



2015 IMPACT REPORT

**SUPPORTING
NAVAL SERVICE
OFFICERS
THROUGH LIFE**



HM THE QUEEN, PATRON

Official Portrait of HM The Queen © www.royalimages.co.uk

Please convey my warm thanks to the President and the Board of Trustees of the Royal Navy Officers' Charity for their kind message of loyal greetings sent on the occasion of the publication of an impact report for the charity.

As your Patron, I was pleased to be reminded of the important work of the charity in providing assistance to Officers and their families who are facing difficulties. I much value your support and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned for a successful and memorable year ahead.



ADMIRAL SIR MARK STANHOPE GCB OBE DL, PRESIDENT

My first year as President of the Royal Navy Officers' Charity (RNOC) has made me acutely aware of our relevance to all serving and retired members of the Royal Naval Officer family. Our focus on benevolence has seen over 200 individual grants made to deserving personnel and their families this year alone, which speaks volumes for the support we are providing.

We've also seen the benefits of closer partnership with our sister organisation, the Association of Royal Navy Officers (ARNO), which has continued to grow over the past year. RNOC has a broad remit – to do good work in support of all those who need it – but it is a vital one. It's my privilege and honour to be President of such a life-enhancing organisation.



REAR ADMIRAL RICHARD LEAMAN CB OBE, CHAIRMAN

I am immensely proud to be Chairman of an organisation that, on a daily basis, offers support and benevolence to so many serving and former Naval Service Officers and their dependants. I am determined that the RNOC will continue to work with other charities and organisations in this sector to ensure our beneficiaries receive the best possible support, whatever their specific need, whenever that need occurs.



COMMANDER MICHAEL GOLDTHORPE ROYAL NAVY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Although we're rapidly approaching our 300th anniversary, I believe the Royal Navy Officers' Charity is more relevant today than at any time in its long history. Our beneficiaries and their needs continue to grow in number and complexity every year, requiring ever-greater financial and practical support. I'm therefore proud that 2015 has been a record year for both applications and the total amount given in the form of grants and annuities. I'm delighted to be able to contribute to RNOC's day-to-day administration and grant-making at such an important and exciting time.

TRUSTEES

Wayland Austin, John Cunningham, Bob Grainger, Ben Hughes, Eunice Marland, James Parkin, Martin Poll, Andrew Slater, Jim Sykes, Joe Turner, Roger Williams

Every year, the Royal Navy Officers' Charity (RNOC) awards

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS

totalling more than

£300,000

IN 2015...

We made over **200** regular and one-off grants between **£60 AND £9000** each.

AROUND THE GLOBE

Wherever the Royal Navy Family goes, we go too. Today, we support serving and former officers and their loved ones in the UK, Europe, North America, South Africa and Australasia.

CLOSE TO HOME

We provide grants for everything from home repairs and replacement boilers to weekly groceries and household bills. Because in tough times, it's often the ordinary, everyday things that cause most concern – and where our help has the greatest impact.

FOR ALL AGES

Our oldest beneficiary was **93**: the youngest just **23**. The average age of those receiving our grants is around

60_{YRS}

EVERY YEAR

We provide direct financial help to

200+

serving and former Royal Navy officers and their families.

2015

In 2015, our monthly support grants to former Royal Navy officers and their families totalled almost **£175,000**

During 2015, we awarded grants worth over **£19,000** to help children continue their education during difficult times and family crises.

A UNIQUE MISSION

The RNOC is the only Naval charity dedicated solely to supporting serving and retired Royal Navy, Royal Marines, QARNNS and Reserves officers, their families and dependants. Created in 1739, we're also among Britain's longest-established Service charities, with beneficiaries and supporters all around the world.

"Thank you for the generous donation that allowed Ethan and Luca to travel away over the October break. As you may know both boys suffer from cerebral palsy and cannot walk. With the funds raised we were able to take them away to Orlando for one week. Whilst away they enjoyed Universal theme park, Disney Magic Kingdom, swimming with dolphins at Discovery Cove, Seaworld, a helicopter flight around Orlando and many other activities. As a family we really would like to thank all those that made this possible."



WE'RE HERE FOR THOSE STARTING OVER...

For some Service leavers, the transition to civilian life can be a huge challenge. Through one-off grants, we can provide peace of mind and breathing-space to those struggling with finding a new job, setting up a new home, or adjusting to their new financial and family circumstances.

...AND JUST STARTING OUT

In 2015, we awarded a young serving officer an exceptional grant to help reduce his outstanding student and academic loans, reorganise his finances and achieve a sustainable regular income.

WE SUPPORT OFFICERS AT EVERY STAGE...



We made an exceptional award to support Mr S and his young family through a particularly difficult period. As well as funding basic essentials, the grant helped them clear a number of debts. They now have enough income to meet their daily living expenses, and are well on the way to being self-sufficient.



In 2015, we made our second grant in a series of three to recent Service leaver Lt Cdr M. Together with two other military charities, RNOC is helping to fund this former officer through a degree course that will enable him to pursue a sustainable second career.



