



GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. As it is the start of the month next week, the Circular will be sent out on Tuesday May 2nd. The Short for the 8th May will be a coronation special so if you have any pictures from the weekend, send them in and I'll use the three best! Please confirm when you send them that people in the pictures are happy for the picture to be used. 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 The Fireside Chat this evening will be given by Dr Mark "Dicky" Barton. Mark served a full commission in the Royal Navy as a Marine Engineer Officer, recently retiring as a Commander after nearly 35 years. He has a PhD in war studies and is a respected authority on the subject of naval swords and swordsmanship. Due to the May bank holiday and then the coronation bank holiday, the next Fireside Chat will be on Tuesday 9th May (note at 19:00) and will be a tot time toast to His Majesty given by Steve Dingley from Pusser's Rum. Fireside chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5 105 and the access password is Shipmate.

PAPER POPPY The Royal British Legion has recently announced that its poppies will now be made entirely out of paper so that they are 100% recyclable. The new plastic free poppies have taken three years to develop and are created from bespoke red and green paper that has been produced from a blend of renewable fibres, 50% of which have been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups. The legion will deplete its existing stocks of plastic stalk poppies rather than just ditch them but the paper versions should be available in growing numbers later this year. Full details on the RBL web site [here](#).



Picture credit Royal British Legion

BRANCH ANNUAL RETURNS Just a reminder that Branch Annual Returns are due in **by the end of this week**. Any branch not submitting a return on time, will not be permitted to send a delegate to annual Conference. Branch Secretaries, please also review your Branch's Central Database submission and ensure the correct members are listed and the correct officers are shown on the database. If you are unsure about how to submit or how to review the database, please contact Central Office.

RBLI LIFEWORKS COURSES The Royal British Legion Industries' Lifeworks programme offers tailored employability support to Armed Forces veterans and the families of those currently serving. Courses and support are tailored to suit the requirements of those who need it and our specialist advisors are on hand throughout your journey to help you find an opportunity that is right for you. Courses are run at various locations around the country and the next two are in Aylesford (2-5 May) and Cardiff (22-25 May). RBLI gets funding from the various course providers which means they can provide them free of charge. Further details from the RBLI web site [here](#).



RALEIGH PLANTER PANEL The RNA runs an extremely successful mentoring programme at HMS Raleigh where members interact with the new recruits at various stages throughout the initial training course. The mentors recently established a number of planters that have been filled with a variety of flowers that will brighten up the establishment. Shipmate Billy James, one of the mentors, has had a commemorative panel made to put in one of the planters. The person that made it waived the fee when he found out what Billy was going to use it for. The picture shows Shipmates Terry Whitter who leads the scheme and Billy, with the panel ready to go into one of the planters.

ARMY – NAVY RUGBY For those attending the Army – Navy rugby at Twickenham on the 13th May, 2SL and his equivalent Army head of personnel have issued a joint letter detailing improvements to travel and facilities in and around the ground. The letter does detail continued concern about the drink-fuelled behaviour of the minority travelling to and from the game, particularly at service stations and transport hubs that can tarnish the reputation of the Armed Forces. If you are going, enjoy the event, enjoy the camaraderie but please remember to uphold the reputation of the Royal Navy. For those not attending but would still like to watch, details can be found [here](#) of how to see the live coverage.

AND FINALLY.....



Writer 'Budgie' Perch was convinced his handmade 'Smugglers' would catch on, his oppos were not that sure. (Picture ©IWM A 34722)