

THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

By Captain John Rodgaard, USN (Ret)
Chairman, The 1805 Club

This past year has witnessed the transition of The 1805 Club from an unincorporated association with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (CCEW) into a Charitable Incorporated Organization (CIO). This transition has given your club the foundation to differentiate itself from similar not-for-profit maritime/naval history organizations; a global 'go-to' organization for those with an interest in Georgian era naval and maritime history and heritage.

The Club has come out of the pandemic with several in-person events, to include the Club's AGM, which was held at The Army & Navy Club (The Rag), London, in May, and the Club's traditional Trafalgar Night Dinner held at HMS *Nelson* Wardroom, Portsmouth, UK, in October. In between these events, US Club members gathered over drinks and nibbles to commemorate the Battle of Cape St. Vincent and the Battle of the Nile.

Additionally, many Club members attended events held by other naval/military history-oriented charities, such as the British Officers' Club of Washington DC's Trafalgar Dinner. Also, the first in person Pickle Night since the pandemic, sponsored by The American Friends of The National Museum of the Royal Navy, and held at the New York Yacht Club in November. Nearly a dozen members living within the greater Washington DC area attended the Naval Order of the United States' annual Pearl Harbor dinner. Special guests attending were the naval attachés from the



Australian, British, Canadian and New Zealand embassies.

One can also see by the Events Diary that your Club has an exciting schedule of events and projects for 2023.

The Club's publications had another successful year of producing quality subject matter relevant to the Club's mantra of all things Georgian-era naval/maritime history and heritage. The Club's flagship annual, the naval history journal *The Trafalgar Chronicle*, showcased an international set of authors contributing 13 engaging articles, with many pertaining to the annual's theme, 'scientific and technological advances in the navies of the Georgian era'.

Also, Peter Turner, our editor of the biannual magazine the *Kedge Anchor* and the bimonthly digital newsletter, *The 1805 Dispatches*, never failed to keep members aware about Club activities, events and articles of historical interest and others ranging from book reviews, new member profiles, and auction items.

Members will find this issue of the *Kedge Anchor* is no exception to Peter's quest to present content that reflects the Club's purpose. BZ Peter!

The past twelve months have also seen the establishment and the operation of The 1805 Club Trading Company Ltd. This company was established to deliver products and services of The 1805 Club to The Club's membership and to the general public. Profits derived from the company will be transferred to The 1805 Club to help fund club events and projects.

It is an honour to be further entrusted with the responsibilities as your Chairman, and I am most fortunate to be working shoulder-to-shoulder with such a group of committed and dynamic members of Council; members who are more than colleagues, they are friends. We are proud to be reaching the end of a long commemorative project in partnership with the Milford-on-Sea Historic Records Society. This is the unveiling of our memorial to Nelson's friend and colleague Admiral Sir William Cornwallis, to take place at St Ann's Church in HM Naval Dockyard, Portsmouth on Friday 16 June this year.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at that event and this year's AGM. It will be held in the Princess Royal Gallery at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth, on 17 June.

Yours Aye,

We have experienced a very sad temporary set-back to our major conservation project, done in partnership with the Borthwick Institute of the University of York. Our friend Alison Fairburn, the Borthwick's senior conservator, suffered a nasty accident which badly damaged her hands. She has been

hospitalised and her recovery will take a long time. Inevitably the project's conclusion has been postponed for the time being. We all wish Alison the very best and look forward to her restoration of full health.

Right: Alison Fairburn
Photo: Stephen Howarth

