



Mariners' Park News Winter 2015

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A few words from Mick Howarth

Dear Resident

A very warm welcome to the Winter edition of our Mariners' Park newsletter.

With the festive period approaching there are a wide variety of events and activities to enjoy at Mariners' Park. Do please check out the Social Zone for the full list. There is something for everyone!

The next milestone in the development of Trinity House Hub has been reached. The contract to build the extension, to be known as the SeafarersUK Centenary Wing, has been awarded to Tyson's, a Blackpool based company. Work on the 22 extra care apartments will start in mid-February, and will take 12 months to complete. We will provide you with more information on managing the build to minimise disruption nearer the time.

The progress on the new estate workshop and the two new bungalows in Cunard Avenue has unfortunately been slower than hoped. It now seems likely the bungalows will be finally completed in February.

Many of you will have received a letter from Wirral Council informing you your property is now registered under the Selective Licensing arrangement introduced in September. We have been receiving the registration certificates for each property. A laminated copy will be provided to you when we have received all the certificates. Can I please ask you to keep this in a safe place. Selective Licensing set out the standards we have to meet as your landlord. This does mean we will need to make some small revisions to your Licence Agreement, and I will write to you about the changes shortly. One change you need to know is that from now on we must seek references for all new residents to Mariners' Park.

You will be interested to know that a resident from Mariners' Park has contributed to the SeafarersUK Centenary Project on "Supporting Seafarers, Past, Present and Future". A filmed discussion took place at Trinity House Hub between a cadet, a working merchant mariner and our own John McDavitt of Trinity House Hub, exploring the hopes, fears and experiences of three generations of seafarers. The subsequent article from SeafarersUK's magazine "Flagship" has been reproduced in this newsletter, with extracts from the discussion. It is a good read!

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes

Mick Howarth
Welfare Services Manager



Seafaring across the Generations

By way of introducing our centenary theme of Supporting Seafarers: Past, Present and Future, Seafarers UK asked three people with a close connection to the sea to discuss their different experiences, fears and hopes of what being a seafarer is all about.

Those who kindly agreed to participate were: John MacDavitt, an ex-Merchant Navy seafarer and resident, along with his wife, of the Trinity House Hub retirement complex in Mariner's Park, Wallasey; Neal O'Hara, previously an electronic warfare expert in the Royal Navy and now serving as second mate on the ERRV vessel MV Ocean Ness; and Samuel Adams from the Birkenhead Sea Cadet Unit. The following is an edited transcript of their discussion.

Neal, what led you to join the Royal Navy, then subsequently the Merchant Navy, and what was it like the first time you went to sea?

I was a young boy. I wanted to join the forces. The Royal Navy appealed to me, so I joined when I was 18 and I've been at sea all my life since then. I did 12 years in the Royal Navy, travelled the world, met some amazing people, went to some amazing places.

The first time at sea was probably not the best day in the world, but it wasn't too bad either, and I just got used to it from there. But after 12 years I decided to leave the Royal Navy and I

came out looking for a job. When I couldn't find one I turned to the Merchant Navy, and I've been working in the North Sea for the last 21 years now.

John, when did you first go to sea and why?

In 1947. Before that, as a young boy, I had always been messing around on my father's cabin cruiser, an old converted Scottish fishing boat. We used to go to Rothesay, the Cumbraes, the Isle of Arran to go fishing, and I was allowed to take the wheel. Then I said to my dad one day, 'I would like to go to sea.' He looked at me and he said, 'It's not an easy life, you know.' I said, 'I still want to give it a go'.

I wanted to study navigation, but I failed; I was colour-blind, so that was out. Then I said to him, 'What about engineering? But I need an apprenticeship.' So I got an apprenticeship with Scotts Shipbuilding and Engineering Company and I did two-and-a-half years there. Then I decided I'd like some steam experience, and I went to another company called Rankin & Blackmore, who built triple-expansion engines, so I had a good grounding. And during that period I was at night school and day release. That's how it all started.

Samuel, what got you interested in the Sea Cadets, and what has been your best experience so far? I joined it because I wanted to make new friends and I

always liked sailing and the water. I saw it as a good opportunity to have a go. My best experience was probably when I went offshore on TS John Jerwood with all my friends. I just enjoyed being at sea.

John, what were your hopes and fears when you first started your career?

I started with Esso and joined my first ship in Cardiff Docks. She was called the Missionary Ridge. In those days, Esso had a black funnel fleet and they were T2s built in America. When I got to the dry dock, this ship looked enormous; it was about 14,000 or 15,000 tonnes. I had to check in with the second engineer, and the first job he gave me was, 'Go down that tank.' When I looked down, I thought there was no bottom to it; it was so deep. Of course, I did as he asked and came out later black and filthy.

