

# GUARDIAN ENSIGN



The Federation of Naval Associations Newsletter

Issue 58 September 2017



On Friday 19th May we gathered at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport for our Reunion and AGM. Shipmates old and new were soon reminiscing, and enjoying good company, food and drink.



On Saturday at the AGM the Council suggested that Robbie Robson, for all his hard work and long, long service to the Association from the outset, be elected as the new President, to replace Alan Mercer. This was agreed unanimously by those present. Robbie thanked everyone and said he would be pleased to take up the position of President.

As the Association is no longer in a position to operate as a charity it was agreed at the meeting that the FNA should discontinue its charity status and membership of COBSEO. The Rules of the Association were amended accordingly.

Many of us are unfortunately getting older (and maybe even wiser!) and are not in such good health, so the Council agreed that Reunion 2018 should be run by Isle of Wight Tours. You should by now have received your Booking Form for the next Reunion, to be held at the Hallmark Hotel, Derby on Friday 18th May to Monday 21st May 2018. If not, a copy is included in this edition of the GE.

The cost for a 3 night/4 day package is £199. The cost includes free parking, and a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday. The Hallmark is convenient for the town centre, and just across the road from the Railway Station. Apparently there are several excellent hostelrys close by if you don't wish to drink at the hotel bar!

I'm looking forward to another great Reunion, and hope to see many of you in 2018.

*Cliff*

## 2017 AGM & Reunion



Getting ready for the AGM



Tot time!



Rum Bosun



Saturday Night Dinner



Saturday Night Dinner



Saturday Night Dinner

## Are you in need of new hips and/or knees?

Did you know.....

As a veteran you can ask for a referral to a specialist Orthopaedic clinic at The Robert Jones & Edith Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7AG. This is a centre of orthopaedic excellence specialising in lower limb replacement surgery.

The service is open to those who have served with the UK military, including National Service, and treats arthritic lower limb problems, especially those requiring hip and knee replacements.

The service is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer, a consultant military orthopaedic surgeon with a special clinical interest in hip and knee replacements.

So, if you have a long wait ahead of you for a hip or knee replacement, why not ask your GP to refer you to Lt Col Carl Meyer at the Veterans' Hip & Knee Surgery Service, Oswestry. Clinics are held twice a month. For more information contact Lt Col Meyer's Medical Secretary, Rebecca Jones - Tel: 01691 404344 or Email: [rebecca.ann.jones@rjah.nhs.uk](mailto:rebecca.ann.jones@rjah.nhs.uk)



Your GP records need to be annotated with the NHS issued codes for military/veterans, and don't forget to take copies of your discharge documents as you will be asked for proof that you are a veteran.



<http://www.rjah.nhs.uk/Our-Services/Orthopaedic-Surgery/Veterans-Clinic.aspx>



## WWI Beacons of Light

11th November 2018



After the German Revolution, abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II and the success of the Allied Hundred Days Offensive, the ability of Germany to continue waging war in terms of resources and will was at breaking point.

In the wake of the German sailor's mutiny at Keil at the end of October 1918, which quickly spread throughout Germany, a republic was declared on 9th November. The new civilian government accepted the terms for a ceasefire from the Allies.

The Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918 and came into effect at 1100, bringing about the cessation of hostilities in the First World War, but technically, not a German surrender.



In commemoration and remembrance of the end of the war and the many millions who were killed or came home dreadfully wounded, 1000 Beacons of Light will be lit at 1900 on 11 November 2018 throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories - a century after the guns fell silent. The event will also commemorate the huge army of men and women on the home front who, often in dangerous and exhausting conditions, underpinned the war effort - keeping the wheels of industry turning, bringing the harvests home to ensure the nation did not starve.

The Beacons will symbolise the 'light of hope' that emerged from the darkness of war.

For the opportunity to take part in this event, check if a council, community, or organisation near you is involved.

## Leave a Record for the Future

*What memories can you recall of your life in the Royal Navy?*

I'm sure many of you have a story to tell that will be of interest, or how about a history of your Association.

