



CNOA

Chatham Naval Officers' Association



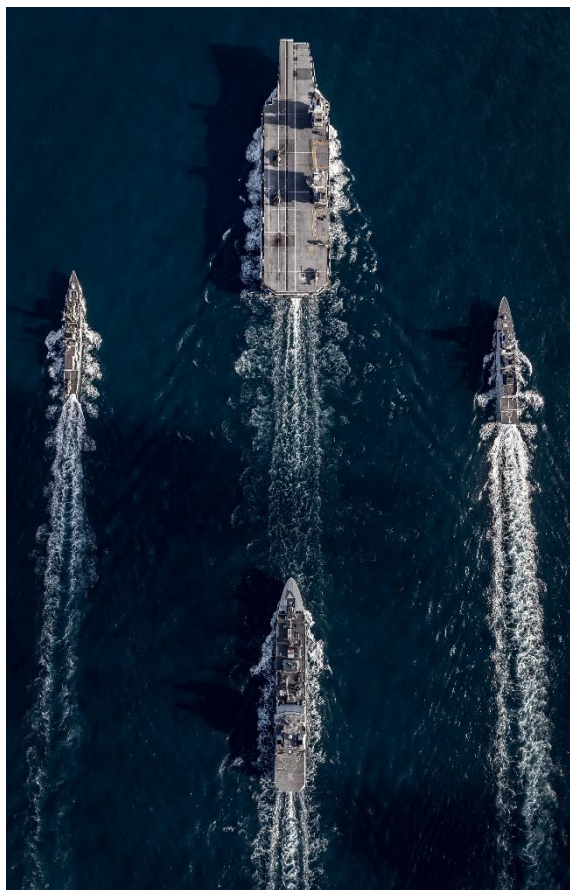
The CNOA Newsletter for February 2020

Email: contact@cnoa.org.uk

Website: www.cnoa.org.uk

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HMS Queen Elizabeth with escorts © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2019

Norwegian anti-submarine frigate His Norwegian Majesty's Ship (HNoMS) Thor Heyerdahl joined the UK Carrier Strike Group as it transited east across the Atlantic following the WESTLANT19 deployment to the USA.

The frigate joined HMS Queen Elizabeth, fellow submarine hunter HMS Northumberland and tanker RFA Tideforce to exercise as the Strike Group sailed towards UK waters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The next evening meeting of the Association will be on **Friday the 7th February 2020** in the Warfare Room, RSME HQ Brompton Barracks 19.45 for 20.00 when the Association will hold its 2020 Annual General Meeting. It is an excellent opportunity for members to have their say about how things have been done and how things could be done. The evening will then continue with refreshments and fellowship in the Officers Mess.

The next social meeting of the Association will be the Annual New Year Luncheon on **Saturday the 25th of January 2020 at Bearsted Golf Club** 12.30 for 13.15 when the Association and guests will assemble for good dining, good company, fellowship and fundraising for good causes.

Chairman's Flag Hoist:



Dear Fellow Members,

That's it then. It's all over for another year. The decorations are down, the tree stands bare and looking forlorn whilst it's waiting to be taken away and shredded. I enjoy Christmas itself, by why, oh why, does it have to start in October and go on for so long? (commercialisation of course). If my memory is correct, Christmas was so much more simple back when we were children. Preparations started about 2 weeks before the big day when we started making the paper chains and ended on 12th Night. And do the little ones really need SO many toys? Still, we had great fun with our grandchildren this year who are still little enough to really believe.

I hope all of you had an equally nice time with your family and friends. From that point of view and on a positive note, this festive season does help us through the shortest, gloomy days provided we are able to join in with the traditional festivities. I hope it did for you. On this note, our New Year luncheon takes place on 25th January at Bearsted Golf Club, Maidstone. Why not come along and welcome in the New Year with your friends? It's a very nice club house and the food has always been very good. I look forward to seeing you there.

