



Unity - Loyalty
Patriotism & Comradeship

Welcome to the latest edition of Up Spirits; the bi-monthly newsletter of the Royal Naval Association – Norwich Branch.

This month we have an article from S/M Ken Baish on the F35 jet.

Articles from The Monthly Circular and Up Spirits are also available on the Branch Website along with postings on Naval History and Traditions.

Up Spirits!

NORWICH BRANCH NEWS

**Branch Hon. Secretary
and Editor**

Shipmate Gus Honeywood
11 Lakeland Way
Hethersett
Norfolk
NR9 3QA
01603 947391
E-mail: rna.norwich@gmail.com

Inside This Issue

From the Quarterdeck – The President's Piece.....	1
Secretary's Report	2
Welfare Report.....	3
From the Monthly Circular.....	3
Shipmate Submissions	3
New Members.....	3
The F35 Fighter Jet Is A Great Deal for Britain	4
Special Solution to Loneliness with Man's Best Friend	5
Jacks Taxi.....	5
Calendar of Events – 2018	6
Future Editions of Up Spirits.....	6

From the Quarterdeck – The President's Piece

Shipmate Mike Mizen

Since my last contribution to Up Spirits I have been wracking my brain to think of some significant event that has occurred which is worthy of me writing about. England getting knocked out of the World Cup I suppose, but I wasn't entirely surprised; in fact I was more surprised when they got as far as they did. England beating the world number one Test team in the first Test, and as we speak, likely to do the same again in the second Test, now that is worth reporting!

But there is something else, something that nearly everyone can't stop talking about; THE WEATHER! Wow, a long hot summer like we used to have (that's a myth by the way – very few summers have been this hot) and for a long time a complete absence of rain. That's the bit I wasn't too keen on, my grass resembles what passed for a lawn at the Naval Base, HMS Jufaire, in Bahrain in the early sixties. But how nice is it to sit outside in the late evening, glass of vino or whatever in your hand, and not think about getting ready for bed as it is still too hot. I loved it. And then we had some rain, not a lot, but enough to cool things down a bit. How attitudes changed, already I have heard people moaning about the weather, how the summer is over, typical British weather, etc. etc. By the time Up Spirits is distributed the sun will be out again, trust me, and we will all be back smiling again.

To continue the happy note, well my happy note anyway, I will cease working as from the 31st August (go on, say it, when did he ever work, get it off your chest). But seriously folks, my last day in employment is fast approaching and it did get me thinking about some of the adventures I have had since I first started as a sixteen-year-old working in an art studio in

London, training to be a retouching artist. Since that time I have never been out of work, in fact I have only ever had four jobs, the initial one in the studio, the Royal Marines, the Police, and finally the company I work for now. By some standards that is probably considered to be quite unadventurous, but I wouldn't have changed it for the world. In one way or another all the jobs complimented one another in some shape or form, even being an artist. If I wasn't able to draw I would never have been considered for a job in military intelligence, if I hadn't served in the Royal Marines I certainly would not have been given some of the jobs that I had in the Police, and if it wasn't for the Police and my role as Offshore Liaison Officer, I would never have been offered a role with my present employer. And I have no doubt that many of you are in the same boat, what you learnt and experienced in one job provided a stepping stone to another job.

When I look back, there is no doubt in my mind that the one job that influenced me more than any other was being in the Services. It was the Royal Marines that taught me self-discipline, leadership, perseverance, confidence, endurance, you name it, all the good things that get you through life's ups and downs. As a (very) lightweight seventeen-and-a-half-year-old I made the momentous decision to join the Royal Marines, following a family tradition (father was a Band Master in the RM Band, grandfather WO11 Chief Clerk, great grandfather Sergeant RM Light Infantry, great great grandfather Sergeant RM Artillery – no pressure then) and although sometimes it got a bit tough, I have no regrets.

I wonder how many of you feel the same way about your time in the Services?

Do you regret it?

Answers to Gus for inclusion in future editions of Up Spirits.

Secretary's Report

Shipmate Gus Honeywood

Well, eyes down for another edition of Up Spirits. I am sure you have all enjoyed the exceptional weather we have encountered over the last couple of months, although if you're anything like me you will also be enjoying the current break in the mercury busting temperatures.

