



EDITORIAL



Firstly may I take this opportunity to wish all our members a Very Happy Christmas and possibly above all a healthy New Year.

Your EC held its annual Strategy Meeting a few weeks ago and as you will see, a skeleton programme of events for 2025 has been produced.

This is, of course, subject to change but it will give you some idea of what we have in mind.

It is with sadness at this time that have to report the death of one of our very loyal members, **MR ROY PRATER**. Roy was a regular attendee at most of our events during the period of his membership and we send our condolences to his wife and family.

You will see below a memo from our Treasurer relating to a change in our banking arrangements but rest assured this will have no direct impact upon members. We open this newsletter with our Chairman's Christmas Message.

CHAIRMAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



Our Newsletter editor never fails to remind me of the deadline for this message and, as I write this, I think 'far too early' until I recall that this year, I have to face another hip replacement later this week and that that will take a sizeable chunk out of the time between now and then.

Looking back over SANO's year it has been a good one. Having written that, I remember those who are no longer with us, in particular, Pat Saunders, who originally enticed me on to the committee and in whose footsteps I now follow.

Armed conflict seems to cover a quarter of the world's surface if not more with cyber attacks covering that and the rest.

If you are reading this digitally then you will know that most, if not all, SANO communications coming out via e-mail come from a SANO dot something address. As I hope you are all aware, beware opening unknown e-mails and especially their attachments. In the last couple of weeks, I have deleted a number of e-mails telling me how to collect my tax rebate and how I should apply for the winter fuel allowance! End of this part of the message!

On the brighter side, SANO has enjoyed a full year of events although we did not manage a ship visit despite our Visits member having jumped through the now considerable number of hoops needed. He also tells me (not to be repeated) that the RN no longer has any ships. But we did pay another visit to Southwick House. Our lecturers informed us about Female Agents during the war, a moving personal account from the Atlantic Conveyor and a behind-the-scenes narrative from Shoreham Harbour. One event was postponed to 2025 so that we could honour Pat Saunders' memorial.

Our two annual formal dinners were well attended – thank you to those who did and encouragement to those who might in the future. The first saw an Army officer (first time?) address us with interesting details about the MoD's young people's policies for which he is the current youth Tsar fitting since he is also the Deputy Head at Eastbourne College. Equally interesting were Capt Steve Mardlin's views on Trafalgar when he joined us as our guest (and new SANO member) at the Trafalgar Dinner.

Looking forward to 2025 we shall offer you more of the same; possibly even a ship visit if we can find one. The Martin Richards' legacy continues to support SANO events and thus those members and their guests who attend but, as the fund dwindles, these events now need to be more self-financing and the legacy only used to fund our official guests.

On an admin note, SANO will be changing its bank in the New Year. Information relating to this appears the note below from our Treasurer.

Finally it remains for me to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

Richard Stanton

MEMO FROM THE TREASURER

Change of Bank Account

Members should know that Lloyds, our current bankers, have informed us that they intend to introduce monthly charges on our account with effect from 14 January 2025. As a result the EC has decided to change our account to a NatWest account which gives free banking. The application process should take a few weeks and once it is complete we intend to use the Current Account Switch Service which makes it easy to switch current accounts from one bank to another, As the Service will automatically move all Standing Orders and funds from the old account to the new one **there is no need for members to take any action.** Any member with any questions should feel free to contact the Treasurer, **Ian Wright**, by email to **ian@lawreny.net**.

LECTURE/LUNCH 9th NOVEMBER

A very well attended and informative Lecture was given by Brian Roussel, Chief engineer of Shoreham Harbour. He outlined the history of the port up to the present day and the developing changes to make the port activity as green as possible.

Below are a few photographs taken at the event by our Minutes Sec Christina Stanton.



HMS SHEFFIELD

Construction has begun on the Royal Navy's latest *Type 26 frigate*, HMS Sheffield, with the first steel being cut in a ceremony in Glasgow.

The official beginning of construction was marked by an event attended by Defence Procurement Minister Maria Eagle.

"This steel-cutting ceremony marks another key moment for both our Royal Navy and British shipbuilding," she said



HMS Sheffield is the fifth vessel of her kind, and will be one of eight of the world's most advanced frigates.

She has been designed for anti-submarine warfare and high-intensity air defence, but can adapt her role quickly to transport high volumes of humanitarian aid and can house medical facilities.

Simon Lister, managing director of BAE Systems Naval Ships business, said: "This is a proud moment for our talented teams across the UK who play their part in the design and construction of these important vessels.

"HMS Sheffield's construction will benefit from a range of investments, which are transforming our digital and physical infrastructure and will consolidate a centre of excellence for UK shipbuilding in Glasgow. (bfbs forces news)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2025

DATE	DAY TIME	EVENT	VENUE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
1 Feb	Sat 1100	Lecture/Curry Lunch	Hove Club		
22 Mar	Sat 1045	AGM Lecture/ Curry Lunch	Hove Club	Richard Wernick	Poland and the Internarium
30 Apr	Wed	Visit Lunch?	?		Ship visit? Dockyard visit? Shoreham Port Visit
31 May	Sat 1830	Mess Dinner Or formal lunch?	Hove Club		
26 Jul	Sat 1100	Lecture/Curry Lunch	Hove Club	David Irvine ?	
12 Sep	Fri 1200	Pub Lunch	Arun View Inn Little-hampton		
25 Oct	Sat 1830	Trafalgar Night Dinner	Hove Club		
22 Nov	Sat 1100	Lecture/Curry Lunch	Hove Club	Ian Miles	Endeavour 2

Key dates:

1st January New Year's Day, 18th March Good Friday, 22nd March Easter Monday, 5th May Day Bank Holiday, 26th May Spring Bank Holiday, 25th August Summer Bank Holiday, 25th December Christmas 26th December Boxing Day.

TAILPIECE (Make Another Signal)

To H.M. ship at anchor from senior naval officer ashore:

Military authorities request information as to the state of health of the ship's monkey which recently bit a private of the Blankshire Regiment while he was on board your ship. Two veterinary certificates of about ten days interval would be appreciated in order to comply with the local regulations.

Reply

Ship's monkey reports slight toothache but otherwise she is in perfect health

Best wishes and a Happy Christmas, Bob