



August 2022

EDITORIAL

I hope that you are all managing to keep well and cool in what one might term ‘unseasonable’ conditions. As I write, the Met Office are forecasting even higher temperatures. If this continues, are we going to see our Service in tropical rig in the UK throughout the Summer months?!

Our next event, billed as a ‘Pub Lunch’ will take place in East Sussex. It will be in the form of a midday meal at a restaurant in Eastbourne (details below). Our Chairman experienced difficulty in finding suitable pubs for the numbers involved owing to their difficulty in finding sufficient staff to cover.

I should like to draw your attention to two items again details below and that is discount cards for SANO members and more details if you wish to contribute to the **HMS FITTLETON** memorial.

NEW MEMBER

The Association welcomes Mr Henry Hiley

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

An excellent lecture was given by Mr Graeme Macpherson on **The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)** which is an intergovernmental organisation of six

independent member states
whose principal function is to
mark, record and maintain the
graves and places of
commemoration of
Commonwealth of Nations
military service members who
died in the two World Wars. The
commission is also responsible
for commemorating

Commonwealth civilians who
died as a result of enemy action during the Second World War.

More than half of the 1,750 acres of ground under the Commission’s control is given over to fine horticulture, making maintenance a year-round task for 900+ gardeners.

The upkeep of all the war graves are the CWGC responsibility, even to the single grave that you may see in the local churchyard. The upkeep of these individual plots are sourced out to local gardeners who are not employees of the Commission. If however, they appear to be neglected, then any member of the public should contact the Commission who will rectify the matter.



EAST SUSSEX LUNCH

The lunch is to be held on **Thursday September 1st at 1215** at the **Pomodoro e Mozzarella Restaurant 23/24 Cornfield Terrace, Eastbourne. BN21 4NS.** See calling notice.

HMS FITTLETON MEMORIAL

In our May Newsletter it was not made clear to whom donations should be made. The details are below:

By cheque: Make it out to, PCC FITTLETON and send it to the Treasurer:
Angus Harley, 316 Haxton, Netheravon, Wilts SP4 9PY

DISPOSAL OF PLACE MATS

After many years service at Mess functions, SANO decided to replace the existing placemats. These are on offer to members at 50p each. Anyone interested in purchasing any of the above should contact Cdr Ian Wright either on tel: 01273 594697 or E-mail at sano.membership@gmail.com. All proceeds will go to Naval charities



DISCOUNT CARDS

I received the following email from Joe Kirk, our former Treasurer concerning '**THE BLUE LIGHT**' discount card.

Blue Light Card, named after the emergency services and similar, offers substantial discounts at a wide range of venues, providers and suppliers. These include Asda/George (10% off most things), Brewers Fayre (25% off food), BUPA, EE mobile (10%), Hornby (10%), Hungry Horse (20% off food), Millets (15% off), National Express (20% off, or flat fare £18 anywhere to anywhere), Peloton, RAC, Whitbread (25% off food).

The Blue Light Card is available to all forces personnel, regular or reserve, serving or retired, and MoD civilians. Cost £5 for 2 years. Proof of service required; those without can obtain from MoD via <https://submit-a-data-protection-request.service.mod.uk/start>.

Apply at www.bluelightcard.co.uk ”

NB. There is no problem in application for the card, but the card company requires some formal identification that I have found to my cost. They seem insist upon a recent payslip, which, of course, is out of the question for retired, non-employed members. They will NOT accept passports or driving licences! I have therefore resorted in making a submission to mod.uk as in Joe's letter and am still waiting!

It is interesting to note that the **DEFENCE DISCOUNT CARD** is administered by the same company, showing the same discounts and at the same fee!

NEW TESTBED SHIP-XV PATRICK BLACKETT

The Royal Navy has unveiled a new testbed ship to support trials of the latest tech and autonomous systems. The 42m, 270 -tonne vessel arrived in Portsmouth this week and is named after former Royal navy sailor and Nobel Prizewinner Patrick Blackett.



It will be used by the navy's experimentation and innovation experts NavyX who have been driving innovation across the service and testing new technology, kit and concepts, passing them quickly to the front line.

And procuring the Damen 4008 Fast Crew Supply ship has been an example of this with the boat purchased, adapted for Royal Navy use and delivered within 12 months.

Thanks to the addition of the XV-Experimental Vessel-Patrick Blackett, NavyX will be able to carry out more trials at sea to enhance the Fleet's operations and ensure the UK stays at the leading edge of naval warfare.

XV Patrick Blackett will enable NavyX to experiment without the need to place demand on other navy ships, many of which are deployed permanently away from UK waters. She will also offer the chance to work closer with industry and academia partners.

Damen Shipyards, in the Netherlands, won the contract for the test ship which can reach speeds of 20 knots and has been modified to support NavyX operations. (ARNO Matter)

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Date	Day/Time	Event	Venue	Speaker	Topic
1 Sept 2022	Thu 1215	Pub Lunch	Pomodora e Mozzarella Eastbourne		
22 Oct 2022	Sat 1830	Trafalgar Night Dinner		Cdr Debra Whittingham DGov Tower of London	
Nov 2022		Lecture/ Lunch		Stewart Angell	Secret Sussex

Best wishes, Bob