

SEMAPHORE SHORT

GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short, and I hope you are all well as we enter the home straight of 2023. As we approach the end of the year our thoughts will be turning to 2024, one of the highlights of which will no doubt be the National Conference in Cardiff – please see the November Semaphore Circular (available in the Members - Downloads area of the RNA website) for associated documents and guidance on accommodation. The December Semaphore Circular is due out next Friday (1 December), so please let me have any announcements, stories and images for that as soon as possible on comms@royalnavalassoc.com

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

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FIRESIDE CHATS The next Fireside Chat (Monday 27 Nov) will be an update on the activities of the United States Navy by Capt J-M Sullivan USN. 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. Pictured is the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Ramage conducting a RAS with supply ship USNS Medgar Evers earlier this month. Ramage is part of the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group in the Mediterranean (US Navy photo by Mass Comm Specialist 3rd Class Adriones Johnson). The next Chat, on 4 December, will be on 'Forgotten/lost naval dockyards and bases' by Mark 'Dicky' Barton.

DUTY The Royal Navy has launched 'A Celebration of Duty', a campaign which celebrates seven individuals going above and beyond their duty to make a difference in their local communities.

The campaign kicked off last weekend with the first viewings of a film featuring the seven individuals.

The film (see screenshot right © Crown copyright) was screened on a gigantic digital billboard dominating Piccadilly Circus in London on the afternoon of Saturday 18 November, while cinema-goers were able to watch it in programmes beginning the previous evening.

'A Celebration of Duty' has been developed jointly with London-based independent creative agency Hijinks Collective in collaboration with the Royal Navy's communications team, including the supremely-talented sailors and Royal Marines of the Royal Navy Video Production Unit (VPU).

The film has been screened at eight of the UK's major shopping centres and can also be seen on public-facing screens both indoors and outdoors at more than 30 regional venues.

Online, the film is available on the official Royal Navy YouTube channel as well as on the newly-revamped Royal Navy website.

Find out more about the campaign at <https://shorturl.at/gPVW6#ACelebrationOfDuty>



MEMBERSHIP DETAILS The Semaphore Short and Semaphore Circular are important channels of communication between Central Office and our membership. If you know of someone who is not receiving the weekly Short or the link to the Circular when it comes out (usually the first Friday of the month) please make sure they let us know their contact details. The same goes for branch Branch Chairs, Vice Chairs, Treasurers and Secretaries across the RNA, who should receive a newsletter once a month from Central Office. This differs slightly from the Semaphore Shorts and Circulars as it concentrates on matters relating to the day-to-day running of branches, governance, safeguarding and the like. Please send your contact details to Sara Field on sara@royalnavalassoc.com

BZ TO SARA While on the subject of Sara, congratulations are in order – at the recent AMC meeting (see below) Sara was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Association for her sterling efforts organising the Naval Associations Biennial Parade in London in September.



RNA CENTRAL OFFICE HITS THE ROAD With branches across the UK (and scattered around the world as well) the RNA is always mindful of the terrific work carried out by areas and branches, and staff do their best to get out and meet shipmates on their own patch. One recent example was a regular meeting of the AMC (the Association Management Committee), which was held at the West Bromwich Branch and Club. Pictured above are (from left) Peter Godwin (National Chairman), Sara Field (Membership Support Manager), Lance Higgon-Young (National Council Member for Area 7), Geoff Apperley (National Welfare Adviser), Malcolm Little (RNA Plans Manager), Warwick Belfitt (National Council Member for Area 4), Chris Trevethan (RNA Chief of Staff) and Andy Christie (National Council Member for Area 3 and making a successful debut as AMC Chairman). The AMC oversees the general administrative requirements of the Association, including oversight of RNA Clubs, and Welfare and Ceremonial matters.

Diaries If you were hoping to lay your hands on one of the splendid RNA 2024 diaries, I'm afraid you are too late – they proved very popular and have completely sold out.



But all is not lost!

Our friends at the Association of Wrens also have a similar splendid diary on sale (pictured), which might just fit the bill. But don't hang about as they are also in demand – for the best price of £4.50 plus £1.50 p+p call the Association of Wrens office direct on 023 9272 5141 on Mondays to Wednesdays.

BLACK FRIDAY Today (24 Nov) is, in case you hadn't noticed, Black Friday – and Defence Discount Service has a list of exclusive offers for the military community that are available now. Defence Discount Service is the official MoD discount provider for the British Armed Forces, which includes veterans, military partners and the defence community, and there are currently more than half a million members.

Members of the Service will have access to a host of exclusive heightened deals including savings from big-name brands such as Currys, Hotpoint, Ninja, Samsung and Shark. A selection of brands that have already been confirmed for Defence Discount

Service's Black Friday sale include Benson's for Beds, Booking.com, Butlin's, Currys, Emma Sleep, Expedia, Footasylum, Garmin, Halfords, Hoover, Hotpoint, KitchenAid, Lovehoney, Pooch & Mutt, Regatta, Samsung and Yankee Candle.

Members can access all discounts via Defence Discount Service website or app.

For those who have not yet joined, see <https://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk/>

It's free to access online discounts, while a Privilege Card costs £4.99. The card is valid for five years and offers access to discounts on days out, leisure attractions, meals out and more.

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