Then I was transferred to a ship called the Esso Birmingham. She was a T2 running between Fawley and the Persian Gulf, but I had an accident, and when I went home I thought, 'I'm young. On tankers you don't see very much.' I wanted to see as much of the world while I was single, so I moved to Salvesen's of Leith and went to the Antarctic, and that was an amazing experience.

Neal, you're still in the middle of your career, but what are your happiest memories of being a seafarer so far?

Seafaring across the Generations



From left to right: Samuel Adams, Neil O'Hara, John MacDavitt

I've just had that many good times while I've been away, especially when I was in the Royal Navy with the lads. You do lots of different things, crossing-the-line ceremonies, and you go through these amazing places; the Suez Canal, Panama Canal, going round the Magellan Straits. I've just had wonderful experiences all round; you couldn't really put your finger on one and say, 'That's the best.' I suppose I'm lucky in that respect. **And what were your hopes and fears when you started out?**

To be honest, I just wanted to go to sea. In the Navy we went away, did our jobs, worked hard - really hard. Then sometimes you had the time to kick back and relax, going out on the upper deck at 6 o'clock at night in the middle of the Mediterranean, with a cup of tea in your hand, thinking, 'Got to be better than working in an office, this.'

When I joined the Merchant Navy, I was glad because I do enjoy being at sea. It's a bit of a bind being away

from your family and your loved ones, but it's what you've got to put up with if you want to do what you've chosen to do.

Samuel, have you had any particular moments with the Sea Cadets that really stick in your mind?

When I was on John Jerwood, a power vessel, it was really windy and choppy. It was dark too because it was so cloudy, with thunder and lightning outside, and I was quite seasick. It was good too, but when you keep going you lose it a bit and so you're getting scared. It's not very nice.

John, any particularly worrying times whilst you were at sea?

The scariest time I ever had at sea was in the Antarctic, when the ship called the Southern Opal was struck with a growler, which is an iceberg. She was strongly built, but it was as if somebody had gone along with a knife, and then water started pouring into the engine room. Fortunately, we weren't too far from South Georgia at the time, so to keep the

engine room from flooding, they shut the main sea valve and used the water which was pouring into the bilges for cooling the engines and that kept the water at a certain level. The deck officers had a tarpaulin into the sea to try and stop the volume of water coming in, and we limped back with another ship assisting us to Leith Harbour, where it was all welded up again. That was an experience I'll never forget.

It's a place I love, the Antarctic, but you've got to be a certain type of person to go there, because you're away for 12 months. There were no ladies in the Antarctic, and the ships are dry. I was lucky; I fitted in very well and I'm a person that likes my own company, so I very seldom got bored. In fact, I actually saw one lad jump over the side in the Antarctic. They were lucky to get him out alive. He had been married just 16 months, and thought he would go to the Antarctic and save some money, but he didn't realise how lonely it was.

Seafaring across the Generations

Neal, you're in the North Sea on a regular basis, have you had any difficult experiences?

When you're away in the North Sea during the winter, it can get pretty monotonous when you're getting pounded by the weather all the time. Just last year we were on a ship going to Norway to crew change. We were due there Thursday afternoon and we didn't get there until late Saturday because the weather was just so bad. There's other times when it is just not safe to turn the ship. And then it's usually about 12 hours before you can turn round and come back again. I think the weather is the worst thing about it, but if you can manage the weather, and you're not seasick, it's a great career for anybody.

Samuel, do you think you might like to pursue a career in the Royal Navy or the Merchant Navy?

I have thought about joining the Royal Navy or the Merchant Navy. I don't know which one. I enjoy engineering and things like that so I wouldn't mind going to sea and doing engineering. Either that, or weapons engineering; that would be a good choice. I do get a bit seasick but I like to be at sea and just be away I guess.

Listening to John and to Neal, do you think the experience of being a seafarer might change in the future?

I think it will change

because it will probably get easier in some respects, as technology moves on. It won't be as hard as it was to be a seafarer.

John, what do you think the impact of your career choice has been on your life?

I saw many places in the world, especially in the Far East and down as far as Australia, the Antarctic, Brazil and places like that. I saw how other people lived and it made me appreciate how lucky we were with democracy, because I've been through some funny situations in my life. And it taught me to think for myself. You've got to stand on your own two feet when you go to sea, because it can be very tough at times. My generation was lucky. I think that was the best time to go to sea, because if you'd had a bad time and you went to port, when you were off duty you could go ashore and do whatever you wanted to do. I ran to India for seven years, and I learned a lot about India.

