

From: Royal Naval Association Comms <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
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**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**



4th JULY 2022

Greetings Shipmates and welcome to this week's Semaphore Short which comes to you in a slightly different format than of old. Mary, who has been sending the Short out for the past eighteen months has moved on to pastures new and we wish her all the very best in the future endeavours. I shall be holding the reins short term alongside my role as the Transition and Employability Mentoring Lead. You will probably notice that you should have received the main Semaphore Circular this week but as its author, Shipmate Andy Christie is on leave (yes, we allow him time off occasionally), the issue has been delayed a week.



FALKLANDS 40 A huge thank you to all those attended and supported the various commemorations throughout the UK. The main thrust for RNA Central Office was the Portsmouth weekend with Beat the Retreat, Civic dinner, AGM, F40 forum, dinner dance and the march which included the presentation of the Freedom of the City of Portsmouth to the Royal Naval Association. More detailed coverage of the F40 events that the RNA were involved in will be included in the circular.

COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES As part of the F40 commemorations, the RNA in tandem with the association of Wrens commissioned commemorative benches to honour those that remain on patrol in the South Atlantic from HMS Sheffield and HMS Coventry, the two T42 destroyers that were Portsmouth based and lost in the Falklands 40 years ago. Although many of the two ship's companies were involved in other events, three from each ship were present, amongst other South Atlantic medal holders to witness the dedication. A church service was held at St Anne's Church in the dockyard, followed by the unveiling and a tot and then the SAM holders attended a garden party at Spithead House at the invitation of the Naval Base Commander.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION '50 YEARS OF NATIONAL SERVICE' As part of the 2023 events, the RBL will be running with the 50th anniversary of the ending of National Service. The Legion are looking for people that did National Service to share their experiences. The stories will be used as educational material to be taught in schools and may appear on the RBL website. If you are interested in taking part in this project, more details can be provided by emailing the project sponsor, Lizzy Shipman at eshipton@britishlegion.org.uk

LIVING WITH CANCER With around 50% of us likely to contract a form of cancer. For many, diagnosis, and management can be a daunting prospect. Being able to access the care available can provide valuable support when people need it most. The UK Government has funded a free online awareness course and whilst this is not for everyone, it may be worth a look. Note - The course is not sanctioned or validated by the RNA and the third-party link is provided as an option to those that wish to use it. Please click on the link below if you wish to access the course.

[Yes, let's Start the Free Course](#)

HMS RALEIGH BACK TO 'NORMAL' In a couple of weeks' time. HMS Raleigh will resume the full and normal passing out parades that most of us are familiar with (standfast the Ganges ratings, Tiffs and Officers!). The parades, which mean so much to the recruits and their families have been scaled back for the past two and a half years due to Covid. Katy Hughes will be in attendance and will talk to those passing out and the families about the RNA and encourage as many as possible to join the Association. As we are all aware, but sometimes forget, our families are much a part of our naval lives as we are and the Naval Family is exactly what it says on the tin!

FIRESIDE CHATS – The fireside chat for this evening is a talk on Admiral Byng by Mike Milne. Next weeks chat will be a talk by Lt Cdr 'Sharkey' Ward – CO of 801 Sqn during the Falklands war.

Fireside chats, unless promulgated otherwise start at 18:00 each Monday. To access the fireside chats, access zoom [here](#)

Meeting ID is 288 830 5105 Password is Shipmate

FORMATTING This Short is a transient beast! I am quite aware that the text etc may not span that well across all media Platforms. I am working on a better way to do this so please bear with me for a couple of weeks.

AND FINALLY..... . .



Question:
**How long does it take the average
person to become a Sailor?**

Answer:
**An average person will never become a
Sailor !!**