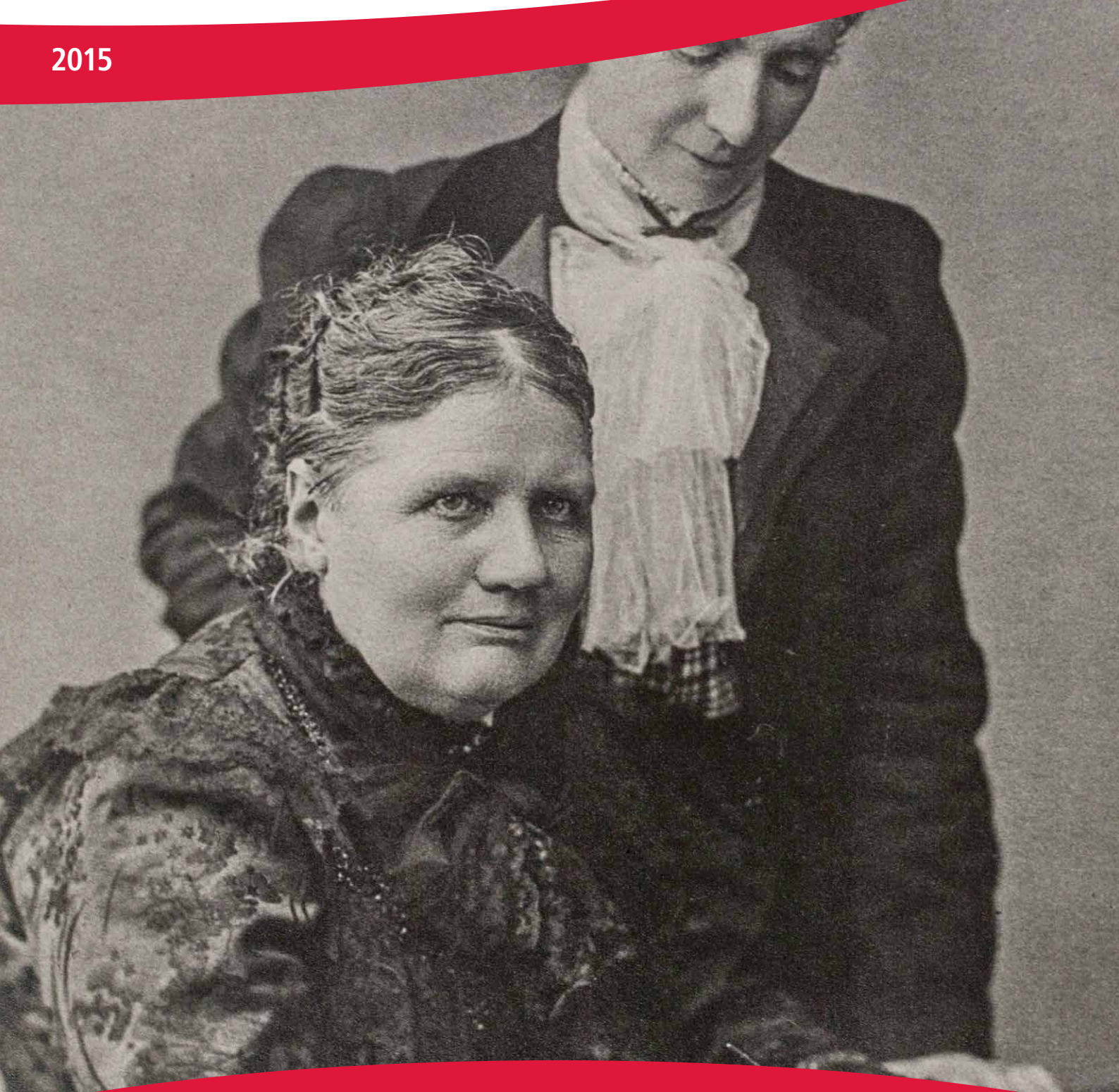


MAKING *A* DIFFERENCE


Aggies

2015



For the Glory of God and the Good of the Service



Dame Agnes Weston's
Royal Sailors' Rests
(Generally known as Aggie's)

Registered Charity No 238748
Scottish Charity No SCO39718

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PATRONS

Her Majesty the Queen
Ministry of Defence

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Lt Cdr Paul Nelson RN

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The Revd Simon Springett MA RNR



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In 1895 Queen Victoria bestowed the title of "Royal" upon Agnes Weston's work; confirming the decision by Royal Warrant, and graciously saying "that it was a fitting title for a Royal work". Aggie's is proud to retain Royal patronage to this day.

