



**ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION**

**SEMAPHORE**



**SHORT**



## 30 JANUARY 2023

**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. As briefed last week, you will be getting this in a slightly different format but hopefully, I will be able to revert to the more usual format by the time the next Short goes out on Monday February 13<sup>th</sup>. As the Circular is out next week, there will be no Short on the 6<sup>th</sup> February. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team at <mailto: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 Professor Matt Kiernon who will be talking about the Veteran's Food Poverty Survey. Matt is a former Head of Mental Health Nursing in the Royal Navy. Next week's chat will be a talk about Royal Navy



logistics training given by Captain Mark Hardwick (this talk was scheduled but postponed from last year). White Mafia, Blanket Stackers and Scribes should be particularly interested!

To access Fireside Chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

**TRANSATLANTIC ROW FOR PORTSEA SHIPMATE** After a gruelling 44 days, 11 hours and 39 minutes, the two men and one woman team 'Raring to Row' crossed the finish

line in Antigua after rowing from the island of La Gomera in the Canaries as part of the Talisker Whisky Transatlantic Challenge. They arrived in Antigua on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. One of the crew, Kevin Watkins, is an RNA member of the Portsea Branch. Along with Adam and Gemma, the trio are raising



money for Action Medical Research which funds important research into Children's medical conditions. To find out more about Raring to Go, the epic trip, the charity and how to donate, go [here](#). A huge RNA BZ to Kevin, Gemma and Adam.

**ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL ROLE OF HONOUR** Defence Business Services has modernised the AF Memorial Roll of Honour online services. The memorial commemorates members of the Armed Forces killed since the end of WWII and the new online service is easier to use and is more compliant with Government Digital Services standards. The service can be accessed [here](#)

**VETERAN'S ID CARD** I had an email from a Shipmate asking about the veteran's ID



cards and when he could expect one. The answer is we don't know! The ID cards are issued to all Service leavers and the intention still is to issue them to all veterans via an application process. Due to a number of reasons, the process has stalled and a date for the phase two roll-out has yet to be set. Information on the ID card can be

found [here](#) although the last update was nearly a year ago!

**BREAKFAST CLUBS** For Shipmates that enjoy their breakfast and also enjoy spinning a few dits, there are a large number of Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Clubs dotted around the UK (and abroad). Frequency of meetings, venues and costs vary from club to club but the meets are a great opportunity to get out, meet and banter with other veterans and in some cases, serving personnel. The only downside is that you may have to talk to a Crab!



Full details of the Clubs and venues can be found at the AFVBC site [here](#). Note - the green stuff in the picture has no place on a matelot's or Jenny's plate

**AND FINALLY, FOR SHIPMATES WITH BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK .....**

