



# ROYAL NAVAL PATROL SERVICE ASSOCIATION

**NEWSLETTER No. 85      Winter 2018**

**POSTAL ADDRESS and HEADQUARTERS**

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The extended summer seems to be over now and Christmas is on top of us which means not long to wait until the Easter Eggs appear in the shops!

## Reunion 2018

This year's reunion went off well with the weather on our side. As is to be expected the numbers attending each year diminish and is a fact we have to accept and one that we as organisers keep an eye on with regard to the future viability of the event. We followed our tried and tested format for the Saturday with the service at the memorial in Belle Vue Park and then the march past and "sunset" in the Sparrows Nest gardens. This year we added another element to the proceedings as we had a buffet afterwards in place of the Friday evening meal which had become uneconomical to continue with. This seemed to work well and we were well catered for by Andrew and Barry and their team at the Giardino Restaurant in the Sparrows Nest grounds and given your support it is something we hope to repeat next year.

The AGM went off without any contentious matters and the committee were re elected for another year with the addition of George Hawes now taking on the additional roll of Chairman as well as Assistant Secretary.

Further in this newsletter will be a page of pictures from the reunion for those of you unable to attend.

## Draw books

The annual reunion draw took place at the AGM and the lucky winners are listed below. Unfortunately, like the Friday night dinner, we will no longer be running the annual draw as with the diminishing number of members meant that this year we only just covered our expenses and if the trend continues we would stand the risk of making a loss next time. We really appreciate the support we have received over the years but we have to be realistic about this, also the number of sold tickets and unsold tickets returned to us does not equal the number we send out.

### **Reunion Draw Results - 2018**

	<b>Prize</b>	<b>Winner</b>
<b>1</b>	£200.00	Mrs M Summer, Porthcawl, Wales
<b>2</b>	£150.00	Mrs S Hunter, Lowestoft, Suffolk
<b>3</b>	£100.00	G Bishop, Woking, Surrey
<b>4</b>	£25.00	R Shambrook, Whitwell, Derbyshire
<b>5</b>	£25.00	S Egan – Mobile number

Our congratulations to all the winners and our thanks to everyone for buying the tickets.

## Reunion 2019

Next year's reunion will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October for the AGM and Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October for the service and buffet lunch. Times and places will be the same as this year and will also be in the next newsletter as a reminder. We must resign ourselves to the fact that we have reached the point where the reunions are smaller but also more intimate but at the same time look back with pride at the huge parades and dinners we used to have many years ago and remember all those who no longer stand alongside us.

## Newsletter in PDF format

Our newsletters are now available on line on our website [www.rnpsa.co.uk](http://www.rnpsa.co.uk) or can be sent in PDF format via email for anyone who would prefer this method. Viewing via the website is easier for both sides but we would need to know your intensions so we do not print a label and send a hard copy to you.

### Suffolk WW1 Maritime Commemoration event

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October, the day after our reunion service, there was a large event in Belle Vue Park to commemorate Suffolk's maritime involvement in the First World War. It was organised by the office of the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk and attracted a large crowd of about 500. The Naval band of the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook led the parade from Hamilton Dock along Whapload Road and up Cart Score to Belle Vue Park where more veterans and standards were waiting for them.

The whole parade then formed up around a new "Poppy" garden in the park where a dedication service took place led by the Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk, Lady Clare of Euston, and former Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Sir Jonathan Woodcock. After the dedication the parade and crowd moved to our memorial for a service and wreath laying. A number of our members stayed on for the event after our reunion the day before.



*The new memorial Poppy Garden in Belle Vue Park*



*The standards dip in salute at the service at our memorial*



*The band march up Cart Score*



*The parade formed up at our memorial*

### Légion d'honneur

It seems you patrol Service lads have been doing pretty well with receiving the prestigious French decoration of the Légion d'honneur. As a bit of background, the definition of the award is as follows.

The Legion of Honour (full name: National Order of the Legion of Honour) is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits, established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte and retained by all the divergent governments and regimes later holding power in France, up to the present.

The order's motto is *Honneur et Patrie* ("Honour and Fatherland"), and its seat is the Palais de la Légion d'Honneur next to the Musée d'Orsay, on the left bank of the Seine in Paris. The order is divided into five degrees of increasing distinction: *Chevalier* (Knight), *Officier* (Officer), *Commandeur* (Commander), *Grand officier* (Grand Officer), and *Grand-croix* (Grand Cross).

American and British veterans who served in either World War I on French soil, or during the 1944 campaigns to liberate France, may be eligible for appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honour, provided they were still living when the honour was approved.

The latest I have been informed of is Shipmate Terry O'Regan from Nottingham but I have no doubt there are others that I have not heard about and I would be pleased to hear about them.

