



Merchant Navy Association (Wales)



HARRY PARRY

Most of you on Email are already aware that our previous Chairman Mr. Harry Parry Crossed the Bar on Monday the 15th May 2023 at the age of 96. But there are 14 members who are not “connected” to the internet and therefore rely on paper copies to get their news - hence the Newsletter. Harry joined the Association in February 1996 shortly after it was formed. In May 1997 he was appointed Vice-Chairman and then Chairman in May 1999. He held the post for nearly 18 years before standing down on 14th December 2016. Right from the beginning, the Association set out to raise the profile of the Merchant Navy. They attended numerous events and functions which Harry and his committees continued to do during his time in office. An important event during Harry’s watch occurred on the 3rd September 2001 when the Association was presented with the Freedom of the City and County of Cardiff in recognition of the huge debt which the City and County of Cardiff owes to Merchant Seamen. Cardiff was the first city in the United Kingdom to honour Merchant Seamen in this way. Whatever the event and whatever the weather, Harry was there to represent us and became a well recognised and highly respected ambassador for MNA (Wales).

His funeral was held at St. Davids Church, Ely on the 31st May at 1115 and Barry Crematorium at 1200. A wake followed at Sully Sports and Social Club. The venues were packed as his family gave him a send off worthy of the man he was. He didn’t suffer fools gladly and if he had something to say he said it no matter who he was talking to. That’s was Harry. Take him or leave him, we were very glad we had him. Rest in peace Harry.



BRAIN LANSLEY



Sadly Harry was not the only member to leave us recently. I regret to inform you that our very dear friend and shipmate, Brain Lansley, Crossed the Bar on 23rd March 2023 at the age of 86. His funeral was held on the 28th April at Portsmouth. Brian served at sea between 1957 and 1964 as an Engineer. His first ship was the Largs Bay in January 1957 followed by Fort Sandusky, Umvoti, Clan Ross, Clan Davidson, Clan Mackinnon, Scottish Hawk, Clan Macindoe, Clan Menzies and finally BR Ferries, paying off in September 1964. Brian joined the Association in 1996 and was a very active Member regularly attending meetings and events until he moved from Cardiff to Portsmouth in

2015. Our thoughts are with his wife June.

NEW MEMBERS

It is not all bad news. The following three Associate Members have joined us since the January 2023 Newsletter.

Mr. R.V. Hurn of Barry, January 2023. Father and uncle served in the Merchant Navy.

Mr. Ben Shaw, of Treharris, May 2023. Both Grandfather and Great Grandfather served as Officers in the Merchant Navy.

Mr. Michael O'Connor of Barry, May 2023. Relationship to Merchant Navy via UKCAL.

Mr. Clive Spierling of Barry also re-joined in May 2023.

Welcome aboard.

Total membership now stands at 41, with 21 National Members and 20 Barry Branch Members.

EVENTS ATTENDED JANUARY - JULY 2023

1 March: Lord Mayor of Cardiff's St Davids Day Service. The Service was held in St. Margarets Church, Roath, Cardiff. Met a lot of old friends there and made some new ones.

25 March: HMS Cambria - Freedom of the City of Cardiff. It was an honour to be invited to this prestigious event held at the City Hall. Our Standard Bearer David Richards, brave man that he is, took part in the main parade through the streets of Cardiff following the Ceremony outside City Hall.

20 May: MNA (Wales) Remembrance Service, Cardiff Bay. Nine Standards on parade but lots of empty seats in the congregation. But everyone seemed to enjoy it, especially those who were able to visit the Eli Jenkins for refreshments afterwards. Photos on our web site.

13 June: Penarth Sea Cadets Event. We were invited to represent the Merchant Navy at this event which was held at the Sea Cadet Centre, Penarth to commemorate the sinking of HMS Glamorgan during the Falklands War. Well attended and very moving.

24 June: Armed Forces Day, Newport. On Saturday 24th June we attended the Newport Armed Forces Day event in support of our shipmates at MNA Newport. We



helped set up a display unit behind the Riverfront Theatre right next to the Royal Navy display. The photograph was taken prior to opening to the public and shows Alan Speight and Joe Newton of Newport (Alan is also a member of MNA (Wales) with our table of “goodies” and information. The Newport Standard Bearer was in attendance and took part in the parade through the streets of Newport. Once the “gates“ were opened we had a goodly number of visitors and by the end of the

day our table was virtually bare. The focal point was the contents of the brown box at the front of the table which was a tribute to Raymond Steed of Newport with his picture and medals. This received a lot of attention from the public and Joe Newton told them the story behind it. Raymond was only 14 years old when he was killed when his ship the S.S. Empire Morn was blown up after hitting a mine on 26 April 1943. He is buried in Morocco.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for 2023/2024 are due on 1st May 2023. 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.

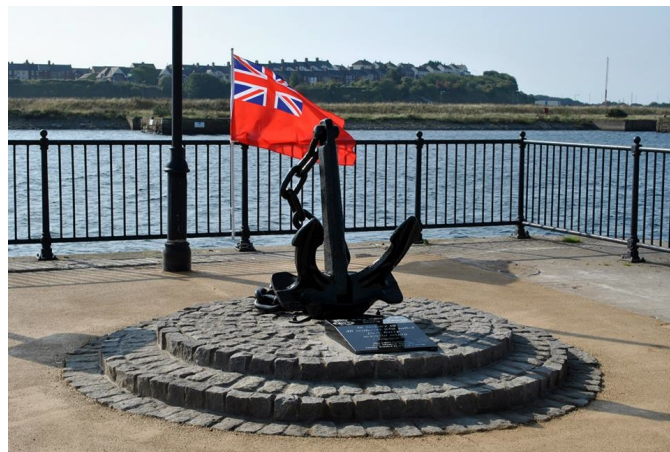
Please advise the Secretary of any sickness or bereavement which may come to your notice.

MN (WALES) NEW TIES.



It is a long time since we bought the original ties so I expect there are some out there that are in need of replacement, and many new members who do not have one. So I have ordered a batch of new ties. If you are interested in buying one please let me know and I will add you to my list. Cost per tie is £10. Delivery expected early August.

SEA SUNDAY SEAFARERS SERVICE - BARRY DOCK, 16TH JULY AT 1400



Barry Branch, in Association with St. Marys Church, Barry, are holding a Sea Sunday Seafarers Service on the 16 July at 2pm at the Anchor Memorial to Seafarers, Barry Dock. All welcome including standard bearers if possible. Regrettably refreshments are not available at the event.