Since the last edition of Up Spirits, the Social Calendar has yet again been full with the Armed Forces Flag Raising and Forum events in the City, very many thanks to all those that represented the Branch at these events. July started with an exceptional Sunday Lunch at Bawburgh Golf club, although the meat in the carvery wasn't the only things that were well cooked by the end of the meal. The next time we visit will be for our Christmas Lunch, and I would recommend anyone who hasn't yet attended to put their name down for the event.

At the end of July a number of our members enjoyed the family's day at RAF Marham, although I am led to believe that the increase in temperatures made for an arduous day. Remaining on the RAF Marham topic, I am sure you will have seen that the original 4 F35B's have now been joined by another 5 of the aircraft; and it is encouraging to see so much Naval related activity being associated with the county. Before I move on from the Marham association; we are pleased to announce that our Guest of Honour for this year's Trafalgar Night will again be Lt Cdr Anna Townsend, SMETO of the Meteorological Office at RAF Marham; Nev has also managed to organise our Guest of Honour for the 2019 event, and this will link in with the Branches recent visit to HMS Queen Elizabeth.

The beginning of August saw our bucket collection at Roy's in Hoveton, and I am led to believe that a fantastic amount of money has been raised and thanks must be given to all those that attended. Our next bucket collection will take place at Morrisons in Wymondham leading up to Christmas.

The next couple of months see further social events, please keep an ear open at Branch Meetings and an eye on our website or Facebook Group for all the news relating to social events.

Finally, before I close, I was interested to see the proposal at Conference for HQ to create a working group to investigate the feasibility of managing membership centrally rather than at Branch level. My own personal belief is that whilst this is an extremely sensible suggestion and if the process was later implemented, would see the Association 'moving with the times'; Furthermore, I think that this process would have to be rolled out over a period of time and whilst Shipmates should be encouraged to sign up to the new scheme, they should still be allowed to make cash payments at Branch level where required i.e. those that do not have or do not want a bank account.

Whilst I understand that not everyone would be comfortable with this new process, the great majority of people do now have bank accounts and I would gauge that the majority of people make at least one direct debit from their bank, so doing the same with RNA membership fees shouldn't be too much of an issue. The knock-on effect would, I surmise, see the requirement for a membership team to be installed at HQ and as with the Royal British Legion, who has also made the move to pay membership fees centrally, the Branch would still require someone to manage the membership at Branch level and also control the cash payments fees and returns to HQ.

The problem I see would come if an immediate change was to be implemented and I understand that the RBL lost approximately 25% of their membership through this process; although I understand that this has been coupled by making their application for membership online only.

Whatever happens we definitely have some interesting times ahead.

Welfare Report

Shipmate Phil Coates

July has been a steady month thankfully, and I am pleased to say that we are approaching the 80th birthday of S/M Graham Rowland, we must admire his determination to overcome his recent illness which led to periods in both high-dependency and critical care, which was an extremely concerning time for all of Graham's family. But, as he has done in the past he once again showed he has the fight in him to overcome illness; I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing Graham a very happy 80th birthday and we should see Graham at Trafalgar Night!

Shipmates may find the following website of interest: www.sailline.org.uk which is the Seafarers' Advice and Information Line; this is described as the Citizens Advice Line for seafarers. In addition to this advice, it may also be of interest to some members and their families to know that the Royal British Legion has six care homes which provide short and long-term care for serving personnel and veterans. One home is situated in Norfolk and that is Hadley House, Cromer (01263 512178), incidentally, this home is also a specialist centre for dementia care.

If you have any welfare related concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

From the Monthly Circular

White Ensign at Funerals – Regulations

Shipmates should be aware that official confirmation has been received concerning when it is appropriate to dress a coffin with a White Ensign.

Mr Paul Burrows-Gibson who is employed by Veterans Bereavement Support wrote to the MOD requesting clarification of the rules after he recognised that there was a great deal of confusion about this issue amongst Shipmates. The letter providing the response from the MOD can be found at the rear of this edition.

In summary, White Ensigns can be used at any private funeral ie not publicly funded (paid) for by the Government. In that case only Union Flags may be used.

