



CNOA

Chatham Naval Officers' Association



The CNOA Newsletter for April 2020

Email: contact@cnoa.org.uk

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HMS Kent in Dover © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2020

HMS KENT OPEN TO VISITORS IN DOVER

HMS Kent opened her gangway to visitors during a stay in the Port of Dover on 15th and 16th March 2020.

Families, friends and visitors from the local area took the opportunity to see what a Type 23 Frigate looks like from the inside, getting the chance to look at the ship, her Wildcat helicopter and her equipment, as well as talking to serving Royal Navy personnel about life on board.

STOP PRESS...

Following the government's advice regarding COVID-19 and under discussion among the committee, it has been decided to postpone all meetings for the next 3-4 months. We will continue to review the situation and notify members of any changes. Please continue to send articles and news items of interest to contact@cnoa.org.uk so we may maintain our links with other CNOA members during this time. **...STOP PRESS**

Chairman's Flag Hoist:



Your new committee is starting to draw plans for the next year and four of us met Major Simon Kersey, the Mess Manager, to talk over our Guest Night and Trafalgar Dinner. He made us most welcome and the officers of the past have left a great reputation of us being organised and honouring mess traditions.

I have recently returned from leading a cadet trip to Wiesbaden in Germany where TS Brilliant band performed over three days, marched 25 miles and entertained over 350,000 people. It was a really enjoyable experience and the cadets were well turned out and a credit to the naval uniform. I was joined by Derek Ireland and John Fullagar who were part of a great team that made this trip, costing over £10,000, possible.

I have been watching HMS Duncan on the latest series of Warship. I am amazed how quickly things change with technology. The job of separating gash to recycle is featured. I recall throwing bags of gash over the side some 40 years ago, and now have several bins at home recycling most things.

The Naval Service has had a busy month, with Royal Marines in Norway training to fight in one of the world's most unforgiving environments. HMS Forth took over as the Falklands guard ship from HMS Scott and HMS Meday is now in the Caribbean. For the first time in a decade, RAF Maritime Patrol Aircraft are in the UK skies as the first Poseidon P8 has arrived in the UK. HMS Prince of Wales entered and left Portsmouth to visit Liverpool. This is a great time for the Royal Navy. As the RN is expanding let's hope we can swell our numbers.

Yours Aye,

Jon

Jon Vanns
Lt Cdr (SCC) RNR
CNOA Chairman

2020 Future Speakers & Events: Subject to revision

10th April: CNOA diary clash with Good Friday so no CNOA meeting in April

1st May: John Johnson-Allen – The loss of HMS Truculent – **Postponed**

12th June: Lt Col Duffield – Chatham Dockyard from old images

10th July: Peter Goodwin – Nelson's Arctic Voyage

14th August: CNOA is on leave

11th September: Guy Bartlett – Stealth Aircraft, State of Art War Machines

9th October: Vanessa Nicholls – Dementia Friends

13th November: Derek Goodwin – Reflections of Marine Engineering Sales

11th December: Cdre Bryant – President's Address

Additional events will be included as details become available.

As always, we are most grateful to those who send items for this Newsletter. **All such contributions by the 5th of each month please.** Please email contact@cnoa.org.uk with articles, news items and photographs.

Derek Ireland (Hon. Secretary) and *Suzanne Wood* (Newsletter Editor)

Could other CNOA members also provide short presentations based on their own service related experiences for the CNOA meetings? **Yes, of course they could!** Please let Jon Vanns know or email contact@cnoa.org.uk

Exercise Cold Response From MoD Navy



The crew of 845 Royal Navy Air Squadron, on board HNLMS Johan De Witt, work under the Northern Lights on Exercise Cold Response 2020. © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2020

Exercise Cold Response is a Norwegian-led exercise in which NATO-allies and partner nations are invited to participate. Forces from the United Kingdom, USA, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden – as well as Norwegian forces – participated in this year's exercise.

The winter exercise Cold Response took place in an area that stretches from the town of Narvik to the Finnmark district in northern Norway. The main part of the exercise was located in the district of Troms.

The main aim of the exercise was to secure the Royal Navy's, Allies' and partners' ability to conduct multinational joint exercises with a high-intensity combat scenario in demanding winter conditions.

Another important aspect of the exercise was to train the large amphibious capacities. This means practising how to master the transition between the coast and the shore by, for example, attacking a target on land from ships with assistance from amphibious assault ships and helicopters.

An increase in COVID-19 cases in Norway's population led to the exercise's premature completion.

Visit to the NATO Shipping Centre, Northwood

28 February 2020

From Lt Cdr Clifford Mickleburgh

We, LARNO (London Association of Reserve Naval Officers) had a very enjoyable and interesting visit to Northwood with a presentation by Lt Cdr Rod Drake RNR of the NATO Shipping Centre (NCS).

