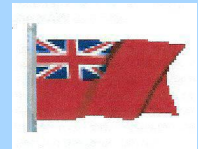


# Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Newsletter



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2015

### Sunday July 12th

Sea Sunday, Cardiff Bay.

### Wednesday August 12th

Regular meeting at Canton  
Liberal Club, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

### Sunday September 6th

Remembrance Service Swansea.

### Wednesday Sept 9th

Regular meeting at Canton  
Liberal Club, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

### Wednesday October 14th

Regular meeting at Canton  
Liberal Club, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

### Saturday October 31st

Remembrance Service, and  
Muster, St David's Hall, Cardiff

### Saturday Nov 7th

MNA (Wales) Remembrance  
Service, Cardiff Bay at 11.00

### Sunday November 8th

Armistice Day Parade Cathays  
Park Cardiff at 10.30 a.m.

### Wednesday Nov 11th

Regular meeting at Canton  
Liberal Club, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.



## WHAT IS THIS?

We all know that it is the Merchant Seafarers memorial down Cardiff Bay which was unveiled in 1996 and dedicated on the 24th May 1997. But how many of the hundreds of people who pass it every day know. Many a time I have asked people if they know what it is and inevitably the answer is no. The mosaic around the base tells us it is "in memory of the Merchant Seafarers from the ports of Barry, Penarth and Cardiff who died in times of war" and there is a plaque on the bollard next to it, which was fitted in 2003, that tells us a little bit more. What is sadly missing is a list of those seafarers who gave their all for their country. However a QR-code

(Quick Response) plaque has been installed on the bollard which, using modern technology through your smart phone or Ipad, will



take you to a list of seafarers from Barry, Penarth and Cardiff who were lost during WW1 and WW2. To use it you will need to download a QR reader application or you can go to the website [www.historypoints.org](http://www.historypoints.org) to read the lists.

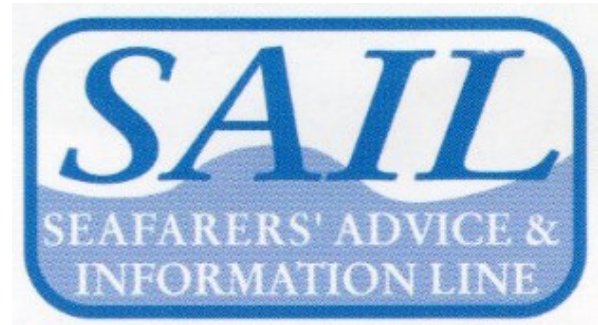
For those of you who do not have access to a computer, details of Merchant Seafarers from Wales who were lost during WW1 and WW2 can be found in two books I have published. Please contact me for details of where to find them.

## STANDARD BEARERS

There have been numerous occasions over the years when our Standard has been proudly paraded in all weathers and conditions and without complaint from the stalwarts who carried it. They were happy to do so and sought no reward but the honour of representing the Merchant Navy Association (Wales). Sadly the time has come for our current Standard Bearers to stand down. Tony Meade is unable to continue on medical grounds and has stood down from the post he has held for 15 years. He has been a credit to the Association and has



represented us on numerous occasions for which we thank him most wholeheartedly. Our other Standard Bearer John Mumford is also standing down albeit temporarily until he gets his health back on track and we hope to see him back in the fold very soon. In the meantime Des Farnham has volunteered to carry the Standard and has done so on a number of occasions lately with pride and dignity. Dave Richards has also agreed to carry the Standard for us. Many thanks to them both for supporting the Association.



In April representatives for SAIL, Amal Tukale and Khaleda Yesmin, attended our meeting and gave an excellent presentation on the services they provide. SAIL is a telephone, email and letter advice service operated on behalf of the Seaman's Hospital Society by the Greenwich Citizens Advice Bureaux to provide advice to merchant seafarers, fishermen and their families.

They provide advice and support on a whole range of issues including:

- Debt
- Welfare benefits and tax credits
- Employment
- Pensions
- Maritime charity grants
- Accommodation
- Family problems
- Immigration
- Consumer problems.

Contact details are:

Seafarers' Advice & Information Line  
PO Box 45234  
Greenwich  
London, SE10 9WR

Phone: 08457 413 318  
Open 10.00 to 4.00 p.m. Monday - Friday

email: [admin@sailine.org.uk](mailto:admin@sailine.org.uk)

## CARDIFF MISSION TO SEAFARERS



After 150 years of support to the Port of Cardiff, it's people and Maritime Community, The Mission to Seafarers have finally closed the Flying Angel Seafarers Centre in Cardiff Bay. The building was closed for business on the 31st January 2015.

Mr Alan Lewis, Capt Dave Kettlety and others held meetings with The Mission to Seafarers and Cardiff Port Authority in the hope of looking at the feasibility of keeping it open as an independent entity covered by the charities commission. Alan, David and the others should be commended on their efforts to keep the service going but, unfortunately the meetings were nonproductive making closure inevitable.

The contents of the building have been removed including a Book of Remembrance of Merchant Seafarers from Cardiff and Glamorgan who were lost during World War Two. This book is now in the safe hands of Canon Graham Francis of St Mary's Church, Bute Street. Demolition of the building is imminent although the structure was still standing when I was in the vicinity on 11th May.

## LIGHTSHIP HELWICK (LIGHTSHIP 2000)



Helwick passing under Severn Bridge  
(Photo courtesy of Mike Nash)

The lightship has been a floating Christian Centre and Cardiff Bay landmark for more than 20 years. The ship was built and commissioned by Trinity House in 1953 and was a working light-vessel in a number of locations around the UK. She was stationed off Rhossili, on the Gower peninsula, from 1984 until its withdrawal from service in 1989, to warn of the invisible threat of the Helwick sandbank. In 1993 she was brought to Cardiff Bay and refurbished as a floating Christian centre with a cafe and chapel. Sadly this was closed in October 2013. The Helwick was recently bought by Fred Larkham of Bristol Channel Shipping and his son Darren Larkham of Bullo Marine Services near Newnham on Severn and on the 15th May 2015 she was finally towed away to Newnham where she will stay until a decision is made on her future roll. As of 24 June 2015 no decision has been made.

## CROSSED THE BAR

Sadly the following members have crossed the bar since the last Newsletter

*Mr. F. Ivins of Cardiff - Aug 14*

*Mr. J. McNeil of Cardiff, age 77 - Oct 14*

*Capt. Jim Rees of Cardiff - Jan 15*

*Mr. Ernie Williams of Caerphilly, age 89 - Mar 15*

Their sailing hath ended

## NEW MEMBERS

No new members have signed on since the January Newsletter.

Our membership has dwindled from over 200 in the early days to just 80 now. Age has taken its toll.

If the Association is to survive we need new members.

If you know any seafarers please try and encourage them to join us. Associate membership is also available to family members and those who wish to ally themselves with the principles and aims of the Association.

## AGM - MAY 2015

### Appointment of Officers.

The following officers were appointed:

Chairman: Harry Parry.

Vice Chairman: Tony Meade.

Treasurer: Byron Jones.

Secretary: Byron Jones.

Membership Secretary: Byron Jones.

Minutes Secretary: Joe Norton.

Standard Bearers: Des Farnham and David Richards.

Members Representatives: Malcolm Mort, John Mumford, and Bill Harding.

Barry Branch Representatives were confirmed as Jim Greenway and Joe Norton.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for the year 2015/2016 are now due. The annual subscription for 2015/16 is **£10.00**. Please advise the Secretary (01443 815013) of any sickness or bereavement which may come to your notice.