*Terry proudly wearing his Légion d'honneur decoration*



### Inter service friendship



Our member S/M Sim Mayou from the midlands attended the National Memorial Arboretum earlier this year for the commemoration of "Operation Market Garden" and while there he mentioned to a couple of others that after the service he was going to lay a wreath at our RNPS memorial and straight away 2 of the Standard Bearers and some of the others said that they would go along with him, a great gesture and one that I know Sim really appreciated.



## RNPSA on TV

### Antiques Road Trip with Phillip Serrell

Earlier in the year the BBC contacted us and asked if they could film at our museum for a piece for the programme Antiques Road Trip with Phillip Serrell as part of his trip around East Anglia. Charlie Harris and George Hawes spent the day filming with them at the museum and at other locations in the area but as with most filming it got drastically cut and only Charlie was shown in the final programme.

### Home Front Heroes with Alfie Boe

I was contacted by the BBC who asked if I could do some research for them into a Naval service record which it turned out to have connections with the famous singer Alfie Boe. As a result of what I was able to tell them they decided to extend their filming schedule to include a day at sea with the Royal Navy at Portsmouth aboard a Mine Counter Measures Vessel and also a day filming at our museum and at our memorial. It was an interesting day and Alfie and the production team really enjoyed themselves. The programme was shown in the week leading up to Remembrance day as well as an excerpt on the One Show and also just after the coverage of the London Remembrance service on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

### Menin Gate Last Post

In October Bonnie and I went on a coach trip to Ypres in Belgium to visit some of the WW1 Sites and cemeteries. While we were there I took the opportunity to lay a wreath at the Last Post at the Menin Gate on behalf of the HMS Penelope Association and while I was waiting for the ceremony to start one of the organisers came over to me and asked if I would stand in the middle and give the exhortation, it was a great honour and one I will remember for a long while. There were over 2,000 people there and the whole ceremony is very emotional. After it was all over I discovered that it had been filmed by ITV Meridian to be shown at various times during remembrance week.

### Interesting webcam of Portsmouth Harbour

In Portsmouth Harbour is the ship HMS Warrior dating from 1860 and mounted on one of the masts is a webcam showing live views of Portsmouth harbour. The camera moves round showing about 10 different views of the harbour, it is in high definition colour and you are seeing it as it happens. The site to view this on is <http://www.hmswarrior.org/webcam> It is very useful when RN ships are entering and leaving harbour and their movements and times can be checked by looking on the official Royal Navy web site <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/portsmouth/shipping-movements>



### Subscriptions – PLEASE NOTE

This is an important item from those in the office who 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. Subscriptions become due on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.

### Wreath laying service

With the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (and others) it is now possible to arrange for Poppy Wreaths to be placed on graves in most overseas countries.

Please make requests for laying at least eight weeks in advance.

Contact The Poppy Appeal, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX Tel: 01622 717172

### Curator

If you are sending anything to the Museum can you please make sure you state if it is on **loan** or a **gift** as it helps with the cataloguing and any future claims to ownership and with photographs please give descriptions and/or names where possible.

### 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.rnpsa.co.uk](http://www.rnpsa.co.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 email them to me at [hq@rnpsa.co.uk](mailto:hq@rnpsa.co.uk)

# 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion - 2018



## Phillip Serrell and Alfie Boe visit our museum



Charlie Harris and Phillip Serrell on the Antiques Road Trip



Charlie Harris and Leo Whisstock with Alfie Boe on Home Front Heroes



Leo Whisstock at the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony

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### Obituary for Winter 2018

S/M D Blackburn	Bradford	West Yorkshire	S/M F Lane	Potters Bar	Hertfordshire
S/M M Clark	Cambridge	Cambridgeshire	S/M J Moverly	Leeds	Yorkshire
S/M J Dailly	Quedgeley	Gloucestershire	S/M J Weston	Newbold	Derbyshire
S/M P Daines	Croydon	Surrey	S/M J Roberts	Kidderminster	Worcestershire
S/M A Gardner	Pershore	Worcestershire	S/M W Ryder	Brecon	South Wales
S/M B Hale	Spalding	Lincolnshire	S/M Mrs G Simmons	Worsley	Lancashire
S/M D Hembling	Beccles	Suffolk	S/M K Tucker	Ashbourne	Derbyshire
S/M Mrs J Holland	Kings Lynn	Norfolk	S/M R Turrell	Scole	Norfolk
S/M H Horsley	Victoria	Australia	S/M W Whomes	Neath	Glamorgan
S/M J Hutchins	Wirrel	Cheshire	S/M D Willing	Forres	Morayshire
S/M R Rivers	Attleborough	Norfolk			

It was announced recently that the newsreader and broadcaster Richard Baker had died on 17<sup>th</sup> November at the age of 93. Richard had served in the Royal Naval Patrol Service during the war and eventually ended up as a Sub Lt.



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

Other well known ex-Patrol Service men are former Prime Minister James Callaghan



Pianist Russ Conway (Trevor Stanford)



Actor John Gregson



Actor Eric Barker



and possibly the best saxophone player of all time, Freddie Gardner.



