

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Incorporated by Royal Charter
Patron: Her Majesty The Queen



Registered Charity No: 1068408
LISKEARD BRANCH

Commissioned 20th April 1986
Full Recognition by The Royal Navy

The Bilge Rat

October 2009



Issue No 255

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2009

President	Lt. Cdr. John Lennon	
Chairman	S/M Roger Grace	01579 363357
Vice-Chairman	S/M Gordon Strudwick	01579 346484
Correspondence Sec.	S/M John Hunt	01752 851689
Minute Secretary	S/M John Lennon	01579 343823
Treasurer	S/M Warwick Belfitt	01579 346606
Membership Secs	S/M Maureen Parker	01579 346667
	SM Terry Kurn	
Welfare Officer	S/M Jean Lennon	01579 343823
	S/M Marie Belfitt	01579 346606
Area Delegate	S/M Gordon Strudwick	01579 346484
Social Secretaries		
Standard Bearer	S/M John Hunt	01752 851689
Asst. Standard Bearer	S/M	
Slops Bosun	S/M Ian Bennett	01579 348452
Rum Bosun	S/M Basil Chapman	01579 348286
Fundraiser	S/Ms Wilf & Margaret Jolley	01579320678
Auditors	S/M Ted Steele-Tyson	01579 343876
	S/M Alan Barry	07770 455 730
	S/M Sandra Cole	01579 347796
PRO Officer	S/m Ann Rochester	
Branch Chaplain	S/M Pat Ambler	01579 346760
Bilge Rat Editor	S/M John Bartlett	01579 382780
	email editor@liskeard-rna.org.uk	
Branch website	www.liskeard-rna.org.uk	

Would all contributors please note that the easiest form of text for the Editor to handle and place in the Bilge Rat is text submitted in **ASC11 DOS Text {*.txt}**.

Otherwise he finishes up having to type it out himself with his two fingers. This reduces the time allowed for drinking. Cheers.

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Flag Kits.

Table Flags in kit form are available from Nancy or Gordon Strudwick 01579 346484. Flags available are:-

Union Flag White Ensign RNA Crest.

Cost **£3.00 for Ten.** Everything you need, just add your own 'Lick'

PICKLE CARDS Shipmates.

Don't forget our specially commissioned cards depicting the Schooner Pickle in Falmouth after returning from Trafalgar. These cards are unique to the Liskeard branch. They are blank inside and can therefore be used for many occasions.. Much nicer to receive than an email.

Costs to you at a very special rate of 75p each or 6 for £4.00

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthdays for November

4th Bill Bullen , Ann Grace

14th Pauline Lucas

16th Barbara Bartlett

Membership:

At the end of September the Branch consisted of paid up 79 Members, 2 Life 44 full and 33 Associate. 44 Members are registered for Gift Aid

Forms are available if you wish to pay by Standing Order.

Members are reminded that subs are due at the beginning of the year and the Members Sec should not have to chase you up.

Mentioned in the Gazette

Special good wishes and congratulations to Iris and Charlie Prinn on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 14th November 2009

The **2010 Diaries** are now ready to order. They are of a superior design and appearance and will cost **£4.00 each**

Christmas cards for 2009 can now be ordered. They feature a specially commissioned painting (exclusive to the RNA) of the new HMS Daring in the foreground and the former HMS Daring in the background.

Cost £5.00 per packet of 10

The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month is approaching and we are all thinking of Remembrance Day

I am sure we all know of poems connected with the First World War, in particular, 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae and 'For The Fallen' by Laurence Binyon, the fourth verse of which is "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old"

However I give you this poem, one that I learnt as a youngster and which I feel still has a relevance today.

THE SOLDIER by Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by the suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

S/m Roger Grace

Fifty Years On

Fifty years ago on the 14th September 1959 I signed on the dotted line to serve as an Artificer. Initially we had to sign for twelve years but many of us did the full 22 plus extra.

Anyway. Last month on the 12th September nearly two hundred of my entry assembled on HMS Belfast to celebrate our survival and renew our friendships. We had a lot of catching up to do.

It was a fabulous evening, far too short of course. Fifty years is a long time and although as apprentices we had lived cheek by jowl for over three years, initial visual recognition was sometimes difficult. I only left the Navy twenty-five years ago but it was still a challenge to recognise Pompey rates. However, surprisingly, our voices hadn't changed, neither had our mannerisms and once you heard someone talking it was as if all those years just didn't exist. The only sad note was the news of those who had crossed the bar but most of us are still 16 year olds going on 66.

Many were a bit concerned that London would be expensive but in the event it wasn't. By planning early we from the West Country had flown up and back for £58.00. We stayed in the Tower Hill area in a brand new Travel Lodge which cost just over £143 for three nights in the heart of the city.

