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The Chatham Naval Officers' Association Newsletter

Dear Members

Please try and support our Easter Lunch. Applications close on 5th April. The lunch is 12 noon on 26th April at the Masonic Centre in Maidstone where we have enjoyed several good meals over the years. We currently have places left.

The Committee have a meeting on 11th April before our spring social. If there is anything you wish to raise, please let Martin know by email. To date we have four members who have not renewed membership subs and have been chased by the Hon Sec.

If you have not looked recently Guy has been working at our world class website, well worth a look.

Yours Aye, Jon



Lt Cdr Jon Vanns RNR

Royal Engineers Museum - CNOA Mulberry Event

The Royal Engineers Museum, located next to RSME, is holding a Mulberry Harbour Exhibition later this year, and we have arranged a special event for CNOA members in recognition of its special interest to the naval community.

The Royal Engineers drew up the first plans and models for the Mulberry Harbour project and this is a rare opportunity to see exhibits from the Museum's archives.

Details:

Date : Tuesday 23 September 2025

Place and Time: Meet in the Car Park of the Museum at 1100

1115 Tour with talk by Martin Watts

1230 Buffet Lunch in main building

Cost: £15 per person

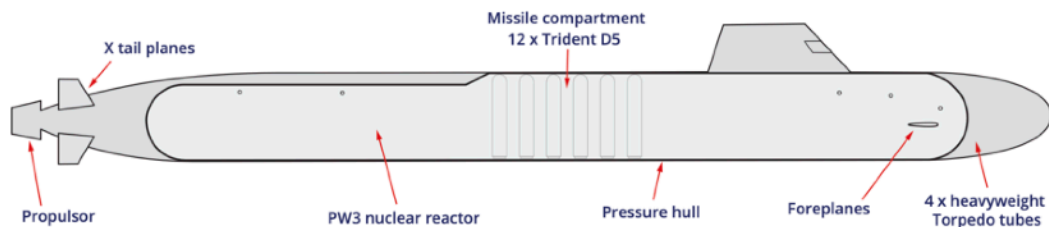
Free access to the main museum after lunch

Due to space limitations, there is a cap of 20 persons for this event. If you wish to attend please email Hon Sec at cnoauk@gmail.com and places will be awarded on a first come first served basis. Menu and payment details will be provided in due course.



Keel Laid for HMS Dreadnought

Dreadnought class submarine



March 20th 2025 saw the Prime Minister formally lay the keel for HMS Dreadnought. This is a ceremonial occasion only as much of the boat has already been fabricated.

The effects of Covid combined with political turmoil probably explain why this ceremony has been so delayed. Modern submarines are assembled in sections so actual 'keel laying' is not really part of the process anymore.

The first steel was cut for Dreadnought in as far back as October 2016 and construction of the boat is far more advanced than this event might suggest.

The boats are being built in 16 sub-units around the Barrow site which are then grouped into three mega blocks and moved to the Devonshire Dock Hall for assembly. The first mega block of Dreadnought was delivered in the autumn of 2023.

The MoD will not provide a target date for her to enter service other than "the early 2030s" but information suggests before 2032.

The Dreadnought class are designed from the outset to have a service life of 35-40 years.

This is a significant increase over their predecessors which should reduce through-life support costs but has contributed to the high initial price tag of at least £31Bn for the four vessels.

Despite being one of the largest public spending projects and involving some of the UK's finest engineering and manufacturing talent, the Dreadnought project has been underway largely out of sight until now.

The ceremony today helps shine a light on the the scale of the achievement and celebrate the efforts of the workforce and supply chain involved in this vast and critically important national endeavour.

The Dreadnought programme will support more than 30,000 jobs from the shipyard to SMEs across the country. The workforce at BAE Systems' Barrow facility has expanded by over 1,000 people in the past six months, with employees in the defence nuclear sector earning around 20% more than the national average wage.

His Majesty the King has agreed to confer the title 'Royal' to the Port of Barrow in recognition of the town's special role in guaranteeing the nation's security.



