

# FLAG HOIST

## *The Chatham Naval Officers' Association Newsletter*

Dear Members

Trafalgar Night - we have 25 returns for the dinner as I write. Please support this event and get your applications in. Martin, Steve and I have had one meeting with the mess and have another planned to ensure the event is enjoyable and meets the standards we expect for a formal dinner. A reminder we have an Admiral as principal guest so white waistcoats please.

Whilst many were on leave Martin attended a VJ service in Maidstone led by CNOA member Andrew Royal and laid a wreath on our behalf.

On Saturday 30th August we have the scattering of John Fullagar's ashes, and in September, our monthly lecture. Focus this time is on the Medway Queen. As well as the talk at the RE museum led by Martin.

After a difficult pregnancy Claire and I are blessed with another grandson. Arlo arrived weighing 5lbs 5oz. His arrival will allow us to enter a grandsons 5-aside football team.

HMS Daring has been in the news this week, having spent more time being repaired than it took to build her. This report has attracted much comment both political and military.

Look forward to seeing you at the Trafalgar dinner on the 10th October.

Yours Aye,  
Jon



*Lt Cdr Jon Vanns RNR*



HMS Daring,  
Type 45 Destroyer

# Trafalgar Night Dinner



## Trafalgar Night Dinner

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

**Date:** *Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Member's Name:</b>						

<b>Guest Name(s):</b>						

**Dinner Cost per Head: £75** (without accommodation. See note on limited rooms below)

### **Accommodation**

#### **PLEASE NOTE ACCOMMODATION IS LIMITED**

We have ten rooms available at RSME at a cost of **£30** for a couple including a breakfast, or single booking at a cost of **£25** (please note number of rooms and cost are to be confirmed).

These are service style rooms and guests 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 15 September please by email to [jonvanns@aol.com](mailto:jonvanns@aol.com). Please include full vehicle details: make, model, registration, and colour. 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 Secretary so we can check. CNOA will pay all invoices and anyone requiring accommodation should make it known 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 (for meal only) to:

Lt Cdr Jon Vanns, 8 Fairfield Ave, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN2 3SD

**NO LATER THAN 22 SEPTEMBER** for meal, and by **15 SEPTEMBER** for the meal and 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 deadlines for applications have passed.

### **Payment**

Full payment should be made at the time of booking, please.

*Send payment 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 of 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 for a personal pass. All those attending **MUST** carry photo ID. This is why we have put a tight window on arrival times.

### 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:** Caesar Salad

**Main:** Roast Beef with roast potatoes, root vegetable puree, Brussels sprouts, and Gravy

**Dessert:** Cheesecake and Raspberry Coulis

**Served with Malbec and Sauvignon Blanc**

**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 (to be confirmed) for the main course.

### 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 takes 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.

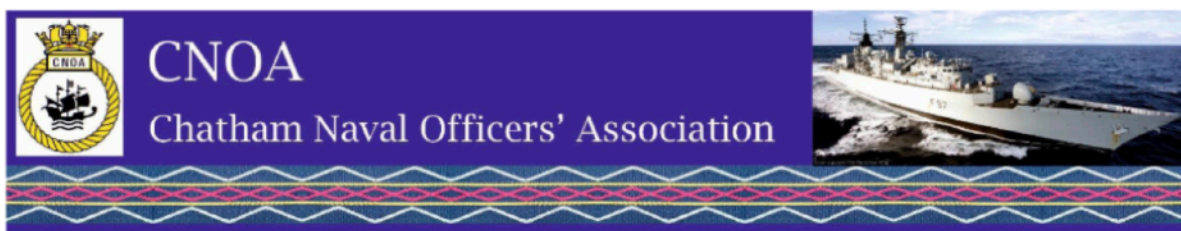
The Loyal Toast is taken seated.

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.

Do not drink and drive.



# Challenges of Modernisation

Over the next five years, NATO and the Royal Navy is set to undergo a transformation through the procurement of new ships. Central to this is the construction of several new vessels, including eight Type 26 and five Type 21 ships now under construction or on order and three Fleet Solid Support Ships, also on order. However, is the future of naval warfare autonomous drone carriers and mine hunting systems, with energy weapons and advanced sensors? Only time will tell.

