Society AGM and Dinner

ON BOARD HMS VICTORY : 18 JUNE 2011

On Saturday 18 June 2011 Members of the Society and their guests are invited to dine on the lower gundeck of HMS Victory following the Annual General Meeting and a tour of the ship. The provisional programme for the day is:

- 3.00pm to 5.15pm (approx) Annual General Meeting in the Princess Royal Gallery of the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth
- 5.30pm to 6.30pm tour of HMS VICTORY to which all members are invited whether or not they choose to dine
- 6.30pm sherry reception on the quarterdeck
- 7.00pm sit down to a 3 course dinner on the atmospheric lower gun deck.
- leave the ship at about 9.30pm.

Numbers allowed to dine on board are strictly limited. No more than 100 can be accommodated so please book early. This year the charge for the dinner, which includes the cost of the reception on the quarterdeck, will be £65.00 per person. Members wishing to book are asked to send their names and those of their guests together with a cheque made payable to The Society for Nautical Research to:

Peter Winterbottom, Honorary Secretary, The Society for Nautical Research,
6 Ashmeadow Road, Arnside, via Carnforth, Lancs LA5 0AE
Telephone: 01524 761616
Email: honsecretary.snr@btinternet.com

Any Members or their guests requiring a vegetarian meal or other special diet are asked to advise the Honorary Secretary at the time of booking. Those needing to park in the dockyard are likewise asked to provide the Honorary Secretary with the make, colour and registration number of the car. Because of the security arrangements those who enter the dockyard car park will need to be able to identify themselves. A passport or a photo driving licence should be sufficient for this purpose.
Editorial

After a wonderful centenary year packed with events, may I thank and congratulate all those involved in the organization of so many diverse and interesting conferences and lecture programmes. 2011 looks to be equally exciting as you will see from the many subjects covered in the series of lectures and events that are listed below.

It is always nice to hear a success story from someone who has benefited from the support of the SNR. I have received a delightful letter from Jennifer Craig who is a doctoral candidate with the Oxford Centre for Maritime Archaeology at the University of Oxford and who was the recipient of the Anderson Tomlin grant. She offers thanks to the SNR for providing funds instrumental to her extended travels which took in four countries in as many months between June and October 2010. During this time she conducted fieldwork and attended conferences in Mexico, Philippines, Germany and India – quite a gruelling schedule. If anyone would like a brief copy of her report please contact me on newslettereditor@snr.org.uk

I am grateful to Gordon Smith who sent me details of the website OldWeather.org which highlights the connection between weather in the past and modern climate change research. Under the leadership of the University of Oxford’s Zooniverse programme, the UK Met Office, the NMM and Naval-History.net are working together to extract weather and historical information for 280 warships in WWI. The results will be invaluable to both climate change study and naval history. Through the world-wide Citizen Science Alliance anyone from 8 to 80 with a computer and internet access can play an important part in the research on OldWeather.org

Finally from 2011 the Journal of Maritime Research will be published by Routledge. SNR members are offered the journal at the discounted price of £18/US$30/€24 instead of £30/US$50/€40. Further details and ordering information is available at www.tandf.co.uk/journals/offer/rmar-so.asp or from Caroline Blake on +44 (0)203 377 3147.

Barry Coombs

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on 18 June 2011 at the National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth’s Historic Dockyard. The agenda and papers will as usual be included with the May issue of The Mariner’s Mirror. After the AGM it will be possible for members and their guests to tour HMS Victory until about 6.45 and then a limited number will be able to dine on board.
Admission Arrangements for Society Members to HMS Victory and the National Museum of the Royal Navy

Public ticketing arrangements for admission to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard have changed. One admission ticket now gains entry to all the attractions. However, for members of the Society for Nautical Research and not more than one guest a special free ticket is available which gives access to HMS Victory and the National Museum of the Royal Navy (formerly the Royal Naval Museum) in the Dockyard. Members will need to produce their Society membership card at the booking office inside the Victory Gate to take advantage of this offer. If there is more than one guest with the member then that guest has to pay the normal price of admission less 20 per cent discount. If a member wishes to visit the other attractions in the Historic Dockyard including the Mary Rose Museum or Warrior then again a ticket has to be bought and we have negotiated a 20 per cent discount on up to four tickets (but this is not valid on family tickets). These new arrangements apply with immediate effect. The Society is very grateful to the Historic Dockyard, the Commanding Officer of HMS Victory and the National Museum of the Royal Navy for making this concession available.

