



ROYAL NAVAL ENGINEERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

December 2005

Volume 4, Issue 1

# The Society Newsletter

## A Memorial for Royal Naval Engineers

### Lest we forget

A suggestion has been made by Mr Vic Blackman that the Society should establish a memorial to our members who have died while serving in the Royal Navy.

Recently the Fisgard Association and the Old Caledonia Artificer Apprentices' Association have placed a memorial to Ex-Artificer Apprentices at the National Memorial Arboretum.



There are memorial boards to Engine Room Artificers who died in the two World Wars at the three base ports (Chatham, Portsmouth and Devonport).

As the Society represents all Engineers in the Royal Navy now, it is felt that the memorial placed by the Society should be an inclusive one to all Royal Naval Engineers.

At present the Society does not know of any memorial for Royal Navy Engi-

neers who have died whilst in service with the Royal Navy.

Naval Engineers frequently gave their lives to ensure their shipmates had the time to abandon ship as safely as was possible.

The Society is looking at creating a permanent memorial to the Royal Naval Engineers who gave their lives, often in difficult and dark places.

The future location of the National act of remembrance is expected to move from London to the National Memorial Arboretum when the Armed Forces Memorial is in place. This memorial will commemorate members of the UK Armed Forces (Regular and Reserve) killed on duty or by terrorist action



since the Second World War.

It is therefore fitting that the Society has identified this place as the correct one to put a memorial to Royal Naval Engineers.

The Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society has been in existence since 1872, for the promotion of the social, intellectual and general welfare of its members.

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The choice of memorial is a difficult one. It should be something that all Royal Naval Engineers can identify with, both those from the present and the future.

The Society is therefore asking for your help to identify an object or symbol that represents Engineers.

The Society has decided on a maximum sum to expend on your behalf for this project, however if any of you feel that you wish to donate personally, the Society would be happy to look at the project to reflect that commitment.

Those wishing to help with suggestions please write to the General Secretary.

Those wishing to donate please make cheques payable to the "Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society" with written on the back "Royal Naval Engineers' Memorial".

## Branch Development - Proposals update

While there are some difficulties with the branch development it is still on course to deliver a considerable change to the training and capabilities of Engineering Technicians in the Royal Navy.

There is considerable concern that the Weapons Engineering section of the branch is going to be able to achieve a Foundation Degree by Petty Officer level while the Marine Engineering section is going to either have to undertake units under their own motivation or wait until they achieve Chief Petty Officer rank.

It is now the understanding of the General Secretary that the change-over is going to be a complete change in title similar to that carried out in 1968 when the Engine Room Artificer (ERA) be-

came a Marine Engineering Artificer (Propulsion) (MEA(P)) and the Shipwright became a Marine Engineering Artificer (Hull) (MEA(H)).

The change to training will be an ongoing development as the shortfalls in the present proposed solutions are put to the test and adjustments are made.

Some adjustments to the training proposals are still being evaluated against the expectations of an Engineering Technician with a can do ability.

### Helping the Society

As always the Society is interested in your views and impressions of the Branch Development as it affects you. The General Secretary has had meetings with a number of senior people and put forward the Society's view.

This view is informed by you our members. If you have any information that will improve our understanding of the actual event, as it happens to you and your opinion, please put pen to paper or email.

The Society represents you.

### Important tasks For Members:

- Inform the Managing Secretary of any changes in your personal details and those of your nominee.
- Let the Secretaries know if you have an email address that we can use.
- Attend a Section meeting.
- Get another serving engineer to join the Society.
- Get another engineer to contact the Secretaries

## Devonport Section News

The Devonport section meetings are at 113 North Hill, Plymouth, the Society Offices.

Please try to attend a meeting to increase our understanding of your needs and your understanding of the Society that represents you. Meetings are held every month, except August and December, on the fourth Tuesday at 19:15. All members are welcome. Next meet-

ing is 24 January 2006.

The Section is having a Christmas gathering at The Newmarket, 2 Market Way, PL1 1PB, at 18:30 on Thursday 15 December 2005. It is intended to have a second gathering for mis-musters at the same time and location on 2 February 2006 .

The Shearsby suite on the top floor is much improved which will prove of

advantage when the Executive Council meet in Devonport in the future.

These conference facilities will be improved over the next few years to enhance the capability of the Society to offer a modern approach to the future.

Any information relating to the Devonport section can be obtained from the Managing Secretary Mr Chris Heaver.

## Portsmouth Section News

The Portsmouth section meetings are at the Grapevine centre in HMS Sultan. Please try to attend at least one of these meetings soon if you are in the area. The meetings discuss the future of the Society and what actions need to be taken. The meetings are held every month on the second Friday at 20:00 All members are welcome. Next meeting — 10 January 2006.

It has been a busy year for the Portsmouth with many changes being implemented on your behalf and the comple-

tion of a number of projects.

