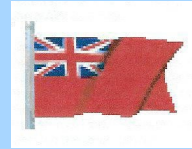




Merchant Navy Association (Wales)



*Happy New Year Shipmates.
Best wishes and plain sailing to you
and yours for 2022*

LIVING WITH CORONAVIRUS (PART TWO)



The Coronavirus is still with us so we hope you are all well and keeping safe. Thankfully there have been some improvements. This year (2021) we were able to hold our November Remembrance Service under the canopy of the Senedd building, on Saturday 13th November. Restrictions were in place inasmuch as social distancing had to be observed but as the event was outdoors wearing of masks was not required. The event was well attended under the circumstances, although a few more Standards would have been nice, and our thanks go to all those who supported us. Unfortunately we were unable to offer refreshments after the event. We also

attended other events during the November Remembrance period. This started on the 3rd November when we attended the Cardiff Field of Remembrance Ceremony at Cardiff Castle. A bit disappointing as, for the very first time, we were not invited to plant a cross on behalf of the Merchant Navy. But I was assured that “normal service” will be resumed next year. Our Standard Bearer Dave Richards and two members attended this event. Dave also carried our Standard at the Royal British Legion concert at St. Davids Hall on the 6th November. Unfortunately no one was available to take part in the muster. On Sunday the 14th November we were invited to lay a wreath on behalf of the Merchant Navy at the National Remembrance Service held at the National War Memorial, Cardiff. In the absence of Dave Richards, Keith Walker volunteered to carry the Standard in the parade and did a very good job.



Our final event was to support our Newport MNA shipmates at their Service held on Sat. 20th November. Des Farnham was one of our members attending and Dave carried the Standard.



COLIN MANNINGS

I regret to inform you that our Shipmate Colin Crossed the Bar on Sunday 26th September 2021 after a short illness. He was 97 and our oldest member. He joined us in October 1995 when living in Monmouth. He later moved to Margam Pk Village, Port Talbot before moving to Hoveton, Norfolk to be with his daughter following the death of his wife in 2016. He was at sea between August 1940 and September 1951, serving as a deck officer on 12 different ships his first ship being the S.S. Rio Azul. This trip ended badly when the Rio Azul was sunk at 1740 hrs on the 29th June 1941. Colin survived the sinking and details can be found in the Swinging the Lantern section of our web site along with other details of his career.



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for the year 2021/2022 and now due and subscriptions for 2022/2023 are due on 1st May 2022. The annual subscription is £10.00.

In accordance with our Articles of Association, any member who is three years in arrears, may be removed from the membership list.

Please advise the Secretary of any sickness or bereavement which may come to your notice.



News from Barry Branch is in short supply I'm afraid. This is probably because we have not been able to resume our monthly meetings due to the lack of a suitable venue, so have not met Joe Norton (in the flesh) for a while. Although we do communicate by phone occasionally. I understand services were held in November and wreaths laid but no photographs are available. I've attached

one from the September 2021 Merchant Navy Day Service in Barry thanks to Mike Spear.

BETTY CAMPBELL MBE



On the 29th September 2021 we were privileged to be invited to the unveiling and dedication of a permanent bronze monument to Betty Campbell at the front of the new HMRC Building, Central Square, Cardiff. She became Wales' first black head-teacher and championed her nations multicultural heritage throughout her life. Her father Simon Vickers Johnson served in the Merchant Navy during World War Two and was killed when his ship the S.S. Ocean Vanguard was torpedoed and sunk east of Trinidad on 13th September 1942. If you look closely at

the base of the monument you will see a model of the Ocean Vanguard in the hand of a little girl.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

BARRY

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

THE GREAT WAR

On the 11th November 2021 I was invited to attend the unveiling of a Book of Remembrance of all the World War One casualties, including Mercantile Marine losses, from Barry. The project was initiated and funded by Barry Royal British Legion and compiled by Dr. Jonathan Hicks. I provided him with information on the



Mercantile Marine losses from Barry - hence my invitation. The Book of Remembrance is housed in Barry Library to allow public access. Viewings are welcomed by appointment, enquiries initially to rblpoppyappealbarry@btinternet.com or 07340 220904.

The Miners' lamp represents the symbolic flame of Remembrance. The inspiration for this was drawn from verse 3 of the now famous poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae.