I am mindful that this is my final Flag Hoist. The AGM is looming on the 7th Feb and this will come along very quickly. This meeting will elect a new Chairman, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Social Secretary. This is a major change to our committee and I hope you can come along to vote and welcome the members who I hope will step up and take on these most important roles. I have heard from a member that he is willing to stand as Chairman and he has been actively recruiting a new committee. I'm confident he will be successful, but it's not too late to step up and volunteer. Names to the Hon. Sec. please.

To be honest, I was never an enthusiastic volunteer for the Chairmanship but I took it on out of a sense of duty (yes, really). So, my personal approach to being Chairman has been to keep the Association cruising along on a steady course and not make change for it's own sake. The 'boat rocked' a little once or twice for 2 or 3 people, but we got through and here we are - definitely not 'on the rocks' (groan). Thank you to everyone who helped us, the committee, with your support at functions and our regular meetings. Finally, I wish to thank most sincerely all members of the committee who have served during my time as Chairman. The time they give and the work they have done has been essential to the Association and without them we could not continue. I am very grateful to each and every one of them for the help and support they have given to me. BZ!

A Very Happy New Year to you all,
Yours Aye,

Colin

Colin Tozer
Cdr RN (Rtd)
CNOA Chairman

2020 Future Speakers & Events: With Some Date Revisions

25th January: New Year Luncheon

7th February: CNOA AGM – **Date Change** to deconflict with St. Valentines Day

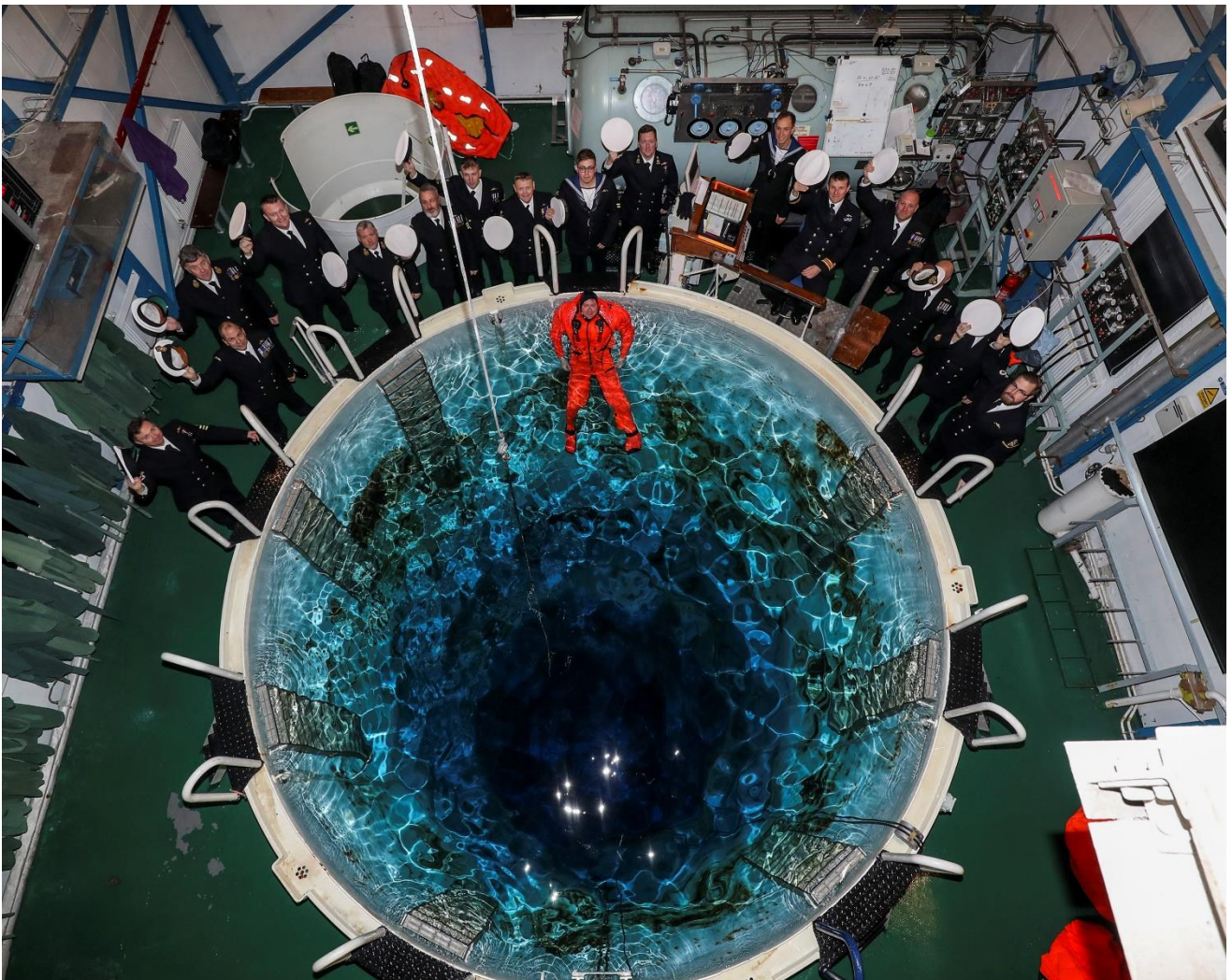
13th March: Hannah Hockin - Carers UK
10th April: CNOA diary clash with Good Friday so no CNOA meeting in April
1st May: John Johnson-Allen – The loss of HMS Truculent – To be confirmed
12th June: Lt Col Duffield – Chatham Dockyard from old images
10th July: Peter Goodwin – Nelson’s Arctic Voyage
14th 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: Cmdre 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.**