Easter Lunch, 26th April 2025

Venue : Maidstone Masonic Centre
Courtenay Road, Maidstone, ME15 6EF

Menu

Time : 1200 for 1230

Dress: Gentlemen - Lounge Suit
Ladies - Cocktail dress

Cost: £35 per head

Applications (by 5th April 2025):

Email to Lt Cdr Andy Nailor at:

andyandchris@gmail.com

Or by post to :

Lt Cdr A Nailor
1 Farmcroft,
Woodland Park,
Gravesend,
Kent
DA11 7LT

Send via Bacs/electronic transfer to:

Sort Code 23 05 80
Account 50484076
marked with "Surname and Easter" please

Choice of Starters

- A) Avocado and Prawn Salad
- B) Carrot and Coriander Soup
- C) Pear Blue and walnut salad

Choice of Main Course

- D) Chicken breast, mozzarella and sun dried tomato wrapped in pancetta
- E) Roast Beef, with Yorkshire pudding
- F) Goats cheese, balsamic onion and mushroom wellington

Choice of Pudding

- G) Apple & Blackberry crumble with custard
- H) Chocolate Tart with orange compote
- I) Eaton Mess

Wine: personal orders from the bar

Followed by coffee & mints, and raffle

| Chatham Naval Officers' Easter Lunch | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Starter | Main | Pudding |
| Example | | | |
| <i>Jack Frost</i> | <i>A</i> | <i>E</i> | <i>H</i> |
| MEMBER'S Name | | | |
| | | | |
| GUEST's Name(s) | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

HMS Pembroke

The Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham, also known as HMS **Pembroke**, was a UK naval barracks that was built between the Victorian Steam Yard and Brompton Barracks from 1897 to 1902.

It was built on the site of a prison built in 1853 to house over 1,000 convicts, with the intention that they would be used to build the Dockyard extension.



During the Age of Sail, the Royal Navy manned its ships either by recruitment or impressment; crew were retained for as long as they were needed and then usually dismissed when their ship was paid off at the end of a voyage or campaign.

The introduction of Long Term Service in 1853, however, prompted the Navy to look at providing more permanent quarters for seamen in home waters.

At first, they were almost invariably housed in hulks.

It was only towards the end of the century that purpose-built barracks began to be constructed at each of the three principal Royal Navy Dockyards: Chatham, Devonport and Portsmouth.

These barracks were designed to provide not just accommodation but also recreation and training facilities for men who were waiting to be appointed to ships.

In 1957, the barracks and gunnery school were closed due to the local port divisions being replaced; however in 1959 the barracks re-opened as the Royal Naval Supply School.

When the C-in-C, the regional operational commander appointment, was discontinued in March 1961, the barracks were being used as an accommodation centre for the re-fitting crews of the dockyard.

The Drill Shed and Canteen were being used by the Dockyard. In 1970, all Naval establishments in Chatham were to be combined and known as HM Navy Base, under one officer 'Flag Officer, Medway and Port Admiral'.

With the closure of the Dockyard and Naval Base in 1984, HMS *Pembroke* was also decommissioned; the barracks gates were finally closed on 31 March 1984.



HMS Endurance - The Falklands

Known affectionately as the **Red Plumb**, HMS **Endurance** guarded British interests in the far south. An important diplomatic tool, she visited Antarctic bases of other nations.

Further key roles included hydrographic surveying supporting scientific programmes for the British Antarctic Survey and supplying goods for the residents of the Falkland Islands.

The sovereignty of these islands had been contended by Argentina, which had long anticipated a solution. Lack of progress gave the opportunity for the military junta to consider mounting an armed takeover to divert national attention from a disastrous economy.

Military Action

The presence of HMS **Endurance** was a powerful symbol of Britain's continuing commitment. Her sophisticated radio monitoring equipment gathered the early warning intelligence of Argentina's covert intent – intelligence ignored by Whitehall, which, in 1981, had listed the ship for disposal as part of swingeing defence cuts. The announcement was followed by a vigorous campaign to keep the ship.

But to the Argentinians, the proposed withdrawal of HMS **Endurance** signalled the expectation of a transfer of sovereignty. What, then, would there be to forestall Argentina taking military action if its ambition was not satisfied by negotiation?

The proposed and occasional, costly deployment of a frigate, which could not operate in ice, was not a solution – nether was it a role for the two specialist civilian vessels of the British Antarctic Survey.

By mid-1981, the increased volume of Argentinian sabre-rattling included plans to land Marines on South Georgia, under cover of a contract with Salvessens for scrap metal operations at a whaling station.

