



HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION REUNION 2024



1942-1949



1951-1968

The Robinswood Hotel Gloucester

November 1st – 4th 2024

The HMS Relentless Association
(Formed 26th November 2012)
Chairman – Peter Toms QGM

East Indies 1943-44



Sabang 1944

HMS Relentless Association 2024 Reunion

**To be held at the Robinswood Hotel, Gloucester,
Friday 1st November - Monday 4th November 2024**

The Committee warmly welcome you to the 2024 Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association (GVXJ24). This year is the 82nd anniversary of the first commissioning of HMS Relentless in 1942, the 12th anniversary of the forming of the HMS Relentless Association in 2012 and because of Covid in 2020, it is the 11th Reunion run by the Association.

In the following pages we hope you will find all the necessary information to help make your stay enjoyable.

General Information

The 4* Robinswood Hotel is an independent hotel situated in the Matson area of Gloucester. It is less than 15 minutes from the M5 J11A, and from Gloucester railway station. The hotel is convenient for all the area's attractions and has all the facilities we require.

- Detailed address is Matson Lane, Matson, Gloucester, postcode GL4 6EA.
- Hotel telephone number 0330 028 3408 (option 4).
- HMS Relentless (SF Events) telephone number 07817 980193.

The Reunion arrangements are managed for us by **SF EVENTS** and a dedicated HMS Relentless Association check-in desk will be in the hotel foyer. Sarah, our representative, will be waiting to welcome you on board and your room will be allocated on arrival and in line with any booking request e.g., room type, disabled access etc. Rooms will be available from 1500, but early arrivals can relax in the hotel bar and there will be an area where luggage can be left.

Should you have any issues with the hotel over the weekend, **PLEASE talk to Sarah**, not directly to the hotel. For any Association questions or concerns, talk to one of the Reunion Committee; *Steve Newton, John Mills (The Bish), Tony Priddey, Joe Ellwood or Pete Toms.*

Our function room is the MERLOT SUITE which is located one floor down from Reception. The suite has its own dedicated bar area – renamed The RELENTLESS bar for the weekend – and has ample seating, a dance floor, an Association Area and adequate room for Saturday’s AGM and Sunday’s Remembrance Church Service.

We will be holding TWO raffles, Part One on Friday evening and Part Two on Gala night.

Please remember to bring a raffle prize donation.

You will also find the Raffle Prize Table in the suite, so please see JOE ELLWOOD or one of the Raffle Team in the Merlot Suite 1600-1800 on Friday to donate your prize. Raffle tickets will be on sale throughout Friday and Saturday, so keep your eyes open for the team of ticket sellers.

The Association will be providing wine on the dinner tables on Friday and Saturday, and we have been able to negotiate a 10% discount on bar prices throughout the weekend – house wine, house spirits, and draught beer. You will be provided with a card at check-in to enable your discount.

Throughout the weekend we will have **HMS Relentless Christmas Cards** available to purchase. All proceeds from the cards go towards the Association funds.

Please see Chairman Pete Toms at any time, but especially before you rush away!

Friday 1st November

We will have a pre-dinner Meet & Greet in the Relentless Bar area from 1800. Association Founder Members and Committee Members will be there so, make yourself known and re-acquaint yourself with friends and oppos. Dress this evening is smart casual, no jeans please.

Once again, we have a number of new attendees this year, so please wear the ‘Relentless’ name badge you were provided with at check-in.

Your Host this evening is Association Vice-Chairman TONY PRIDDEY ably supported by Joe Ellwood, the Raffle Team, the Duty Watch, Men Under Punishment and anyone else we can coerce into helping.

The table seating plan will be displayed in the Relentless Bar at the entrance to the function suite.

After welcoming everyone, we will be called to dinner at 1900. The Association will provide wine on the dinner tables, and you will find your Menu choices on the back of your placename card. Other drinks can be purchased from the Relentless Bar during and after dinner at your own expense.

The Relentless Bar will be open from 1800 until late.

Following dinner, and amongst other events, we will hold Part One of the Raffle, a Pusser’s Rum roll-up followed by a Champagne roll-up.

Saturday 2nd November

Breakfast is served in the main restaurant today from 0800–1000.

The AGM will be held this morning in the Relentless Bar at 1000.

All FULL Members are requested to attend, Honorary Members are also welcome.

If you have any last-minute items you would like to raise at the AGM, please let the Secretary know on Friday. At the AGM we will be holding the 2025 Committee elections and the list of candidates for Committee roles together with the voting procedure will be promulgated on the noticeboard.

Tot Time will immediately follow the AGM, at approx. 1100 and yet again, we are grateful to our Rum Bos'n, Pete Lambourne, for sponsoring this event.

We have organised a shuttle-bus service from the hotel down to the Gloucester Quays outlet mall. The first bus down is at 1100, the last one back at 1600. Please don't all plan on getting the last one!

The outlet mall has plenty for those needing retail therapy - [Stores - Gloucester Quays](#), and nearby is the National Waterways Museum - [National Waterways Museum | Gloucester Docks](#)

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum have kindly provided us with around 20 free tickets for entry to the Museum for Saturday or Sunday. We're sure the Museum would be grateful for a small donation in return. Tickets available at Check-In. [Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum](#)

In addition, we have organised a visit to the Sula Lightship at 1300. maximum of 20 people, so put your name down at Check-In - please note however, that the ship is not disabled-friendly, so if you have any mobility issues whatsoever, it is best to give this one a miss.

