EXETER FLOTILLA

NEWS LETTER

CHAIRMAN **Rory Jackson**

NEWSLETTER EDITOR **David Scott**

TREASURER **Ian Yule**

SECRETARY **James Luard**

Newsletter No. 2.26 Summer 2026

Dear Members of the Exeter Flotilla,

The second half of 2026 has been rather busy as many members will have noticed, with various events taking place, most of which I hopefully have recorded in this latest Exeter Flotilla Newsletter. However, I will admit that I have been disappointed not to have received more copy from members.

One of the reasons that I came forward as a successor is because I have been the editor of another naval Newsletter—HMS ORION Association, and I will be using my experience in this role. Some will have seen examples of previous editions of this publication, which I do 3 times a year.

It is my intention is to attempt to produce an Exeter Flotilla Newsletter every 6 months (Summer and Christmas/Spring). However, I am hoping that members will forward articles to me and I would be most grateful to receive from any member of the Flotilla any material, such as holiday snaps or salty stories or local newspaper cuttings that could be published in future Newsletters and these to be forwarded to me as the Editor of this publication. I do not want the future Newsletters to be about me and all my activities in HMS DRAKE and my responsibilities as Town Crier and Chief Yeoman in Modbury.

<u>DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:</u>

Email—(preferably) –davidbscott@sky.com Telephone– 01548 830217 (voicemail please)

Address—David Scott, (Exeter Flotilla Newsletter), 3 Benedict Way, Modbury, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0TJ. I do pray that all Flotilla members are keeping well, staying safe and healthy. Keep obeying Daily and Routine Orders and let us hope for continuing better things as 2026 progresses. All keep well and stay safe.

Best wishes *David Scott*

Newsletter Editor

EXETER FLOTILLA CHAIRMAN's COLUMN



Commander Rory Jackson

I see that my last note for the Newsletter was written in January. Litle did we think then that we would have one of the hottest summers on record!

Firstly, thank you to all those who returned the Survey. It clearly showed there is a huge desire to keep the Flotilla afloat but a reluctance due to age and other commitments to help to do this. That said, although sadly Robert Harland has had to stand down from being our Golf Secretary, I am delighted that all the other current members of the Committee have agreed to continue to serve and in addition it is really good to welcome three new members to the Committee.

Robert Harland has been our longest ever serving Committee member and the golf and dinners he organized, including the jokes, will be long remembered. We will be paying tribute to Robert later this year.

We do need to maintain or ideally increase our Membership and I am please to say that in response to a plea from Ian Moore, all RM Officers about to retire will now be informed about the Flotilla and how to join. I have written to the Naval Secretary with a similar request but there has been no response to date.

The real solution is for every member of the Flotilla to recruit one or more members and the problem would be solved. There will be a bottle of good whiskey for who ever has recruited the most members by the end of this year. Over to you….

Our other problem is finding a new Chairman. I have agreed that if no one comes forward, I will do a full three year stint but if no one has volunteered by 2027, the Flotilla will be wound up.

Enough of the doom and gloom and looking back we have had some really fascinating lectures, a thoroughly enjoyable lunch at Wyvern Barracks , an enthralling visit to Fenix Carriages and of course the Golf Summer Dinner. Thank you to Dita and those others involved in make events and evenings such a success.

And lots to look forward to – wide ranging Lectures, the Trafalgar Service and the Dinner in November.

Enjoy the hot weather while it last – it will not be too long before we are complaining it never stops raining!

Rory Jackson

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Message from the Exeter Flotilla Hon Treasurer — Mr Ian Yule F.R.I.C.S.

The Flotilla is quite solvent although many of our basic costs have increased during the past year. However the Flotilla is in good shape and most of the events have been self—funding.

Since the accounts were presented at the AGM for the year 2025/2026 nothing has really changed.

