

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY
AUGUST 14th
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 the team [here](#). Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update and we can't publish everything. Some content may be used for inclusion in the next Circular.

PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO

£25,000

PLAY NOW

By playing the RNA lottery you not only have the chance to win some fabulous cash prizes. You will help enable our network of Welfare Officers who offer support and guidance in times of need.



FIRESIDE CHATS There will be no Fireside Chat tonight due to Summer leave. We are back next week (Monday 21st August) and our guest speaker will be Malcolm Farrow whose subject will be Colours of the Fleet. Malcolm, a former Royal Naval Captain, is President of the Flag Institute. 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.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN THE RNA A very warm welcome to Christchurch & District Branch's newest member, Shipmate Frank Hawkes aged 93, who joined the branch after a visit to his care home in Barton on Sea by Chairman Cliff Espin, Standard bearer Ian Prescott & Vice Chair Tricia Lee to celebrate his birthday last March. Frank's Daughter, Deborah, now also a member of the branch, requested a visit from the branch as Frank was always talking about his time on the Navy. Ex-Korean war veteran Frank, who served in the cruiser HMS Ceylon, shared memories of his time in the RN as a stoker and was delighted to celebrate his birthday with fellow shipmates. He finally made a visit to the branch where he & Deborah were presented with their membership cards and Frank a very welcome tot of rum.



SHIPS BADGES FOR SALE We have received a message from the Exeter and District White Ensign Club to say that unfortunately they will be closing the club down early next year. The club operates from a grade 2 listed church and hosts, amongst other organisations, the local branches of the Association of WRNS, the RMA and the Submariners Association. The club itself was formed in 1931. Over the years, the club has amassed an impressive amount of ship's badges, 265 to be exact! The badges are up for sale at £40 plus P&P each. There are too many to list here but more information on what is available can be obtained from the club treasurer, Tony Duke, [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES The Wrexham Branch attended a 100th birthday tea for Shipmate Leslie Potter at a local care home. Leslie turned 100 on 26th June, and is the holder of the Burma Star, North Atlantic Star and LSGC Medal amongst others. The party was also attended by Brigadier Jock Fraser RM, WO Rob Govier, local school children, residents and family along with branch members. Leslie was also presented with his Arctic Star by the Brigadier. Amongst his many gifts was a letter from the First Sea Lord, a card from the King, a hamper from the Burma Star Association and life membership and association badge from the RNA.



PRAISE FOR RALEIGH MENTORS The small team of RNA mentors at HMS Raleigh help guide new trainees and, as importantly, their families through their daunting first few weeks in the Royal Navy. Amongst the help provided is a dedicated Facebook page for the families to catch up on the training and to interact with other families. One recent comment highlights the great work being done by our team: *'Thank you to all the amazing mentors. When I joined this group 10 weeks ago, I didn't comprehend how much it would help me through this process. Leaving my 16 year old at the train station was an emotional wrench, but the multiple posts enabled me to see his development (but more importantly his little face) and that really was invaluable. A lifeline was created, linking us parents and families to our recruit'*

CAREERS IN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Professional services provide support, advice and guidance on business or technical topics. People within the sector generally perform services in a specialised area of expertise such as financial strategy or process optimisation. An insight into what opportunities are available in this sector can be explored during a free seminar and networking event in London on 27th September. The event is hosted by the 'Big Four' professional services companies (PWC, Deloitte, EY and KPMG). More information and sign up details can be found [here](#).

AND FINALLY – Another from Shipmate Bob Carr – Thanks Bob