The actual landing, in March 1982, became national news. Suddenly, HMS **Endurance** was in the spotlight and the government was shocked into extending the duration of her now-valued presence in the region. HMS **Endurance** was to be the longest serving member of Task Force 317 - first in and last out of the Falklands conflict.



As a guardship, HMS **Endurance** was always capable of making an armed response.

She carried a detachment of Royal Marines and two Wasp helicopters. What had been kept secret was her ability to deploy air-to-surface missiles – a liberal but pivotal interpretation of the prohibiting rules of the Antarctic Treaty.

HMS **Endurance** monitored flights by the Argentinian military aircraft, operated the helicopters constantly on the reconnaissance missions, observed the

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enemy's naval preparations, and relayed information to the Ministry of Defence.

The gathering Argentinian force included frigates and corvettes, as well as a submarine which had been ordered to sink HMS **Endurance** – which embarked on what has been described as one of the strangest hide-and-seek games in military history, along the coastal fringes of South Georgia.

The hostile submarine fell prey to HMS **Endurance**, the missile-carrying helicopters adding to the score of damage inflicted by other units which rendered this direst of threats a spent force.

The ship's contingent of landed Royal Marines also inflicted damage to a corvette.

HMS **Endurance** had become part of a forward group of vessels deployed to recapture South Georgia. Having missed her planned port call in Uruguay for victualling, strict rationing was in force.

After the two Argentine garrisons had been re-taken, the formal surrender took place aboard HMS **Endurance**.

She was then left as the sole seaborne custodian of the island, as military focus shifted elsewhere.

Responsible for defending merchant shipping which congregated at South Georgia as part of the build-up to the assault on the Falklands.



HMS **Endurance** also coordinated the logistical transfer of resources between the major vessels arriving from Britain.

After the Falklands were regained, HMS **Endurance** accepted the surrender of the final Argentinian garrison, on remote South Thule, before being tasked to deal with the remains of the still armed Argentine submarine.

The **Wilkinson Sword of Peace** was an award given to units of the British Armed Forces for activities above and beyond the unit's normal role that improve relations with the community, either within the United Kingdom, or overseas.

In October 1982, this award was given to HMS **Endurance**, for her long-term record of advancing international goodwill – recognition of the ship's true worth of many years in the South Atlantic.



Sea Shanty and Maritime Folk Music Night

Saturday 29th November 2025
6.30pm for 7.30pm start

To raise money for the
Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets

Drinks, bar snacks
fantastic raffle

Venue: Masonic Hall, St Johns Road
Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9UY

Entrance: £15 per person

BACS: 20-88-13

63272567

Ref: SS2025

email: twsc.treasurer@gmail.com



Swinging The Lead



Resident Sea Shanty singers
on The Cutty Sark at
Greenwich

CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS



Joining Fee and Annual Subscription

With effect from 20th March 2023, new members will be required to pay a joining fee of £30 by cheque or transfer to CNOA at the following bank:

Metro Bank Sort code 23 05 80 Account 50484076

Cost £20 PA payable to Chatham Naval Officers Association

Address if required 2 Calverly Road, Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 2TB

On receipt of the joining fee new members will receive an Association tie or scarf and lapel badge. The Annual Subscription of £20 applies from the date of joining if this occurs before 1st July, and then will be renewed by Standing Order from the following 1st January.

New members who join after 1st July will be required to submit a Standing order from the following 1st January.

Annual Subscription – Current members

The annual subscription remains at £20 and, with effect from 1 January 2024, the subscription will be payable annually on that date. In the first instance, and to allow members time to alter their current standing order dates, a transition period of 3 months, to 31st March 2024 will be in place, after which an audit and follow up process will be undertaken.

CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL STANDING ORDER FORM

Please complete this form and return it to the Hon Treasurer: Lieutenant Jan Dean RNR, 79A Cherry Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7OU, or, if you prefer, you can scan a copy and email it to cnoauk@gmail.com. You can arrange a standing order electronically via your bank and, for those using traditional banking methods this form can be used to inform your bank of your instructions as below.

I wish to make my annual subscription payments by standing order to the Chatham Naval Officers' Association.

