



CNOA

Chatham Naval Officers' Association



The CNOA Newsletter for December 2019

Email: contact@cnoa.org.uk

Website: www.cnoa.org.uk

Contents

Next CNOA meeting details
Chairman's Flag Hoist
Future speakers & events
CNOA Annual Address 6th Dec
Operational Sentinel in the Gulf
Are you still a member?
The Silent Service speaks
Trafalgar Dinner pictures
Some CNOA Housekeeping
New Year's Luncheon booking
Advice from Seafarers UK
The Exploits of Captain Ginger
New Newsletter Editor needed
CNOA Member Application Form



RNAS Culdrose Remembrance Parade © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2019

Sailors from Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose marched through the streets of Truro, on Sunday 10th November, to remember those who have fallen for their country in the annual Remembrance parade.

The Royal Navy guard marched the parade from Boscawen Street to Truro Cathedral where they lined the entrance to welcome guests for a Remembrance service.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The next meeting of the Association will be on **Friday the 6th December** in the Warfare Room, RSME HQ Brompton Barracks 19.45 for 20.00 when our speaker will be our President, Commodore Barry Bryant, who will deliver his Address and annual review with his usual focus and joviality. The evening will then continue with refreshments and fellowship in the Officers Mess.

Chairman's Flag Hoist:



Dear Fellow Members,

We recently held our annual Trafalgar Dinner in the Royal Engineers Officers' Mess in Brompton Barracks. 64 members and guests attended and overall it was a splendid occasion. Our guest of honour this year was Rear Admiral Richard Leaman-Grey who proposed the toast to "The Immortal Memory" (of Admiral Lord Nelson of course). I received very positive feedback from the Admiral after the dinner. He was accompanied by his wife Dr Jacqui Leaman-Grey. It is amazing that even after listening to decades worth of Trafalgar speeches, one can always learn something new.

Also new for us this year, was that for the first time on our 70 year history, our wives were invited to attend. Personally I found that their presence did nothing to undermine the occasion in any way. On the contrary. And let's be frank, we need their support if these functions are to continue. More and more Naval officers are female and so having ladies present at mess dinners is already an established fact. Indeed in some shore wardrooms, senior civil servants who qualify for wardroom membership are often female and they can (and do) attend Trafalgar Dinners as wardroom mess members if they wish. Things change.

Talking of change, I expect many of you have been watching the excellent documentary series filmed over a period of two years on board HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH. The film maker is a chap called Chris Terrill. He recently wrote:

MY TWO YEARS ONBOARD 'LITTLE BRITAIN' "There is a microcosmic version of our country that sounds like it might exist in some parallel dimension or alternative plane. It is sovereign territory, but has no land borders and cannot be seen on any map. Its population is diverse, inclusive, altruistic, multi-racial, multi-faith, drug-free, relentlessly hard-working, resolutely upbeat and all but totally crimeless. Furthermore, no politicians or businessmen reside here and it remains virtually unaffected by Brexit. Too good to be true? Not at all. The 'Little Britain' I refer to is HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH. At 65,000 tons the largest and most powerful warship ever built for the Royal Navy".

I started to watch this series with trepidation. The Navy has been harmed before by so called 'Fly on the wall' programmes. Well, I had nothing to fear. The people onboard this ship largely come across as thoroughly professional and dedicated to getting the job done. Naturally, there are elements that surprise. The working relationship between officers and the ship's company seems quite relaxed. The use of first names seems more widespread than in my day. But overall, discipline seems to be as taught as ever. And last night, an American aircraft engineer working onboard stated that he was amazed by how happy everyone onboard was, "even the guy in the wardroom cleaning the silver". That's a hard thing to achieve on a ship this size.

OK. I was taken aback by the Captain's steward who was a very likeable Rastafarian West Indian, complete with dreadlocks that he wears in a bun when on duty. But he was immensely proud of his ship and clearly strives for the highest standards in his work.

My, how things do change. But it seems to work and work very well. So, we all know that change can be difficult, but perhaps not all change is bad? I just can't wait to see 24 fast jets lined up on that flight deck.

