



# The AnyFace Association Newsletter June 2024



## Membership Update

It is fantastic to report that the Association has had another increase in membership, with a diverse mix of specialisations and aircraft represented. Please help spread the word amongst your oppos and encourage them to come and join us!

**Kevin Clapp.** Kevin (Doser) was an AEM(L) on Gannet AEW Mk3 and joined 849 NAS HQ in November 1976. He then served on 849 B Flt in 1977 until its final decommissioning in December 1978.

**Tom Brown.** Tom was a Gannet Mk3,4,5 pilot and served on 849 B Flt 1966 - 1968.

**William Blunt.** William is a Merlin MK2 ASAC Observer and received his wings in 2022 as the first course of MeASAC Ab Initio Observers.

**Peter Keith.** Pete was a pinkie (radar) engineer on Sea King, serving on 849 HQ, 849A Flt & 857 NAS.

**Brian Hill.** Brian was a Gannet Observer for many years and served with 849 NAS at Culdrose, Brawdy, Lossiemouth and with various flights onboard Victorious, Ark Royal and Hermes.

**Phil Clark.** Phil received his Sea King Mk7 Observer wings in 2006 and has served on 849 B Flt, 857 NAS and 849 NAS. Having transferred to the Merlin platform, he was the first Crownsest Senior Observer on 820 NAS. Phil is currently an instructor on 824 NAS and, in his spare time, is the lead singer of Little Red Ambulance. Please see the Latest Dits section for more on his latest release!

## Future Events

### National Memorial Arboretum meet up - 6 August 2024

The event will start at midday at The Redrat Memorial Bench, where words of remembrance and the laying of a poppy wreath will be followed by a toast to absent friends (personal hipflask). The remainder of the afternoon will be taken at leisure for personal remembrance in the peace and tranquility of the Arboretum grounds. **Jan Cox** will contact those attending shortly to confirm a location for dinner that evening.

We recently instructed the National Memorial Arboretum maintenance team to carry out a refurbishment package on the Red Rat Memorial Bench. This has been completed and was paid for from the Association Bench Fund. As you can see, the bench is in excellent condition and ready for our event in August.



### Cenotaph Parade, Whitehall - 10 November 2024



The RBL has allocated the AnyFace Association 20 places on the parade. It's fantastic to report that all 20 spots are currently filled, but if you would like to be added to the reserve list, please RSVP using the link below.

[Cenotaph Parade 2024 | AnyFace Association](#)

Regardless of participation in the RBL parade, members are welcome to attend the Fly Navy Federation service on the Embankment and lunch afterwards. Please RSVP for lunch below.

[Remembrance Day Lunch | AnyFace Association](#)

### AnyFace Reunion 2025 - Watch this space!

Planning is still underway, and we hope to have a confirmed venue and date very soon. Please keep the expressions of interest (link below) coming, as this will help the planning team.

[AnyFace Reunion 2025 - Early April, Yeovilton area | AnyFace Association](#)



## Latest Dits

Let's help get Little Red Ambulance to the top of the charts!



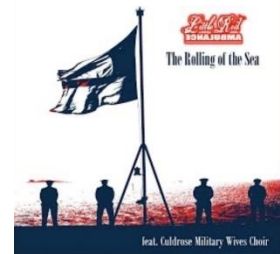
As mentioned at the start of the newsletter, **Phil Clark** is the lead singer of the amazing band Little Red Ambulance. The band is made up of 5 friends who usually come together every year to release a Christmas song. But this year, we've been treated to a mid-year charity release, 'The Rolling of the Sea,' which features the Culdrose Military Wives Choir. The song is a reflection of the emotions felt before deploying, with proceeds going to the wonderful Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), which does so much for our serving and retired

personnel.

It's a beautiful song so please listen and download it here

<https://ffm.bio/lra>

They are currently ranked around 50 in the UK chart, so let's spread the word and help them move up!



## AnyFacers Down Under

Although JB and I are a long way from home, it has been great to catch up with a host of old friends (and AnyFace members) over the last few months. If you find yourself in Canberra, please let us know. Top L-R: with **Arthur and Cindy White**; with **Paul 'Bish' Mullowney**. Bottom L-R: with **Craig Howe**; **JB & Jim Ford**.



## Veterans' Orthopaedic Service - RJAH

Thanks to **Mel Shaw** for providing the following after his recent visit to the Veterans Orthopaedic Service in Shropshire. If you have any comments or further information on this matter, please email me, and I can forward it to Mel.

