

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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LISKEARD BRANCH

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Full Recognition by The Royal Navy

The Bilge Rat

March 2024



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DISCLAIMER

Whilst The Bilge Rat is the magazine of the Liskeard branch of the Royal Naval Association, it should be clearly understood that the contents do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association, the branch members or the Editor and should not therefore be interpreted as such.

A colour version of the Bilge Rat may be viewed on the RNA website.

Branch website: www.liskeard-rna.org.uk

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for April

3rd	Warwick Belfitt
4th	Trevor Newbury
7th	Rod Harvey
7th	Pip Harris
11th	Nancy Strudwick
25th	Jamie Truscott
27th	Ian Brown
29th	Margaret Jolley
29th	Gordon Strudwick

Members:

<i>Life</i>	6
<i>Full</i>	46
<i>Associates</i>	28
<i>Total</i>	80

RNA Reunion 2024

I have just returned from my first visit to the No. 4 Area 47th Southwest Flotilla annual reunion at Bideford. As a non serving guest I found the whole weekend a very enjoyable experience. Apart from the wonderful company of the Liskeard branch I also found other shipmates very friendly and a lot of fun.

The entertainment was very good, although the side view of Elvis was perhaps not his best. We tried our best in the quiz but Adam and Lisa were very hard on all of us. We were all useless with the raffles, so Trevor had to do a mini raffle for our table so we could win something. The alcohol flowed well and we were obliged to participate with a glass or two.

All in all it was brilliant. The only problem was when our Chairman rated on us not attending church. Thank you for encouraging me to attend and any one who has thought of going should definitely give it a go.

Chrissie Henwood

RNA Reunion 2024 (2)

I've just returned from my first ever Reunion and what a great weekend it was!!!

We checked into the hotel at 3 on Friday, pleasantly surprised with the standard of rooms etc. after unpacking we retired to the bar for a few liveners, where I immediately bumped into a old Shipmate that I haven't seen since he went on draft from HMS Aurora in 1986. As you can imagine there were a few dits spun over the course of the weekend.

The main function/ballroom was laid out with 15ish tables, all capable of seating 10 – 12 people comfortably. We were allocated Table 3 (which was ours for the duration), for some reason it was the closest to the bar, I can only assume this was based on past experience of the Liskeard Branch!!!

Like myself I guess there are some Shipmates (particularly newer members) who aren't sure if it's their cup of tea. So, here's a quick rundown of the weekend.

The cost was £185pp which I assumed was for 3 nights Bed & Breakfast, how wrong could I be!!!

On Friday evening there was a hot and cold buffet with desserts, a Bottle Raffle and live entertainment.

On Saturday morning there was a quiz, questions set by our branch (Adam and Lisa) as we won last years, unfortunately we failed this year, but on the bright side someone else must set the next one.

On Saturday evening we had a 3 course Gala Dinner (long time since I donned a Dinner Jacket) again followed by another raffle and live entertainment. I must say 'Elvis' and his costume gave our table plenty of laughs.

On Sunday morning there was a Church Service for those who wanted to attend (I passed on this!) followed by a superb Sunday Lunch. After lunch we had Horse Racing and a Rum Raffle.

On Sunday evening another Hot and Cold Buffet (different hot choices from Friday) and again live entertainment.

All in all a great weekend with great company, superb food, copious amounts of beer and excellent value.

If you've never been, give it a try next year, you won't regret it.

POINT OF ORDER

At lunch on Sunday the Chaplain came to our table and thanked us all for attending the service, Trevor and I gave a polite nod in acknowledgement whereupon Marie said 'Excuse me, I went to church, they didn't!!!' The Chair is a SNITCH.

S/M Bill Billing

John Lennon Trophy

The John Lennon Trophy is presented each year by the Chair, to a member of the Branch who has shown dedication and hard work in promoting the Branch and the RNA.

This year Marie presented it to S/M Terry Whitty for all of his hard work with the Mentors and organising Skittles matches between local RNA Branches.



