



FORCE 4

THE JOURNAL OF THE RFA ASSOCIATION.

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The RFA National Memorial.

Funded by generous donations from RFA Association Members and various organisations this memorial stands at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, Staffordshire in testament to the men and women of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary from 1905 to the present day.

The Treasurer Writes

Membership

A small number of members continue to



The Semaphore Tower

The Semaphore Tower in Portsmouth Naval Dockyard has been the home of the RFA Association since 2012 following the move from Bellingham in Northumberland.



The RFA Reunion 2014

pay the old membership fee of £10 having not updated their bank standing order to the current £15 per annum rate. If you are one of the few could we ask that you send us a cheque for the outstanding balance and amend your standing order before next years membership is due?



Remembrance

The Season of Remembrance is almost upon us. There are a number of events you might like to attend viz:-

Merchant Navy Day

The Annual National Service for Seafarers

The National Service of Remembrance at Whitehall

The Remembrance Day Service at the Merchant Navy Memorial Tower Hill.

There are more details on the RFAA website [HERE](#)

If there are any events in your area you would like to be publicised please contact me at <mailto:deputy.chairman@rfa-association.org.uk?subject=Events>

The [Ramside Hall Hotel](#) near Durham is the venue and the date is 17 May 2014. Don't miss it. Further details will be published nearer the time and as the arrangements are finalised.



Contacting us.

Some big changes coming up on the email front. As you will be aware we lost our old website a while ago. Very shortly all the old email addresses associative with that site will be closed down so you really need to check your email address books. The actual changes are not that difficult to master, just add .uk to the old ones so chairman@rfa-association.org becomes chairman@rfa-association.org.uk I will be putting more comprehensive details onto our website, www.rfa-association.org.uk shortly, do watch out for them.

A Point to Ponder

Snail mailshots to all our members are frightingly expensive and even more so on a regular basis. We are probably talking in the region of £400 - £500 per go...ouch. The upside is that using this bulk email system we can do it for free, the downside is that if you do not have an email address or have one and haven't told us you will not get a copy. If you are connected to the internet but would rather not give us a copy of your email you could always open a gmail or hotmail account of course specifically for this purpose. If you know of a member who is not connected you could perhaps print them a copy. However, and this is quite a big however this newsletter will only be emailed to bona-fide members of the RFAA and others that the Trustees think appropriate, COMRFA HQ and the ships perhaps.



What Do You Think

This newsletter is a first attempt aimed more to check out the viability of an RFAA email newsletter so please don't be too critical of the content, stick to the concept. Do you think we should keep it going as an occasional/irregular or what whatever journal. I you want to keep it going are there any suggestions for content....would you be prepared to contribute, do let me know at deputy.chairman@rfa-association.org.uk or stick something on our [facebook page](#) or [twitter page](#). Similarly if you do not want to receive Force 4 do let me know.

Crossed the Bar

Since the last Gunline the following RFA Personell have crossed the bar.
Second Officer Ian Hawks aged 90 on

Sir Bedivere

Reproduced here by kind permission of the Ship Society South Africa, Sir Bedivere is seen here sailing from Cape Town circa 1969 (I am sure somebody will be able to date the picture more accurately) and still in her British India colours of white with a blue band. She and her five sisters were absorbed into the RFA Fleet in 1970 and she is the sole survivor of the class still operational and is operated by the Brazilian Navy as NDCC Almirante Saboia .

11 June 2013

CPO(Y) John Northcote Brewer aged 82 on 14 June 2013

CPO(SA) Steve Atkinson aged 57 on 29 June 2013

Captain, the Reverend, Peter McCarthy aged 88 on 6 July 2013

Captain(E) Bernard Nolan aged 80 on 7 July 2013

ChOff (SE(C)) Tom Kennedy aged 70 on 17 July 2013

SA Roderick Tidball aged 63 on 19 July 2013

On behalf of the RFA Association I extend our sincere condolences to all their families

RFAA Rough Guide to Families and Friends

Section 1 Welfare and Support Contact Groups

The Naval Families Federation, Castaway House, 311 Twyford Road, Portsmouth, Hants PO2 8RN. Contact-02392 654374. <http://www.nff.org.uk/>

SSAFA, Welfare and Grants - Health and Welfare Services 19 Queen Elizabeth Street, London, SE1 2LP Contact -0800 731 4880. <http://www.ssafa.org.uk/>

The Sailors Society, 350 Shirley Road, Southampton, Hampshire, SO15 3HY. Contact-02380515950. <http://www.sailors-society.org/>

SAIL- Seafarers Advice and Information Line - Contact- 08457 413318.

www.sailine.org.uk

Royal British Legion - 020 3207 2100 (Helpline 08547 725 725).

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

Charities

RN/RM Charity, Building 29, HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hants PO2
8ER. Contact-02392 548128. <https://rnrmc.org.uk/>
Civil Service Benevolent Fund, Fund House, 5 Anne Boleyn's walk, Cheam, Sutton SM3
8DY. Contact- 0800 056 2424. <http://www.foryoubyyou.org.uk/>

RFA/RFAA

Fleet RFA PRO R J Lavender MBE First Officer. Civ Tel 02392 625379, Mil Tel 93832
5379 Email: <mailto:navy%20mediacomms-ops%20RFA@mod.uk> or
lavenderr100@mod.uk

RFA Association **Chairman:** Frank Andrews 01772 685427 Email: Chairman@rfa-association.org.uk **Deputy Chairman and website material:**
<mailto:DeputyChairman@rfa-association.org.uk> **Welfare** Mrs Pamela Axworthy, Tel:
01623 836374 Email: welfare@rfa-association.org.uk

Pensions Advice

Capita Hartshead PO BOX 215, Mowden Hall, Darlington, county Durham, DL3 9GT.
Contact 0870 1699 700. <http://csp.hartlinkonline.co.uk/>
Pensions Tracing Service:- The Pensions Service, Tyneview Park, Whitely Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE98 1BA. Contact-0845 6002 537. <http://www.pension-tracing-service.com/>

HM Revenue and Customs

HMRC, South Wales Area Office, Government Building, Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14
5YA. Contact-0845 300 3949. <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/>

Nautilus and RMT Contacts

Nautilus, <https://www.nautilusint.org/default.aspx>
RMT :- <http://www.rmt.org.uk/home/>

Care

St Thomas' Hospital: Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7EH. Tel: 020 7188 7188,
<http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/our-services/wards/dreadnought.aspx>
Care Ashore: Tel: 01403 752555. www.careashore.org

Nautilus Mariners Park: Mariner's Park, Seabank Road, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 0HN Tel: 0151 346 8888. <https://www.nautilusint.org/welfare/pages/Mariners%27%20Park.aspx>

The Times they are 'a Changin

Commodore Bill Walworth stands down at the end of September after 5 very challenging years in the chair which as we all know has seen major upheavals in the size, composition and operational stance of the RFA. On his watch the RFA has survived to "RAS another day" and he must be congratulated for all his efforts. On behalf of the RFA Association I wish Commodore Bill and his wife Jane a very long and happy retirement and look forward to sharing a pint of "*old and filthy*" with him at the next RFA Reunion



Commodore Bill's relief is Commodore (Desig) Rob Dorey. He joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in 1980 after attending Warsash College of Maritime Studies and has served in most classes of RFA including tankers, ammunition carriers and amphibious ships. Again and on behalf of the RFA Association I wish Commodore Rob every success in his new appointment and remind him that we "oldies" wait, with baited breath for his "State of the Nation Report" at the Durham 2014 RFA Reunion.



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