



RNOC
ROYAL NAVY
OFFICERS' CHARITY

IMPACT REPORT | 2019

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 the Charity's continued support to Serving and Retired Officers, together with thier families.

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 Naval Service and their families – at every stage of their lives and careers.



ADMIRAL SIR MARK STANHOPE GCB OBE DL, PRESIDENT

I am proud to remain the President of RNOC which continues to make an important contribution to meeting the needs of the serving and retired Naval Officers and their loved ones. One measure of our impact is the number and value of grants which continue to be maintained at a level in excess of £400,000.

Of equal importance but less readily measured in numbers is the manner in which we respond to applicants and operate in collaboration with others to deliver a properly validated and appropriate response to requests. The performance on all measures of the Charity, the Executive and the Trustees is very strong as you will see from this Impact Report.

SURGEON COMMODORE JIM SYKES FFOM ROYAL NAVY, CHAIRMAN

The RNOC operates, as we all do, in an increasingly complex environment. We are able to help Naval Service Officers and their families navigate more effectively through the systems and organisations that can help in their specific circumstances. This signposting and advice, alongside our ability to quickly respond to need for financial support, keeps us relevant to the diverse population that we are here to support.

Our sister organisation ARNO is also focused on developing and maintaining a network of social support and access to benefits of membership, and the sharing of resources allows the charity to operate very efficiently. Managing change while providing a sense of continuity is a balance that I see being achieved by the team through sensitive and imaginative leadership.



COMMANDER MICHAEL GOLDTHORPE BEM ROYAL NAVY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I have the honour to lead one of the oldest benevolence charities in the UK to meet the needs of our beneficiaries in the modern world. We see cases that are increasingly complex and must keep pace with evolving regulations and benefits structures. Some charities that we have partnered with in the past have become less active in our area, but we pride ourselves on being responsive, current and minimising bureaucracy to the extent that is consistent with proper governance.

At the core of our beneficiary population are the older retired officers and their dependants, but we have also been able to assist serving officers facing a range of unexpected challenges as well as those transitioning from the service or already in civilian life. In some cases information or a 'steer' is what is needed, but many benefit from our ability to provide financial support. We are always grateful for donations and legacies which allow us to continue our work.



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 transforms lives.



WE ARE THERE FOR THOSE SERVING...

An increasing number of serving personnel and their families come to us for practical support and we are always there to help. From assisting with bills and mortgage payments to reducing debt and helping with education costs, our responsive grants help with day-to-day living in real times of need.

“In times of uncertainty, the RNOC continues to provide an anchor of stability through outstanding, flexible and meaningful support, that directly and positively impacts the lives of serving and retired Officers. No-one ever anticipates they will be the ones needing help, but a significant number of us do, for a wide variety of reasons, find comfort in the assistance the Charity can provide. It is reassuring to know the RNOC stands ready to support us all.”



Rear Admiral Phil Hally MBE, Director People and Training & NAVSEC

SUPPORTING THE FAMILY

WE ARE THERE FOR THE RETIRED...

A high proportion of RNOC cases involve retired Officers, a small number of whom hold wartime or National Service commissions and, together with their widows, might be on low incomes. We help them, and their dependents, with everyday expenses and take away financial worries that cause unnecessary stress.

Sometimes just knowing that they can rely on our support provides the comfort and reassurance that they are not struggling alone.

“Assistance from the RNOC has meant absolutely everything to me – it has brought my life back. As my husband so rightly said, if you’re ever in trouble, contact the charity.”



OFFERING SUPPORT TO OVERCOME LIFE'S HURDLES



“The RNOC has made a significant and long term contribution to my recovery, thank you.”

FINDING PEACE ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Mountaineer Joe Winch conquered Everest, a lifelong ambition, as part of his recovery from acute Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. His illustrated article ‘The Longest Shadow’, a detailed account of his Everest expedition and how climbing helped his recovery process, was published in the ARNO Centenary Yearbook. Joe is grateful to the RNOC for supporting his recovery:

“Following my expedition to the Himalaya I returned much of the equipment I used on Everest to 65 Degrees North. Unfortunately this left me without the necessary kit to continue my climbing and mountaineering – activities that are far more than just adventurous sports to me, they are absolutely central to my ongoing recovery from Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Furthermore, the cost of replacing all this kit on my own was prohibitively expensive – meaning, quite simply, that I wouldn’t have been able to continue climbing at the level I was at.

So I am incredibly grateful to the Royal Navy Officers’ Charity for stepping in and providing me with the financial support that has allowed me to purchase all of the equipment I need to not only continue climbing and mountaineering, but also to build my qualifications, and to plan and lead my own adventures for other deserving people.”

"I just wanted to say how grateful we are for your amazingly generous offer and immediate payment of the cost of my father's cremation. This has been an incredibly emotional time, not least due to the worries my mother has had financially and your generous donation has taken a huge concern away from her. That is something we will always be thankful for."

GRANTS MADE IN 2019

Once again we awarded grants in excess of 400K.

To reflect our diverse range 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 adaptations and repairs, replacement of white goods, repayment of debts, end of life care and funeral arrangements.



EXAMPLES OF HOW OUR GRANTS WERE USED:

- Our one-off payments help with day-to-day practicalities of reducing debts, buying white goods and paying fuel bills.
- Our grants enable families to support their children through education.
- We help people buy equipment to support training and transition.
- The rise of dementia and Alzheimer's sufferers has seen an increase in care home support which we are always glad to provide.
- We have funded home adaptations, such as walk-in showers, and enabled many recipients to stay living independently for longer.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

We are not funded by any other charity and do not receive any government funding. The RNOC currently receives almost all of its income from investments. In addition we are extremely grateful to receive a number of donations and legacies. These come from a variety of sources including the collection tin at FNS Barbers, the small regular monthly payments, church collections, sponsorships and gifts in memory of loved ones.

Whatever the frequency or amount – thank you very much. By giving to the Royal Navy Officers' Charity, you can help us support 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 through the website.

LOOKING AHEAD

We want to maximise our reach by engaging with more people. Working alongside our partner organisation ARNO and other charities, we will continue to promote and raise awareness of our support services. We use regular e-newsletters and social media to publicise our work, while our website offers a range of advice and help available from the RNOC and other related organisations. See rnoc.org.uk

Help us help the Royal Navy Officer family – all donations, large or small, are most welcome and will have a lasting impact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees of the RNOC are extremely grateful to all of 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 many applications for assistance. We are grateful for your ongoing support.

- Cazenove Capital Management
- Naval Children's Charity
- MindWorks Marketing
- Child & Co
- SAIL

SUPPORTED BY:



VICE-PRESIDENT

Paul Bennett

TRUSTEES

Wayland Austin, Funmi Chirnside, Bob Grainger, Graham Hockley, Ben Hughes, Eunice Marland, Annette Picton, Martin Poll

The Royal Navy Officers' Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 207405). Registered office as below. 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.

FIND OUT MORE

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