

SEMAPHORE SHORT



AHOY SHIPMATES Are your Christmas decorations up yet? Are they missing a nautical twist? Our RNA Gingerbread Sailor might be the answer... the hanging sailor decoration (left) is available from the Shop section of the RNA website – go to www.royal-naval-association.co.uk > **SHOP** and scroll through to find the sailor and other gift possibilities – and they are not just for the festive season, of course!

PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000

PLAY NOW

SHINING A LIGHT World AIDS Day is on 1 December. According to Fighting With Pride, since 1988, communities have stood together on World AIDS Day to show strength and solidarity against HIV stigma and to remember lives lost. In the UK, more than 105,000 people are living with HIV. Globally, an estimated 38 million people live with the virus. More than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS-related illnesses over the past 40 years. This makes it one of the most destructive pandemics of all time. World AIDS Day exists to shine a light on the real experiences of people living with HIV today while celebrating the strength, resilience and diversity of the communities most affected. You can find out more here information here: <https://worldaidsday.org/>

Fighting With Pride is a military charity that supports LGBT+ veterans, serving personnel and their families, particularly those who were affected by the 'gay ban', ultimately lifted on 12 January 2000. For more information on Fighting With pride, see www.fightingwithpride.org.uk



LONG STAY Continuing our aircraft carrier theme, HMS Prince of Wales is pictured during her visit to Glen Mallan in Scotland in the past few days. The carrier was at the Northern Ammunition Jetty facility on the shore of Loch Long, near the Clyde Naval Base, as part of the ongoing preparation for the Carrier Strike Group deployment in 2025, which involved a period of trials, ammunitioning and defence engagement.

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SCHOOL FEES The deadline to apply for financial support from the Naval Children's Charity, in partnership with Greenwich Hospital, over VAT on private school fees is 13 December. For details see last week's Semaphore Short, available through the RNA website at www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/news, or click [here](#)

RISING STARS? The search is on for the next batch of TV baking stars – could it be member of the RNA showing their skills in the big white tent? Love Productions are looking for contestants for the 16th series of The Great British Bake Off, with applications closing on 9 December at 1300. More information is available from applyforbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk, or see www.applyforbakeoff.co.uk. And if you are successful in your application, let us know at Central Office – we'll make sure you have plenty of support!

SING OUT The RNA75 Concert on 22 October 2025 with Fisherman's Friends is being supported by an RNA Choir. If you would like to join the choir, contact your local co-ordinator: **Plymouth:** Jane Allen, ejaneallen@btinternet.com; **Portsmouth:** Jenny Frank, Jenworking41@gmail.com; **Scotland:** Karen Elliot, kelliot250666@gmail.com

FIRESIDE CHATS Please note there will be no Fireside Chat on Monday (2 December), as it would clash with the RNRMC Carol Service. The programme resumes on 9 December with a talk on the 'Noble 8 December' – the Battle of the Falkland Islands 1914, by Anthony Moth. The following week will feature Mike Milne on the Battle of the River Plate, which will be the final Chat of the 2024. Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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