## Farewell to One Of A Kind

One of the last surviving Royal Navy participants of the 1982 Falklands War has departed the UK for scrapping. The former HMS **Bristol** was towed away by Protug 87, the same tug that removed ex-HMS **Monmouth** two months earlier. Both ships' final destination was Aliaga. The pair join a long list of RN warships to be recycled by Leyal Gemi Sokum, the leading ship recycling facility in Turkey. The include all three Invincible class aircraft carriers, six Type 42 destroyers and three Type 22 frigates.

HMS **Bristol** was the only Type 82 destroyer to be built following cancellation of the CVA-01 aircraft carrier, for which the Type 82s were intended to provide escorts in the 1966 Defence White Paper. As a one-off design, she was subsequently used to trial a range of new weapons and technologies, such as the Sea Dart and Ikara missile systems.

## Nuclear Dismantling

The UK's Submarine Dismantling Project has recently achieved some notable milestones. At Devonport, Babcock has secured a £114 million contract from the MoD to prepare for the nuclear defueling of four decommissioned Trafalgar-class submarines in the first operation of its kind for more than 20 years.

The defueling process is due to be carried out in collaboration with the Defence Nuclear Enterprise in 2026. Such a task must take place before hull dismantling can begin.

At Rosyth, the first major exterior cut has been made with the removal of the fin of the former HMS **Swiftsure**. The start of the dismantling process is part of a demonstrator project that aims to reuse or recycle around 90% of the submarine's structure and components, with some of the high-quality steel repurposed into components for the future Royal Navy submarines. The UK currently has 23 decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines in storage awaiting disposal.

## Could Trump Sink Submarine Deal?

The Trump administration is reviewing the AUKUS submarine project as part of its 'America First' policy.

The multi-billion dollar trilateral pact agreed between Australia, the UK, and US back in 2021, when each country had different leaders.

The Australian and UK governments regard the development as a natural course of action for any new administration and political commentators as a tactic to encourage resistant allies to increase their defence spending.

However, the review is being conducted by Eldridge Colby, the third most senior Pentagon official, who has previously questioned why the US Navy plans to transfer Virginia class submarines to a foreign navy when it cannot meet the demand for its own.

On present plans, Australia will buy three Virginia class SSNs, with an option for two more, as it awaits the delivery of five SSN-AUKUS boats to be built at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia.



HMS Bristol - saw action in the Falklands Conflict

# 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/>



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
Tunbridge Wells  
Kent, TN1 2PF

[www.linktr.ee/tsbrilliant](http://www.linktr.ee/tsbrilliant)

President:  
Commodore B Bryant CVO Royal Navy

01022 322000

Email:  
[admin@tsbrilliant.org.uk](mailto: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 xxxxxx 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> July, and then will be renewed by Standing Order from the following 1<sup>st</sup> January.**

**New members who join after 1<sup>st</sup> July will be required to submit a Standing order from the following 1<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

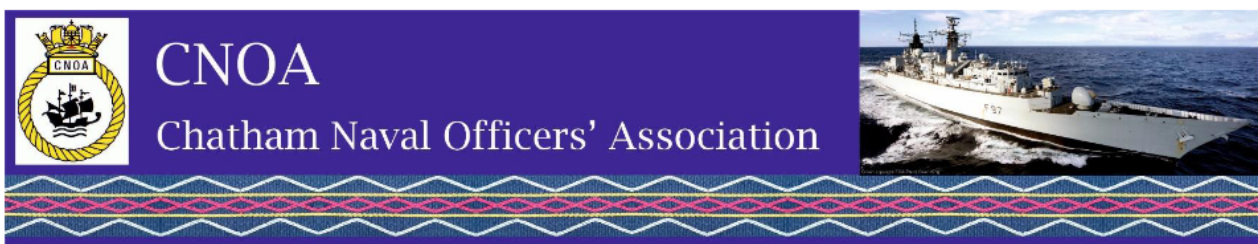
To my bank:

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](http://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><b>General Data Protection Regulation:</b> 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><b>SIGNED</b>.....</p>				
PRESENT OCCUPATION				
PROPOSER'S NAME	PROPOSER'S SIGNATURE	HOW LONG KNOWN		
SECONDER'S NAME	SECONDER'S SIGNATURE	HOW LONG KNOWN		

## In The News



A Portsmouth-based Offshore Patrol Vessel shadowed Russian destroyer Vice Admiral Kulakov and two tankers through the English Channel.