We cannot continue without your input, so please send your items for inclusion in the Guardian Ensign to:

The Secretary, 7 Cobgate Close, Whaplode, Spalding, PE12 6SX  
or email: [secretary@f-n-a.org](mailto:secretary@f-n-a.org)

A flat-chested young WREN went to Dr Smith about enlarging her breasts. Dr Smith advised her, 'Every day after your shower, rub your chest and say, 'Scooby doobie doobies, I want bigger boobies!'

She did this faithfully for several months. To her utter amazement she grew terrific D-cup boobs!



One morning she was running late, standing in the NAAFI line, and in a panic realized she had forgotten her morning ritual. Frightened she might lose her lovely boobs if she didn't recite the little rhyme, she closed her eyes and said, 'Scooby doobie, doobies, I want bigger boobies.'

A Matelot standing behind her asked, 'Oh! Are you a patient of Dr Smiths?'  
'Yes I am... How did you know?'

He winked and replied,  
"Hickory Dickory Dock!"

## HMS Queen Elizabeth

On 29 June the 65,000 ton HMS Queen Elizabeth headed out of Rosyth dockyard to sea trials through an exit with only 14 inch clearance on either side and 20 inches of water under the keel, then edged along the Forth, under three bridges, with a little over six feet to spare.



'Big Lizzie' towered above warships escorting her off the east coast of Scotland as she began sea trials. On 5 July a Merlin helicopter landed on her enormous flight deck - the first aircraft to touch down on Britain's biggest warship.

On Wednesday 16th August HMS Queen Elizabeth arrived in Portsmouth, where, at its narrowest point, there was less than 66ft (20m) clearance on each side.



State-of-the-art F-35B Lightning fighter jets are on track to make their first trial flights from the carrier's deck next year.

## FNA Polo shirts

If you are interested in purchasing one of the FNA Polo Shirts, please contact Dave Poyser on Tel: 01623 822079 or Email: [dave.poyser43@btinternet.com](mailto:dave.poyser43@btinternet.com).



£18 each



£13 each

## SLOPS

A comprehensive stock of items is available from Robbie Robson.

Contact Robbie on [robbie.fna@gmail.com](mailto:robbie.fna@gmail.com)

or at 12 Rainton Street, Old Penshaw, DH4 7HQ Tel: 01905 847058

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### RB & RPA - 6-9 October 2017

The AGM & Reunion will take place at the Mickleover Hotel, Derby. Please contact the Social Secretary to make a booking: [paula.gent1@ntlworld.com](mailto:paula.gent1@ntlworld.com)

### RNE & WEBA - 13-16 October 2017

The AGM & Reunion will take place at the Coniston Hotel, Sittingbourne, Kent. Details can be found on the website: [www.rneweba.org.uk/](http://www.rneweba.org.uk/)

### Survey Ships Association - 27-30 October 2017

The Survey Ships Association will be holding its twenty-fifth reunion at the Novotel, Nottingham on the weekend of 27th to 30th October. For information on membership and reunion please send a SAE to: The Secretary SSA, 17 Eliza Mackenzie Court, Lindisfarne Close, Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SB, Email: [secretary@surveyships.org.uk](mailto:secretary@surveyships.org.uk), or Telephone 023 9232 4795.

### RNPSA - 2-6 October 2017

Contact the Secretary, Leo Whisstock, for more details. RNPS Association, Sparrow's Nest Gardens, Whapload Road, Lowestoft, NR32 1XG. Telephone: +44 (0) 1502 586250 or Email: [hq@rnpsa.co.uk](mailto:hq@rnpsa.co.uk)

### HMS Ganges Association - 13-16 April 2018

The AGM and Reunion will take place at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island on the weekend of 13th to 16th April 2018. For more information contact IOW Tours, 3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, IOW, PO36 9JN. Email: [enquiries@iowtours.com](mailto:enquiries@iowtours.com) or Tel: 01983 405116. For details of membership of the Association please contact Ken Bushnell, Membership Secretary, 7 Rivers Street, Yew Gardens, Waterlooville, PO7 5FR. Tel: 02392 252812 or Email: [gangesmemsec@gmail.com](mailto:gangesmemsec@gmail.com)