Ian Yule

EXETER FLOTILLA'S AFFILIATED SHIP — HMS DEFENDER

Class and type 45 destroyer. Displacement 8,500 tonnes
Length 154 metres (500 ft). Beam 14.3 metres (70 ft).
Propulsion 2 shafts integrated with 2 x converteam electric motors (27,00shp) each. Speed 30 knots +.
Range 7000Nm at 18 knts. Complement 191 max 235.
Armament PAAMS Air Defence system 48 vert launch
Anti ship Harpoon block SSMs. Guns 1 x 4.5 Mk 8, 2 x Mk 1 30mm, 2 x 20mm Phalanx, 2 x 7.62mm.
Aircraft 1-2 Lynx Wildcat. IN PORTSMOUTH STILL REFITTING BUT NOW AFLOAT AND PREPARING DOING HATS AND SATS. THE NEW CO IS CDR DAN LEE—moving from HMS DUNCAN.



Latest HMS DEFENDER Sword and Shield Newsletter is on the Exeter Flotilla Web pages.

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EXETER FLOTILLA GOLF MATCH AND DINNER AT EAST DEVON GOLF CLUB on THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026

The event took place a week earlier than usual, due to the club double booking the function room. The weather was splendid.
Ten golfers signed up but one unfortunately had to drop out after a sudden hospital admission. So, on the day, three Flotilla members and six guests teed off, including Jasmine Clapson (wife of Major Keith Clapson) who was the winner with a score of thirty-five. The President presented her with the Trophy - the trophy contains timber from HMS Exeter, dating from 13 December 1939.
Twenty-seven members and guests sat down to an excellent meal. The President welcomed all, gave a brief update on Robert and Kathleen, explaining his situation and why he stood down. Not all present were aware of the circumstances and asked that their best wishes be passed to Robert and Kathleen. The new President took over on the understanding that he did not have to do jokes - but started the evening with one rather corny joke, for old times sake! Port was passed in the traditional manner. Mr Vice said grace and gave the Loyal Toast.
Overall this was an excellent evening, in the Naval tradition, which was enjoyed by all.
22nd July 2027 is already booked for next year's event and it would great to have more members attending, both golf and/or dinner. There are plans to make the golf event even more attractive, by including 'nearest to the pin' and 'longest drive' competitions - we look forward to seeing you there.







PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS TO RM COMMANDO UNITS by Col Ian Moore

On Friday 5th June ’26, in the quadrangle of Windsor castle, his Majesty King Charles III, Captain General of the Royal Marines, presented new colours to four RM Commando units:40, 42,43 and 45 Commandos.
The author of this short piece, a jaundiced ex parade adjutant, and Commandant of CTCRM , has never in his life witnessed Royal Marines drill quite as excellent.
This was a considerable ceremonial involving four Royal Guards of 90 men from each Commando, and the massed bands of the Royal Marines. The Chaplain of the fleet, Rev Dr Mark Davidson, and the four RN Chaplains of the Commandos, were there to consecrate the new Colours.The First Sea Lord and Commandant General, General Sir Gwyn Jenkins KCB OBE ADC was the principal VIP prior to the arrival of His Majesty. The parade was commanded by Brigadier Jamie Norman DSO OBE. There were 2,000 spectators.
The occasion proceeded with magnificent precision. The old Colours presented on Plymouth Hoe by our then Captain General HRH Prince Philip 25 years ago were marched off to the strains of Auld Lang Syne. Since those colours were presented RM Commandos have served at the tail end of the Northern Ireland operation in Op Banner, and then through the grim realities of the post 9/11 wars: Op Telic – Iraq, Op Herrick – Afghanistan: operations requiring much courage and staying power, which incurred many casualties.
His Majesty, our Captain General, presented the four new sets of King’s and Regimental colours to each Commando. Each King’s Colour displays the Royal Cypher of King Charles.
Huge pride was evident as the new colours were marched past the King. His Majesty’s address to the parade and spectators was altogether memorable; in it he referred to the recent tragic crash of the Merlin helicopter on Dartmoor, remembering his own time in the Naval Service as a “jungly”. CG’s address which followed warmly voiced his pride in the Corps.
Finally the parade advanced in review order over the grass and performed an immaculate present arms with the new KS1 rifle. Sensibly all on parade were clean shaven, so the drill removal of the white pith helmets was not a complicated affair!
The author had never heard anything like the three cheers that followed, that hit the spectators like cannon fire and would have been heard in Arbroath. It warmed the cockles in all our hearts.
The reception that followed in the cricket grounds below the Castle was a further delight. For us old, the lift in golf buggies was altogether welcome, driven by officers who had learnt their buggy driving skills that very morning. His Majesty joined us at the reception, and I reckon all who spoke with him were inspired and cheered. The author certainly was.
5th June 2026 was indeed a historical Red Letter day for the Royal Marines.





