



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

Grants

Whilst the Board does not provide grants to individuals it regularly provides capital projects and start-up grants to its Constituent Member charities. 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 at no charge, these include the following:

- Maritime Caseworker training
- Ship Welfare Visitor training
- Maritime Labour Convention 2006 training
- Handling Bereavement training
- Health and Safety basic training

Projects

The Board undertakes numerous projects on behalf of its many Constituent Members. Examples of these projects include the creation of **Port Information Leaflets** which have proven very popular with visiting seafarers; **Evaluation Studies** to assess the level of welfare need in particular ports; **Information Technology** in seafarer's centres and the replacement of **Welfare 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 individuals or families, both within and outside the charity sector, our trained staff welcome enquiries either on the Freephone number **0800 121 4765** or via the internet on www.seafarersupport.org.



Embedded 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.



With the help of Seafarer Support, this retired seafarer was put in touch with organisations that were able to assist him purchase a much needed mobility scooter

HOW TO CONTACT US

8 Cumberland Place, Southampton SO15 2BH

Tel: 02380 337799 Fax: 02380 634444

E-mail: enquiries@mnwb.org.uk Web: www.mnwb.org



MERCHANT NAVY WELFARE BOARD



“Promoting the provision of the highest quality welfare services to merchant seafarers and their dependants in the United Kingdom”

www.mnwb.org



One of the many projects funded by the MNWB is to provide internet access facilities in Seafarers' Centres around the UK, including Wi-Fi hotspots

THE OBJECTS OF THE MERCHANT NAVY WELFARE BOARD ARE TO:

- promote the highest quality of welfare services for merchant seafarers and their dependants'
- ensure that all real welfare needs are met
- ensure the most effective deployment of resources
- facilitate the work of Constituent Members by providing support services
- encourage co-operation between Constituent Members
- provide grants to support the work of Constituent Members
- maintain Port Welfare Committees to co-ordinate and promote welfare activities locally
- lobby Government and other authorities to maximise support for seafarers' welfare

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 was established in 1948 as a registered charity and was entrusted with co-ordinating welfare work among the merchant seafarers' charities in the United Kingdom and Gibraltar. Today the Board continues this role as the umbrella charity for the Merchant Navy sector.

The Board has over forty Constituent Members and these include maritime charities and organisations who provide 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. Others have a background in care and 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 can also arrange for a trained volunteer (caseworker) to help people in completing applications for assistance in their own homes. We often place people in touch with maritime organisations providing accommodation, ranging from sheltered housing to specialist care homes.



An MNWB trained Ship Welfare Visitor delivers Christmas gifts to seafarers

PORT WELFARE COMMITTEES

One of the ways that the Board is able to "promote the highest quality of welfare services for seafarers" is through its 16 Port Welfare Committees (PWCs), located in ports throughout the United Kingdom and Gibraltar. These are:

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

Managed by the Board, its PWCs are maritime partnerships that co-ordinate and promote welfare services for seafarers, at a local level. Membership of these local strategic partnerships include 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, 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.