Mentors

Hi shipmates,

In June this year, it will be my 12 year anniversary of being a mentor in HMS Raleigh.

I would like to thank Roger Grace for asking me to join the team so long ago, I thought give it a year and then I can say I had a go. So much for being retired.

On the 4th of March, I started my 73rd class, so I have worked with well over 7,000 recruit's and well over 6,000 family members. Today, the 1st of March , I attended my 97th consecutive passing out Parade since we returned to Raleigh after lockdown.

I have been lead liaison mentor in HMS Raleigh for over two years now,



and we have 20 veteran mentors who daily show so much commitment and dedication to the mentoring programme. Some pictures of the mentors at work in HMS Raleigh.



Yours aye
S/M Terry Whitty
Lead liaison mentor
HMS Raleigh



Greetings from HMS Raleigh

Welcome from all the mentors at HMS Raleigh. Today Friday 1st March 2024, the RNA Mentors had the pleasure to host the families and friends of Gould 23/27 class. The Royal Navy now has 35 more ratings to add to the fleet. We also had 14 RNR ratings of Tisdall division pass out today as well.

The inspecting officer today was Captain Tim Davey Royal Navy Commanding officer HMS Collingwood.

We had over 250 family and friends today to witness the passing out Parade. The weather here in Torpoint SE Cornwall was quite wet. So the passing out Parade had to take place in the West Drill shed. Congratulations to our brand new sailors, and good luck in phase two training.

The two Divisional mentors were S/M Dave Cloke and S/M Billy James. We had several other Raleigh Divisional Mentors hosting the families, friends, of the new navy sailors. As always thank you to all our mentors for your dedication and commitment to the Mentoring programme here at HMS Raleigh.

Yours aye

S/M Terry

Whitty

Lead liaison
Mentor

HMS RA-
LEIGH



Hi Shipmates,

Greetings from HMS Raleigh

Welcome from all the mentors at HMS Raleigh. Today Friday 15th March 2024, the RNA Mentors had the pleasure to host the families and friends of Cornwell and Fisher 23/28 class. The Royal Navy now has 54 more ratings to add to the fleet.

The inspecting officer today was
Commodore Simon Kelly Royal Navy
Deputy commander UK Strike Force

We had over 434 family and friends today to witness the passing out Parade. The weather here in Torpoint SE Cornwall was quite wet. So the passing out Parade had to take place in the West Drill shed. Congratulations to our brand new sailors, and good luck in phase two training.

The two Divisional sets of divisional mentors were
S/M Terry Whitty, S/M Susan Goldfinch, S/M Pat Cassidy, S/M Clive Ball.

We had several other Raleigh Divisional Mentors hosting the families, friends, of the new navy sailors.

As always thank you to all our mentors for your dedication and commitment to the Mentoring programme here at HMS Raleigh.

A very special mention has to go to one of our mentors S/M Susan Goldfinch whose commitment to the RNA Mentors programme is absolutely outstanding. Susan actually won the best mentors award last term.

Yours aye
S/M Terry Whitty
Lead liaison Mentor
HMS RALEIGH

Mentors

We all know that Terry conducts the mentoring work for the love of it, but it is also nice to be appreciated. The work that he does to keep families and friends informed of what their young sailors are getting up to is always appreciated, as can be seen by the number of messages of thanks that he receives after every passing out parade. Below are a couple of examples of the many letters of appreciation that he receives.

A few posts from the families

Well what a day! Amazing job Fisher & Cornwell 23/28 you did your families proud today. Your 10 weeks of hard graft well and truly paid off, now onto phase two and your Navy careers

Mentors and divisional staff you do an amazing job! Your dedication to these boys and girls, and the Royal Navy is commendable. This page has been such a great thing for us all to be part of and watch our recruits grow from day one until the very end and for that thank you. Terry Whitty & Matt Lawton and Susan Goldfinch it was a pleasure to meet you and thanks you for everything you have done for Harry LORD.

