



### EDITORIAL

The AGM was held on Saturday 20 April, which was somewhat better attended than on previous occasions. The election of Officers to serve on the EC presented no surprises with all members returned en bloc and confirmation of Lt Cdr Roger Martin as Visits member and Lt Kieran Smyth who has taken on the responsibility of Webmaster. Cdr Ian Wright wished to have the 'Temporary' removed from his position as Treasurer as there was no other offer to fulfil the role.

The lecture on the Elizabeth Class carriers and their Geopolitical implications was given by Dr James Bosbotnis. it was a rather weighty presentation and we were thankful that there was no examination afterwards!

**Members are advised to note the programme changes which appear in the Programme of Events table below. These changes include both dates and venues.**

### HAPPY SNAPS AT THE AGM



## WELCOME

SANO is pleased to welcome two new members, **Captain Paul Minter** of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and **Captain Jason Poole OBE RN**.

## THE SANO CUMMERBUND



For members who find that their cummerbund has been subject to shrinkage and/or excessive wear we now have a very good source of replacements with our SANO Crest! For this we thank Roger Martin who sourced it. they cost £19-99, come in a variety of sizes and may be purchased by contacting:-

‘Forever Jack’ [info@forever-jack.com](mailto:info@forever-jack.com)

**Phone:** 01207 283693 (9.00am - 5.00pm)

**Address:** forever jack ltd, 19 Elm Terrace, Tantobie, DH9 9QZ United Kingdom.

## ‘MEMBERS’ CV’s

Following requests for members to outline their service careers our Chairman has taken the plunge and has given us an insight to what has been a varied and extraordinary career in the Royal Navy.

Following my impromptu talk about my unconventional naval career in November 2022, comments were made to the EC that there were other SANO members who had had equally interesting service careers and that their 'potted' CVs could occasionally be served up in the Newsletter. There follows a written version of mine. Please do share yours.

**Lt Cdr Richard Stanton RN, BSc CEng MIET MCIL, Chairman SANO**

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Failing biology O Level ruled out a career as a surgeon and, despite having a German and French penfriend, I remained the school language dunce and was placed in the Science Sixth form from where the Recruiting Officer enticed me into becoming a RN engineer.



A gap year spent in Germany and France gave me near fluency in both languages by the time I joined BRNC as a Cadet (E) in September 1966. After a year at Dartmouth and a year at sea as a Midshipman, three years at RNEC Manadon gave me the promised degree and the rank of Lieutenant. Submarine training at HMS Dolphin prepared me for a one-year appointment as Electrical Officer of HMS Grampus, a conventional submarine. I then spent three years at CWT conducting radio/radar inspections and trials in all building/refitting submarines.

With an appointing gap and noting that I had studied for and qualified as 'Linguist' in both French and German, I was allowed five months in Germany to spend time in a FGN submarine and to study for and sit (and pass) the German 'Interpreter' exam. Expecting to become a PSO in a Polaris submarine, I taught Inertial Navigation in the RNPS until the 1978 Engineering Branch Development initiative sent me to Dolphin and Greenwich to prepare me to be the WEO of HMS Superb in January 1980.

Returning to the Polaris world in mid-1982, I dealt with navigation equipment matters for both the Polaris and emergent Trident submarines. Mid-1985 saw me joining the Embassy in Bonn as the Assistant Naval Attaché – a three-year 'dream' job – until returning to the submarine world at Portland to oversee the acceptance into service of the Spearfish torpedo.

In 1991 I left the dark blue world of the RN to join the mottled colour of 'jointery', first to study Russian for 18 months and then to be an Arms Control Inspector for three years based at RAF Scampton visiting countries of the FSU under the auspices of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe. A pierhead jump to fill a gap at the German Language Training Centre in Rheindahlen gave me a two-year opportunity to exercise my hobby and teaching the language until retirement in 1998.

Post RN and as a Chartered Engineer (MIET) I had the opportunity to return to the worlds of Trident and the Successor SSBN (now Dreadnought) for two years working as a contractor dealing with issues similar to those I had dealt with 25 years earlier. After a short gap I spent a further two years at Babcock assisting with submarine support matters. More recently and as a member of the Chartered Institute of Linguists (MCIL), I have sat on its Membership Committee and currently serve on its Council.

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## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> April	0940	Visit Lunch Wardroom HMS Nelson	HM Naval Base Portsmouth		Naval Historical Branch
Sat 1st July	1830	Mess Dinner	Hove Club	Sussex Police Chief Constable Ms Jo Shiner	
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> July	1100	Curry Lunch/ Lecture	Hove Club	Mr Harry Ferguson Former Intelligence Officer	True story of MI6
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> September	1200	Visit	Shoreham Fort	Followed by lunch at the Sussex Yacht Club	
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup> October	1830	Trafalgar Night Dinner	Hove Club	RA James Parkin CB  (Controller of the Navy) and former Sussex URNU CO	
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> November	1100	Lecture/ Lunch	Hove Club	Bill Paterson	MET Police/ FCO

### Key dates:

7<sup>th</sup> April Good Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> April Easter Monday, 1st May Day Bank Holiday, 6<sup>th</sup> May Coronation, 8<sup>th</sup> May Coronation Bank Holiday 29<sup>th</sup> May Spring Bank Holiday, 28<sup>th</sup> August Summer Bank Holiday, 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas 26<sup>th</sup> December Boxing Day.

### TAILPIECE

*‘America is the only nation in history which miraculously has gone directly from barbarism to degeneration without the usual interval of civilization.’*

(Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929))

Best wishes, Bob