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Name of your Bank: _____

Address of your Bank: _____

Your Bank Sort Code: ____/____/____

Your Account Number: _____

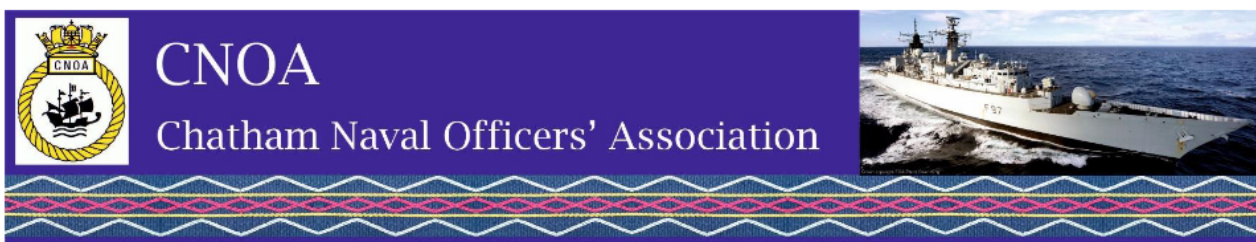
To my bank:

I request you to pay the regular sum of: £20 PA

Metro Bank sort code 23 05 80 account 50484076

Payable to Chatham Naval Officers Association

Address if required 2 Calverly Road, Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 2TB



If you enjoy the CNOA activities, why not extend an invitation to a like-minded serving or retired officer? Or ask them to look at cnoa.org.uk




APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------|--|---|------|
| SURNAME | | FORENAMES | | DATE |
| HOME ADDRESS Tel. No: E Mail Address: | | | BUSINESS ADDRESS Tel. No: E Mail Address: | |
| RANK | TYPE OF COMMISSION | SPECIALISATION / AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS | | |
| BRIEF CAREER DETAILS | | | | |
| <p>General Data Protection Regulation: I agree that all the above details may be maintained and kept by the CNOA and RSME for the purposes of membership records and security. I agree / do not agree (delete as applicable) to my details being published in a membership booklet.</p> <p>SIGNED.....</p> | | | | |
| PRESENT OCCUPATION | | | | |
| PROPOSER'S NAME | PROPOSER'S SIGNATURE | HOW LONG KNOWN | | |
| SECONDER'S NAME | SECONDER'S SIGNATURE | HOW LONG KNOWN | | |

CNOA Events Programme

| Date | Speaker / Activity | Subject | Comment |
|--------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 10 January | Martin Watts | Gallipoli 1915 | Virtual Meeting |
| 14 February | AGM | | |
| 14 March | Derek Goodwin | LNG Bunkers, Cold Ironing and Scrubbers | |
| 11 April | Social Evening | | |
| 26 April | Easter Lunch | Maidstone Masonic Centre | |
| 9 May | Guy Bartlett | "Eat Your Carrots!" The Story of Radar | |
| 13 June | Mark Gambell | Seamanship | |
| 11 July | Summer Social Evening | | |
| August | No Meeting Summer Leave | | |
| 12 September | Mark Bathurst | The History of Paddle Steamer Medway Queen | |
| 10 October | Trafalgar Dinner | | |
| 14 November | Peter Gilbert & Barry Bryant | Santa Fe & South Georgia - Hunter and Hunted | |
| 12 December | President's Christmas Social | | |

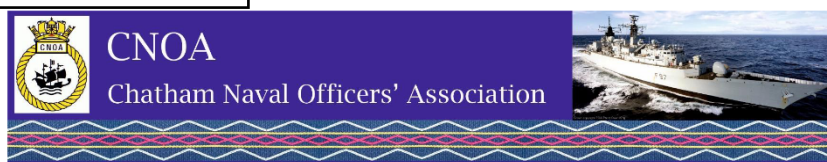
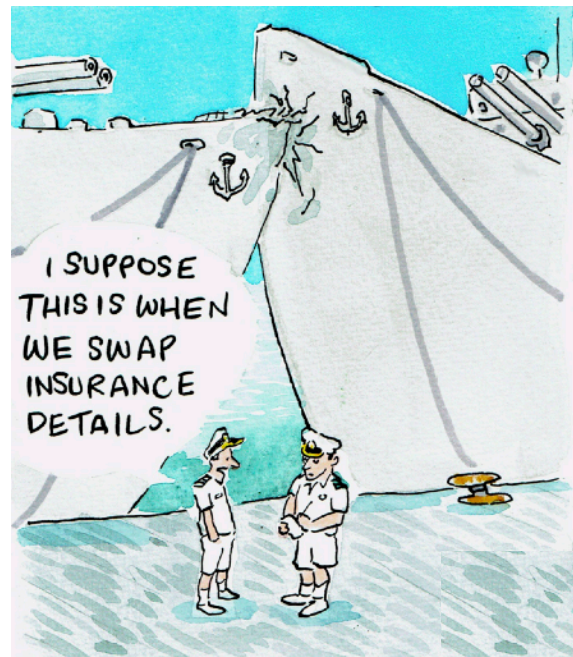
CNOA ONLINE