Derek Ireland (Hon. Secretary) and *Graham Storey* (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

Submarine Escape Training Facilities move to Faslane From MoD Navy



Submariners inside the Submarine Escape Training Tank (SETT), Fort Blockhouse, Gosport for the final time © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2020

For the last time the team who teach submariners how to escape from a stricken boat gather at a Gosport landmark known to most UK submariners before the iconic structure closes.

Tens of thousands of submariners have passed through the Submarine Escape Training Tank (SETT) since July 13 1954 when the first man ascended the 100ft column of water to simulate emerging from a sunken submarine.

With the entire submarine flotilla moving to Faslane, as well as advances in submarine design, escape training and changes in the way submarine rescues are handled, the SETT at Gosport is no longer required.

The tower was built between 1949 and 1953 as part of a wholesale revamp of submarine escape training, prompted by a report drawn up by Captain Phillip Ruck-Keene just after World War 2.

The loss of HMS Thetis, on the eve of war, and HMS Truculent sunk in the Thames after colliding with a Swedish tanker in January 1950, both with heavy loss of life, as well as many other submarines accidents and experiences played a significant role in the lessons taught.

Using the escape tank, submariners are expected to escape without breathing apparatus, they use a specially designed escape suite to breathe as required.

During the peak of usage in the 1960s and 70s, around 4,500 submariners every year made the daunting ascent. It's thought the escape tank has been used more than 150,000 times in its 66 year life.

Today the escape tank is just one element of the UK's submarine rescue capability, which also includes the Submarine Parachute Assistance Group (who jump from aircraft into the water to help crew who've escaped from a boat as taught in the SETT), and NATO's Submarine Rescue System 'Nemo', also based in Faslane.

The Royal Navy stopped pressurised ascent training in the 900,000-litre tank in 2012, but still uses the facility for non-pressurised drills and teaching.

During the SETT's existence, only one British boat, HMS Artemis, has been lost (she sank at her moorings in an accident in 1971, ironically just a stone's throw from the tower), without any casualties.

In its place, opening later this year, is the SubMarine Escape Rescue Abandonment and Survival Training Facility (SMERAS TF). The team will be moving en-masse from Gosport to Faslane, leaving a skeleton team behind on the south coast.