A certificate has been presented to Admiral Spencer for his work on War-warrant Officer 2 - an article will be following in the Review.

The Bowl presented to the Royal Naval Submarine service is now on display in the new Fieldhouse building of the Submarine museum, Gosport. This magnificent bowl is well worth a look if you visit the museum - if you can not find it yourself the staff of the Museum

are very helpful. The museum is a good value location for a day out for all the family with water taxi links to the Dockyard. An article about the bowl and its making is in the pipeline.

Both these events are centred in the Portsmouth area but represent the actions of the National Society.

The section has again had a successful and entertaining Christmas Dinner.

The Portsmouth section look forward to meeting new faces and old shipmates.

## Improving services of the Society

The Society is always seeking to improve the services to the members. If any member has an idea for a service that we do not at present provide please contact the General Secretary with your idea.

All suggestions for improvement will be seriously considered and a reply will always be given.

Any complaint about the Society

should be addressed to the Managing Secretary at the Society offices and label Complaint. It will then be passed to the President for investigation.

## Property in the Portsmouth area

To improve the service to our members it is intended to re-introduce an office in the Portsmouth area. For this propose the Society is looking at purchasing a property in the Portsmouth area. The present locations being investigated are that of the High Street area, Fareham and the Forton Road area, Go-

sport. These areas are the ones that seem most central to the general membership of the Portsmouth section, the Dockyard and the training bases.

If members feel the Society should be including an alternative area please let us know.

## Drop-in sessions

A trial number of drop-in sessions have been proposed for members to be able to gain direct assess to your representatives. These are initially proposed for the training establishments in the Gosport area, however if they would be appreciated in other areas please inform the General Secretary.

## Update on Assistance

The Society offers assistance on an individual basis provided the Society will benefit as a whole to do so.

The proposal is then forwarded to the trustees for consideration. The Trustees reserve the right to refuse any proposal.

Any enquires should be sent to the General Secretary.

## Advice from the Society to its members

The Society offers all our members advice and assistance to direct them to the best method of obtaining help with direct assistant in some cases. This advice will in most cases be a direction service as the Royal Navy offer a wide range of help and advice, however there will always be occasions when members feel in need of a more independent service.

The Society is expanding its service with a health and family advisor who can give direction to a problem. The advisor will in most cases be able to give the best direction of were to find the solution to a problem relating to health and family. She can give similar advice on female related problems. The advisor is completely independent of the Royal Navy and is only able to offer support as to the direction to take.

## Information on pregnancy and employment issues.

At a recent conference on Protecting the Future and General Secretary was accompanied by the Society's newly appointed advisor on Heath and the Family. The areas discussed were:

Discrimination against pregnant women by Ms Hewitt of the Equal Opportunities Commissson who presented the recently completed report on pregnancy discrimination; The Impact of Occupational factors on child health by Professor Glover of Perinatal Psychobiology who gave a talk on the effects of the workplace on child health; Maternity Health and Safety Law by Ms Hawksworth and Maternity discrimination Law by Ms

Morris, who are both solicitors with Russell Jones & Walker.

With a growing mixed work force the Society needs to be able to understand the problems faces in the workplace by pregnant women and be conversant with aspects of Law that concerns them.

The Society is well placed to be able to give guidance on these subjects with the support of Russell Jones & Walker who have a useful web site:

[www.rjw.co.uk](http://www.rjw.co.uk)

### 'The Shearsby Suite'

An affordable meeting / conference facility in Plymouth for up to 12 people.

Newly refurbished with a well equipped kitchen for the preparation of tea, coffee and snacks.

Please Note: It is situated on the fourth floor and is therefore unsuitable for many people with physical disabilities.

- for further information contact Mr Heaver, Managing Secretary - contact detail as given on this page.

## The Society and You - News

### **Future needs of the Members**

The General Secretary is always prepared to meet the needs of the members and their concerns.

If any member wishes the Society to investigate an area of concern outside its normal area of knowledge but of benefit to its members please inform the General Secretary.

An example of this is the new Heath and Family advisor who will also be able to respond to the growing numbers of women in the Society.

### **Section Meetings.**

To be able to understand the modern Navy the section meetings need to be representative of the servicing personnel. Therefore if you are in HMS Sultan please

come to the meeting.

Do you feel we should change the day we meet to help you attend meeting? If we should meet in different places? - let us know and we will arrange a trial.

### **Drop-in sessions**

The drop-in sessions will be advertised in the Establishment prior to the session. It will be a number of short periods at different times of the day to test the best format.

If you have any requirements before the session or know the General Secretary will need to have additional research available please inform him at the addresses supplied before the actual session.

### **Scotland**

A different time of year will be trialled next year. If you have any preferences please contact the General Secretary.

## Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society

### Useful RNEBS Addresses and telephone numbers

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[www.rnebs.co.uk](http://www.rnebs.co.uk)