



# THE 1805 DISPATCHES

THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF THE 1805 CLUB

[www.1805club.org](http://www.1805club.org)

## THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Observations From The Chairman, Capt. John Rodgaard (USN Retd.)

Despite what seems to be a never-ending pandemic that has put many into a metaphorical state of the doldrums, I do so hope all had a good holiday season with family and friends.

This first issue of *The 1805 Dispatches* for 2022 certainly dispels that feeling of the doldrums. It can't be said that our honourable secretary/chief of staff, Stephen Howarth, was sitting about during the season. What a part-time job he has of providing entertaining lectures aboard a premier cruise ship such as the *Bolette*! I, for one, have asked him if I could carry his bags on his next cruise.

Stephen's activity is emblematic of what The Club anticipates its membership will be doing in the first half of 2022. Several events are planned and we hope several projects will soon come to fruition.

Our US Secretary, Pete Stark, is planning an in-person luncheon for members living within the greater Washington DC area on Saturday 12 February. It will commemorate the Battle of Cape St. Vincent. He is also planning a Potomac River cruise aboard the Tall Ship *Providence* in the late spring.

Fellow club member and President of the British Officers Club

of DC, Peter Pennington, is planning a Queen's Platinum Jubilee and birthday garden party at one of Alexandria's historic homes in Virginia. In the past, many members of The Club living in the DC area have joined in celebrating the Queen's birthday.

Among the projects and accompanying events for 2022, The Club has contributed financially to the restoration of the Nelson Room at the former Greenwich Royal Naval Hospital and College. Nelson's remains laid in state there prior to his funeral. We have been informed that work is nearly completed and the room will be dedicated and opened to the public some time in the next few months. I will keep all of you posted, especially those living within the greater London area when the dedication will occur.

We received confirmation from fellow member Stephen Tregidgo that the Admiral William Cornwallis memorial plaque has completed a major milestone. All parties have agreed on the design and type of memorial stone to be fabricated as well as the placement of the stone in St. Ann's Church, HM Naval Base Portsmouth. It is anticipated the dedication of the Cornwallis memorial stone will take place during the summer months.

Council member, Ms. Kathy Brown, currently the Director of The Trafalgar Way, is working on developing a Club fundraiser through a Trafalgar Way auction.

I have been informed by The Club's webmaster, Josephine Birtwhistle, that The Club's website has been updated and is now available to the members and the rest of the world. I **encourage** you all to look at it. It is a massive improvement and we thank her for



her efforts, especially her patience. I think it will definitely show our membership and the world the direction the Club is taking as it enters its next decade.

By way of appreciation, I am sure you will join me in expressing a BZ 'well done' to our editor, Peter Turner for the last issue of the *Kedge Anchor*. There were great articles about the effects of Captain William Hoste (Nelson's favourite) that are now up for auction; an article on the Truxton Bowl and the life of Commodore Thomas Truxton, USN; excellent articles on ship decorations, figureheads and the new figurehead for *Cutty Sark*. The quality of the illustrations and the layout are outstanding. I do have to say that the continued quality of the *Kedge Anchor* and *The 1805 Dispatches* is up to us as members of The 1805 Club. Peter will definitely welcome your articles.

I would be amiss if I didn't mention The Club's Facebook page. If you haven't visited it lately, there have been some really fabulous postings by members Stephen Howarth, Lily Styles and Judy Pearson. Here is the link:

[www.facebook.com/The1805Club](https://www.facebook.com/The1805Club)

Finally, if this isn't a vote of confidence in the future, I don't know what is. I have dragged out my sea chest in preparation for our trans-Atlantic passage on the *Queen Mary 2* over to Blighty in May. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at The Club's AGM on Saturday 28 May.

Yours aye,



Detail from  
'HMS Victory's Finest Moment'  
by Richard Grenville  
<https://sapiart.com/product/h-m-s-victorys-finest-moment/>



## SATISFIED SECRETARY



A message was received from The 1805 Club Secretary, Stephen Howarth, when he was lecturing on a Christmas cruise tour aboard Fred Olsen's BOLETTE:

"On 22 December I was in La Coruña and some instinct led me to the place shown in the attached photo. Nice gin and fabulous mussels in a spicy tomato sauce. As you can tell, I am always thinking of copy for the *TD*."

We hope other members follow this fine example and send us details of their successes, and failures, with regard to vittles.



## EDITORIAL

Happy New Year from me, everyone, and thanks for your support.

There have been times when there is nothing much to report, but times they are a-changing and it is all looking good for the near future.

It will soon be spring!



## USS CONSTITUTION

*USS Constitution* has made history...again! 1 January 2022, *USS Constitution* bid a fond farewell to Cdr John A. Benda and warmly welcomed Cdr Billie June (BeeJay) Farrell, the first woman to take command of "Old Ironsides."

It's a defining moment in the Ship's 224-year history as the first female took the helm in January. As this incredible news made its way across the country and even the world, those interested were invited to meet these decorated U.S. Navy leaders in a free virtual event! It was also the first time a public audience was invited to meet both commanders and to celebrate in advance of the change of command.

