

# WRNS 100

## 2017



### The main aims of the Centenary are:

To celebrate the formation of the WRNS and its subsequent history

To recognise the continuing role of women in the Royal Navy today

To publicise the work of the WRNS BT and the Association of Wrens

The WRNS100 Project is gaining momentum and there are now dates for the diary for National and Regional events during 2017.

The Royal Navy is being very supportive and First Sea Lord has allowed the WRNS100 'Celebration in London' to be included as one of the five Naval events held each year at the Old Royal Naval College. The Royal Navy has also printed leaflets and other PR material for WRNS100 and is keen to emphasise the role of women in the Navy today.

The Project Group has no money but has received generous support from the Association of Wrens and the Dauntless Association in setting up the Project. Whilst most events will be self funding, there are a number of costs involved in running the various events over the course of 2017 so we still need to fundraise.

A commemorative appeal called "Give Pounds for the Stone" was introduced in May 2016 to fund the commemorative stone and Portsmouth service and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity has given us a grant towards those costs. The aim is that former members of the WRNS, serving men and women, their families and friends will donate £1 for each year of their service. The names of those who donate will be kept in a special book of thanks in Portsmouth Cathedral. We hope this will raise enough money to cover all our costs and any surplus funds will be donated to the WRNS BT, the RNRMC and the Association of Wrens.

Funds are also being raised by profits from a wide range of WRNS100 merchandise. ([www.wrns100.co.uk](http://www.wrns100.co.uk))

There will be a media campaign up to and during 2017 to highlight the Centenary and to remind the general public how much the WRNS and women in the RN today have achieved.



# WRNS100 Celebration in London - 15 July 2017

The London celebration will be held at the Old Royal Naval College (ORNC) at Greenwich on the 15th July 2017 starting at 1300 and is for all ranks and rates.

As a key naval venue in London where both WRNS Ratings and Officers have served, during and since WWII, it makes an ideal central location for an event of this nature. With other attractions, such as the National Maritime Museum and The Cutty Sark, in the immediate area some of you may wish to make a weekend of it and possibly organise your own mini reunions whether for Dauntless, Raleigh, Greenwich or Dartmouth courses. 'Just For Groups' are organising a Group Weekend for a 1, 2 or 3 night stay. All details will be in the next edition of The Wren magazine. It will include, amongst other things, free transport to and from Greenwich on Saturday and Sunday plus a Gala Dinner on the Saturday night. You can advance register your interest today by emailing [conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk](mailto:conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk) or ring Harold on 01603 886744.

The ORNC will hold an exhibition celebrating the WRNS at Greenwich in the Visitor Centre and will give a free tour of the College to ticket holders. The Painted Hall will be undergoing refurbishment at this time but, subject to the contractor's agreement, a lift to the top of the scaffolding may be made available. Several tours will be available on both Saturday and Sunday starting from 1000 and lasting 45 minutes. They will be booked directly, on a first come first served basis, with ORNC and a website and telephone number, along with a timetable, will be made available. The contact details will appear in The Wren magazine in the December edition.

Celebrations will begin with a short service in the College Chapel. Afternoon tea and a 'sparkly' toast are included and there will be a musical accompaniment. Proceedings will end at 1700. There will also be a serving women's themed service in the Chapel on Sunday at 1000 which you are welcome to attend.

Entry on the 15th is by **ticket only for all attendees. (£25 per person)**. Carers will also have to pay and will be required to submit a separate application form.

**Your completed application form (one per person) must be returned by 1st October 2016.** Applications will also be dealt with on a first come first served basis. You will be notified by email, or post, by the beginning of December 2016 if your application has been successful. Those applicants without an email address will need to send an extra SAE with their application form. If you are not allocated a ticket you will automatically be placed on a reserve list. Information on local accommodation will be available on the WRNS100 Website at that time. Any refunds can be made on request to WRNS100, at the address as on the application form, in writing and marked 'Greenwich' on the envelope. No refunds 30 days prior to the event. Any queries about tickets, or the event, please phone 07925 147689 or email [greenwich@wrns100.co.uk](mailto:greenwich@wrns100.co.uk).

**Please do not ring the AOW office.**

*Please note* that parking at the ORNC is restricted to Blue Badge holders only and they will have a specific ticket. All tickets will be issued in March 2017 along with a detailed information sheet and a map of relevant places at ORNC. You will be required to show your ticket for entry to the chapel and for the tea plus for the Blue Badge parking area. **Please do not lose it as a replacement will not be issued.** The dress code for this event is 'Smart Day Wear' – no jeans or trainers please. Serving personnel are requested to wear No. 1B.

Arrive at the College any time after 1000 and then the programme is:

- 1215 Chapel opened to ticket holders. All to be seated by 1250.
- 1300 Short service of Welcome.
- 1315 Go on tours, visit Exhibition or do 'your own thing'.
- 1445 Group photo on Upper Grand Square steps
- 1500 Afternoon tea starts in Queen Mary Undercroft and Colonnade
- 1620 Champagne toast
- 1625 Parade of Ships of the Line featuring uniforms through the ages
- 1655 Post Horn Gallop to warn of closure at 1700



# Portsmouth - 4 November 2017

# WRNS 100

A Service of Thanksgiving to commemorate the centenary of the formation of the Women's Royal Naval Service and the continuing role of women in the Naval Services today, will be held at Portsmouth Cathedral, High St, Portsmouth PO1 2HH on Saturday 4 November 2017 starting at 1430. The Cathedral seats 800. During the service the Commemorative Stone will be dedicated. There will be an opportunity to view the Commemorative Stone after the service and copies of the book showing the donors' names will be on display at the Guildhall.

