



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Torbay Branch News

15th August 2026

Welcome to the Torbay Branch Newsletter

Ahoy Shipmates

It's August now and I'm wondering if it'll ever rain again. (I'm considering the 'tempting providence theory' as my garden and every other farmer are hoping for some rain)

It was deeply saddening to learn recently from Shipmate Pete Roberts that his beloved wife Carole had succumbed to her illness. Pete, I know all Shipmates will join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

It was very moving to attend the funeral of our dear Shipmate Mike Seaward on 20th July. Eight members of the Branch were at the chapel to wish him 'Fair Winds and a Following Sea' and I am including some extracts from the Eulogy given by Mike's son Royston at the funeral of Mike through his life in these pages.

I hope that you will have seen the condolence article in the August edition of the Semaphore Circular (Page 42) and also on the Area 4 RNA website.

This edition also includes the dates for your diary opposite and some photos from our

visit to BRNC on 13th August to witness the Passing Out Parade.

If you haven't visited the Torbay RNA Facebook page recently, use the link on Page 5 to see the latest posts.

That's all for now. Happy reading.

Alan

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

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday 26th August - 1930 for 2000
Branch Meeting - Paignton Con Club

Sunday 30th August- 1045 for 1100
Afghanistan Withdrawal Wreath Service
Paignton War Memorial

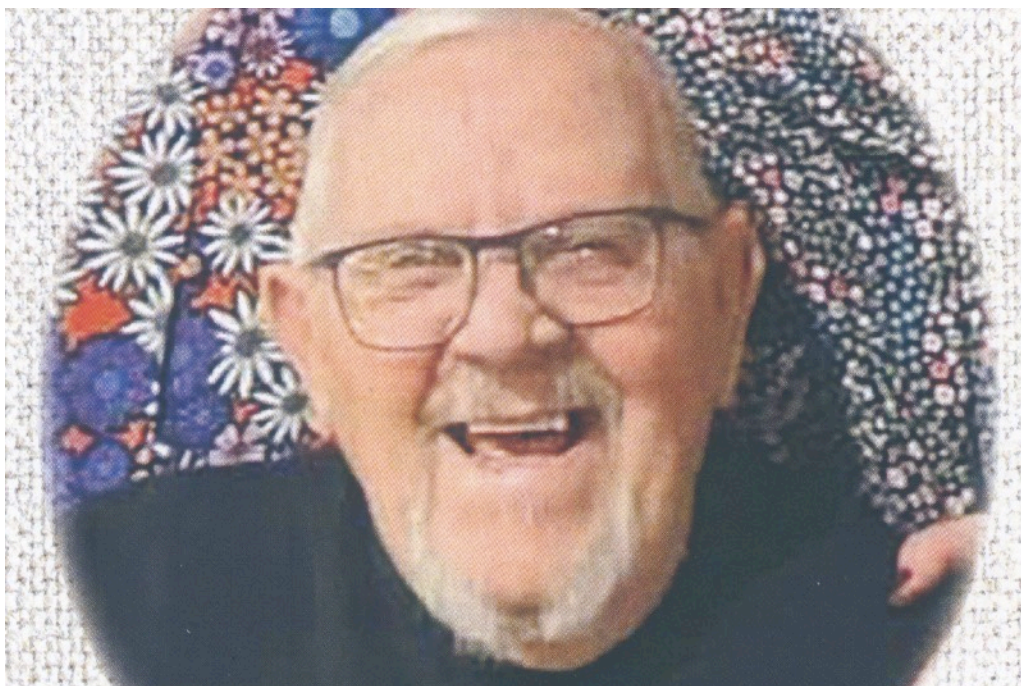
Thursday 3rd September - 1045.
Merchant Navy Day wreath service at
Paignton War Memorial

Tuesday 15th September - 1045- Battle of Britain Wreath Service at Paignton War Memorial

Looking Further Ahead

Friday 23rd October 2026 Brixham RNA will be holding their Trafalgar Night at the Berry Head Hotel, Brixham. More details will be circulated when known..

Shipmate Mike Seaward Remembered



Mike as we will all remember him

On Monday 20th July, Torbay Branch bid farewell to long-time Shipmate Mike Seaward. He passed away after a battle with several medical conditions. Mike had been Vice President of the Branch until recently when he stepped down.

