

The World's Oldest Military Association – Est. 1887  
**Royal Naval Writers' Association**  
**Newsletter – February 2012**



*Foreword from the President*

2012 dawned fairly mild and wet but it is all change this February, so it's on with the thermals, turn up the central heating and hope there are no freeze ups until the weather changes yet again?

I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year on the occasion of our 125th Anniversary, and hope 2012 brings many of you who have been ill or down for whatever the reason a return to good health and for those who are fit and well long may you be so.

I know our Secretary will have plenty to say on the arrangements for the Grand National Draw and our Reunion Dinner, so rather than steal his thunder, may I ask you to, as always support the association and purchase the GN draw tickets and

attend the 125<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner.

**Colin Hughes**  
RNWA President

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RNWA President with  
Captain S. Murdoch RN  
CO HMS RALEIGH

Guest of Honour at the  
124<sup>th</sup> RNWA Reunion  
Dinner held at the WOs'  
& SRs' Mess HMS DRAKE  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011



**Election of Officers**

At the Annual General Meeting held in the Astor Hotel, Plymouth, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2011, the following were re-elected

Colin Hughes – *President*  
George Mytom-Hart BEM  
- *Treasurer*

Les Heyhoe – *Secretary*  
& Membership Secretary

*Committee Members:-*  
Philip 'Darby' Allen MBE  
Roland 'Nick' Carter  
Mike Moncur

**Committee Meetings**

Are held bi-monthly at  
the RNA Gosport PO13  
OAG at 7pm Tel: 01329  
310060 commencing:-

15<sup>th</sup> March            2012  
17<sup>th</sup> May  
19<sup>th</sup> July  
20<sup>th</sup> September  
15<sup>th</sup> November    2012

The 2012 AGM will be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov '12; not at the Reunion Dinner as in 2010/2012.



## "Crossed The Bar"

Members who in 2011 have 'Crossed the Bar':-

Sue	Bayliss *
Ray	Fairbank
Robert	Gardiner
David	Hickling
Frank	Martin
Stuart	Nixon
Joseph	Watson

\* Sue passed away in December and retired due to ill health as the former RNWA Treasurer prior to George Mytom-Hart who *temporarily* took over 5 years ago.

## Ever Wondered ....

The military widely use this diplomatic and polite phrase for advising of departed friends and comrades but do you know where it originates from?

"Crossing the Bar" is a 1889 poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson that is traditionally the last poem in collections of his work. It is thought that Tennyson wrote it as his own elegy, as the poem has a tone of finality about it. The narrator uses an extended metaphor to

compare death to crossing the "sandbar" between the tide or river of life, with its outgoing "flood," and the ocean that lies beyond death, the "boundless deep," to which we return.

Tennyson wrote the poem after a serious illness while at sea, crossing the Solent from Aldworth to Farringford on the Isle of Wight. Shortly before he died, Tennyson told his son Hallam to "put 'Crossing the Bar' at the end of all editions of my poems".

In his poem there is an extended metaphor of "crossing of the bar" representing travelling serenely and securely from life through death. He implies in the poem that the Pilot is a metaphor for God, whom the speaker hopes to meet face to face. Tennyson explained, "The Pilot has been on board all the while, but in the dark I have not seen him...[He is] that Divine and Unseen Who is always guiding us."

## Membership

Honourary Members	= 2
Life Members	= 43
Members	= 175
Total	= <b>220</b>



## Grand National - April

Please do your best to either purchase all or some of the tickets enclosed or sell the tickets for this year's Grand National i.e. at a £1 per ticket or £5.00 for a book and £10.00 for them both! The aim is to exceed last year's effort and *make this year the best profit year ever!?*

This is your opportunity to make that extra effort and 2012 the year to remember because it is of course the RNWA's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

The profits from this raffle will be used to produce a specially printed RNWA Directory to be issued to all those members at the RNWA Reunion Dinner October 2012 and by post to those unable to attend.

Please ensure you notify the RNWA of any Change of Address details within the next three months!?

**Les Heyhoe - Secretary**  
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