Bicentenary of the Return of Matthew Flinders

Plaque for the famous explorer unveiled

On 24 October there were celebrations for the bicentenary of the return to Portsmouth of Captain Matthew Flinders, Royal Navy navigator and hydrographer who had sailed from the city in 1801 to circumnavigate and chart the coast of New Holland and New South Wales. It was Flinders who gave this vast country its name – Australia. A new plaque to mark the event was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, councillor Paula Riches and the Australian Consul-General, Paula Ganly. This will be placed on the wall at Sallyport adjacent to the plaque marking the departure of the First Fleet from Portsmouth in 1787 thus linking the two key events in the founding of Australia. Peter Ashley, SNR (South) who initiated the event gave an address to those present including descendants of the Flinders family and members of the Britain-Australia Society.
The Society for Naval Research (South) was founded in 1962 to promote the historical study of ships, seafaring and other maritime subjects with particular reference to the south of England. There are meetings on the second Saturday of each month from October to May. Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings are held in the Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2NT, and commence at 2.00 p.m. Persons wishing to lunch with the Society in the Club beforehand should contact Roy Inkersole, tel. +44 (0)2392 831387 at least 72 hours in advance. For further information, contact Peter Ashley, tel. +44 (0)2392 571346, or email peter.ashley4@btinternet.com. New members are very welcome: contact David Baynes, tel. +44 (0)2392 831461, or email baynes.david@btinternet.com.

Saturday, 12 February 2011
Dr Alessio Patalano
*The Britain of the Far East: Seapower and the evolution of Japan’s Contemporary Security*

Saturday, 19 March 2011
Capt. Pack Memorial Lecture:
Dr Andrew Lambert
*The Power to Deter: Admiral Sir Geoffrey Hornby and a world without war*

Saturday, 9 April 2011
SNR(S) Spring Conference
*The Evolution of the Twentieth-century British Gunboat (details tbc)*

Saturday, 7 May 2011
Ron Bristow
*Admiralty Overland Telegraphs in the Napoleonic Era*

Saturday, 8 October 2011
Doreen Hobbs Memorial Conference, *Royal Naval Museum*
*The Sixteenth-century Sailing Navy (details tbc)*

Saturday, 12 November 2011
AGM – Members Research

Saturday, 10 December 2011
Nick Pollard – University of Portsmouth
*Commodore Sir Nathaniel Dance (1748–1827): A reappraisal*

There will be two field trips in 2011: 21 May, St Catherine’s Lighthouse and the Classic Boat Museum on the Isle of Wight, and a visit to Monmouth’s Nelson Museum and the Newport Ship at a date in September to be announced.
New Researchers in Maritime History Conference
Hull, 11–12 March 2011

The 19th New Researchers in Maritime History Conference, organized by the British Commission for Maritime History and sponsored by the Society for Nautical Research, will take place in Hull’s newly opened History Centre. On Friday 11 March, a keynote lecture

Meetings take place at 5.15 p.m. at King’s College, WC2R 2LS, The Meeting Room, War Studies Dept, 6th Floor, Old Main Building, except for the Proctor Lecture on 9 December which will take place at Lloyds Register, 71 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 4BS. Admission to this lecture only is solely by ticket, available from Proctor Lecture, GMI, University of Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College, London SE10 9LS or email gmi@gre.ac.uk

The Seminar Programme is organized by the British Commission for Maritime History, with the generous assistance of the Society for Nautical Research, the Maritime Information Association and the Department of War Studies, King’s College, London. For further information contact Professor John Armstrong, 42 Inglis Road, Ealing, London W5 3RL or email john@johnarmstrong.eu.
(18.00–19.00), will be followed by a reception and buffet. On Saturday 12 March (09.00–17.00), twelve papers will be presented by new researchers working on the following subjects:

The Liverpool–New York Merchant Community, 1763–1833
The Ship Captain’s Medical Guide, 1868–1914
Certification in the British merchant service, 1850–1914
Mutiny, xenophobia and the British national identity in the late nineteenth century
Royal Naval stokers – the lowest of the low?
The Admiralty’s Camperdown Committee of 1902 and the Mauretania
The history of Liverpool’s Canning Dock
Luxury textiles on board an auxiliary yacht of the gilded age 1885–1900
The scientific work of HMS Endeavour
The literacy of pirates 1690–1730
Scottish merchant families and the early-modern German trade
Russian and British eighteenth-century maritime expeditions to the North Pacific.

