



# ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No. 79 Winter 2015

## POSTAL ADDRESS and HEADQUARTERS

Royal Naval Patrol Service Association  
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### Important change of Association Email address - Mike Sims

In late 1999 I started work building the Association's first website which went live in February 2000. For the sake of convenience I created it on a sub-domain of my own domain [lowestoft.org.uk](http://lowestoft.org.uk) and the site address became [rnps.lowestoft.org.uk](http://rnps.lowestoft.org.uk).

At the time we anticipated picking up general enquiries about RNPS, messages specifically for our museum curator and those for the Head Office. So as to try and pre-sort the messages we asked writers to send their queries to one of the following addresses depending on content which we then planned to pass on to the appropriate person:

[rnps\\_enq@lowestoft.org.uk](mailto:rnps_enq@lowestoft.org.uk) [rnps\\_mus@lowestoft.org.uk](mailto:rnps_mus@lowestoft.org.uk) [rnps\\_hq@lowestoft.org.uk](mailto:rnps_hq@lowestoft.org.uk)

Sadly message senders often did not categorise the content of their messages in the same way as we did and all three email addresses have gradually come to be used for any purpose.

As is the way with email addresses, spammers got to know about them and we started to receive spam messages totally unrelated to any RNPS matter. It has now reached the stage where the first task every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for our assistant secretary is to clear out the minimum of thirty or forty (and sometimes many more) spam messages received since the last time he was in the office and to pick out the half dozen or so proper messages that need dealing with.

That was the situation until October this year.

The main domain name [lowestoft.org.uk](http://lowestoft.org.uk) belongs to me. At the time the RNPSA website was first built it was convenient to place it on a sub-domain of that Lowestoft domain but with an eye to the future the Association needs to have its own domain under its own control. I have registered [rnpsa.co.uk](http://rnpsa.co.uk) and the current website can be found at that address. We need to be able to guarantee the continuity of the website and email even if I fall off my perch. At present [rnpsa.co.uk](http://rnpsa.co.uk) is in my name but once the Association has the ability to pay online for services I plan to transfer it to RNPSA ownership.

The old email addresses have been superseded by a single new one. With immediate effect the Association's email address has been changed to [\*\*hq@rnpsa.co.uk\*\*](mailto:hq@rnpsa.co.uk) Spam is a fact of life and there is no way that we can cut it out completely, the same as junk snail-mail but we are changing our office procedure so that incoming email is filtered before arrival in Head Office, which should reduce the amount of spam the office has to cope with.

Most of the changes mentioned above have been made with a view to ensuring the continuity of the Association. We have changed our Constitution and had Charities Commission approval, we have changed the classes of membership and we are now amending the office procedures, all to try to ensure Association continuity. The next step is to look at the sources of our income but that is a subject for another occasion.

In conclusion, please only use [\*\*hq@rnpsa.co.uk\*\*](mailto:hq@rnpsa.co.uk)

### Reunion 2015

We were extremely fortunate this year in that we had exceptionally good weather for the reunion weekend and the week leading up to it and had we been a week later we would all have got very wet.

The first "official" event of the reunion was the Annual General Meeting which was held in the new venue in the Sparrows Nest Gardens and this worked very well indeed as nobody who was already in the park

had to drive up to the church as in previous years. Also with the venue being smaller, those attending were not so spread out and so it gave a more homely feel.

To give a brief résumé of the meeting:

Chairman John Street was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting due to health problems so the meeting was chaired by the Secretary in his absence.

In matters arising, it was mentioned that following the acceptance at the previous AGM of the proposed new constitution this had been sent to the Charity Commission for ratification and was duly accepted by them so they now become our new constitution.

In Motions or Matters for discussion there was only one which had been sent in by S/M Jim Thompson regarding the future upkeep of our memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. There was supposed to be provision in place towards the upkeep of the memorial. Unfortunately there was nothing in place so Leo had a meeting with the Arboretum Curator. They estimate an approximate annual cost of £150 or a life endowment fee of about £3,000. This was discussed and it was felt that a one off payment would be the best way forward.

The President and secretary gave their reports which centred around the progress made during the year in the museum improvements which were being spear headed by John Coble and Ted Thompson.

