



CNOA

Chatham Naval Officers' Association



The CNOA Newsletter for December 2021

Email: contact@cnoa.org.uk

Website: www.cnoa.org.uk

Contents

Chairman's Flag Hoist
Future Speakers & Events
Tamar and Spey remember British and American war dead at Pearl Harbor memorial
Visit by HMS Astute to HMAS Stirling
Historic dry dock becomes Scottish ship recycling facility
The Maple Fund – a short history
Some news from the Battle of Britain Memorial
Trafalgar Night Dinner 2021
New Year's Lunch – application details
CNOA Standing Order Form
CNOA Member Application Form



HMS Dragon at sea. © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2021

HMS DRAGON FACES A DEMANDING TWO-WEEK WORKOUT AS SHE JOINS FRENCH NAVY'S BIGGEST EXERCISE OF THE YEAR

Dragon takes her place alongside 25 other warships, support vessels and submarines from half a dozen navies for a two-week test of the French fleet and the ability of its allies to operate side-by-side: Exercise POLARIS 21.

It's the third time this autumn the Royal Navy and Marine Nationale have worked together: the first saw Dragon tested on and above the water by French 'attacks' off Brittany, followed by support vessel FS Garonne testing her towing abilities by practising hauling assault ship HMS Albion.

POLARIS is a workout for the French Navy in every aspect of combat at sea: carrier operations, anti-submarine warfare, mine clearance, amphibious landings, as well as cyber threats and the latest drone tech.

Chairman's Flag Hoist



Dear Fellow members,

Remembrance Day is a busy time of year for us all. This year, CNOA was well represented at Chatham Naval Memorial, the Great Lines, where Steve Small laid a wreath on our behalf and Ritchie Wilkinson was organising the event. I was on parade at Tunbridge Wells as the marshal. Personnel stopped for two minutes' remembrance around the world.

Thank you to those who attended our Trafalgar Dinner at the RSME. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. An incredible amount of work went into this event by many people and I wish to thank everyone. A few images of the event and a note from Admiral Sir James Perowne are in this newsletter.

Looking forward, we are starting to arrange the Association's annual New Year's Lunch. This will be a fundraising event to support our charities. This event used to be held in December until one snowy pre-Christmas weekend forced it to be postponed until January and it has remained there ever since. The application form and menu are in this newsletter.

In November, our first lecture meeting for many months was a most enjoyable talk by Derek Goodwin – worthy of a photo of the attendees!



Our December meeting will be a social focused event and a chance to exchange cards and best wishes. We will have a raffle and a small auction to help with those last minute Christmas gifts.

We now have a large stock of branded items that Tim holds so there is no excuse for gentlemen to not turn out in the Association tie.

Feb 2022 is our AGM and we would welcome new members on our committee if anyone can contribute some skills. In particular we are looking for a replacement Newsletter Editor as Suzanne wishes to step down from the role.

Please remember all our face to face meetings require members to have a lateral flow test to ensure you are not a Covid-19 carrier before attending. These are currently free online or via a pharmacist, are easy to administer and proved very effective in preventing the spread of Covid-19 at our recent Trafalgar Night dinner.

It is with great sadness that I have to report Brenda Beetham has crossed the bar. Brenda served on the UMT of TS Brilliant and her late husband, Captain Eric Beetham MNM, was a vice President of Tunbridge Wells and Medway Towns Sea Cadets. Brenda had a career as a air hostess and then often went to sea with Eric and travelled the world.

Following Eric's death she remained involved with the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and Chatham Naval Officers Association. Sadly I have no details and last caught up with Brenda some three weeks ago by phone. Her funeral is likely to be on 15th December; further details to follow.