HIS MAJESTY'S BARK ENDEAVOUR by Jeremy Robbins

'… there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats' Water Rat in Wind in the Willows.

What do daughters give their father for his 50th birthday? Nelly, my 16 year old and youngest, advised me that I must 'realise my limitations'; Antonia, 19 and coming towards the end of her gap year in Australia before reading Veterinary Medicine at Cambridge, decided to test them, and booked us both on board HMB Endeavour as crew. Could we survive 7 days in close proximity, without her Mother to referee?

If you haven't visited the Australian Maritime Museum in Sydney's Darling Harbour, you should. One of the exhibits is a faithful replica of HMB Endeavour, built to detailed specifications held by the Admiralty. Originally a 1750 Whitby collier, she was purchased by the Royal Navy for £2,840.10s.11d and modified (for almost the same cost) before sailing in 1768 under the command of Lieutenant Cook with secret instructions 'to make discovery of the Continent .... in the latitude 40 Degrees' an exploration for *Terra Australis Incognita.* For 2 months of the year the replica of HMB Endeavour sails from Sydney as a mobile museum, manned by a small professional crew, and a volunteer crew who man the 3 watches on board. Whilst she has modern navigation, galley, heads and an engine, in all other respects she is equipped, rigged, sailed and handled as an C18 ship, and apart from safety harnesses when up the rigging, and a powered main capstan, she is as close to the experience of the times of James Cook as is possible.

Antonia and I embarked at Coffs Harbour as crew (there are 4 berths for supernumerary 'Gentlemen' – but this neither applied to Antonia and me, nor allows the full experience). The first day was spent in safety and ship acquaint, including how to put up and stow hammocks, and a first climb up the rigging, all whilst at anchor but in a heavy swell, with a motion that was almost more uncomfortable than being at sea. We set sail the next morning in a brisk 25-30 knots of wind and with a 2 metre swell. The crew was at this stage much reduced, many seen on the decks clutching 'happy buckets'. But within 24 hours nearly all found their sea legs (and appetites, from a galley which produced much appreciated gargantuan meals – no bully beef and weevil biscuits here).

Organised in 3 watches (foremast, mainmast (us, the Pirates) and mizzen mast), each watch had 2 permanent crew, a topman and upper yardie, and 10 volunteer crew. The routine was 4 hours on, 8 hours off, but in that 8 hours had to be included all sleeping, eating, and daily ship's chores. No watch was ever dull, and the watch rotated through manning the wheel, to fore and aft lookouts, to conducting rounds of the ship, being on hand to change course and trim the sails, and cleaning ship. One of our watch was a bush poet, and if it was ever quiet, we were regaled with Banjo Paterson poems, the Pam Ayers of the bush?

Rigged entirely with hemp and tar ropes, and with no winches, crew muscle power (and 750 wooden blocks) set and take in the sails, with around 30km of rigging. The basic rig consists of 17 sails from 28 carried onboard, and some 150 running lines (including braces, brails, buntlines, clewlines, downhaul, halyards, sheets and tack), none colour coded or labelled! And if there was a major change of course, or change of sails, then it was 2 or all 3 watches on deck, so in the end we averaged less than 4 hours sleep a day. Hammocks were virtually touching, and I can truly say that I have never heard snoring of such stentorian ferocity!

