



SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES We are now well into the dog days (or perhaps the silly season) when the pace of life drops, business slackens and thoughts turn to holidays and time off... Not at Lanyard House, though – while we will take the odd break, we are fully committed to supporting the International Maritime Confederation sailing camp in Suffolk next week, and hard at work planning for the Naval Associations Biennial Parade in September and other programmes and events for 2026. Enjoy the warm weather (fingers crossed...)

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

PLAY NOW

SOLDIERING ON The finalists for this year's Soldiering On Awards have been announced, and the general public has the chance to vote in two categories. The Soldiering On Awards recognises those who have gone above and beyond in their dedication to support the military, veterans, and their families, and covers 12 categories. Ten are decided by expert panels of judges, but the Animal Partnership Award and the Inspiration Award are decided by the public – cast your votes **here** before Sunday 3 August. Winners in all 12 categories will be announced at a Gala on 22 October in London – for full details of the finalists see www.soldieringon.org. As well as casting their votes, shipmates might care to look through the categories and consider if they know an individual, group or organisation that might be worth putting forward for the 2026 Awards...



OPEN DAY Earlier this month Central Office hosted an open day to welcome members of the RNPT branch as part of their reunion weekend in Portsmouth. They were joined by shipmates from the RNA branches of Marlborough and Lee-on-the-Solent. Guests enjoyed tea and sandwiches in the garden, followed by a scenic harbour tour (pictured above, courtesy S/M Nigel Huxtable). That was the final Open Day for this year, but keep an eye on our social media channels and the Semaphores for the dates of next year's programme.

IN THE RACE The RNA is putting up four teams in RNRMC's Race Across the UK on 2-5 September – but there is still time for shipmates to take up a berth in those teams, form your own Branch or Area team, or help raise funds for the influential Naval charity. The event will see up to 50 teams of two navigate from Edinburgh to Dartmouth using just their wits – no cars, no planes, not even a map app on your phone. For more details on the event see www.rnrmc.org.uk/race-across-uk, and if you would like to get involved (either as a participant or supporting the Race by sponsoring an individual or team) please email cml@rnassoc.org

ON PARADE Would you like to be part of the Naval Associations Biennial Parade in Whitehall, London, on 14 September? The event, organised by the RNA, is an opportunity to remember old shipmates, put your Association in the spotlight, and enjoy a day of comradeship. We need to gauge what the demand will be for security, toilet facilities and so on, so please fill in **this form** to let us know if you intend to come to march with us. You do not need to be an RNA member to march – you can march with any Association – but that Association should contact us in advance to let us know they will be represented, and we still need your details so we can keep a tally of approximate numbers. The form is also available through this link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/92g2vDkmCK>. If you have any questions about the Parade please contact us on ams@rnassoc.org

SPEAK UP Northumbria University is running a survey gathering vital insights into the lived experiences of children and young people aged 8-18 in military families – see the poster attached to this Short to participate.

FIRESIDE CHATS
Please see our social media channels for details of our next Chat, and note the programme takes a break throughout August – back again in September.

RNA Central Office,
Lanyard House, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LU
comms@rnassoc.org
www.royal-naval-association.co.uk



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Are you aged 8-18 and have a parent
serving in the military?



We want to hear from you!

What is it about?

Help us understand your
experiences of growing up in a
military family.

Age
8-11



Age
12-15

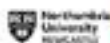


What do I need to do?

Just complete a short online survey (10-
15 minutes). All answers are private!

Scan your age group QR code for more
information and to take part!

Age
16-18



THE ARMED FORCES
COVENANT FUND TRUST
Funded by HM Government



Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY

Centre for Military
Research, Education
& Public Engagement



KCMHR