Yours Aye,

Jon

Jon Vanns
Lt Cdr (SCC) RNR
CNOA Chairman

Future Speakers & Events

Subject to revision

2021

10 December: Christmas Social with the President

2022

14 January	Lt Col Gareth Davies RTR Rtd – 63rd Naval Division – virtual talk
11 February	AGM
11 March	Peter Hubbard OBE – EOD
8 April	Barry Duffield – Chatham Dockyard – slide show
14 May	Col Tony Holding – CCF
10 June	Guy Bartlett – Donald Campbell
8 July	Cdr Greg Young – update on HMS President and Medway Division
12 August	Summer leave – no meeting
9 September	Roy Malkin – development of celestial navigation from Odysseus to Trident
14 October	TBA
11 November	TBA
9 December	Christmas social with our President

Additional events will be included as details become available.

As always, we are most grateful to those who send items for this Newsletter. Please email contact@cnoa.org.uk with articles, news items and photographs.

Suzanne Wood (Newsletter Editor)

Tamar and Spey remember British and American war dead at Pearl Harbor memorial

From MoD Navy

Sailors from HMS Tamar and HMS Spey paid their respects on Remembrance Day like their shipmates around the globe, but at one of the US Navy's most hallowed sites.



More than 40 men and women from the patrol ships honoured both Britain's war dead and the victims of the Pearl Harbor attack on the glistening white USS Arizona Memorial.



Tamar and Spey's sailors hold their remembrance service at the Arizona memorial © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2021

Barely ten minutes into the attack on 7 December 1941, the Arizona was torn apart when a bomb pierced her armour-plating and detonated the battleship's forward magazine – an explosion in similar fashion to those which devastated Royal Navy battle-cruisers at Jutland and HMS Hood earlier in 1941.

The blast effectively tore the battleship in two and killed 1,177 officers and men. Just 335 sailors survived the cataclysm. All but 75 of the victims are entombed in the wreck.

The loss of the Arizona accounted for nearly half of the American casualties in the Pearl Harbor attack – while images and footage of the horrific explosion provided some of the iconic scenes of World War 2 in newsreels and documentaries to this day.

Three days later, the Royal Navy suffered its first major blow of the war with Japan when bombers sank battleship HMS Prince of Wales and battle-cruiser Repulse – sent to the Far East to deter aggression by Tokyo – off the Malaysian coast with the loss of more than 800 lives.



AB Sean Buster Brown salutes the men of the USS Arizona
© Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2021

While the superstructure and some elements of the ship were subsequently salvaged – like much of the Pacific Fleet damaged on 7 December 1941 – the decision was taken not to raise the Arizona but turn her into a memorial.

Opened in 1962, the monument draws more than two million people every year to pay their respects.

As well as paying tribute at the Arizona Memorial, the sailors were also invited aboard USS Missouri – the Mighty Mo – the battleship that hosted the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay in 1945 and went on to serve until the 1991 Gulf War.

Tamar and Spey are in the Pacific home of the US Navy on a logistics and maintenance stop before the two River-class vessels push westwards to begin their long-term Asia-Pacific patrol.

The duo are the Royal Navy's first permanent presence in the region since the handover of Hong Kong a quarter of a century ago.

Visit by HMS Astute to HMAS Stirling, 30th October – 6th November 2021 From Shaun Henry-Roscoe

The Australia Branch of the Submariners Association were proud to meet and entertain the crew members of HMS Astute during her surprise port call to HMAS Stirling at Garden Island, Western Australia.



The coxswain, Tim Clifton, had contacted the chairman of the Gosport Branch (Steve Thorpe) to obtain our contact details, so it was with some pleasant surprise that our secretary received an email requesting the pleasure of our company over a beer or two.

The port call for the Astute was a busy one, but with some juggling of dates and venues we were able to meet up at the Windsor pub in South Perth and in the Fenians Irish bar in Perth City, both occasions reminding us of a 'real run ashore', so good to see the guys hadn't lost the skills of enjoying themselves and entertaining those around them.

