

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION SEMAPHORE SHORT

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 27th
2023

GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email the team [here](#). If you are sending a document, please also attach any embedded pictures separately. Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update and we can't publish everything. Some content may be used for in the next monthly Circular.

PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000

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FIRESIDE CHATS Monday's chat on 30th October will be an insight into the RNA Riders Branch given by Shipmate Anthony Moth. The following week's chat on Monday 6th November is the re-scheduled talk by Captain John Foreman who recently left the Navy and who was the UK Defence Attaché in Moscow at the time of the invasion of Ukraine. John has also worked in Kyiv and has extensive knowledge of the region. If you or anyone you know has an interest in naval history or naval current affairs and would be willing to present one of the Fireside Chats, please contact us [here](#). Fireside chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL AND PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

In order that attendance by naval veterans can be maximized at both the Southsea and Portsmouth Guildhall services (time separated – 09:15 and 10:30), the RN has organized a coach from the Guildhall to Southsea and return. For details of pick up location and timings please email Lt Cdr Iain Andrews and Petty Officer Roberts [here](#)

IT'S GOODBYE FROM ME



REMEMBRANCE AND THE POPPY As we enter the period of time that leads up to the Festival of Remembrance on the 11th November and the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and other locations on the 12th, we will all be dusting off our poppies (but hopefully buying new ones!) to acknowledge our service and the service of others that have made the ultimate sacrifice or are still living with the effects of conflict or injuries sustained whilst serving. Earlier this year, we announced the new and totally recyclable paper poppy that is now being sold. It is interesting to see the poppy's journey across the years and the picture below shows that journey. From left to right: 1920s – Cotton, 1930s – Sateen, 1940s – Cardboard, 1950s – Felt, 1960s – Fabric, 1980s – Paper and plastic, 2023 – Plastic free. More information on the poppy's evolution can be seen [here](#).

All good things come to an end as they say! My wife has finally won the battle and I shall be slinging my hammock and sliding not so gracefully into full retirement at the end of this month. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last twenty months with the RNA, and producing the Short over the past ten months. Thank you all for your interaction, input, material and not least, advice on spelling and grammar – it's always welcome. So keep it coming - but don't see me, see my relief!

'Retirement is waking up in the morning with nothing to do and by bedtime only having done half of it'

URGENT HELP FOR VETERANS

If you're not in need of immediate assistance, and you need to talk to someone, there are several organisations that can help you. The Government have collated information on the various agencies that can offer help and that information can be found [here](#). If you are in danger or immediate risk, **call 999**.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

At a recent Trafalgar Night dinner held by the Falmouth Branch at the Greenbank Hotel, Shipmate Brian Toney MBE, the branch's Standard Bearer, was presented with Life Membership to the RNA for his sterling service to the branch over many years. The award was presented by branch Chair, Tony Hogg (left). BZ Brian and thank you for your sterling service.



AND FINALLY.....

Another night in Joannas beckons, and just like his wife Imelda, Lt Marcos could never decide which pair of shoes to wear.

If you look closely, the stripes are of a Lieutenant Paymaster RNVR with a white stripe between the two gold wavy stripes – just to alleviate a raft of emails!

