



# The Society Newsletter

## The Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society needs new members

### RN Engineering Technicians and Artificers should join the Society and be represented

The Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society was founded in 1872, just four years after Engine Room Artificers (ERAs) first entered the RN. It is the oldest society of Lower Deck origin, originally named (in 1868) the RN Engine Room Artificers Club. The founders sought to improve the conditions in which ERAs lived and worked and their promotion prospects. They also introduced the 'contributions & benefits' system (to help members and dependants in time of need).

The Society holds meeting of its members that are Social and Intellectual - the Society enables members to exchange ideas and advances in Engineering through the publications.

The Society is a mutual organisation. Death Benefit is at present up to £1,500 - the more members that join a mutual society the higher that figure will be.

#### The Aims of the Society are:

- The provision of Death or Invaliding Benefits for its Members.
- The promotion of the social, intellectual and general welfare of its members conformably with the MOD (Navy) Regulations.

How to join or enable others to join:

- Complete the membership form supplied with this Newsletter - you can photocopy as many copies as you need.
- Go to [www.rnebs.co.uk](http://www.rnebs.co.uk) - members section and print off the application forms you find there.

If you are a member, encourage others to join and so take their part with you in a useful and successful society. If you are not yet a member, apply to join and so increase the numbers in the Society.

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The Society represents its members views to the Admiralty. It has made the views and opinion known to the government and it has advanced the ideals of Engineers. It has had its successes and its failures. It always tries.

The Society assists its members to find the best solution through the legal system in both the Royal Navy and the civil courts.

At the Society's first meeting on May 22nd 1872, the Chairman said "We shall have great difficulties thrown in our way, and many obstacles to surmount, but by united action in all matters concerning the class there will be nothing but success before us." Those words are a call and should have a meaning to YOU as they did to E R As. 130 years ago.

## The Annual Executive Council Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Executive Council will be held in Plymouth this year at the RNEBS Offices in the Shearsby Suite.

**The Officers of the Society that will be elected this year are:**

**President** - This will be a member from the Portsmouth section.

**Vice-President** - will be from the Devonport section.

These two posts are elected from different active sections of the Society each year and at present change between Portsmouth and Devonport.

**EC General Secretary** - Mr Les Dancy - is seeking re-election in the post. He has served in this post for the past 15 years, for which he must seek re-election each year.

Any full member can be proposed and stand for election to these posts. The President and Vice-president are first elected by the sections to represent them at the Executive Council. Both the Executive Council and the Sections recommend that members attend meetings to better enable the Society in representing their views.

**Portsmouth Section - Annual General Meeting.  
2000 - 18th May 2007  
Grapevine Centre - HMS Sultan**

It will be noted that unfortunately there is no representation for the members in Scotland.

**Devonport Section - Annual General Meeting.  
1700 - 25 May 2007  
Shearsby Suite - 113 North Hill**

### The Annual meeting of the Executive Council. Provisional Agenda.

- Elections and reports.
- Review of accounts and expenditures.
- Review of Society Publications - Naval Engineering Review and Newsletter.
- Memorial to Royal Naval Engineers
- Section meetings - change of style.
- Alteration to the rules - Change 'Supplementary rules for use in time of war' to 'Annex 1 - Additional rules for use in time of war'. The other Annexes becoming 'Annex 2 - Section Meetings' and 'Annex 3 - Membership fees and benefit'.
- Report on Members questionnaire.
- Society Property in Portsmouth area.
- Funding for Prizes.

Any additional items must be tabled at the Section AGMs

## Asbestos - Information from Barrow Asbestos Disease Support.

In a presentation to the Barrow Asbestos Disease Support group by Lucy Hindmarch of Irwin Mitchell Solicitors - the following information was given:

It is important to choose the right Lawyer, for these claims you need a specialist.

Questions to ask to check suitability:

- What proportion of work involves asbestos claims?
- Have they taken a case to court?
- Do they have a dedicated asbestos team?
- Do they hold a database of employers' liability insurers?

- Will you be seen at home within a few days?
- Does the firm start court action quickly or negotiate with insurers?
- Is your case a strong one and if not why?
- How much will it cost me?

Information you will need to have ready:

- A note of the occasions when you can recall being exposed to asbestos.
- Documents relating to your employment.
- Details of childhood, family, social and employment history and any salient medical facts.

Don't worry - it is easier than you think - ask your solicitor questions.

All those who are concerned should contact their GP or NHS direct for advise and guidance. For useful information:

<http://www.mesothelioma.uk.com>

<http://www.britishlungfoundation.com/asbestos.asp?lung=3>

Or follow the links in our Website.

