

FLAG HOIST

The Chatham Naval Officers' Association Newsletter

Dear Members

I hope you are all well.

The committee are still trying to confirm final details about our Trafalgar dinner with the mess. Some of the details are still to be confirmed (tbc) and as soon as we have firm information this will be shared with you. In the meantime take a look at our draft invite.

Please remember to reserve the time and date in your diaries, 1900hrs **10th October**.

This week I have been watching the Historic ship Shieldhall cruise up and down the Solent.

Steamship Shieldhall is the largest working steamship in Britain. A member of the National Historic Fleet she serves as a sea going tribute to Britain's maritime heritage. Operated by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Decades ago our ports would have been full of ships like this under British ownership carrying trade.

I wanted to thank Jim Williamson for organising the private tour of models at the Historic Dockyard enjoyed by members.

Another date for your diary is Sunday **12th October**, when the Freedom of the Borough will be exercised by West Kent Sea Cadets at a parade in Tunbridge Wells from 10.30 am. Venue is Mount Pleasant Road TN1 1RT.

Yours Aye, Jon



Lt Cdr Jon Vanns RNR



Trafalgar Night Dinner



Trafalgar Night Dinner

Venue: *Royal Engineers Officers' Mess,
Brompton Barracks, Gillingham, Kent, ME4 4UG*

Date: *Friday 10th October 2025* [To arrive at Guard House between 1900 and 1920]

Dress: *Gentlemen 2A or Black Tie & Dinner Suit, miniature medals and neck decorations*

Ladies 2A or evening dress with shoulders covered, miniature medals

Rig is to be strictly complied with, and members should advise guests of the mess rules below.

(PLEASE PRINT NAMES)

	Initial	Rank/Title	Car Reg.	Car Make and Model	Car Colour	(A) Vegetarian (B) Celiac (C) Lactose Intolerant (D) Soft Drinks
Member's Name:						

Guest Name(s):						

Trafalgar Night Dinner Programme

Arrive to be greeted at a drinks reception of Prosecco or Elderflower.

First bugle call is a reminder to use the heads as leaving the dining room is not allowed.

The second bugle call, please leave any glasses behind and make your way to the dining room, having studied the seating plan.

Menu

Starter: (tbc)

Main: (tbc)

Dessert: (tbc)

Served with (tbc)

Toasting Port: Rock Ruby

Cheese and biscuits with Tea or Coffee

Anyone with dietary needs please mark clearly on the booking form above; we will then work with the mess to provide an alternative. Dairy free options can be provided for those who are lactose intolerant. There will be a vegetarian/vegan option.

Mess Rules

Turn up in the correct rig detailed in the invitation. Gentlemen cannot remove ties or jackets,

No mobile phones; these should be off and not used during dinner or in public rooms.

Study the seating plan on arrival and take your seats as soon as possible when dinner call is sounded. Remain standing at your seat until the top table take their seats. Gentlemen, please assist ladies in taking their seats.

You cannot leave the table once seated; use the heads before dining. There will be a comfort break before the speeches.

Do not eat until the President starts. The Loyal Toast is taken seated.

The Immortal Memory toast is taken in silence, do not respond to the proposer, do not touch the port until the toast. Note when the tables are cleared for passing the port, all drinks are removed, so drink up or lose it.

If the gavel is used, please listen to the announcement.

Drink: please ensure your consumption allows you to always be responsible. Don't drink and drive.



Trafalgar Night Accommodation

PLEASE NOTE ACCOMMODATION IS LIMITED

We have ten **(tbc)** rooms available at RSME at a cost of **£tbc** for a couple including a breakfast, or single booking at a cost of **£tbc** (please note number of rooms and cost are to be confirmed).

These are service style rooms and guest need to bring towels and toiletries. They are not hotel standard double rooms but suitable for double occupancy.

Those needing a room must book by 22 September **(tbc)** please. Rooms will be allocated on a first come first given basis. Please note these rooms could be withdrawn at the eleventh hour if the military need them. Should this happen, CNOA will refund the payment.

Please make one payment via BACS for both the meal and room, and mark with surname, meal/room on the transaction. You will be sent an email confirming we have your request. If you do not receive one, please email the Hon Sec so we can check. CNOA will pay all invoices and anyone requiring accommodation should make it know when booking their place at the dinner and include the cost of the room with the dinner cost.