National Museum for the Royal Navy – Tattoo Dits

The National Museum are canvassing the Naval Service in support of an exhibition on a national tour which has been curated by the National Maritime Museum Cornwall and will also be included as part of the interactive part of Tattoo: British Tattoo Art Revealed exhibition in the Historic Dockyard and shared on an online gallery on Facebook. The images and tales will build on research collected at naval family fetes and will be used as part of the exhibition outreach sessions working with community groups talking about the custom. If your personnel wish to contribute, please get them to contact tattoo@nmrn.org.uk

Union Jack Club

The Union Jack Club www.ujclub.co.uk is a private members club for Non-Commissioned Serving and veteran members of HM Armed Forces and is located in Waterloo central London. With over 260 bedrooms, a restaurant, bars, private rooms, espresso café, baggage store, games and changing rooms it has a lot to offer its members.

Bedrooms are single, double, twin, and family rooms, as well as our apartments (suitable for up to six adults), are equipped with flat screen TVs, tea and coffee making facilities, toiletries, and luxury towels.

If you have never experienced our Union Jack Club hospitality and friendly atmosphere we would recommend that you come and see first-hand. Check out our reviews on Google or TripAdvisor to see what people are saying about the Club or the video at www.ujclub.co.uk.

Membership currently is £20 for the initial year then £17 after that and can be done via www.ujclub.co.uk/membership where a long list of benefits is listed.

Veterans ID Cards – Latest

Shipmates will be interested to know that personnel leaving the armed forces will now be able to keep their military ID, Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Tobias Ellwood, has announced.

A decision is still to be reached concern those who are already outside. Please read this link for further information <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/veterans-to-retain-military-id-allowingeasier-access-to-services>. GS will be pressing the case with Vets UK this month.

Shipmate Submissions

Breakfast Club and Branch Run Ashore

Shipmate Gus Honeywood

The next Branch Run Ashore is organised for [Saturday 1 September 2018](#) at The Plough, 58 St Benedicts St, Norwich, NR2 4AR.

We will be meeting at 2000 and a link for the event can be found at [Link](#) for those that use Facebook.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members of the Branch

Shipmate Joan Ellis
Associate Member

Our next breakfast club get together is organised for 1000 on **Saturday 6 October 2018** at Broadland View, Broadlands Business Park, Old Chapel Way, Norwich, NR7 0WG.

Normandy Memorial Shipmate Gus Honeywood

You may not be aware that The Royal British Legion is supporting the Normandy Memorial which will be inaugurated next year to mark the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. The Normandy Memorial Trust has spent the last 12 months researching the names of those who lost their lives under British command between 5 June and 31 August 1944. This is a unique collection of names which have never before been recorded and will appear on the British Normandy Memorial soon to be built in Ver-sur-Mer, Normandy.

You can find the Roll of Honour by visiting www.normandymemorialtrust.org in case you wish to check that the name of an individual is accurately recorded, or to let the Trust have a name that is not on the Roll. All suggestions will need to be submitted to The Normandy Memorial Trust before the end of April, so please pass this communication on to your members, in order for them to have their say before the deadline.

This a fine trawl just in case a D/Day Veteran is not listed so please distribute as far and wide to the Naval Community as you can

The F35 Fighter Jet Is A Great Deal for Britain

Shipmate Ken Baish

I read recently an article written by the US Ambassador to the UK. Robert Wood JOHNSON, Robert JOHNSON is a billionaire US businessman whose family own and operate the Johnson and Johnson baby powder and cosmetic empire. Possibly the largest such company in the world.

He starts by stating that "The UK is a key partner in developing a warplane that has the speed, stealth and 'brains' to change warfare. He goes on to state among a host of other things that the "F35 is a game changer. It combines supersonic speed with the stealth needed in 21st Century air combat. Only the F35 can evade modern detection systems effectively to penetrate deep into enemy territory. It is also the most intelligent jet of all time. A flying super computer, it has incredibly advanced capabilities in data fusion.

It can collect a huge amount of information, build a complete picture of the battle situation and broadcast this securely to other aircraft on the mission. One F35 can raise everybody else's game. Mr Johnson is a great friend of Donald Trump and we apparently have ordered 138 of these planes.