The patronage of the Ministry of Defence is a second singular honour for the Charity: its roots going back

to Admiral Sir William King Hall who in 1873 gave permission for Agnes to arrange events on board ship; remarking: "Don't be afraid to let Miss Weston come on board". Agnes recalled later that "Captain Wilson of HMS Impregnable, who had won the Victoria Cross, was characteristically the first to allow me on board".

"The glory of God" said St Irenaeus, "is a person fully alive; and the life of a person is the vision of God".

I wonder if this quote was in Agnes Weston's mind when she coined our motto: "For the Glory of God and the Good of the Service". Certainly her goal – and ours as we seek to continue her work – was to see the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and their families, enjoying "life in all its fullness", to quote Jesus' expression of the impact his life and death makes possible.

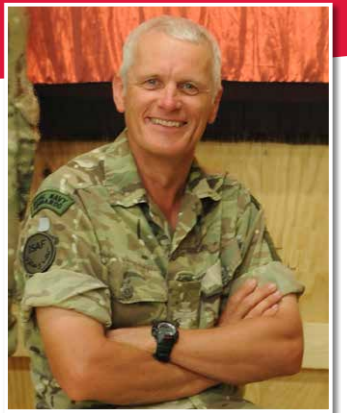
It is therefore not only with great pleasure but also with genuine pride in all of our dedicated and hard working staff that I present this brief showcase demonstrating just some of the impact of the charity's work. Agnes set up her first Rest because the Bluejackets and their families had real needs, and because she could make a difference. The Rests were phenomenally successful – and as the needs changed, she was always ready to introduce new strands of the work; new expressions of her faith. These quiet and practical developments were shot through with the golden cord of Christ-inspired love: a savings bank; support for Naval widows; temperance and Bible work; warm clothing and Christmas puddings for those fighting in the Boer War. In her autobiography she quotes with evident approval a saying of Admiral Lord Nelson: "My ships are changed; my guns are changed, but the spirit of my men remains the same". Always there was an effect: lives enhanced and improved.

In part this is a thank you letter to Her Majesty the Queen and the Ministry of Defence as our Patrons. It aims also to demonstrate to our partners and supporters the good use we have made of the money, time, resource and energy they have so generously given to us. But we also seek to measure

and express the impact of our work because by doing so we can further improve our practice. Our accounts, which can be read online at the Charity Commission website, tell the numbers, but important as the numbers are they tell only a part of it. It is said that a picture tells a thousand words; and even a few words can suffice to tell a great story; so over the following pages we tell, in both image and word, the narrative of our response to the needs of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and their families, today. From bacon rolls to Braeholm lunches; holiday clubs to Haven cafes; Alpha courses to picnics; Montage Mondays in Plymouth to the many bedtime stories recorded in establishments and in ships worldwide: the story is written in lives changed for good. I pray that these pages give you a vision of the results: happier families; more confident sailors and thoroughly cared for Royal Marines, all, in those words of Saint Irenaeus, "fully alive".

On behalf of the Trustees and staff, I offer you my deepest thanks for your support, and my prayers that God will bless you through these pages.

The Revd Simon Springett MA RNR
CEO



Who we have helped....

3738 3738 people helped by Pastoral Workers, Champions and the Ark Project

1029 1029 families helped by our staff and projects

9592 9592 people used Braeholm either as accommodation or as a coffee shop



Ministry
of Defence

How we help...



Cosy Coffee

"Without Cosy the 3-4 month deployments would be very difficult. I feel like I can come here and receive some much needed support, a shoulder to cry on or someone to listen to my problems. The whole pastoral team are a huge help and are always there when we need them."



"As a serving member of the RN I find comfort knowing that my family has somewhere to go and that there is someone ready to chat who understands the issues we as Armed Forces families face, even if it is a sensitive issue."



