

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short

From: Charlotte Darlington (comms@royalnavalassoc.com)

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SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Manic Monday...

Where did the weekend go?! We hope you've all been enjoying a little more freedom in the sunshine. Welcome back to the pubs all our Scottish and Welsh members! We're particularly enjoying hearing murmurings of Branch activities being pencilled back in for the not-so-distance future. Enjoy all your Shipmate reunions and please be sure to send photos into Central Office.

Please note that from now onwards, **the Semaphore Circular will go out on the fourth Monday of every month**, unless there is a Bank Holiday. The May edition will go out on Wednesday 5th May, as **Central Office will be closed on the bank holiday and Tuesday 4th May.**



RNA Special Interest Groups with the General Sec

Cycling - After the success of the inaugural ride out on Good Friday of the RNA Cycling Group (Hants & W Sussex Chapter), the General Secretary is meeting with a few shipmates at The Bumblebee Café, Rowlands Castle for a cycle on Saturday 01 May at 0900. We plan to head out for a couple of hours – 40 km or so. All welcome and don't worry about ability as we'll sort ourselves into groups before we head off.

Vintage Vehicles – in the wake of the motorcycle Riders Branch success, we thought members might be interested in a Vintage Vehicles group. The General Secretary has his 1969 Fiat 500 and wonders if there are any other shipmates who are out there who have a passion for vintage motoring? They don't have to be ancient or classic maybe just a bit older, but the idea would be the odd meet for a little drive and maybe lunch out or attendance at other events.

Ideally, we would like to have a little rally from St Neots to Nottingham on Friday 3 Sep, ahead of the AGM/Conference on 4 Sep. Carrying the flame as it were from our last Conference to our next. If anyone is interested, please email bill@royalnavalassoc.com; and better still if someone has the time to co-ordinate such a group that would be fabulous.



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

An update on the St Vincent appeal

We have been inundated with offers of support and donations for the St Vincent volcano appeal, which we updated you on last week. Since last Monday, the first container has sailed for the islands and is expected to arrive in around 10 days' time.

The ports on the small island of St Vincent have been overwhelmed with the support from neighbouring islands and further afield, and we are therefore taking a temporary pause on physically donated items whilst we await further guidance from the St Vincent & the Grenadines UK High Commission.

We know many of you (from further afield than the Portsmouth vicinity) are keen to support financially, so we have set up the following bank account to receive monetary donations.

A/c name: Royal Naval Association

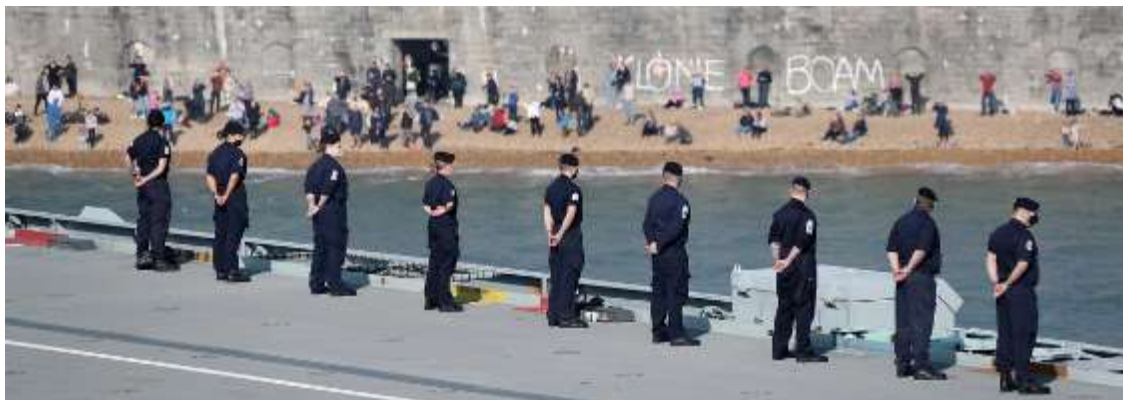
Bank: NATWEST

A/c no: 29671612

Sort Code: 60-05-14

Reference: St Vincent Appeal

This money will be spent on supporting the families of Royal Naval personnel who have been directly impacted by the volcano, in rebuilding their lives over the coming weeks and months.



What's on this week (26nd April – 2^{ndth} May)

- Monday Night Fireside Chat: The future of the RNA

The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight**, where we will be joined by the General Secretary of the RNA, Bill Oliphant and members of the Central Office team, who will give an update on the work going on around the different offices and the vision for the future of the RNA.

Join us at the regular time of **1800** with a tot in hand.

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

- **Tuesday: Merchant Navy Records**

Do you have an ancestor who was in the Merchant Navy, or are you looking for records of your own service? In this short expert-led webinar by The National Archives, you will get an overview of the Merchant Navy records that we hold and come away with the information that you need in order to begin your research.

This is a free online event with a Q&A at the end. Let us know if you join in and how you get on.

[Register here](#)

- **Thursday: A drink with Michael Palin**

Idler Magazine will be spending the evening with Michael Palin on Thursday, with an open invite to anyone who would like to join in. Palin will be spinning dits on his many travel adventures and career highlights. They're urging you to bring a pint and imagine you're having a casual chat in the pub. Tickets are £6.94 – fairly reasonable for what promises to be an interesting evening.

[Get tickets here](#)

- **Saturday Night: Virtual Tot Time**

Every Saturday Night, for over 12 months now, members from the Wrexham Branch have been hosting a Virtual Tot, inviting members worldwide to join in with them over Zoom. It's proven a lifeline and outlet for many of the RNA

community, and they don't intend to wrap it up any time soon. To be involved, click on the link below...

[Find out more](#)

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](#)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Bldg 1/087 Scott Road, HM Naval Base Portsmouth, PO1 3LU

Charity Reg: 266982

www.royal-naval-association.co.uk