

FLAG HOIST

The Chatham Naval Officers' Association Newsletter

Dear Members

As we enter our leave period, I hope you all get chance to relax and enjoy summer.

You will soon be sent invites for our Trafalgar dinner please try and support this event and bring a guest if possible, due to submitting details for clearances we cannot take late applications and you will really help with organising the event if you return application details soonest. Thank you.

It was great to see many members at the Royal Marines beat retreat on Horse Guards, what a splendid evening.



My thanks go to your committee for all their hardwork in arranging several social events including a Burns Night next January and a fund-raising lunch next April.

Lt Cdr Jon Vanns RNR

Matthew Sheldon has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), after a competitive recruitment process, following unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees. Matthew brings to the role over 30 years' museum expertise as a collections specialist and has driven major capital projects and strategic programmes. These have broadened audiences, delivered seven-figure investment and driven record-breaking revenue growth.

After early roles at Bodleian Library, and the Historic Monuments of England, Matthew has developed his experience through a variety of roles within the NMRN; playing a critical role in transforming a single-site museum

The Royal Naval Museum - into the NMRN, the country's newest national museum, spanning five geographical locations, and building its reputation.

20 Years Experience

His wealth of knowledge of the ships and collections in the NMRN's care is underpinned by over 20 years in curating, interpreting and managing its 2.5m heritage assets.

Later roles saw him take a lead in the strategic direction of the National Museum, with his most recent role as Executive Director of Museum Operations, blending his heritage skills with oversight of all operational and trading activity.



The ARNO Winter Newsletter updated members on Wellington, the golden retriever who supports an ex-RN officer living alone and suffering from complex health. From over in mainland Europe, he has sent an update on life with Wellington.

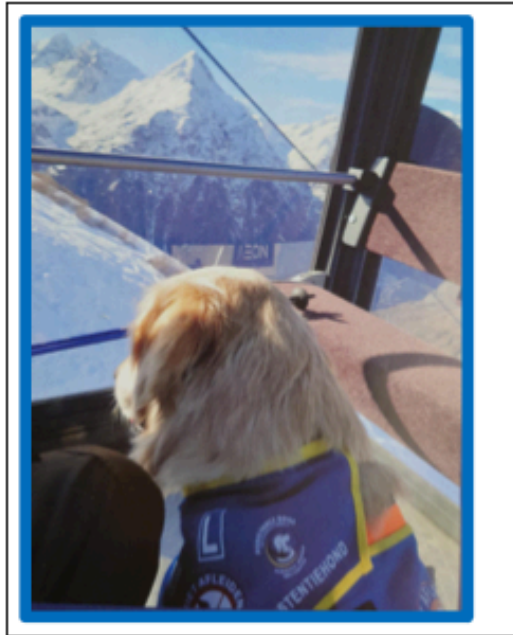
"Wellington's training has gone very well. We have passed the basic test with flying colours, and we will focus for the next few months on making some final improvements on the advanced [medical alerts, interventions, and assistance in the house] tasks, so that we may pass out of the assistance dog training programme.

Due to the requirements of airports and airlines for travelling with assistance dogs, we were unable to travel until Wellington had worked towards his basic test and passed his first birthday, but as soon as those were achieved, we made our first flight – after some special training sessions at the airport itself. It was a challenging [read –“transiting the airports, the controls and flights was simply hell, for at least this first time”], but we did it! Wellington had to work hard to help me through and he did so well that I hope we can fly more often in the future. We enjoyed a few days at Horseback UK in Aboyne, Aberdeenshire, hopefully proving that Wellington and I can return soon and reap more of the benefits of that wonderful charity. It was brilliant to be there again. The serenity of it all, the benefits of being part of something and the interaction with the horses. I recommend it to all injured veterans, be it with mental or physical injuries. If anyone needs an introduction or knowledge that someone in dark blue is there with them, then I am your man.

Wellington has already directly made such a difference, and even now this has a positive multiplier effect on my health and quality of life. We are confidently setting out on our new life together.

Continues...

As part of my task-orientation towards integrating in a fuller life, I set out to visit the Royal Navy Ski Festival in January – for a three-day visit where I knew a few old RN friends would be there to guide and help me out if/as needed. Well Wellington and I made new friends too. Indeed, the instructors from the Armed Forces Para Show Team immediately adopted me; as well as, it seemed to me, all of the 500 RN/RM who were there at Les Deux Alps. Because whenever I got in a mess in one of my short daily walks on the pistes, and as soon as Wellington would have to spring into action to alert or assist me, some RN/RM would appear from nowhere and check if I needed more help. From admirals to seamen family & women & O marines, wherever I was, there seemed to be caring minds and hands. That's the RN/RM family at its best, I can tell you. This was my first unaccompanied holiday since 2016 and so I have an immense sense of achievement. [I say unaccompanied, but of course Wellington remains always at my side 24/7, doing his amazing 'thing']. It's a small life, but Wellington has brought light into it.



It is thanks to RNOC, that I was able to finance this very costly assistance dog programme, with their grant financing the lion's share of operational costs. Thanks again for the difference RNOC/ARNO has made."

