



ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 63

Winter 2007

POSTAL ADDRESS and HEADQUARTERS

Royal Naval Patrol Service Association

Naval Museum, Sparrows Nest,

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Greetings to all Shipmates

Here we go with another helping of dits from "The Nest" which we hope will keep you up to speed with what is happening in the world of the RNPSA.

Reunion 2007

This year's reunion was blessed throughout with good weather until I went back to work on the Monday afterwards and I got soaked! Numbers were a bit down this year but those who made the pilgrimage back to Lowestoft brought with them enthusiasm and good humour. The social evenings at the Beaconsfield Club in Lowestoft were held on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The Tuesday event was not very well supported as most had arrived that day and were resting up but the other two nights went off very well.

The AGM, which was held on the Friday went off well with nothing to rock the boat although some topics attracted more discussions than others. As you will read in John Dunn's article, we have a new additional Vice President in the person of Cdr. David Braybrooke LVO RN Rtd. David has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Association since his first visit to us as a guest of honour at a reunion some years ago and just recently he has moved closer to the Museum being now just about an hour away.

The big Friday night social at the Ocean Room at Gorleston was again very well attended. Music was provided by Harbour Lights and during the evening our usual large raffle was held with over 50 prizes. Our National Padre, Jim Izzard, donated a holiday for 2 at his Isle of Wight Guest House and this was won by Phillipa and Jack Fisk from North London.

The service and parade on the Saturday morning was well attended although at the last minute we had a minor hic up when we heard on the Thursday that our Guest of Honour, Cdre. Jim Patrick, the Royal Naval Regional Officer, Eastern England, would not be able to be at the parade due to service commitments but would still be able to be at the evening dinner. At very short notice the Royal Navy managed to find a replacement, Lt. Cdr. Patrick Fraser, the Regional Recruiting Officer who also brought his wife Lt. Emma Fraser – 2 for the price of 1 – I always like a discount! They were joined by our President, Cdr. Gary Titmus, who flew back from the Oman for the occasion, Cdr. David Braybrooke, our new Vice President, Cllr Sally Spore, Mayor of Lowestoft and Cllr George Hawes, Chairman of Waveney District Council. Capt. Jon Scoles, our Vice President had every intention of attending but a major incident on the A12 on the Friday meant that after 3 hours in the same place and then being diverted through half of Essex he found himself back on the M25 in the wrong direction. With time running out he made the decision to head back home to Hampshire. A normal four hour run had ended up as a ten hour nightmare but thanks for trying Jon, better luck next year.

The Standards, and those able to, marched on from the park gates to the memorial behind the band of 469 (Lowestoft) Squadron, Air Training Corps and the music for the hymns was provided by Great Yarmouth Brass. The Parade Commander was Lt. (SCC) J Meadows RNR and the service was led by our National Padre Jim Izzard assisted by our local Padre Tim Jenkins.

The observant ones amongst you will have noticed the change of Parade Commander this year, this was due to our local Royal Naval Association going to Italy for five days to visit the War Graves and with them went our usual parade crew of Parade Commander Ted Thompson, Parade Marshall Len Manners (the Chief with the hip flask), Standard Marshall Alf Muffett and Rum Bosun Ron Head. Assisting Joe Meadows by looking after the Standards was a RNA Parade Marshall from Ipswich.

After the service the parade formed up for the march down to the Sparrow's Nest for the salute, and Sunset. After the parade was dismissed the Standard Bearers made their way up to the Museum for their "Tot" which this year was dispensed by our Welfare Officer Bonnie Whisstock and what better way

to look after a matelot's welfare than to give him a tot of rum (or two). Sensing that this was her first time in such a role, Bonnie was persuaded that after the rum had been in the rum tub it could not go back in the bottle and that it should be offered as "Queens" – and it was very nice too!



Marching back to the "Nest"



The salute at the march past



Padre Jim Izzard at the service



The band leads on the parade



National Standard and escort

After the parade members mingled on the grass and enjoyed a pint or two in the sun outside the Sparrows Nest bar. The dinner dance on the Saturday evening went off very well with our guest of honour Cdre Jim Patrick and his wife managing to make it having driven half way across the country to be there. The music was again provided by the excellent Super Swing Big Band. During the evening the main reunion draw took place and the winners are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

From the Secretary, John Dunn

Well Shipmates, and all the friends who give us such great support throughout the year which is greatly appreciated as without it the Association would not function.

