



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Torbay Branch News

9th July 2026

Welcome to the Torbay Branch Newsletter

Ahoy Shipmates

It was very sad to learn that long-standing member and former Vice President, Mike Seaward 'Crossed the Bar' on Saturday 4th July. Mike's funeral will be held at 1100 on Monday 20th July at Moorview Chapel (alongside Co-Op Funeral Home), 79-85 Barton Road, Torquay TQ2 7NY).

All are welcome to attend and it would be really nice if as many of the Branch could be there to say farewell to our Shipmate Mike. No flowers, but the family would prefer a donation towards Rowcroft Hospice where Mike spent his last day in comfort.

Mike's wish was for a simple, non-religious ceremony. His coffin will be draped in the White Ensign but no Guard of Honour or Standard will be paraded. S/M Terry Membery will read the 'Crossing the Bar' poem. More details to follow in due course.

Also in this edition are photos of Armed forces Day 2026 in Paignton.

Alan

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



*Shipmate Mike Seaward
1943 - 2026*

Dates for Your Diary

Sunday the 12th July, 1230.

Dunkirk & Normandy Memorial.

See Page 5

Monday 20th July - 1100

Shipmate Mike Seaward's Funeral.
See details opposite..

Wednesday 29th July - 1930 for 2000

Branch Meeting - Paignton Con Club

Tuesday 11th August - 1045 for 1100

Corbyn Head Home Guard Memorial Service. **See Page 5**

Friday 14th August - 1045 for 1100

Paignton War Memorial. Operation Banner (Northern Ireland) Wreath laying.

Saturday 15th August - 1145 for 1200

VJ Day 81st Anniversary - Burma Star Gardens, Roundham Head

Torbay Armed Forces Day - 20th June 2026

Thanks to the small number of members who supported Torbay RNA at the AFD parade last month. It was good to join up with other Forces Veterans and members of the Cadet Groups in the Bay. A few photographs of the day for those of you who were unable to be with us.



Before the parade



Approaching the saluting base. The lack of a band or drummer made keeping in step 'interesting'!

Armed Forces Day Parade Contd.



Deputy Lieutenant of Devon & Mayor of Torbay Taking the Salute



Front rank in step but further back!



S/M Ged in the lead with S/M Shaun bringing up the rear



The end is Nigh!



A good turnout from the cadet forces



Fallen in at the end of the march.



Lady in pink pointing the way to the beer tent!

BZ To Shaun Our Standard Bearer

Text of an email received via Area 4 Secretary from the Area 5 Chaplain.

“Sorry for the delay, but I wanted to pass on my compliments to the Standard Bearer from Torbay RNA who turned up at the funeral for Commander Welby. It was a pleasant surprise as I had not received any response from the branches. I have to say, the ‘sun-dodger’ did us proud and it was a really lovely touch.”

I was sorry that I was unable to speak to him at the end of the funeral as I had to follow the hearse. Thank you so much for making Dick's farewell so ‘Pusser’.

Yours aye, *Bish* Area 5 Chaplain

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.

Invitations to Join Torquay RBL At Remembrance Events

Torquay Royal British Legion would like to invite Torbay RNA to join them at two significant ceremonies, that we hold in Torquay.

Memorial Stones for Dunkirk and Normandy, on the lawn, in front of Torre Abbey. This will be held on **Sunday the 12th of July, at 1230.**

The **Home Guard Service**, by the National HG Memorial, on **Corbyn Head, at 1100, on Tuesday the 11th of August.**

There will be a reception following both events and parking will be available at the venues.

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.

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

In Case You Missed It

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