



# Member's Profiles



## Keith (Frankie) Vaughan

I was born on 29 October 1950 in London. My Mum was a housewife and my Dad a policeman so due to his job we moved house a lot when I was young.

Just as I was moving to Secondary School my Mother passed away due to cancer but I had always promised her that I would join the Royal Navy.

My Grandma and Mum were both born in the Portsmouth Naval Hospital and my Granddad served in submarines so maybe the Navy was in my blood?

Well, it was a promise I was to keep, so in August 1967 I joined **HMS St. Vincent** where I completed Part One of my training. I then went to **HMS Pembroke** for my Steward's Training, which I completed in January 1968.

Later that year I flew out to Hong Kong to join **HMS Caprice** which was my first sea-going ship. I thought 'how exciting', I was only a lad of 17! I served on Caprice for 6 months during which I celebrated my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday twice due to crossing the International Date Line !

Next I went to **HMS Collingwood** followed by **HMS Aurora**, which I served on for two and a half years.



**Aged 18 taken off Hawaii - 1968**

I was then incredibly lucky to be chosen to join the **Royal Yacht Britannia** as one of only 8 stewards to serve HM The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh for the Royal Apartment Staff.

We served on the Yacht for 2 years during which part of it was the honeymoon of Princess Anne and Mark Philips and then on





to the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. It was a fantastic experience.

After the Yacht I joined **HMS Bacchante** where I suffered my back injury and was flown down to The Royal Naval Hospital. I was classed unfit for sea-service so went to **HMS Nelson** and **HMS Warrior** and then after 14 months passed fit for sea service and then joined **HMS Matapan**. I was eventually discharged from the Navy in 1977.

Before I left the Navy I married Joan earlier in the year and we have 3 children but after 17 years we got divorced. Life was pretty miserable for a couple of years until in 1995, I met a wonderful widow called Rita. We found we had a lot in common and 18 months later we got married.

Rita has 3 children, 2 daughters who are married and have a child each. My daughter has 3 children so between us we have 5 grandchildren.

I have had quite a few jobs since leaving the navy, mainly stock controller or accounts clerk but latterly I was a driver for Audi, which I really enjoyed, but the long hours put pressure on my back and I had to resign. I'm still looking for employment but the situation up here in Birmingham is pretty dire so I'm not expecting much! In the meantime I am doing some voluntary work for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital that I really enjoy.

We now spend our time caravanning in our little tourer parked near Monmouth, which we really love. We do lots of walking, cooking and gardening and spend a lot of happy hours babysitting our 2 gorgeous grandchildren. I just wish I could see more of my 3 grandchildren in Scotland.

We have just celebrated my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday in New York as the picture shows. It was a



fantastic holiday in an amazing city. I have now joined the ranks of the 'Senior Citizen'!

Roll on the Winter Fuel Allowance!!

DISLIKES: Politicians, Bad drivers

LIKES: Caravanning, Swimming, Cooking.

## Life on HMRV Britannia

When a Yachtsman joined Britannia's crew he entered a world quite unlike any other in the Royal Navy. His orders were nothing less than to 'strive daily for perfection'. Each man was hand-picked to meet the very highest standards, and each and every one chose this special ship for the honour and privilege of serving Queen and country.

The junior Yachtsmen had the arduous task of scrubbing the two-inch thick teak decks each day to keep them in pristine condition.

So that the Royal Family were not disturbed, all work near the Royal Apartments had to be carried out in silence and everything had to be completed by 8 o'clock in the morning. If a Yachtsman did encounter a member of the Royal Family, he had to stand still and look straight ahead until they had passed.