

# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** and welcome to the first of two Semaphore Shorts this month – there will be no publication on Good Friday, 29 March. The team at Central Office has been busy (as ever), often behind the scenes, putting arrangements in place for forthcoming events, and the pace really starts to pick up after Easter with the Standard Bearers competition at HMS Excellent on 18 May, D-Day commemorations in the first part of June and National Conference weekend in Cardiff on 14-16 June – that’s just 13 weeks away now. Once again, we would urge delegates to book their places for the weekend, which includes the Association’s AGM on Saturday 15 June; the relevant information can be found at the back of the March edition of the Semaphore Circular – use **this link** to go to the relevant downloads page of the RNA website.

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

**PLAY NOW**



**UPBEAT** Royal Marines Corps of Drums on stage at a dress rehearsal for the Mountbatten Music Festival at the Royal Albert Hall in London last weekend (© MOD Crown Copyright 2024). The annual display of musical excellence attracts a dedicated audience, and also raises vital funds for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity. This year the show featured an appearance by legendary heavy metal drummer Nicko McBrain, who joined the Royal Marines for a medley of Iron Maiden songs, using a special drum kit which will now be sold at auction for charity. **For a full report see the April Semaphore Circular, out on 5 April.**



**MARCH FORWARD!** This month the catchphrase for Salute My Job is March Forward Towards Success, with some new and exciting roles ideally suited to veterans and the return of their Pathways Programme for 2024, as well as the opportunity to sign up to be part of their Penetration Testing courses this spring to join a growing industry of veteran cyber security specialists.

As well as some fantastic opportunities, there is a whole host of new information and resources on their website aimed at helping you make the transition from the Forces into your new career.

For more information see [www.salutemyjob.com/](http://www.salutemyjob.com/)

**THRIVING PROGRAMME** The RNA’s chainsaw experience day in Somerset takes place this weekend, but there are plenty of other activities to choose from as we head into spring and summer. Developed as part of the RNA’s Thriving Together programme, the recent debut of the RNA Football Club and the chainsaw experience are just the first of a growing list of activities designed to appeal across the board, and to bring like-minded shipmates together through shared interests or breaking new ground. Other activities planned on the Thriving Together programme include:

- Walking and waterfall Weekend (12-14 Apr);
- Outdoors weekend including bushcraft, axe throwing and coasteering (27-28 April);
- Snowdon walk (18 May);
- Introduction to surfing (15-16 June);
- Women-only walking and waterfall weekend (28-30 June);
- Introduction to dry stone walling (13 July);
- Surfing weekend (20-21 July)

Contact RNA Sports and Comradeship Coordinator Scouse Reeves on [scc@rnassoc.org](mailto:scc@rnassoc.org) for further details, or if you have an idea for an activity for the programme.



**TOP BILLING** Eastbourne branch members were grateful to RNA General Secretary S/M Bill Oliphant for attending their AGM, accompanied by Area 3 Chairman S/M Soapy Watson

Bill addressed the meeting and giving shipmates an update on all RNA matters. Some 30 members were in attendance, plus Bill and Soapy and four family guests – branch officers were pleased to see such a good turnout. Bill had another task to perform on the occasion, as the branch was delighted to be able to present S/M Bill

Whaley with his Life Membership. Bill (left) is pictured above being presented with his award by the General Secretary. Bill Whaley has just stood down as Hon Sec but has been widely praised for his work during his long period in office, especially for keeping the branch running during the pandemic by keeping in constant communication with members either by email, phone or, as one shipmate put it, by snail mail. At the end of his tenure the branch membership has risen to 70.

Very well deserved Bill

#### FIRESIDE CHATS

The next scheduled Fireside Chat (Monday 18 March) will be an update on the current Royal Navy by the Warrant Officer to the Royal Navy, WO1 Jim Wright. Fireside Chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into Zoom here. The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

**HMS HERMES ASSOCIATION REUNION** A reminder that this event will be held at the Queens Hotel, Portsmouth, from 12-15 April, with a Gala Dinner on Saturday 13 April.

Full details are available by email: [hmshermes.association@gmail.com](mailto:hmshermes.association@gmail.com) and also see [www.hmshermesassociation.com/](http://www.hmshermesassociation.com/)

Bookings are via Isle Of Wight Tours ([www.iowtours.com](http://www.iowtours.com)) or telephone 01983 405116.

#### DISPOSAL OF MARITIME AND MILITARY BOOK COLLECTION

The family of a recently-deceased member of the World Ship Society wish to dispose 'to best effect' of his large, varied book collection which can't be donated to any one institution in the time-frame available. There will be an 'Open Day' 1000-1800 at a private residence in Horsham on Saturday 23 March.

Members of the World Ship Society, the RNA and the Society for Nautical Research and associated organisations are invited to attend from 1000 onward and select books etc, for

which a donation to the Alzheimer's Society is requested (circa 30%-50% of what one might expect to pay for the items online or on the High Street is suggested). Second-hand booksellers and 'dealers' will be invited to attend from 1500 onward. The collection is predominantly of post-1850 maritime history, Naval and mercantile, but including a number of 20th Century military and aviation titles, some quite unusual/rare. Persons wishing to attend are requested to contact Mark Brady – [mrbasmcb@gmail.com](mailto:mrbasmcb@gmail.com) – by e-mail for further details (including the address!)

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