

The Semaphore Short

From: Charlotte Darlington (comms@royalnavalassoc.com)

Date: Monday, 25 January 2021, 16:35 GMT

SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2021



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Times are changing, and so are we

We've been trying to beat the January blues by keeping busy in Central Office! January 2021 has been a huge month for The Royal Naval Association, with the introduction of free membership, a new membership database, and some new members of staff.

From now on, we'll be bringing our members a weekly newsletter, in addition to the monthly Semaphore Circular, with key bits of advice, news and activities to look out for over the next seven days. And it all begins here...

Keep reading for **updates** from Central Office and a roundup of **what's on this week...**



In case you missed it...

Membership to the RNA is now **free**! We have been beavering away in Central Office, sorting out all of the admin hurdles to get our free membership offer up and running, and we think we are there. We would love it if you could signpost any ex matelots, friends and family to the sign up page on our website, and start growing the RNA fleet.

<https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/join-us/>

In lieu of the membership subscription, we will be encouraging new and existing members to support us through **donations** – whatever they feel they can afford. These can be repeat donations (ie monthly/quarterly), or one off donations – every little really helps! This can be done directly through the website, or through your local branch – just ask Central Office or your branch for a donation form.

Central Office pipeline...

- **World Uckers Championships** – we are working hard to get the first annual World Uckers Championships launched, with a huge (real life, not virtual) event in the pipeline for Autumn 2021. Watch this space...
- **Development of more Special Interest Groups** – Over the next 12 months, we are really keen to develop more Special Interest Groups, similar to our Riders' Branch. We'd love to hear from anyone who would love to run a group –

from rugby enthusiasts, to golf swingers, to marathon runners, to kayakers and beyond. We'd love to see RNA teams of likeminded individuals from all walks of veteran and civvie life. We'll be bringing you some of these opportunities in the near future...

- **The RNA Podcast – ‘Dit On’** – at the end of 2020 we were awarded funding by [The Morrisons Foundation](#) for an RNA Podcast, which will be accessible for all members and (fingers crossed) all serving members of the RN. We have just found our host and are now on the hunt for some willing interviewees...



New Year, New Faces

The team in Central Office have welcomed two new faces this month and we'd like to introduce you to them...

First up is **Sara Field**, who joins us as the new Deputy Members Support (eventually taking over from Nigel Huxtable). Sara served for 25 years in the Royal Navy, leaving in 2014 as a Chief Writer. During her time in the RN, Sara served in several Ships and establishments including HMS Liverpool and HMS Illustrious.

Having come from a professional background of logistics and personnel matters, Sara is now proud to be working for the RNA; "My Naval career gave me a strong sense of duty and responsibility and I very much see the values that are important to me evident in the core values of the RNA".

Sara grew up in a Naval family and lives in Hampshire with her husband Bob (ex RN) and her two Jack Russell terriers.

We'd also like to introduce **Lynda Pearson**, who joins us as the Welfare Programme Manager.

Lynda has joined us at the RNA after working for the Royal Navy Family & People Support organisation (probably most remembered as NPFS) for over 17 years as a Youth & Community Development Worker, responsible for deployment support, volunteers and the development of support groups within the community centres. She is delighted now to have the opportunity to work alongside the entire Naval family, reaching out to create positive opportunities and support for all.

Lynda hails from Loughborough, but as Naval veteran spouse moved to Portsmouth many years ago and now lives over on Hayling Island so gets to see homeward bound ships first, which she says she draws a breath of relief and pride in every time.

Her husband (Sam to Shipmates, Lance at home) served as a Gunner for 23 years and naval service family life has provided many memories of standing on the Round Tower on deployment day and South Railway Jetty for homecomings and everything in between and she wonders where her LSGC medal is!



What's on this week (25th – 31st Jan)

- Monday Night Fireside Chat: A Burns' Night Special
The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight**, with a special virtual Burns' Night being attempted for the first time. **Join us at 1800** with a glass in hand and your haggis at the ready!

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

- **Tuesday Night: [Company of Makers](#) virtual workshop FREE**

Our friends at the *Company of Makers* are hosting their second online Artist Workshop on **Tuesday 26th Jan**, 'Drawn from the Sky', at **1900**.

Veterans from any service are invited to join the talk for free, taking a deep-dive into artwork (often by sailors themselves) that depicts life at sea.

If you're a veteran and you'd like to get involved, you can sign up for tonight's talk at the link below...

[Register Here](#)

- **Thursday Night: The Maritime Quiz with [Seafarers UK](#)**
On Thursday night at 6pm, Seafarers UK are holding a quiz night which will be hosted by the former Maritime Minister, Nusrat Ghani MP. Tickets are £10 but the prizes sound well worth it – 1st Prize is a one day sailing trip from Katherine's Docks along the River Thames on Mark Ashley Miller's boat, Good Dog, for up to 4 people. You'll be wined and dined too!

[Register Here](#)

- **Join 'The Royal Naval Association: Community Site' on Facebook**
If you haven't done so already, join the growing community group on Facebook where our members spin dits, host Zoom nights and update each other on branch activities. It's the best place to get your news hot-off-the-press...

[Join the Facebook Group](#)



Communicating with you

Central Office have been busy this month with the final touches to the new Membership Database, and with this new system comes new opportunities for us to communicate directly with our membership. Before we dive in too deep and start sending out information which sends you to sleep or makes you hit delete, we would like to get your feedback on existing communications and suggestions for content/communications moving forward. We have set up a short survey to collect your ideas, which you can fill in by clicking the button below...

[Complete Survey Here](#)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
Bldg 1/087 Scott Road, HM Naval Base Portsmouth, PO1 3LU
Charity Reg: 266982
www.royal-naval-association.co.uk