## HOTEL INFORMATION



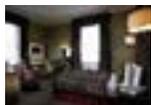
Hallmark Hotel City Centre  
Derby Road  
Derby  
DE1 2SQ



### Hallmark Hotel Derby

- 102 Bedrooms
- Colour Television
- Tea/Coffee facilities
- Hairdryer
- Trouser Press
- Telephone

All rooms have ensuite bathroom,  
Tea & Coffee making Facilities,  
TV & Direct Dial Telephone



The Hallmark Hotel Derby is a luxurious four-star boutique style hotel set in the heart of Derby. Originally a majestic Victorian building, it has been sensitively refurbished into a stunning boutique-style hotel featuring the finest of modern amenities.

Located within tranquil, secluded gardens, the Hallmark Hotel Derby is conveniently situated in close proximity to the city centre and is conveniently opposite the Derby Railway station. Moreover, the East Midlands Airport is just 8 miles (13km) away and the hotel is within easy access of the M1 motorway. The hotel also boasts an ample amount of free on-site parking.

Each of the newly refurbished rooms featured at the Hallmark Hotel Derby offer the finest of modern amenities in a stylish, contemporary design, whilst yet retaining its authentic character. All are equipped with flat-screen TVs with Freeview digital channels and modern ensuite bathrooms.

Enjoy a relaxing dinner in the hotel brasserie which offers fine dining featuring dishes derived from the finest of local and international cuisine, made from the finest and freshest of local ingredients.



### Federation of Naval Associations Reunion 2018

**Friday 18th May - Monday 21st May 2018**

Isle of Wight Tours Ltd  
3 New Road  
Lake  
Sandown  
Isle of Wight  
PO36 9JN



Phone: 01983 405116  
Fax: 01983 405584  
Email: enquiries@iowtours.com



All information is for guidance only and details are subject to change without notice

## Federation of Naval Associations Reunion Booking Form 2018

To be held at the

### 4\* Hallmark Hotel City Centre

Derby Road, Derby, DE1 1SQ

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

Price includes:

- 3 nights half board, en-suite accommodation
- Private dining each night in your own function room
- Saturday Night 4 course Gala Dinner with suitable entertainment
- Wine or juice reception on Gala Night
- Tot of Port for the Gala night toast
- Saturday Day trip to the National Memorial Arboretum including a 1 hour guided road train tour of the main memorials
- Free Parking

**3 night/ 4 day package £199**

**2 night/ 3 day package £154**

#### Personal Details

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code.....

Telephone Number including Dialling code.....

Mobile Number .....

E Mail Address .....

Your Party

Names of other persons included on this booking form.....

.....

.....

.....

Number of Persons.....

Rooms required: Double.....Twin.....Single.....

Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate all special requests this will be done on a first come first served basis and not guaranteed.

Special Requirements such as diet / walking difficulties – Hotel does have a lift

.....

The more you can tell us about the special needs you may have the easier it will be for us to accommodate you in the best place.

All prices are inclusive of VAT @ 20%.

Book Now to avoid disappointment, places are limited.

Cheques to be made payable to IOW Tours Ltd.

Please return this form with your remittance to:

Isle of Wight Tours Ltd, 3 New Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 9JN.

**ALL HOLIDAYS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT THE TIME OF BOOKING. SPACE IS NOT GUARANTEED UNTIL THE DEPOSIT IS PAID.**

A non refundable deposit of £10.00  
Per person is required with this booking form.

#### Travel Insurance

We recommend that Travel Insurance is taken. IOW Tours can arrange this for you.

We do / do not require insurance Please delete as required.

I enclose a Deposit or Full Payment\* of £.....

for .... Persons (delete as applicable) or

Debit my Access/Visa Switch / Delta Account Card Number

Switch/Delta Only, Issue Number..... Valid From Date

Expiry Date

Signature

Cardholders

Name.....

Security Number

.....



## FEDERATION COUNCIL

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name &amp; Address</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
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