This was an unforgettable trip; Coffs Harbour to Port McQuarie is only 70 miles as the crow flies, but we sailed nearly 500 miles into the Tasman Sea, towards New Zealand. We saw albatross, minke whales and dolphins; we sailed through a huge magnetic storm at night – pitch dark on deck, punctuated with brilliant sheet and fork lightning; the night sky is always sparkling clear when away from city lights, and 4 hours on watch guaranteed shooting stars and the enormity of the Milky Way; when the Moon rose, ship, sails and sea were illuminated in a blue/black light, and the bow pushed out a phosphorescent wake; on the call 'hands to bathe' I was the first to dive overboard when 60 miles out to sea in 4,000 metres of water, with the ship hove to under full sail; Antonia won the longest potato peel from a single potato competition; and we gained an inkling of an idea of what it must have been like for Lt James Cook and the crew who set sail, circumnavigated the globe, and charted the East coast of Australia - on an almost constant lee shore - with soundings that still appear on some Admiralty charts today. And we were still talking at the end of it all!

In early July 08 we had sailed as a family on a bare-boat charter Sydney-Hobart competitor in the Whitsundays, anchoring in isolated inlets with turtles, sailing in the company of migrating humpback whales, and snorkelling on Island fringe coral (more colourful and diverse to our minds than diving out on the Barrier Reef proper). And in 09 I sailed in a former Chay Blyth round the world clipper 67ft steel yacht from Perth to Sydney, down into the roaring 40s of the Southern Ocean, across the great Australian bight and literally surfing through the Bass Straits between the mainland and Tasmania. But the sailing memory of Australia that will remain with Antonia and I will be of HMB Endeavour, and the upper yardie calling 'hauling in on the leeward lifts, brace, sheet and tack, and loosening on the windward lines, squaring the braces, Mainmast watch …. two, six .. heave; two, six … heave'.

Postscript: I originally wrote this just over 18 years ago. HMB Endeavour is still a floating and mobile museum, home ported from Darling Harbour in Sydney. Ten years later the same daughter accompanied me on an expedition to the Himalayas to climb two 6,500m peaks for my 60th birthday, and we survived a month sharing a tent in the mountains. But that is another story!

I wait to find out what she has in mind for my rapidly approaching 70th birthday!










Photographs: 1. Under sail. 2. The Defence and Naval Adviser and daughter.
3. Mainmast watch furl the mainsail, Robbins' on end of yard. 4. Helm. 5. And so to bed.
6. Living quarters, hammocks stowed. 7. Hands to bathe. 8. Sailing Whitsundays.



Thinking about Australia and also New Zealand in the Southern Oceans,
David Scott in his capacity of being Modbury Chief Yeoman does recall these 2 countries every year with appropriate flags hoists at Palm Cross Green Mast.
Australia Day = 26 January 1788
New Zealand = 06 February 1840 (Waitangi)
ANZAC Day = 25 April 1916




EXETER FLOTILLA SPRING LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY 23rd APRIL 2026—ST GEORGE's DAY

The Chairman with the help of many members arranged a Flotilla Luncheon at the Exeter University Officers Training Corps Building in Wyvern Barracks on Thursday 23rd April—St Geoge's Day and hence all the table decorations. The guest of honour was the Commandant of CTCRM—Colonel Rob Jones RM, who spoke about Lympstone and its intense training but was pleased that the Flotilla is still seen attending the Officers Mess for their monthly meetings.







FAREWELL TO VERY REVEREND JONATHAN GREENER—DEAN OF EXETER CATHEDRAL

David Scott is a Life Member of the Friends of Exeter Cathedral and did attend the Final Evensong Service bidding farewell to the Dean, Very Revd Jonathan Greener and after this service—presented a Good News for Everyone Bible. The Dean has presided at 8 of the Exeter Flotilla Services and so David Scott did seek to learn what the retiring Dean preached on his last day in office.