Conference fee is £25; bookings to Josephine Affleck, Blaydes House, 6 High Street, Hull HU1 1HA. j.affleck@hull.ac.uk Cheques payable to University of Hull Maritime History Trust. For further details, visit: www.hull.ac.uk/mhsc or www.maritimehistory.org.uk
**Chichester Harbour: an exploration of the Anglo-Saxon naval base**  
**Saturday 16 April 2011**  
Southbourne Village Hall, 10.15–16.00 and afternoon field walk. Cost £6.50 including morning refreshments and a background booklet. Contact Dr Philip MacDougal on 01243 573782 or email philip.macdougal@btinternet.com. Cheques payable to Philip MacDougall to 62, Maybush Drive, Chidham, Chichester, PO18 8SS.

**British Maritime History Seminars**

All seminars begin at 17.15 in the Wolfson Room at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, London WC1E 7HU. Each paper lasts approximately 45 minutes with 15 to 30 minutes of questions. There is no charge for these seminars and no need to book. Further information research@nmm.ac.uk.

8 February
Dr Jonathan Rayner, University of Sheffield
*Histories of victory and defeat in Japanese naval films.*

22 February
Dr Roland Pietsch, Queen Mary University London
*Masculinity and mental health in the Georgian navy*

8 March
Dr Guy Chet, University of Texas.
*The Atlantic maritime frontier: piracy and the pursuit of government legitimacy in the modern state 1688–1856*

22 March
Dr Elaine Murphy, Trinity College, Dublin
*The Navy and the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland 1649–53.*
William Wyllie Weekend
National Museum of the Royal Navy, Friday 8 to Sunday 10 July 2011

The Life and Works of William Lionel Wyllie
The National Museum of the Royal Navy is proud to celebrate Wyllie’s achievements with a special weekend devoted to his life, works and the Royal Navy they depict.

William Wyllie is acknowledged as one of the leading and most prolific marine artists at the turn of the century. A former winner of the Turner Gold Medal, his work remains at the forefront of marine art.

Wyllie’s association with Portsmouth is intertwined with HMS Victory, having moved to Portsmouth in 1907, where he lived until his death. He campaigned vigorously for the restoration of HMS Victory as a founder member of the SNR.

Lectures by leading experts in their fields will reveal not only the life and times of Wyllie, but also his artistic style, and how the struggle continues even today to preserve his legacy for future generations. There will also be a walking tour around Old Portsmouth, bringing to life many of the places Wyllie lived and worked, as well as the locations where he painted.

Enhancing the weekend will be a medley of Gilbert and Sullivan accompanied by readings, tunes which William used to whistle while he painted, as well as the opportunity to purchase original Wyllie works of art.

The highlight of the weekend is the rare privilege to dine on the lower gundeck of HMS Victory, Nelson’s flagship at Trafalgar, at mess tables slung between the 32-pounder guns. The weekend programme cost including
Conserving Historic Vessels
Published in 2010 with support from the Society, this is the third volume in the practical guidance series of National Historic Ships, ‘Understanding Historic Vessels’ is for all those with an interest in ship conservation whether from an armchair or in a workshop. Society members can buy it at a discounted price through the shop of the Old Gaffers Association, online at www.ogashop.comuf.com on the heritage tab on their home page. To secure the discount, quote your membership number (on back of membership card).

Robb Robinson Far Horizons: From Hull to the Ends of the Earth 2010, 242 pages, colour illustrations, special rate for SNR members £15 (+ £2 p&p)
A unique blend of global and local history detailing Hull’s enduring relationship with sea, and its role in
opening up the world’s seaways since medieval times through a series of personal and ship biographies.

**D. J. Starkey and H. Murphy (eds)**

*Beyond Shipping and Shipbuilding: Britain’s ancillary interests in the 20th Century* 2008, 220 pages, special rate for SNR members £15 (+ £2 p&p))

Essays by leading scholars on ship repair, marine engineering, shipbroking, art and industry, shore management of seafarers, and professional engineering institutions in Britain.

Copies of *Far Horizons* and *Beyond Shipping and Shipbuilding* can be obtained from Josephine Affleck, Blaydes House, 6 High Street, Hull HU1 1HA, email j.affleck@hull.ac.uk, cheques payable to University of Hull Maritime History Trust.

**Robert J. Moore and John A. Rodgaard**


A brilliant story of the history of this V & W Class destroyer and the sterling service she provided when in the thick of the action during WWII told by the officers and crew with 170 photographs, many taken at action stations plus paintings, drawings and maps.


Charles Plomer Hopkins, a Victorian church organist, called by circumstance to a seamen’s chaplaincy on the Indian subcontinent, eventually achieved an unlikely apotheosis in his announcement and leadership of the first, and so far, only international seamen’s strike.