Yours Aye,

Colin

Colin Tozer
Cdr RN (Rtd)
CNOA Chairman

2019 / 2020 Future Speakers & Events:

Please note any date changes below

6th December: Cmdre Bryant – The President's Address

10th January: Stephen Howarth - The Shetland Bus

25th January: [New Year Luncheon](#)

14th February: CNOA AGM – Agenda items to the Hon. Sec. please

13th March: Hannah Hockin - Carers UK

10th April: CNOA diary clash with Good Friday and Good Friday wins!

8th May: John Johnson-Allen – The loss of HMS Truculent

12th June: TBA

10th July: Peter Goodwin – Nelson's Arctic Voyage

14th August: CNOA is on leave

11th September: Guy Bartlett - Planes

9th October: TBA

13th November: TBA

11th December: Cmdre Bryant – President's Address

Additional events will be included as details become available. As always, we are most grateful to those who send items for this Newsletter. **All such contributions by the 5th of each month please.** Could other CNOA members also provide a short presentation for us? Yes, of course they could! Please let Jon Vanns know or email contact@cnoa.org.uk

Derek Ireland (Hon. Secretary) and *Graham Storey* (Newsletter Editor)

The CNOA Annual Address by our President From Lt Cdr John Vanns

On Friday the 6th of December, our President will address the CNOA membership, the evening will be both enjoyable and informative with a mix of serious and amusing content.

Operation Sentinel keeps watch on friendly shipping From MoD Navy

A new weapon in the arsenal of lawful seafaring nations stands ready to protect shipping in the Middle East with the official launch of Operation Sentinel.

Seven nations have agreed to help safeguard merchant ships entering and leaving the Gulf, offering protection for vessels in the Strait of Hormuz - where ships have been harassed, attacked and, in one case, seized over the past six months. With five Britons, led by head of operations Commander Ben Keith, on its staff, the International Maritime Security Construct has been set up to run the operation, codenamed Sentinel.

From its headquarters - two unassuming beige tents supported by various equipment in half a dozen shipping containers at the US Fifth Fleet's base in Bahrain - it will monitor a vast area, and incredibly busy waters. On a typical weekday morning there are at least 1,800 ships at sea between the shores of Qatar in the west and the Gulf of Oman to the east.

The Royal Navy has been tasked to accompany British-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz, as part of the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC). This deployment will ensure that the UK has the flexibility to continually commit a vessel to the international mission.



Keeping watch during Operation Sentinel © Crown Copyright MoD Navy 2019

Official - The Silent Service says we didn't do it **From Lt Cdr Stephen Small**

This looks like a statement that would cause simmering rage from the Plain English Campaign <http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/> although it does sum up the "sneaky" operations carried out by the silent service.

“On my submarine, we did some of the stuff we did. We didn't do the other stuff we did because if we did do it, it was a secret. So we didn't do it. Even though we did, but not really.

The medals my shipmates and I didn't earn for doing what we didn't do, we did receive, except we didn't, because we never went where we were and weren't there when we were, but we did the stuff we didn't do while we weren't there not doing it.

As far as what boat I was on, we didn't go where we went and didn't do what we did while not doing it.

So, the bottom line, we weren't on a boat that I won't mention, not doing what we did, where we weren't. I hope that clarifies things.”

CNOA Trafalgar Dinner 2019 **From Lt Col Barry Duffield**

Someone said a picture is worth a thousand words, so here are a number of pictures of the CNOA Trafalgar Dinner 2019. It was a most enjoyable event, with good company in an amazing location. These events are a bit like a swan swimming slowly on a river but

below the surface paddling furiously against the current. What you can see is all calm and serene, what you can't see is all the planning and hard work done by a team working together to deliver the event. Roll on the next one, Trafalgar Dinner 2020.



Just some of the CNOA members and guests at the Trafalgar Night 2019 © Copyright Lt Col Barry Duffield 2019

To be or not to be, like being a CNOA member? From Lt Cdr Andy Nailor

Too often the Treasurer and Membership Secretary seem to be politely chasing members for their annual subscriptions.

At the recent committee meeting it was agreed that if CNOA annual subscriptions are not received from a member by the AGM and are still unpaid by the end of the Association's financial year, those members who will have had a "free subscription" for a year, subsidised by the members who pay their annual subscriptions, will be deemed to have left the CNOA and the benefits of membership will be withdrawn.

NB At the last AGM it was agreed to increase annual subs from £15 to £20.