So… here we go again. Like the hero of the film who refuses to die, and keeps returning for a final gasp. I'm probably retiring at the wrong time. For this is a very exciting time for cathedrals. There's a new head of steam, backed up by proper academic research, showing that cathedrals are good for your health, good for the economy, good for culture, and good for the Church. They have this glorious gift of softening the boundaries between the sacred and the secular. With over 10 million visitors to English cathedrals last year, they are the first point of contact for very many people with the Church of England and they make a significant impact on the local economy, In a world that has lost its way, and is aching for something more, they do much of the spiritual heavy lifting - as our little opening anthem points out: "This place was made by God. A priceless mystery…" Yes, this is a building that smiles at us, just like Jesus smiling at Zacchaeus in our reading. And it is also where our wonderful choir carries the prayers we struggle to articulate. Just think of Psalm 84, which they sang this evening. My favourite psalm. One I've recited every Saturday evening for much of my life. But when the choir sings it, so much more beautiful, moving, effective. Of course these are all things that those of us who inhabit cathedrals have known for a long time. So it's immensely rewarding to have impartial outsiders tell this story on our behalf. For nowadays, it's all over the newspapers, it's starting to sound credible, it's beginning to be believed. Fan-tastic. Well it would be, apart from the parallel research recently undertaken by the Church Commissioners into cathedral finances, which confirms something else we already know. Namely that most cathedrals, including us here in Exeter, are struggling financially, in spite of the fact that we are working our socks off to maximise revenue. Their conclusion: we simply can't pull ourselves up any further by our own boot straps. Of course, we could all balance our books if all we had to do was pay our way. But that, as all of you gathered here know only too well, is not our raison d'être. We are a House of God, here, as our cathedral's recent strategic plan makes clear, to worship God, to welcome visitors, to promote wellbeing - by which we mean to enable people to discover the abundant life which is Jesus' gift. When I was Dean of Wakefield, we toyed with the idea of boarding up the cathedral, surrounding it with barbed wire, to encourage the people of West Yorkshire to reflect on the importance of their cathedral. What would they miss were it ever to disappear? Think Notre Dame in Paris, so close to destruction. Or the possibility of the coffers running dry. A recent funding application we submitted was turned down. The explanation: cathedrals will always be here. In conversation with deans across the country - I wouldn't be so sure. Use it or lose it - it's my last chance to say it: support it or lose it. For God's sake, and for the sake of the people of Devon, please never take this wonderful place for granted. Not that I think you do, in fact. But what you can do, what all of us here can do, is to help tell our cathedral's story better. The many ways we serve our diocese and county. Everything we do for Exeter, for its businesses and residents. And to aid your storytelling, just look up for a moment. That extraordinary vaulted ceiling. Well known to be the longest medieval vault in the world. But I'm less concerned with statistics and one-upmanship than with what it does for the soul. Our ceiling is exquisitely beautiful: it raises our eyes, our aspirations, our heart to heaven. It places us in a greater context. It confronts us with the divine. This afternoon. Every day. And that ceiling, along with the countless other treasures contained in this spectacular building, belongs to, is truly part of the inheritance of, everyone in Exeter, every person in Devon. And all the more so for those who might think is not a place for people like them. The reason we've worked on the building over the past few years is to make it more welcoming for all our worshippers, visitors and people from right across the county. That of course is why new WCs have been such a priority. I said in my very first sermon here we'd deliver new loos. Tick. Though I have to confess to a certain vested interest - for I'm now at the age where they matter more than ever. Being more welcoming is why we've installed a Changing Places Toilet for those with the greatest disabilities. It's why we've opened the Treasures Exhibition, so Devon people can see some of the remarkable books and objects we look after on their behalf. More than 20,000 volumes from before 1800. Being more welcoming is why we've improved the heating and the sound and the light in the quire, because we long for everyone to be comfortable and able to participate fully. And thanks to the immense generosity of our Friends, we're on the cusp of renewing the sound and light in the nave also. That'll be transformational for everyone who comes here. I'd have to be more careful if I thought anyone could hear the words I'm spouting! Thank you, Friends, and by the way, for those of you not already a Friend of the cathedral… if you sign up this month, you still get my signature on the certificate.