I joined a company called Brocklebanks of Liverpool and I had some very, very happy days. There was a captain called Captain Kinley and I have never met a man like him. I think he was the only captain I ever called Sir, all the rest I called captain. He never passed anyone on deck without saying, 'Good morning' or asking you, 'How are your family?' and that went down very well. The chief engineer, he was very strict but fair. He used to come

into the engine room wearing white gloves and if the handrails were dirty he let you know all about it. If you worked hard, he praised you. If you didn't he told you off. There were bad ships as well, but I remember the good times and I never looked back.

John and Neal, how do you think starting a career at sea today will compare to what you have experienced?

Neal: We've got guys I sail with, a little bit younger than John but they're from that era as well. They had the good times when they could go ashore somewhere and they'd go and look at the history of the place. With the security issues now, the lads just can't do it these days. We can see across the river there they're building a new container port to take bigger ships but the guys on board aren't going to get much chance to visit Liverpool. They just don't get the time. As soon as the containers are gone, sometimes they're letting the ropes go while they're still cleaning up. These days the jobs are there for them if they need them, but they're not going to have as much enjoyment as they used to do years ago.

John: I get very concerned about young people going to sea today. When I was on, say, a Brocklebanks ship, there were 70 men in those days. Today, you have 150,000 ton ships with 24 men.

Seafaring across the Generations

I was on one of the first tankers with an unmanned engine room. Each engineer had a computer and it worked it all out for you, how much fuel each cylinder was burning, which cylinder to adjust, the fuel pumps. The whole thing had changed. All seafarers seem to do now is eat, work and sleep. Oh, they put all fancy televisions aboard, they put computers aboard, but you need to get off the ship and relax. Safety is going to be a big, big factor.

Samuel, do you think people understand what a seafarer is and how important the sea is to the UK?

I think my friends would know what a seafarer was to a certain extent. They'd know it was something to do with the sea, but I don't think a lot of people know how important the sea is to Britain. They don't think about things like that enough in the sense of how all the cargo is coming in, they just know it gets here and they're fine with that

John, do you think that the general population has lost sight of what being an island nation is about?

The trouble is, we've virtually no Merchant Navy left. You take the River Mersey: I bet 99% of the ships that sail up here are all foreign flags and you might have 24 men all with different languages. For a nation island without a Merchant Navy, it's sad. I personally think seafarers have been badly treated in

this country. Imagine, the war finished in 1945. We lost about 35,000 men, maybe more, and yet it wasn't until the year 2000 that we were allowed to march past the Cenotaph. What does that say?

Neal, do you think some of the newer maritime industries might be helping to change people's perceptions at all?

I think everyone knows of the growing offshore industries, the windfarms, and there are a lot of research and survey vessels. Sam mentioned that his friends know a bit about the sea. But a good few years ago, they had to delay one of the new PlayStations from getting launched because one of the ships that was carrying them was delayed in the Suez Canal. That's the only time I know of when a lot of people thought, 'Well, why is it coming by ship?' Most people just take it for granted and they don't realise the percentage of everything we use on a day to day basis that comes in by sea.

John, what word of advice would you give to anyone who was thinking of becoming a seafarer?

I would look into it very thoroughly. First of all, I would ask the company: 'What are the conditions? Is there any social life? How often do I get home?' Last of all would be the salary. Social lives are so important to seafarers when you're cooped up in the tin box. If you've got a good master

and a good chief engineer, you've usually got a happy ship, but if you have awkward people, it can be very miserable.

Neal, any advice for someone wanting to join the Royal Navy or the Merchant Navy? What should they think about before going to sea?

Being an 18-year-old joining the Royal Navy, and still having friends to this day in the Royal Navy, I would say, 'Do it.' It was the best experience I had in my life. You can still move on to something else. You can always look back and say, 'I tried it, I didn't like it,' but I've got friends who have done 35 years in the Royal Navy. A life at sea is an enjoyable life, but the other side is, these days, it's slowly being taken away - not the life at sea, just the life around it.

Samuel, what do you think is the most important thing you've learnt through being in the Sea Cadets?

I think, probably, the most important thing I've learnt is about how important the sea is and how it does affect everything. It's good to have all your different qualifications, things like that, but I'd say the most important thing to learn is how important the sea is to us.

Our thanks to John, Neal and Samuel for taking part in this interview.

