



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Friday 25 July 2025

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES Life is always subject to change. As we mention below, we have just said goodbye to a class of RN submarine that has been around for over four decades, and welcomed a new ship that will deploy Mine Countermeasures Maritime Autonomous Systems and drones. Times change, and we can turn our backs or embrace it. The RNA is firmly in the 'embrace it' camp, seeking new and imaginative ways to fulfil our commitment to support shipmates and the Royal Navy whose values we share.

THEY WANT YOUR VOTE

The public can vote in two of the 12 categories of the 2025 Soldiering On Awards – the Animal Partnership Award and Inspiration Award – see [here](#) and cast your vote before 3 August. Winners will be announced at a Gala on 22 October in London – for details see www.soldieringon.org You might also consider if you know someone who might be worth nominating for the 2026 Awards...

FOR RHOD A charity rugby match is to be held at Cardiff Arms Park on 30 August in memory of Lt Rhodri Leyshon, who died when his helicopter ditched last September. Rhod was a keen rugby player, and a Rhod Leyshon Select XV will play Cowbridge RFC at 5.30pm.

FIRESIDE CHATS In the last Chat of the summer (28 July) Anthony Moth will consider 'the Commandos at Dieppe: Rehearsal for D-Day'. 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. Please note: Fireside Chats will resume in September.



UNDER WAY The RNA is delighted to welcome young sailors from all over Europe to their Sailing Camp at the Royal Hospital School in Suffolk. The first day on the water was a great success and everyone is having fun thanks to the brilliant team of sailing instructors, supported by a team from Central Office. For more details see next week's Semaphore Circular.

RACE TRACK The RNA proudly announces their Race Across the UK Team: CEO Bill Oliphant and Welfare and Wellbeing Co-ordinator Jon Everett. These individuals will be racing teams from other organisations from Edinburgh to Dartmouth in September. Just like in the TV show, they will have hardly any money, no mobile devices and will need to complete surprise tasks at different staging posts – which will be kept secret until the last moment. Show your support for your RNA team and donate [here](https://fundraising.rnrmc.org.uk/fundraisers/teamrnareadynable/race-across-the-uk): <https://fundraising.rnrmc.org.uk/fundraisers/teamrnareadynable/race-across-the-uk>

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

[PLAY NOW](#)

PARADE ORDER If you would like to be part of the Naval Associations Biennial Parade in London on 14 September please fill in **this form** to let us know. 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

RFA TO HMS The former RFA ship Stirling Castle has been commissioned into the Royal Navy as an HMS, and will be at the forefront of mine countermeasures and drone technology development – see next week's Semaphore Circular for more details.

END OF CLASS The Royal Navy bid farewell to the Trafalgar class of submarines this month with the decommissioning of the last serving boat, HMS Triumph. For more see the August Semaphore Circular.

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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