Many members pay by Bank standing order and have not instructed their bank to increase the amount.

Please make sure you are not one of them!

Thank you.



Event: CNOA New Year's Luncheon

Venue: Bearsted Golf Club

Date: 25th January 2020 1230 for 1315

Dress: Lounge Suit / Smart Jacket and Tie
(Club Rules: Jeans etc are Not permitted)

(Please Print Names.)

[illegible]

Dinner Cost per Head: £ 20.00

(All drinks will be from the Bar at Club prices)

Payment can be made **online** (see bottom of this page for details), or **cheque** as in the old days.

Payment made / enclosed: £

Payable to: CNOA

I regret that I am unable to attend but enclose a donation to our Service Charities.

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form together with cheque or evidence of payment to:

Commander David Houston, Landway House, Northfleet Green, Gravesend, Kent DA13 9PN

alternatively email to david@houstonclan.net No later than Monday 13th January. However, the List will be closed if the permitted numbers are achieved prior to that date.

Tables: The club makes use of round tables that normally seat 8. There are a few tables that can seat 10. I will endeavour to seat your party together at one table and if you are a group of 8 then that will be great.

So round up your friends – get them to bring their cheque books and let's make this a really great New Year's Lunch with heaps raised for our Association's charities

Menu

Starters

- A. Chestnut, parsnip and bacon soup with garlic croutons
- B. Wild mushroom arancini with spicy tomato sauce
- C. Pear and stilton tart with dressed rocket
- D. Prawn and avocado salad in a Marie Rose sauce

Main

- E. Traditional roasted turkey breast with all the trimmings
- F. Roasted hake with clam and cider jus
- G. Braised lamb shank on a bed of leek and garlic mash
- H. Portabella mushroom, chestnut and spinach wellington

Desserts

- I. Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
- J. Mulled wine panna cotta, with a fruit compote, crunchy topping
- K. Bramley Apple crumble with vanilla ice cream
- L. A rich Chocolate torte with brandy snap basket
- M. A selection of sorbet: champagne, raspberry and lemon

Tea and coffee to follow with a selection of Christmas petite fours

Payment online

We can now pay online for our functions. The bank details for CNOA are as follows:

Barclays Bank Sort Code 20-25-42 Account No. 93932702. In the details box put the code NYD20.

If you make use of the online payment please cross out the word cheque on the top of this form and write the amount paid in the box, where we used to put the cheque amount.

Specialist advice for fishing industry workers in uncertain times From Seafarers UK



FREE EXPERT ADVICE FOR FISHERMEN
CALL FREE ON 0800 160 1842 MONDAY – FRIDAY 10AM – 4PM





Seafarers UK has stepped in to support those working in the UK's Fishing Fleet as Parliament determines how and when the UK will depart from membership of the European Union.

As much as 80% of the fish caught in the UK is exported to other countries. The current lack of clarity around the timing of the UK's departure and potential for new tariffs, export paperwork and possible border delays could cause an uncertain financial future for those who earn their income from selling the fish they catch.



**FREE EXPERT
ADVICE FOR
FISHERMEN**

SAIL
SEAFARERS' ADVICE &
INFORMATION LINE

**SAIL is a Citizens Advice
service for seafarers.**

We understand the difficulties
fishermen face and can give free,
expert advice on benefits, debt,
housing and much more.

We are completely confidential
and not part of any government
agency.

**CALL FREE ON
0800 160 1842**
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 4PM
advice@sailine.org.uk

www.sailine.org.uk

*"I can't
keep on top
of my bills"*

*"I'm worried
about my
income
tax bill"*

*"Is there
anything I can
claim if I'm injured
and can't go
to sea?"*

To help support the UK Fishing Fleet during this period of uncertainty, Seafarers UK has awarded grant funding for a new Fishing Specialist Caseworker post to provide free advice through the existing Seafarers Advice and Information Line (SAIL).

SAIL is a freephone Citizens Advice service for seafarers and their families which is funded in partnership by Seafarers UK, Seafarers' Hospital Society and Greenwich Hospital.

Seafarers UK's funding of a new Fishing Specialist Caseworker role provides an additional resource aimed at specifically supporting fishers during a period of uncertainty and potential disruption to their ability to earn an income.

