

# Royal Naval Writers' Association

## Newsletter – July 2017

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



Dear Scribes,

It is nice to see that summer is here at last with long days and in some cases sunny ones.

As you read this we now have a new government and I hope we will not have heard and seen more atrocities in our streets. Our thoughts go out to those still recovering and to the relatives of those who died in the terror attacks.

Many of you will have read that Commander Geoffrey Straw died on 29 March 2017. The funeral was for family only so the Association was not represented but sent a donation to SSAFA for which Geoff worked for many years and for which he received the Member of the British Empire (MBE) medal.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Mrs Pat Prior BEM QVRM has agreed to serve on the

RNWA Committee and become the Treasurer, subject to ratification at the Annual General Meeting in October 2017.

I am sure you will join me in thanking the outgoing Treasurer George Mytom-Hart BEM for his sterling service, seeing as though George stepped in at short notice on a 'temporary basis' over nine (9) years ago.



The Committee has taken upon itself to propose and revise the 'Rules and Guidelines of the Association'.

"The Constitution and Rules of the Royal Naval Writers' Association" as proposed are on the website for your examination, please see:

[www.rnwa.co.uk](http://www.rnwa.co.uk)

The committee would be grateful if you would carefully examine them

and forward any comments directly to me or the Secretary, so that we can get them finally agreed and ratified at the AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> October '17.

### Can You Help!?

Via the RNWAs' enquiry website and Secretary we have been contacted by a Teresa Leggett: -

"Amongst our deceased Mother's possessions was a purse (picture below). Mum was the last member of her side of the family and unfortunately, we have no information as to where it came from - have just discovered though we do have family connections in Yorkshire (a John Richard Turner who later moved to Essex - we are in Suffolk). Just wondered if you have any knowledge as to where it came from and/or why it was made?"



Badge of HMS CERES so what year and what for?

Any knowledge as to the reason for the purses existence, or if you or a relative are in possession of a similar purse, it's background and history would be appreciated.

A *final reminder* about the 130<sup>th</sup> Reunion Dinner



on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October with our Guest of Honour The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB ADC and Lady Elizabeth at the UJC.

See you at the Dinner or if not be safe and healthy for the remainder of 2017

### **Colin Hughes**

RNWA President

3 Barnes Lane  
Sarisbury Green  
Southampton Hants.  
SO31 7DA  
Tel. 01489 573101  
Email:-  
colin\_hughes1@sky.com

### **Membership 2017**

3 Hon. Life Members  
32 Life Members  
227 Associate Members  
262 Total \*

\* 50 Are female members i.e. 19% compared to 9% two years ago.

### **Grand National - April**

If you haven't viewed the website or received a cheque in the post then you might not be aware of the following: -

*CPO Will Brill* of HMS SULTAN (Gosport) won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of £200 with the horse "One For Arthur" winning the 2017 Grand National. 79 runners were drawn, as declared on Mon 3rd April by the RNWA Committee, at the home address of the Secretary on the evening of Tue 4th April, and all persons notified by the start of the race on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017. For safety there was a maximum of only 40 permitted runners, of which 19 crossed the finishing line, therefore £470 has been paid out in prize money. The remaining 21 horses either fell or were pulled up. John Hargreaves of Waterlooville received £60 for 'Cause Of Causes' being placed 2nd, with Brian Wead of Ringwood receiving £40 for 'Saint Are' placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thomas Richardson of Helston with 'Blaklion' placed 4<sup>th</sup> receiving £20. The remainder 5th to 19th all received £10 for passing the finishing post – full details and results can be viewed on the website.

### **The 'Writer Branch' 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The 'Writer Branch' was formally established in 1867 and 'Wtrs' training currently takes place at HMS RALEIGH at the Defence Maritime Logistics School (DMLS).



"A reversal of Roles" depicts RNWA President Colin Hughes working at the Computer and Logistician (Writer) Saskia Hutton using a typewriter. Writer Saskia Hutton passed out of training on 7 April 2017 and we wish her and her classmates every success in the future.

A presentation by DMLS trainees was given on 'The History of the Branch' and the RNWA & 'old Scribes' were invited to attend.

To view a group picture and more details about the presentation please see the website.

### **Les Heyhoe BCav**

Newsletter Editor & Producer  
The Secretary & Membership

Email: les@heyhoe.com  
Tel: 02392 357181 / 07950 934888