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MONDAY 21 JUNE 2021



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

National Armed Forces Week, at a distance!

Today marks the flag raising day for National Armed Forces Day on Saturday 26th June 2021, kicking off a week of recognition for everyone who serves or has served for our country. Sadly, the national event which was due to take place in Scarborough has been postponed again (for the second year running) due to the pandemic restrictions, but we're looking forward to a bumper bash in 2022 to make up for it. In true pandemic fashion though, there will be an influx of events, posts and campaigns across social media to mark the week – creating a 'virtual Armed Forces week' in lieu of physical parades and get togethers. Head to the bottom of the Semaphore Short for a few examples of things you can get involved with...

Is your branch marking Armed Forces Day in a special way? If so, we would love to see your photos and hear your stories. Please send them to comms@royalnavalassoc.com and we will share a selection with the RNA community over the coming weeks.

#FootstepsOfOurForces

The National Museum of the Royal Navy, the National Army Museum, the Royal Air Force Museum and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission are joining forces for this virtual walk that kicks-off on Monday 21 June, Armed Forces Week.

Choose your distance – 5km, 10km or 25km - and join hundreds of others across the country to walk in honour of those who serve. This walk is virtual which means you can participate and complete it from anywhere in the world. You can start marching on Monday 21 June, Armed Forces Week, and have until Sunday 4 July to complete.

Every person who enters will be sent a one-of-a-kind medal to commemorate your achievement, which will be posted out to you after the event has ended.

The money from your entry will go towards the three museums, and the CWGC Foundation, which are all registered charities. All four charities preserve the history of the Armed Forces and inspire with stories of sacrifice and courage. Your support will help us continue to tell the stories of those who served and are still serving in the Armed Forces.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION



ROYAL NAVY &
ROYAL MARINES
CHARITY

RNA Sparko TV – connect to your Navy, at home

We are excited to be working in partnership the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) on a new and innovative project aimed at supporting our older veterans through Sparko TV, which is a tailor-made, interactive TV enhancement which can bring the Naval community to their living room.

Sparko TV provides tailored community engagement, promotes wellbeing and mental health thereby improving quality of life. The Sparko TV kit is a small box which connects to a TV* and comes with a webcam and a very simple remote control. This enables people to connect with family, friends and community using simple digital technology. The Sparko tool does not interrupt or interfere with TV programmes; the camera is only activated if a person is on a video call or a live/class activity and will show a small light when in operation. A privacy slider for the camera is included to cover it when it is not in use to ensure peace of mind. Essentially, Sparko is a simplified version of the internet which can be accessed from the comfort of your sofa/armchair, through your TV! And best of all, through us and the RNRMC, **it's COMPLETELY FREE!**

To find out more, [head to the website](#) or to register interest, please [CLICK HERE](#), complete the form and return it to Lynda Pearson, our Welfare Programme Manager – lynda@royalnavalassoc.com



What's on this week (21st June – 27th June)

- [Monday Night Fireside Chat: Mutiny & Piracy with Dr Jann Witt](#)

The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight**, where we will be joined by once again by Dr Jann Witt, who will have you all on the edge of your seats with tales of Mutiny and Piracy this week.

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

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

Thursday 24th – Mesothelioma UK: Supporting our Armed Forces

Mesothelioma UK is inviting members of the armed forces to join them to raise awareness of mesothelioma within the armed forces and provide insight into the projects, work, people and research that their charity has been conducting. Mesothelioma is a type of cancer that is caused by inhaling asbestos, effecting the lungs, abdomen and/or heart. This is an online event taking place **at 1600 on Thursday 24th June**. Further details and registration can be found below...

[Register here](#)

Thursday 24th – Dits & Pics with The Company of Makers

The Company of Makers have launched their new project, 'Dits & Pics', which aims to collect photos and stories from the armed forces to form an online exhibition showcasing life in the services over the years. As part of

the project they will be holding regular evening sessions on Zoom where veterans are invited to come and share their pictures and/or stories with other members of the Armed Forces community, enjoying camaraderie and nostalgia together. The next session is on **Thursday at 1800**.

Register here

Friday 25th – RFEA launch their Careers Sitrep

RFEA – The Forces Employment Charity will be marking this year's **Armed Forces Week** with the launch of 'Careers Sitrep', a new regular live stream event hosted by the charity to help boost employability for veterans and their families.

The inaugural 'Careers Sitrep' will take place at **1430 on Friday 25th June** and will be streamed across a number of social media platforms such as **Facebook**, **LinkedIn** and **YouTube**. The event is expected to last approximately one hour and will see RFEA's Chief Executive, **Commodore Alistair Halliday**, hosting an open and honest 'fireside chat' style discussion between him and a range of guests, all of whom have served in the Armed Forces.

Watch 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

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