The operation is part of the government's ongoing commitment to safeguard the integrity of UK waters and protecting national security through the government's Plan for Change.

HMS **Trent**, which is back in the UK for the first time in four years following operations in the Mediterranean and off West Africa, and a maintenance period in Malta, is now working up to deploy to the Caribbean.

She started shadowing the Vice Admiral Kulakov off Great Yarmouth, watching her every move westward through the Channel towards Ushant.

Simultaneously, a NATO ally shadowed the two tankers as they made their transit from the west to join the Russian destroyer.

They met off the island of Ushant, off the tip of the Brittany peninsula, with the Kulakov and the tankers linking up and all three Russian vessels turning to sail eastwards through the Channel – followed all the way by HMS **Trent**.

A Wildcat helicopter from 815 Naval Air Squadron, based at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, later joined the operation to provide air support and monitor the Russians' movements with its impressive suite of sensors.



*Traditional Send Off For Commander Bate*

Officers from HMS **Astute** rowed their outgoing commanding officer in Devonport Naval Base to the cheers of their fellow submariners.

Commander Chris Bate was given a traditional send-off in a Cornish gig as he left the attack submarine for the final time.

Before departing, he addressed the 100-strong crew of the operational nuclear-powered attack submarine, which is based on the Clyde but is currently in Plymouth for a refit, on the jetty, thanking all for their efforts during his 29 months in command.

"It has been a pleasure to serve as the commanding officer of this great submarine and I want to thank you all for your dedication and professionalism throughout my time on board," he said.

During more than two years in command of the first boat in the class of seven hunter-killer submarines, Commander Bate and his crew patrolled the Mediterranean and North Atlantic, safeguarded home waters, helped with the training and assessment of future submarine commanders (the Perisher course), tested their mettle against the newest boat in the class, HMS **Anson**, and supported the opening stages of this year's Carrier Strike Group.

Command of the submarine now passes to Commander Bob Church from the Royal Navy's Submarine Support Group.

Under him HMS **Astute** will undergo her Mid Life Re-Validation Period (MLRP) conducted by the crew in conjunction with MOD experts, defence firm Babcock and scores of contractors.

# 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








Do you want to....

Support your Charity?

Make significant savings with High Street brands?

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.

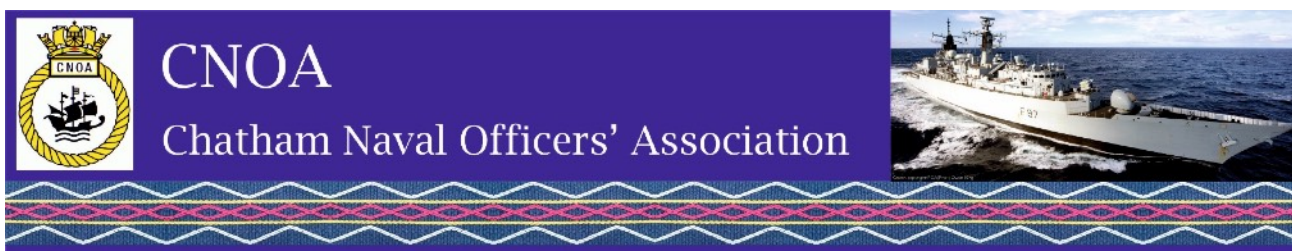
As a member, ARNO offers:

- 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 HMV 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 RNOC, last year we awarded grants in excess of £560,000K and over the last four years, over £2million. The RNOC 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 RNOC, 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/>

