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**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

SEMAPHORE



20 SEPTEMBER 2022



GREETINGS SHIPMATES - It has been a surreal couple of weeks as we have said goodbye to Her Majesty and seen His Majesty the King seamlessly assume the role of our Sovereign. There have been many memories made for us all but I want to pay tribute to all of His Majesty's Armed Forces, the Emergency Services and supporting organisations for the faultless professionalism, dedication and spectacle that we have witnessed since the news broke of Her Majesty's passing, not least yesterday during the State

funeral. The sight of the State gun carriage being pulled by immaculate and faultless naval personnel is a sight the majority of us will never forget. Whilst plans for this sad occasion have been in place for years, it is the people in the moment that make things happen. From the public ceremonial to the hidden rehearsals in the pouring rain, our people have done us proud. I am sure both the late Queen and the King would send out a resounding BZ as, I am sure, we all do.

The next Short will be published on Monday 26th September. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in that, email me or the team at comms@royalnavalassoc.com. Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update newsletter and we can't publish everything. Some content may be passed to Andy for inclusion in the next Circular.

INTERESTING INFORMATION Following the passing of Her Majesty, the Royal Navy has published a brief synopsis on her relationship with the Senior Service - This can be found here:

[The Queen and the Royal Navy](#)

As many will know, the State gun carriage used in Her Majesty's funeral is kept and maintained at HMS Excellent. An insight into the gun carriage, its history and upkeep and also information on how Royal Naval personnel were trained to pull it can be found here:

[Royal Navy's role at Queen's funeral](#)

FIRESIDE CHATS The fireside chat next Monday (26th) will be given by Commodore Joll Woodard who is the Head of Combat Aviation Programmes. The following week (Mon Oct 3rd) will be presented by Geoff Parsons and will offer a fascinating insight into naval heroes and events that are celebrated and commemorated by sundials.

Fireside chats, unless promulgated otherwise start at 18:30 each Monday. To access the fireside chats, access zoom [here](#)

Meeting ID is 288 830 5105 Password is Shipmate

TELEPHONE GROUP FOR OLDER SEAFARERS Age UK has launched a telephone friendship group for seafarers over 60. The calls take place on the same day every week, last for 45 minutes and provide a safe environment to make friends. All you need is a landline or mobile phone. The calls are facilitated by Age UK's secure automated system. If you miss a call you can ring the team's friendly helpline and someone will connect you to the group. All calls are free. The scheme is open to the Merchant Navy, Royal Navy and former WRENS, RFA and fishermen plus anyone else who has worked at sea in any capacity. Spouses, partners and family members of anyone with a

seafaring background are also welcome and more information on the scheme can be found [here](#). For Age UKs web site, click the logo below.



DISCOUNT CARDS Having seen a number of posts on RN social media groups of late, it appears that many are unaware of two schemes running that offer discounts on a variety of products and services to military personnel. The two cards are the Defence Discount Service Card and the Blue Light Card. Both are issued by the same company but do offer slightly different discounts. Serving RN personnel and RN veterans are eligible for both cards. Both cards cost £4.99 with the DDS valid for 5 years and the Blue Light for 2 years. Some discounts are significant. I have both and have saved a fortune - way beyond the card costs. Full details on the cards and how to apply can be found at:

[Blue Light Card](#)

[Defense Discount Service Card](#)



And Finally.....God Save the King



The Semaphore Short is published by the Royal Naval association
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