coming months. We have been invited to help The West Riding of Yorkshire Submariners Association to celebrate their 30th Year of reforming. Bridlington WWII veteran submariner, S/m Cliff "Tug" Wilson, was a prime mover in helping to reform the branch and he will be in attendance at Tong Conservative Club in Bradford on Saturday 26th September. Celebrations start at 12.30pm and will continue into the evening, theme is 1940's.

Eden camp are holding their annual remembrance parade on Sunday 13th September when our standard will be paraded and an open invite has been extended to members should they wish to attend. Events start on the day at 10am.

Looking further into the year we have been invited by Bridlington Town Council to attend a Christmas "Event" on Saturday 6th December on Kings Street. Further details will be given as soon as we receive them.

News - V-J Day

Saturday August 15th 2015 marked 70 years since VJ Day. A ceremony of remembrance was held and wreaths were laid. The standards for the Royal British Legion, The RNA, and The Royal Engineers were also present.

There was a very good turn out and after the ceremony shipmates's retired to Richies bar on Princess Mary Promenade for the monthly veterans breakfast. As the sun was over the yardarm it was law that we had to have a small drink or two!

Once Navy,
Always Navy



POINTS OF INTEREST

- Welcome
- News
- Great Ships of the RN
- Fundraising
- Meet a Shipmate
- Poppy Club
- Veterans Breakfast
- Coming Events

At the war memorial



VJ Day service at the war memorial
Saturday 15th August 2015

Great Warships of the Royal Navy

HMS *Ark Royal* in 1939



HMS Ark Royal
Commissioned Dec '38 - Lost 1941



HMS *Ark Royal* (pennant number 91) was an aircraft carrier of the Royal Navy that served during the Second World War.

Designed in 1934 to fit the restrictions of the Washington Naval Treaty, *Ark Royal* was built by Cammell Laird and Company Ltd. at Birkenhead, England, and completed in November 1938. Her design differed from previous aircraft carriers. *Ark Royal* was the first ship on which the hangars and flight deck were an integral part of the hull, instead of an add-on or part of the superstructure. Designed to carry a large number of aircraft, she had two hangar deck levels. She served during a period that first saw the extensive use of naval air power; a number of carrier tactics were developed and refined aboard *Ark Royal*.

Ark Royal served in some of the most active naval theatres of the Second World War. She was involved in the first aerial and U-boat kills of the war, operations off Norway, the search for the German battleship *Bismarck*, and the Malta Convoys. *Ark Royal* survived several near misses and gained a reputation as a 'lucky ship'. The Germans incorrectly reported her as sunk on multiple occasions.

She was torpedoed on 13 November 1941 by the German submarine *U-81* and sank the following day. Her sinking was the subject of several inquiries; investigators were keen to know how the carrier was lost, in spite of efforts to save the ship and tow her to the naval base at Gibraltar. They found that several design flaws contributed to the loss, which were rectified in new British carriers.

Her wreck was discovered by a BBC crew in December 2002, approximately 30 nautical miles (35 mi; 56 km) from Gibraltar. Source: wikipedia

Fundraising

August's Vintage fair saw several of our members manning the RNA stall. S/m Barmby donned square rig whilst S/m Rubery wore 1940's officers battle dress. Although not as well attended as the May vintage fair the guys still managed to raise £166.00 for the cause. The photo shows shipmates at the stand during the fair.



S/m's Wilson, Barmby, Pare, Smith & Rubery at the 1940's Vintage fair

Meet a Shipmate: Leading Seaman Martin Jolly



Martin was born in July 1958 in Sheffield. His dad was a paratrooper in the war whilst his oldest brother was a bootie "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 and Cheryl 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.

The Poppy Club

The Poppy Club runs at Alderson House on South Marine Parade every Tuesday throughout the Autumn and Winter months 2-4pm. It is open to all service veterans and serving members and their dependents. Activities include cards, dominoes, and ukkers, there are quizzes, Play your cards right, bingo and armchair "keep fit" sessions. Guest speakers are invited

and occasionally there is live music.

A very pleasant, comfortable atmosphere where like minded people get together for a drink and natter and play a few games if you so wish. It's all free (including hot drinks and biscuits) so why not come along and join in the fun!

For more information and to find out

what events are planned please contact Anna Roseby on 01262 408010 or email aroseby@britishlegion.org.uk

**Royal Naval Association
Bridlington Branch**



Committee Members

Chairman:	Martin Jolly	07765895697
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Once Navy, Always Navy

Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism, Comradeship

Come and meet us for a social drink, some banter and a few dits. All serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Navy and their families are welcome, as well as our comrades from the Army or RAF.

**We muster on the first Thursday of
the month at 19:00**

In "The Old Ship" St Johns Street Bridlington

EVERYBODY WELCOME

COMING EVENTS

16/10/2015 Trafalgar Dinner

Bridlington branch of the RNA will hold its Trafalgar dinner at the Ransdale Hotel on Flamborough Road on Friday 16th October at 7.30pm. Menu choice is now available and the price is £25.00 a head. Dress regulations mess dress/rig/RNA rig and for ladies rig/evening wear/smart. The menu choice is attached to this newsletter and should be completed and returned to s/m Mikki Jackson or s/m secretary with deposit/full amount by Thursday 1st October 2015 (next branch meeting).

22/11/2015 Dickensian Festival

We have been invited to have a stall at the Dickensian Festival to be held in the Old Town on Sunday 22nd November. It comprises of over 60 Food & Craft stalls up High Street and an Old Town Fair in the Market Place. This combined with entertainment of choirs, Brass Bands, Old Fairground Organ and of course the arrival of Santa on his sleigh. Volunteers to help man the stall should contact a committee member ASAP.

VETERANS BREAKFAST CLUB

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH 10am
RICHIE'S CAFÉ BAR PRINCESS MARY'S
PROMENADE

All veterans/serving personnel or dependents WELCOME

A place to pull up a sandbag and have a brew and some breakfast and spin some dits with like-minded people