As Dame Edna would put it, an instant heirloom! I recently met an elderly chap who received life membership of the Friends as a Christening gift. Blooming good value for 86 years of unfettered access. And the Friends' support for this place is a genuine life-saver. As indeed is the support we receive from our Cathedral Music Foundation. Given our current financial challenges, I'm delighted that they are currently looking to fund 100%of our music costs for the next two years. A true blessing. Of course, if there's anything you can do to help with this, please do. And that leads me neatly on to what I want to say more than anything else. Which is the most enormous thank you to every single person here. Whether you are an occasional visitor, or here all the time. What the French call, and it always makes me smile: 'une grenouille de bénitier' - that is a frog in the Holy Water stoup, with the cathedral as your second home. Thank you to every member of staff, to every volunteer, to my clergy and Chapter colleagues. And the reason for my heartfelt thanks - without any one of you, Exeter Cathedral would not be the place it is; will not be the place it can become. For Exeter Cathedral is entirely a community endeavour. Pamela groans every time I tell the story of my little toe, but I'm going to do so for a final time because it perfectly illustrates what I mean. I woke up late for church, ran downstairs without slippers and stubbed my little toe. Ferociously. It was agony. The toe turned black; the air blue. For 6 weeks I could hardly walk, let alone kneel down. Because my little toe wasn't working, my whole body was out of kilter. But until that morning, I was barely conscious I had a little toe. We have made some modest headway in the past eight and a half years, and we've succeeded in completing the first phase of our development project, praise God. I trust our patron the King is waving flags in London as we gather here this afternoon. But it's only been possible because everyone here has done their bit - whether you think of yourself as the little toe or the throbbing heart. For that coming together, for all you've given, for your enthusiasm and your time, the most enormous thanks to every one of you, and to God also. And equal thanks for your personal support for and kindness to Pamela and me, which has gone so much farther than we could ever have hoped or dreamed. Being dean here has been the biggest privilege and joy of my life, but I'm acutely conscious that I'm only a tiny cog in a large machine. The greatest consolation is that thanks to all of you, the machine will carry on churning tomorrow and every day thereafter. You can imagine my emotions are currently in some turmoil: 35 years of ordained ministry; nearly 19 in a cathedral. Deep regret that we haven't done more; sincere apologies to everyone I've disappointed. Considerable excitement at what might come next. Genuine sorrow at saying goodbye to this wonderful building, and to so many lovely people. Great gratitude to God for giving me such a fulfilling and enjoyable final job. Please continue to pray for Pamela and me as we head for that palm tree in Torquay, please pray for Stephen, the Interim Dean, and for the Cathedral Chapter, please pray for our Bishop and all those charged with finding my permanent successor. And please, please continue to do all you can to ensure this place will flourish for the long term - that it will increasingly be what God wants it to be and do what the people of Devon need it to do. Amen.

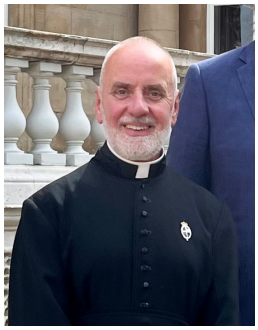


With the Dean retiring there has been a change to the Trafalgar Day service which David Scott is continuing to act as the Flotilla Liaison.

Once Very Revd Jonathan Greener announced his retirement I had to liaise with the Cathedral Staff to establish who would officiate and who would preach. At Easter time, the Dean was planned to officiate for the 9th time and the Bishop of Exeter was to preach.

Now I have learnt that the Bishop of Exeter will officiate and the preacher will be the Revd Keith Robus who is the lead Chaplain and is responsible for Sea Cadet Corps Units and a short CV is below.