The Annual Reunion once again was a great success with a good turn out. But most unfortunately it was the FIRST Service I have missed since the Association was formed in November 1975. I do not recommend falling down a flight of granite steps as it does not help your health in any way. The Reunion dinner was again well attended. We have made the basic arrangements for 2008. The dates for the Service of Remembrance will be the 4th October so the programme will be as follows: - Week commencing Monday 29th September. Due to poor support on the Tuesday evening there will be NO entertainment laid on for the Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday and Thursday will be a disco by Leo Whisstock. Friday night will be the usual disco and raffle at the Ocean Room and of course the AGM at the Trinity Methodist Church, Park Road at 1.30 pm. Saturday the service will be as follows. Muster at the Main Gate of Belle Vue Park at 10.45 am, march to the Memorial for the Service at 11.00 am. After the Service, the Parade will march to the Sparrows Nest for the Salute to be taken by the President. In the evening the Dinner will be held at the Ocean Room and we welcome back our old friends for the music (K-SYL-R), and we will be able to have our Grand Finale again. The menu and the price of the dinner will be in the Spring Newsletter.

Things seem to be going well for the Association except for the number of members who have crossed the bar since the last newsletter, but this we must expect as age catches up with us.

We are very pleased to announce that Commander D Braybrooke RN Rtd has honoured us by accepting the position of Vice President, with Captain J Scoles. Captain J Scoles has retired from the Navy and is now busy carving out a career in civvy street and until it settles down he is very busy travelling the

country and although he will stay as a Vice President his spare time will be very limited and we will always be glad to see him as we know he is still very interested in the Association. We wish him well in his new appointment. The AGM went off well as there were no proposals to be discussed, S/M Alf Baker of the West Midlands Branch gave a brief report on the progress of a National Memorial at the Arboretum and it is possible that the Committee will meet S/M Baker there in November and have a discussion with the curator at the Arboretum.

Memorial photos



A local professional photographer has photographed every plaque on the memorial plus a couple of other shots of the memorial. The quality is superb and every name can be read on each of the 17 bronze plaques. Pictures can be supplied electronically as attachments to e-mails, on disc (small charge) or as a colour photograph up to A4 size (small charge). For further details of the memorial photographs contact me at - Leo Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32



4PR.Tel. 01502 584555 or via e-mail at rnpsa@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk

Lord Kitchener Home

Fancy a holiday in Lowestoft, in comfortable, friendly surroundings overlooking the sea? Then try the Lord Kitchener Holiday Home on Kirkley Cliff. This is an ex-service holiday home and is very popular, particularly with the Chelsea Pensioners. I have reprinted below some of their literature from their publicity material but if you really want to be convinced of how good it is then make contact with Hanworth Branch – they never stop talking about it.



The Lord Kitchener Holiday Home



The trophy corner



Roy & Joan Ennals from Hanworth Branch relax in the lounge during reunion week

The Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre overlooks public scented gardens, the Upper Esplanade and the sea at Lowestoft in Suffolk. Once in the ownership of the Colman family of Norwich, the building is the double-fronted centre-piece of the principal residential development of the nineteenth century entrepreneur, Samuel Morton Peto. The Centre offers holiday accommodation of ten en-suite twin bedded rooms on a half board basis from April to October. Two of the en-suite rooms have been converted to provide walk-in showers for those who are less able. Fixtures, fittings and decor are maintained to a high standard. There are two TV lounges, one reading lounge and an air-conditioned dining room on the ground floor and the guest bedrooms are on the first and second floors. A lift provides easy access to all floors. A friendly and easygoing atmosphere is created by the husband and wife team of a resident Manager and Cook/Housekeeper with their staff. Breakfast and an evening meal are provided to a high quality with a generous and varied menu.

Rates for 2008 are -	Couple - Ex-service plus non ex-service spouse -	£256.00 per week half board
	Couple - Ex-service plus ex-service spouse -	£216.00 " "
	Single - Ex-service sharing twin room -	£108.00 " "
	Single - Ex-service single room -	£128.00 " "

Contact : The Manager, Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Centre, 10 Kirkley Cliff, Lowestoft NR33 0BY
Telephone: 01502 573564 Email: kitchener@lowestoft.org.uk Website: www.kitchener.lowestoft.org.uk

Branch and member information

This is a well rehearsed request but nevertheless one that seems to fall by the wayside in a lot of cases. Can you please inform the Secretary at "The Nest" of any changes to your address etc. Each time we do a mailing run we get a lot returned by the Post Office marked "Not at this address". Following on from this can we again remind all Branch Secretaries to keep HQ up to date on their membership records in all classes of membership such as Life, Associate and Widows.

