



EDITORIAL



Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the least we can ask for, is a somewhat more peaceful New Year, following all the recent turmoil.



A couple weeks ago your Committee met in order to formulate a Programme of Events for the forthcoming season. A framework was agreed and it now remains for confirmation of speakers, guests and venues. As soon as we go firm on these then I will produce a programme in the next newsletter. We are always open for fall-back ideas in the event of parts of the programme not materialising.

IMPORTANT NOTICES FROM THE TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

- (1) Ian would be most grateful if there are any changes of **postal** or email **address** to let him know.
- (2) For some reason best known to the Bank, members who pay by cheque for events must make the cheques payable to '**SUSSEX ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL OFFICERS**' and **NOT** '**SANO**' or **S.A.N.O.** as in the latter two cases they will not be accepted.
- (3) SANO had made a donation of £100 to the RNOC,

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM RECENT EVENTS



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman's Christmas message for 2023

SANO life this past year has shown signs of returning to normal. Our membership, whilst still lower than we would like (and we mourned the loss of two stalwart SANO members – reported in the Newsletter) has seen a couple of new entries which keeps our numbers around the 100 mark. However, attendance at our various events, also lower than we would like, has seen a marginal increase. The cost of putting on these events is steadily increasing and we have tried to mitigate this by drawing on Martin Richards' legacy which was left to us for the membership and which we have used to subsidise members attending SANO events. The legacy is not limitless and next year we shall have to make some decisions on how we use it to benefit members.

Our original draft programme produced at the beginning of the year suffered a number of changes due to speaker/venue availability issues but we managed to return to our norm of two formal dinners. The speaker at our guest night, held later than normal, was the Sussex Chief Constable and the traditional Trafalgar Night toast was proposed by the Controller of the Navy (in old speak). Owing to the continued poor health of our President, Captains Philip Sherwin and Julia Simpson respectively presided. SANO made outings to the Naval Historical Branch and Shoreham Fort and, at a number of buffet lunches in the Hove Club, listened to lectures about NATO, MI6, the story of the Elizabeth carrier class and a career in policing.

This year has seen the UK's first coronation in seven decades and we are now in the new, Carolian era. It has also seen a continuation and escalation of conflict around the world and so this year I have to repeat a previous message; one of tolerance, consideration and respect but add a hope that in the New Year and once the weather has warmed up a little, we will all get out and about more and, attend more SANO events – please!

In the meantime, I hope you and your families will enjoy the festive season with relatives and friends.

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

ON THE INTERNATIONAL BEAT

Some thirty SANO members and their guests listened to Bill Paterson, OBE, our own SANO policeman giving an account of his life spent on the beat both home and abroad. This was the last in our 2023 series of lecture/lunches and it gave us an insider's view of a number of incidents both national and international and evidence of Bill's unique style of policing – occasionally foolhardy but more often than not – inspired. Some of his 'what if' accounts certainly cooled the blood. The normal time constraint associated with a lecture/lunch meant that many of his experiences were glossed over but ensured that we shall be inviting him back for a second go.



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2024

DATE	DAY TIME	EVENT	VENUE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
20 th January	Sat 1100	Lecture/ Curry Lunch	Hove Club	Sheryl Green	SOE Female Agents
23 rd March	Sat 1045	AGM Lec- ture/Curry Lunch	Hove Club	Cdr Rupert Head RN	Atlantic Conveyor Experience
17 th April	Wed	Visit Lunch in "NELSON"	HM Naval Base Portsmouth		Ship visit HM Naval Base Portsmouth
18 th May	Sat 1830	Mess Guest Night	Hove Club		
7 th June	Fri	Lunch	Army & Navy Club Pall Mall		
20 th July	Sat 1100	Lecture/ Lunch	Hove Club	tba	
5 th September	Thu 1200	Pub Lunch	The Lamb Inn Pevensey Marsh		
26 th October	Sat 1830	Trafalgar Night Dinner	Hove Club		
16 th Nov 2024	Sat 1100	Lecture/ Lunch	Hove Club	Shoreham Harbour Engineer	Shoreham Har- bour

Key dates:

1st January New Year's Day, 29th March Good Friday, 1st April Easter Monday, 6th May Day Bank Holiday, 27th May Spring Bank Holiday, 26th August Summer Bank Holiday, 25th December Christmas 26th December Boxing Day.

LAST MONTH'S TAILPIECE

'What has four letters and sometimes nine but never five?'

'There are 30 cows on a farm and 28 chickens. How many didn't?'

The first sentence is a statement and not a question and the second sentence read twenty ate and not 28 thereby giving an answer of 10!

OUR NEXT EVENT

We have a Lecture/CurryLunch scheduled for the SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2024 at 1100 at the Hove Club when the speaker will be **Sheryl Green** and the topic **SOE FEMALE AGENTS**. (See below)

TAILPIECE

'The Royal Navy is to test a new oval captor sailors which has been designed to stop being blown off in the wind'

The Daily Telegraph August 13th 1999

It had been said that this is a welcome step forward. losing your car over the side is no big deal but losing the bits and pieces inside is quite another matter!

I have just realised that there was a non deliberate mistake in the first sentence of my Tailpiece last time! Did you spot it?

Best wishes, Bob