*I was recently referred to the Veterans Orthopaedic Service (VOS) at the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt (RJAH) hospital near Gobowen, Shropshire by my General Practitioner (GP).*

*Originally the hospital formed part of the Park Hall military training camp.*

*Although an ex-serviceman, I was not aware that this service was available & was*



*quite impressed by the VOS unit of the RJAH hospital when I visited this new facility for the first time. It is called 'The Headley Court Veterans Orthopaedic Centre'.*

*When I was a member of the armed services there were five military hospitals in the UK where all retired veteran service personnel could be admitted and treated. Today no such facilities exist! They have all been*

*closed! This has been the case for many years now. I believe all acting service personnel that are injured on active service are now being treated in the Queen Elizabeth NHS hospital in Birmingham.*

*One of the reasons for my being referred to the RJAH was the excessively long waiting list for treatment at a local NHS hospital. However, when I attended the facility for an assessment, I was informed that the waiting list for treatment is almost as long as any other local NHS hospital, due to recent tight financial restrictions & reductions in funding.*

*I was told that veterans from outside of Shropshire would soon be unable to be treated at RJAH as NHS England would no longer pay for the funding. This is truly a retrograde step for all veterans across the UK who do not live in the local NHS area & will no longer have access to RJAH facilities.*

*In light of the recent comments of various politicians of all parties & countries during the 80th anniversary of D-day, about how grateful they all were to veterans, both those that died & those that still survive, who took part in the Normandy landings & in World War II generally, it seems incredulous that funding should be so dramatically reduced for both surviving World War II personnel but also all other retired service personnel who have, & are still today, prepared to sacrifice their lives if necessary for the protection & safety of their country. This is particularly relevant today following the outbreak of war in eastern Europe & our previous involvements in Iraq & Afghanistan.*

*On the BBC Panorama program on the 10th June 2024, the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said & I quote, "My duty is also to make sure that this is a country which looks after our veterans, which is why I'm proud that there is a Veterans Minister seated around the cabinet table."*

*The information below does not bear witness to the Prime Minister's statement, so if he means what he says, then things really need to change, and whatever political party is elected to form a government in July.*

*M J Shaw (Lieutenant Royal Navy Retired)*

## Admin Director Update

### New Joiner Membership Fees

A reminder to all new joiners that 2024 membership fees are as follows:

Full and Associate Members £10

Overseas Members free

I'd be grateful if you could BACS transfer any outstanding fees to the account details below.

Account: 17736048

Sort: 010155

Ref: Surname 24

### AnyFace Association Tie

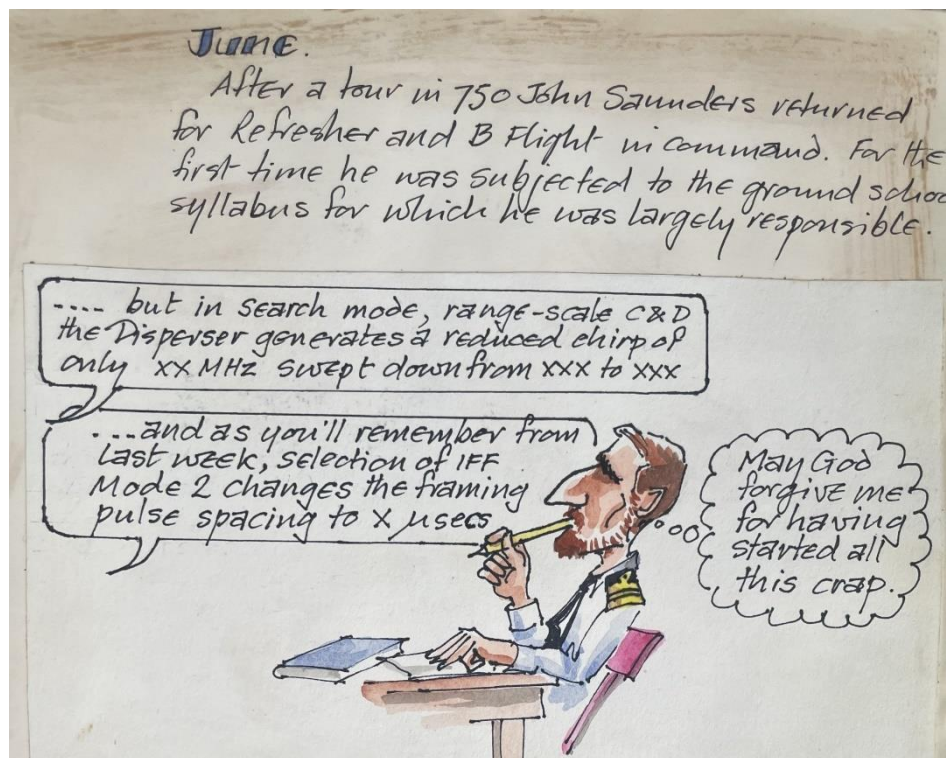
This edition's tie model is committee member **Dicky Lewis** who, along with **Tank Murray**, recently attended the D-Day Commemoration at Trebah Gardens in Falmouth.

We still have a number of ties left in stock at £15 (including p&p). You can order yours via the [AnyFace Tie order form](#).



## Down Memory Lane

And leaving you with a PAF linebook classic from June many moons ago!



Yours aye,

Serena