Queenborough

Sunday 9th September was the date for this year's parade, which is held to commemorate the wartime base HMS Wildfire III. It was held on a warm sunny day and a good crowd turned up for the event which is now organised by the local Naval Ensign Association. There were not too many Patrol Service badges in evidence but nevertheless the support from other ex-RN associations showed the respect that the Patrol Service still has. There were a good turn out of standards and the march was led by the local Army Cadet band. The serving Royal Navy was



"Sunset" at the Wildfire III service at Queenborough

represented by the Commanding Officer and a contingent from the reserve unit from Northwood that carries the name HMS Wildfire and also Commander David Waters who is the Deputy Naval Regional Officer, Eastern England. Unfortunately just after the service had finished the heat got the better of one of our veterans who fainted but thankfully he made a complete recovery and made it to the buffet afterwards.

HMS Cocker

The article in the last Newsletter about the fate of HMS Cocker and her crew did not produce any comments or further information. I had hoped that we were going to be able to fill in some details and perhaps set some records straight. If anyone does have even the smallest piece of information then please get in touch.

Liverpool shield

Just like the article above, the Liverpool shield did not generate any response either – ah well, you can't win them all!

Membership Renewals

The membership rate for the coming year will remain at the present rate of £8 and our Treasurer will be overjoyed to receive renewals at your earliest convenience. This next part is VERY IMPORTANT. Since the changes to the postal system, we have had to collect some member's subscriptions and books from the Post Office and pay an **extra £1.06** because they were too thick for the 5mm slot and therefore the ordinary postage did not cover it. We cannot sustain these extra costs. SUGGESTION. When sending in your subs, please remove the plastic cover and open up the insert and lay it flat, then enclose your stamped addressed envelope (6½" x 4½") laid flat. Send to HQ in a (7½" x 5") envelope, or in new money, (190mm x 127mm).

National Memorial Arboretum

This project is still ongoing and the appeal for donations is still very much open. We have deliberately not rushed into completing this project as we want to explore all possibilities and options to end up with, hopefully, something that you and generations to come will appreciate.

We have had some harsh criticism about the initial high target amount as set out in the last Newsletter but very few, it seems, have read the next line in the article that says - *If we fail to reach this target we would adjust our plans accordingly.* Indeed it looks as if we will not reach that target but it was worth a try and S/M Alf Baker has worn out a box of pens writing to various individuals and large commercial concerns to try and shake a few coins loose, so it was not for the want of trying.

We have had a further meeting with the Midlands Branch, who are conveniently on the doorstep of the Arboretum, and have discussed a couple of scaled down options which will not be too far outside the funds that we already have. The appeal is still open and perhaps with a more achievable goal shipmates may feel more disposed to making a donation. The details, as published in the last Newsletter, are as follows -

Contributions can be made to any branch of the H.S.B.C. to "The Royal Naval Patrol Service Memorial Fund" roll number 404212, account number 81888552 or sent to: S/M A Baker, Co-ordinator, RNPS Fund, 7 Deanbrook Close, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4XS.

Alternatively HQ at the Sparrows Nest also have a Memorial fund to which donations can be sent and this will in due course be added to the Midlands fund.

Welfare

We have recently had a small number of requests for help from the Benevolent fund and have made donations to those concerned to try and ease their situations. We have also been able to advise of other grants that are available and of other bodies that offer both actual and financial help to ex-service men and women. Bonnie Whisstock is just a phone call or letter away and can offer help in starting the ball rolling. The various funds that are out there are not just there to help out with a few pounds. If, for example, a disability means that alterations have to be made to your house then this is something that some of the charities can assist with.

There is no shame in asking for help and your details and circumstances are strictly confidential and go no further than the organisation dealing with your case.

As an example of other ways we can help, a member who came to the reunion was not able to fit his wheelchair and all his luggage and other shipmates in the car. When he arrived at Lowestoft he asked Bonnie and she was able to source a wheelchair for him for his stay in Lowestoft.

Bonnie's contact details are - Mrs Bonnie Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or via e-mail at bonnie@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk

Museum visits

For information, the Museum and office are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings until about 11.30 (ish). What we do recommend is that if you are travelling some distance that you telephone a few days beforehand to either the office on 01502 586250 or my home on 01502 584555 and we can arrange, if necessary, to open up for you at a suitable time.

HMT Northern Isles

S/M Jimmy Brown, who died earlier this year, often wrote in his books and articles about his time on the Armed Trawler HMT Northern Isles and how she stranded on rocks off Durban and was lost. A year or so ago he received through the post a parcel that took him by surprise. It appears that when the ship was on the rocks one of the crew, either as they were abandoning ship or later on an unofficial visit, had "liberated" the ship's badge. This remained with the man until recently when he happened to be reading Jimmy's book Harry Tate's Navy and decided to send it to him.



