

SEMAPHORE SHORT

GREETINGS SHIPMATES and welcome to the first Semaphore Short of February. Hopefully you will have noticed from recent Shorts and Semaphore Circulars that the Association is working harder than ever to provide support for you, our members. Our Thriving Together programme is proving popular, and members of Central Office are visiting the various regions of the nation to meet you on your own patch, join in with your social events, and make sure that we are working closely with other organisations to give you the best possible service. You can help us by letting us know about matters you think could be addressed – and by supporting our efforts through the most important meeting of the year, the AGM on National Conference weekend, which will be held this year on Saturday 15 June in Cardiff. It is crucial that we get a good turnout of delegates to ensure that the views of branches are represented, so please consider sending a representative along – the necessary forms can be found towards the end of the February Semaphore Circular – use [this link](#) to go to the relevant download page of the RNA website.

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

PLAY NOW

PLEASE NOTE – FIRESIDE CHATS The next scheduled Fireside Chat (Monday 19 February) has been postponed due to S/M Eric Holmwood's funeral in Wrexham. The talk, on the subject of 'Uncovering Financial Fraud' by Pete Sharples, will now be held the following Monday (26 February). 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.



NORTH BY NORTHWEST RNA staff are in and around Liverpool, Wallasey, the Lake District and North Wales over the next few days. The team will be attending meetings, socials, doing a recce of areas for future outdoor activities and events - but most importantly the team will be connecting with shipmates and other charities and organisations supporting our community. If you see us or the minibus, please come and say hello!

CHAINSAW EXPERIENCE DAY, SOMERSET, SATURDAY 16 MARCH We now have only eight places left on our chainsaw experience day in Somerset next month.

All participants will be welcomed by an open fire, kettle on and shown how a chainsaw works, and how to maintain and operate it safely. The pros and cons will be explained, and other matters discussed will include modern PPE, costs, work, earning from chainsaw work, health & safety and legalisation within the industry.

You will, of course, also get to use the chainsaw – different types, both petrol and battery-operated, and versions to crosscut various size timber.

If you would like attend, all booking are through Chris 'Scouse' Reeves on scc@rnassoc.org on a **first-come, first-served** basis. Bookings close on Friday 8 March.

Other activities planned under the RNA's Thriving Together programme include:

- **Walking and waterfall** Weekend (12-14 Apr);
- an **outdoors weekend** including bushcraft, axe throwing and coasteering (27-28 Apr);
- a **Snowdon walk** (18 May);
- **Introduction to surfing** (15-16 Jun);



Photo by Poul Cariov on Unsplash

- **Women-only walking and waterfall** weekend (28-30 Jun);
- **Introduction to dry stone walling** (13 Jul);
- a **Surfing weekend** (20-21 July)

Contact Scouse on scc@rnassoc.org for further details, or if you have an idea for an activity for the programme.



STEPPING UP Aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales sails from Portsmouth on 12 February to take the place of HMS Queen Elizabeth in cold-weather exercises off the coast of Norway. Queen Elizabeth was scheduled to play a key role in NATO Exercise Steadfast Defender, but mechanical problems forced her to drop out, and Prince of Wales was rapidly



A CAREER IN ENERGY A career day at the end of this month looking at the energy industry has proved so popular that registrations for in-person attendance has now closed., But the good news is that Service leavers, veterans and reservists, military spouses and partners who might be interested in the sector can still register for livestream

and join the event from their own home. The event, organised by the Forces Employment Charity, is on Wednesday 28 February, and you should contact events@forcesemployment.org.uk to sign up. Further details of the event can be found at <https://officersassociation.my.site.com/jobseekers/s/lt-event?id=aFeQ40000002WTKAY>

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

For those who are (or considering) attending the Gala Dinner at St David's Hotel, Cardiff Bay, on Saturday 15 June during National Conference weekend, here is the menu:
 Welsh leek and potato soup, mini Harlech croutons;
 Free-range chicken breast, apricot and Brecon Honey stuffing, potato gratin, lemongrass jus;
 Welshcake and Brecon Honey cheesecake;
 Tea/coffee.

THE BIG MATCH Supporters are invited to attend the first ever football fixture for the Royal Naval Association Football Club, which will be staged at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth next week.

The match, against the RN Eastern Region Veterans, will be played on Temeraire's 3G pitch on Tuesday 20 February, kick off at 1900.

The bar will be open for supports and players, and all support is welcome.

The evening will also include a presentation, and RNA Chief Executive Officer Capt Bill Oliphant plans to address players, staff and supporters.

And if (like Bill) you might be keen for a spell on the pitch, please don't hesitate to let the RNA's Sports & Comradeship Coordinator, 'Scouse' Reeves, know on scc@rnassoc.org and you may get your moment to shine under the floodlights!



RNA Central Office,
 Building 1/087, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LT
comms@rnassoc.org
www.royal-naval-association.co.uk



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