Telephone numbers:

Mesothelioma UK Helpline - 0800 169 2409

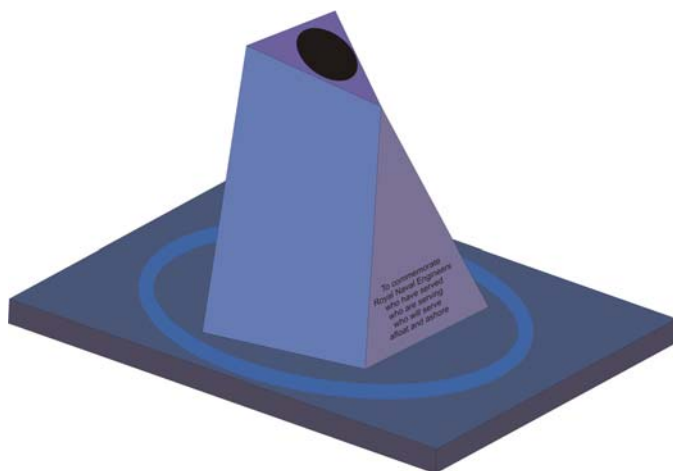
British Lung Foundation Helpline - 08458 50 50 20

## Royal Naval Engineers Memorial

Thank you to all who have contributed. The General Secretary will follow your advice and will be approaching the organisations suggested by you the members.

There is some suggestion that the words should be changed. The General Secretary would like you the members to suggest alternatives? Please send them to his address or email them to [memorial@rnebs.co.uk](mailto:memorial@rnebs.co.uk).

For information—the site of the memorial will be at the National Memorial Arboretum, Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire DE13 7AR. This is the site of the Armed Forces Memorial - which is under construction. It is also the site of many other memorials and is an interesting place to have a look at if you are in the area. Website - [www.nationalmemorialarboretum.com](http://www.nationalmemorialarboretum.com)



## Legal Representation

Legal representation is one of the benefits of joining the Society. The Society officers will consider any prospective case and its merits. Any case that the Society officers agree to support will then be taken to legal officers for advice as to whether the Society should offer to support the case. This support may take the form of advice and direction or financial. If it is to be financial then it may have to be presented to the Trustees for support.

Forces Law - the Forces Legal Network which provide a first step helpline to assist in giving Legal advice and support. Local Solicitors will give advise on both service and civil matters. It is strongly recommend that

members first seek advice from this organisation before representing a case for support of the Society.

Forces Law can be contacted by either the 24 hour helpline—0845 6011260 or [enquiries@forceslaw.com](mailto:enquiries@forceslaw.com). This support is for Regular, reserve and retired personnel and their families.

Any member or associate member who wishes to gain the support of the Society should first contact the General Secretary - as shown on the last page of the newsletter.

The Society supported cases of many types in the past and is active in at least one case at present. It should be

### 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

remembered that the Society is an organisation formed to help its members.

## The Society sponsor HMS Sultan team in the Keswick to Barrow Walk.

Last year an HMS Sultan Team in the Keswick to Barrow walk was sponsored by the Society. This team managed to raise £2,000 which has been donated by HMS Sultan to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). This year the Society is again considering supporting this excellence Charitable event.



### 'The Shearsby Suite'

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

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

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

For further information contact Mr Heaver, Managing Secretary.

## The Society and You - News

### **The Internet Website.**

The Society has had a website for the last ten years. It is time for a change and this is being undertaken at present. The Society will be aiming to present its members with a better and more active website that will be the first point of contact for members of the future.

It is hoped that members will give their views of the site to [website@rnebs.co.uk](mailto:website@rnebs.co.uk).

One constant will be the address - [www.rnebs.co.uk](http://www.rnebs.co.uk).

### **HMS Sultan Show.**

The Society will again be present at the show trying to encourage Engineers new and old to get involved.

Members are welcome to support the effort - come to the May Section AGM in HMS Sultan and get amused, and

yes bemused at the ideas for a stall. This invitation is not limited to those serving in HMS Sultan - come one come all.

### **The Society and serving you.**

The meetings need representatives from the serving members in a number of areas to give updates and advice. This is always confidential and routed through the Officers of the Society.

Contact the General Secretary to find out how you can help.

### **Email Contact.**

Please can you send a confirmation of your email address to [contact@rnebs.co.uk](mailto:contact@rnebs.co.uk)

This will be used only for Society contact - newsletter or information about the new website.

Items for the Newsletter should be sent to:

[newsletter@rnebs.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@rnebs.co.uk)

## Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society

### Useful RNEBS Addresses and telephone numbers

The RNEBS Offices  
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We're on the web  
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