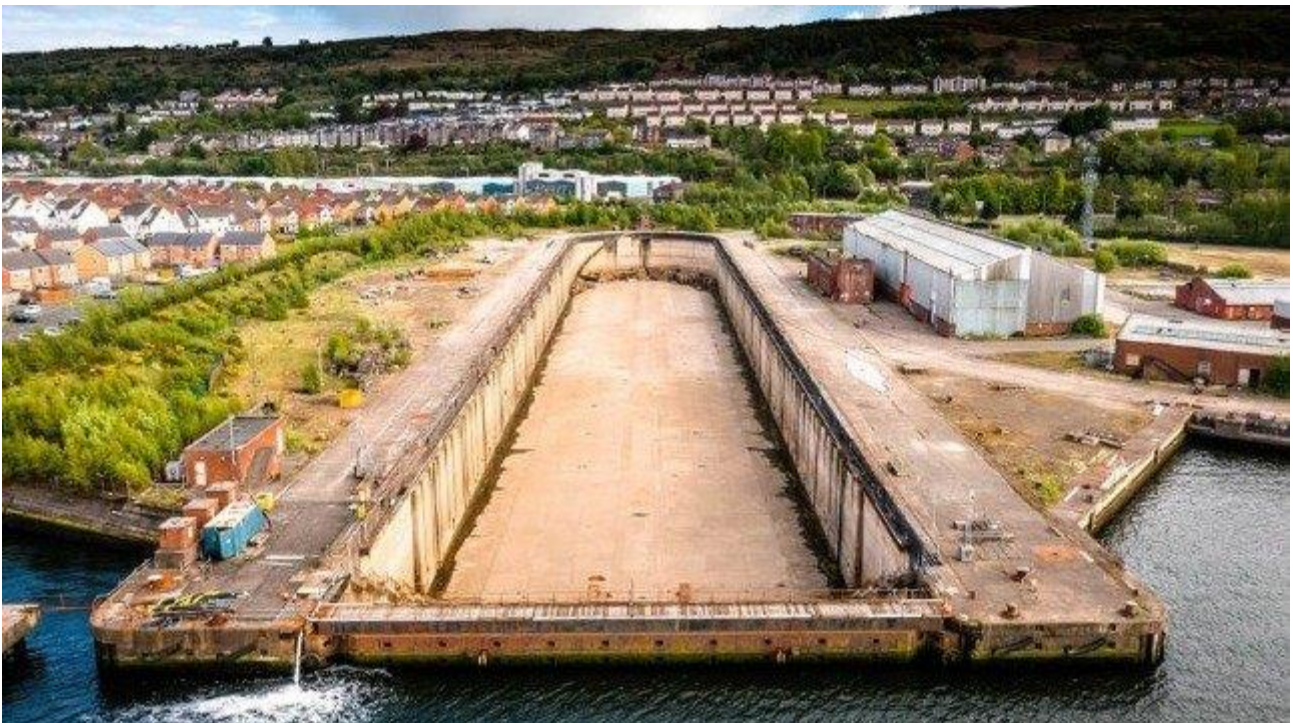
A visit to the Astute by a small group of the branch was most welcome, all of us astounded by the close confines of the vessel, a lot of guys (no ladies on Astute) and a lot of equipment! A branch Plaque was presented to the OOD in the vessel's wardroom.

It had been ten years since HMS Tireless visited Australia in 2011, but we hope with the recent AUKUS agreement we will see more UK submarines coming down under in coming years.

Our thanks to the crew of Astute and we wish them a safe and speedy return to their home base.

Historic dry dock becomes Scottish ship recycling facility **By The Maritime Executive**

After sitting largely unused for nearly 20 years, one of the largest and most celebrated dry docks in Scotland will be reborn for the ship recycling industry. ATLAS Decommissioning, which specializes in the end-of-life disposal of marine infrastructure as an offshoot of a U.K. commodities firm, has received a license and signed a long-term lease for the Inchgreen Dry Dock facility near Greenock.



Inchgreen dry dock has been leased to a recycling operation (Peel Ports)

ATLAS Decommissioning reports that it already has contracts in place for the recycling operation. The company said it would be working with "blue chip container lines for multiple vessels that they are removing from their current trading fleet."

