



**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. Many thanks to Alice who was holding the fort whilst I enjoyed a little R&R. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team [here](#). Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update newsletter and we can't publish everything. Some content may be used for inclusion in the next Circular.

**RNA LOTTERY** – Win up to £25,000 and support the RNA at the same time. More details available via this [link](#). If you know of a Shipmate that may be interested and wants to enter, but has no internet access, you can download and print a form for them [here](#).

**FIRESIDE CHATS** Tonight's Fireside Chat will be given by Sandra Peaston who is the Director of Strategy, Policy and Insight at the Credit Industry Fraud Advisory Service (CIFAS). CIFAS is one of the leading agencies in the fight against organisational fraud and more information on what they do can be found [here](#). Next week's chat (Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July) will be presented by Cdr Brian Boxall-Hunt OBE RN(Rtd) who is the CEO of the Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society which provides housing, residential and nursing care to former seafarers, including RN personnel. 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.



**EMAIL ISSUES** As most of you will be aware, over the past few weeks, we have been having major issues with our group email system and many have not been getting the Short of the Circular notifications. Of course, those that are not getting them won't see this but please pass on around your groups that we are doing all we can to sort out the problems and looking at alternative ways to get the newsletters to you. The past couple of months' worth of Shorts and all future editions will now be available on the website to members. Apologies again for any inconvenience experienced over the past few weeks.

**ADVANCE INTO JUSTICE** Whether you're in the process of leaving the Armed Forces, a veteran or a Spouse or Legal Partner of a Veteran; [Advance into Justice](#) is the opportunity for you. Advance into Justice allows you to take up a rewarding second career within HM Prison & Probation Service, access great resettlement packages, employment benefits, training and progression opportunities. If you are interested in roles that are not included in the Advance into Justice scheme, please check out our Prison and Probation jobs [website](#), which details all of our opportunities. As a Veteran, you may be eligible for the 'Great Place to work for Veterans' scheme, which provides a guaranteed interview to applicants who meet the minimum assessment criteria.

**VIRTUAL TOT TIME MEET UP** It's been over 3 years since the start of the Virtual



Tot time and whilst many of the Shipmates involved have actually met each other, this is not the case for Shipmate Kevin Hackett, Wrexham Branch Chairman and Shipmate Kayleigh Thomas Standard Bearer from the Merthyr Tydfil Branch. Finally it happened at the Welsh AFD held in Newport, South Wales during June 2023. Here they are with the Wrexham Branch Standard Bearer Shipmate Jeff Hughes RVM. Virtual Tot Times take place every Saturday at 18:30 via zoom. To access the meetings, head to the RNA Community Facebook Page [here](#) for the zoom log in details.

**UNCLAIMED PENSIONS** As part of the campaign to encourage Veterans with unclaimed pension benefits to come forward with their claims, the Forces Pension Society (FPS) encourages you to help identify anyone you think might qualify. We know there are thousands of Veterans who have not yet made their claims. A recent FPS Freedom of Information request showed that during the 24-month period alone, from 1st June 2020 to 31st May 2022, over 4,000 Armed Forces pensions went unclaimed. The AFPS Annual Report (July 2022) identified a larger total of 16,518 unclaimed benefits, with some Veterans having more than one entitlement. So if you think this may be you, or a Shipmate you know, more information can be found on the Veterans' Gateway site [here](#) or you can apply via MoD Form FP8 which can be downloaded [here](#). Nothing to lose, something to gain maybe!

**CROATIAN COAST CRUISE**

Shipmate Mike Critchley has offered discounted rates on a luxury cruise to RNA members. The cruise takes place around the Croatian coast from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> October. For further information and for booking details, see [here](#).



**D-DAY 80** Whilst eleven months away yet, June 6<sup>th</sup> next year will see the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy and the beginning of the end of the Second World war in Europe. Work has already begun on the various commemorations and events across the country. The Royal Naval Association will be actively involved in a number of events and more detailed information will follow in due course. A brochure has been produced which outlines the anniversary and some of the things planned. It can be accessed [here](#).

**AND FINALLY.....** Courtesy of Shipmate Bob Carr