In the centenary year of the strike it seems fitting that Hopkins should be remembered for his contribution to the welfare of merchant seamen, development of the maritime apostolate in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, and to the restoration of the religious life to the Church of England.

**Roland Paxton** *Dynasty of Engineers*  
[www.whittlespublishing.com](http://www.whittlespublishing.com)

This book celebrates the achievements of the Stevenson family of engineers and unearths new information on the construction of the Bell Rock Lighthouse. There is also a chronology of over 200 lighthouses. The book is published in association with the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust.
In the last newsletter we promised more news about the Heritage and Craft Committee, which developed out of The Small Craft Committee. This first year developed at a fast rate, and this incredibly active committee achieved a great deal. Here are some brief details:

• A significant start was made on updating the Charter and the Operating Manual for the Victory Cutter.
• A response was sent on time to the DCMS regarding the maintenance and/or recovery of artefacts from the recently discovered remains of the earlier HMS Victory, which sank in 1744; this was in co-operation with the Nautical Archaeology Society, the Mary Rose Trust and the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee.
• There is a continuing aim to preserve the composite clipper City of Adelaide (see SNR Newsletter 80).
• A joint venture with the HMS Victory cutter later this year is planned in support of the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust who now hold 26 naval, military and ceremonial craft kept in store, in use and afloat, or available for demonstrations and rallies.
• A full programme of events is in hand for the cutter under the excellent control of Dr Keith Chittenden and the sailing master Mike Dalton: full details can be seen on the SNR website. The Great River Race, where we have previously had very successful appearances, was rowed in September 2010 and will be a joint effort this year with one of the Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust whalers participating crewed by our very own ‘volunteers’!
• There is the possibility of involvement in the restoration of HMS Caroline, a light cruiser still in commission as the RNR Training Ship at Alexander Dock, Belfast. She is the second-oldest vessel still in commission afloat anywhere in the world, and the last survivor of those vessels that fought at Jutland.
The committee will be supporting the project to restore HMS *Alliance* at the Gosport Submarine Museum.

- Consideration is being given to means by which we might be involved with the charity ProMare, who are manufacturers of underwater unmanned ROVs used for archaeology, and who are setting up a facility in Plymouth.
- The question of the British Fisheries has been explored by the Maritime Curators Group and we are considering ways in which the Society for Nautical Research might assist.
- We are also considering ways in which we might assist the Scottish Coastal Rowing Project and indeed possibly spread its influence ‘south of the border’.
- A first conference was arranged for Saturday 6 November 2010 on the SS *Great Britain* to celebrate the opening of the Brunel Institute and the David Macgregor Library, where our late Vice-President left his collection of books, plans, photographs paintings and drawing, together with a substantial sum of money that saw this venture through its formation. This was a co-operative effort with South West Maritime History Society and was a huge success.
- A future day’s conference is planned for May 2011 at the Waterfront Museum, Swansea, in conjunction with South West Maritime History Society and the West Wales Maritime Heritage Society. Other locations being considered are Portsmouth, Liverpool and one in Scotland, bringing the SNR to its members, and possibly giving encouragement to new members to join.
- Finally the SNR gave as one of its aims when it was founded in 1910 the production of a dictionary of the sea. This is well under way.

Volunteers are always welcome and if you wish to help in any of the above projects, I am sure that the Committee Chairman David Clement would be very pleased to hear from you – email dclemnt1@toucansurf.com

**Stop Press**

*The Mariner’s Mirror* vols 55 (1969) to 96 (2010) are offered free of charge to any interested party by SNR member Richard Unger in Vancouver, complete with indices and any special numbers. The only cost is shipping. If you would like to take up this generous offer, please email Richard.Unger@ubc.ca or by mail at 3643 West Third Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6R 1M1.
California Sails and Questions

Further Californian correspondence from Professor Gerald J Butler (see SNR Newsletter 79, p. 10) has raised the interesting question of just how useful, in practice, was the sailing rig of the old-time Fenland lighters. For a description of this rig – a square sail set on a mast fitted to the leading lighter in a ‘gang’ (see MM 79, p.162). A gang was a floating train, in effect, so it would seem that any useful breeze would have to be from well aft.

Complications arose from a number of factors such as the winding course of many fenland channels, prevailing wind direction in various seasons of the year, and oddly enough, the quite common use of towing horses in conjunction with sailing.

It is noteworthy that the sailing rig virtually disappeared from Fenland lighters during the second half of the 19th century. Some evidence suggests, however, that this may have reflected social considerations, more than anything else. Be that as it may, it is hoped that a fuller account of this whole matter can be submitted to The Mariner’s Mirror in due course.