The dry dock has a long history serving some of the UK's most famous ships. The famed ocean liner Queen Elizabeth 2 used the facility when it was fitting out in the late 1960s at its builder's John Brown & Company. The successor company, Upper Clyde, however, was in decline and ended shipbuilding by the early 1970s. The dry dock is today owned by Peel Ports, which had been seeking new uses for the facility.

“Inchgreen Dry Dock, as well as its size, also has direct access to very deep water. As a facility for the contracts we have in place I’d go as far as to say it is unique in the UK,” said Mike Wood, Project Director of ATLAS Decommissioning.

The dry dock is 984 feet long and 147 feet wide. It is part of a 31-acre site with a dock measuring over 1,200 feet. The minimum depth is approximately 25 feet and with direct access to the ocean it is seen as a strong location for the new operation.

“There is also the attraction of the skilled workforce in Inverclyde due to its shipbuilding legacy,” said Wood. “What we are doing here is essentially shipbuilding in reverse and requires much of the same engineering excellence and expertise.”

Most of the local officials are hailing the agreement that they believe will bring work to the local area for at least 100 people. However, some are lamenting the loss of shipbuilding opportunities, especially as the U.K. embarks on an aggressive program to build its offshore wind energy industry. Other historic shipyard facilities, including Appledore and Harland & Wolff in Northern Ireland, are working to service the new offshore industry.

Peel Ports announced in 2020 that the dry dock facility was being used to support the construction of the new pontoon for the Greenock cruise terminal. At the time, four mobile cranes were brought in to replace the facility’s previous cranes which had been torn down in 2017. Peel said that it expected the new work was the beginning of a steady stream of assignments for the dry dock, which they said remained the largest mainland dry dock in the UK.

The Maple Fund – a short history

By Don McGeorge CF(M)

In 1910, Lady Drury, the wife of the then Commander-in-Chief, The Nore, launched a scheme called "The Royal Naval Depot Chatham Maternity Association" to provide a Nurse for the use of wives of men of the Chatham Port Division.

This proved to be such an asset that in 1917 a room had to be taken to provide the ante-natal care and efforts were made to provide a "Home". Lady Drury stepped in again and launched an appeal and, at that time, the major contribution came from "The British Sailor's Relief Fund" in Canada. Eventually a Home was built in Barnsole Road, Gillingham, Kent and was given the name of "Canada House".

In 1922 the House was opened by HRH Princess Marie Louise, a daughter of Queen Victoria. Funds for the House were provided by the Welfare (then called "The Canteen") Fund of HMS PEMBROKE and the Navy League.

In 1940 Canada House was badly damaged by bombs and between 1947 and 1950 it was repaired, extended and modernised. After modernisation the House was reopened in 1950 by the Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) who made a personal contribution of £1,300 towards the upkeep of the House.

In 1950 problems developed in that it was discovered that Canada House was going to lose between two and three thousand pounds per annum. At this point the RNBT stepped in, Canada House was leased to the National Health Service at a nominal rent on condition that beds were retained for the exclusive use of RN & RM personnel. In the fullness of time the reservation of beds was not required and neither, in fact, was Canada House. It was therefore decided to sell the House to the DHSS for £250,000 and the fixtures and fittings for a further £20,000.

Of the money raised at the sale, I, on behalf of the Amenities Fund of HMS PEMBROKE (at the time I was the Manager) argued and won £10,000 from the sale of the property and a further £14,000 from the sale of the fixtures and fittings. This money was placed in a Fund and called "THE MAPLE FUND" and was to be used for deserving cases in the area, the emphasis being on "Families".

On the closure of HMS PEMBROKE in October 1983 the contents of the Maple Fund were transferred to HMS RALEIGH under the same terms and conditions. In June 1991 The Maple Fund was registered as a Charity with the number 1003196. A copy of the Constitution is available for information.

