

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES! This week's Semaphore Short covers three services remembering those who serve or served at sea, and those who gave their lives in the service of their country. It serves as a reminder that we are preparing for a year with some significant anniversaries, perhaps the most significant being 80 years since the end of World War 2. Of course, the RNA is celebrating its own anniversary next year – 75 years since the organisation was formally set up. Watch this space for more dates to note in the coming months.

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

PLAY NOW

SEAFARERS SERVICE

The Annual National Service for Seafarers, organised by The Seafarers' Charity and Trinity House, will be held at St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday 9 October at 5pm. You can book your free tickets through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yp5xrsdw> using the code GENNAVE. The service has been held annually since 1905 to recognise, celebrate, and express gratitude. The service is dedicated to seafarers from various maritime professions, including the Merchant Navy and Royal Navy, fishing fleets, workboats, cruise liners, commercial shipping, yachts and ferries. The service is open to all, and it is free to attend. Seafarers from all countries, faiths, and backgrounds, as well as those who support them from ashore, are encouraged to join in.



GLOBAL UCKERS S/M Claire Robson delivered a Championship Uckers board to Bahrain's BWO (Base Warrant Officer) Billy May, formerly of HMS Queen Elizabeth, while she was in the Gulf. Which allows us to remind you of the upcoming Royal Naval Association Uckers World Championships on 12 October at the Royal Maritime Hotel in Portsmouth. Registration is from 0900 and first dice is at 1000. Breakfast and refreshments will be available. See the RNA website here or email engagement@rnassoc.org for more information.

FIRESIDE CHATS Our next Fireside Chat will not only be of interest to our regular attendees, but will also be of great value to shipmates involved in Branch welfare and wellbeing. The talk, 'Gambler - Sailor - Fraudster - Lies' will be presented by RNA member and author Andy Gallie. Andy went from 'HMS to HMP' because of a gambling addiction, and is now committed to raising awareness and helping others in the same situation. The Chat is on this Monday (23 September). Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom here. The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

MEMORIAL CENTENARY A service of rededication is to held on Friday 4 October to mark the centenary of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial on Southsea Common. The memorial was the last of the three great memorials to sailors lost at sea in the World Wars – Chatham's was unveiled on 26 April 1924, Plymouth's on 29 July the same year and Portsmouth's on 15 October. The memorials, situated at the Royal Navy's three 'manning ports', are almost identical, built around giant obelisks that act as leading marks for shipping. Further details to follow in the Semaphore Short and social media.

SAVE THE DATE The Royal Naval Association National Conference and AGM will be held in Portsmouth on the weekend of 20-22 June 2025. Further details will follow in due course – keep an eye on our social media channels

ROYAL OAK A memorial service marking the 85th anniversary of the loss of battleship HMS Royal Oak will be held on The Hard in Portsmouth on Sunday 6 October, starting at 1100. The service will include the unveiling of a 2.3m obelisk. Royal Oak was sunk in Scapa Flow on 14 October 1939 by submarine U-47, with the loss of 835 men and boys.

WINNER Ian Trainor, from the North-East, completed our online engagement survey a few weeks back, and as well as helping the RNA it certainly helped him – Ian was the winner of the £50 Marks and Spencer voucher that was on offer to one lucky participant.

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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