Membership Numbers are 273 Served Members, 136 Members, 152 Widows and 18 Overseas.

The Treasurers report was given by our newly co-opted Treasurer, Tony Addison. This was accepted by those present and no questions were put to the Treasurer.

Museum Curator, Alf Muffett gave his report, again mentioning the valuable refurbishment work that is being carried out and also on the help he has had in the accreditation process from George Hawes in compiling the necessary official paperwork and to new helper Charlotte, a history graduate, who has been assisting in the photograph cataloguing.

The Welfare Officer said that she had been able to help a couple of members but said that people should not be afraid to ask.

Election of Officers, Roger Bond was taken off the list of Committee Members as he moved away from the area. Tony Addison, co-opted on as Treasurer, needed to be officially voted onto the Committee by the AGM. Sim Mayo proposed and Jim Thompson seconded that with the above changes the Officers and Committee be elected en bloc, this was agreed by all.

Reunion 2016, the dates would be Friday and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October along the same lines as this year's reunion. A long discussion took place as to the feasibility of the continuance of the Friday night dinner given the low number of actual RNPS veterans attending or if an on site buffet after the Saturday service would be better. 2 of our far away members said that given the distance they have to travel if there was no dinner it would be a major part of their stay taken away. It was proposed and seconded that the dinner would continue for 2016.

After a final vote of thanks to the Committee from our president and from the floor, the meeting closed.

On the Friday evening just over 80 people gathered for the annual dinner with the Mayor of Lowestoft as our Guest of Honour. It was an enjoyable evening with good food and good company and after the speeches there was music and the grand reunion draw and the evening raffle, both of which were well supported.

Saturday morning saw a lovely sunny day and as people gathered by our memorial it started to get quite warm. For those of us who remember the days of 1,000 plus attending it is slightly sobering to see the greatly reduced numbers which, unfortunately, is a fact of life for as hard as we may try we cannot halt the ageing process. Due to a prior commitment our local Padre, Tim Jenkins, was unable to attend but we were in the very capable hands of the Revd. Peter Paine, Port Chaplain, Mission to Seafarers, Great Yarmouth. After the service we all negotiated the steps (which get steeper each year) down to the Sparrows Nest Gardens. The standards and marchers formed up for the very short march past where our President, Cdr Garry Titmus took the salute accompanied by Vice President Cdr David Braybrooke, Revd Peter Paine and Chairman of Waveney District Council, Councillor Bruce Provan. After the standards and ship's company formed up outside the museum our President addressed the assembled crowd with words of wisdom informing them that his baby son who used to come with him some years ago was now a serving sailor on HMS Ocean and that he had drawn inspiration from all you lads at the reunion. I am not sure what you told him but I can hazard a guess that notorious runs ashore formed part of it! There then followed "Sunset" played by Marine Cadet Bugler Cpl Ashley Cook with the flag deck being manned by CPO Len Manners and a Sea Cadet from the Lowestoft Unit.



*Cdr Titmus enthraling the crowd*

Once Parade Commander, Lt Cdr Ted Thompson had dismissed the parade the Standard Bearers had their customary tot of rum and the crowd took advantage of the glorious weather and mingled and swung the lamp.

Bugler Asley Cook had a busy morning as he was the cornet player with the Yarmouth Brass Band for the service, stepped out of the band to play Last Post and Reveille then rejoined the band for the rest of the service after which he dashed down to the Nest to get changed into his Marine Cadet uniform for the march past and Sunset. Ashley is an accomplished musician and is in his final year at school and in January will be signing up to join the Royal Marines Band Service, starting his basic training at Lympstone in September before joining the Royal Marines School of Music at Portsmouth. We wish him well in his future career.

### Reunion Draw – unclaimed prize

At the Friday night dinner, the annual reunion draw took place but unfortunately the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £150.00 still remains unclaimed. The ticket number is **00583** but all that is written on it is what looks like a membership number which does not tie in with anything we have on record. If you have this ticket or think that it is one that you sold and can tell us what is written on the ticket we will gladly send a cheque for the winnings. As a result of this we are changing the tickets for next year to include lines for name and address.