Based on the past three years, the average Income to this Fund is £4,146 per annum and the average expenditure has been £1,460. This Fund is audited annually.

Editor's note – this article was provided to me on request by Cdr Sean Brady RN, the Commander at HMS Raleigh. I thought it may be of interest to those of you who remember Canada House.

Sean writes, "The Maple Fund is used to pay for recruits' families who are going through hard times, to enable them to attend the passing out parade at Raleigh. The fund is used sparingly as there is not much money in it, but we are now starting to top it up from the small surplus generated by Raleigh Enterprise CIC."

Some news from the Battle of Britain Memorial From Wg Cdr Andrew Simpson

Despite the Lockdown, the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust has made improvements to the Memorial site at Capel-le-Ferne. The Trust was able to offer a huge thank you, recently, to supporters who helped turn a potentially disastrous year into one that saw a number of exciting improvements at the site.

Supporters included businessman Alastair Kerr, who has funded the floodlighting of all the major parts of the clifftop site, and Kent County Councillors whose generosity allowed the Trust to install new, low energy laser projectors in The Scramble Experience, a move that will also save the Trust a considerable sum of money in future.



The Memorial Statue and The Wing at night



A detail from the 'Graydon Gates' which are now at the site entrance

The entrance to the site is now graced by the 'Graydon Gates' named in honour of the support provided over the years by the former President of the Trust Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon GCB, CBE. The gates used to stand at RAF Biggin Hill and were renovated using funds donated to a special 80th anniversary appeal.

During the lockdown many activities were undertaken to ensure that the Memorial stayed in the public eye. Whilst the rest of the site staff had to be furloughed, the site manager and his assistant remained on the payroll and embarked on a series of 'Facebook Live' events whilst the normal Sunday talks were converted to Webinars. New skills were learned very rapidly and the Trust's marketing team embarked on a hugely successful online appeal, backed by video messages from well-known celebrities and supported by the Daily Express, that raised a remarkable £80,000.



The Spitfire and Hurricane replicas together with the Stuka sculpture



The replacement propeller blades at the site entrance

The Memorial site is now open again and can be visited without the need to book.



The Beaverbrook Wall

As autumn arrives, the Memorial takes on a very special quality. The changing lighting, the autumn colours and the lengthening shadows seem to highlight the significance of the sacrifice made by 'The Few' 81 years ago.

Many visitors find this is a great time of year for a quiet stroll around the site, thinking back to the events of 1940 and perhaps taking advantage of the autumn lighting to take photographs of the site before visiting the café for a warming drink and snack.



The Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris Memorial Wall

The car park and visitor centre (The Wing) is open from 1000 – 1600, 7 days a week (except during the Christmas/New Year period) The external lights are on each night from sunset to app 2130hrs. When the car park is closed, the site is accessible on foot 24/7 via the small pedestrian gate next to the main gate. Please park carefully if you use this facility.

Further details about the Memorial can be found at www.battleofbritainmemorial.org or by calling 01303 249292 or emailing enquiries@battleofbritainmemorial.org

Trafalgar Night Dinner 2021

Friday 29th October 2021

From Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE

Dear Jon,

A big thank you from both Nicola and me for having us as your guests last night. We were made to feel very welcome and enjoyed meeting your members and other guests in such impressive surroundings.

The meal was delicious and the wine was plentiful and we very much enjoyed the whole event.

To Martin: Thank you for picking us up and bringing us back to the hotel at the end of the evening. It was very kind of you.

For Barry: I hope you are not badly affected by this dreadful virus and are back in fighting form as soon as you can.

To all: Very many thanks again for such an enjoyable Trafalgar Night, so well organised and managed. We are both so grateful to you all.

Very best regards







Dear Jon

Can you thank the CNOA for their generous donation?

It was great this year to be more involved including a Corps of Drums for the first time as well as providing incidental music.

Also performing with our new set of drums for the first time which sounded great (according to attendees) was a fitting tribute to our late Chairman, Derek Ireland.

