

THE BRITANNIA NAVAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

...From the Secretary/Vice Chair

Dear Member

JW TO ADD

John Wain BNRA Secretary

...From the Chairman

Dear Member

We had a great day at ONS22 with a diverse range of presentations from merchant marine to naval and from librarian through historian and re-enactor to narrate them in the splendid gardens and buildings of St Anne's College in the heart of Oxford University. Thanks to JW for the splendid organisation. So now at the end of our BNRA 'term' is a time to reflect and also to look forward to a summer of events. This starts off with Susan Amos' organisation of a visit to historic Buckler's Hard in the New Forest, with a tour of the museum, a boat trip and a light meal. Clearly a chance to mess about, both with boats and on boats, in hopefully glorious Hampshire summer sunshine. Frances, in her excellent newsletter that follows will also remind you, with her pictures of *HMS Warrior*, that you can also record and send in pictures and maritime snippets. Please also don't forget to send me or via JW any articles for the bumper 20th anniversary edition of the Journal that I am putting together. For it is you, our members, that make the BNRA what it is. This edition will review our history and new features of our continuing BNRA voyage 'from Drake to Dreadnought and Beyond'!

Dr Vaughan Michell, Chairman

www.Britannia-naval-research-association.org



BNRA Calendar Autumn 2022



**The Eighteenth Oxford Naval Symposium
Saturday 21st May 2022 St Anne's College, Oxford,
'Revenge!' Incorporating: 'The Alan Villiers Lecture**

...ONS22 Memories...



RESEARCH NOTES & QUERIES

Research Projects:

Last month I gave a talk to the Chipping Norton Yacht Club on Marvin Creamer's unique achievement in circumnavigating the globe without the use of any navigational instruments - no sextant, compass, chronometer or watch. These, along with a radio, were carried sealed inside a canvas bag for use only in emergency. However, he returned to Delaware Bay in May 1984 with the seal still intact. The 18 month voyage was made in his 35' steel yacht *Globe Star*. Marvin was 68 at that time; he carried on sailing well into his 90s and died in 2020 at the age of 104. A truly remarkable man.

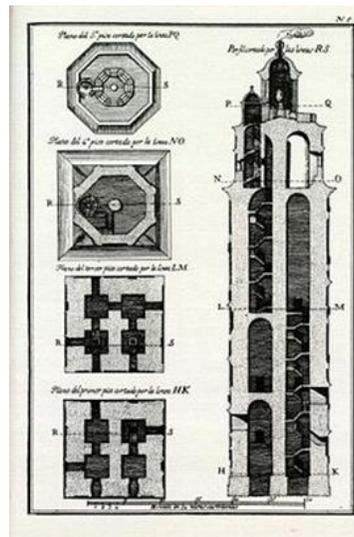
Breaking News Today 10 May 2022

It has been revealed that the wreck found in the North Sea off Great Yarmouth in 2007 is *HMS Gloucester* (1652) which sank in 1682. The discovery has been kept under wraps for the past fifteen years until the identity of the wreck could be confirmed and to protect the site, which lies in international waters, from pilfering. This find is thought to be the most historic maritime discovery since the raising of the *Mary Rose*. Many artefacts, including clothes, shoes, tobacco pipes and bottles, have been recovered from the site, and in 2012 the ship's bell was recovered. This proved to be a key clue in confirming the wreck to be the *HMS Gloucester*.

Torre de Hercules La Coruña

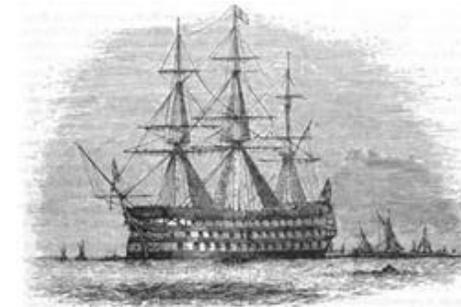
No sooner was the symposium over than James Walters was off to northern Spain to pay his respects to Sir John Moore and to view the Torre de Hercules at La Coruña, the second tallest lighthouse in Spain with Roman, and maybe Phoenician, origins. Sadly he ran out of time for a visit to the Spanish Naval Arsenal at El Ferrol.

Left Image: James Walters. Right Image from:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tower_of_Hercules



This Month's Brain Teaser

A lunch time conversation with Susan Amos about her current research project has provided this month's brain teaser.



What links these two images:

BNRA Summer Outing

Susan Amos is working to arrange a visit to historic Buckler's Hard in the New Forest, a group booking with a tour of the museum, a boat trip and a light meal. The suggested date is Saturday 9 July. A guide price would be £8 admission, £3 parking, + lunch cost pp. You can download a brochure at this link:

<https://www.bucklershard.co.uk/groups/day-visit/>

If interested, please contact Susan by phone or email.

01291 637407 07931 385682

susan_amos2005@yahoo.co.uk

RESEARCH NOTES & QUERIES

BNRA ONS22 Meeting Recap

The ONS 2022 "Revenge!"

It was worth the wait. The day was a feast of diverse and fascinating presentations which will, without doubt, inspire those present on the day to explore new areas of naval and maritime history.

The Thames Iron Works

William Mowll explained the connection between the Thames Iron Works and West Ham United. The team was started by the directors of the shipbuilding yard in 1895 to provide exercise for their work force, although the sheer physical effort needed to construct *HMS Thunderer* makes one doubt that any additional "keep fit" was needed. The crossed implements shown on the West Ham crest are riveting hammers and the team was first known as Thames Ironworks, shortened to The Irons. The club was reformed in 1900 as West Ham United.

The Falls Line

Graham "Bill" Cumming took us tramping through the Scottish countryside in search of the waterfalls that provided names for the ships of the Falls Line fleet of 4-masted barques (1870-1920). Built on Clydeside by Russell & Co., only the first ship built, *The Falls of Clyde*, survives today. Preserved in Hawaii as a museum ship, she has a dedicated webpage

<http://www.friendsoffallsofclde.org/history.html>



Naval Small Craft at Boathouse 4

David Griffith's talk on the work being done at Boathouse 4 in Portsmouth Dockyard, brought back happy memories for Nigel Hughes.

He remembers short rides aboard the ex-RAF Fairmile B motor launches Matapan and Dunkirk, still painted in their duck egg blue livery, operating from Bournemouth beach in 1952. At the end of WWII, many harbour launches and rescue boats found employment as ferries or excursion boats. Good photographic images and information can be found here:

<https://www.simplonpc.co.uk/DorsetBelle.html>

Boathouse 4 is free to enter - just ask for a free Historic Quarter Pass in the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Visitor Centre.

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Frances Miller (bateaudolfijn@hotmail.co.uk)

RESEARCH NOTES & QUERIES

Frances Miller (email: bateaudolfijn@hotmail.co.uk)

HMS Warrior



HMS Warrior showing off her fresh paint May 2022. Photos James Walters

...From the Treasurer/Technical Support



BNRA Facebook Group

This is a BNRA only members group where questions, answers and links to maritime things can be shared with other members there. To join is simple. You will need a Facebook account and for that you will need some internet connection and an email address.

It is simple to set up a new email with a free email account and use that. Ask to be my Facebook "friend". I will check your membership status and, if satisfactory, friend you and send an invitation to the site. You then join and I un-friend you so that limits the junk mail from Facebook. You are in! Everything should be free so just some time invested.