



EDITORIAL



This has not been an easy year for any of us and Covid still not yet eradicated. However, on the brighter side, SANO has had a very successful season with a full programme of events. Hopefully, your Committee will be able to put together a comprehensive programme for 2023. It is not always a simple task to obtain the services of speakers and this is where the membership can be of assistance, in forwarding to our Secretary (details below) their ideas for speakers and visits etc. I do encourage you to take this up. It remains for me this year to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2022

What a difference a year makes! Mask-wearing is now mostly a thing of the past but we still have some of those standard blue and white versions lurking around the house, in the car and in odd clothes pockets not to mention the FFP2s needed for travel to Europe. Full relaxation of Covid restrictions came too late for the EC to organise the Spring Mess Guest Night but we have held a number of events this year including a memorable visit to HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH (despite fires on the railway line which hindered a couple of would-be attendees) – one of our hosts was the XO who, in an earlier incarnation had been the Sussex URNU CO. Another left-over from Covid was the inability to find an East Sussex venue for a SANO pub lunch – so many hospitality establishments cannot find the staff to serve or cater for more than four to six at a time. An Italian restaurant in Eastbourne filled the bill nicely. Your EC intends to return to a full programme next year.



I am very happy to report that your EC has two new members: Lt Cdr Roger Martin and Lt Kieran Smyth (ex Sussex URNU). And, even happier to report a number of new members although, once again, anno domini has taken its annual toll and you will have read of our sad losses in the SANO Newsletters.

My message last year was tolerance, consideration, respect and enjoyment; this year has seen a full-scale invasion (ongoing) of one sovereign state against another, the very sad passing of a sovereign (check out Kleenex profits) and musical chairs of prime ministers and ministers of state – all of which have tested that message and given rise to an overall increase in our cost of living just before winter settles in. I do hope we have another mild one,

one which will keep the heating costs down. Thus, I think this year's message has as much to do with making sure that even with belt-tightening we might still find time and space to enjoy ourselves and our families over the festive season and into a new year.

My very best Season's Wishes to you all and to your families,
Richard Stanton, Chairman Sussex Association of Naval Officers

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD BOYCE KG GCB OBE DL

By the time this newsletter appears, the death of Admiral Boyce will be old news and you, the membership, will have read obituaries various outlining his career which it is not my intention to repeat here. However, he and I were 'old ships': for a little over a year, he was the CO when I was the WEO serving in an SSN. Several years ago, I gave a SANO lecture / lunch talk on 'Cold War Indications' which was based on my time in HMS SUPERB commanded by the then Cdr Mike Boyce.



All submarines are subject to a manoeuvring envelope which dictates the maximum permitted dived speed based on current depth and depth of water below the keel, the assumption being that if a hydraulic failure resulted in the planes collapsing to full dive, then, providing that immediate recovery action was taken, the boat could recover equilibrium without hitting the sea bed. It is the watch leader's responsibility to bear this in mind at all times and to point it out to the CO (or XO) when he 'has the ship'. This I duly did and he turned to me with a slight smile saying 'Thank you WEO, I know'. The only other time I saw that same, slight smile was when we were at periscope depth in the middle of an 'interesting' situation; he was singing out target set ups to a very quiet and very attentive control room crew!

I have several such memories of an officer with a very, very dry sense of humour, an absolute awareness of the situation and an intellect well above my pay grade!

(Richard Stanton)

WEBMASTER

Richard has relinquished the role of SANO Webmaster and has handed it over to **Lt Kiaran Smyth** whose details are to be found in the footer. Many thanks to Richard for the work that he has done in keeping our Website up to date.

THE CREST OF THE SUSSEX DIVISION RNR

SUSSEX DIVISION of the RNR was disbanded in 1994 as a part of the UK Defence cuts. Consequently, many pieces of memorabilia remain which date from the Sussex Division of the RNR, later the RNR which was established Hove in 1903. The Crest has been preserved by SANO operating from the Hove Club but storage limitations now dictate the dispersal of larger pieces of memorabilia and we are pleased to report that Shoreham Fort has much pleasure in accepting the plaque and below is an extract of a letter to Peter Jukes, who facilitated this, from Gary Baines (Chairman)



Dear Peter,

Thank you for thinking of us, we would love to have this unique piece of history in our collection.

It just so happens that the Secretary of the Charity was a wren at HMS Sussex too. We are at the fort once a fortnight on a Saturday at the moment between 11 and 16:00, the next actually being tomorrow. So I wonder whether it might be convenient for you to bring this lovely crest down to us on one of these dates please?

We are always looking for items that are part of the local military and defence history as we plan to eventually rebuild more of the fort as a museum as well as a multi purpose community asset but I will tell you more when I see you.

Thanks again and I'll look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards

Gary Baines

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2023

A full Events programme will be published later. Please note that on **SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 2023** we have a Lecture Lunch. 1100 for 1130 when the speaker will be **Vice Admiral Paul Bennett CB OBE.**



TAILPIECE

'Nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas'
(Kin Hubbard)

Best wishes and Christmas Greetings,

Bob