



**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**

**SEMAPHORE**



## 20 FEBRUARY 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 <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 Captain Katharine Armstrong who is head of the Royal Naval Intelligence Branch. Katharine is a Warfare Officer of 26 years' experience who has deployed on operations to the Gulf, Adriatic, Baltic and West Africa. Commissioning in 1996, Katharine's sea time included assignments to HMS SANDOWN during Air Operations IRAQ and Op ALLIED HARVEST and HMS GLASGOW as part of the UK response to the civil war in Sierra Leone. Specialising as an Intelligence Officer in 2011, she was assigned as the SO2 N2 to the UK Maritime Component Commander in Bahrain during the Arab Spring.



Next week's chat will be given by Commodore (Retired) Stuart Wright who is the CEO of the White Ensign Association. To access Fireside Chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.



**ROYAL NAVY &  
ROYAL MARINES  
CHARITY**

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity are actively seeking volunteers to help with fundraising. Activities could include attending events, ship's homecomings and helping out

**VOLUNTEER MEET & GREET  
FOR TEA & CAKE**

Date: Wednesday 22nd February Time: 1330 - 1530

Location: HMS Drake, Pierhead Jump Meeting Room, Junior Rates mess

To find out more and to register for the Meet & Greet, please complete the form via the QR code.



at Armed Forces Day. There is a meet and greet in Plymouth on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February but for those that are not local and cannot make it, information on volunteering can be found [here](#). For those that can

attend the Plymouth event (I know it is late notice), scan the QR code on the embedded panel to register or visit [here](#)

**ROYAL NAVY RUGBY** - For the fans of the egg shaped ball, fixtures for upcoming games for the First XI can be found [here](#). For those that prefer the round ball, the RN football team fixtures appear to be hidden away on the secure MoD site but I'll try and find another source for next week.

**RNBT PARTNERS WITH LIGHTNING REACH** The Royal Naval Benevolent Trust (RNBT) partnered with Lightning Reach in January 2023 to accept applications for financial support available to individuals of up to £750 through the Lightning Reach Portal. There are set criteria for awards but if you are experiencing financial difficulty, this is well worth exploring. The RNBT web site page can be found [here](#) and the direct link to Lightning Reach can be found [here](#).

**Naval Community: Self-Employment Discovery Virtual Workshops** Free workshops for serving and veteran RN personnel and family close members who are thinking about becoming self-employed are being run by [X-Forces](#). The first is this Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb with others planned in April, August and November. The workshop is an all-day online event starting at 09:30 and you can register for the first one [here](#)

**AND FINALLY**, ..... A memory jogger for those that remember 'The Gut' - with thanks to Shipmate Bob Carr for providing his wonderful cartoon.

