

From: Charlotte Darlington <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
To: Charlotte Darlington <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
Date: Dec 13, 2021 2:05:46 PM
Subject: **ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short**

SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 13th DECEMBER 2021



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Four homecomings in two days...

Last week the whole Central Office team turned to before dawn on both Thursday and Friday to take the RNA to the jetties of Portsmouth Naval Base, joining the families of sailors returning from the Carrier Strike Group's eight month deployment.

With four homecomings over two days we were able to interact with thousands of family members and raise the profile of the RNA within the serving community, continuing to soar our membership numbers. The team were saved from the bitter cold by our brand new RNA hoodies, which were also a huge hit with chilly family members.



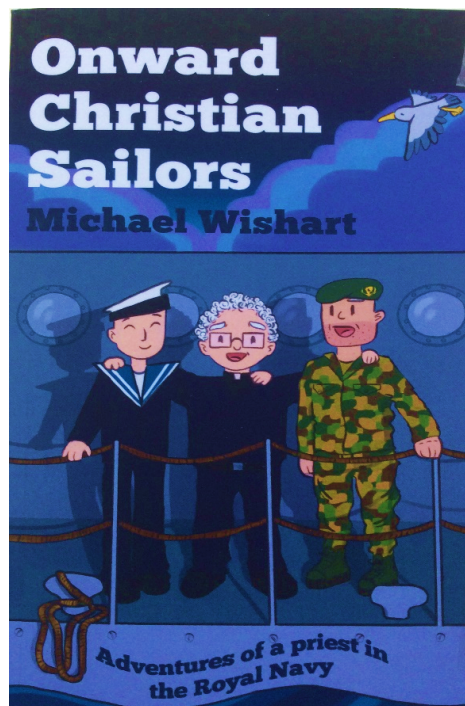
Festive fun at HMS Sultan

There are plenty of festive photographs circulating at the moment from Christmas events taking place around the bazars, but we thought this one deserved a special mention...



HMS Sultan had a bumper week of Christmas events last week, with the highlight being the Charity Divisions on the parade ground on Tuesday. Santa hats and outrageous jumpers were all on display as personnel took part in Charity Divisions for Save The Children and The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC).

If you're on Facebook, you can see more photos from the festivities on their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/HMS-Sultan-1055708914603789>



Onward Christian Sailors: Adventures of a Priest in the Royal Navy

Looking for a last-minute Christmas present for a loved one? Former Naval Chaplain, Michael Wishart's debut book is a light-hearted, yet at times, controversial look at his service in the Royal Navy. Serving in various ships and with the Royal Marines, he brings to light life in the peacetime Navy and the escapades of sailors and marines.

Jump aboard and share in the adventures of a priest who went to sea in ships. From the challenges of the Commando Course to the sun kissed beaches of the West Indies. From the jungles of Belize to the stormy waters of the North Atlantic. From the noisy bars in Florida to the quiet of a baptism in a barracks chapel.

Michael began his working life as an electrician but felt called to Ordination to the Priesthood. After serving as a curate on a Swansea council estate he joined the Royal Navy as a chaplain serving with the Royal Marines and the 7th Frigate Squadron. His ministry within the Navy lasted for nearly 40 years. This included many years in the Royal Naval Reserve as Chaplain to *HMS Cambria* in Cardiff. During this time he was involved in the effects of the Falklands War. The 40th anniversary of this conflict falls next year, in June, 2022. Michael was also the incumbent of a number of parishes.

[Buy your copy here](#)

Naval Families
F E D E R A T I O N

Support for Naval families this Christmas

Last week we saw thousands of families reunited with their loved ones as the ships, boats and aircraft of the Carrier Strike Group came home, just in time for Christmas. However, many sailors remain deployed this festive season. The Naval Families Federation are here to support every family, parent, child, brother or sister of a Naval service person.

Last year many civilian families learned what people in service have known for generations: being separated at this time of year is hard. Even if you don't celebrate, the constant reminder that this is a time for seeing loved ones can make absences hurt all the same.

Is your partner away on deployment? [Their children's books](#) help your young one's cope with missing a parent, and remind them they'll be reunited soon.

They've also put together some [tips on how you can celebrate as a family](#), even if you can't all be together.

For those that want to chip in over the festive period, they're always on the lookout for [willing knitters that can bring the characters from our stories to life](#).



What's on this week (13th December - 19th December)

- **Monday Night Fireside Chat: Fiona Dodds – Confessions of a health care professional!**

The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight**, when we'll be joined by Fiona Dodds of the Ferndown Branch who will deliver a light-hearted presentation on the confessions of a health care professional. **Please note, we are trialling a slightly later start-time**, so join us at the **new time of 1830** with a tot in hand.

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

- **Friday Night: Thomas Cooke – Telescope Maker to the Empire**

Born into a poor family, this is a rags to riches story about a self-taught man who would go on to become one of the greatest telescope makers. He built what was at the time the biggest telescope in the world, made a telescope for Prince Albert and even built steam cars. **On Friday night at 1930**, join a talk by Martin Lunn MBE FRAS, former Curator of Astronomy, Yorkshire Museum to learn more about this amazing man and his contribution

to astronomy.

[Details 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