

# IMPACT REPORT | 2017

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 loyal greetings.

As your Patron, I was pleased to be reminded of how the Charity

has continued to support Officers and their families. I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to you all.

Officers within the Naval Service are often the people who are looked to for leadership, guidance, inspiration and help. But who's there for them when things get tough – financially or personally?

## WE ARE.

The Royal Navy Officers' Charity (RNOC) is the only charity dedicated to supporting serving and former officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, QARNNS and their families and dependants – at every stage in their lives and careers.



## ADMIRAL SIR MARK STANHOPE

GCB OBE DL, PRESIDENT

The Royal Navy Officer's Charity has this past year again made a real impact on many of the lives of those in the serving and retired officer community as well as their families. A sign of the times is that we are seeing a rise in serving members requesting assistance. In 2017 RNOC benevolence rose to over £375,000 giving relief

for Debt, Care in the Home and Care Homes as well as regular annuities. Membership of its sister organisation, The Association of Royal Naval Officers, is buoyant with real positive growth in numbers commensurate with added advantages. It is a real honour to be part of such a professional and focused organisation.



## SURGEON COMMODORE JIM SYKES

FFOM ROYAL NAVY, CHAIRMAN

It is a privilege to be the Chairman of a charity which supports officers of the Naval Service, serving and retired and their entitled dependants, with the assistance they seek in their time of need, thereby maintaining a tradition which dates back 278 years. While the benevolence we provide has

changed markedly in that time, we remain resolute in continuing the practice and strive to increase both the level and scope of our support in conjunction with like-minded charities in the sector.



## COMMANDER MICHAEL GOLDTHORPE

ROYAL NAVY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The RNOC has always had a very simple objective and that is to relieve poverty and/or distress. While the shape and the size of the Naval Service has changed drastically since 1739 there remain members of the Naval Service family who still require assistance and during these times

the RNOC stands ready to help. Not all enquiries result in financial support – for some a little advice, signposting or reassurance is all that is needed. I remain extremely proud to be involved with an organisation that can provide that assistance.



## FIRST ESTABLISHED IN 1739...

...Under the name of The Amicable Navy Society, our objectives were to 'afford relief to distressed officers of the Royal Navy, their widows, orphans, mothers and sisters'. Society membership cost one Guinea per annum, with life membership available for 10 Guineas. While it is no longer possible to join the society, the objectives, albeit widened and modernised, remain.

## TODAY RNOC EXISTS TO:



'Provide relief to persons in need (whether or not members of the society) being officers and former officers of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines and Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service and officers and former officers on their Reserve Lists, together with their spouses or former spouses, widows, widowers, families and dependants.'



Every year, we provide one-off grants and long-term financial support. We treat every case received on its merits, then where appropriate we provide funding to meet the person's specific needs and situation. This flexible, individual approach really does transform lives.



## TRUSTEES

Wayland Austin, Paul Bennett, Funmi Chirnside, Elizabeth Gibson, Bob Grainger, Graham Hockley, Ben Hughes, Eunice Marland, David Marsh, Annette Picton, Martin Poll, Joe Turner, Roger Williams

## WE HELP THE SERVING...

In addition to regular annuitants, a continually growing number of serving officers and families, come to us for support to help with particularly difficult periods in their lives. As an example, our grant helped signpost a young officer with financial difficulties to the appropriate agency and made a grant to help reduce some of the family debt. Captain Rob Wood, Royal Navy Welfare, Command HQ comments:

“RNOC makes a powerful and valued contribution to the lives of many naval officers, providing much reassurance in responding quickly and sensitively to genuine need. It also underpins bonds of comradeship and reminds all of us that we are part of a wide community of shared experiences and common values.”



# THE SMALL THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

# SUPPORTING THE OFFICER FAMILY



## WE HELP THE RETIRED...

Retired officers and their dependants make up a high proportion of cases requiring our help – many are older officers who hold wartime or National Service commissions and, together with their widows, are often on low incomes. These Ladies and Gentlemen rely on our regular grants to help with everyday expenses and, in some cases, to survive. Sometimes, just knowing we are here, provides the comfort that they are not alone.