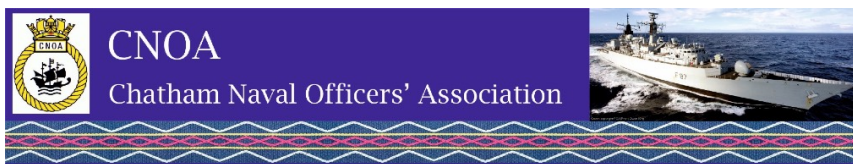


# CNOA September Word Search

N R Y U F W P D W C M R N E D F N J B I  
 D D R T Y H E H H Q E X A I B O W M X M  
 K L O T O D V Y C K S J N G E Q E S S M  
 U Y T J S Y T O V R S N Y L L M C A A O  
 D T C U X R W T H A E W O L O A U E Z R  
 U P I H C N E R F R N P O R U H F S Z T  
 D O V Y C V T T S R A T Y U X Q A A Y A  
 N X S D S V W G N N P K U R H M M T R L  
 M V M Z I U H H J A H B J H L O F I G T  
 H O H O I T A R O H C C T A S C N E H S  
 H M N P P E K P Y S S E R N M M Z L D O  
 C A S N H M W O B E U I D A Q T L B P D  
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 L J C D I S L T Y D L W Q M U I I T I R  
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 I W U O U A K B R Y K S X N V P E U V E  
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 I A H S U K M M E M N G L B B U M D R K  
 Y T Z U V G U U Z C F O P S I U V E A V  
 K G X G L I A E T H A B O N A P A R T E

Admiral	Horatio	port
Dinner	French	decanters
HMS Pickle	HMS Victory	Hardy
immortal	memory	Mess
Trafalgar	Navy	Nelson
sea	Napoleon	Bonaparte
shanties	Redoubtable	

Answers on page 14.



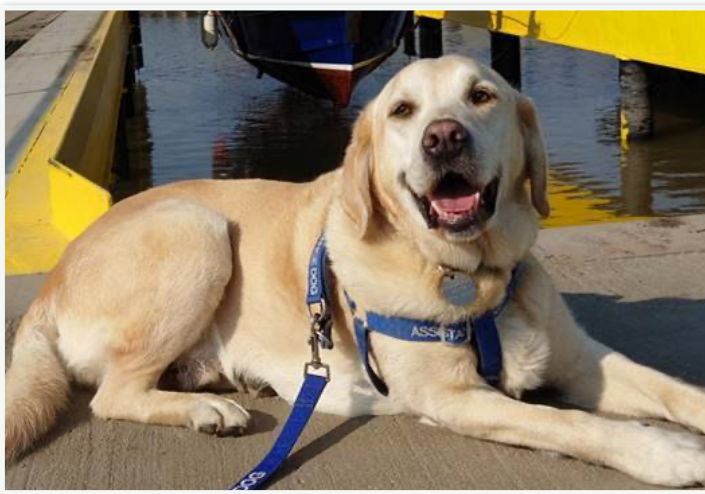
# Royal Navy Hackathon

'AirMOD' – a play on the hugely successful AirBnB website/app – impressed some of the leading experts in the digital industry who supported the inaugural Royal Navy Power Platform Hackathon. It was one of seven ideas/apps put forward by teams drawn from all backgrounds and branches, all units, all parts of the Navy/Royal Marines, officers/ratings/ranks, civil servants. "Normally at these events you get a few drop-outs, but this was totally packed out! It shows how motivated people are," said a delighted Leading Hand Adam Schofield of Navy Digital DNA. "Together, we can unlock the full digital potential of our workforce and deliver meaningful, lasting change." Attendees were treated to an 'app-in-a-day' course by industry expert, demonstrating the art of the possible – and then used those newly-acquired skills to tackle 'digital pain points'. They came up with solutions, then worked with Power Platform experts from Kerv and Digi2al, to develop apps in just a few hours. "I wasn't aware of the Power Apps functionality before today," said Captain Shaun Riordan of DE&S, the MOD's equipment and support arm. "Even though the problems addressed were commonplace, I was

impressed by how we can use tools to come up with solutions and make our people more effective. Take the energy and ideas back to your units and encourage others to continue the good work. "All the teams achieved at least a minimum viable product to present to the judging panel who were blown away by what was possible with the tools available to us all.

Among the app ideas:

- An automated system for gathering data rather than storing email requests on a spreadsheet;
- An app/database for deploying units to ensure that all documentation is in date, down to something as simple as a passport;
- Tracking RFIs in the deployed/battle space for internal use;
- Enhanced ordering system for obtaining items from an iHUB, informing users when the order is ready for collection;
- A universal joining routine, saving time and reducing the administrative burden, replacing stamps and six paper forms containing shared/repetitive fields.



*This edition of Flag Hoist has been inspected and approved by Midshipman Barney*