Application and Room Bookings

Send to Lt Cdr Jon Vanns RNR at [**jonvanns@aol.com**](mailto:jonvanns@aol.com) or by post to:

Lt Cdr J Vanns RNR, 8 Fairfield Ave, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3SD

NO LATER THAN **22 SEPTEMBER (tbc)** for meal, and for a room if one is required.

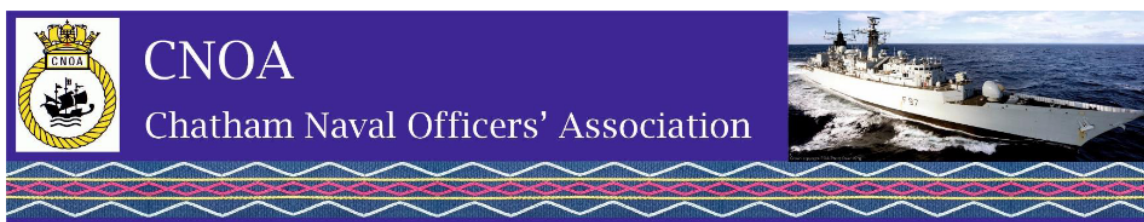
It is important that members appreciate that RSME is under heightened security, and that no late additions can be made after the deadline for applications has passed.

Payment

Send via BACS/electronic transfer to: Sort Number 23 05 80 Account 50484076, marked with surname and Traf, for the Treasurer's attention.

Arrival at RSME

To save ladies getting out the car to pass security, the Hon. Secretary will work with the military provost guard to speed access and issue car and personal passes. Those with MOD 90 should bring them to remove the need of a personal pass. All those attending MUST carry photo ID. This is why we have put a tight window on arrival times.



Salute To New Recruits

THE Princess Royal congratulated the latest young men and women to complete their transition from civilian to sailor as guest of honour at HMS Raleigh's passing out parade.



The ceremony on the parade ground marked the culmination of ten weeks of training for the junior ratings of Fisher 37 class, who arrived at Torpoint in the throes of winter in mid-February.

Having completed Initial Naval Training, they paraded for friends, family and VIPs on one of the finest days of the year so far, before bomb-bursting throughout the Navy to begin their specialist training as engineers, warfare specialists, logisticians and so on.

Top of the Class

Accelerated Apprentice Jamaa Ben M'hand – a budding marine engineer – was the standout trainee of the 45 recruits in the class, earning three of the main awards, including Captain's Best Recruit, which was presented by Her Royal Highness.

As well as taking the salute from the parading recruits, the Princess Royal also decorated four members of Raleigh's staff: Long Service and Good Conduct Awards went to Commander Anthony Tipping, Lieutenant Commander Edward Bean and Petty Officer (Medical Assistant) Hannah Langran, while 45 years' outstanding service by Warrant Officer Engineering Technician John Ramm were acknowledged with a Certificate of Vaediction.

VJ 80th Remembered

Thursday 14th August

6.50pm - 7.10pm Brenchley Gardens ME14 1LH

At the West Kent Regiment Memorial
Act of Remembrance with silence at 7pm

Followed by:

7.30pm 'VJ 80th Remembered'

Maidstone URC, Week Street ME14 1QU

Led by Medway Concert Brass to include an act of
Remembrance

Followed by Refreshments in the Main Hall

Sponsored by:



John Fullagar

Pam Fullagar has kindly invited our members to a short act of Remembrance of John, our dear friend and CNOA member, who crossed the bar on 11th January this year.

Date Saturday 30th August Time 1300hrs

Muster at Ship and Trades car park, (sign into the pub for parking), St Mary's Island ME4 3ER.

From there we will follow family members to a point on the island next to the river, anyone with mobility issues can park on the island and join the group to avoid the walk.

Programme of events

Pam to welcome attendees and say a few words
A poem reflecting on John's life and love of the sea

Family Scatter John's ashes

After you are welcome to attend The 3 Mariners pub, Lower Rainham Road, ME8 7TN, for refreshments and drinks to celebrate John's life, and remember him. Please email The Chair if you are attending so he can pass numbers to Pam to aid with catering by 10th August.

Email details : Jonvanns@aol.com

CNOA Bursaries

The President, Chairman and Committee of CNOA are pleased to announce the establishment of a fund to provide CNOA Memorial Bursaries, in memory of Officers and Members of The Chatham Naval Officers Association who have crossed the bar.