Remembrance Day 2015

It was wonderful to see so many residents and staff at this year's Remembrance Day Service. This year was the first at the new location by Trinity House Hub. I am very aware that changing the location of the Memorial Stone and the flag pole has been a controversial one, and generated much discussion amongst residents, both for and against the move.

The purpose of the move was to have the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Stone in a more prominent position within the Park, and make the location for the service more accessible for both residents in the Care Home and Park residents. It also makes the poppy memorial to those who lost their life in World War I part of the design scheme creating a real focal point within the Park.

I have noticed many visitors to the Park now walking over to read both Memorials and this must be a good thing. The flag pole with the Red Ensign can also now be clearly seen from the river promoting our existence to passing ships.

Over 70 people attended this year's service, the largest number for a good few years, and the accessibility and flatness of the new location has hopefully helped more people attend.

The Remembrance Day Service is always a highlight in the calendar at Mariners' Park, and I hope the new location will help ensure we maintain this proud tradition.

Mick Howarth
Welfare Services Manager



Liverpool Light Ship



Would you like to take a video tour on the Liverpool Light Ship? Would you like to find out about the fishing on the Sand Bar and the trade with the river pilots? Then watch the fascinating eight minute video, kindly supplied by Captain M. Feltham, by inserting the link below into an internet browser.

<http://www.liverpoolshipsandsailors.com/2015/11/28/a-tour-of-the-light-ship/>

Guest Apartment

During this year the guest flat has been booked for 176 nights and is quite popular with residents families. If you wish to make any enquiries or bookings please contact Sharon or Annette at the Hub reception or telephone 0151 346 8840. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



Men's Activities Co-ordinator

"A Life On The Ocean Wave"

By Epes Sargent

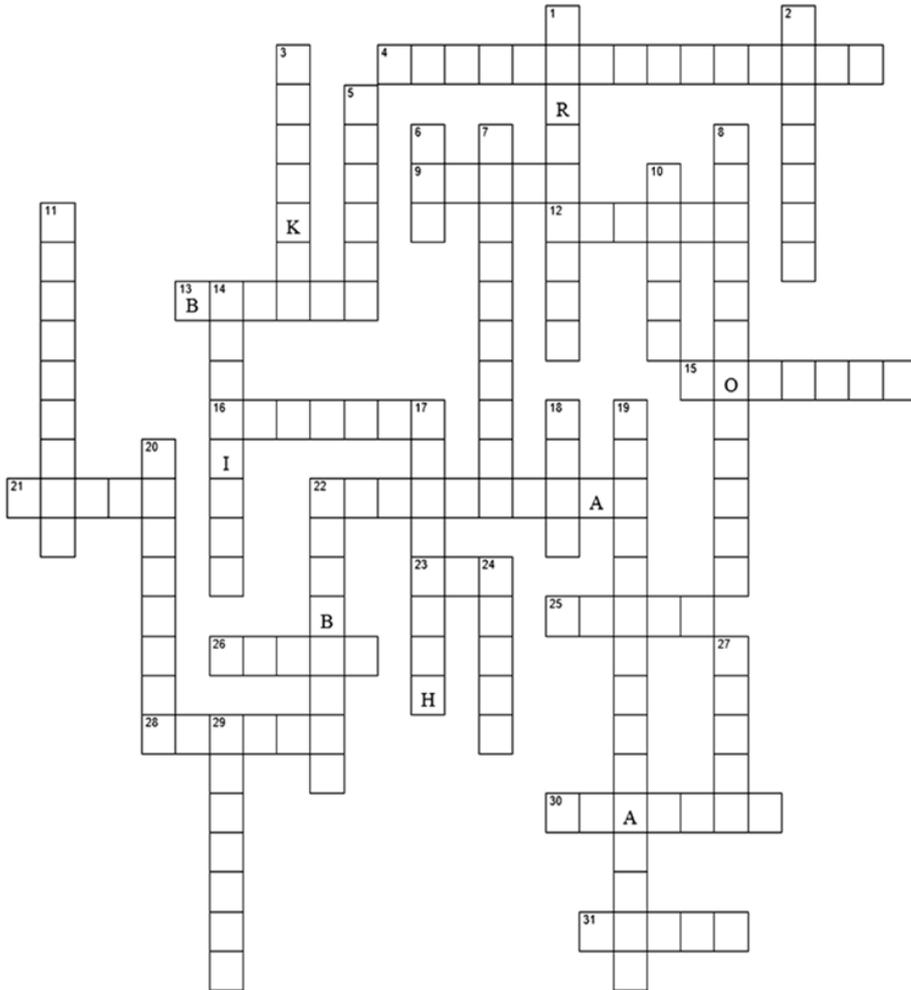
A LIFE on the ocean wave,
A home on the rolling deep,
Where the scattered waters rave,
And the winds their revels keep!
Like an eagle caged, I pine
On this dull, unchanging shore:
Oh! give me the flashing brine,
The spray and the tempest's roar!
Once more on the deck I stand
Of my own swift-gliding craft:
Set sail! farewell to the land!
The gale follows fair abaft.
We shoot through the sparkling foam
Like an ocean-bird set free;
Like the ocean-bird, our home
We'll find far out on the sea.
The land is no longer in view,
The clouds have begun to frown;
But with a stout vessel and crew,
We'll say, Let the storm come down!
And the song of our hearts shall be,
While the winds and the waters rave,
A home on the rolling sea!
A life on the ocean wave!



