



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

SEMAPHORE



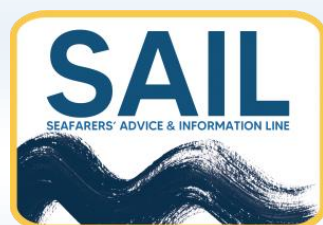
SHORT



20 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 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!). Tom was CO of HMS Endurance on 16th December 2008 when the ship suffered a catastrophic engine room flood in the Straits of Magellan at the tip of South America and came so very close to having to be abandoned.



Next week's chat (Mon 27th) will be by Michael Edwards who is the manager of the Seafarers Advice and Information Line (SAIL). SAIL is the Citizen's Advice service for mariners and is dedicated to anyone who's ever worked at sea and their partners, widows and widowers. 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 HOOD SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE - PORTSMOUTH On Wednesday 24th May The Pompey Pals Charity will be holding a Service of Remembrance dedicated to the memory of the 1415 men who died on HMS Hood. The Service will be held at the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea Common, Southsea, PO5 3NT. Muster for 10:30 to commence at 10:45 with a minutes silence at 11:00. All Welcome.

RNA HELMSWOMAN Shipmate Sindy Pollard is the proud recipient of her helmswoman certificate after steering her way around Weymouth Harbour on the MV Freedom. The boat belongs to a charity that provides trips to both disabled and able-bodied and it can accommodate a number of wheelchair users. The charity charges a nominal fee (usually £5) for their trips. Pictured are Shipmates Mick Hilder and Sindy (middle and right) with skipper Dirk Aldous. To enquire about a trip, call Tasmin on 07974 266867. More information on the history and purpose of the charity can be found [here](#).



SPRING BUDGET Last week saw the Chancellor of the Exchequer announce his Spring Budget in the Commons. The budget contained a lot of detail, some of which will directly affect the majority of us. Shipmate Kevin Cornelius of Brooms Professional Services has kindly provided access to a quick guide to the statement and that can be found [here](#).

GOVERNMENT'S FIRST WOMEN VETERANS' STRATEGY Challenges faced by women who leave the services are to be considered in a new strategy which is to be launched later this year by the Office for Veterans' Affairs. Through the strategy, the Government will tackle areas where women veterans might be missing out on support within the services currently being provided to veterans. More information on the new initiative can be found [here](#).

AFFORDABLE GUN SHOOTING IN HAMPSHIRE The Naval Gun Club, which has a shooting lease on a couple of farms just to the west of Petersfield is looking to increase its membership. We are a 'self-help', walk one/stand one shoot, so apart from shooting during the season, the members are also responsible for looking after and feeding the birds. There are no game keepers! If you would like to know more, please email Jack Downton (ex RM), Club Secretary [here](#) and he will send you details of what you can expect, what the club expects of you and the cost.



AND FINALLY The barrel is starting to run dry of amusing cartoons and memes so if you have any that you would like to see in this final section, please send them in to me. Please note - nothing obscene, politically incorrect or that is copyrighted or trademarked (yes, I know that doesn't leave much!). Email your contributions to [Comms](#)