It was not reported but has been confirmed that Turkey has either purchased or is about to purchase similar airplanes as a NATO partner. As a " NATO partner" Turkey is also reported to be buying a Russian S-400 surface to air missile system and I suggest that it will not be long before Russia is fully aware of the capabilities of these aircraft before they are built and supplied. It is also planned to maintain and repair these aircraft in Turkey once we have them. How about that then?

Of further concern is a report I again read responding to the statements made by the US Ambassador Robert Johnson. Mr Johnson remember is a hugely successful businessman without any military origins and just sold us initially 138 of these aircraft with a multibillion dollar price tag.

I quote the reply I read to his article which is headed; RIP OFF JETS.

RIP OFF JETS

"When will this nonsense about the F.35B aircraft stop? It is the most ridiculous defence expenditure this country has ever taken on - for a weapon which, like all other weapons will soon be rendered obsolete by counter-measures. Thanks to its vertical landing system it has a small range and endurance than the F.35A and F35C counterparts and a smaller weapon carrying capacity. America's ambassador to Britain tells us that 15 per cent of each aircraft will be manufactured in Britain but does not mention that the aircraft will be maintained and repaired in Turkey. Far worse however is the fact that someone persuaded the Ministry of Defence then under Phillip Hammond to limit the capabilities of the Royal Navy's two new Aircraft Carriers. These ships which should have been a superb addition to the fleet, have no angled flight deck, and no catapults or arrester system. Consequently, they have no role in modern, international maritime aviation as no allied aircraft could land on them, either during exercises or in emergency.

The British Army would never have come up with such an absurd idea, nor would the Royal Navy. How then was this dud scheme approved?"

I believe we have or are associated with some FAA Shipmates who are familiar with these aircraft and their future with the fleet. Perhaps they can be asked to reply and confirm which on the surface, if the truth, this whole exercise has been poorly thought out and a grotesque waste of money. I personally have never served on a Carrier and know little about them especially the flight deck workings and the aircraft they support. Most interested to know if they have a similar view.

Warning!!! DO YOU HEAR THERE - Don't get old!

Best regards to all.

Special Solution to Loneliness with Man's Best Friend

Ms Helen Tyler

Have you always wanted a dog but worried you couldn't look after it full time? A company in South Norwich is giving people the chance to dog-sit whilst their owners are on holiday.

Barking Mad South Norwich offers dog-loving people the chance to take in a pooch on a temporary holiday, allowing you to enjoy the social aspects of going out walking and the company of a wagging tail at home. You would also become a member of the Barking Mad family of hosts which meet periodically at organised events.

This March, Helen has become the proud owner of Barking Mad South Norwich. With Helen and her wife being dogless due their busy teacher schedules, their first experience of the Barking Mad service was as hosts themselves. During term-time they could only host at the weekend but it meant their time off had a whole new purpose and meaning, filled with dog walks and meeting people in parts of Norfolk they had never visited. They were also fully supported by the Barking Mad franchisee in understanding how to provide the best care for the dogs as well as helping them to settle the dog in and maintaining their routine.

They are passionate about safeguarding the emotional and physical health and well-being of your dog, whilst you are away from them. Helen recruits and trains only the kindest and most nurturant hosts into their team, lovely people who want to welcome your dog into their homes.

Becoming a host by looking after someone else's dog whilst their owners are away, is all set up and organised by Helen, who take this otherwise often informal arrangement and make it fully safe, insured and easy to take part in without costing you a penny. As a dog holiday host, you provide a loving home environment where your doggy visitor relaxes and feels at home. Regular exercise and companionship is your part of the deal, the transport is dealt with by Helen. There is no need to worry about paperwork or dealing with the customer yourself because Helen takes care of this. All you need to do is meet up with Helen and you agree together; the type of dogs you like and when you are available to look after them.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Barking Mad Host and our Community, please give me a call Helen Tyler, 01603 340595 or email Helen.Tyler@barkingmad.uk.com

Jacks Taxi

Nick Barwis

This site has been created for all those men and women who have served at sea in the Royal Navy. In it you will find over 1800 short run limited edition artworks of Royal Navy ships past and present, plus many foreign naval and civilian ships, all created by ex-RN Cook and digital artist Nick Barwis.

