



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Friday 20 June 2025

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES We are almost half-way through the year, and by Sunday we will be past the halfway mark in our programme of five top events celebrating the Association's 75th anniversary. Although Conference weekend is built around a vital piece of business – the RNA's Annual General Meeting tomorrow – it is also a time for shipmates to get together and enjoy the benefits of belonging to our ever-expanding organisation. So welcome, one and all, to Portsmouth, and have a memorable weekend.

MINI CRUISE Maritime Heritage Tours, run by RNA shipmate Mike Critchley, is running a four-night mini-cruise from Portsmouth to Liverpool via Dublin and Belfast next spring. Ambassador Cruise Line's MV Ambition will sail from Portsmouth on 22 April, arriving at Liverpool four nights later. Passengers will get the opportunity to visit the Maritime Museum and Guinness brewery in Dublin and HMS Caroline and the Titanic Museum in Belfast. Cabins are available from £259 per person, and a seat on the coach back to Portsmouth can be booked for £26.50. For further details see www.maritimeheritagetours.co.uk/ireland quoting group reference 1322.



TON UP Shipmate Ken Benbow, a Life Member of the RNA and a Battle of the Atlantic veteran, has just celebrated his 100th birthday. Ken, from Lancashire, was visited by Winston Churchill at his party in Weeton (above), where the Navy veteran was also joined by family and friends from all over the UK. RNA Central Office sent Ken a bottle of Navy Rum to help him celebrate this momentous occasion.

FIRESIDE CHATS The next Chat on Monday (23 June) features serving Royal Navy Navigator and artist Emily Witcher. 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.

ITS STILL TOT TIME! Tot Time was an inspired piece of organisation by shipmates at Wrexham branch as a response to the isolation forced on everyone by the Covid pandemic in 2020 – and it has stood the test of time. RNA Tot Time still takes place on Saturday evenings at 1830, giving you the opportunity to “see old shipmates, make new friends and spin some dits”. If you have a Naval story – or are part of the Naval story! – then you belong there. To log on, visit the Royal Naval Association website 'Online Events' page in the Members' Section [here](#) and click on the link you will find there.

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

[PLAY NOW](#)

ON THE MARCH RNA members: please fill in this form for each person who would like to apply to march with the RNA at the Cenotaph on 9 November – your name will then be registered to the RNA's ticket allocation and your name and email address will be sent to RBL, who will send you a link to get your ticket via email. Don't forget, you **MUST** respond to the RBL email to get your ticket. Email ams@rnassoc.org for more details.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/LRHnTinB98>

If you would like to march with us, but aren't yet an RNA member, what are you waiting for? Sign up – it's free and there are no membership fees!

For details see <https://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/join-us>

DAME PENNY Former Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt was made a Dame in the King's Birthday Honours list, published earlier this month. Penny, who was also a front-runner for Leader of the Conservative Party and Lord President of the Privy Council, is also a member of the RNA. She gained worldwide attention as Bearer of the Sword of State at King Charles's coronation, stating her Naval Reservist training helped her carry the heavy sword.

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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