The "rescued" ship's badge



Jimmy Brown



HMT Northern Isles stranded on the rocks

The badge is still in its original condition albeit faded and weathered with Pusser's grey paint on the back where it had been painted while fixed to the ship. It measures 17½" x 11" and has a motto Nil Frigandum but I have been unable to find a Latin translation for the word frigandum. While sorting through her father's effects, Jimmy's daughter came across the badge and telephoned me to see if the museum would be interested in having it. It is now with our Curator, Alf Muffett and will be logged and put on display. Can you add anything to this story? Jimmy's account can be found on the Harry Tate's website under Veteran's stories www.harry-tates.org.uk where you can also read other stories from some of our members.

Curator

The work that Alf and Mike are doing in the museum is moving along nicely and the present work is to copy and log all the photographs – this goes into thousands but it will mean that we should be able to preserve the originals and display copies.

Museum repairs

At the present time we are having a battle royal with the local council over a blocked down pipe from the roof of the museum. When it rains we get a jet of water coming out of the down pipe horizontally at first floor level past the office window, not only that but the damp has now got in to the walls and the plaster is flaking off and the walls are turning black with mould – and guess what! – the council cannot find the problem nor can they afford to fix it. We have now involved our local MP and the papers so fingers crossed we may get some action.

New Book

For those interested in Patrol Service books and also a good read will be interested in a new publication entitled "The Shield and the Shark" by Thomas E Lightburn ISBN No. 9781843863502. The author served for 22 years in the Royal Navy leaving in 1974 as a CPO and the book is dedicated to the author's father who was in the RNPS and to the crew of MMS 50 and all who served in the Royal Naval Patrol Service. The author was assisted in his writing by the members of the Merseyside Branch who get a mention and the story follows the exploits of a couple of RNPS men during the war and their reunion 60 years later. I can thoroughly recommend it and you can get your copy from Pegasus Elliot Mackenzie Publishers Ltd., Cambridge, UK. Te: 01223 370 012 www.pegasuspublishers.com

Web sites

Don't forget, if you have access to a computer, to keep checking the 2 web sites connected to our Association which are: www.rnps.lowestoft.org.uk run by Mike Sims and www.harry-tates.org.uk run by Nick Clark. Both offer a wealth of information. There are also plenty of other sites where you can search for old oppos or look for things to do with the war and the Royal Navy. Nick is looking for anyone who can supply a story for his "Veterans Stories" section. Take a look at some of the photos, how did they get their hats to stay on "flat aback"?

Christmas wishes

As I bring this newsletter to a close can I, on behalf of the Officers and Committee, wish all of you a very merry Christmas and as good a new year as you are able to have and let us hope that our service lads that are serving abroad are not subjected to any more wanton killing and are soon back with their families.

If you have any items for inclusion in the next Newsletter or comments on this one, please send them to me at , Leo Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or via e-mail at rnpsa@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk

Yours Aye, **The Duty Watch**

Shipmates Corner

If you do not have access to e-mail and you have information on any of the following enquiries then you can pass the information to me (Leo) at the address above or to Nick Clark, 174 Manton Crescent, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2GA Tel: 07841 107641 info@mpatrolservice.org.uk

Please note this is a new address and telephone No. for Nick.

My late father, **Victor John Berry**, Service No. JX 303256, served on **HMT Cardiff Castle** from 25th. January 1942 - 9th. September 1944 and on **BYMS 2212** between 11th. December 1944 - 22nd. December 1945. If anyone served with him, or has any information about the ships' movements, it would be great to hear from you. Frank Berry frank.j.berry@btinternet.com

I am John Coshall, 4 Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames, Middx TW16 5ED. I was hoping a member of the RNPS might have a crew photo of my father **Thomas Coshall** who served on the Yacht **HMS Sigrid** 1939 - 1944 <mailto:zagato44@hotmail.co.uk>

If you served on **BYMS 2068** or **HMS Sir Aggravaine** then **John Roberts** from London sends his regards to you. J Roberts, 10 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QP Tel: 0208 3184942.

I served the majority of my war service on **HMS Prospect** as a telegraphist followed by **HMS Gavotte** and **HMS Hornpipe** (both operating out of Malta). Is there anyone who remembers me? I would particularly like to hear from my old oppo on the Prospect – **Jim Wiles** and **Charlie Richards**. Best wishes, Bill Hewson 01323 740477.