<u>Revd Keith Robus</u>



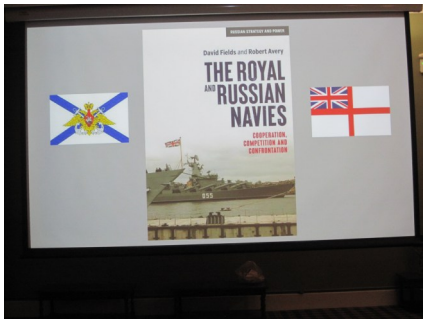
Keith trained at Chichester Theological College and ordained deacon in Harrow where he became the local SCC Chaplain. Next he was the curate at Harlesdon parish, London before moving to Acton, when he joined the RNR. Then he joined the RN as a Chaplain and has served in HMShips St Albans and Gloucester. He was appointed Rector of St Anne's Church in Portsmouth and has further served ashore in Iraq and was the sole military Chaplain in Kabul, Afghanistan. His last 4 years was as the Chaplaincy Leader at the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. When he left the RN he became Rector of St Damerel Church in Plymouth. In March 2024 he retired and has now been appointed the Lead Chaplain of the SCC Units.

<u>IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT MANY MEMBERS WILL ATTEND THE TRAFALGAR DAY SERVICE AND HEAR REVD KEITH ROBUS PREACH ON SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER AT 1145 IN THE CATHEDRAL.</u>

EXETER FLOTILLA LECTURES—thanks to our Lecture Secretary—Dita Dixon

The Royal & Russian Navies–10 February

David Fields. The lecture was an interesting summary of a book written about the Cooperation, Competition and then Confrontation between the Royal and Russian Navies.



Diamond Exploration in Angola in the 1970s War-09 March

Alec Medlycott. In 1970, with the escalation of the war of independence in Angola, the Portuguese Government pressurised the Provincial diamond mining company (Diamang) into evaluating the diamond potential of the whole territory. Diamang contracted De Beers to undertake this programme. I was part of the team of 30 young geologists selected to do the job. In such a large country (1,246,700 km) where the rudimentary infrastructure had collapsed and trying to communicate in Portuguese with isolated rural people who only spoke local dialects was frustrating. Exploration equipment, construction materials and food were not readily available. The constant threat of ambushes and land mines complicated matters. Lateral thinking was required.



Convicts & Settlers: Characters who built Australia —11 May

Lynne Carroll. During the 18th & 19th centuries the early settlers and convicts arriving in Australia had very different reasons for taking up residence in the Colonies. Nevertheless, their lives would often overlap as they found themselves dependent upon each other's skills and knowledge. Convicts were deported to the other side of the world with little or no expectation of ever seeing Britain or their families again. Their tales of life on the convict hulks whilst awaiting deportation; the three-to-six month voyage; their work assignments on arrival; even their exploits as bushrangers are fascinating.



Innovations/Implications/Russia-Ukraine War—09 June

Andy Wellum-Kent. The talk will look at the impact uncrewed systems have had in the Ukraine war at sea, in the air and on land, and draw implications for the UK.

Andy Wellum-Kent is an infantry officer—Lt Col in the Regiment of Fusiliers, currently on the Advanced Command and Staff Course (ACSC) and assuming command of a Ranger Battalion at the end of the year.





As Modbury Chief Yeoman—David Scott hoisted flags at Palm Cross Green Mast.

ARMED FORCES DAYS—2026

June is the month when the Monarch has an Official Birthday, which is usually the second Saturday and there was the impressive Trooping of the Colour in London as well as the RAF flypast over the Mall and Buckingham Palace.

However—at the end of June there were 2 days when here in Devon various events were held.

In Exeter (20 June) there was a parade along the Main Street passed the Saluting Base and ending at the Cathedral, which consisted of RMs from CTCRM, various veteran Standards, several RBL Branch Standards and many youth organisations. Several bands provided the music.

In Plymouth (27 June) there was a much bigger event which lasted the whole day with all services providing various displays as can be seen from the leaflet.

David Scott—as Modbury Branch RBL Standard Bearer was on parade on both dates.

















EXETER FLOTILLA VISIT TO FENIX CARRIAGES— 14 JULY 2026







Thanks to our Treasurer, Ian Yule a visit was made to Fenix Carriages, which is a registered Charity helping young and disabled people with carriage driving and horse riding. Mark Broadbent is celebrating 50 years in business next year and is the President of the Coaching Club and Senior Warden of Worshipful Company of Coachmakers. He is an expert in horses, carriages, restoration and teaching, as well as an international judge. During the visit we witnessed a demonstration of carriage driving, then had a look at the restoration shed followed by a most delicious finger buffet and concluded with a fascinating talk about several of the splendid coaches in Mark's amazing collection of carriages, which included "Quick Silver" the fastest mail coach from London to Devonport.