Men's Activities Co-ordinator



Mariners Christmas Crossword



Across:

1. Very cold weather (5+7)
3. Foul weather gear (7)
4. Short rope to bind cable (6)
5. Second in command (5+4)
8. A short watch period (3+5)
10. Stop (5)
11. Rotating on vertical axis (3)
13. Wind is blowing towards (7)
15. Person unfamiliar with sea (10)
16. time spent at the wheel (4)
17. Iron ball end of long handle (10)
18. Time on duty (4)
21. Navigator (5)
23. Sun tan (6)
24. Hole bow for a cable (5+4)
26. Feigning illness (8+3+4)
28. Vessel's motion (5)

Down:

1. Turn away from the wind, (4+4)
2. A watch on the weather side of the ship, (5+3+7)
6. High deck (4+4)
7. The last part of a rope or cable (6+3)
9. Docking facility (6)
12. Wedge-shaped part of an anchor's arms (5)
14. Permanently rigged from bulwarks and tops to the mast (8)
19. Raised edge of a hatchway (7)
20. Central structural basis of the hull (4)
22. Responsible for the sails, ropes and boats (5)
25. Towards the stern (3)
27. Ends of the keel are lower than the center (7)

Men's Activities Co-ordinator

A Sleeping Warrior

Charles R. Westover (written 1974 in Port Tampa)

A ship in port is like a sleeping warrior
Waiting for its next battle with the sea,
But when it's out on the ocean it becomes alive,
Smoking, creaking and fighting the huge waves.

It's a home, it's a fortress, it's a haven for few,
A place to work, to eat, to sleep,
To read one's memoirs of the past,
To meditate, to plan, to hope.

Huge and strong, if it could speak
It would tell many tales of distant shores,
Of the men who sailed her
And took care of her.

Quiet now, in port with its booms raised up high.
Most men left, to forget for a while
The companionship of others,
The loneliness of the days at sea.
Just happy to be on land again.
But anxious to go back.

Quiet now, just a breeze, a seagull,
A passing plane to remind us of the present.
Looking at the giant warrior, carrier of cargo,
Carrying supplies now like it was a hundred years ago.



Memoirs of Christmas past.

FW Tritton's journal, 25 December 1890

"Beautiful frosty day. Being Christmas Day we had the ship dressed. On each of the masts we had a large holly tree and another on the bows and one on the flagstaff aft. We also had large bunches of holly at the ends of our yards and right from the bows stretching over both masts to the stern we had a long string of flags and pennants which looked very pretty blowing about in the breeze. The saloon was correspondingly decorated. For dinner we had turkey, jugged hare, beef curry, duff or Spotted Dick as the sailors term it, Sipsy cake, peach soufflé, fruit and wines of every description. So you see we could not have done better at home."

Innocent Smoothie Bottle Hats

A number of residents in Mariners' Park, Wallasey, are very busy knitting little woolly hats to go on the top of Innocent Smoothie bottles. Why? that is what you are probably asking. Well, it is all part of a national campaign to help AGE UK in their drive to keep the elderly warm this winter. For every bottle of Innocent Smoothies sold wearing a little woolly hat, 25p is donated to Age UK. £1.7 million has been raised so far nationwide since the scheme commenced some years ago.

This is a national endeavour and the residents of Mariners' Park have just come on board. The Park's craft club, which meets weekly, has taken up the idea with enthusiasm and many and varied are the interpretations of "little woolly hat". Plain, striped or spotted, knitted in the form of rabbits, complete with large ears, or any other animals that can be adapted to the cause, the ideas just keep coming. It is a fun endeavour and it gives everybody the chance to chat over a cup of tea whilst doing something really worthwhile. Definitely a winning situation for everybody concerned. The Innocent bottles complete with little hats will be on sale from February 2016.