“Please would you express my sincere thanks to your president and board of Trustees for the very generous gift towards my new walk in shower... Life is now much easier for me.”

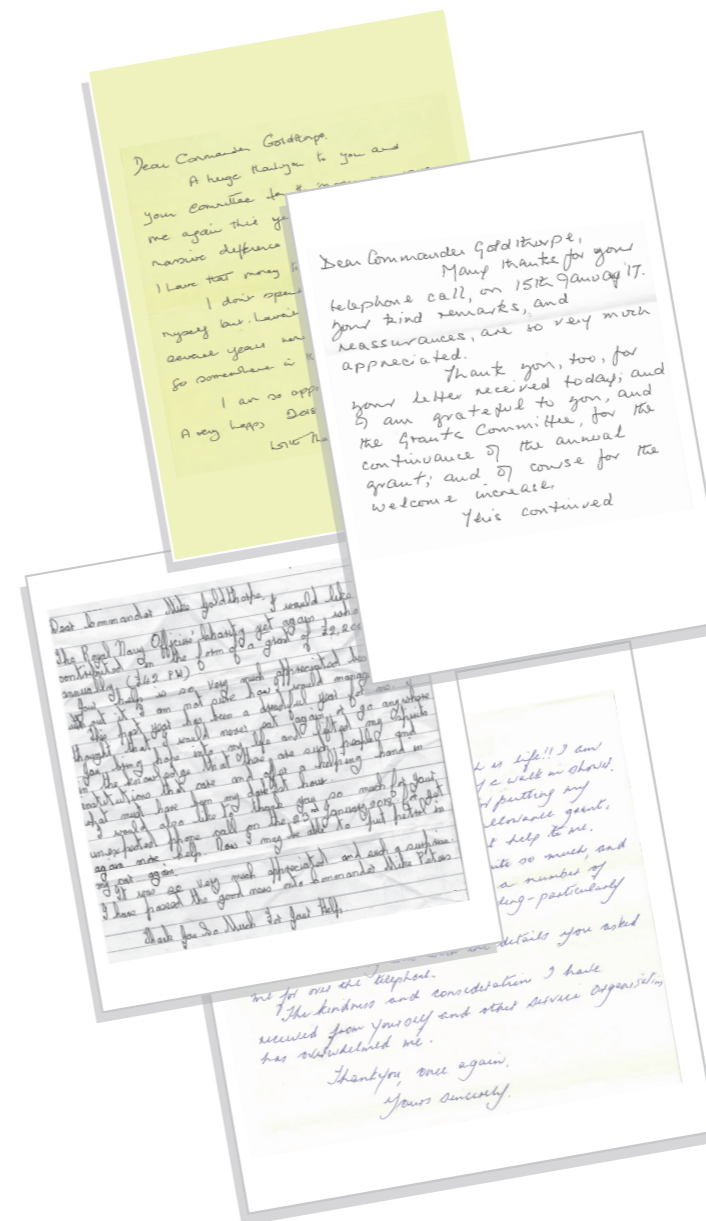
## REALISING AMBITIONS

Helping the officer family means just that. Last year we helped a serving officer to support his five children's paths in education - all of which are achieving excellent results:

“I received your grant award letter and have been in a state of shock since. I really don't know what to say. “Thank you” seems to be totally inadequate.

I worry so much about how I can support my children in their academic endeavours... with these grants you make it possible for them to achieve their aspirations.

None of their achievements would have been possible without your support. Your grant has funded musical instruments, tuition, expeditions (DofE), travel and accommodation for university and so on. Your funding has and continues to allow my children to achieve their ambitions.”