On Wednesday, January 19 at 1PM ET, the *USS Constitution* Museu "Captains of *USS Constitution: Hail & Farewell*," celebrated these two historic commanding officers in a dynamic online programme; the first opportunity to hear directly from Cdr Benda and Cdr Farrell before the change of command. What are the plans for the future of the Ship? And of course, whose home state has the better signature dish?

You may be able to pick this up post-event at <https://ussconstitutionmuseum.org>

BTW, did you know that *Constitution* was the inspiration for *Acheron*, the French 'phantom ship' in the film *Master and Commander, Far Side of the World*, starring Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany as Capt Jack Aubrey and Dr Stephen Maturin.



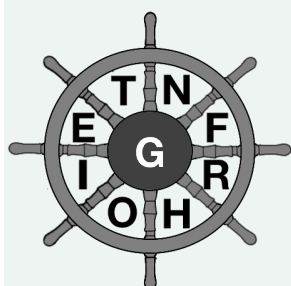
## SIR THOMAS SLADE REFOUND IN IPSWICH



Your Editor recently 'found' that Sir Thomas Slade, the designer of *HMS Victory*, is buried in St Clement's Churchyard in Ipswich, UK, where there is a memorial in his honour. This discovery was only new to him, however, as it is already recorded on The 1805 Club Memlog, but no less exciting for a few minutes.



## SHIP'S WORD WHEEL



Take a ten-minute break and find as many words as possible, using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the hub letter and at least 3 others, used only once. No plurals (if only made by adding an 's' or 'es'), no foreign words not in common usage in English, nor proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found.

35 = Average; 50 = Good; 65 = Very Good; 70+ = Amazing!

Answers on page 4

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS NEEDED

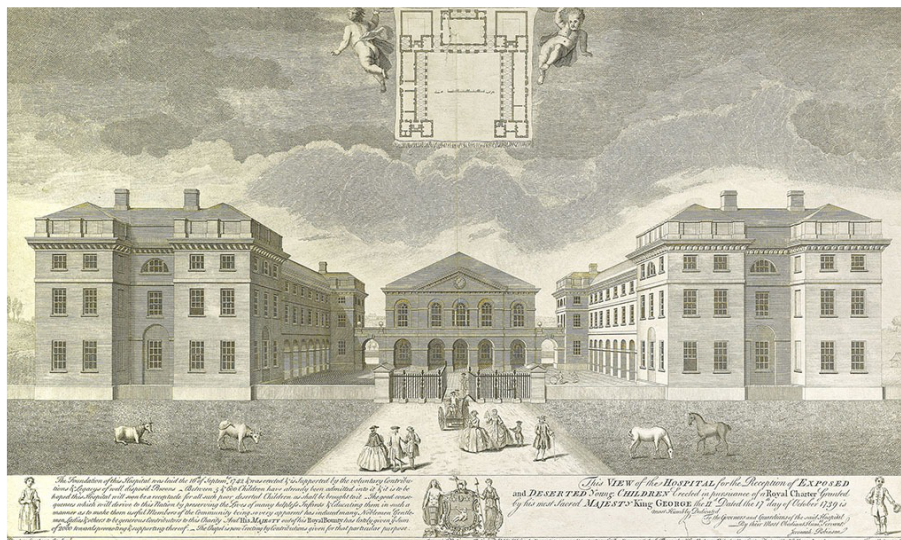
Internationalism is a hugely valuable part of The 1805 Club's character and, therefore relevant news items from members of all nations are strongly welcomed for *TD*. Ideally, they should be about 300 words, give or take a hundred, with images where possible. If you send something longer, then it may have to go into *KA*, where they can be as long as you like and will be equally welcomed (but may get edited to fit).

Never fear lack of experience – It did not stop me. Ed.





**GEORGE KING**



**Fighting Talk: One Boy's Journey from Abandonment to Trafalgar**

Take a look at the website link below, of an exhibition until 27 February 2022, which we think might be of interest to our readers. It is a small exhibition at the Foundlings Museum that will be worth a visit if you are in London, but perhaps not for a special trip to London from afar.

George King, once a Royal Marine on HMS *Polyphemus* (64), wrote his autobiography later in life. Originally apprenticed to a confectioner in London, after being brought up in the Foundlings Hospital– the UK's first children's charity. George ran away and was pressed into the Navy in 1804 with his journeys taking him across the Mediterranean to the Caribbean, Brazil and Argentina.

His memoir provides us with an account of life below deck, on shore, and in the thick of battle, both a humorous and harrowing, including his account of the Battle of Trafalgar where he fought aboard HMS *Polyphemus*, which took 200 French prisoners and towed HMS *Victory*, bearing Nelson's body, back to Gibraltar.

Go To: <https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk/events/fighting-talk...>



**THE ROYAL NAVY LOSS LIST**

**Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust**

Britain's extensive underwater cultural heritage ranks amongst the richest in the world. MAST's mission is to investigate our maritime past to protect our future. The Trust exists to fill a long overdue void in our understanding of our nation's rich maritime heritage, to ensure that there is a sustainable future for such sites, through archaeology, research, study and dissemination. A database cataloguing every Royal Navy vessel lost since 1512 is now available to the public.