We also have well over 500 framed ships crests, FAA Squadron Crests, RFA, Army Regimental and RAF Squadron crests on site.

The Navy has two things over the other two services - Its men (obviously!) and its ships. They're where we worked, laughed, slept and played. As we get older our memories fade a little and those we do retain become rosier the thicker the glass in our spectacles becomes! Hopefully this site will offer Jack the chance to rekindle those happy memories when we were young, daring and pretty carefree. We drunk way too much and spent far too much time in front of the Jimmy, but we laughed like drains at the incredible humour on the mess deck and primarily and above all (and against popular belief that we were there to protect the nation) we were there to get the girl!

It's pretty ironic that most of us are now more anchor faced than we ever were when we served in the Andrew. I hope you like the art.



Jacks Taxi
HOME TO THE UK'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF ROYAL NAVY SHIP ART
www.jackstaxi.net

Superb Limited Edition Art Prints

There are well over 1500 of Pusser's finest on the Jacks Taxi website, from WWI to the present day.

From the smallest patrol craft to the mightiest aircraft carrier, specialist ship to submarine, Jacks Taxi has it covered!

140 Capital Ships, 175 Destroyers, 360 Frigates, 260 Small Ships, 120 Submarines and 120 Oddities and RFAs. There are also ships from WWI & WWII, international Ships, Fleet Air Arm and Royal Marine sections in the ships store, along with a new non navy art section.

I am also proud to say that Jacks Taxi have art works of every Royal Navy ship that took part in the Falklands conflict and have also captured the return to port of all these heroic ships.

Solid wood frames are also available on site.

Art works are printed on waxed linen art paper using original fade resistant inks and measure 16" x 20" including mount. Each edition limited to 25 - £24.99 + UK/Worldwide p&p

Over 550 framed Ships Crests - £14.99



Calendar of Events – 2018

August

21st Branch Meeting – 1930

September

1st Branch Run Ashore — The Plough, NR2 4AR – 2000

4th Committee Meeting – 1930

8th-9th Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival

11th Branch Meeting – 1930

30th Royal Hospital School Holbrook Visit

October

2nd Committee Meeting – 1930

6th Breakfast Club — Broadland View, NR7 0WG – 1000

7th Nelson Service

9th Branch Meeting – 1930

13th Edith Cavell Service – 1030

20th Trafalgar Night Dinner – Wensum Valley Golf Club – 1930

21st El Alamein Service (Desert Rats) – Honingham, NR9 5BT – 1030

November

3rd Area 5 Quarterly – Rayleigh
Branch Run Ashore — The York Tavern, NR2 2AS – 2000

4th Dunkirk Veterans Remembrance Service – Honingham, NR9 5BT – 0930

6th Committee Meeting – 1930

10th Remembrance Service - Hethel 1030

11th Armistice Day and Remembrance Day Parade - City Memorial – 1015

13th Branch Meeting – 1930

December

1st Breakfast Club — Table Table, NR5 0TP – 1000

4th Committee Meeting – 1930

7th-8th Bucket Collection – Morrisons at Wymondham.

9th Christmas Sunday Lunch – Bawburgh Golf Club, NR9 3LU

11th Branch Meeting – 1930

2019

January

2nd Committee Meeting – 1930

8th Branch Meeting – 1930

February

5th Committee Meeting – 1930

12th Branch Meeting – 1930

March

5th Committee Meeting – 1930

12th Branch Meeting – 1930

April

2nd Committee Meeting – 1930

9th Branch Meeting – 1930

May

7th Committee Meeting – 1930

14th Branch Meeting – 1930

June

4th Committee Meeting – 1930

11th Branch Meeting – 1930

July

2nd Committee Meeting – 1930

9th Branch Meeting – 1930

August

6th Committee Meeting – 1930

13th Branch Meeting – 1930

September

3rd Committee Meeting – 1930

10th Branch Meeting – 1930

Future Editions of Up Spirits

Shipmate Gus Honeywood

The next edition of Up Spirits will be published for the October Branch Meeting, and I would request that all submissions for that edition are forwarded to me by 24 September 2018.

If you have any submissions for Up Spirits, then you can email them to me at rna.norwich@gmail.com.

All submissions will be gratefully received.