



HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION REUNION 2025



HMS RELENTLESS – entering Curacao, 1st July 1965

The Sketchley Grange Hotel & Spa Hinckley, Leicester

October 31st – November 3rd 2025

*The HMS Relentless Association
Chairman – Peter Toms, QGM*

HMS RELENTLESS ASSOCIATION

(Formed 26th November 2012)

COMMITTEE 2025

CHAIRMAN - Peter Toms
VICE-CHAIRMAN - Tony Priddey
SECRETARY - Steve Newton
TREASURER - John Mills
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Joe Ellwood
WEBMASTER - John Mills
PADRE & WELFARE – Rt Revd Dr John Mills
COMMITTEE MEMBER – Peter Brooke

Reunion Organising Partner

Sarah Fletcher - SF EVENTS

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

*For an on-line version of this programme and
more weekend information, scan the QR code*



Drive Carefully – Stay Safe

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

East Indies 1943-44



Sabang 1944

HMS Relentless Association 2025 Reunion

**To be held at The Sketchley Grange Hotel, Hinckley, Leicester,
Friday 31st October to Monday 3rd November 2025**

The Committee warmly welcome you to the 2025 Reunion of the HMS Relentless Association. This year is the 83rd anniversary of the first commissioning of HMS Relentless in 1942, the 13th anniversary of the forming of the HMS Relentless Association in 2012 and because of Covid in 2020, it is the 12th, not the 13th 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* Sketchley Grange Hotel & Spa is an independent hotel managed by the Focus Hotels group. It is situated in Hinckley, twixt Coventry and Leicester. It is a short distance from the M69 J1 which in turn is off the M1 J21. The hotel is convenient for the area's attractions and has all the facilities we require.

- Postcode for your satnav: **LE10 3HU** and follow Hotel signs. The hotel car park is on your left.
- Hotel telephone number **01455 251133** and ask for the 'Relentless' rep

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. There will be a free tea/coffee station, and in addition, as a Welcome gesture from the Committee, each attendee will be provided with a FREE DRINK voucher – beer, wine or soft drink.

There is ample parking at the hotel and if you display your HMS Relentless Association sticker in your windscreen you may be in line for a prize!

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, Peter Brooke or Pete Toms.*

Our function room is the BRADGATE SUITE. This is located along an external short covered-way adjacent to 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 a separate room which we shall use for the AGM and 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 Bradgate Suite, so please see *Joe Ellwood* or one of the Raffle Team in the Bradgate Suite 1500-1800 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.

On Gala night, the Association will provide wine at the Reception, and on the dinner tables, and Port and Baileys for the Toasts. Other than that, drinks will be at your own expense.

We are pleased to say that we have been able to negotiate a 10% discount on bar prices – house wine, house spirits, and draught beer - throughout the weekend. You will be provided with a card at check-in to enable your discount.

At dinner each evening, you will find your Menu choices on the back of your placename card.

Friday 31st October

We will have a pre-dinner Meet & Greet in the Relentless Bar area from **1800 / 6pm**. 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 and Men Under Punishment. After welcoming everyone, we will be called to dinner with 2-bells at 1900 / 7pm.

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

You will find your dinner menu choices on the inside of your placename card.

The Association will provide wine on the dinner tables and additional wine will be available to purchase from The Bish for a suitable donation. The Relentless Bar will be open from 1800 / 6pm until late

Following dinner, and amongst other events we will hold Part One of the Raffle, a Pusser's Rum Roll-up and a Champagne Roll-Up – all welcome at the Roll-Ups.

Please note that, irrespective of the date, this isn't a Halloween event!

Saturday 1st November

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

The AGM will be held this morning in the Bradgate Suite annexe 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 2026 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 and yet again, we are grateful to our Rum Bos'n, Pete Lambourne, for sponsoring this event.

This afternoon, we have a planned Coach trip to the National Motor Museum (NMM) at Gaydon which will include a drop-off at the Royal Prior shopping centre in Leamington Spa. For those of you who have pre-booked, the coach is scheduled to depart at 1115 and will return to the hotel by 1600/4pm.

If you would like to go to the National Memorial Arboretum, please see Sarah to register your interest in car-share options.

Otherwise, the afternoon is free time. A range of brochures for the area's attractions is available at Reception or maybe enjoy the hotel's Spa facilities.

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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.

The **GALA RECEPTION** will be in the Relentless Bar at **1815** / 6:15pm. Dress this evening is DJs, lounge suits or blazer & tie, and for the ladies, smart evening wear.

The Association will provide wine at the Reception and 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. The Relentless Bar will be open from 1800 / 6pm until late.

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

You will find your dinner menu choices on the inside of your placename card.

We will be called to dinner with 2-bells at 1900 / 7pm, and following formalities **, about 2130 / 9:30pm, there will be music, dancing and entertainment from **Mikkaila Green**

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 should stand (those able to do so) 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 Chairman and Secretary will oversee a short awards ceremony.

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

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****** *The sounding of the ship's bell to mark the time dates to the 15th century. One bell signifies the first half hour of the 4-hour watch, two bells the hour. Eight bells, therefore, signals the end of the 4-hour watch.*

So, why does the Royal Navy only sound 2 bells at 1900 and not 6 you may ask? The answer is that 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 reverts to 1 at 1830.

Sunday 2nd 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, the Rt Revd Bishop Dr John Mills (*The Bish*) will conduct a Remembrance Church Service at 1000 in the Bradgate Suite.

Following the Church Service, for those of you who have pre-booked, we have arranged a coach visit to RNA Tamworth for Tot Time and lunch. Following our previous visit in 2023, we have again been challenged to Darts, Crib and Uckers, so you only have a limited time to hone your skills before the challenge. The coach is scheduled to leave at 1115 and will return to the hotel by 1600/4pm.

If you are unable to join us at Tamworth, the rest of the afternoon is free time. A range of brochures for the area's attractions is available at Reception or maybe enjoy the hotel's Spa facilities.

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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 Quiz Trophy.

Monday 3rd November

This will be our last morning together for this year. Breakfast is served in the main restaurant today from 0700-0930.

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 2026.

Regards

Steve Newton

Reunion Chairman



PLEASE NOTE

**All timings and venues are subject to change.
Please keep your eyes on the Association noticeboard
or scan the QR Code.**