

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES! Welcome to the first of two Semaphore Shorts in June, and already we are catching our collective breath after a hectic couple of weeks, including D-Day 80 and the (very good) RNA Annual Conference in Cardiff. But you can be sure we won't be resting on our laurels, as we have Armed Forces Day/Week coming up, and plenty of other business to keep Central Office and shipmates across the country out of trouble. Our Thriving Together programme is rolling on, so keep an eye out in our publications and on social media for more details.

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BUILDING WALLS

There are still a few places available for the Introduction to Dry Stone Walling day on Dartmoor on 13 July, part of the RNA Thriving Together programme. However, the women-only Waterfalls and Walking weekend in Wales is now fully booked. Details from RNA Sports and Comradeship Coordinator Scouse Reeves on scc@rnassoc.org



DEDICATION REWARDED Shipmates at the Annual Conference were able to congratulate two of their colleagues who were featured on the King's Birthday Honours List. Former National Chairman S/M Keith Ridley (pictured above right with RNA General Secretary Bill Oliphant) was awarded an MBE for his tireless work for the Association and the Royal British Legion, while WO1 Claire Robson was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM). Full details in July's Semaphore Circular, out on Friday 5 July.

■ **Can shipmates (including Associate Members) who attended the National Conference in Cardiff please make sure they return their Conference questionnaires to Central Office – answers will provide important data as we develop events in the future.**

JUST THE JOB? The June newsletter of Salute My Job takes a look at IT and cybersecurity, and how ex-military personnel might be the perfect fit for some of the jobs on offer. To sign up for the newsletter and see jobs on offer go to <https://salutemyjob.com>



TRIBUTE TO THE MILITARY Armed Forces Week 2024 gets under way next Monday, with Armed Forces Day itself being on Saturday 29 June.

There are hundreds of events being held across the UK and abroad, from a parade in Aberdeen to a military band and displays in Worthing. The emphasis is on community involvement as a way of showing the nation's appreciation of the Armed Forces, so besides the big city events, many with plenty of military firepower on show, there are smaller-scale tributes such as Trimdon Grange's family fun day in Co Durham tomorrow (22 June) and Pembrey's Armed Forces Day Celebration Market in Carmarthenshire, Wales. Part of the week-long programme is Reserves Day on Wednesday 26 June, when employers are invited to thank Reservists in the workplace for their dedication and commitment to both their work and their service for the nation. For an extensive list of events, and ideas as to how you can get involved in the week, see <https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk>

FIRESIDE CHATS Our next Fireside Chat is on Monday (24 June) when Darren Jackson will talk about the charity Combat Stress, for which Darren is a regional fundraiser. 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.

VETERANS FUNDING The Veterans Places, Pathways and People (VPPP) programme (East) wants to know how to spend their next budget allocation of funds. Help them, and veterans, by giving them more information about what we need in the **East of England** area. Please do fill in the form. You need to live in the East of England: Beds, Luton Milton Keynes, Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk to fill it in. <https://positivebridge.media/index.php/vppp-east/vppp-feedback>

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