You may well be able to tell me more famous names to add to the list.

#### Welfare

Our National Welfare Officer is there to try and help you, she cannot perform miracles but will do her best to address any concerns which are kept confidential. Bonnie's contact details are - Mrs Bonnie Whisstock, 133 Corton Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4PR. Tel. 01502 584555 or [bonniewhisstock@outlook.com](mailto:bonniewhisstock@outlook.com)

I recently attended the Conference of Naval Associations and a couple of items came out of it that may be of interest. The first is from **Blind Veterans UK**, formerly St Dunstons, and they are the national charity providing free, lifelong support for ex-Service personnel with sight loss and their families. This service is available to anyone who has served in the Armed Forces, not just WW2. A friend who lives locally in Suffolk was put in touch with them and he was amazed how much help and advice they were able to give him. Their contact details are – Blind Veterans UK, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD  
Tel; 0800 389 7979, email; [information@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:information@blindveterans.org.uk) or web site [www.noonealone.org.uk](http://www.noonealone.org.uk)

The next item that may be of interest is from **Veterans UK** and concerns claiming for illness, injury or disease. This covers serving and ex-service personnel (including reservists) injured or disabled during service in HM Armed Forces. It also extends to cover Home Guard, Nursing and auxiliary services, Civil Defence (CDV), civilians disabled due to enemy action in the 39-45 war, merchant seaman and members of the naval auxiliary services or coastguard. There are regional offices but their head office is at – Veterans UK, Tomlinson House, Norcross, Thornton-Cleveleys FY5 3WP Tel; 0808 1914 2 18 email; [veterans-uk@mod.uk](mailto:veterans-uk@mod.uk) or website <http://www.gov.uk/veterans-uk>

Shore Bases at Lowestoft

I was recently asked to give a talk at a local theatre on the “stone frigates” of Lowestoft during WW2. In total there were 9 base names associated with the town of Lowestoft during the war. These were HMS Pembroke X, HMS Minos, HMS Minos 11, HMS Mantis, HMS Myloden, HMS Martello, HMS Romola, HMS Europa and finally HMS Europa 11. These covered a variety of uses including Harbour defence, Coastal Forces, landing Craft, Combined Operations, gunnery training, accommodation, Minesweeping and administration. All the bases occupied commandeered properties and sites covering most of Lowestoft and the surrounding area and HMS Europa alone commandeered 64 properties and sites during the course of the war. In addition to the vast Naval presence in the town there was also a lot of Army who manned the coastal guns, the Royal Observer Corps manning lookout posts and British and American Air forces at the numerous airfields in the area.



*Motor Minesweepers in the Trawl Dock at Lowestoft (HMS Martello)*



*Coastal Forces craft in the Hamilton Dock (HMS Mantis)*



*Stoker training at the Oval (HMS Europa)*



*Gas mask instruction for a new recruit (HMS Europa)*



*Royal Marine Band playing for divisions (HMS Europa)*



*Blue Jacket drum & bugle band on The Oval (HMS Europa)*



*PT on The Oval (HMS Europa)*

At the beginning of the war the Royal Navy had 1,400 ships, this increased with new builds, requisitioned and lease lend. The Patrol Service alone added about 6,000 to the total. By the end of the war 873,000 personnel had been in uniform under the White Ensign which included RN, RM and WRNS, they lost 63,787, roughly 7%. Of the 873,000 the Patrol Service made up 7½% but their losses amounted to 23% of the overall total. The Royal Navy today has 74 ships and 30,000 personnel.

The Navy are known for their drinking and their fondness of rum and so when the opportunity arises it is party time and this is what happened on VJ day in 1945, the order was given to “splice the main brace”. A naval tot of rum is equivalent to 3 measures in a pub today so when you splice the main brace you get 2 tots – 6 pub measures. These are some pictures taken on VJ Day in the Sparrows Nest Gardens at HMS Europa with a Royal Marine band playing outside what is now the Martello café.



The Royal Marine Band play while the sailors queue for their rum issue (HMS Europa)



Rum being issued from the barrel (HMS Europa)



There are always those that cannot handle it! (HMS Europa)

Yours Aye, **The Duty Watch**

Slops List update

With decreasing numbers of members, we are evaluating our stock requirements with regard to re-order quantities. It is quite likely that some items, once they have run out, may not be replaced or if they are may cost more than they are at present as we will have to order smaller quantities.

New item we have recently taken delivery of some enamel poppy badges with the silver badge on them, they are the 2 petal design but due to licensing problems the manufacturers will be changing the design on the next production run to a 3 petal design and will be calling them Remembrance Flowers. The main body of the poppy is 3.5cm x 3cm.



Cut ✂ or copy -----

**Slops items for sale from HQ (Winter 2018)**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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