### DEDICATION

During this last year the RNOC has provided help and reassurance to many beneficiaries. Some have now overcome their difficulties and some remain closely involved with the both the RNOC and ARNO. Lieutenant Commander Andrew Moys was a beneficiary of the RNOC and great advocate of both the Charity and Association. Andy suffered for a number of years with a debilitating condition which affected his spinal cord. During his illness Andrew was a fine example to us all, achieving much in the face of severe adversity through his determined attitude. Sadly Andrew passed away in early March 2018. The 2017 RNOC Impact Report is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Commander Andrew Moys Royal Navy (pictured).

“You brought hope into my life and have lifted my spirits in the knowledge that there are such people that care and offer a helping hand in what must have been my darkest hour.

Thank you so much for your help.”

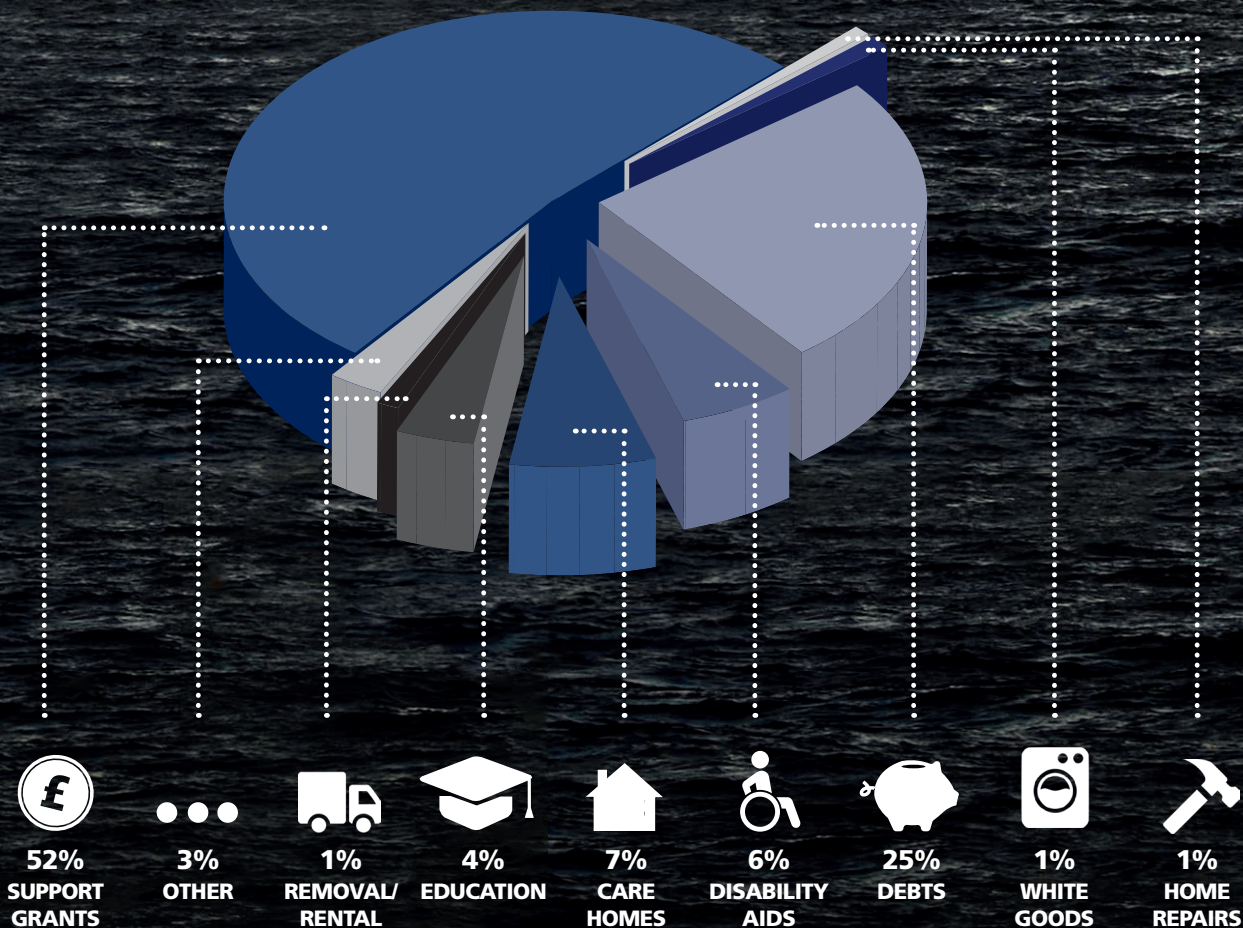
## VARIETY OF GRANTS MADE IN 2017

We assisted the officer family with grants totaling over £375,000.

To mirror our diverse reach of beneficiaries, the grants we provide support an equally wide range of needs including: the cost of nursing and care home fees, mobility aids, education, household repairs and the replacement of white goods and debt.

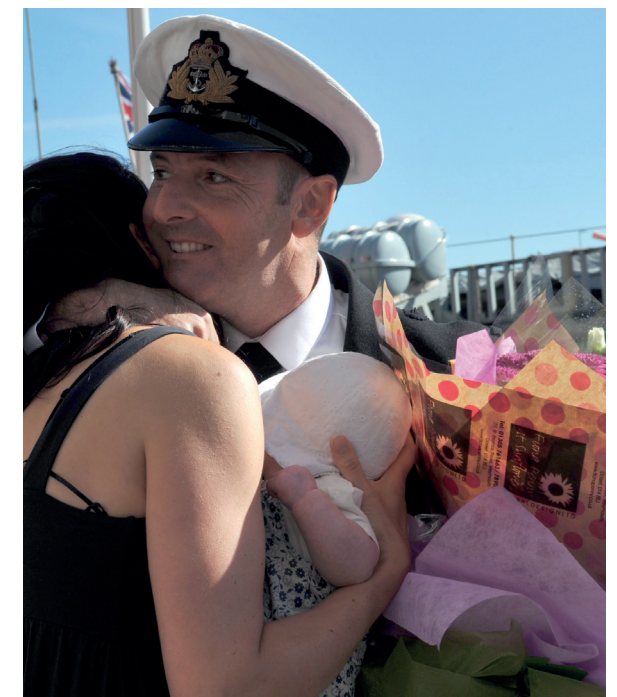


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### EXAMPLES OF HOW OUR GRANTS WERE USED:

- Support Grants ensure those on low incomes receive vital funds for everyday expenses.
- Our one-off payments have covered many costs including car repairs, rent arrears, white goods and end of life support.
- Sadly the increasing number of dementia and Alzheimer's sufferers has seen an increase in care home support.
- Assistance with equipment to help with training, education and rehabilitation.
- Purchase of mobility aids and home adaptations.



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

Currently the Royal Navy Officers' Charity receives all of its income from investments and a small number of donations and legacies. We are not funded by any other charity and do not receive any government funding. 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 leave a legacy or make a secure online donation at: [mydonate.bt.com/charities/royalnavyofficerscharity](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/royalnavyofficerscharity)

## LOOKING AHEAD

We want to maximise the extent of our support by reaching more people. By continuing to work with our partner ARNO and other charities we will continue to promote and raise awareness of the RNOC. To coincide with the publication of this report we will launch our new, Armed Forces Covenant funded, website; visitors to the site will find a wide range of advice and help available from the RNOC and other organisations.

For further information visit [rnoc.org.uk](http://rnoc.org.uk)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of the 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.

- Armed Forces Covenant
- Cazenove Capital Management
- Child & Co
- Greenwich Hospital
- MindWorks Marketing
- SAIL
- SSAFA
- The Officers' Association
- The RN&RM Children's Fund
- The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity
- The WRNS Benevolent Trust

### SUPPORTED BY



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. Designed and produced by MindWorks Marketing REF: 31109

## FIND OUT MORE

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