

## Merchant Navy Day

On Monday 3rd September at 10am the Town Council flew from the Public Hall flagpole a Red Ensign “called a red duster” which is the merchant navy flag in recognition of the contribution of the merchant navy in the two world wars.

The Mayor, Christina Whitty, read “The sacrifices all seafarers made during the two world wars and the Falklands war, the contribution they continue to make and the vital role our merchant and fishing fleets play in our economy today will be remembered.

Over 400 organisations around the country will today fly the “Red Duster” as it is affectionately called.

WW1 3,000 British merchant navy ships were sunk, 15,000 merchant seamen died.  
WW2 Between June 1941 and May 1945 104 merchant ships were sunk.

Battle of the Atlantic:

5,000 merchant vessels were sunk  
30,000 merchant seamen died

My great Uncle took part in this and survived. Terry’s Uncle was on the HMS Bramble which was protecting the merchant ships. He was amongst the dead.

1982 SS Atlantic Conveyor 12 lives lost and RFA Sir Galahad 48 lost. The merchant navy lost 6 in total.”





