

# Royal Naval Writers' Association

## Newsletter – July 2016

The World's Oldest Military Association – Est. 1887 – [www.rnwa.co.uk](http://www.rnwa.co.uk)



### **Foreword from the President**

Fellow Scribes,

I was going to ask if you were enjoying the marvellous weather but alas it has all changed. It must have happened because I held a barbecue and washed the car and I tried to sneak up on the weather but alas it found me out. Perhaps sunnier weather is around the corner?

I am sure you will join me in congratulating our RNWA Secretary who has recently been awarded by his local council 'In recognition of eminent Services to the Community of Gosport' the title of "Citizen of the Year 2016". Keep up the good work for all that you also do for the RNWA! - BZ Les.

Rear Admiral Chris Gardner, Assistant Chief of Naval Ships (ACNS) has very kindly accepted the RNWA's invitation to be the Guest of Honour at our 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Dinner to be held at the Union Jack Club, London on Friday 14 October 2016, 19:00 for 19:30 (AGM at 18:30).

I hope to see a good turnout as by choosing London as our venue (the first time to be held outside of 'Pompey' or 'Guzz' for decades!) we hope it suits more people travel wise.



**Cost: Members £25.00**  
and Guests £35.00 (All Welcome i.e. Family and Friends) – see the website for full details and an application form.

**Closing Date: 23 Sept'16**

Let me add that I hope the weather does improve and you all enjoy an excellent summer. I am sure our Secretary will have more to say so over to him.

**Colin Hughes**

RNWA President

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### **Committee Meetings**

Are held bi-monthly at the RNA Gosport PO13 0AG at 7pm Tel: 01329 310060 commencing: -

21<sup>st</sup> July 2016

15<sup>th</sup> September 2016

17<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Members are welcome to attend with guests.

### **"Crossed The Bar"**

Schhhh! It is with great pleasure that I write to advise that all is well and members are 'fit and healthy' with no known member's deaths for 2016. I will however advise that past member FCPO Wtr / WO1 Wtr Peter Grocott has sadly 'Crossed the Bar' in 2016

## Treasurer's Report

As reported by George Mytom-Hart BEM: -

£5,777.73 as at 26/4/16

Included in the above total is £1,305.00 in respect of payments received for the Reunion Dinner and a healthy net profit as reported later from the 2016 Grand National Draw.

## Grand National 2016

Thank you to everyone who purchased or sold tickets which made a net grand total of £968.75 for the RNWA to ensure our future running costs and subsidised activities.

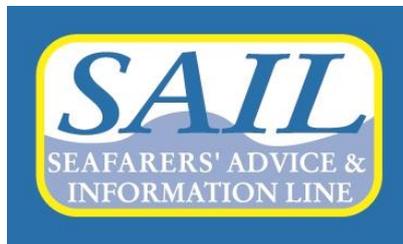
For full details on who had their ticket(s) drawn, what horse(s) they were allocated, whether they ran, were non-runners, fell or pulled up etc. then please view the website.

That said, here are some of the winners: -

'The Last Samurai'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ticket No.1451 Winner Adrian Hamilton of Mamhilad who received £60.00

Dennis Finch  
John Phillips  
Norman Howden  
Andrew Whitfield  
D E Bartlett  
Stanley Matthews  
G Hargraves  
J Robinson  
Norman Baker

All the above each received £10.00



Seafarers' Advice & Information Line (SAIL) is the only Citizens Advice service dedicated to seafarers across the UK.

SAIL has been giving support to merchant seafarers and fishermen for 20 years. *It has now expanded and can give free advice to anyone who has ever served in the Royal Navy which includes widows and widowers & partners.*

SAIL can give advice on all of these and many more –

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- Ø Debts and money problems
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## 'Our History' – The Battle of Jutland

Commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a great World War 1 naval battle, the RNWA has come into possession of the personal 15 page 'Journal' of Petty Officer (First Class Writer) Albert Symonds who served on board the Town Class Light Cruiser HMS SOUTHAMPTON.



Albert was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1888, a year after the RNWA was established.

The battle raged from May 31 to June 1 1916.

Albert begins his notes at 6pm on the evening of Friday, June 2, 1916 at Rosyth.

To read his truly remarkable journal visit the website 'Our History'

## ***Les Heyhoe***

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