- The Cathedral doors will open at 1330 and guests are requested to be seated by 1415. Service personnel are requested to wear No. 1B. For security reasons this is a ticketed event, although there is no charge. Please remember to bring your ticket together with 2 forms of identification, one of which must be photographic such as a driving licence or passport.
- Afternoon tea will be served at Portsmouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AB after the service. Transport between the venues will be provided if required, although they are closely located (20 minute walk).
- Tea will be served from 1615 and the event finishes at 2000. This is a ticketed event - Tickets cost £11.50.
- **A separate application is required for carers.**

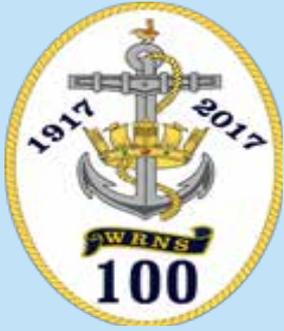
Please send your completed application form, with an A5 sae and payment for tea, if applicable, to: WRNS100 (Portsmouth), Room 215, Semaphore Tower (PP70), HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LT

Tickets will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis and successful applicants will be informed by 1 December 2016 by email, but if you do not have email please supply an extra small stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be despatched in June 2017. If you are not allocated a ticket you will automatically be placed on a reserve list. Cheques and credit card payments will only be cashed once a place has been allocated. If you find you are unable to attend please return your ticket for reallocation. No refunds will be available after 30 September 2017. Any queries about tickets or the event should be addressed via email to [portsmouth@wrns100.co.uk](mailto:portsmouth@wrns100.co.uk) or telephone 07393 393470 leaving a message if necessary. **Please do not ring the AOW office.**

## Notes:

- The Guildhall has been booked from 1030 and therefore guests can leave suitcases etc. in the Guildhall Cloakrooms and can use the cafe and bar before and after both the events.
- If you are attending the Dauntless Association Reunion weekend and you have a confirmed reservation at Mill Rythe, (this does not include Evening Tickets) you will automatically be included in the 2 events detailed above with the costs and administrative details covered by the Dauntless Association and Mill Rythe teams so please **do not** apply for tickets on the enclosed form. If you are on the Mill Rythe reserve list and subsequently are allocated a place, please let us know so that we can re-allocate your tickets.
- The National Museum of the Royal Navy, in the Historic Dockyard, is marking the Centenary with an exhibition entitled "Women and the Navy". Approximately a 25 minute walk from the Cathedral, there are plenty of venues for lunch along the way, including in the Historic Dockyard and Gunwharf Quays.





# WRNS100

## Events during 2017

### **8 March - November 2017**

The National Museum of the Royal Navy, HM Naval Base (PP66), Portsmouth PO1 3NH will formally open an exhibition titled "Women and the Navy" which will run until the end of November. Tickets for entry to the Museum will be available from the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard website, or can be purchased from the Visitor Centre on arrival. Please quote your AOW membership number when booking as discounts are offered for day tickets.

### **22 - 23 April 2017**

Yeovil & District Branch of the AOW will be hosting a celebration Dinner & Cabaret (22 April at Haynes International Motor Museum, Sparkford, Somerset) and a church service (23 April at St Bartholomew's Church, Yeovilton, Somerset) to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the branch as well as the WRNS centenary. (For further details see advertisement on page 13).

### **28 - 30 April 2017**

The Dauntless Association is organising a "Midlands WRNS100 Celebration" at the Aston Court Hotel, Midland Rd, Derby DE1 2SL. Email: [serviceswrendered@gmail.com](mailto:serviceswrendered@gmail.com) or tel: 01629 584411.

### **15 July 2017**

A Celebration in London will be held at the Old Royal Naval College at Greenwich. (See page 22 for details)

### **5 August 2017**

A "Celebratory Dinner" is being organised on-board HMS TRINCOMALEE, Hartlepool. Numbers will be limited to just 85 and so if you are interested in finding out more please contact Julie Ratcliffe by email: [juliesmart35@hotmail.com](mailto:juliesmart35@hotmail.com) or tel: 07989 418843.

### **11 October 2017**

The Annual Service for Seafarers at St. Pauls St. Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AD will feature the WRNS100 Anniversary. Details will follow in the next edition of this magazine.

### **4 November 2017**

A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at Portsmouth Cathedral followed by afternoon tea at Portsmouth Guildhall. (See page 23 for details)

### **24 - 26 November 2017**

A Scottish celebration of WRNS100

The guest list for a dinner on board the Royal Yacht Britannia is full and the reserve list is closed.

Currently investigating the possibility of a ceilidh / dance to be held at HMS SCOTIA on the 25th and a Church Service in Edinburgh on the 26th.

If you are interested in finding out more about either of the Scottish events, please contact Karen Elliott: [kelliott@paywizard.com](mailto:kelliott@paywizard.com) or tel: 07795 463366.

If you are interested in organising an event, please advise the WRNS100 team by email: [rosemaryalicesmith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosemaryalicesmith@yahoo.co.uk) and a member of the Project Group will contact you.