

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES! Another hot, sunny day (you can tell I am not in the UK...) so naturally thoughts turn to Christmas. Specifically, to the RNA Christmas competition, where we invite you to send images to be considered for this year's official Association Christmas card and our 2025 calendar. You can submit a photograph or a piece of artwork to engagement@rnassoc.org. The deadline for entries is 29 August, and it is hoped judging will take place two days later.

SKIN CANCER Men and women with skin cancer who served in the Armed Forces may be entitled to a one-off payment or regular pension if it is believed the tumour developed as a result of sun exposure during service. Contact Veterans UK on veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk for more details.

LAST CALL There are now just a handful of places left on the Bushcraft and Watersports weekend next month, part of the RNA's Thriving Together programme. The Dorset event, which costs £60 and is being financially supported by the RNRMC, includes a butchery workshop, archery, survival skills, and overnight camp in the woods and paddleboarding. Contact Sarah on cml@rnassoc.org as soon as possible.

FIRESIDE CHATS Our next Fireside Chat is on Monday (29 July) when Mike Milne will talk about the taking of Pegasus Bridge over the Caen Canal in the first minutes of the D-Day invasion. 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.



SUMMER SAIL The RNA is proud to organise and deliver the annual International Maritime Confederation's youth sailing week. This week brings together young people from all over Europe to build memories and learn new skills. The British children are all funded by the Naval Children's Charity and have personal circumstances which mean that they are in particular need of respite or individual assistance. The International sailors are funded by their own nations and are enjoying learning to sail and practising their English skills. The week is an excellent opportunity for International connection and networking, and the RNA are delighted to enable this week at the beautiful Royal Hospital School in Holbrook, and also pleased to announce that the travel, in the form of the RNA minibuses, is now sponsored by The Seafarers' Charity.

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

PLAY NOW

MAGICAL HISTORY TOUR Martin Randall Travel, the UK's leading cultural tour operator for small group tours, is running a Maritime Heritage tour late next month. This survey of the UK's maritime and dockyard heritage will be led by Dr James Davey, curator at the National Maritime Museum from 2011 until 2017 and currently lecturer in Naval and Maritime History at the University of Exeter. The tour concentrates on the Royal Navy's place in our nation's history, but also acknowledges the Merchant Navy. The tour begins on 27 August, and full details of the itinerary, cost and practical considerations can be found at the Martin Randall Travel website - <https://www.martinrandall.com/maritime-england>

TALL SHIPS The Tall Ships Race is coming to Aberdeen next year and Aberdeen branch are planning to get involved. And they would be delighted if RNA members from other branches would travel to Aberdeen during the event to help their shipmates out, celebrate with them, work with them or simply go along and visit. More details in due course.

The Tall Ships Races will be Scotland's biggest event in 2025, expecting to attract at least 400,000 visitors from 19-22 July 2025. Aberdeen will be the only UK host port for the Tall Ships Races, Europe's largest free family festival. For further information see <https://www.tallshipsaberdeen.com/>

UPDATE UPDATE If you are a Branch Chairman or Secretary and you are not receiving the monthly branch update email, please contact Sarah on cml@rnassoc.org to rectify this.

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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