What an amazing time we all had as a family and friends of recruit Baggaley at his POP Fisher 23/28 today. I personally would like to thank all the Fisher Divisional Staff and mentors especially Mr Terry Whitty that looked after our boy and turned him into a Royal Navy sailor ready for his next stage. You all do an amazing job not just for all

the recruits but us the families too. So Thank You  x

If you think mentoring is something that you would like to become a part of, speak to Terry, I'm sure he could always use a couple of extra mentors.

Skittles

Good Evening shipmates

The Liskeard and Torpoint branch held a skittles evening tonight. No actual winners but the B team did get the most points. A big thank-you to the Torpoint branch chairman Bob Brotherston and the Liskeard chairman Marie Belfitt for a fantastic evening, lots of banter throughout the evening.

S/M Terry Whitty



New Members



Tony Bamber and his partner Janet Russell receiving their joining packages from Marie.

March Quiz

1. Where would you be if you were standing on the Spanish Steps?
2. Which language has the more native speakers: English or Spanish?
3. What is the most common surname in the United States?
4. What disease commonly spread on pirate ships?
5. Who was the Ancient Greek God of the Sun?
6. What was the name of the crime boss who was head of the feared Chicago Outfit?
7. What year was the United Nations established?
8. Who has won the most total Academy Awards?
9. How many faces does a Dodecahedron have?
10. Queen guitarist Brian May is also an expert in what scientific field?

February Quiz Answers

1. After the Battle of Trafalgar (1805), for the next 100 years the Royal Navy ruled the seas. What is this period known as? Pax Britannica.
2. How many Lego blocks are there in the world? It is impossible to know exactly how many Lego Blocks there are but they are pretty indestructible and it is thought there are approximately 400 Billion blocks in existence.
3. When you come into Plymouth on the A38 and other routes there are signs advertising that you are entering “Plymouth, Britain’s City” What is the missing word? The sign says “Plymouth, Britain’s, Ocean City”.
4. What is this year’s Chinese New Year animal? This year is The Year of the Dragon. the Chinese New Year also associates each year with one of the five elements—earth, wood, fire, metal, and water. In 2024, wood takes the centre stage, making it the Year of the Wood Dragon
5. When did we abolish Capital Punishment in the UK? In 1965, the death penalty for murder in Britain was suspended for five years and in 1969 this was made permanent.
6. When was smoking in public places banned in England? 1st July 2007.
7. Who is the shortest reigning Monarch in English history? Lady Jane Grey who ruled for nine days from 6th July until 15th July 1553.
8. What is the Capital City of Canada? Ottawa.
9. What river runs through Looe? The River Looe (Cornish: Logh, meaning deep water inlet)
10. What is the name of the fruit that grows on a Blackthorn? The Sloe is the fruit of the Blackthorn

Social Calendar 2024/25

<u>Date</u>	Event
20th April	Community Fair
5th May	VE Day
6th June	D-Day 80
9th June	D-Day 80 Drumhead
13th July	Liskeard Show
26th-28th July	Bocconnoc
18th August	VJ Day
24th –26th August	Great Trethew
19th October	Trafalgar Night
26th October	Poppy Concert
3rd November	Field of Remembrance
10th November	Remembrance Parade
11th November	2 min Silence
7th December	RNA Christmas Dinner

Liskeard RNA usually meets on the last Thursday of the month, in the room above the Royal British Legion. The room and bar are open from 1930 and the meeting starts at 2000. You do not have to be ex Royal Navy to join. All are welcome.

ONLY DRINKS PURCHASED IN THE RBL CLUB ARE TO BE CONSUMED ON THE PREMISES



Breakfast Club· Market Cafe Liskeard
Now meeting every Wednesday 0930
and 2nd Saturday of the Month 0930

Anybody who has content for the Bilge Rat, please send to the Bilge Rat Hon Editor.

Email: - editor@liskeard-rna.org.uk