Caseworker

At this time of year we are all feeling the pinch with rising fuel and utility bills and the extra expense of Christmas. If you are finding it difficult and would like to have a chat about claiming benefits or ways to make savings please contact me on 0151 346 8876 and I will arrange to visit you in your home to have a chat about what is available.

Cathy Wilson
Caseworker



Staff News

We say farewell to

The Care Home will be saying farewell to Frank Cossy. Frank has been at the Care Home for 17 years and will be retiring on the 1st January 2016. Frank has been a valuable member of the team with an outstanding record. Frank has seen many changes and developments and was only recently reminiscing about the old Guinness Ward in the John Davies Infirmary. Frank moved to the new care home in 2002 and has been a valued colleague and team player. On behalf of the Nautilus Welfare Fund we would like to wish Frank a happy retirement.



Welcome to.....

Care Home

Andrew Kitchen RGN

Simona Coman RGN

Photographs



Photographs



Social Zone

WEEKLY EVENTS



Monday

Coffee morning
10.30am
Jubilee Lounge, Care Home

Tuesday

Sit Fit
10.00am
Function Room, Hub

Bridge Club
2.00pm
Hobbies Room, Hub

Thursday

Craft Club
10.00am
Hobbies Room, Hub

Friday

Home Visits
From 9.30am
Audrey will call you directly to make an appointment



Social Zone



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monday 21st December

Movies Afternoon, South Pacific
starting at 2.00pm Function Room, Hub

Tuesday 22nd December

Staff and residents Christmas get together
starting at 2.30pm
Function Room, Hub

Thursday 24th December

Craft Club
starting at 10.00am
Hobbies Room, Hub

Christmas Eve Drinks
starting at 3.00pm
Function Room, Hub
(Irish coffee available)

Friday 25th December

Christmas Dinner - Bookings only
If you haven't booked, **book now!**

Thursday 31st December

Movies Afternoon, State Fair
starting at 2.30pm
Function Room, Hub

New Year Bring and Share
starting at 7.30pm
(bring your CD'S)

Please see Audrey if you are interested in any of the above



Mariners' Park Care Home News

It's been a busy time for us all!

On 22 October we held a "War time food heroes" theme day. We enjoyed baking a "national loaf" and rock buns. Close supervision on these activities was provided by the Mariners' Park Steward's Department (Chris Flannery and David Fothergill)!



Julie made us a delicious War time food heroes inspired lunch consisting of carrot, bacon and lentil soup, sausage roll or fish pie, boiled new potatoes, cabbage and diced swede followed by jam sponge and custard.



After lunch the lovely Lilli Moore came to sing some nostalgic wartime 1940`s songs from classic artists like Vera Lynn, The Andrew Sisters, Gracie Fields, Bessie Smith and Billie Holliday. We enjoyed her singing so much we've invited her back again in January, this time to sing some swinging 60's songs to us!

Mariners' Park Care Home News



We had a Halloween party. Ange put on her best frock for the occasion Jon looked his normal self



Abbie liked the bat glasses!



Some of the Care Home residents enjoyed a trip to see the world famous Blackpool Illuminations! We started off with a very tasty fish and chip supper at Senior's Fish and Chips, just outside of Blackpool.

Gifts for Seafarers



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the shoe boxes and a very big thank you to those residents who spent their afternoon wrapping and filling the shoe boxes. The boxes will be taken to the Seamen's Mission at Crosby who will distribute them.

In total we managed to wrap and fill 23 boxes.



Can Cook Cafe



Christmas Opening Times



Wednesday 23rd December	Normal Service
Thursday 24th December	Normal Service
Christmas Day 25th December	Traditional Christmas Roast
Boxing Day 26th December	CLOSED
Sunday 27th December	CLOSED
Monday 28th December	CLOSED
Tuesday 29th December	CLOSED
Wednesday 30th December	Normal Service
New Years' Eve Thursday 31st December	Normal Service
New Years' Day Friday 1st January	Special Festive Roast
Saturday 2nd January	CLOSED
Sunday 3rd January	Normal Service

There are still places available for the special meals on Christmas Day and New Years' Day. If you would like to come please book with Annette or Sharon in the Hub, telephone 346 8840. The cost is £13.95 per person



Mariners' Parks first ever Indoor Christmas Market

Well, what can we say other than a great big thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, baked, made and attended our Christmas Market including our local Morrison's, Bon Marche, Wirral Society for the Blind, RNLI and our local artists for their creations!