"2020 marks the end of an era, so it's a poignant moment for all of us," said Lieutenant Commander Gareth 'Griff' Griffiths, in charge of the team.

"We're looking forward to carrying the lessons of our past many years into the future of submarine escape, rescue, abandonment and survival training.

"Our success is due, in no small part, to our commitment to one another and the unique perspective of being submariners."

At the heart of the replacement complex at Faslane is a huge 'abandonment and sea survival training environmental pool' where various weather conditions and sea states can be replicated in the safety of an indoor pool.

As for the SETT at Gosport, it will be preserved as it is a listed building, protected by law for its national and international role in submarine safety.

The Royal Navy protecting UK shipping interests in the Gulf

From Lt Cdr Stephen Small



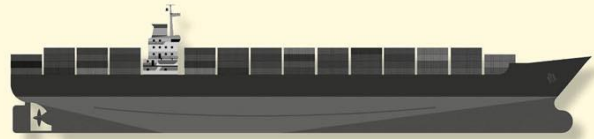
The UK is one of **7** nations in the new **International Maritime Security Construct** protecting merchant ships entering/leaving the Gulf

There are **2,200** merchant ships in the region daily



1 in **20** ships is British flagged

And **2** of these are passing through the Strait of Hormuz



Every day's delay to sailing through the strait costs a ship's owner **£230,000**

To protect them, the Royal Navy employs **2** 'sentinels' in the strait



HMS DEFENDER



HMS MONTROSE

supported by **4** minehunters

HMS SHOREHAM

HMS BLYTH



HMS BROCKLESBY

HMS LEDBURY



and **1** 'mother ship'

RFA CARDIGAN BAY



We need volunteers to serve on the CNOA committee

From Lt Cdr John Vanns

February is our AGM and several officers are standing down from the committee.

To keep the association growing we need volunteers to serve on the committee. The key roles yet to have anyone volunteer for are Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, all other roles have volunteers that would stand for election

Now is the time to step forward so an understanding of the role can be gained before the AGM.

Any of the membership can have a place on the committee and the roles can be adapted to suit what time you are able to give to the role.

Please consider helping.

Those interested to know more or just discuss options please call the Secretary on 07920 095846 or send an email to Derek@circatron.co.uk

Thank you

Seafarers UK announces Seafarers Awareness Week From Seafarers UK



Seafarers UK has coordinated and promoted Seafarers Awareness Week annually since 2010 and every year chooses a fresh theme for Seafarers Awareness Week. This year, from the 6th – 12th July 2020 the theme will be 'Seafarers Safety'.

In Seafarers UK's recently published manifesto, the charity states seafarers must 'be kept safe and return from their seafaring voyages without experiencing accident or harm'. This is reflected in our Seafarers Awareness Week 2020 theme of 'Seafarers Safety', while we will continue to raise public awareness of the UK's ongoing dependence as an island nation on the men and women who work at sea.

The Seafarers UK campaigning will focus on the hazards faced by seafarers on merchant vessels, revealing practical improvements, including enhanced training, that can be taken to reduce fatalities and serious injuries.

New Brains Trust Created To Shape Tomorrow's Royal Navy From MoD Navy

THE Royal Navy has invited the finest military, security and intelligence academics and think tank analysts to help shape the Royal Navy of tomorrow. It has opened the new Strategic Studies Centre in Portsmouth Naval Base, a hub for the very latest thinking and ideas surrounding the Royal Navy's contribution to defence and security in the 21st Century.



The Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Nick Hine RN, stood in for 1SL at the Royal Navy Strategic Studies Centre © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2020

Research carried out under its banner is intended to guide future decision making when it comes to naval/defence strategy and policy as part of the Navy's sweeping transformation agenda.

VE Day Commemoration Mess Dinner and Dance

From Lt Cdr John 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, sippet

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, payment please enclose an email address.

