



**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. To all those attending the RNA annual conference and Battle of the Atlantic commemorations in Liverpool next weekend, have a wonderful time. Despite the bank holiday, the Short will appear next Monday (it's coming up to S264 time and I need the points!). As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team [here](#). 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** This evening's Fireside Chat will be given by Mike Milne and will tell the story of the Western Approaches Tactical Unit (WATU) which was set up during WWII to develop new tactics to counter the German U-Boat threat to convoys. Due to the late May bank holiday, there will be no chat next week. The next chat will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June and will be a talk on the US National WWII Museum in New Orleans given by Dr Mark Calhoun. Fireside chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS** Ahead of this year's annual conference, please find below the nominations for National Council and Deputy National Council Members. Should you object to any nomination, please provide this in writing [here](#) by 5pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. If there are no objections, these candidates will be appointed by Conference on Saturday and will take office immediately after Conference ends.

AREA	NCM	DNCM
FIVE		DIANA SADLER
SIX	KEITH RIDLEY	ANTHONY BODDRELL
SEVEN	LANCE HIGGON-YOUNG	GRAHAM WARNER
EIGHT		GEORGE BARBROOK
NINE	KEITH CRAWFORD	KEVIN WINTER
ELEVEN	ROSLYN HASTIE-MURRAY	
TWELVE		ROBERT BUCHANAN
SCOTTISH	STEPHEN ELLIOT	JOHN STEWART

**PRINCESS ROYAL TO VISIT LIVERPOOL** It has just been announced that Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal will formally open the new Garden of Reflection and the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial at St Nicholas' Church, Pier Head in Liverpool on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May. The unveilings will follow a service of remembrance at the church which commences at 11:00 and will also be attended by the First Sea Lord, the Secretary of State for Defence, Mayors from Liverpool and surrounding council areas and veterans from the Battle of the Atlantic. The service will conclude at 12:15 with a flypast which includes a Swordfish aircraft and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

## CENTENARIAN CELEBRATIONS

Whilst we don't routinely mark birthdays in the Short, the fact that we have recently had three Shipmates celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays makes this issue an exception! Firstly we have Shipmate Gordon 'Pop' Wright of the Rhondda branch. Pop served on Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) during the Anzio landings (a battle of the Italian Campaign of WW2). His LCI was hit by German bombardment and he suffered a broken left arm and a broken right leg. Next is Shipmate George Notley of the Salisbury branch. George joined the Royal Navy as a boy sailor in 1936 serving 33 years, leaving in 1969. During WW2 George took part in Operation Pedestal; the first relief convoy to Malta and witnessed HMS Eagle being sunk. He also served in the Atlantic and Arctic Convoys. Last but not least is Shipmate Cyril Durban of the Bromley branch. Cyril joined HMS Ganges as a Boy Sailor in June 1942 moving on to serve in HMS Brilliant between June 1942 and February 1943 and then on HMS Primrose, a Flower Class Corvette in October 1943 until June 1945. H was discharged in May 1946. Cyril also received a Legion D'Honneur for his services on D-Day.



Gordon 'Pop' Wright



George Notley



Cyril Durban as a Sea Cadet

**MAY HALF TERM AT THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD** RNA members enjoy a 30% discount on Ultimate Explorer tickets at the Historic Dockyard in Portsmouth. This May half term will see an enhancement of activities including roaming puppeteers, tales from the Tudor wise woman and a pop-up conservation exhibition. Visitors can also enjoy the new Mary Rose 4D dive experience. Please note that the RNA discount is not available online and can only be used for walk-up tickets at the dockyard on the first day of your visit.

### AND FINALLY.....

*OK Number One, we'll start at the Ship Anson, onto the Mucky Duck, then the Mighty Fine and finish up in Jo's – any questions?*



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