

13 MARCH 2023

GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. 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 passed to Mike for inclusion in the next Circular.

FIRESIDE CHATS Tonight's Fireside Chat will be a talk by Kevin Casey and the subject will be the Diving Museum at No2 Battery at Stokes bay, Gosport. Kevin is the Director and Fundraising Officer at the museum which was established in 2011 by the Historical Diving Society. More information on the museum can be found [here](#).



Next week's chat (subject to confirmation) will be a talk given by Commander Tom Sharpe on the near sinking of HMS Endurance (a subject close to my heart as I experienced a near sinking on the previous Endurance!) 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.

WELCOME ALICE Please join me in giving a very warm welcome to the RNA's new Head of Communication, Alice Farrow. Alice is third generation navy and has been working in



the military charity sector for 14 years now. She joins from SSAFA where she was Head of PR and Public Affairs, and before that she was Head of Communications at COBSEO, the Confederation of Service Charities. She worked with the RNA on the media for the unveiling of the Naval Service Memorial in 2014 and in 2022 worked with the Submarine Service on the unveiling of the Submariner Memorial. Alice can be contacted [here](#)

WEB SITE SHOP As many have been made aware, we are looking closely at the web site and there are aspects that will be changed. At present, the link to the shop (via the navigation buttons) takes you to the external shop site and not the old pages where you could buy RNA merchandise straight from Central Office (Ties, blazer badges etc). The old site has become corrupted so we will leave the existing link as it is until we can have a closer look. Apologies for any inconvenience. If you urgently need items in the meantime, please contact Central Office.

REVIEW INTO VETERAN WELFARE SERVICES - A major review into veteran welfare services has been announced by the Office for Veterans Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. The review will focus on examining the effectiveness and efficiency of the range of welfare services for veterans and identify any duplication or gaps in current support. More information on the review can be found [here](#).



DAVID AND JOAN CARR We were sad to hear about the recent passing of Shipmate



David Caw on the 4th March (aged 95) and then his wife Joan, who sadly passed 5 days later. David was a well-known and popular Shipmate in the Harrow area where he was still an active member. The family invites RNA members to attend the funeral on 22nd March at 14:00 at the [Breakspear Crematorium](#) and afterwards at the [Harrow Masonic Centre](#) but if you intend to go, please contact David's son Alan [here](#) by the 15th. The day of the funeral would have been David's 96th birthday and their 71st wedding anniversary.

OP TELIC This month sees the 20th anniversary of the start of OpTelic when UK amphibious and land forces entered southern Iraq around the Al-Faw peninsula. This brings back poignant memories for me as I was onboard HMS Ocean 13 miles off the Iraqi coast. The Company of Makers will be releasing a podcast on the 20th March with stories, both sad, poignant and humorous, from those that were there. A preview of the podcast can be seen [here](#). (If a browser window appears, just press the Browse YouTube button and the trailer clip should play).



AND FINALLY It wasn't like this in my day (and yes I know the grammar in incorrect - don't blame the messenger.....)