Please 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

The Exploits of Captain Ginger

From Lt Cdr Trevor Pratt

Exploits of Captain Ginger Monemvasia to Petros Boatyard Sept /Oct 2019



Sometimes we manage to sail!

We spent four nights at Monemvasia visiting the lovely Fortress Town and waiting for strong winds to blow themselves out, so it was a relief once again to be on our way and sailing north along the eastern coast of the Peloponnese. Our first port of call was Kyparissa, a large bay with a choice of anchorages or moorings.

We chose the northern part of the bay where we could anchor and moor stern to on the small quay. Unfortunately, the swell sweeping into the bay made this untenable and we left to anchor off the beach which was much more comfortable. The swell decreased later and we had a pleasant night before an early start the next day for passage to Ermione.

We had now entered a busy cruising area where charter boats dominate the scene, quite different to the remote anchorages of the previous two weeks.

Thick clouds built up during the day and as we berthed on the quay the first spots of rain began to fall which turned into a torrent. Luckily there were several berths available but by early evening there was no room at the inn and boats were having to anchor in the bay.



Ermioni in the rain!



Looks different in the sun

Decided to stay here two nights so the second day we took the bikes ashore to explore the local area. A very pretty peninsular overlooking the bay and inland we found fields of pomegranates which I had never before seen on the tree.



Exploring Ermione



Pomegranates

Before we left we visited the local open-air market for fresh produce, and bought salmon steaks from one of several fish stalls, then slipped our berth, weighed anchor and headed north for the island of Dohkos. Here we anchored in a large bay for a lunch stop before heading onward to Hydra where we ended up secured by lines to the outside of the harbour wall as this was the only space available - which is what comes of arriving late in the day!

Hydra is a charming little port very busy with ferries, water-taxi's, vessels bringing supplies and even a small cruise ship. There are virtually no vehicles and everything that needs to be carried is done by hand-cart or donkey.



Hydra, Captain Ginger alongside Big Brother!



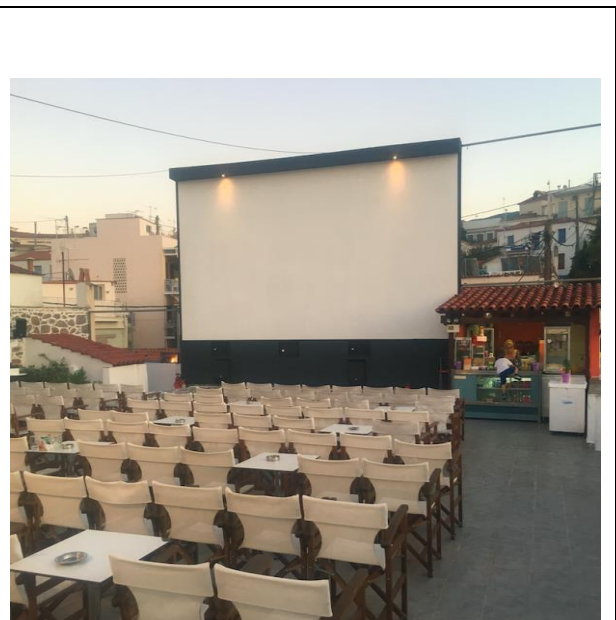
Donkey transport

After spending the morning exploring Hydra and with help slipping our lines from the rocks we continued our journey north, rounding the headland of Ak Skillion through the channel east of Spathi to anchor in the bay beyond. I would like to say we spent a peaceful night but unfortunately the wind dropped, we were beam onto the swell and it was rolly!

Poros by contrast was very sheltered but busy with charter boats, we anchored in Navy Bay out of their way and had a pleasant couple of days. In fact, we stayed an extra day in order to see Mamma Mia in a rooftop open air cinema.