Fishers can be sure of excellent guidance. Natasha Taylor was previously employed by Northampton

Citizens Advice and more recently was funded by the Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust to collect data for Seafarers UK's new research project on the Financial Resilience of Fishermen.

Natasha has been appointed as SAIL's new Fishing Specialist Caseworker. Natasha will use her unique knowledge and expertise of financial problems experienced by fishers to enable them to find solutions.

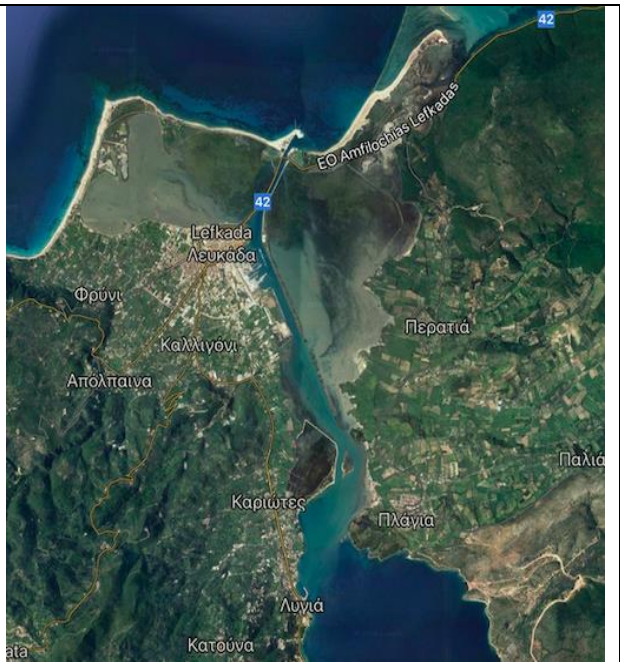
Emerging findings from the research reveal that fishers can experience growing debt problems when unable to fish; perhaps because of sickness and ill health or because the fishing vessel is in for repair. This can lead to problems with priority debt as it becomes difficult to keep up housing and council tax payments when there is little or no income coming in.

As well as help with debt problems, fishers will be able to get help with housing and relationship problems too. Natasha can also advise on accessing welfare benefits, the state pension or provide help if worried about falling behind on tax payments to HMRC. Support to access grants provided by other maritime welfare charities is also available.

If you know a fisher who could benefit from some advice and help, please let them know that SAIL is there to help them. For more information about help available for fishermen, please visit <http://sailine.org.uk/who-we-help/fishermen>

The Exploits of Captain Ginger
From Lt Cdr Trevor Pratt

Exploits of
Captain Ginger
Preveza to
Kalamata
July 2019



Lefkas Canal, Greece

After spending two nights moored stern onto the Town Quay at Preveza, where David joined us, we left mid morning to retrace our route through the Lefkas Canal. Once clear we anchored off the small resort town of Lygia to meet up with Bruno and Sylvia, who are from Switzerland and were on their way back to Preveza. It was a pleasant little anchorage and we ended up having a pot luck BBQ onboard Captain Ginger, swapping tales till late in the evening.



Preveza Town Quay



Lefkas Swing Bridge

This is the last leg of our cruising programme, which ends at Kalamata some two hundred miles to the south, in a couple weeks. We are planning to take our time and take advantage of the prevailing wind so not quite sure where we will end up on a day-to-day basis.

After Lygia we made our way back to the mainland to Palairos, where we had to anchor outside the small harbour as it was full of charter boats waiting for new crews to join them the following day – bad timing on our behalf as a day later we would have had a free berth!

We visited the island of Meganisi once again with its many bays and coves but unfortunately notorious for wasps. We anchored at the head of the three pronged bay of Ambelakia and in the evening walked across the headland to the next bay and the pretty seaside town of Vathy.



Anchorage at Ambelakia



*Kioni and the locals took a keen interest
in our mooring technique!*

The wind seems to be either all or nothing and sailing to Fiskardo the wind gradually increased, giving us a strong headwind so we ended up bearing away and making for Kioni on the island of Ithaca instead. Here it was very busy with charter boats and we had to anchor in deep water taking long lines ashore - not always an easy task and on this occasion we had three attempts before we got it right!

