



MERCHANT NAVY WELFARE BOARD



One of the many port welfare vehicles purchased with a grant from the Vehicle Replacement Programme

Grants

Whilst the Board does not itself provide grants to individuals, it will seek to find help from one of its Constituent charities and often other sources. It does, however, regularly provide grants to its members for capital projects. These can include refurbishment of properties such as seafarers' centres and care homes, replacement of welfare vehicles in ports and new equipment designed to improve the quality of seafarers' welfare services.

Courses

The Board provides training courses for its Constituent and Port Welfare Committee members including Bereavement Awareness, Caseworking, Managing Volunteers, Mental Health Awareness and Ship Welfare Visiting.

Working Groups

The Board manages working groups that regularly examine the needs of seafarers, review future requirements and encourage best practice.

Projects

The Board undertakes numerous projects and programmes on behalf of its Constituent members. Examples include accessible databases, evaluation or feasibility studies, provision of Port Information Leaflets (which have proven very popular with visiting seafarers); and managing a collaborative programme of funding replacement vehicles for port based welfare work. The majority of projects entail working in close collaboration with other maritime charities and some larger projects include more formal partnership arrangements. All projects aim to enhance seafarers' welfare.

The Board operates the **Seafarer Support Helpline** for the entire UK maritime charity sector – Merchant Navy, Royal Navy and fishing fleet. This referral service is aimed at directing and seamlessly transferring enquirers to welfare organisations that are best suited to help. Whether for individuals or families, both within and outside the charity sector, our trained staff welcome enquiries on either the Freephone number **0800 121 4765**, or via the internet on www.seafarerssupport.org.



Found within the website is the online, user friendly **Maritime Charities Welfare Guide**, which helps people to search and contact charities directly for themselves. The guide provides information on the type of support each charity offers and, should they require further assistance, affords the opportunity to initiate a call back from Seafarer Support staff.



One of the many Port Information Leaflets published by the Board



HOW TO CONTACT US

8 Cumberland Place, Southampton, SO15 2BH
Tel: 02380 337799 **E-mail:** enquiries@mnwb.org.uk
Web: www.mnwb.org

"Supporting the provision of quality welfare services for seafarers and their dependants"

www.mnwb.org



One of the many projects the MNWB funded was a project to enable older seafarers to learn about and access the internet

THE OBJECTS OF THE MERCHANT NAVY WELFARE BOARD ARE TO:

- Help improve the effectiveness of all those charities caring for merchant seafarers, fishers and their dependants and this is done irrespective of nationality, religion or ethnic background
- Strive to ensure that all welfare needs are met through the most effective deployment of resources
- Facilitate the work of Constituent organisations through the provision of grants and specialist support services
- Provide a dedicated welfare support and referral service for UK seafarers and their dependants
- Manage and support Port Welfare Committees to develop local welfare services
- Encourage and enable closer collaboration amongst both Constituent organisations and Port Welfare Committees
- Represent and raise awareness of seafarers' welfare issues at national level

A company limited by guarantee No. 453053
Registered Charity No. 212799 in England & Wales
and No. SC039669 in Scotland

ABOUT US

The Merchant Navy Welfare Board, established in 1948 as a registered charity, coordinates welfare work among the merchant seafarers' and fishing charities in the United Kingdom and Gibraltar. It has over forty Constituent members which include maritime charities and organisations providing financial assistance to individuals and families, accommodation, advocacy and port based welfare. For a full list of our Constituent members, please visit our website www.mnwb.org.

Many of the Board's trustees and staff are drawn from the shipping industry, including the ship owners and maritime trade unions. Others have a background in charity support. This gives us a unique understanding of the needs of the seafaring community and enables us to provide the highest level of support to our Constituent members.

WELFARE SUPPORT

In our capacity as an 'umbrella' charity, welfare support is provided using our unique and comprehensive knowledge of the maritime charities, together with our wide network of contacts. From these we are usually able to find advice and assistance for those seeking help. Whilst we do not provide grants to individuals, our dedicated staff are trained to assist in this process by accessing guidance and financial support for serving or retired seafarers, their dependants or those acting on their behalf. We also arrange for a trained volunteer (caseworker) to help people complete applications for assistance, in their own homes. We can place ex-seafarers and their dependants in touch with maritime organisations providing accommodation, which ranges from sheltered housing to specialist care homes.



One of our Port Welfare Committees in action

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEES

One of the ways that the Board is able to "support the provision of quality welfare services for seafarers and their dependants" is through its 15 Port Welfare Committees, located in ports throughout the United Kingdom and its management of the **Gibraltar Seafarers' Welfare Board**.

Bristol	North West England
Central & West Scotland	Northern Ireland
East Anglia	South Wales
Haven	South West England
Humber	Southern England
London & South East	Tees
Milford Haven	Tyne
North & East Scotland	

All are maritime partnerships that co-ordinate and promote welfare services for seafarers, at a local level. Membership of these local strategic partnerships includes representatives from ship owners, shipping agents, crewing agencies, seafarers' organisations (maritime trade unions), voluntary societies (maritime charities), port authorities, local government, including port health and police authorities, and more recently the Maritime & Coastguard Agency as well as the UK Border Agency.

Each PWC meets at least 3 times a year. Whilst the meetings are reasonably formal, great value is placed on the opportunity for partner agencies to network and share information and best practice. To that end, the Board and its PWCs recognise and welcome the unique perspective that each member organisation brings to the meetings, in particular, their local knowledge and understanding of seafarers' welfare issues.

Seafarers' welfare remains central to each PWC so that they can ensure that serving seafarers, visiting seafarers and, where appropriate, retired seafarers, and their dependants, continue to receive the highest quality and range of welfare services available, in their local area. The MNWB and its PWCs welcome and encourage representation from maritime organisations with an interest in improving the welfare and wellbeing of seafarers and their dependants.