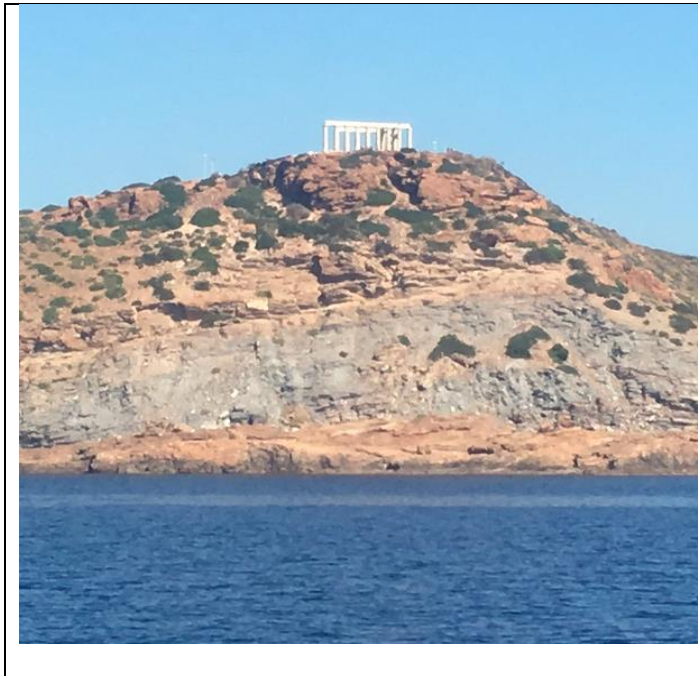
Poros, North Quay



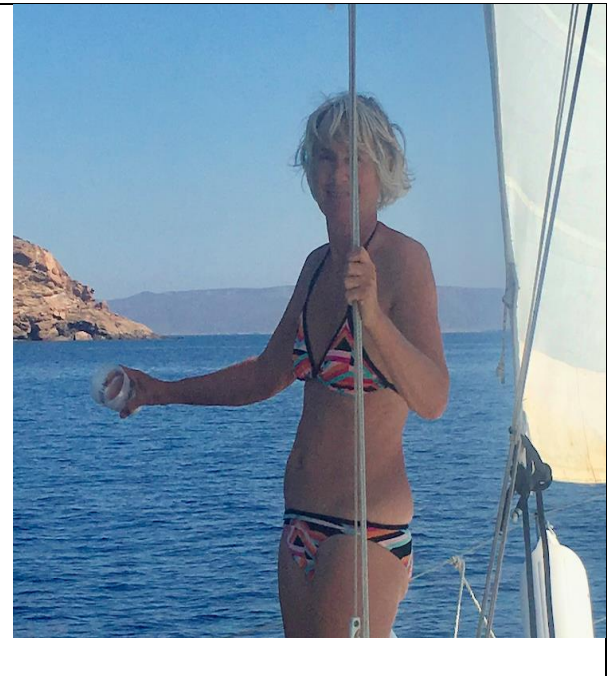
Open Air cinema

On the island of Aegina, we met up with friends Sue and Alan on their boat Ticketeeboo, a 55ft Discovery, also in company with them were Sue and Brian onboard Darraway. We had drinks onboard Ticketeeboo and the second night drinks and curry onboard Captain Ginger. Brian has an inflatable Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) and spent time teaching us how to use it. I only fell off once, and very tempted to invest in one!

Time was starting to run out on us as we had a lift out booked. So, it was time for a longer passage across the Gulf to round the headland (Cape Sounion) into the mouth of the Evia channel. Atop the headland, which is quite dramatic, there is an iconic Greek temple dedicated to the sea god Poseidon. Seafarers would drink a toast to Poseidon when rounding the Cape, pouring a measure of wine into the sea for the god, to ensure fair winds and safe passage. So, of course we followed the age-old tradition,