We made it to Fiskardo on Cephalonia the next day and re-visited the restaurant overlooking the entrance to the bay; drawn back by the superb homemade puddings! Cephalonia is the largest island in the Ionian Sea but not as well known as for instance Corfu. Put on the map by the novel Captain Corelli's Mandolin and the film of the same title.

We then had three days cruising down the east coast of the island before crossing to Katakolon on the mainland.



Fiskardo was pretty full



Orange soufflé and ice-cream

Katakolon has a large harbour, much of which is unused, we moored on the Town Quay which is currently free of charge as the Harbourmaster retired and has not been replaced. It is a sleepy little town, which comes to life when a cruise ship visits, an almost daily occurrence. We had two nights here and on the second day hired a car to visit the archaeological site and museums of Olympia where the first games were held in pre-historic times. It is a beautiful site, very peaceful and as you walk through the vaulted passageway known as the Krypte, the hidden entrance to the stadium, you get a feeling of what it must have felt like in ancient times. We were quite worn out walking round in the July heat so what it must have been like for the competitors in August I hate to imagine. A practice not seen in the modern Olympic Games was the spectacular Cretan activity of *Bull Jumping*. The jumper seized the bull by the horns whilst it was running and made a dangerous leap over its back to land on the ground. The Games were open to all as spectators, even slaves and Barbarians but not married women!



The Krypte, entrance to the stadium



The Philippeion, considered one of the most elegant buildings

On a more mundane note, we took the opportunity whilst we had the car of doing a big supermarket shop to stock up on essentials, loo rolls, cleaning stuff and the like – oh! and also beer.



Cruise ship dominates the harbour



Entrance to Pilos, Navarinou Bay

of Katakolon

The little town of Katakolon had grown on us and we had met some nice fellow cruisers but it was time to continue our journey south to Pilos situated in the inland bay of Navarinou. It was a long day but a satisfying sail, flying our Cruising Shute for most of the way. The narrow entrance between two islands was quite dramatic and once inside it was calm and peaceful. The harbour here is rather neglected with little room for visiting boats so along with several other yachts we spent our time here at anchor which was cooler and we were able to swim from the boat.

We took advantage of a strong north-westerly wind to take us on our next leg south to the small town of Koroni and with winds gusting to 25 knots from astern we had a good sail using only the genoa. We anchored here in a sandy bay with good holding for the anchor, which was just as well as the gusts continued till the early hours of the following morning