The NCS is located in NATO's Maritime Command in Northwood and is the primary Point of Contact and Hub for the maritime commercial community and interaction between the Shipping Industry and Naval Forces. They are a contributor to NATO's Global Maritime Situational Awareness [MSA] and Freedom of Navigation. Their function is to de-conflict military operations across the spectrum of shipping activities. NSC is a 24/7/365 One Stop - One Shop Calling Centre for emergency response, warnings and advice to Commercial Shipping, Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping matters (NCAGS) and Allied Worldwide Navigational Information System (AWNIS).

What they do

Maritime Situational Awareness [MSA] provides an ongoing effort of information superiority in the global maritime environment. Seeking full understanding through monitoring and



analysis of the pattern of life, the anomalies and security trends, in order to obtain situational awareness in the maritime domain and provide the background for operations and security advice.

Networking - building trust and confidence through exchange of information by organizing and participating in maritime conferences and forums, releasing

maritime threat assessments, providing free access to the NSC website.

Outcomes - enhance safety and security for merchant ships, contribute to the free flow of trade and enhance military commanders' decision-making processes.

What they provide

Maritime security information supporting commercial vessel risk assessments - validated and free of charge. Open source website www.shipping.nato.int that includes a news feed and information repository. NCAGS and AWNIS provide support to operations and exercises worldwide.

In summary:

- Advisor on Maritime Security Risks;
- Deconfliction from military operations;
- Support for all NATO nations and multinational military operations involving NCAGS/AWNIS;
- Monitor and contribute to global Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA).

Being a Friday, the visit concluded with pre-lunch drinks and a lunch of traditional Fish and Chips in the Officers' Mess.

Despite the weather (it poured with rain) it was an excellent and interesting day out. A sharp reminder that 95% of our imports are brought by sea.

(Note from the Editor – it was lovely to see Clifford and Barney in the Mess that lunchtime.)

March meeting discussion outcomes From Lt Cdr Jon Vanns

On Friday 13th March, your Committee presented, to the members that attended, their ideas for their relative areas of responsibility. It was a constructive, open talk where all present contributed to the ideas already in flight.

Please be reminded that there will be **no** meeting planned for April; this may be fortunate with the increasing cases of Coronavirus (COVID19). We will need to amend our greetings and avoid hand shaking etc. Our May meeting planned for 1st May (as the 8th is a Bank Holiday) has been postponed following recent advice. One of our principal values is to look after our members, so if you are unwell or have symptoms please don't attend the meeting, but if you need help please contact any member of the Committee and we will do what we can to support you. We are looking at a Plan B for future meeting venues in case the RSME shuts down but will need to risk assess before we go ahead with any events.

As Chairman I want to kickstart the welfare of members and Peter Luxton is heading this. To be effective this is going to cost money, so we need to raise more funds to be effective. Several initiatives will be presented to you to achieve this. They include more branded merchandise, on which Tim is leading, labelled wine that Clifford will be selling in limited volumes, as well as our social events organised by Barbara.

Please note, these dates are **subject to confirmation**, but we are currently looking at the following dates for events:

Guest/Ladies Night Dinner – planned for 26 June 2020 in Brompton Officers' Mess but POSTPONED awaiting advice on future dates;

Trafalgar Night Dinner – 23 October 2020 in Brompton Officers' Mess;

New Year Charity Lunch – 16 January 2021 at Bearsted Golf Club.

The Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall

From Lt Cdr Clifford Mickleburgh



Royal Albert Hall

On Friday 6th March, Barney and I were lucky to be invited to the Royal Albert Hall for the Mountbatten Festival of Music, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the 80th anniversary of the formation of Britain's Commandos.

The festival brought together world-class musicians, composers and conductors of the Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines.

The first half included traditional military music with a wonderful display by the drums, followed by Hearts of Oak and the music from the ceremony of Sunset. The second half of the concert was themed on Tom Jones, with both male and female Royal Marine Musicians displaying their outstanding versatility as the world's finest military musicians.

Then, to a background of suitable military music, a potted history was played of the Royal Marines, who are the UK's Commando Force and the Royal Navy's own amphibious troops. They are an elite fighting force, optimised for worldwide rapid response and able to deal with a wide spectrum of threats and security challenges. The concert concluded to rapturous applause preceded by Land of Hope and Glory and Rule Britannia.



Proceeds from the event went to the Royal Marines Association – the Royal Marines Charity and CLIC Sargent. CLIC Sargent is the UK's leading cancer charity for children, young people under 25 and their families. The charity was founded in 2005.

Admiral Tony Radakin, the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, the head of the UK's Royal Navy and the whole Naval Service, was present.



During the Second World War the Infantry Battalions of the Royal Marine Division were reorganised as Commands, joining the British Army Commandos. The Division command structure became a Special Service Brigade command. The support troops became landing craft crew and saw extensive action on D-Day in June 1944.