**The Royal Navy Loss List** is a free online database which lists 5,100 warships and auxiliaries lost in naval service. Created by the Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust in 2011, and originally intended to help legal and conservation experts protect Royal Navy wrecks around the globe, it has now been made accessible to all.

The database is searchable in various ways, as you can find out by going to: <https://thisismast.org/research/royal-navy-loss-list-search.html>



**NELSON AGAIN IN BURNHAM THORPE**



Burnham Thorpe Playing Field Committee was faced with a dilemma over the best way to deal with a diseased Norwegian maple tree which had fallen onto the playing field. The tree had to be cut down, which left a decision on what to do with the stump or face the costly full removal of the stump and roots. BTPFC had the idea of approaching local tree sculptor, Henry Hepworth-Smith, to discuss sculpturing the tree stump. After consideration they decided to mark the Queen's platinum Jubilee by commissioning Henry to create this Lord Nelson sculpture.

The sculpture looks fabulous. It was celebrated with 'a big reveal' on the 22nd of December.

Text edited from 'The Burnhams Newsletter' (Ed. Lucinda Reddyhoff), sent in by Club Chaplain Lynda Sebbage  
Image: Lynda Sebbage





## ADMIRAL VILLENEUVE 'IS AT' BISHOPS WALTHAM



Council Member John Wills has reminded us that The Crown Inn at Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire, UK (just fifteen miles from Portsmouth) has a blue plaque commemorating Admiral Villeneuve, which says:

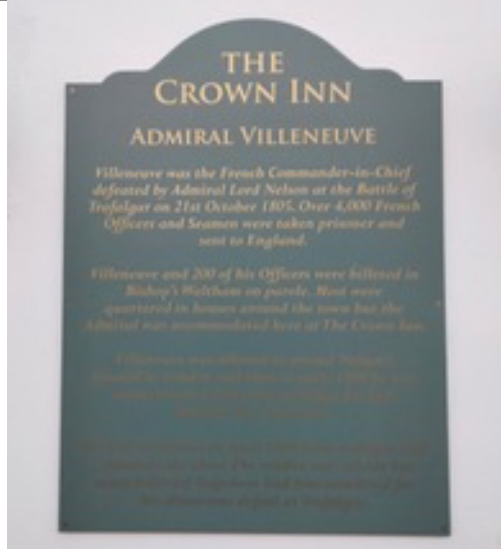
*"Villeneuve was the French Commander-in-Chief defeated by Admiral Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar on 21st October 1805. Over 4,000 French Officers and Seamen were taken prisoner and sent to England.*

*Villeneuve and 200 of his Officers were billeted in Bishop's Waltham, on parole.[\*] Most were quartered in houses around the town but the Admiral was accommodated here at the Crown Inn.*

*Villeneuve was allowed to attend Nelson's funeral in London and then, in early 1806, he was repatriated to France in exchange for four British Navy Captains.*

*He died at Rennes in April 1806 from multiple stab wounds to the chest. The verdict was suicide but many believed Napoleon had him murdered for his disastrous defeat at Trafalgar."*

[\* Captain Lucas of *Redoubtable*, from which the shot that did for Nelson at Trafalgar was fired, was one of those officers who accompanied Villeneuve during his stay here. Ed.]



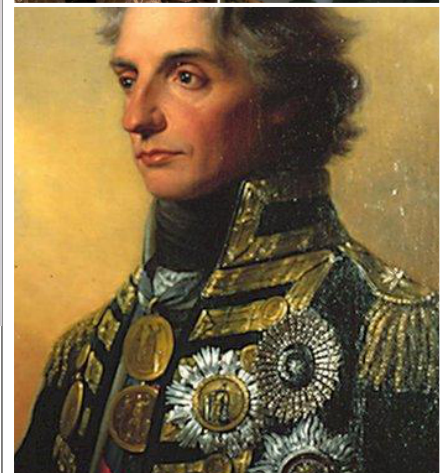
**John Rodgaard, our Chairman, has suggested that local members of The 1805 Club might like to meet up with him and Judy at The Crown when they arrive in the UK to attend the AGM.**


Watch this space.



## LATE CHRISTMAS NEWS

New(ish) US member, Jessica Turgoose, recently sent this image to Stephen Howarth (for whom she also recently painted a portrait of Nelson). She had suddenly noticed that her Christmas tree topper and Nelson's tree decoration, Order of the Crescent, were so similar.



And, not to be out-done, US member Jenny Newbold herself made the tree décoration on the right, because the commercially available ones had an eye-patch! 



 **facebook**  
Remember that there is a whole treasure trove of interest on our facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/The1805Club/>

**NON-MEMBERS TAKE ACTION NOW!**

**If you are not a member, and are concerned at missing out on all the fun, please contact our Membership Secretary, Barry Scrutton, who will be delighted to hear from you. Click on : [Membership Secretary, The 1805 Club](#)**