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BLACK TOT DAY — 31 JULY 1970/2026 — THE ROYAL NAVY DAY BY DAY (RNDBD)

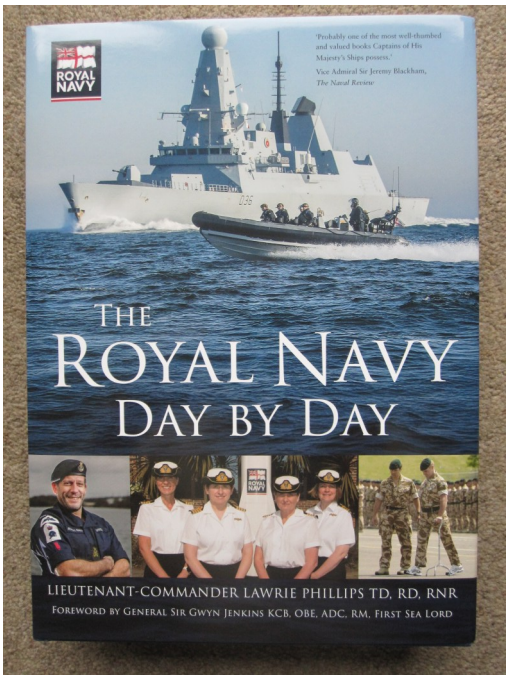
David Scott attended the Black Tot Day in HMS DRAKE arranged by the RN Tot Club. The new edition of RNDBD was used—note the index of HMS Exeter and Defender.

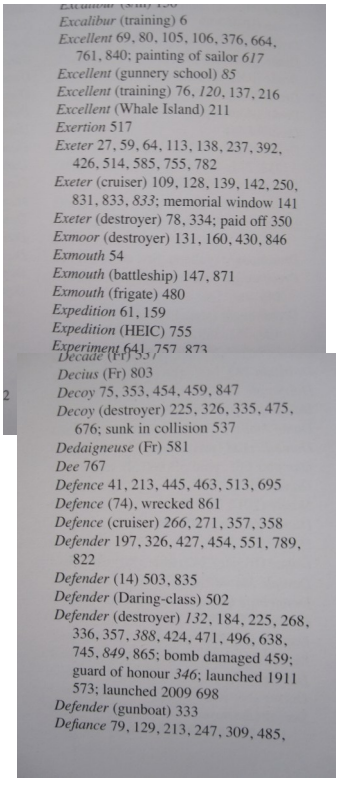




The Royal Navy Day by Day Book. Cost= £52.50. not £100!

Further note that HMS DEFENDER—D36 is on the front cover!





EXETER FLOTILLA FUTURE EVENTS

08 SEPTEMBER PATRON LECTURE EVENING in WYVERN BARRACKS
VAdm Rob Petre

AUTUMN TERM HMS DRAKE TOUR VISITING GYM, CHURCH, WOSRs MESS, GUARDROOM, WARDROOM—drink and lunch. Dates flexible max of 8 persons.

13 OCTOBER LECTURE EVENING
Col Ian Moore—The Royal Marines at the Battle of Trafalgar

18 OCTOBER TRAFALGAR DAY SERVICE - EXETER CATHEDRAL at 1145.
FLOTILLA FLAGSHIP EVENT **details to follow**

AUTUMN TERM POSSIBLE VISIT TO 47 COMMANDO in DEVONPORT - details to follow.

31 OCTOBER *RBL* DEVON FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE in CTCRM Falklands Hall
Members might like to come and support. Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start

10 NOVEMBER LECTURE EVENING
Capt Peter Hore—The Life and Times of Admiral Sir Jock Slater

08 DECEMBER LECTURE EVENING at the EXETER GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Candida Adkins—Story of the French Spy Odette Churchill