The Falklands War provided the backdrop to the next significant action of the Royal Marines when Argentina invaded the islands in April 1982. A British Task Force was immediately dispatched to recapture them and, given that an amphibious assault would be necessary, the Royal Marines were heavily involved. The troops were landed at San Carlos Water at the western end of East Falkland and proceeded to 'yomp' across the entire island to the capital, Stanley, which fell on 14 June 1982.

(Editor's update: The Mountbatten Festival of Music 2020 concert, recorded live at the Royal Albert Hall, will be available to view on BFBS on 8 May at 1800.)

Tunbridge Wells Twin Town visit From Lt Cdr Jon Vanns

TS Brilliant Tunbridge Wells Sea Cadets visited the twin town of Wiesbaden to take part in the Fasching carnivals between the 20th and 24th February 2020.

The 48 strong group was hosted by the Red Heralds, a German band and dance group. During the stay the cadets performed over 20 times and marched over 25 miles. They experienced the vibrant German carnival spirit as the main carnival was attended by over



350,000 people and featured in the Wiesbaden Courier and regional TV.

The group has been fund raising for many months to provide the cadets with this opportunity, which cost over £10,000. The cadets were supported in this task by the Holmesdale Lodge, Tunbridge Wells Rotary, five KCC borough councillors and the Twinning Association.

The cadets provided outstanding musical performances that were well received by the German public. The cadets

explored the city and met with the Lord Mayor at a reception where they were each presented with a Wiesbaden pin courtesy of the City Council.

Joining the group were three members of CNOA: John Fullagar, Derek Ireland and Jon Vanns.

VE Day Commemoration Mess Dinner and Dance

From Lt Cdr Jon Vanns

Date: Friday 8th May 2020

Place: Salomons Estate, Broomhill Road, Southborough, Kent TN3 0TG Tel: 01892 515152

Dress: Service Personnel Rig 2B with miniature medals or 1B, Civilians Dinner suit, or dark lounge suite with black bow tie. Ladies - Evening Dress

A **Formal** Naval mess dinner. Hotel rooms can be booked directly with the venue at a cost of £105 for a double including breakfast. Rooms will be released into the open market on 1st March 2020. Quote Mess Dinner when booking.

- Pre-Dinner Drinks **18.30**
- Dinner Call **18.50**
- The loyal toast to conform with the nation's timing at **19.00**

Starters

A – Sweet potato soup, crispy leeks, garlic croutons

B – Hot smoked salmon, beetroot puree, horseradish, sippett

Mains

C – Free range chicken breast, fondant potato, baby carrots, leeks, red wine jus

D – Orzotto Verde with smoked tomatoes and parmesan crisp (V)

Desserts

E – Warm chocolate brownie with salted caramel ice cream

F – Salomons Estate Eton mess

Passing of the port and toasts, followed by tea and coffee in the conservatory. Then dance the evening away to 'Swing the Bluz'. Carriages at 23.30

Cost is £39 per head, (a pre-dinner drink and glass of port included) wine not included and can be pre-ordered or purchased on the night. The event can only host approximately 80 people so attendance is on a first come first served basis. Please return slip with printed name, choice of food by indicating the letter of menu choice. Contact me if you have a dietary request.

– Closing Date for applications is 15th April 2020 unless places have been filled prior to that date.

– Payment by cheque or BACS – BACS mark with surname and number of guests to *Sort code 11-11-08 account 00510406*. Cheques payable to *Mr J Vanns*. Payment with menu choice please. (No payment, no place.)

– If you'd like email confirmation of receipt of menu choices and payment please enclose an email address.

Reply to *Lieutenant Commander (SCC) J Vanns MCGI FinstLM. Royal Naval Reserve*

No. 8 Fairfield Ave, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3SD or Jonvanns@aol.com

Name	Post nominal letters	Starter	Main Course	Dessert

A note from the CNOA Hon. Secretary

If you enjoy the CNOA activities, why not extend an invitation to a like-minded serving or retired officer? or ask them to look at cnoa.org.uk



CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

President: Commodore Barry Bryant CVO RN

Chairman: Lt Cdr Jon Vanns (SCC) RNR

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

SURNAME		FORENAMES		DATE
HOME ADDRESS Tel. No:- E Mail Address:-			BUSINESS ADDRESS Tel. No:- E Mail Address:-	
RANK	TYPE OF COMMISSION	SPECIALISATION / AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS		
BRIEF CAREER DETAILS				
<p>General Data Protection Regulation: - I agree that all the above details may be maintained and kept by the CNOA and RSME for the purposes of membership records and security. I agree / do not agree (delete as applicable) to my details being published in a membership booklet.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SIGNED.....</p>				
PRESENT OCCUPATION				
PROPOSERS NAME	PROPOSERS SIGNATURE		HOW LONG KNOWN	
fSECONDERS NAME	SECONDERS SIGNATURE		HOW LONG KNOWN	