



Getting Underway

May/June
2015

Royal Naval Association
Bridlington Branch Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Ahoy Shipmates!

POINTS OF INTEREST

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Welcome to the May edition of our newsletter.

It's been a busy month of Charity collections this month with stands at Morrisons and the Tour de Yorkshire as well as a sterling job done at the Easter Sunday car boot sale by S/m Roy "Smudge" Smith and his wife more of which will be mentioned in the fundraising section of this newsletter.

Preparations are being made to mark the 70th Anniversary of VE Day. Dates and times of events can be found below in the news section.

S/m standard bearer paraded our standard on Saturday 25th April at the remembrance service for the ten servicemen of Bridlington that lost their lives on the same day. They were killed moving to the front after a German gas attack in Belgium on the 25th April 1915. One of the men, Private George Denny, was just 16 years old.

*Once Navy,
Always Navy*



Remembering the ten men of Bridlington That lost their lives on the same day in WWI

News

The RNA will parade on Saturday the 9th May 2015 at Bridlington cenotaph to commemorate the 70th anniversary of VE day. We will muster at 10.30am and following this a brief morning soiree at a local refreshment parlour. After which we have been invited to attend Royal British Legion's Alderson House for a 1940's style street party. This will commence at 14.00hrs and will include entertainment with refreshments available. Early evening there has been an invite to attend the Barmston Village 1940's day. This will start at 1800hrs at the church where there will be a service at which our Standard and the Union flag will be in attendance for sunset. At 19.00hrs we head for the village hall for the evenings festivities. WWII veterans will have free entry whilst entry fee for all others is £5.00 a head. Transport to and from the Village has been arranged for all WWII veterans wishing to attend.

Bridlington Vintage Fair



Vintage Fair Sunday
24th May 2015

Bridlington 1940's vintage fair will take place at the Spa Theatre On Sunday 24th May 2015. We have secured a stall and we are seeking volunteers to man it. In particular the organisers have asked if some of our WWII veterans would be available to share their experiences of the war-time years with visitors on the day. Our stall will hopefully be displaying some WWII memorabilia along with our own goodies that will be available for visitors to purchase all adding to our funds.

At the fair there will be some of the finest purveyors of vintage, the cream of 1940's

entertainers and a whole host of everything vintage crammed into one day. Amongst the entertainers will be Paul Casper aka "The George Formby Experience" and the excellent Natasha Harper vintage vocalist.

Ladies can be pampered at the Vintage hair salon whilst the Gents get a cut throat shave at the Barbers. Shop at over 70 vintage stalls with time for refreshments in the dedicated Vintage Tearoom or the 1940's style "NAAF" cafe.

Opens 10am-5pm adults £2.50 OAPs £2.00
If you would like to volunteer please see a member of the committee for further details.

Great Warships of the Royal Navy

HMS Hood was the last battlecruiser built for the Royal Navy. Commissioned in 1920, she was named after the 18th-century Admiral Samuel Hood. One of four Admiral-class battlecruisers ordered in mid-1916, *Hood* had serious design limitations, though her design was drastically revised after the Battle of Jutland and improved while she was under construction. For this reason she was the only ship of her class to be completed.

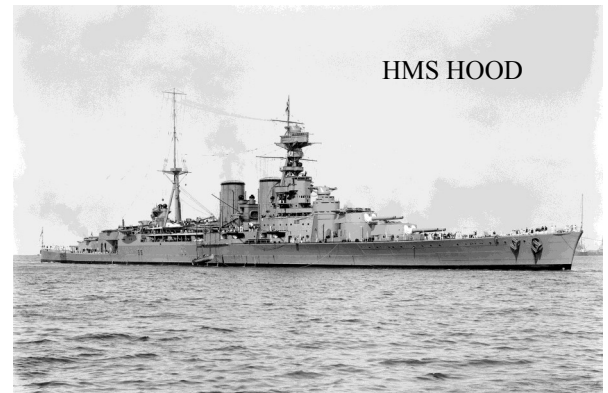
As one of the largest and, ostensibly, the most powerful warships in the world, *Hood* was the pride of the Royal Navy and carrying immense prestige, was known as 'The Mighty Hood'.

Hood was involved in several showing the flag exercises between her commissioning in 1920 and the outbreak of war in 1939, including training exercises in the Mediterranean Sea and a circumnavigation of the globe with the Special Service Squadron in 1923 and 1924. She was attached to the Mediterranean Fleet following the outbreak of the Second Italo-Abyssinian War. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, *Hood* was officially assigned to the Mediterranean Fleet until she had to return to Britain in 1939 for an overhaul. By this time, advances in naval gunnery had reduced *Hood's* usefulness. She was scheduled to undergo a major rebuild in 1941 to correct these issues, but the outbreak of World War II in September 1939 forced the ship into service without the upgrades.