Frederick Hunter who served on **HMS Leyland**, **Blackthorn**, **Loch Tulla**, **Aquamarine** and **Indian Star** would like to hear from any of the old crews. F G Hunter, 68 Homefleet House, Wellington Crescent, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 8JY.

Looking for information/photos of **Leonard William Wolfreys**. I discovered my father-in-law was a telegraphist in the RNPS. His record mentions HMS Europa, HMS Osta, BYMS1, HMS Marshal Soult and HMS Utvaer. If anyone can put me in touch with anyone who might remember him, or who might have any photos, please get in touch with me. Please reply via Nick Clark.

My father was a member of the crew of **HMS IMPERIALIST**. I don't know if anyone can recall him. His name was **John Bennett**. I have several photo's he had taken on board including rescuing survivors of a sinking ship. MRS S M Green. Please reply via Nick Clark.

My father, **William (Casey) Jones** served on **BYMS 2024**, **HMS SARKER**, **MFV 137**, in Malta and Alexandria. He is living in Melbourne Australia, and would like to make contact with former crew mates/relatives. Steve Jones. Please reply via Nick Clark.

I am researching my father's time in the RNPS, he served on various ships and mainly **BYMS 2217**, his name was **Leonard Read**. I would love to hear from anyone who knows of anyone he may have served with and perhaps would like to see some of his photos, he trained at the Sparrows Nest. Sheila Johnson. Please reply via Nick Clark.

Shipmates Corner is very thin on the ground this time, surely you have not found all your old mates at last. In the past we have had quite a bit of success in answering a lot of the enquiries so it is worth dropping me a line for inclusion in the next issue even if it is to tell me about other ways you have managed to make contact with people – it all helps with the service we try and provide.

Obituary for Winter 2007

S/M C Allen	Bedford	Bedfordshire	S/M J Judge	Melbourne	Derbyshire
S/M H Brewer	Sunbury	Middlesex	S/M L More	Overton	Hampshire
S/M J Bridgeland	Hungerford	Berkshire	S/M V Nolan	Wakefield	Yorkshire
S/M D Brook	Ipswich	Suffolk	S/M W Nuttall	Bolton	Lancashire
S/M J Brooks	Maidstone	Kent	S/M J Raw	Sheffield	Yorkshire
S/M W Campbell	Lossiemouth	Scotland	S/M J Senior	Scarborough	Yorkshire
S/M J Clough	Great Yarmouth	Norfolk	S/M(Mrs) C Sheader	Lowestoft	Suffolk
S/M O Davies	Kings Norton	Birmingham	S/M N Tebbet	Northampton	Northamptonshire
S/M A Flood	Manchester	W Midlands	S/M W Warner	Weston	Dorset
S/M E Hansell	Sittingbourne	Kent	S/M J Whitson	Gloucester	Gloucestershire
S/M A Hardman	Barnsley	Yorkshire	S/M Wilson	Fleetwood	Lancashire
S/M W Foster	Widnes	Cheshire	S/M L Willis	Benfleet	Essex
S/M F Hardingham	Balderton	Newark	S/M L Williams	Redditch	Worcs

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them



HMS Europa dressed overall



HMS Europa 1898

Reunion 2007 - Draw Results

	Ticket No.	Winner
1	20381	W. Graves, Dursley, Glos
2	19132	Mrs Carol Balls, Wivenhoe, Essex
3	17588	Mrs V J Mouatt, Scalloway, Shetland
4	04171	Mr and Mrs L Goodall, St Margarets-at-Cliffe, Kent
5	09076	N J Thompson, Burton-on-Trent
6	05846	W Young, Croydon, Surrey
7	14496	I M Edards, Worcester
8	02180	Mr R Lowson, Co Durham
9	35046	D Wilson, Hemphall, Norfolk
10	26012	D Hembling, Beccles, Suffolk
11	16960	Donald Macleod, Tarbert, Argyll
12	05825	Mrs Joan Arnold, Wivenhoe, Essex
13	12655	Miss J Taylor – Donated to RNPSA (S/M T H Fruin)
14	30884	S R Davenport, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex
15	14226	Jessie Ferris, Streetly, West Midlands
16	31312	M G Scrivener, Huntingdon, Cambs
17	31139	Mr J Morris, Milford Haven
18	14360	Mr G Emberson, Harpenden
19	00891	Mr F Jenkins, Ely, Cardiff
20	08982	Jamie, Llanelli, Carmar
21	24068	H. Crago, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
22	03453	I J Giddy, Bideford
23	16630	Mrs M R Beasley, Northampton
24	01490	M G Clarke, Cambridge