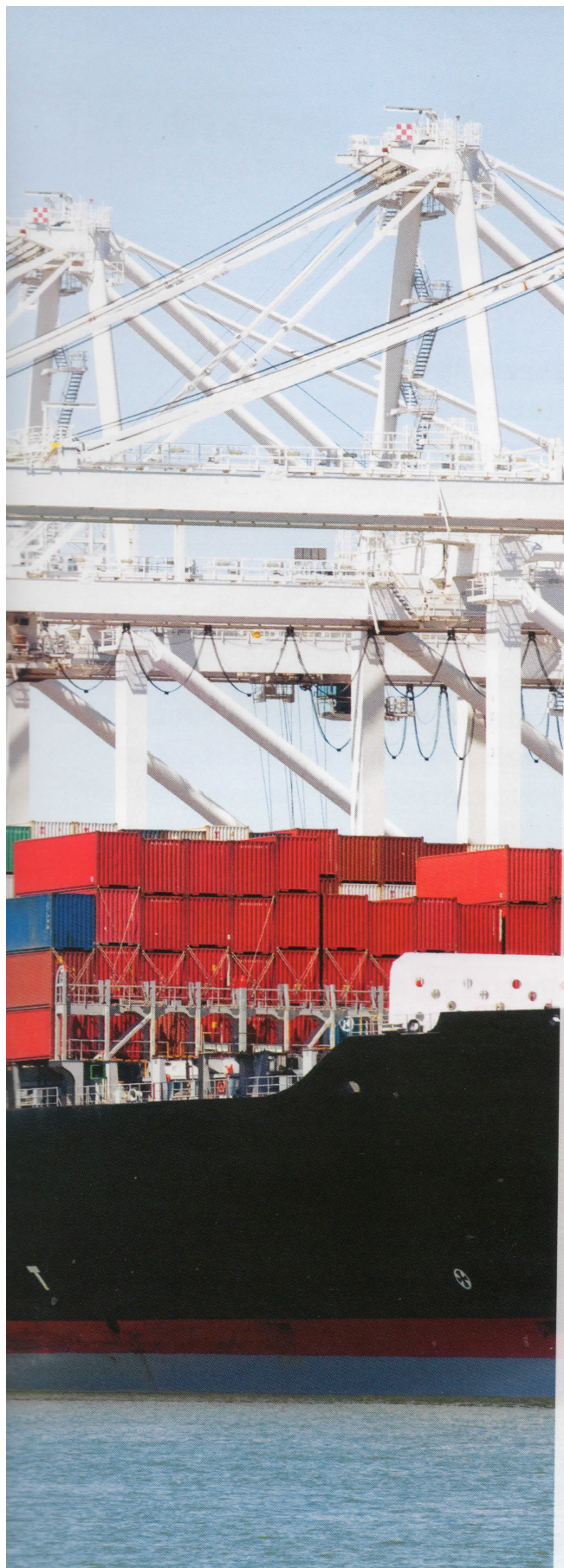
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch: be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields

Thanks to Teresa Goodwin of Barry RBL for the information and photographs.

NAUTILUS WELFARE FUND CASEWORKER PROJECT

On the 26th November 2021 we were invited by our Shipmate Alan Speight, Chairman of Newport MNA, to attend their general meeting at the Mission to Seafarers, Newport Docks. The purpose of the invite was to listen to a talk given by a Caseworker of the Nautilus Welfare Fund Caseworker Project. The Caseworker Project provides one-to-one advice and assistance on financial, health and other issues to retired seafarers and their dependants in their own homes. In addition to assisting with welfare benefits, caseworkers can also help access grants to help with essential household items and repairs. During a visit the caseworker can also check on the general wellbeing of the retired seafarers and their dependants and advise them on any other groups or activities which could help them enjoy a happy and healthy retirement. The Caseworker service is free and they will visit you in the privacy of your own home. The person giving the talk was Kayleigh Bricknell who is the Caseworker covering Cardiff and South Wales. She can be contacted on mobile 07702 951497 or via email on kbricknell@nautilusint.org

Our thanks to Alan and his members for a very pleasant and informative afternoon.



Are you an ex-seafarer? or do you know an ex-seafarer?

Who would like some help
or support with:

- ▣ Benefits or grants you may be entitled to?
- ▣ Housing or debt problems?
- ▣ Health and wellbeing concerns?

We provide information and support for
ex-seafarers across a wide range of financial,
wellbeing and lifestyle concerns including:

- ▣ Accessing grants (from our own or other
maritime organisations)
- ▣ Benefit entitlement
- ▣ Housing or debt problems
- ▣ Keeping in touch with other ex-seafarers
- ▣ Independent living
- ▣ Help finding the right health and
community services

This is a **FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL**
service in your own home.

Please contact **Kayleigh Bricknell**

mobile: 07702 951497

email: kbricknell@nautilusint.org

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