When war with Germany was declared, *Hood* was operating in the area around Iceland, and she spent the next several months hunting between Iceland and the Norwegian Sea for German commerce raiders and blockade runners. After a brief overhaul of her propulsion system, she sailed as the flagship of Force H, and participated in the destruction of the French Fleet at Mers-el-Kebir. Relieved as flagship of Force H, *Hood* was dispatched to Scapa Flow, and operated in the area as a convoy escort and later as a defence against a potential German invasion fleet.

In May 1941, she and the battleship *Prince of Wales* were ordered to intercept the German battleship *Bismarck* and the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, which were en route to the Atlantic where they were to attack convoys. On 24 May 1941, early in the Battle of the Denmark Strait, *Hood* was struck by several German shells, exploded and sank. Due to her perceived invincibility, the loss had a profound effect on the British people.

Source: wikipedia



Fundraising

On Easter Sunday S/M Roy “Smudge” Smith and his wife held a car boot sale on behalf of Bridlington RNA at Skirlington with items donated by members. The day was very successful and Smudge managed to collect **£148.50**.

A big thank you to Smudge and his wife for a great effort to help boost our coffers.

On Friday 1st May we saw the inaugural Tour de Yorkshire leave from Bridlington. We managed to secure a slot just along from the start of the race. S/m Smudge was up bright and early along with several other shipmates to set up our gazebo collection point. The event was well attended and there were some generous donations. A grand total of **£105.25** was collected so once again thanks to those that volunteered their time.



On Saturday 25th April several ship mates manned the stall at Morrisons supermarket. It was quite a busy day and we managed to collect a grand total of **£266.84**. The sea Cadets were also in attendance and collected **£53.14**. All in all a good days work and once again big thanks go to Smudge for being in store early to set up and catch the “early birds” which proved fruitful. Many thanks also to all the shipmates that gave up their time to collect.

Our next fundraiser will be at the Bridlington Vintage Fair on Sunday 24th May. See opposite for more details.

Grand total collected in April/May so far £520.59

Meet a Shipmate Able Seaman Mike “Blakey” Blake

Mike joined the Royal Navy as a Junior Seaman on the 17th of October 1966 at HMS Ganges. After initial training he was trained as a Radar Plotter (RP) at **HMS Dryad** after which he took up a draft for his first position aboard **HMS Cleopatra** in December of 1967 and served on board her for two and half years, during which time he progressed to the rank of Able Seaman and his duties included boats party and bosons mate.

In December 1970 Mike joined **HMS Torquay** which was in Chatham dry dock for a refit. Shortly after this in January 1971 he joined **HMS Palister** which was his last ship before leaving the Andrew in November of that same year.

Mike moved to Bridlington to live with his parents for a short while after they had moved from his home City in Hull. He then took up a long career as a service bus driver having briefly been a conductor he progressed through to driving coaches and spent 14 years as a driver for Wallace Arnold based at their depot in Scarborough. Having been made redundant from Wallace Arnold Mike began driving Taxi's and in 1999 set up his own company Blakes Taxi's.

Blakey is slops manager for the branch and is a regular attendee at branch meetings.



**Royal Naval Association
Bridlington Branch**



Committee Members

Chairman: Martin Jolly 07765895697
 Secretary: Mike Rubery 01262 321938
 Treasurer: Lee Broadbent
 Standard Bearer: Martin Barmby 07786228229
 Welfare Officer: Martin Jolly 07765895697
 Email the secretary at: secretarybridrna@gmail.com

Once Navy, Always Navy
Unity, Loyalty, Patriotism, Comradeship

Come and meet us for a social drink, some banter and a few dits. All serving and ex-serving members of the Royal Navy and their families are welcome, as well as our comrades from the Army or RAF.

We muster on the first Thursday of the month at 19:30

In "The Old Ship" St Johns Street Bridlington

EVERYBODY WELCOME

We're on the web at www.bridlington-rna.co.uk

THE POPPY CLUB

ALDERSON HOUSE
 Every Tuesday 2.15pm—4.00pm
 Ex-servicemen or dependant

COMING EVENTS INCLUDE

May 12th Exercise with Faye
 May 26th Play Your Cards Right

Shipmates are encouraged to join the Poppy Club that is held every Tuesday afternoon between 14.15hrs and 16.00hrs at the RBL's Alderson House on South Marine Drive. Entry is free and a number of events take place every month including live music, dominoes, card games, bingo and a general dit spinning session with free tea and coffee provided.

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Sudoku - Easy

Buddies In Boats Reunion

Along with the successful launch of the Bridlington & District Submariners Association the Facebook group of submariners "Buddies in Boats" have organized a reunion weekend for serving and ex-submariners to be held in Bridlington over the weekend of Friday 29th & Saturday 30th of May. The venue is The Old Ship and RNA members have an open invite to join them. Saturday will include a buffet which will be charged at £6.95 a head if you would like to attend please inform branch secretary who will inform the organisers.