I am sure you will all agree it was a big success and a lot of fun. We're pleased to say we made £272.00 which has been split between the Care Home and Park activities budget and will buy us some lovely new Christmas decorations, canapés and food for our Park Christmas afternoon tea.



A great way to finish off the afternoon was Weatherhead School's brass band and choir who did an excellent job of entertaining us all.



Nicola, Audrey and Jordan

Gardening News



Merry Christmas from the gardeners!



Lord Mayor's Parade—London

Saturday 14th November 2015 marked the 800th anniversary of the Lord Mayor's show and Trinity House asked Nautilus Welfare Fund if they had any volunteers who would like to join them in this year's parade and represent Nautilus.

Trinity House provides Nautilus Welfare Fund with a grant which helps support the communal facilities in the Hub. Gaynor and I decided to volunteer for this and took part in walking alongside the float which was hosted by Commodore David Squire.



Many other charities were also involved within the parade. There were around 150 floats and over 5,000 participants. The theme for the parade this year was chosen by London's new Lord Mayor Jeffrey Muntevans and it was "London - Maritime Powerhouse - home of skills and innovation, haven of opportunity and philanthropy".



Lord Mayor's Parade—London



Some of our colleagues from the London office offered support and joined the Seafarers UK float on the day too. Please feel free to take a look at some of the photos below taken on the day. It was a really enjoyable day apart from the rain and trust me we got soaked!!

Below left is Steven Gosling and right Danny McGowan from our office in London.



Lord Mayor's Parade—London

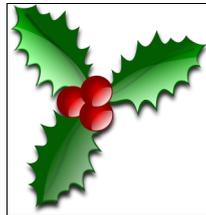


Young Maritime Professional delegates who took part in the parade for Seafarers UK with Danny McGowan

Nautilus Care

Need help at home? Struggling with your mobility? Finding it hard getting in and out of bed or washing and dressing? Do you find yourself struggling to do your weekly shopping? Or would you simply like a little help with laundry or cleaning. If so, Nautilus Care Support Service is a chargeable service that can offer you help so that you can live independently for longer and this help is available to all residents of Mariners' Park Estate.

Our Personal Support Assistants would be glad to help you with anything that you need and we offer support that is personalised to you throughout the daytime or evening. If you would like more information on the service available or how to access it and the fees; you can contact the Care Manager Amy Watts on 0151 346 8840.



A Message From Amy

I would like to say an enormous thank you to all the Personal Support Assistants, the Activity Coordinator and Administrators of the Nautilus Care Support Team based at the Trinity House Hub. We have all settled nicely into the Hub and I feel that we certainly have noticed how time flies when we are all having fun as we have been in the Hub for over 1.5 years and continue to look forward to many more to come.

Next year we will have the building work starting for Hub phase 2 and I know that we will look forward to having 22 more apartments by 2017 and I hope that you will all join me with continuing to provide the best service, no, great service, that we can to our residents living within the Hub, the estate and new residents who will join us from the waiting list.

So from me, Merry Christmas to you all and I hope that we all will have an even bigger and better New Year for 2016!!



Christmas Competition

A PRIZE FOR EVERY WINNER!

Can you guess the name of the Nautilus Welfare staff?



To enter please return your answers on the slip below to the Hub by Monday 21st December.

Competition

The photographs are of

and

.....

Name:

Address:.....



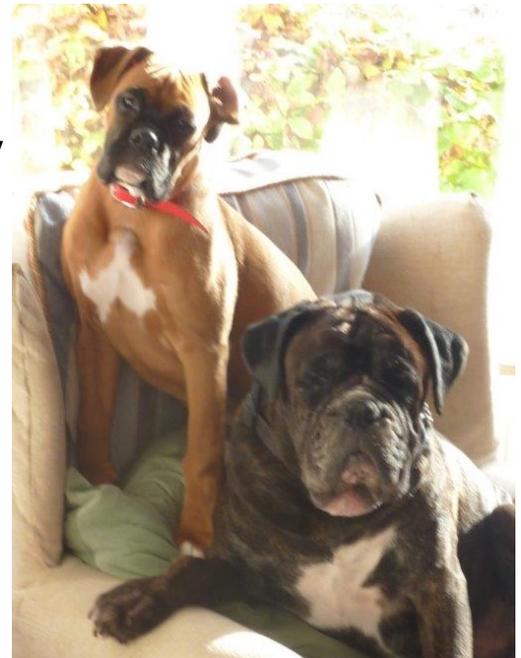
Face of Nautilus Welfare Fund

You may have wondered who the yellow flash was on his bike over the summer and I can enlighten you. It was me, Keith George, the Finance Manager. I have been with Nautilus Welfare Fund for over 3 years but I am mostly office bound. I can often be seen trudging between Nautilus House, the Hub and Care Home collecting and delivering items.