Mike, born on 24th November 1943 in Torquay, was the second of five children. Growing up in Torquay, his early life was tough and his family fondly remembered him as a bit of a tearaway.

Mike spent much of his school years in a Barnardo's home in the New Forest, where he remained something of a rebel, getting into mischief, and playing cricket, although those years shaped him positively. At the age of 16 he went straight from Barnardo's into the Royal Navy, which became one of the loves of his life.

While on leave, Mike returned to Torquay in uniform and met his wife Irene. They married in July 1965. At his father's funeral, Mike's son remarked on his mother's incredible belief that she could tame the rebellious boy who enjoyed a drink and spent his days sailing around the world.

For Mike, the Navy was his first love. He faced some early 'challenges' with the Regulating Branch, but gradually overcame them. After training as a Writer onboard HMS Ganges and Pembroke, his first seagoing ship was HMS Ausonia, a former Cunard liner converted during World War II and serving as a submarine support ship during his time onboard.

Mike served on several ships including HM Ships Hermes and Fearless. He also spent two years in Singapore on a married accompanied draft. Additionally, he served in shore establishments such as HMS Nelson in Portsmouth and BRNC Dartmouth. There he met shipmates he would later reunite with at Torbay RNA.

Contd.

Shipmate Mike Seaward (Continued)



After leaving the Royal Navy, Mike worked for the NHS at Torbay Hospital, and after retirement, he became a Magistrate in Torbay for over 10 years, taking him full circle from the rebellious kid and young man, to a role in making sure that law and order and fairness, happened in his town.

Throughout his 25 years in the Royal Navy, Mike forged many friendships and achieved the rank of Chief Petty Officer Writer. Some of his former shipmates were able to wish him 'Fair Winds and a Following Sea' at his funeral in Torquay.

Shipmate, rest easy. Someone else will balance the ledgers and pay the wages.

As the recruiting advert says, 'Born in Torbay but Made in the Royal Navy'!

Donation towards Maintenance of the Naval Service Memorial

In response to an appeal from RNA HQ, the Branch has agreed to donate the proceeds from a charity fundraising event held earlier this year towards the monument restoration.

The memorial is reportedly 'shipping water' and our donation will help prevent it from sinking.

Opposite is a copy of the thank you letter received from Kate Aldous, Interim CEO of the RNA.

Thanks once again to Shipmates Terry, Bernie and Chris for relieving members of Dainton Golf Club of the content of their wallets to raise the money!

HMS RALEIGH May 2026

We have finally received the official group photograph taken in the drill shed during our visit in May.

If any one would like a jpeg file to print or keep as a souvenir, email me at:

torbay.memsec@gmail.com

and I will send you a copy.

Patron: His Majesty the King
Incorporated by Royal Charter. Full recognition of the Royal Navy



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

C Thomas
RNA Torbay

13th July 2026

Chris,

Please could I ask you to pass on to the Torbay Branch, my sincere thank you, for your generous donation of £250 to support The Naval Service Memorial appeal at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Your Branch's decision to contribute to the necessary repairs and ongoing maintenance, reflects a genuine belief in the importance of the Memorial and we are most grateful for your support.

As we work closely with the National Memorial Arboretum (to be known as the Royal British Legion National Remembrance Gardens from September 2026), your generosity will help us to reach the significant funding target.

I am sure that you agree how incredible the Naval Service Memorial looks and I thoroughly recommend a visit to the Arboretum, which is close to Burton in Staffordshire.

Thank you once again for continuing to stand arm in arm with the wider RNA, your donation makes a real difference, and we are sincerely appreciative.

With very best wishes
Kate

Kate Aldous
Interim Chief Executive Officer

Royal Naval Association
RNA Central Office
Lanyard House, Scott Road
HM Naval Base
Portsmouth
PO1 3LU
E admin@rnavassoc.org
T 02392 72 3747
W royal-naval-association.co.uk



BRNC Dartmouth Passing Out Parade

On Thursday 13th August, Shipmates Anne Kenny, Chris and Alan were treated as VIPs when they visited BRNC to witness the graduation of the latest cohort of Naval Officers.

Despite the sweltering heat of the hottest day of the year so far, the Blues & Greys rig would have been even more enjoyable in a Banyan Rig and a double dose of Factor 50.

However, the parade and drill performed by both the Officers and the Band of HM Royal Marines Plymouth made it a truly memorable day.

In Case You Missed It

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

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

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.