For more on the Fenland Lighter Project see www.gla.ac.uk/~aj12x/flp.html

H.J.K. Jenkins

The Fenland Lighter Project

University Courses, Grants and Resources

Greenwich Maritime Institute, University of Greenwich

MA Maritime History
Located in the historic setting of the Old Royal Naval College, the Greenwich Maritime Institute offers a unique environment for the study of maritime history. Taught courses focus on the Merchant Navy and the Royal Navy in the late eighteenth century; Twentieth-century International Maritime History; Sources, Methods and Archives for Maritime Historians; Twentieth-century International Naval History and Case Studies in Maritime History. Teaching is in small groups led by leading experts in the field. The staff currently include Professor Sarah Palmer, Professor Roger Knight, Dr Roger Morriss, Chris Ware, Patricia Crimmin, and Dr David Hilling.

The programme is available full-time (1 year) or part-time (2 years) and further information can be obtained from the Greenwich Maritime Institute, University of Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College, Park Row, Greenwich, London, SE10 9LS, UK. Tel. +44 (0)208 331 7688, email: gmi@gre.ac.uk, website www.gre.ac.uk/gmi
University of Hull

BA History with Maritime History
This BA course is designed for students wishing to specialize in maritime history, with a wide range of modules, including medieval maritime history, the Age of Discovery, piracy and privateering, seafaring in war and peace, Britain’s twentieth-century maritime interests. For further information contact Richard Gorski, details below.

PhD in Maritime History
For further information about the MA and PhD programmes and maritime history in general, contact Dr Richard Gorski, Department of History, University of Hull, Hull, HU6 7RX, UK, email: r.c.gorski@hull.ac.uk, tel. +44 (0)1482 465183, website: www.history.hull.ac.uk

Diploma in Maritime History
This is an online distance-learning programme that is provided on a part time basis in three stages. The first stage comprises six maritime history modules taken over two years and culminates in an award of a Certificate in Maritime History. Students can progress to a Diploma and then to a BA in Maritime History. The modules provided in 2010–11 are ‘The Fisheries since 1850’, ‘Voyaging Overseas 1850–2000’ and ‘The Royal Navy in the Age of Steam’. For further information call Michaela Barnard or email m.g.barnard@hull.ac.uk

University of Exeter

MA and PhD at the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies
The Centre was the first of its kind in a British university. It can call on a wide range of expertise in maritime historical studies within the university and seeks to promote research into economic, social, political, naval and environmental aspects of the British maritime past from the earliest times to the present day.

The MA in Maritime History includes modules on technology, trade, ports, exploration, mariners and fishing. The medieval and early modern module explores European maritime expansion and the creation of commercial empires.
University Courses, Grants and Resources

The MA in Naval History has modules on British naval power in the era of sail, 1650 to 1815, and in the era of steam and motor, 1816 to 1945. It examines the contribution of sea power as an instrument of defence and conquest, and the Navy as a part of society.

In each MA, students research and write a dissertation on their chosen topic. These courses can be taken part time over 2 years or full time in 1 year.

For more information on these programmes, contact Dr Maria Fusaro, University of Exeter, Amory Building, Rennes Drive, Exeter, EX4 4RJ, email m.fusaro@exeter.ac.uk, website: www.centres.ex.ac.uk/cmhs/

New Members and Reported Deaths
2 September – 2 December 2010

New members – individual
Mr A. Dutton, Stockport
Mr A. P. d’E. Meredith, Herstmonceux
Mr A. J. Murray, Plymouth
Mr M. H. Pacey, Bristol
Mr G. Spilman, Rugby
Mr F. Tiboni, Brescia, Italy
Mr G. A. Webb, Bath

Reported deaths
Miss H. Frost, London
Mr G. W. Jago, North Fambridge
Cdr G. H. Burrows, VRD, RNR, Barry,
Captain C. L. Chipchase, Hastings
Dr J. F. Coates, OBE, Bath
Dr J. P. Powell, Berowra Heights, Australia
Captain A. B. Sainsbury VRD MA RNR, London

The Society for Nautical Research
The Society for Nautical Research promotes and publishes research on all matters relating to seafaring, ships and shipbuilding in all periods and in all nations; on the language and customs of the sea; in fact, on any topic of nautical interest.

The SNR:
• publishes the world’s pre-eminent English-language nautical journal, The Mariner’s Mirror
• sponsors conferences, lectures and seminars on maritime historical subjects
• buys paintings and other works of art for the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich
• funds projects such as the preservation of Nelson’s flagship, HMS Victory

The Society was founded in 1910 and celebrated its centenary with a series of special events during 2010.