Association of Royal Navy Officers – Summer 2024 Newsletter



Additional thanks to Clifford and Midshipman Barney for their on-going contributions.



The Phoenix has Risen

For the first time an F-35B Lightning stealth fighter belonging to 809 Naval Air Squadron, flown by an 809 pilot, maintained, dispatched and recovered solely by 809 personnel, has conducted an operational sortie.

The squadron stood-up after a four-decade-long absence at the end of last year, joining the RAF's legendary 617 'Dambusters' Squadron as one of two front-line formations delivering fifth-generation fighter punch via the nation's most advanced aircraft... and the sword of the UK's two Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers.

Royal Navy Pilots

When not embarked on the flattops, the two stealth fighter squadrons – both comprising RN and RAF pilots and personnel, making them interchangeable when 809 is fully operational – call RAF Marham near King's Lynn their home.

Since re-forming in December, 809 has been growing in number, its men and women working hard alongside 617 Squadron to expand the number of personnel and complete training to allow them to operate independently.

Still working from the 617 Squadron's site, engineers, mission planners, line personnel and pilots from 809 NAS generated the first aircraft for a completely independent flight, returning the 809 phoenix to the skies once again.



Our vision is: Sailors and Marines helping Sailors and Marines – now and always.

RNBT provides a helping hand to serving and ex-serving men and women and their families. Help, opportunity and care in times of need.

We don't just help you to weather the storm, we try and help you navigate your way out of it.

If you need help or would like to donate or volunteer contact RNBT.

The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, Castaway House, 311 Twyford Avenue, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO2 8RN

T: 02392 690112 E: rnbt@rnbt.org.uk

www.rnbt.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 206243



CNOA Website

Our members are invited to submit a resume of their life and achievements to be stored on the CNOA website archive.

Any member wishing to utilise this opportunity should send documents to webmaster, Guy Bartlett, via email.

These will be added to the archive and password protected to ensure confidentiality. For more information please contact mr.guy.bartlett@gmail.com

Double Olympic gold medallist cyclist Victoria Pendleton and adventurer/explorer Dwayne Fields will champion the UK's elite Royal Marines after being unveiled today as official ambassadors

Visiting the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone near Exeter, they were named as Honorary Colonels in the Royal Marines Reserve as they watched recruits put through their paces.

Their expertise, experience and knowledge are intended to help would-be green berets through their training and introduce the commandos to new audiences and communities.

Both are determined to show their commitment to their ambassadorial roles by taking on the physical challenges Royal Marines must pass to earn the coveted green beret.

"It is a privilege to be considered for this honorary role and to be associated with the Royal Marines," Victoria said.

"I appreciate and respect their dedication and commitment to excellence. As a civilian, I look forward to gaining insight and understanding into the demands and requirements necessary to be part of this elite group. I pledge to uphold the mindset and values of the Royal Marine Commandos with dedication and respect."

Dwayne added: "I've always respected the values, mindset and spirit of the Royal Marines, that 'strive to improve and inspire' attitude and its approach to respecting others.

"That's why I look forward to my association with the Corps, working closely with our brave serving personnel and the challenge of attempting the Commando tests."



The Royal Navy bestows honorary titles on a small group of individuals from across the UK— largely drawn from the worlds of business, academia and parliament.

They act as advocates for the Navy and Royal Marines, spreading the message that the Service is a force for good in the world, but also providing discreet insight, advice and counsel into the Navy's senior leadership team.

ON HAND AT TEN TORS

HERE'S something you don't see very often. Merlins in clear skies over Dartmoor.

For once, the annual challenge laid down before the nation's youth – to navigate their way around the bleak beauty of the national park – was not plagued by bad weather which has so often in the past dogged the Ten Tors.

Those foul conditions in previous years have frequently demanded the intervention of Commando Helicopter Force to assist.

This year, the Merlins were on hand again – it's an extremely useful training exercise for the wings of the Royal Marines – but without the need to perform dramatic rescues as the weekend was blessed with fine weather... permitting some fine pictures of Merlins in the field.

Tracing its history back to the late 1950s, the event has grown into one of

the largest outdoor activities in the UK.

Nearly 3,000 young people from all backgrounds and of all abilities responded to the challenge set by the British Army which runs the Ten Tors (officially Exercise Wyvern Tor).

Most – some 2,400 young people aged 14 and 19, drawn from schools, colleges and youth groups/organisations across the South West – converge on Okehampton to take on the two-day challenge.

Formed into teams of six, they tackle routes of 35, 45 or 55 miles (depending on their age), navigating their way around ten checkpoints or tors, hence the event's title, on the northern half of Dartmoor within two days.

In addition, around 400 youngsters with physical or educational needs – including a sizeable number of wheelchair users – take part in the shorter Jubilee Challenge

over courses up to 15 miles long.

All must complete their chosen routes, taking all they need to sustain them – food, fuel, tent, sleeping bag.

CHF are asked to help out with a myriad of tasks before and during the exercise – from delivering supplies and material to set up the check points, to standing by to evacuate casualties if necessary.