Could you also thank the members of the CNOA with their donations to the Drum Appeal after Derek's untimely passing, which we are still processing, he was always hands on, full of enthusiasm to make TS Brilliant the best we could be.

Once again thanks for your support and look forward to future collaborations.

PO (SCC) Simon Taylor



New Year's Lunch – application details From Martin Watts

The Chairman and Committee would like to invite all members, their partners and guests, to an Association New Year Lunch at Bearsted Golf Club on Saturday 15th January 2022.

We will commence with drinks at 1200 and sit down for the meal at 1245. There will be fundraising activities to replenish Association funds and support our welfare programme.

The menu is as follows:

Starter

- a. Tomato & Roasted Red Pepper Soup with a hint of Chilli served with Croutons
- b. Deep Fried Breaded Brie with a Sweet Chilli & Cranberry Dressing
- c. Prawn & Crayfish Cocktail

Main

- d. Fillet of Pork Wellington with a Mustard & Cream Sauce
- e. Beef Bourguignon with Smoked Bacon Lardons & Creamy Mashed Potato
- f. Grilled Salmon with Ratatouille & Herbed New Potatoes
- g. Wild Mushroom Risotto with Wilted Rocket Leaves & Parmesan

Dessert

- h. Warm Chocolate Orange Brownie with Vanilla Ice Cream
- i. Baked American Cheesecake with Cherry Compote & Chantilly Cream
- j. Winter Fruit Brioche Pudding with Custard

The Club is at: Bearsted Golf Club, Ware Street, Bearsted, Maidstone. ME14 4PQ
Telephone: 01622 738198

Members are requested to email the Hon Sec Martin Watts at wattseeuk@yahoo.com with bookings including the names of all partners and guests, together with notification of any special dietary and access requirements:

Rank/ title	Name	Post- nominals	Starter (a,b,c)	Main (d,e,f,g)	Dessert (h,i,j)	Special requirements (dietary, access)

The cost of the meal is £25 per person and we respectfully request payments are made electronically or via BACS to Barclays Bank, 24 Lowfield Street, Dartford, DA1 1HD, Sort Code 20.25.42, for the credit of The Chatham Naval Officers Association, Account Number 93932702. Please email our Hon Treasurer, Jan Dean at jandean796@hotmail.com to confirm your payment.

We have to notify the Golf Club of a list of attendees by Saturday 8th January, therefore we can accept bookings up to Thursday 6th January. The Committee look forward to meeting as many members, partners and guests as possible, to enjoy this resumption of the CNOA New Year Lunch.

Bearsted Golf Club currently follows government advice which means that the wearing of masks is voluntary. Members are asked to park in the lower car park, except those requiring disabled access, who can use the upper. Please avoid parking in the committee car park For those unfamiliar with the venue, the Golf Club is 5 minutes' walk from Bearsted railway station.



**CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
STANDING ORDER FORM
FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

I wish to make my annual subscription payments by standing order to the Chatham Naval Officers' Association.

Please complete this form and return it to the Hon Treasurer:
Lieutenant Jan Dean RNR, 79A Cherry Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7OU.

Do NOT send this form to the bank.

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Name of your Bank: _____

Address of your Bank: _____

Your Bank Sort Code: ____/____/____

Your Account Number: _____

To my bank: I request you to pay Barclays Bank, 24 Lowfield Street, Dartford, DA1 1HD, Sort Code 20.25.42, for the credit of The Chatham Naval Officers Association, Account Number 93932702, the regular sum of:

£ _____ Annually

Amount in words: _____

Starting on: _____/_____/_____

And continuing until* _____/_____/_____

Or until I give notice in writing*

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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

APPLICATION FOR 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					
<hr/> <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>SIGNED.....</p>					
PRESENT OCCUPATION					
PROPOSER'S NAME		PROPOSER'S SIGNATURE		HOW LONG KNOWN	
SECONDER'S NAME		SECONDER'S SIGNATURE		HOW LONG KNOWN	