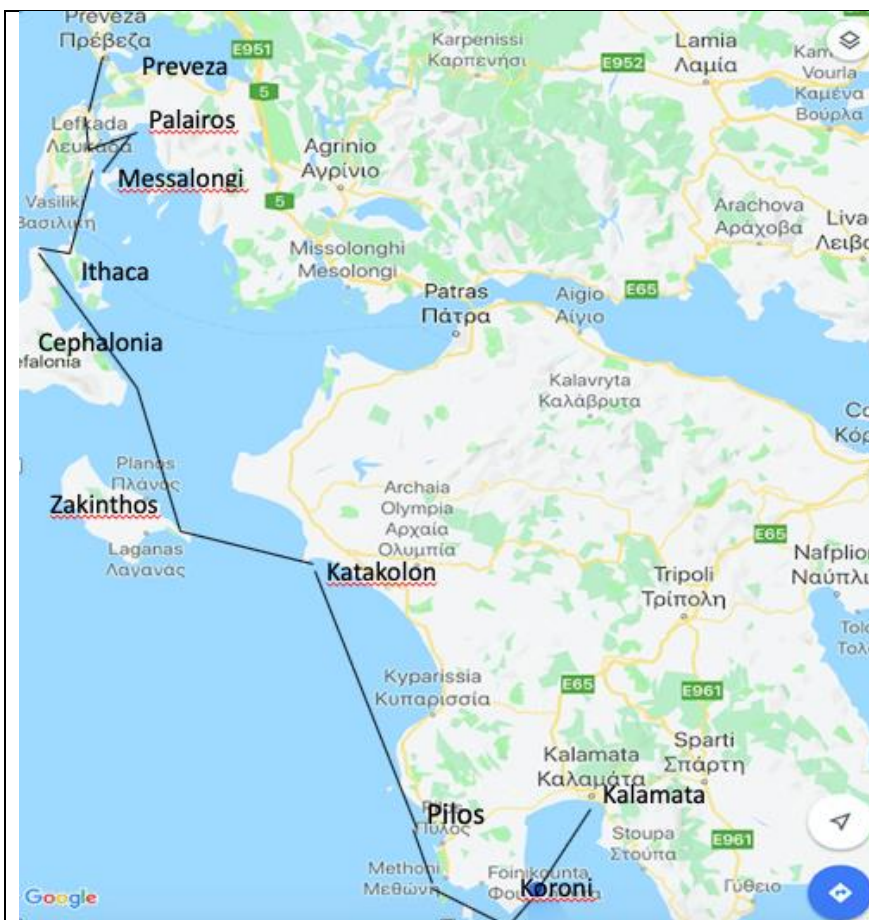


Cruising shute



*The fortress on the headland
of Koroni*

We were now in the bay of Messiniakos at the head of which lies the town of Zakynthos. So, the next day, in a flat calm sea with no wind, we made our way to the marina there to lay the boat up for two months during the summer. It just gets too hot and too crowded. We have a few days of hectic activity ahead of us and then fly back home for a break until September.



Preveza to Kalamata

The Newsletter Editor has only 2 CNOA Newsletters left to go!

From the Newsletter Editor

After editing the February 2020 edition of the CNOA Newsletter, and so having done it for more than seven years, I will pass the role to another willing CNOA member. This will allow me to deliver some additional marketing support for a couple of "good cause" organisations that really do need some help in communications, fund raising and attracting more supporters.

The new CNOA Newsletter Editor may not have all the digital skills needed right now but for the right person there is more than enough time for the new CNOA Newsletter Editor to acquire the necessary skills. They can be very useful for years to come in many other activities, could even be life enhancing. One's children and grandchildren may even think but never say "How did you do that?, Respect."

Few would deny that much of UK society is going digital. If you think online tax returns to HMRC and vehicle licencing are game changers, before that happened farmers were required to do their livestock census online each December. So, do you want to learn and practice some more digital skills?

Most members will have use of the Internet with a full sized screen (very useful when designing the Newsletter pages). Building the CNOA Newsletter using a phone screen could be interesting. Having access to an up to date licence for Microsoft Office would also be good as it allows the Newsletter to be built in Word but sent out as a smaller and secure .pdf file.

Building on the digital basics that most have, the right person will be introduced to some very useful information sources (ever wondered where the CNOA Newsletter images and news items come from, you just have to know who to ask). The distribution list is held securely on the web, the Hon Sec helps to keep it up to date and the Newsletter distribution is easy and fast powered by one of the best known names in consumer IT.

The website www.cnoa.org.uk is based on some older web platform technologies and is already being upgraded to use some much newer, more "user friendly" tools make updating the website very easy. It's another skill set that opens many other doors.

Some members already receive from friends emailed news items/holiday reports in all sorts of different formats that can send the cursor (sorry, the Mouse pointer) all over the place and the PC seems to have a mind of its own. Fear not, the new editor will be shown how to easily "re-format" most things that arrive by email or are taken from a website so they behave themselves while being used to build the CNOA Newsletter.

Interested to know more? Just click on contact@cnoa.org.uk Could even be life enhancing.

A note from the CNOA Hon. Secretary

If you enjoy the CNOA activities, why not extend an invitation to a like minded serving or retired officer? or ask them to look at cnoa.org.uk



CHATHAM NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

President: Commodore Barry Bryant CVO RN

Chairman: Cdr Colin Tozer RN (Rtd)

APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

SURNAME		FORENAMES	DATE
HOME ADDRESS		BUSINESS ADDRESS	
Tel. No:-		Tel. No:-	
E Mail Address:-		E Mail Address:-	
RANK	TYPE OF COMMISSION	SPECIALISATION / AWARDS & QUALIFICATIONS	
BRIEF CAREER DETAILS			
<p>General Data Protection Regulation: - I agree that all the above details may be maintained and kept by the CNOA and RSME for the purposes of membership records and security. I agree / do not agree (delete as applicable) to my details being published in a membership booklet.</p> <p>SIGNED.....</p>			
PRESENT OCCUPATION			
PROPOSERS NAME	PROPOSERS SIGNATURE	HOW LONG KNOWN	
SECONDRS NAME	SECONDRS SIGNATURE	HOW LONG KNOWN	