



## **Lieutenant Commander Arthur Leyland Harrison VC Royal Navy 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1886 - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018**

Arthur Leyland Harrison, was a World War One recipient of the Victoria Cross. He earned the decoration for Conspicuous Gallantry on the 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918 at Zeebrugge. His Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously and is now proudly displayed at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth.

Arthur Harrison was born in Torquay and was a prominent rugby player who represented the Royal Navy and United Services before his death in the battle at Zeebrugge.

Funds were raised to restore the original memorial which had deteriorated. This effort was led by John Soanes (Dec'd), Chairman of Torbay RNA at the time, assisted by other shipmates

On 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. 100 years to the day that Arthur died in action, the restored memorial was unveiled on Roundham Head Paignton.

In addition to RNA members attending the re-dedication ceremony, representatives from the Britannia Royal Naval College, Torbay Academy, (where one of the eight houses is named after Arthur Leyland.. Friends and family members were also present.



*The Memorial as it is Today*

## The Re-Dedication Ceremony of the Roundham Head Memorial on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918



*Torbay RNA Committee Members  
L to R - Fred Minchin, Terry Membery &  
Shaun Runham*



*L-R: Terry Membery, Alfie Fenn,  
Ella Millett, (School Captain of Arthur  
Harrison House) &  
John Soanes (Chairman Torbay RNA )*



*Cake Donated By Ann Soanes  
(Wife of Chairman)*



*Captain Chris Wreford Brown (Branch Patron)  
& Cdr John Patterson (BRNC) at the ceremony*

## Annual Memorial Service

A service is held to remember Arthur Harrison every year on the Sunday closest to 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Excerpts of the Branch Newsletter reporting the 2025 commemoration are included below:

### Roundham Head Lt Cdr Arthur Leyland Harrison VC RN

Members of the Branch gathered at Roundham Head on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April to remember Lt Cdr Arthur Leyland Harrison VC RN who gave his life during the Zeebrugge Raid on 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918.

Torbay RNA members were joined by representatives and standards from RNA Brixham & Newton Abbot as well as from Paignton & Brixham Royal British Legion. The Civic Mayor and Council representatives and contingents from Torbay Sea and Air Cadets were also in attendance supported by parents and local people.



*Captain Chris Wreford Brown DSO RN, former Branch Patron laying the wreath*



*Standards Paraded at the Lt Cdr Harrison Memorial.  
(L to R) Torbay SCC, Torbay RNA, Brixham RBL &*