



SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES As we approach the Christmas holidays and the New Year there will inevitably be disruption to our normal schedules – different publication dates for Semaphores, for example (see below). Central Office will also be shut down from the end of Friday 19 December until we reopen on Monday 5 January. We will still be running stories on our social media and website, and would like to hear about activities over the holiday period – send words and pictures to comms@rnassoc.org

NEW DATES There has been a slight adjustment to publication dates for Semaphore Circulars and Shorts over the next couple of months. The updated schedule is:

5 December: Circular
12 December: Branch email
19 December: Short
26 December: No publication
2 January 2026: No publication
9 January: Branch email
16 January: Short
23 January: Fundraising email
30 January: Short
6 February: Circular
13 February: Branch email
20 February: Short
27 February: Fundraising email
6 March: Circular

The deadline for contributions for the December Circular is 1000 on Wednesday 3 December, and please make sure you let us know what your Branch has been over Christmas and the New Year for our February Circular.

FIRESIDE CHATS Our next Fireside Chat, delivered by Terry Barnes, will be on Monday (1 December) and the subject is 'My Falklands War – 40 Cdo – Part 2'. Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 2888305105 and the access password is Shipmate. Please note there will be no Fireside Chats on 15, 22 and 29 December as we take a break over Christmas.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL Meet Donald and Ben, the stars of the 2025 RNA Christmas Appeal video, produced by our super-talented Central Office colleague Milly Luxford. Ben gave up his job as a scaffolder to look after his 98-year-old grandfather, a Royal Navy veteran - and in doing so found an additional 'family' in the RNA, of which both are now members. The pair were invited by the RNA to the Remembrance ceremonies in Whitehall this year, and Ben said it is that comradeship and sense of belonging that they found in the RNA that has given his grandfather a new lease of life. This Christmas, for the first time and in response to some of the great initiatives that members and Branches can get involved in and support, the RNA has launched a fundraising appeal to ensure no one with a Naval story feels alone. Your donation helps us bring shipmates together, offer support through life's ups and downs, and keep the spirit of unity alive. For details and how to donate see www.justgiving.com/campaign/rnachristmasappeal, where you will also find the link to our video

SCAM AWARE On 'Black Friday' it might be worth taking a few moments to make sure you do not fall victim to fraud as you shop online or see an offer that seems too good to be true. There are plenty of reliable resources online which point out some of the risks to be aware of and the latest scams – try **Citizens Advice**, **Age UK** or **Take 5 to Stop Fraud** for advice and guidance.

ON THE CARDS Robins, donkeys, and ships in a wintry harbour are the subject matter on this year's RNA Christmas card packs. The cards are available from **our webshop** in packs of ten. Each pack contains two different designs, donkeys (with the odd RNA beret) and robins in one, the other features robins and the wintry harbour. Each pack costs £4.50 including postage. And that's not all – our 2026 slimline diary is also now available at £7 (including postage), as well as the RNA hanging gingerbread sailor decoration (£9).

ARMY v NAVY Tickets for the 2026 Army v Navy rugby match at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, on Saturday 2 May are available to RNA members at a special discounted rate of £44.20. These tickets allow access to a private bar adjacent to our allocated seating area. Use the link [here](#) to buy your tickets – once you have stated your required tickets the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will contact you directly to complete the transaction.

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