



**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

SEMAPHORE



SHORT



13 FEBRUARY 2023

GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. Amendment 3 to the Short programme! As our new Communications Officer, Alice Farrow, will be joining us next month, it has been decided to maintain the Short in this format until such times as a new format can be explored in conjunction with other things we are looking at with regard to our overall media output. Of note, we have received nothing but positive comments on this format so assume all is well!

As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team at <mailto:comms@royalnavalassoc.com>. 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 Mike Milne about the Battle of the Atlantic. As most will be aware, this year marks the 80th anniversary of the battle and indeed, the RNA AGM in Liverpool coincides with the city's anniversary weekend. *Picture ©IWM Misc 51236*



Next week's chat (to be confirmed) will be a talk by Captain Katharine Armstrong who is head of the Royal Naval Intelligence Branch. To access Fireside Chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE AND AGM WEEKEND For those attending the weekend in Liverpool and are going to the dinner at the Adelphi it is hoped to compile a table plan. To enable us to do this we need to know the Areas/Branches of those attending the dinner. If you are planning to attend the dinner, please email your Area/Branch details to fredpilgrim@msn.com. Without this information it will be a first come first served for seats. Also, we have heard the Novotel is reducing the rooms ring-fenced for the R.N.A. by 50%. Full details of the weekend in the Circular on the web site [here](#).

THE RNA IN THE COMMUNITY In one of his final acts before standing down after twenty years as Branch Chairman, Shipmate Mick Stevens of the Falmouth Branch, along with other Branch Members, attended the awards evening at T.S Robert Hitchens which is the Falmouth & Penryn Sea Cadet Unit. Mick presented the RNA Cadet Of The Year Cup to Able Cadet Bunclark, who along with the trophy receives a bursary of £365 from Falmouth Branch members enabling her to undertake a week's sea training on either the T.S Royalist or the T.S Jack Petchey. The photograph shows Mick with PO Fran Mitchell (CO of T.S Robert Hitchens) and Able Cadet Bunclark.



Cromer RNA and Area 5 came to the assistance of one of their members, former CPOWEM(O) Martin Wood, who has been fully wheelchair dependent for over 6 years. He has disabilities including Complex PTSD from his naval service and damage to his hips and legs. Martin has undergone total hip replacement so that multiple surgeries may begin on both of his legs. Martin was in desperate need of a mobility scooter and so after Bishop John spoke with S/M Paulette Rose (Hon Secretary of Area 5), they stepped in and agreed to help to fund a scooter for Martin. In the great tradition of the RNA being there for its members, they donated £500 towards the purchase of the scooter and the outstanding balance was raised by the Holt Archery Club.



2021 CENSUS - VETERANS DATA The 2021 National Census was the first in history to include questions about military service in order to provide information to the Office for Veteran's Affairs and other Governmental agencies. The results have now been published and make for an interesting read. The latest update on the veteran's part of the survey, whilst quite a lengthy read, can be found [here](#)

AND FINALLY, by kind permission of Forever Jack

