

The 100kout

Edition 6 of the Southampton Seafarers Centre newspaper

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This occasional newsheet is published by the Southampton Seafarers' Centre to provide you with news about the Centre and the planned events for the rest of the year.

John Lang presentation

We are very pleased to welcome back Rear Admiral John Lang who will present one of his maritime talks at the Seafarer's centre on Tuesday 19th April, commencing at 7pm. This talk will be a fund raising opportunity for the Centre and will be followed by a curry. Entrance will be £5 for the talk and £6 for the curry. Here is a short summary of this talk:

"The East Coast Collier Trade: Cradle of British Seamanship?"

Coal was, arguably, one of the principle factors that led to Britain becoming one of the world's leading nations. Mined initially in North-East England, but needed most in London, the only effective way it could be transported the 300 miles from producer to consumer was by sea. From the mid 13th century until sail eventually gave way to steam, thousands of small colliers transported this dirty, bulky, awkward cargo down the east coast defying atrocious weather, strong tidal streams, shifting

sandbanks, fog, ice, privateers and pirates as well as the notorious press gang seeking men for service in the Royal Navy. The reason for the Navy's interest was that collier crews were particularly well versed in ship handling and the ancient art of seamanship. It went further than that. For several hundred years the east coast coal trade produced some of the finest seamen in maritime history. This talk tells the story of this little known trade and recalls the hardy breed of men who manned the sailing colliers. It argues that the coal trade was, indeed, the cradle of British shiphandling and seamanship.

An event not to be missed.....

For more information, please contact Colin Dorrington at 02380 333106.

Southampton branch of the Mission to Seafarers Annual Meeting

The Southampton Branch of The Mission to Seafarers has just announced that their annual meeting will be held on P & O Cruises' Oceana on Monday 5th September. The Mission is very grateful to P & O Cruises for allowing them to hold this meeting on the Oceana especially in view of these difficult financial times. The Speaker will be Commodore

Ian Gibb, who is well known to the port of Southampton and The Mission to Seafarers as he sailed from the port regularly on many P&O passenger liners from ARCADIA in 1954 to the new ORIANA in 1996. He sailed in all ranks from Cadet to Commodore. On retirement he became an Elder Brother of the Corporation of Trinity House - a position which he still holds. His commitment to The Mission to Seafarers has been longstanding, firstly as a recipient of their outstanding hospitality and since 1995 as a Trustee of the Southampton Centre. Further information about the event will be sent out later by letter and email, but numbers attending will be restricted.

Southampton City Carol Concert

The Southampton City Carol Concert took place prior to Christmas last year and was very well supported with approximately 500 people attending. ABP were very generous to us in allowing the event to take place in the Ocean Terminal. Both the Southampton Youth brass band and the VOXpop choir were on excellent form and we have invited them both back again this year when we hope that even more people will attend and enjoy the pre Christmas festivities.

The Mission to Seafarer's Annual meeting in London

This year The Mission to Seafarers' Annual meeting will be held on Thursday 29th September at St Michael Paternoster Royal, the Society's home church in central London, and will be followed by a buffet tea. We are hoping that sufficient people from the

Southampton area will wish to join in the service and if so, a coach will be hired for the day to transport us there and back.

Rob Jones leaving the Centre

Rob Jones has been one of the stalwarts of the Centre, either serving in the bar area or onboard passenger and cruise ships in Southampton ensuring the crew members have access to phone cards. He is leaving for pastures new, but we thank him for showing us his cheerful manner and all the help he has provided to the visiting seafarers.

Sailors' Society provide 1000 parcels for Christmas

The Southampton branch of the Sailors' Society distributed 1000 Christmas presents to seafarers coming to Southampton prior to Christmas. The parcels contained woolly hats, diaries, and calendars. Father Christmas himself delivered the presents on 24th & 25th December.

Finally we would like to thank you all for your continued support of the Centres' activities.

Please send all communications about the newsletter to the editor, John Habberley on 01489 572899 or at johnhabberley@btopenworld.com



www.centresforseafarers.org/southampton
Email: info@centresforseafarers.org.uk
Tel 023 8033 3106. Fax 023 8021 1394