The CNOA website has now been updated for 2025. Why not take a look for yourself?

www.cnoa.org.uk

Please do send suggestions for future development or content to the CNOA webmaster, via mr.guy.bartlett@gmail.com



The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships



COMMEMORATIVE RETURN TO DUNKIRK

21-26TH, MAY 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships (ADLS) is making preparations for its five yearly return to Dunkirk in 2025 to mark the 85th anniversary of Operation Dynamo.

The operation to evacuate the BEF, together with French and Belgian troops started at 18:57 on 26th May 1940 and finished on the morning of 4th June. Winston Churchill expected the operation to lift 30-40,000 personnel. In the end 338,226 were rescued, including 130,000 French and Belgian soldiers. Of the total, just short of 100,000 were rescued from the beaches to the east of the port of Dunkirk by the Little Ships picking them from the beach and ferrying them to the larger vessels just offshore.

THE COMMEMORATIVE RETURN

The Little Ships will assemble from around Europe in Ramsgate harbour in the week beginning 19th May. It is planned that they will be joined by vessels from the Royal Navy and the Ramsgate RNLI lifeboat. The town of Ramsgate will be supporting the ADLS with a number of commemorative events on 20th May.

The ADLS plan to depart in the early morning of 21st May if the weather is suitable. In case the weather is unsuitable there are two fall back days on 22nd and 23rd May. The Little Ships are expected to arrive in Dunkirk in late afternoon. The fleet will proceed into the centre of town and moor together in the Basin du Commerce.

The City of Dunkirk will be laying on a number of commemorative events in the town centre as well as the war memorial on the beach. The ADLS will attend the British Commonwealth War Graves cemetery in Dunkirk. There will also be a short open air service on the quayside on 25th May. The ADLS fleet intend to return to Ramsgate on 26th May.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit the ADLS website www.adls.org.uk

Visit the ADLS Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/DunkirkShips/?locale=en_GB

THE MARINE SOCIETY AND SEA CADETS

Invite you to the

KENT BRANCH FUNDRAISING DINNER

Friday 6th June 2025

1900 for 1930

Maidstone Masonic Centre

Courtney Road Maidstone ME15 6LF

Tel: 01622 678336

Dress: Mess Dress (2Bs) Dinner Jacket, Evening wear or lounge suit

£38.00 per Person

Cheques payable to MSSC (Kent Branch) by 9th May

and sent to: Peter Luxton

16 Denbigh Avenue Rainham Gillingham Kent. ME8 7EU

Or by Bank Transfer to MSSC Account 00423750 Sort Code 56-00-27

Reference "Dinner & Name"

If you have one please bring a memento from WW2 as a talking point for your table

(No Live ammo please)

Raffle prizes would be most welcome

MSSC
MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADETS



KENT BRANCH OF THE MARINE SOCIETY AND SEA CADETS

KENT BRANCH FUNDRAISING DINNER

Friday 6th June 2025

First Course

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Pear, blue cheese and walnut salad (V) |
| 2 | Smoked Salmon Beetroot & Horse Radish Creme |
| 3 | Chicken Liver Pate with Apple & Walnut Chutney |

Main Course

| | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire pudding |
| 5 | Duck with red current jus |
| 6 | Goats Cheese Balsamic Onion and Mushroom Wellington (V) |

Dessert

| | |
|---|---|
| 7 | Salted Caramel Cheese Cake |
| 8 | Baileys Profiteroles with Caramel Sauce |
| 9 | Apple & blackberry crumble with custard |

Coffee and mints

£38.00 per person

Please indicate any dietary requirements – Nuts Dairy etc