[Sula Lightship – The uk's only stay-aboard historic lightship](#)

Further details and brochures will be available at Reception and on the Association Noticeboard.

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Your Host for this evening's Gala Night is Reunion Chairman & Association Secretary STEVE NEWTON and your Master of Ceremonies is Membership Secretary Joe Ellwood.

If you are only attending on Saturday, please donate your raffle prize to *Joe Ellwood* or a member of the Raffle Team in the Merlot Suite after 1800.

The **GALA RECEPTION** will be in the Relentless Bar at **1815**. Dress this evening is DJs, lounge suits or blazer & tie, and for the ladies, smart evening wear.

The table seating plan will be displayed in the Relentless Bar at the entrance to the function suite. At dinner you will find your Menu choices on the back of your placename card

The Association will provide wine on each table for dinner, and Port or Baileys for the toasts. Other drinks can be purchased from the Relentless Bar during and after dinner at your own expense.

We will be called to dinner at 1900 and following formalities, about 2130, there will be music, dancing and entertainment from *Irena*. During the entertainment break we will be holding Part Two of the Raffle in aid of Association funds. Tickets will be on sale throughout the day so buy early to avoid too much disappointment.

Our Reunion Gala dinners are a chance for us, as an Association, to remember our Absent Shipmates & Friends, remember who we are and why we are here. This necessarily involves a little amount of formality and during these proceedings, we ask for your respect and co-operation. If you haven't attended one of our Reunions before, you may wish to acquaint yourselves with the formalities:

The call to dinner will be made at 1900 by the Quartermaster sounding 2 bells and piping 'The Still'.*

The Master of Ceremonies (MC) will then announce dinner.

Everyone should proceed into dinner and take a STANDING position at their assigned table.

When everyone is at their table, on the gavel, the candle will be lit, and a Tot of Rum placed on the Absent Shipmates & Friends table.

When the candle is lit, the Association Padre will say 'Grace', following which, dinner will be served.

After dinner, the tables will be cleared and Port & Baileys for the Toasts, and tea & coffee will be served.

On the gavel, the Chairman will call upon a Shipmate to propose the Loyal Toast.

All present, those who are able, should stand and the proposer will raise his glass and pronounce the toast, "The King" to which the response is "The King". You may then retake your seats.

When everyone is re-seated, on the gavel, the MC will announce a Shipmate to propose the toast to Absent Shipmates & Friends.

Directly afterwards, on the gavel, the MC will announce the Reunion Chairman who will make a brief speech of thanks.

Following this, on the gavel, the MC will announce the Association Chairman will make a short speech, culminating in the toast to HMS Relentless "Ladies & Gentlemen, the toast is 'HMS RELENTLESS'".

On completion of his speech, the Association Chairman, and Reunion Chairman will oversee a short presentation ceremony.

*Subsequently, the Association Padre will pronounce the '**Association Blessing**' and the '**Amen**' will signify the end of formal Gala proceedings.*

** The sounding of the ship's bell to mark the time dates back to the 15th century. One bell signifies the first half hour of the watch, two bells the hour. Eight bells, therefore, signifies the end of the four-hour watch.*

So, why does the Royal Navy only sound 2 bells at 1900 and not 6?

The signal to start the Nore mutiny on 12th May 1797 was the sounding of 5 bells at 1830 (6.30pm). Since then, the Royal Navy no longer sounds 5 bells at 1830. After 4 bells at 1800, the number of bells reverts to 1 at 1830.

Sunday 3rd November

Breakfast is served in the main restaurant today from 0800–1000.

Those of you who are leaving today need to check out and settle your personal hotel expenses by 1100.

The Association Padre, Bishop Dr John Mills (*The Bish*) will conduct a Remembrance Church Service at 1000 in the Merlot Suite.

Following the Church Service, and for the non-drivers, Tot Time will be taken. The remainder of the day is your own to explore the local attractions – brochures are available at Reception.

Did you remember to purchase your **HMS Relentless Christmas Cards?**

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In the evening, we will have a last chance to get together as a group. Meet in the Relentless Bar from 1830 and dinner this evening will be at 1900. Your Host this evening is Association Chairman PETE TOMS, the highlight of the evening being the quiz battle for the Chairman's cherished Golden Rivet Trophy.

Monday 4th November

This will be our last morning together for this year. Breakfast is served in the main restaurant today from 0700-1000.

Please ensure you vacate your rooms and settle your personal hotel expenses by 1100.

We hope you have a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you all again in 2025.

Regards

Steve Newton

Reunion Chairman

PLEASE NOTE

All timings and venues are subject to change.
Please keep your eyes on the Association noticeboard.

HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE 2024

Chairman - Pete Toms
Vice-Chairman - Tony Priddey
Secretary & Reunion Chairman - Steve Newton
Treasurer & Webmaster - John Mills
Membership Secretary - Joe Ellwood
Padre & Welfare Secretary - Bishop Dr John Mills

Reunion Organising Partner - Sarah Fletcher - SF EVENTS



L to R - John Mills, Tony Priddey, Pete Toms, Sarah Fletcher, Steve Newton, Joe Ellwood

For more information about HMS Relentless, please visit
<https://www.hmsrelentless.org>

Scanning the QR code will take you to the website where you can
find an online copy of this Programme, and Daily Orders.



Drive Carefully – Stay Safe

The wearing of face masks in the Hotel and during the Reunion is a personal choice