The Bursaries have been co-founded and sponsored by Kent County Councillors Mr Alan Ridgers (CNOA Committee member) and Mr Jordan Meade, who have successfully recommended this scheme for a Kent County Council Community Grant and Dr Martin Watts (Hon Sec).

Cadets should apply on a single page A4 document, and include name, age, unit, unit contact details, course applied for, cost and amount applied for (up to £100). The application should also include reason(s) as to why CNOA should sponsor them, where possible written by the cadet, and always endorsed and signed by the unit CO. Example templates for these can be seen opposite.

For further information please visit the CNOA website

<https://cnoa.org.uk/CNOA-Bursaries/>



01892 322009
Tunbridge Wells
Kent, TN1 2PF

www.linktr.ee/tsbrilliant

President:
Commodore B Bryant CVO Royal Navy

01892 322009

Email:
admin@tsbrilliant.org.uk

Commanding Officer:
LT (SCC) M Vanns RNR

Date: xx xxx xxxx

CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION BURSARY APPLICATION

Cadet Surname: xxxxx **Cadet First Name:** xxxxx
Cadet Rate: xxxxx **Age:** xx
Unit location: xxxxx **Course:** xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Dear Chatham Naval Officers Association,

My name is xxxxx and I am a member of *insert name organisation/unit here*. I am writing to request consideration for a bursary towards the cost of the above course. The total cost of the course is £xxx, excluding transport costs.

Attending this course will give me an opportunity to *expand my* knowledge and understanding of how power vessels operate and how they navigate. I will also gain knowledge on practical maritime engineering, catering and what to do in an emergency situation. *(Adapt opportunity description as required)*

During my specialisation training within Sea Cadets Marine Engineering is an area that I really enjoy and I am keen to progress in. So being on a working power vessel for a week will be an incredible experience. *(Adapt this as required to reflect what the applicant sees as the most important benefit to be gained from the course)*

I would greatly appreciate any assistance CNOA could provide and would be willing on my return to provide a written account of my experience or to give a short presentation to your members.

Yours aye,

Applicant name, rate and signature

CO Name, rank and signature

Matthew Vanns, GCGI
Lieutenant (SCC) Royal Naval Reserve

To Be Put On The Organisation/Unit Letterheaded Paper:

Date: xx/xx/xxxx

Cadet Surname: Cadet Forename: Cadet Rate/Rank:
Age: Unit Location: Course:

Dear Chatham Naval Officers Association,

Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge Endorsement:

Commanding Officer/OIC to write 2 or 3 sentences supporting the application and confirming the benefits of attending the course....

I fully support this application for a CNOA bursary and have no hesitation in recommending (name the applicant) for (name the course), in pursuit of personal and unit development.

Yours aye,

CO/OIC Signature, Name & Rank

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: _____

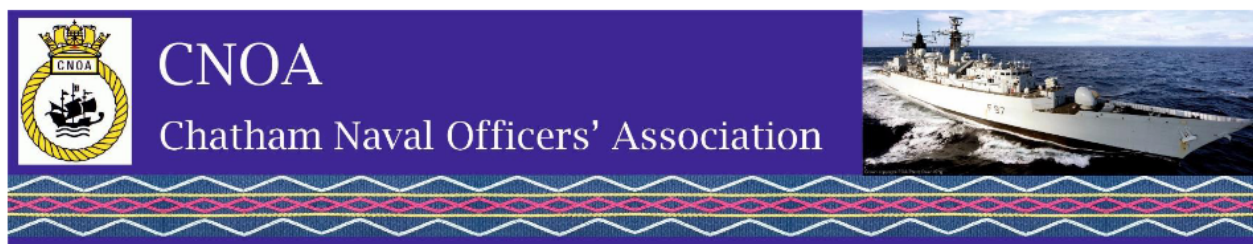
To my bank:

