



# The Society Newsletter

January 2010

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## News from the Society

### The passing of the Engineering Artificer into Royal Naval History

The passing out Parade of the last Engineering Artificers is on 12 February 2010. There will be a strong contingent of ex-artificers from the Society, The Fisgard Association and the Old Caledonia Artificer Apprentices' Association to witness the event.

The three organisations have worked well together on the common ground of getting as many ex-tiffys as want to go to get tickets. The Navy did restrict the numbers once they recognised the event was of importance to a great number of people and that space might be an issue.

I have included the latest schedule of events to give all members an idea of the day. There will be pictures and a report in the next newsletter

0830	Tea/Coffee and biscuits available for families/guests.
1000	Parade fall in, form up for Ceremonial Divisions
1030 - 1145	Ceremonial Divisions.
1215	Families/Guests, Ancient Artificers and MEAQC's seated in Brunel Theatre for pre Award Ceremony Safety Brief.
1225	VIP/CDRE/Captain RNSME/TOME arrive.
1230	VIP takes salute from Parade i/c and takes position on stage.
1235	TOME address.
1240	Presentation of awards.
1315	VIP address.
1320	VIP Presenter.
1330-1430	Decamp to Hot Fork Buffet Lunch in Brunel Gym.
1430 - 1630	Tours from Pillar Atrium to Watt; Raper and Museum 1415-1445; 1445-1515; 1515-1545.
1430 - 1630	Video Montage – Brunel Theatre
1430 - 1630	Meet/Greet Discussions – Old Timers reunions in Pillar Atrium.

#### Engineers Memorial Completed

The Royal Naval Engineers Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum is now complete and there will be a service of dedication in the near future at the site.



There will be more on this in the next newsletter, including the date of the event and timings.

The National Memorial Arboretum has been greatly extended in the time that we have been working on this memorial and is a place well worth the visit.

#### New Rule Book

The Executive council has been looking at the rules of the Society over the past two year and have decided that a new version needs to be printed due to the many small alternations that have been made over the time since the last issue.

The final words and format have not yet been decided and if you as members wish to have an input to the process, please contact the General Secretary who will make available both the last version and the present updated version. You would then be consulted again before the final vote at the Executive Council meeting in June.

#### Pay and conditions of service abnormalities

It has been noted that there are some abnormalities in the pay and conditions of serving Engineering Technician.

Anyone with information or queries about these abnormalities would be doing a service to Engineering Technicians serving in the Royal Navy by contacting the General Secretary of the Society to discuss these.

Any contact would be confidential and private.

The General Secretary is actively seeking more examples to present. He would not need to use actual instances.

Please contact [gen.sec@rnebs.co.uk](mailto:gen.sec@rnebs.co.uk) or 07816787745.

## Section Meeting - next meeting -

2000 - Friday 5 February 2010

This will take place in HMS Sultan at the Grapevine Centre

The meeting will be about the method of presentation and Society membership. The rule book will be considered.

There will be time for any member or prospective member to make representation to the Society.

The following dates are those section meeting dates which may take place before the next newsletter:

12 March 2010

9 April 2010

These dates and the location of the meeting may change and it would be wise to contact the General Secretary for more information shortly before the meeting.

## Section Christmas Dinner.

Saturday 5 December 2009

This was held at The Waterfront Lee-on-the-Solent and was an enjoyable meeting and dinner. It should be acknowledged that with a prevailing strong gusting wind and rain it was all a question of timing to actual gain entrance to the building.

All the members who attended did enjoy the sometimes dramatic shore and seascape outside the window as well as the excellent food and company inside. Good wine and common knowledge made for a pleasant evening with friends.

The Portsmouth section will be holding two events this year - one in the summer and again the Christmas Dinner. Anyone who wishes to make a contribution to these events should

contact the General Secretary on 07816787745 for more information or come to a section meeting. The meetings are relatively short.

## Meet the General Secretary

The General Secretary will be holding individual sessions with members who have problems or suggestions relating to the Society and Naval Engineering:

In the Portsmouth area:

on any Tuesday, from 10:30am until 3:30pm.

These sessions will be by appointment only. Please call 07816787745 to arrange a time.

# Diary and report of the Devonport Section

## Section Committee Meeting - the next meeting will be:

1900 - 24 February 2010.

These will take place in the Shearsby Suite on the top floor in 113 North Hill.

There will be a meeting of the Committee and any members with concerns should bring these to this meeting. The meeting will be considering the present recruiting and member numbers and methods to increase these numbers. The new version of the Rule book will also be before the committee. All members are welcome.

The dates of the following meeting that may take place before the next newsletter are:

24 March 2010

28 April 2010

The dates of these meetings may change at short notice and anyone wishing to attend would be well advised to contact the Managing Secretary shortly before

the date.

## Section Christmas Dinner.

The section had a successful dinner and enjoyed the time reflecting on the year gone and the new year to come.

The section also had an open bar in HMS Drake this year which was a success considering the short notice at which it was held.

The section is now considering what their next event will be and starting to plan the Christmas schedule, to have your say please contact the Managing Secretary on 01752 342547 or 07989 263304 or attend the regular meetings of the section.

## Meet the General Secretary and Managing Secretary

The General Secretary can hold individual sessions with members in the Plymouth area on any Tuesday. These meetings would take place in the Shearsby Suite on the top floor of 113 North Hill or if the member is disabled

at a site of the members choice.

These sessions will be by appointment only. Please call 07816787745 to arrange a time.

The Managing Secretary can hold individual sessions with members in the Devonport area by appointment - to arrange an appointment please contact the Managing Secretary on 07989 263304.

# General Secretary's Word

The time is nearly here when the last Engineering Artificers past-out at HMS Sultan and the Royal Naval Engineering Artificer will be no more. As these fine men and women complete their training it is the last time an artificer will be trained by the Royal Navy and once in the fleet they will become just an Engineering Technician. With the great change to the training that removes the skill of hand and reduces the completed technician to an exchange fitter, many ex-tiffys are glad of the name change.

I believe the Engineering Technician will change over time and become as loved and productive as the Artificer was because it is my belief that you cannot do without a skilled engineer capable of using whatever is at hand to make the repair. Time will show if I am right.

On the more positive note - I had some good feed back from my information seeking with regard to the Engineering Technician and how they are working within the Royal Navy at present. I need more information - if you have any thoughts or concerns, any stories or experiences, please can you write down and send them in. There will be no names and no pack drill, unless your want it? I just need more information on the training and expectations, the real capabilities and progress of the modern engineering Technician.

Please contact me on 07816787745 or gen.sec@rnebs.co.uk - all contact is confidential.

## All members:

Please remember to change your address with the Managing Secretary.

If your know of a member who has not received his or her Naval Engineering review or newsletter - remind them that we need their address.

## Don't complain - act

### Change your Nominee

- if your next of kin changes or you wish to change your nominee inform the Managing Secretary.

### Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society contact with members

Both the General Secretary and the Naval Engineering Review Editor are trying to improve communication with the members.

However -

## They need your support.

Please write an article or short news piece for your fellow members to - enjoy, gain knowledge or just know.

Let us decide on were to publish it, just you write it. Please.

- Engineering is important
  - knowledge makes a good engineer
  - share it.

## The Society

### Useful RNEBS Addresses and telephone numbers

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