



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Torbay Branch News

7th June 2026

Welcome to the Torbay Branch Newsletter

Ahoy Shipmates

This edition includes a report on Anne and my own recent visit to Central Office for the first RNA Open Day of 2026. Also covered is the Torquay RBL D-Day commemorations and our own Branch fundraising efforts. Also included are details of the latest updates to the Area No. 4 website, which mentions Torbay a couple of times.

With Torbay Armed Forces Day on Saturday 20th June, it's time to don your 'blues and greys' for the annual march past. The parade will begin at 10:30 on the South end of Paignton Promenade, opposite the Paignton Club. If you can't march, help is also needed at the RNA Gazebo on Paignton Green. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Alan

Email your contributions for the next edition to: torbayrna.memsec@gmail.com

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 20th June- 1030 - 1900

Torbay Armed Forces Day - Paignton Green. Parade muster at 1030
Details ([Here](#))

Wednesday 24th June - 1930 for 2000

Branch Meeting - Paignton Con Club



Tin Rattling at Dainton Golf Club

Shipmates Terry Membery, Chris Thomas and Bernie Woodcock collected funds for the Branch on 23rd May.

£293.59 was raised on the day. £50.00 will be donated to the Golf Club Juniors in appreciation for hosting the event, and £50 was donated to the club to cover cost of the Prize of Premium Golf Balls. £193.59 is available to donate to charity.

It was proposed and agreed at the April meeting that proceeds of the day would be donated to the restoration of the Naval Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. This will be confirmed at the June Branch Meeting.

Well done to Terry and the Team.

In Case You Missed It

You can view the latest editions of the RNA HQ **Semaphore Circular** ([Here](#))

Torbay RNA Facebook posts ([Here](#))

Visit to RNA Central Office Open Day

Anne and I combined a visit to Central Office in Portsmouth on Friday 29th May to deliver the old Teignmouth Branch Standard for safe keeping and to join the RNA Open Day.

It was good to catch up with members from other Branches and a particular pleasure to catch up with old Shipmate from the Lee-on-the-Solent & Stubbington Branch where we were founder members before moving to Devon. nine years ago.

The Open day comprised a welcome get-together, a short tour of the HQ Office followed by a nice sandwich lunch and of course a 'Tot' or two. The day officially ended with a private harbour tour which bought back some distant memories.

If you are in the area and interested, the remaining Central Office Open days for 2026 are Friday 26th June, 17th July, 7th August. For more details of what happens on Open Days, or to register your interest, please contact Sara Field on ams@rnassoc.org



With Shipmates from Lee-on-the-Solent & Stubbington Branch



During our 'Sea Time' in Pompey Harbour



Shipmates prior to boarding MV Netley for a Grand Harbour Cruise

D-Day Embarkation Service in Torquay - Saturday 6th June

Torquay RBL Embarkation Service Torquay - 6th June 2026

Members of Torbay RNA gathered at Beacon Quay, Torquay alongside members of Torquay Royal British Legion, Torbay Royal Marines Association, Torbay Sea and Air Cadets and representatives of Torbay Council. A small contingent of the US Navy currently at BRNC Dartmouth were also in attendance.

It was wonderful to see such a large crowd of friends and relatives of those on parade, along with members of the public, supporting the event despite the rain and strong winds.

The annual service honours the countless troops who set sail from the slipway and other South coast locations on 6th June 1944 for the Normandy invasion.

Prior to the service, veterans and members of-affiliated groups gathered at the south end

of the Quay for a short march past. Shipmate Ged Sarsfield in his Paignton RBL hat, acted as Parade Marshall. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon, Commodore Jake Moores took the salute.

The memorial service and tributes to the thousands of servicemen who departed Torquay and other south coast boarding points bound for Normandy, were led by the Chaplain to Torbay RBL, Rev Nick Debney. Contributions were also made by Torbay's Mayor and other local dignitaries.

Wreaths were laid at the Embarkation Memorial during the service and the national anthems of the United Kingdom and the USA were played.

Originally organised by local personnel who served in the D-Day landings of 1944, this annual event has been maintained by the Torquay Royal British Legion.



Branch Standards leading the parade prior to the memorial service



Drummers kept everyone in step!



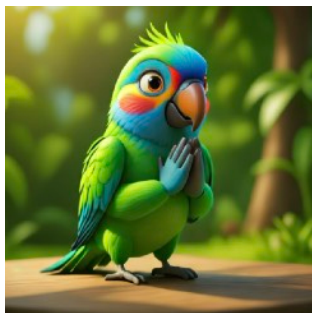
Torbay RNA members in the parade



During the memorial service



Veterans and dignitaries after the service



Praying Parrots

A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, 'Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, but they only know how to say one thing.'

'What do they say?' the priest inquired.

They say, 'Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'

That's obscene!' the priest exclaimed; then he thought for a moment. 'You know,' he said, I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible. Bring your two parrots over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Francis and Peter. My parrots can teach your parrots to praise and worship, and your parrots are sure to stop saying that phrase in no time.'

Thank you,' the woman responded, 'this may very well be the solution.'

The next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest's house. As he ushered her in, she saw that his two male parrots were inside their cage holding rosary beads and praying. Impressed, she walked over and placed her parrots in with them.

After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison: Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?'

There was stunned silence. Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot and exclaimed,

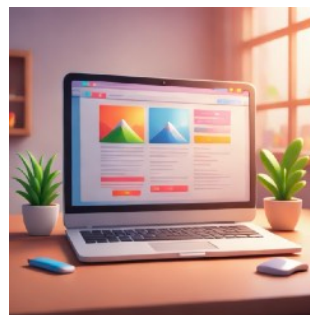
'Put the beads away, Frank. Our prayers have been answered!'

Area 4 Website is Under New Management

Shipmate Bob Featherstone of Portland Branch took over as Webmaster of the Area 4 website at the 2026 Area AGM. He's doing a cracking job bringing it up to date.

There are already several events relevant to Torbay included on the site as well as two recent articles previously published in our own newsletter but now available to a wider audience. There will be more in the future.

Take a look ([Here](#)) on the **News** Tab.



Torbay RNA Logo'd Clothing

Jon Stoneman-Merret, alias 'Jon Dusty', will be taking order for Torbay RNA logo'd clothing at future meetings.

Example costs for each item are as follow:

Polo shirt supplied complete with log - £11.99

Logo added to personal clothing - £6.00



All prices include VAT
Other logo'd items can also be purchased from the company catalogue.

For more details, please speak to Jon at the next Branch meeting.