Temple of Poseidon, Cape Sounion



A Toast to Poseidon

There was no wind and we motored all the way to Porto Rafti, a charming enclosed bay where we chose to spend the night at anchor in the south, sheltered by a natural mole extending from the peninsular. We had the company of a couple of other boats and swimmers from the beach. The following day we moved up to the main harbour in view of expected strong winds plus we also needed a supermarket as supplies were running low. An unpretentious little harbour, full of local boats no room for the likes of us, so we had to anchor off. It was a hot afternoon and the fifteen-minute walk to a large Carrefour seemed to take forever. On our return we stopped for a drink at a quay-side taverna. Perhaps not a good thing to do as we watched dark clouds building up over the hilltops – oh! it will pass over and be nothing!!! The squall hit us with ferocity, the wind shrieking through the harbour lifting the sun-brollies and the heavens then opened with a vengeance. We ended up with soggy crisps, watered down beer and with a new bedraggled look. In fifteen-minutes it was all over and the sun shone again.

After a further day here, experiencing winds of 35 knots, calm descended once again and it was time to move on.

We were now nearing our final destination, Petros Boat Club in the Evia Channel so after a night at anchor in the lovely bay at Eretria we motored the short distance across the channel to Petros Boat Club.



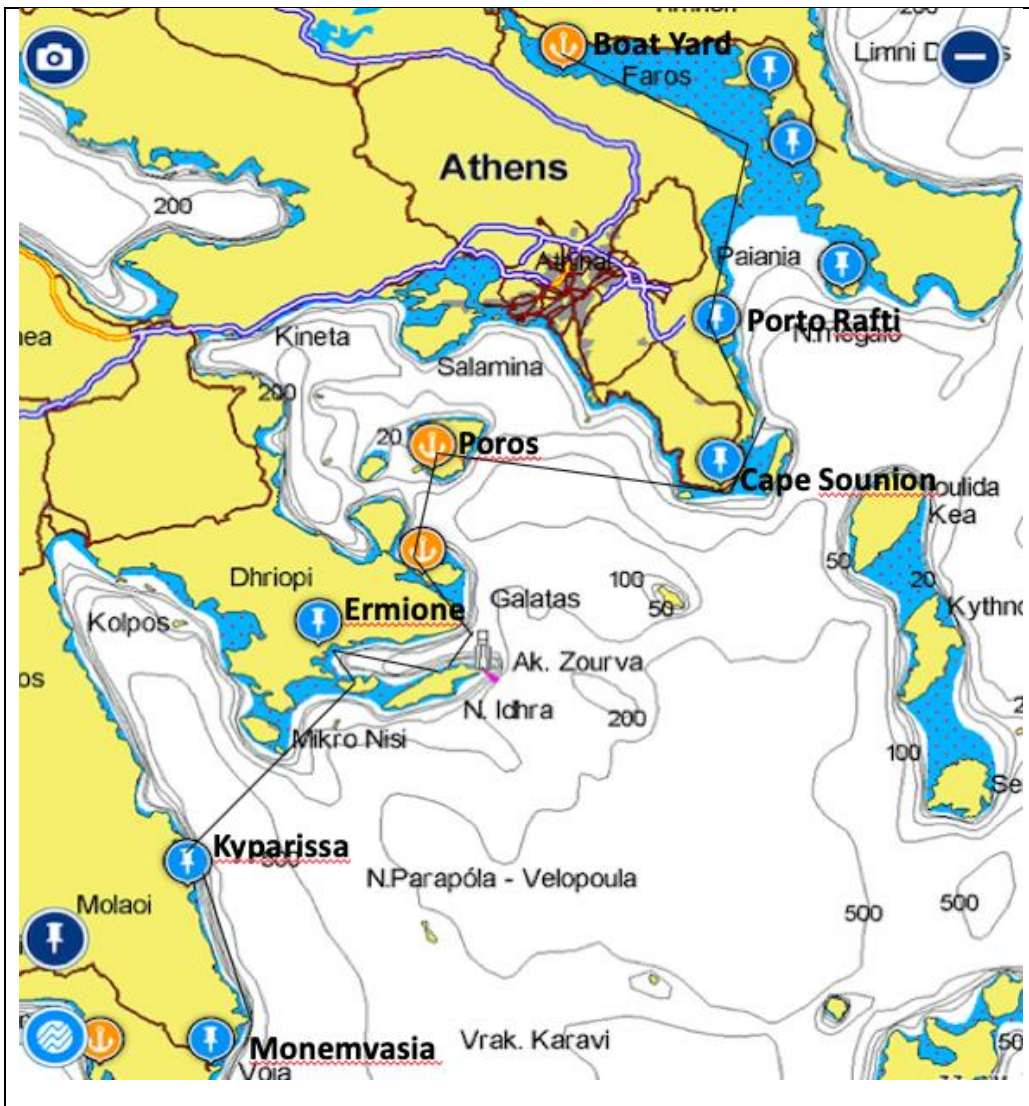
Winter at Petros Boat Club



Lift out by tractor and trailer

Lift out was an interesting experience as the trailer is below the water and the only guidance is a man standing on a platform indicating left or right, then you stay on the boat whilst it is transported into the yard and propped up. After a busy three days packing up the boat for the winter and arranging work to be done we are now back in UK where the temperature is decidedly cooler! Until next year.....

Map of our journey below:



The Newsletter Editor is “signing off” with this Newsletter

From the Newsletter Editor

Having worked with three CNOA Chairmen, three CNOA Secretaries and two CNOA Treasurers while editing the CNOA Newsletter for more than seven years, I now pass the role to another willing CNOA member. This will allow me the time to deliver some additional pro-bono marketing support for a couple of “good cause” organisations working to seriously improve the lives of others. Those organisations really do need some help with their communications, fund raising and attracting more supporters.

Following some careful planning, a transition package is ready for the next CNOA Newsletter Editor complete with a two phase delivery. The first phase being to produce the CNOA Newsletter and the second phase, some time later, being to edit the new style CNOA website, www.cnoa.org.uk Mentoring is an important part of helping people develop and acquire and use all types of new skills, mentoring is part of the planned transition package.

