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To: Mary Prescott <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
Date: Apr 25, 2022 5:02:45 PM
Subject: **FW: ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short**

Good afternoon



I hope you are really starting to feel the effects of spring now! Please see this weeks Semaphore Short below, and I hope you are well.


Best wishes,

Mary Prescott



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SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 25th April 2022





ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Falklands 40th weekend is right around the corner...

With less than 2 months to go we are really starting to feel the buzz about our Falklands 40th weekend from 17th – 19th June. In the Short today are some reminders and helpful bits of information just in case you missed them in previous editions and in the Semaphore Circular. Also included are some wonderful forthcoming events that we would love to see you all get involved in.

Fireside Chat with Dr Gordon Brooks

This evening's Fireside Chat will truly be out of this world.

It will be delivered by Dr Gordon Brooks, formerly the RN Medical Officer on the SS Atlantic Conveyor during the Falklands Campaign – she was sunk by an Exocet missile attack.

Dr Brooks' subject is 'The Navy Astronaut who never was' – a topic he is most definitely the best-qualified person to cover, as you will find out!

The RNA Fireside Chats include a wide range of subjects – past experts have delved into matters as diverse as the Battle of Jutland, and Royal Navy recruiting in the 2020s.

Please join us with a tot in hand at 1830 this evening (Monday 25th April)...

Meeting ID: 288 830 5105 Passcode: Shipmate

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

Falklands 40th and RNA Annual Conference

Plans for the Annual Conference weekend and F40 commemorations in Portsmouth are firmly in place now, and anyone wishing to take part should ensure they are aware of ticketing/attendance arrangements, and the correct rig, as outlined below.

There is still University of Portsmouth accommodation available. Do contact David Goodwin on 02392844567 or David.goodwin@port.ac.uk – prices are £56 single/£72 double B&B.

Branches applying for travel costs should do so via RNRMC by clicking [here](#). They have the money so please use it!

There are still a few places available for each weekend event. Do sign up via F40bookings@royalnavalassoc.com as soon as possible please.

Shipmates should also check the RNA website [here](#) and our Facebook page [here](#).

The F40 programme looks like this:

Reunite (Friday 17th June 2022)

SIGs – Special Interest Groups (all day): Portsmouth area; rig as per SIG leader instructions.

RM Band Beat Retreat (1900): Guildhall Square; RNA rig or Lounge Suit/equivalent, with Black Tie/equivalent, and miniatures for those attending Civic Dinner.

Standing drinks reception, canapés and ceremonial sunset (1930-2130): HMS Warrior; rig is RNA rig or Lounge suit/equivalent (*NB* no stilettos or narrow-heeled shoes, and access to heads is challenging!), full-size medals optional.

Civic drinks reception, dinner and entertainment for invited Falklands veterans and partners (First dinner call 1945, bar closes at 2330): Portsmouth Guildhall; rig is Black Tie/equivalent, and miniatures. (*NB* there will be a card, not a cash bar.)

Relive (Saturday 18th June 2022)

RNA Conference AGM (to include bacon butties!) (0830 for 0900 start – ends 1045): Marquee at HMS Nelson Wardroom; RNA rig, full size medals optional.

Falklands Forum and Q&A (1100 for 1130 start – ends 1600): Marquee at HMS Nelson Wardroom; informal (*to include lunch bar sandwiches*).

Field Gun Display (1630)- Gunwharf

Association Curry Buffet Dance and entertainment (80s-themed) (first dinner call 1945, bar closes 2300): Marquee at HMS Nelson Wardroom; rig is 'relaxed'.

Remember (Sunday 19th June 2022)

Falklands 40 Commemorative Parade (from 0930 association standard bearers form up outside the Ben Ainsley Building, Old Portsmouth. 1030 procession sets off towards the Square Tower): RNA rig with medals, No 1s for serving (medals, neg swords). Includes two-minutes silence unveiling of Falklands memorial, wreath laying ceremony presentation of Freedom of the City scrolls and a march past.

Memorial Service (1200): Short service and civic refreshments in Portsmouth Cathedral.

(*NB* the morning will continue even in wet weather.)

The Big Match

An RNA cricket team will be taking on the RMA at Burnaby Road in a T20 format match on Friday 17th June by kind permission of the Naval Base Commander, Portsmouth.

Spectators are most welcome, so bring a deckchair along and enjoy the contest, which starts at 1300 and will be followed by post-match drinks at the RMA Eastney.

Further information from S/M Mark Smith on markmiff1962@gmail.com



Beating Retreat

The military ceremony of Beating Retreat has its origins on the early battlefields where the drum was used for all signals. Beating Retreat was the signal for troops to disengage from combat as the light faded.

The Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines perform their Beating Retreat ceremony every two years on Horse Guards Parade in front of the

beautiful backdrop of St James's Park.

Enjoy a spectacular evening of outstanding military music and pageantry, featuring the precision drill of the 40 strong Crops of Drums and impressive 14-piece Fanfare Team.

Dates: 25th and 26th May 2022, 1845 Horse Guards Parade, London.

Seated and special access tickets available from £8 to £25. Wheelchair ticket includes a companion on the same ticket.

All proceeds from this event will go to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines charity and RMA (The Royal Marines Charity)

Buy your tickets [here](#)



- **Saturday Night: Virtual Tot Time**

Every Saturday Night, for almost 2 years 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](#)

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