I, like many of the others had heard that beer was expensive but by drinking local beer, London Pride or Spitfire and not lager, prices were cheaper than down here. Mind it was dear on the 'Belfast'; £4 a bottle but that didn't stop them nearly running out.

All in all, a wonderful weekend, just proving once again that the RN is the best club in the world.

Roll on the 60th or perhaps even the 55th!!

S/m John Bartlett

St Matthew's Fair

After a long spell of fine dry weather Saturday 3rd October dawned cold wet and windy, right on cue for a St. Matthew's Fair, coupled with fact that there was no Continental Market to bolster the attraction there were not many people about. In spite of that we raised about £43 which was very commendable. Most of the money raised was from the Treasure Trove Map and the plants Margaret wanted to get off her windowsill!

It was kind of Nick to allow himself to be coerced into buying another knitted cuddly toy to go with the one he gallantly beat off other bids for at the Hog Roast auction. We all hope the two toys are compatible enough to produce some small knitted cuddly toys in the future, if so can I be godmother?

Many thanks to Margaret and Wilf for their work before and after the fair, also John Hunt for towing the caravan and manning the van. Due to their efforts Liskeard RNA showed the flag and raised a respectable amount for the branch funds.

S/m Nancy Strudwick

Christmas Dinner/Dance

Saturday the 12th December 2009 in the Royal British Legion top room. Menu choice forms available at the October meeting.

Please return all forms with monies, (cheques or cash for £16 per person) at the November meeting. If you are not at the October meeting please contact us on Liskeard 346484.

It was a good evening last year, should be a good evening this year. Please support the Branch's Christmas bash!

S/m Nancy Strudwick

Who is this young Sailor then?



Help for Heroes

The following is an extract from a letter received from the Help for Heroes Charity.

The charity's first task was to help towards the costs of providing a new swimming pool and gym complex at the wonderful tri service rehabilitation centre at Headley Court. Headley Court is a world-class facility, owned by the Headley Court Trust and run by the MOD. Work has commenced on the swimming pool/gym complex and is due to be completed in 2010.

The charity will be helping to fund the Pathfinder project for an Army Convalescent Centre in Edinburgh. Working with the Army and Service Charity Erskine, we will be creating a house for 12 Soldiers to live while they begin to launch back into their lives after sustaining injuries. The intention is that once the concept has been proven successful, there will be up to 7 other such houses established with Help for Heroes funding around the country.

...check our website www.helpforheroes.org.ukfor latest news.

Incidentally, I have received an article about a recipient of care from Headley House which I will put in next month's Bilge Rat. Ed

NWS
REFURBISHMENT QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
SMALL BUILD
PLUMBING/CENTRAL HEATING
PLASTERING CARPENTRY
LOCKSMITH
DECORATING TILING
ALL ASPECTS OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
CONTACT NEIL ON 01579 320678
MOBILE 07966 381615
NO JOB TOO SMALL

Shipmate Gordon Strudwick has kindly obtained the following definitions from the Falmouth branch to help us all with our computers. Gordon says it is a great help to him in understanding his computer. Thanks to both Gordon and the Falmouth Branch

WEB	What spider make
WEBSITE	Usually the shed
SEARCH ENGINE	What to do when the car don't go
YAHOO	What you say when the car does start
UPGRADE	A steep hill
MAIL SERVER	The bloke at the pub who brings out the grub
USER	The neighbour who keeps borrowing things
NETWORK	What you do when you repair the fishing net
INTERNET	Where the fish go
NETSCAPE	What the fish do when they find the hole in the net
ONLINE	Where you hang the washing
OFFLINE	Where the washing goes when the wind blows.

Also from Falmouth

1. A hole has been found in the nudist camp fence. Police are looking into it.
2. The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
3. A backward poet writes inverse.
4. In democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your count that votes.
5. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
6. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects.

.Social Calendar 2009

Sun 1 st Nov	Dedication of Field of Remembrance. Webbs 1400
Sun 8 Nov	Remembrance Day Parade. 1030 Cattle Market Car park
Sat 21 st Nov	Christmas Fair and Bazaar RBL
Sat 28 th Nov	Quiz Night
Sat 5 th Dec	Liskeard Lights
Sat 12 th Dec	Christmas Dinner (RBL)

Open from 1930 meeting starts at 2000. You do not have to be ex Royal Navy to join. All are welcome.- Bar Open

Meeting Notes:-

Suggestions for additional or proposed changes to events are welcome.

Bilge Rat Hon Editor.

Cae Gwer, St. Ive Cross, Liskeard, Cornwall. PL14 3LZ.