The new CNOA Newsletter Editor may not have all the digital skills and sources needed right now but for the right person there is enough time for the new CNOA Newsletter Editor to acquire those. The skills can be very useful for years to come in many other activities, could even be life enhancing. One’s children and grandchildren may even think but never say “How did you do that?, Respect.”

Few would deny that much of UK society is going digital. If you think online tax returns to HMRC and vehicle licencing are game changers, before that happened farmers were required to do their livestock census online each December. So, do you want to learn and practice some more digital skills?

Most members will have use of the Internet with a full sized screen (very useful when designing the Newsletter pages). Building the CNOA Newsletter using a phone screen could be interesting. Having access to an up to date licence for Microsoft Office would also be good as it allows the Newsletter to be built in Word but sent out as a smaller and secure .pdf file.

Building on the digital basics that most have, the right person will be introduced to some very useful information sources (ever wondered where some of the CNOA Newsletter images and news items come from?, you just have to know who to ask). The distribution list is held securely on the web, the Hon Sec helps to keep it up to date and the Newsletter distribution is easy and fast powered by one of the best known names in the IT industry.

The website www.cnoa.org.uk was based on some older web platform technologies but it has now been re-written and replaced to use some much newer, much more “user friendly” tools that make updating the website very easy for anyone, especially those with no technical experience. Just think Harry Redknapp’s TV adverts about building a website to sell Jam Rolly Polly cakes and you will get the idea. It’s another skill set that can open many other doors.

Some members already receive from friends emailed news items/holiday reports in all sorts of different non compatible formats that can send the cursor (sorry, the Mouse pointer) all over the place and the PC/laptop/tablet/smartphone seems to have a mind of its own. Fear not, the new Newsletter editor will be shown how to easily “re-format” most things that arrive by email or are taken from a website so they behave themselves while being used to build the CNOA Newsletter.

Interested to know more? Please just click on contact@cnoa.org.uk Could be life enhancing.

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: Cdr Colin Tozer RN (Rtd)

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	
SECONDEES NAME	SECONDEES SIGNATURE	HOW LONG KNOWN	