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



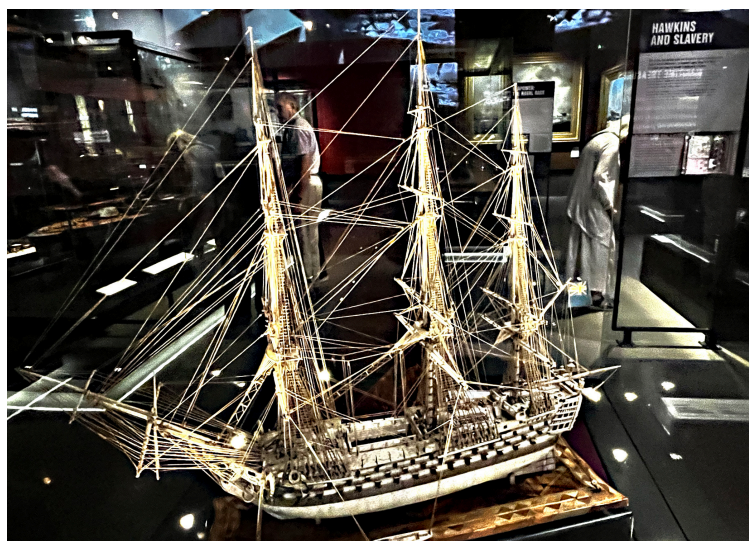
If you enjoy the CNOA activities, why not extend an invitation to a like-minded serving or retired officer? Or ask them to look at cnoa.org.uk



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		

Model Ships At The Historic Dockyard, Chatham



On Monday 14 July, 15 members and guests attended a special presentation and viewing of model ships on display and in storage at the Dockyard.

Proceedings began with a presentation from the Historic Dockyard's Collections, Galleries and Interpretation Manager, Nick Ball, who described the evolution of the models from the 17th to the late 19th century.

We were told how the models were made and their relation to what might be termed 'private enterprise' on behalf of the shipwrights, as well as possible links with the use of some of the models for approval of design purposes.

Afterwards, we were split into three smaller groups so that Simon Stephens, Curator of Ship Models and Boats at the National Maritime Museum, could provide access to the models that are in store and not on public display.

We very much enjoyed a fascinating insight into the development of warship building in Chatham, from individual design and production, through to a more industrialised and systematic process, incorporating lessons learned from battle experience and the capture of French and Dutch ships.



For the remainder of our visit, we were free to enjoy the many delights of the dockyard and, as you can see from the photograph taken on HMS Cavalier, three jolly jacks were discussing how comfortable the wardroom felt, whilst noting how narrow the mess-deck hatches were.

Thanks to Peter Lewis for the guided tour - it is a shame that there are so few WW2 vessels preserved for public display.

All who attended would like to express their grateful thanks to Jim Williamson for arranging a special day out.



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		

The Association of Royal Navy Officers






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Take advantage of competitive RAC breakdown cover?

Be able to spend four nights per year at a London Club?

Attend events and network with like minded people?

JOIN HERE



www.arno.org.uk

If not, why not? This really makes sense...





Port Sponsorship

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ARNO have been asked to provide the Port for our event today. ARNO are very happy to sponsor Port for such events and do so with the aim of rewarding those that are already members and hopefully encouraging those who have yet to take the plunge to do so.

As a member, ARNO offers:

- Highly competitive RAC cover starting at £60 **per year**
- Access to ARNO Rewards, a discount app – savings on your weekly shop will cover your subscription in the first few months of use easily.
- 3 hard copy publications per year
- Twice weekly emails updating members on latest association news and offers.
- Branded merchandise including ARNO Gin, Gin Pennants and various Cards.
- Exclusive ARNO events. Trafalgar night in 2023 was celebrated on board HM/Y Britannia and Carols at St James Palace. Last years' Church Service was held at The Chapel Royal of All Saints in Windsor, followed by a Sunday lunch at The York Club in Great Windsor Park. We also had lunches at The Royal Scots Club and Salcombe Yacht Club, a Golf Day on the Downs Course at Goodwood and Carol Service in HMS Excellent. We have also arranged Ship's visits to HMS Queen Elizabeth and XV Patrick Blackett and hope to do so again in 2025. The Church service this year will be held at the Savoy Chapel followed by lunch in HMS Wellington.
- Numerous networking opportunities
- Large range of pre-loved *quality* uniform including the elusive Senior Officer Mess Kit and swords at **very** reasonable prices.

Royal Navy Officers' Charity

In addition, through our sister organisation the RNOOC, last year we awarded grants in excess of £560,000K and over the last four years, over £2million. The RNOOC receives **no public funding or financial support from the RNRMC (who fund projects and facilities, but do not directly provide individual benevolence)**, yet each year provides grants covering a wide range of circumstances from debts, counselling, general support, education, mobility aids, respite, through to end-of-life expenses. Last year, minus annuitants, 42% of grants have been awarded to Serving personnel and those under 50.

Membership of ARNO is not a pre-requisite for assistance from the RNOOC, but membership helps benevolence to be delivered at very little cost meaning almost all income can be spent on the key output. You can join here: <https://www.arno.org.uk/join/>

