

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY
AUGUST 28th
2023

GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. No Short next week as the Circular will be out. We will be changing the publication day for Shorts and Circulars to Fridays in the very near future which will give you something to read over the weekend! As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email the team [here](#). Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update and we can't publish everything. Some content may be used for inclusion in the next Circular.

PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000

[PLAY NOW](#)

FIRESIDE CHATS Due to today being a bank holiday, there is no Fireside Chat this evening. Next chat will be next Monday (4th September) and will be a recount of the SS Lisbon Maru story presented by Brian Finch. The vessel was an armed Japanese troop ship that was torpedoed by an America submarine in 1942 when she was being used to transport allied prisoners of war. 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.



DO NOT KNOCK

Cold calling is not illegal but any trader that ignores a notice saying the occupier does not want cold calling may be committing a criminal offence. The charity, [Able Community Care](#) are offering RNA members free door stickers (as in the picture) and over the past four years have sent out over 140,000. If you would like one, or a few for your oppos (within reason!), you can request them by emailing the charity [here](#).

BRANCH ENGAGEMENT We get quite a few emails from branches who are reaching out into their communities and promoting the RNA and their branches or taking part in fund-raising activities. A recent example came in from Shipmate Bob Gelder of Bude branch who sent us the following:

'Once again, Bude Branch RNA assembled with numerous 'gizzits' on offer, laid out on a White Ensign covered table at Morrisons on Sunday, 13th August. The prime objective was recruitment to the branch, but old habits kick in and a conveniently placed donations bucket was available for voluntary contributions. With a varied selection of items available, several youngsters departed proudly wearing a sticker of either the RNA or RMA, hopefully to be inspired to sign up in the future. Tip to all branches thinking along the same lines - engage with the youngster with a big smile and append a sticker to the t-shirt. Youngster will be happy and parent will usually donate! (Editors note - please note that you should obtain the parent's permission before actually sticking the sticker on - it can often be easier to hand the child the sticker). This year we got a bit hi-tech and provided a card-payment option! This is something we will be re-employing in September when Bude stages its "Bude at War" celebrations and the RNA & RMA have stands for the three days. Positive upshot was a very welcome recruitment of three new members to the branch - and hopefully several more in September (and every month!)

BZ to Bob and the team down in Bude! This shows what can be done. How does your branch engage with the public and raise money - let us know! You can email us [here](#)

CALLING ALL SPARKERS 78 year old Shipmate Gerry Emson, a former LRO(G) has written in informing us of the benefit he gets from using Morse code, particularly as he is partially deaf (largely as a result of his naval service). Gerry finds that by using Morse, he can communicate effectively with likeminded people and he uses a computer programme so that he can do it using a Morse key and a laptop. The software he uses was developed by an Australian radio ham initially for Windows 95 but can be used on a variety of devices and operating systems. Gerry has got his own blog which can be found [here](#). The blog has all the information needed to download and use the software (although as a WAFU, much of it was lost on me!) - So get tapping.



BIENNIEL PARADE - 10th SEPTEMBER - TRAVEL NOTICE South Western Railways' trains running out of Portsmouth stations will be subject to engineering works on the 9th and 10th of September with a replacement bus service running to and from Havant. If you are planning to travel up early Sunday morning, please take this into account. Further details on the SWR planned works can be found [here](#). For others travelling from other parts of the country, there are scheduled rail works on various lines. Updated rail information can be found [here](#). London transport has no major work planned on the tube and DLR but check [here](#) nearer the date. Whatever method of travel you are using, please check with your operator before travel for any planned disruption that may affect your journey.

AND FINALLY..... Another from Shipmate Bob Carr which will, I'm sure, rekindle a few memories of runs ashore in Portsmouth - thanks Bob