### Disabled Access to the Museum

For a long time now we have been concerned over providing access to the museum for visitors who are wheelchair bound or who find it difficult to climb the steep steps to the office and museum. Now the problem has been solved thanks to a very generous legacy from an old shipmate who sadly crossed the bar. The Management Committee resourced an International Lift manufacturer who will erect an External Platform Lift to carry wheelchairs and will be sited adjacent to the existing steps. S/M George Hawes prepared the construction drawings and Planning Permission has been granted by the Council. Local Building Contractors have started to construct the foundations and new concrete paths ready for the lift installation. The lift will be made as vandal proof as possible as we have been victims of the young hooligans in the not too distant past. It is also proposed to incorporate a new CCTV Surveillance System with cameras and lights focussed on the steps and lift. A Plaque will be erected on the lift in remembrance to our benefactor. The project will allow access to the museum and offices for those who otherwise are unable to do so at present. A series of photographs will be taken recording the progress from start to finish and will hopefully be included in the next edition of the Newsletter. So, Shipmates, when we are finished you won't recognise the old place when next you visit.

This photograph is only a representation of what it will hopefully look like, the museum stairs would be to the right of the lift door and the exit will be opposite the existing 1<sup>st</sup> floor museum door at the top of the stairs.



### Holiday News

Shipmates, our friends at “Kitcheners” have changed the rules and are now accepting widows for the subsidised holidays at their Holiday Centre for Ex-servicemen in Lowestoft. Previously they were only allowed to accept ex-service personnel and partners, thus excluding widows from having a holiday. The management committee thought this was wrong and have done something about it. Therefore, widows of Shipmates can now take advantage of this and come to see us at reunion weekend or have a holiday in Lowestoft during the summer. Not only that they can bring a companion with them! So there is no need to worry about being alone. Also, Shipmates, if a member and his partner book a holiday and recommend another couple they can qualify for a substantial discount if their recommendation results in a firm booking. For details contact Steve Schofield, the Kitcheners manager, on 01502 573564 or the RNPSA office at The Nest. For those who have never stayed at Kitcheners you are missing a good friendly holiday with very good food. Not only that you can visit us and Charlie at The Nest for a cuppa to cap the holiday off!!

### RNPS Memorial, National Memorial Arboretum

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August, in blazing sunshine the service took place around our memorial in the Arboretum grounds, organised by members of the ex West Midlands Branch. We were joined by a CPO and Commander of the Mine Counter Measures Squadron from Portsmouth. Jim Izzard made the journey from the Isle of Wight with his wife Alison to conduct the service and our President Cdr Garry Titmus came across from Lincolnshire. After the service and a welcome Tot issue we were treated to a flying display by the Dakota of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight – It was not laid on for our benefit but the timing was good so we made the most of it and enjoyed the spectacle.

## Queenborough

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September saw us make the journey to Queenborough in Kent for the annual HMS Wildfire parade and service but unlike the event at the Arboretum, the weather was certainly not on our side. We had steady rain and drizzle and everyone took shelter and debated are we or are we not going to do it? When the ship's company of HMS Puncher marched up the road to the start that more or less convinced us that we were in for a wet parade. When the service was over and we reformed for the march back, the rain stopped. Having read the reports in this newsletter of the two other parades, it will come as no surprise to read that the Standard Bearers retired to the Council chamber for a tot, which was an exceedingly large one! We then went to the social club for the buffet and entertainment. Having been suitably victualled, we set off back to Lowestoft.

## Antiques Roadshow

Over the remembrance period I was watching a special remembrance edition of the Antiques Road show which was filmed at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The first item was concerning a group of medals awarded to Mine Disposal Officer Sub-Lieutenant Geoffrey Gledhill Turner RNVR which included the George Cross and the George Medal (only eight people got both) plus 39/45 star, Africa star, France & Germany star, Defence medal, War medal with MID and the Queen's 1953 Coronation medal. What was even more interesting was that the item was filmed at our RNPS memorial at the Arboretum and our name on it was clearly visible. I subsequently found out that this had been previously shown in November 2011. I am not sure if it is still available on BBC Iplayer but if it is it is Series 34, episode 9. As a post script, the group of medals was valued at £100,000 due to the rarity and the associated provenance.

