



# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**AHOY SHIPMATES** Next weekend sees the second of the five major national events in the RNA's 75th anniversary year – the Army v Navy men's and women's rugby matches at Twickenham (3 May) – see below. The sporting spectacle falls at the start of the May Bank Holiday weekend, and also the start of a period of celebration and commemoration marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Make sure you let us know in Central Office about any events you hosted or attended so we can feature them in our media channels.

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

**PLAY NOW**



**SEE YOU (MUCH) LATER** The RNA's ace photographer S/M Nigel Huxtable was on hand to capture the scene when aircraft carrier HMS Prince of Wales left Portsmouth earlier this week at the start of a major, far-ranging deployment. The carrier-led group on Operation Highmast, which includes a significant element from Norway, will spend the next eight months travelling to Australia and back, with a host of exciting visits lined up including Japan and Australia. Other ships in the group include HMS Dauntless, HMS Richmond, RFA Tidespring and a Canadian frigate.

**RUGBY POST** General tickets for the Army v Navy rugby matches (men's and women's) at Twickenham on Saturday 3 May are still available through the stadium website – see [here](#) for details and to make booking.

**TON UP** S/M Alec Penstone, of the Isle of Wight Branch, has just celebrated his 100th birthday. A veteran of the Battle of the Atlantic and D-Day, Alec was on foot-tapping good form and having a great

time at his birthday party, which was made all the livelier through an appearance by the D-Day Darlings, who presented Alec with a copy of their new album Victorious.

**FIRESIDE CHATS** The next Chat on Monday (28 April) has David Griggs speaking on the 'Disaster at Freshwater West – the largest RN loss of life outside of combat operations'. 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.

**VE80 STAND EASY** Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity is asking you to come together to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day to help them support veterans. The RNRMC Stand Easy invites you to organise any sort of gathering – maybe a street party, office bake sale or an informal gathering – to raise funds. RNA branches can receive a special fundraising pack by emailing [cml@rnassoc.org](mailto:cml@rnassoc.org) – see the flyer in this Short [here](#). Individuals and branches are asked to sign up via Central Office and send fundraising donations to RNRMC via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/34ad6efp>

**LAST CHANCE** There are still a few Conference weekend combined entertainment tickets available – but only until 4 May. For further details and to buy tickets see the 'Shop' section of the RNA website [here](#)

## MUSIC TO OUR EARS

The Royal Naval Volunteer Band of HMS Collingwood is performing a concert on Saturday 17 May in conjunction with Fun Connection, a band from Fareham's twin town of Pulheim in Germany. The show, titled A Musical Celebration – Best of British Meets Swing, will be staged at the Titchfield Festival Theatre; doors open at 1830 for a 1930 start. The ticket link is <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tftheatre/t-krnnnmk> or see the poster in this Short [here](#).

RNA Central Office,  
Lanyard House, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LU  
[comms@rnassoc.org](mailto:comms@rnassoc.org)  
[www.royal-naval-association.co.uk](http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk)



**ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION**



HMS Collingwood – Government Organisation

@HMS\_Collingwood



**Fareham ~ Pulheim  
Twinning Association**



HMS COLLINGWOOD presents

# BEST OF BRITISH MEETS SWING!

**1930 – Saturday 17th May 2025**

## A Musical Celebration – Best of British Meets Swing!

Join us for an unforgettable evening of music, where two fantastic bands come together for a unique cultural exchange! Experience the rousing “Best of British” sounds from the Royal Navy Volunteer Band of HMS Collingwood, alongside the dynamic swing rhythms of Fun Connection from Fareham’s twinned town of Pulheim. From stirring marches to toe-tapping jazz, this concert promises something for everyone.

Don’t miss this lively night of musical talent and international friendship!

Doors Open at 6:30PM

Starts at 7:30PM

Location – Titchfield Festival Theatre, Fareham, PO14 4BG

Supported by Hampshire County Council





## VE Day 80: Honouring the Past, Supporting the Present.

Host a tea party, a bake sale, a workplace event, or even a small gathering at home—however you choose to celebrate, you'll be making a real impact on the lives of those who have given so much for us.



**ONCE  
NAVY  
ALWAYS  
NAVY**

 **ROYAL NAVY &  
ROYAL MARINES  
CHARITY**

SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE YOUR FUNDRAISING PACK,  
FILLED WITH EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR EVENT  
A SUCCESS, INCLUDING BUNTING, POSTERS, AND  
DONATION MATERIALS: [CML@RNASSOC.ORG](mailto:CML@RNASSOC.ORG)

## Delegate to Annual Conference 2025 - PORTSMOUTH

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the Branch Annual Report and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference. Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate.*

Each Branch which has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.

Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty four hours before the Conference.

Branch		Area	
Name of Delegate			
Delegate's e-mail			
Number of Observers if known			
Name of Branch Hon Secretary			

**NB:** A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2024 and Branch Annual Report for 2024 have been received in RNA Central Office.

Should either not have been received in Central Office, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.

Branch Secretaries are to ensure that their nominated Delegate, receives the copies of the agenda and minutes of the previous years' AGM prior to representing their Branch at the AGM. Copies will be made available at the AGM, but sight of these prior to the day is considered essential. Branch Secretaries will be forwarded this paperwork from Central Office as soon as it is finalised.

Please forward the completed form to RNA Central Office, Lanyard House, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LU or email to [ams@rnassoc.org](mailto:ams@rnassoc.org)

**To check ahead of Conference, please call Sara on 023 92 723747**

Royal Naval Association Charity Fundraising Concert

# Fisherman's Friends

with the RNA Community Choir and The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood



WED 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2025  
PORTSMOUTH GUILDHALL

[SEETICKETS.COM](https://seetickets.com) | [PORTSMOUTHGUILDHALL.ORG.UK](https://portsmouthguildhall.org.uk)

A Royal Naval Association presentation by arrangement with Neil O'Brien Entertainment



ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION

*Take me home*

XTRATUF

ALLODI

*Eastman*

Thompson

