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16 JANUARY 2023

GREETINGS SHIPMATES - Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well.

As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, 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 Mike for inclusion in the next Circular.

FIRESIDE CHATS Tonight's fireside chat will be a talk by Richard Cutler who will talk of the work of the UK International Search and Rescue organisation (UK ISAR). At present, there is not a programmed chat for next week but that may change at short notice. If there is one, it will be promulgated in next week's Short.

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



THE FINAL FAREWELL (WELL NOT QUITE.....) As you will have seen in the Circular, Shipmate Andy Christie has retired from his central office job, one that he had held for more than a few years! We couldn't let his leaving go without some ceremony so last night senior members of council, including the National President, National Chair and General Secretary, central office staff and close friends and family dined Andy out onboard HMS Victory. Unbeknownst to Andy, a collection was made around the regions to thank him for his unswerving support to the Association over the years and this was presented to him with other gifts. Andy will be remaining in the fold as the Area 3 National Council Member. *Picture credit - Nigel Huxtable.*

PERCEPTIONS OF UK ARMED FORCES VETERAN PERSONNEL SURVEY A recent YouGov report, commissioned by the Office for Veterans' Affairs, asked more than 12,000 members of the public, as well as employers, healthcare professionals and members of the media across of the UK about their perceptions of armed forces veterans, their views on how veterans are treated after they leave service, and their opinion on how veterans are portrayed in the media. The report (which is quite weighty) can be found [here](#)

2023 SOLDIERING ON AWARDS Nominations are now open for the 2023 Soldiering On awards. The awards which cover all three Services (despite the name!) are divided into twelve categories and recognise the achievements of individuals, groups and companies that have served in or have supported the Armed Forces family and community. The RNA won the People's Choice award in 2019 for the work on Project Semaphore which supplies i-Pads to isolated veterans. If you know of anyone that deserves recognition for going 'above and beyond', details of how to nominate them can be found [here](#)

BOOTY BREAKFAST For Shipmates in the Accrington area, the Royal Marine Association are holding a breakfast meet at Wetherspoons in Accrington at

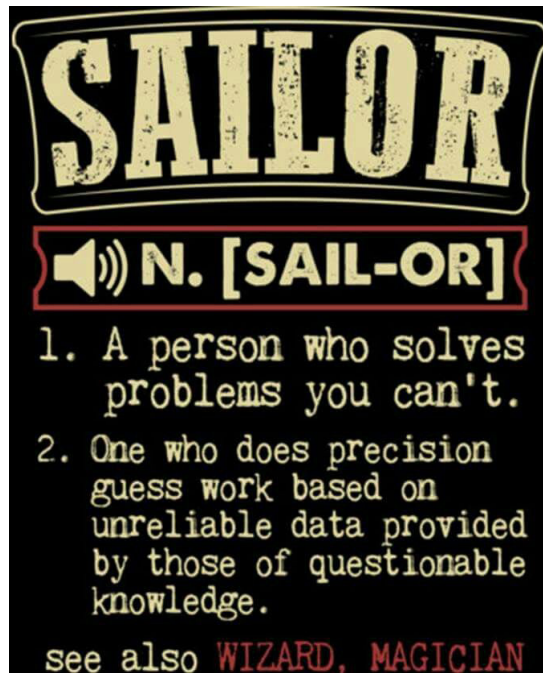
10:00 on Saturday 4th February. Although RMA organised, the invite also goes out to former RN and WRNS veterans. Although the booties will be eating crayons, I am reliably informed a full English will be available for Jennys and Matelots!

ARMY-NAVY RUGBY 2023 Due to the King's coronation on May 6th, the annual Army-Navy rugby match has been rescheduled for Saturday May 13th at Twickenham. The men's game will kick off at 14:00 and the women's game at 17:00. Tickets for the games, priced from £30.00 to £40.00 are on sale now and can be bought via the RNFU website [here](#)

NEW RIG FOR RALEIGH MENTORS New entry sailors at HMS Raleigh have been enjoying interaction and mentoring from local Shipmates for quite a while now. The new recruits are inducted to the ethos and camaraderie of the Royal Navy during a number of evolutions up to and including their passing out parade. In order to engender the RNA identity, Shipmates have been provided with RNA sweatshirts which, in the picture below, are expertly modelled by Billy James, Susan Goldfinch and Terry Whitty at the recent mid-period appraisal session for Gould Division 22/27 course.



AND FINALLY.....



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