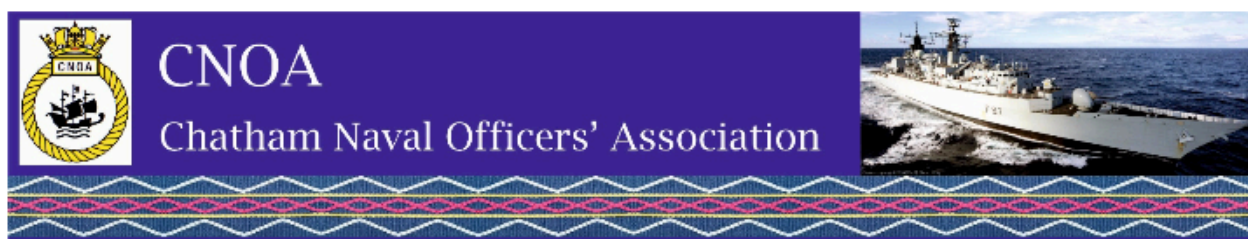
For the Yeovilton-base fliers and ground crew, Ten Tors is useful for training various skills: navigation over difficult terrain, low-flying, load lifting, transferring casualties from the battlefield, and generally operating in austere conditions far from a base.

The latter requires experts from the MAOT (Mobile Air Operations Team) to provide rudimentary facilities (not least food and fuel) in the wilds, while this year the helicopters themselves were provided by 846 Naval Air Squadron.



Programme for 2024

DATE	SPEAKER/ ACTIVITY	SUBJECT	COMMENT
12 January	Martin Watts	Otaki	Virtual meeting
9 February	AGM		
8 March	John de Rose	Merchant Ships of the 21 st Century	
12 April	Peter Gilbert	South Georgia	
10 May	James Morgan	Maintaining Historic Ships	James is the Ship Manager at Chatham Historic Dockyard
14 June	Matthew Scott	Policing in Kent	Matthew is the Kent Police & Crime Commissioner
5 July	Adam Taylor	The Defence of Sheppey	Note earlier date for meeting
August	No meeting. Summer Leave.		
13 September	Social evening		
25 October	Trafalgar Dinner, RSME		
8 November	Glen Jones	The Two Battles of El Teb 1884	
13 December	President's Christmas Social		



CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS



Joining Fee and Annual Subscription

With effect from 20th March 2023, new members will be required to pay a joining fee of £30 by cheque or transfer to CNOA at the following bank:

Metro Bank Sort code 23 05 80 Account 50484076

Cost £20 PA payable to Chatham Naval Officers Association

Address if required 2 Calverly Road, Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 2TB

On receipt of the joining fee new members will receive an Association tie or scarf and lapel badge. The Annual Subscription of £20 applies from the date of joining if this occurs before 1st July, and then will be renewed by Standing Order from the following 1st January.

New members who join after 1st July will be required to submit a Standing order from the following 1st January.

Annual Subscription – Current members

The annual subscription remains at £20 and, with effect from 1 January 2024, the subscription will be payable annually on that date. In the first instance, and to allow members time to alter their current standing order dates, a transition period of 3 months, to 31st March 2024 will be in place, after which an audit and follow up process will be undertaken.

CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL STANDING ORDER FORM

Please complete this form and return it to the Hon Treasurer: Lieutenant Jan Dean RNR, 79A Cherry Avenue, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7OU, or, if you prefer, you can scan a copy and email it to cnoauk@gmail.com. You can arrange a standing order electronically via your bank and, for those using traditional banking methods this form can be used to inform your bank of your instructions as below.

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

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Name of your Bank: _____

Address of your Bank: _____

Your Bank Sort Code: ____/____/____

Your Account Number: _____

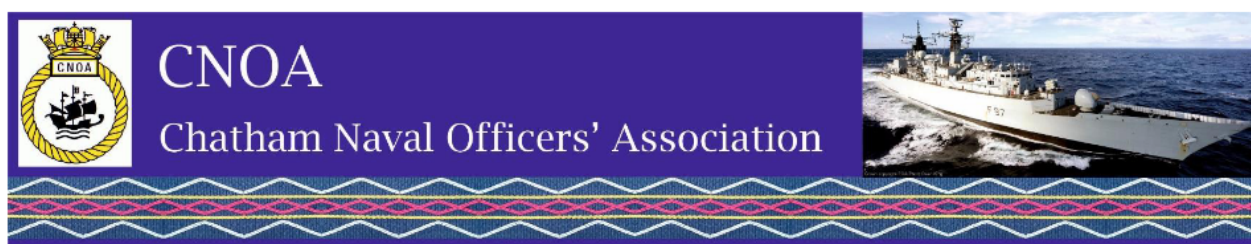
To my bank:

I request you to pay the regular sum of: £20 PA

Metro Bank sort code 23 05 80 account 50484076

Payable to Chatham Naval Officers Association

Address if required 2 Calverly Road, Tunbridge Wells Kent TN1 2TB



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



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				
<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		