### **Subscriptions – PLEASE NOTE**

This is an important item from those in the office that deal with subscriptions. Firstly, can you please note that the current subscription rate is **£8 for Served Members** (formerly known as Members) and **£10 for Members** (formerly known as Associate Members) and could you also please make sure you send in your membership book and SAE with your subscription so that your renewal can be accurately recorded and accounted for.

## Marshland Maritime Museum

This is a small private museum owned and run by Mike Smith and his wife at their home near Kings Lynn in Norfolk. The museum is housed in 2 sheds in their garden BUT each shed is the same size as our museum rooms. Now take a look at their web site at [www.marshlandmaritimemuseum.com](http://www.marshlandmaritimemuseum.com) and look carefully at all the photographs and you will be amazed that he can actually fit it all in! Mike opens by prior arrangement only so if you are thinking of visiting please contact him first – you will not be disappointed.



*This is just one corner!!*

## Enquiries

This is an enquiry from Christopher Walton about a relative, **John Norgett JX222669**. We have been able to work through most of his service record but there seems to be a lack of information, even with the MOD regarding his 3 years at **HMS Copra**. **HMS Copra** was a Combined Ops Pay and drafting office in the UK but the mystery is that there are photos of him in tropical whites and other photos of him clearly in service in the Far East and letters home from India. We would really like to know what he was doing during the time his records were at HMS Copra. Family history says he was at Salerno and Anzio and then in Burma. Was anyone else involved with HMS Copra/landing craft/far East during this period?

01/10/1940 - 20/12/1940 **HMS Europa** Enlisted as Ordinary Seaman, Royal Naval Patrol Service.

21/12/1940 - 27/12/1940 **HMS De La Pole** (Minesweeping trawler) Lowestoft.

28/12/1940 - 11/03/1941 **HMS Europa**, Lowestoft.

12/03/1941 - 04/06/1942 **HMS Negro** Minesweeping trawler Hull.

12/06/1942 - 02/08/1942 **HMS King Alfred**

29/06/1942 Appointed Temp Sub Lt.

03/08/1942 - 08/08/1942 RN Barracks Portsmouth **HMS Victory**

09/08/1942 - 29/08/1943 **HMS Quebec** and **HMS Monck** Combined Ops for Landing Craft Training.

12/06/1943 Promoted to Temp Lieutenant.

30/08/1943 - 27/04/1946 **HMS Copra** for Landing Craft Duty.

### Ashes at sea

Lifeboat stations around the country usually provide a service for scattering ashes at sea but due to regulations are not allowed to take anyone out with them. At Lowestoft I have a colleague who has a boat he uses for angling parties and is licensed and insured to take up to 6 passengers and he is prepared to take families to be able to scatter ashes. We have already carried this out for 2 RNPS families. There will be a cost and of course it is weather dependant but if anyone would like more details please contact me – Leo 01502 584555.

### Welfare

Our National Welfare Officer is there to try and help you, she cannot perform miracles but will do her best to address any problems. 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](mailto:bonnie@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk)

### Museum visits

The Museum and office are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings throughout the year from 09.00 to 12.00. We do recommend 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 or 07975623651 (**new No.**) and we can arrange, if necessary, to open up for you at a suitable time.

### Web site

Don’t forget, if you have access to a computer, to keep checking the web site connected to our Association which is: [www.rnps.lowestoft.org.uk](http://www.rnps.lowestoft.org.uk)

Keep the odds and ends coming, they all make interesting reading. 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 you can e-mail them to me at [rnpsa@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:rnpsa@theharbour.fsbusiness.co.uk)

If you do not have access to e-mail and you have information on any of the items, then you can pass the information to me (Leo) at the address above.

Yours Aye, **The Duty Watch**

### **Reunion Draw Results - 2014**

	<b>Ticket</b>	<b>Winner</b>		<b>Ticket</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>1</b>	12062	J E Smith, Buckingham	<b>8</b>	03155	M Fee, Blackburn
<b>2</b>	00583	? ? See page 3 ? ?	<b>9</b>	00325	C Smith, Milngavie, Glasgow
<b>3</b>	12135	Mrs Simmons, Worsley, Manchester	<b>10</b>	11726	D Maslen, Bedford
<b>4</b>	12807	Davenport, Clacton, Essex	<b>11</b>	04061	Mrs Patston, Manningtree, Essex
<b>5</b>	08188	Donated back to RNPSA	<b>12</b>	13415	J Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk
<b>6</b>	02009	Mr & Mrs Mustard, Woking	<b>13</b>	09273	Donated back to RNPSA
<b>7</b>	00313	C Smith, Milngavie, Glasgow	<b>14</b>	03275	I Brett, Portsmouth, Hants.

