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SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 31 JANUARY 2022

Looking ahead to Falklands 40 and Beijing 22

Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short, which has a few pointers to events coming up in the short and medium term that will no doubt interest shipmates.

First a quick update on our former colleague Charlie Darlington, who has taken up residence in her new office in Botswana.

Charlie is settling in well, and sent some pictures of her surroundings – her old friends at Central Office noted (with some alarm) the rifle lying on a chair and an electric fence around the premises

Charlie said the (air) rifle is there to discourage lions, while the fence should hopefully keep elephants at bay... We are quite happy with our offices in Portsmouth Naval Base, where the only threat comes from gulls trying to pinch your chips...

Enough of that – on with the show.

Falklands 40 – programme of events

Stand by for more details of the events in Portsmouth this summer marking the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict.

The weekend of June 17-19 – the weekend immediately after the end of the conflict – has three themes; Reunite (Friday), Relive (Saturday) and Remember (Sunday).

More details, including booking arrangements for ticketed events, will be published in the February edition of the Semaphore Circular, which is due out next week, so keep your eyes peeled for that.

Don't forget, if you served with the Task Group or any other units involved, or supported the Falklands campaign, we would love to hear from you. If you would like to help us tell the story – perhaps through the RNA's communications channels, or by talking to the media and broadcasters – then get in touch with us at comms@royalnavalassoc.com

Bootneck in a bobsleigh

The 2022 Winter Olympics begins on Friday, and if you need a Naval Service hero to cheer on you might like to watch out for Royal Marine Taylor Lawrence.

Taylor is a key member of the GB four-man bobsleigh team which has been picking up medals at recent World Cup events, and the team – which also features a paratrooper – are aiming for further success in Beijing.

The four-man bobsleigh competition is scheduled to be staged around February 19-20.

You can follow Taylor, and the rest of the action from Beijing, on the BBC (TV, website and iPlayer), or through subscription services including Eurosport and Discovery+

What's on this week (31st Jan – 6th Feb)

- **Monday Night Fireside Chat: John Bolt**

The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight at 1830**, where we will be joined by John Bolt, whose subject is the history of the Royal Marines.

The Corps can trace its history back to the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot, formed in October 1664, so there is plenty of material to choose from!

If you would like to join this free event, you can use the link below:

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

- **Friday Night, Feb 4: Great Coastal Railway Journeys**

Friday Feb 4 at 1830 on **BBC 2** we can follow former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo as he crosses from Thurso to Orkney, paying a visit to the great former Naval anchorage of Scapa Flow.

After the programme is broadcast, you can catch up with it through the BBC website or on iPlayer.

- **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](#)

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