My primary responsibility is financial control of Nautilus Welfare Fund and although I report to Olu Tunde in London I provide nearly all of the financial information about how the Welfare Fund is performing. I am involved in producing information for the senior members of Nautilus Welfare Fund, the Welfare Committee and Nautilus International. I ensure we collect any monies due from outside organisations and keep the senior team at Nautilus Welfare on top of spending. If you have any questions or concerns about your maintenance charge or paying by direct debit I am the person to see.

As I have a wife, five children and two boxer dogs I am kept busy at home but in any spare time my interests include football, music and working in the garden.

Keith George
Finance Manager



Annual Quality Questionnaire

Your feedback really does help us in delivering the services you want so please return your questionnaire to us as soon as possible.



Estate News

A very Merry Christmas to you all. I hope you have been enjoying and continue to enjoy the numerous activities that have been planned for you to all enjoy.

I am glad to report that we suffered only a small amount of damage from the recent torrential winds and rain. Dave has even ordered this years supply of rock salt in anticipation for our cold winter months. Let's hope that it doesn't need to be used.

Dave and his team have already commenced work on the bank leading down to the promenade by cutting back overgrowth and tree suckers that were recently discussed in my meeting with members of the residents committee and other residents of the estate.

Steve is currently having a busy end of year. He recently completed a new kitchen in King George Drive, has just completed a wet room, also in King George Drive and it is hoped that he will do another of each in other properties across the estate by Christmas.

A contractor will also be fitting a wet room for us in December along with us also about to fit two new front doors in two other properties.

Over half of you will also have had your electricity checked this month via an obligatory five year check. Thank you for waiting in to allow this work to be carried out.

Cliff continues to do the day to day tasks around the estate, in the Hub, Nautilus House and the Care Home and also carries out a lot of unseen obligatory checks in all of these buildings. Phil is currently decorating rooms in resident's properties as requested. If you would like any rooms painting or wallpapering please contact Sharon and request a form and I will try and accommodate your request around his other work. This will depend on the number of empty properties though.



Estate News

The investment by Nautilus into improving your homes will continue next year with a massive £186,500 being approved by committee last month to be spent on various projects next year purely on upgrading properties. A lot of this money will be spent on installing wet rooms in a number of properties and we will focus on the most needy first. As a result Amy Watts will write to you soon asking questions about individual health issues. Mick Howarth and Mike Jess also seek funding from outside organisations and have already secured an extra £15,000 towards the cost of wet rooms. This gives us a total of over £200,000 to be spent on existing properties next year. A new washing machine for the care home has also been ordered this month to replace the 14 year old one. This was also courtesy of a £5,000 grant. Both of these grants are courtesy of Merchant Navy Welfare Board.

Unfortunately the building work has been slow on the new bungalows and workshop and is currently behind schedule. Hopefully this won't delay the start of Hub 2 which is anticipated to commence in February. As always I will keep you informed as I meet with the builders regarding their plans and requirements. I anticipate that Tysons will want to use the whole of the car park in Cunard Avenue, so I will, once again, have my work cut out trying to keep you all happy about where you park your car during this work. Thank you for your patience during all of this work, and I look forward to having a break from major projects once Hub 2 is completed.

As we approach the Christmas and New Year period, can I kindly ask you to only call my staff out over this period for genuine emergencies only. There is not a problem with calling any of those on duty out, but please let us enjoy the festivities as well. An example of what is considered to be an emergency is no heating, no electricity, a security problem with your home, flood, or no water, amongst others. I don't want to stop you from ringing us but would kindly ask you to ensure it can't wait until the next working day for the task to be tackled. There will be members of my team working up to the early afternoon of Thursday 24 December and they will return to work on the morning of Tuesday 29 December until late afternoon of Thursday 31 December and we will all return on Monday 4 January, batteries recharged and raring to go in 2016.

Danny Kenny
Estate Manager



Office Closed

The Office and Hub Reception will be closed on:



Thursday 24 December
Friday 25 December
Monday 28 December
Friday 1 January



*Merry
Christmas*

Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new residents to Mariners' Park:

Mr & Mrs Jones



Any news to share...

If you have any news, a birthday celebration, anniversary, photographs or information you would like to share please contact Sharon at the Hub office on 346 8867. We would like the newsletters to be interesting and enjoyable to read. If you have any suggestions to improve the newsletter please contact Sharon.