### **Congratulations to all the winners**

### **Obituary for Winter 2015**

S/M F Robinson BEM	Adelaide	Australia	S/M T Sanders	Eastwood	Nottinghamshire
S/M F W Carpenter	Bangor	Wales	S/M K Gray	Clacton	Essex
S/M F Sawyer	Victoria	Australia	S/M G Fielder	Asselby	Humberside
S/M W Preston	Dines Green	Worcestershire	S/M C Moat	Bladon on Tyne	Tyne & Weir
S/M J R Handyside	Amble	Northumberland	S/M C W Routley	Solihull	West Midlands
S/M W R Ellis	Haxby	Yorkshire	S/M J Phillpot	Exeter	Devon
S/M P Bishop	Westgate	Kent	S/M J Leeds	Ilford	Essex
S/M R Robinson	Mapperly	Nottinghamshire	S/M J Shirron	Bridge of Don	Aberdeen
S/M L Arnold	Wyvenhoe	Essex			

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

Future of reunion dinner

As you will have read in the reunion report at the beginning of this newsletter, the viability of the annual dinner was raised. Although we have said that we will carry on for the 2016 reunion we would still like some feed back as to likely numbers attending and thoughts for subsequent years. Last year we asked for indication of support and we only received two replies!! The committee would urge all members to give serious thought to the future format of the reunion, in particular to the Friday evening dinner. Gone are the days of nearly 600 sitting down at the Ocean Rooms. We would like to gauge the level of support we are likely to receive.

**Cut ✂ or copy** -----

**Future of Reunions**

I am / am not considering attending the 2016 Friday night reunion dinner.

I would / would not be in favour of a buffet, on site, after the parade on the Saturday lunchtime in place of the Friday dinner for the 2017 reunion.

I have the following thoughts on the future of the reunions .....

.....  
 .....

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, Naval Museum, Sparrows Nest, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1XG

**Cut ✂ or copy** -----

**Slops items for sale from HQ (Winter 2015)**

Item / Title	£	Qty	£	Item / Title	£	Qty	£
Europa Plaque	27.00		<b>Out of stock</b>	RNPS Memorial Post Card	0.10		
Lg. Blazer Badge, Gold wire	12.00			Sparrows Nest Post Card	0.20		
Lg. Blazer Badge, Woven	6.50			RNPSA Colouring Poster	0.30		
Small Blazer Badge, Gold wire	8.00		<b>Out of stock</b>				
Jumper / Cap Badges, Woven	4.00			<b>Publications</b>			
Association Crested Tie	11.00			Christmas cards - original	0.50		
RNPSA Ladies head square	7.50			Christmas cards – clean sweep	0.50		
Museum Squiggle pen	1.00			HMS Europa Booklet	2.00		
Museum 4 colour pen	2.00			Dawn Always Breaks	5.00		
RNPSA Museum pen	1.50			Churchill's Pirates Pt.1	5.00		
Lapel Badge, Blue enamel	7.00			Churchill's Pirates Pt.2	4.50		
White Ensign Lapel Badge	3.50			A Brief History of the RNPS	4.00		
White Ensign Car Sticker	0.50			Blue Mariners CD	4.00		
RNPSA Car sticker, coloured	2.00			The Story of the RNPS, 2 CD set	6.00		
RNPSA Bookmark	0.50			Red Diamonds	3.00		
RNPSA Jubilee Mug	3.00			<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>		
RNPSA Key rings	1.00			P & P Small items	1.25		
RNPSA Epaulettes (pair)	6.00			P & P Large / Heavy items	2.50		
				<b>Total Submitted</b>	<b>£</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Please send payment and completed order form to:-

Royal Naval Patrol Service Association, Naval Museum, Sparrows Nest, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1XG