Mr R E S and his family found themselves in severe financial difficulties following an unsuccessful business venture, which left them facing debts of well over £100K. We made an emergency grant to help them cover their food costs, while they worked with a debt management charity to resolve their long-term situation.





During 2015, we provided regular grants and care home top-up and respite fees totalling around **£40,000** to annuitants in serious financial need, allowing them to enjoy an improved quality of life.

WE ALSO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OTHERS

Many of those we support are themselves supporting others. Through our grants and other practical help, we make sure they never have to carry that responsibility alone.

- In 2015, we awarded one of our largest single grants to help a family pay for the specialist training and equipment they need to provide care at home for their disabled child. Part of the grant will also be used to help cover removal and other costs incurred in their recent house move, which now allows the child to attend a specialist school.
- We made an annual Support Grant to Lt Cdr P H, who is severely disabled, to pay for additional physiotherapy, everyday essentials and other expenses his family incurred when his partner fell ill.
- We treat every case that comes to us on its merits, then provide funding that meets the person's specific needs and situation. This flexible, individual approach really does transform lives.

...AND THEY'LL ALWAYS BE PART OF THE FAMILY

The Royal Navy has always taken care of its own, and the loss of any member of the officer family affects us all. We provide financial support for respite and end-of-life.

Lt D W was already struggling to meet his family's day-to-day living costs when his father died suddenly. We awarded him a one-off grant to help meet the costs of his father's funeral, and also ease the pressure on the family budget.

After retiring from the Royal Navy, Lt J J R went to live on the Mediterranean island of Gozo. When he passed away, we helped meet the costs of his funeral, which was arranged by the Royal British Legion in neighbouring Malta.

**WE AIM TO
GIVE YOU:**

**PEACE
OF MIND**

**A SENSE OF
SECURITY**

**A HELPING
HAND**

5-5-15

Dear Commander Goldthorpe,

Thank you again for the £1400 grant awarded to me. It went more to me this time as my wife died two months ago. I never knew that a funeral could be so expensive. My wife suffered from Dementia, and I had

been her carer for the past 2½ years, so I lost her carers allowance which had been a great help towards our living allowance during her illness.

Please excuse this awful writing but I am suffering from Rheumatism in my hands (old age 86)

Yours sincerely

Re: Letter of Appreciation

Dear Mike,

I have just received my first set of course materials, with the remainder to come in due course. I am now eagerly anticipating the challenge set before me and plan to get straight into studying. You have provided me the means with which to make the next several months productive and worthwhile for which I am extremely grateful. I would like to extend my gratitude to the RNOC as a whole.

I am sure that on completion I will be in a much more knowledgeable position for entering the world of Business. When that time arrives I will write again. Thank you for your prompt action in this situation. I would have no hesitation in informing others of the brilliant service you provide.

Sir,

I write to you with deepest gratitude for the assistance you have given me and my family. The charity gone far beyond what we would ever have asked. You and the Royal Navy Officers Charity have provided for our futures.

Once more, thank you ever for all you have done.

Your

Dear Commander Goldthorpe

I have just been advised that the Royal Navy Officers Charity has agreed to assist with the funding of my care home fees. I am writing to tell you how deeply appreciative I am for this support. Having been the partner of a naval Captain for some 27 years, it is wonderful to feel the strong arm of the Navy coming round my shoulders once again.

My apologies for having someone else type a letter to you, but at the age of 92 my handwriting is not the best and I wanted to make sure that you could read the sentiments expressed.

Yours very sincerely

LOOKING AHEAD

Through our day-to-day partnership with the Association of Royal Navy Officers (ARNO) we will continue to raise our profile, ensuring all those who qualify are aware of the assistance we can provide. We're hopeful that a forthcoming review of our Royal Charter will allow us to help more beneficiaries and update and simplify our criteria for offers of assistance. If you would like further information, or you are aware of anyone who could benefit from our help, please pass our details on to them, or contact us directly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of RNOC are extremely grateful to all our supporters. We would particularly like to thank the following organisations for their help and assistance. In addition, an extra special thanks to the many SSAFA and Officers' Association caseworkers who, on behalf of our beneficiaries, compile and facilitate the numerous applications for assistance.

Britannia Communications
Cazenove Capital Management
Child & Co
Lloyd's Patriotic Fund
MindWorks Marketing
SSAFA
The Officers' Association
The Rag
The RN&RM Children's Fund
The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
The WRNS Benevolent Trust

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There is always more we can and want to do in support of the Royal Navy Officer Family.

By giving to the Royal Navy Officers' Charity, you can help us help those who need it most. If you'd like to be part of our life-changing work, you can make secure online donations through Virgin Money Giving or by leaving us a legacy. For further information visit rnoc.org.uk

SUPPORTED BY



FIND OUT MORE

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A PROUD PART OF



The Royal Navy Officers' Charity is a proud part of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity. The Royal Navy Officers' Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 207405). Registered office as above. Disclaimer: The information used in this report is taken from the fully audited Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December. Copies are available upon request.

