

SEMAPHORE SHORT

GOOD AFTERNOON SHIPMATES! We are coming to one of the busiest periods of the year, with the 219th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar being marked in traditional fashion, followed by the season of Remembrance. More on Remembrance in later Semaphores, but if you are holding a Trafalgar lunch or dinner (or a Pickle Night) – and some branches have already done so – then let us know, and send us a brief report and pictures. We can't feature you all, but we will try to mention as many as we can.

PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000 [PLAY NOW](#)

FUNERALS Shipmates are invited to show support for two members who have crossed the bar. One has no family to attend his funeral – Bob Smith (ex-Blackpool branch), Tues 29 Oct, 1445, Carleton Crematorium, Blackpool FY6 7QS, while the family of John (Ian) Culross invite shipmates to say farewell at Portchester Crematorium, PO16 8NE, 1215 on Mon 21 Oct.



TOP BLOBBING We have new Uckers world champions – and one is a bootneck... The RNA Uckers World Championships at the Royal Maritime Hotel in Portsmouth saw a series of thrilling contests for the singles and doubles titles. The individual title went to Stan Patterson (RM), from Poole, and the doubles was won by Kath and Trevor Dean – the Burntwood Blobbers – from Staffs. See the November Semaphore Circular for more images from the event.

FREE RAIL TRAVEL Train companies are supporting the military community by providing free rail travel during the nation's annual commemorations on 2-3 and 9-10 November. Poppy Appeal collectors will also be able to access free rail travel to the RBL's London Poppy Day on 31 October. The offer is open to serving military personnel in uniform or in possession of a current MOD90 ID card. Veterans will need to show a Veterans Railcard, Veterans Oyster card, MOD-issued Veterans ID or other appropriate proof of service. See <https://tinyurl.com/854knezf> for details.

LONDON EXCURSION Last call for the Fareham Flyer day trip to London by Maritime Heritage Tours' chartered train, leaving Fareham 0830 on Sat 26 Oct, returning to Fareham at 1906, £25pp. Advance tickets on sale at Post Offices in the Gosport/Fareham area – call 07977 534949 if you have difficulty locating tickets.

NEXTSTEP There is currently a wide range of jobs up for grabs on the Salute My Job website (www.salutemyjob.com), which provides employment opportunities for the military community. From office administrator to embedded software engineer, from missile systems design engineer

to commercial plumber, that dream job might be there waiting for you... Salute My Job is a social enterprise that seeks to bridge the gap between the unique skills and experiences of the ex-military and the needs of various organisations.

FIRESIDE CHATS HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, is undergoing an extensive refit – 'the Big Repair' – which began in 2022. Our next Fireside Chat, on Monday (21 October – Trafalgar Day) will be presented by Tony Noon of the National Museum of the Royal Navy, who will give us an update on how the major preservation project is going. Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom here. The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.



DIARY ON SALE Our smart RNA diary is still available to buy for just £6.50, including postage – but don't hang around as they are going fast. The diary also contains a wealth of member-focussed information, including useful numbers, important dates in the RN calendar, and contact details for Central Office staff. If you would like a copy then place your order on admin@rnassoc.org or call Central Office on 023 9272 3747.

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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