Montage Mondays, Plymouth

"A massive thank you to Aggie's for the funding for the craft materials: it has enabled us to reach out to other service spouses without being burdened with how we are going to fund it. Victoria's help with getting the centre booked out and her support to those on the course is really valued. To be honest, without Aggie's this course wouldn't be happening."



CTCRM

"The support of the staff is incredibly helpful, they provide and maintain an essential safe haven away from the hectic and stressful times in training. For me personally I would have struggled without them as I have spent many months in Hunter Troop recovering [from injury]." Recruit in final stages of training.

"You have been my lifeline, Thank you."



Champions

"Gets me out the house and socialising: I meet loads of people from the community. My oldest son enjoyed Champions holiday club and staff are warm and welcoming, and you always get offered a cup of tea when you come in, snacks are good for the children and the cakes are good for the adults!" From a Navy Mum in Rowner Gosport.



RNAS Culdrose

"My family and I would really like to thank you greatly for your kindness and presence in our time of need. You have been a great remedy towards our time of healing."



The Ark, Plymouth

"I managed to achieve both levels 1 and 2 in Maths and English all because of the fantastic work that Jenn and Lorna do. Jenn helped me to achieve my level 2 in Children's and Young People's Work and Paediatric First Aid, which also led to me becoming a Childminder. I am thankful to Jenn, Lorna and the Ark Project."

"They've shown me friendship, given me support, introduced me to new skills and given me confidence in myself and that is priceless. It is a very special place to me."



HMS Nelson

"I have felt so much better talking with you and can see things clearer now."



HMS Sultan

"Monday morning 'stand-easy' is 'bacon-butties-in-the-Haven' morning. The objective of providing bacon rolls is to raise awareness of the Haven and to make some money for charity. We now have an average production of about 120 -140 bacon rolls. We give between £300 - 400 a term to a variety of charities."

"The Haven provides a sanctuary of peace and fun - a different kind of downtime to the mess deck. It's the little things that make the difference, on an emotional level - just having a good mug of tea and sitting on a sofa is an amazing feeling!

"Without this facility and its staff the students and DOs would lose a very valuable resource thus increasing daily stresses and more seriously affecting the greater pastoral care."



Braeholm

Aggie's Breakaway

"Had a ball. Definitely a forever memory."

"We can't thank you all enough for a fab weekend, Gary's cooking was amazing, the company was wonderful and you two do such a fabulous job, we enjoyed every moment of it. The kids can't wait to go again they had such a lovely time, and thank you for being

so helpful with our son he really enjoyed his holiday and talked about you all the way home."

Comment received after Gary and Jan hosted an Aggie's breakaway for RN families in a bunkhouse outside Aviemore, owned by the Royal Navy. For some of the families, because of their significant ill health, this was their only chance to get away and they took full advantage of the fun on offer.



Storybook Waves

Total number of recordings made for the year ending 30th March 2015 = **344**

Number of Volunteer Editors = **11**

There are **6** deployed recording kits on board ships and in Oman. The plan is for the number of deployed kits to increase in the forthcoming year.

Quotes from Service Users:

"Storybook Waves is absolutely fantastic, could not fault it."

"I cannot fault Storybook Waves, and the care received was second to none."

"It is a really good initiative."

"A fantastic Charity that has helped my child cope with the separation from her dad who she is missing a great deal!"

"Storybook Waves has been brilliant, it has helped my son when he wouldn't speak on the phone. I am so glad that Storybook Waves were able to help ease a deployment. We have used the CD lots and will continue to do so with upcoming sea trials."

There are currently **10** locations across the British Isles where you can record your story. For further information contact Kathryn Hearn on **0300 30 20 183** or email kathryn@storybookwaves.org

83% of service users said they felt that Storybook Waves would help their child to remember them.

76% said that would recommend Storybook Waves to a friend or colleague.

68% said that Storybook Waves helped their child to remember them.



Where the Royal Navy and Royal Marines work...
... we make a difference!



Thank you...

All this would not be possible without the generosity and commitment of our supporters and partners.

Thank you **Donations, grants and legacies**

Thank you! In 2014/15 we received £348,000 in donations, from individuals and Trusts; grants and legacies.

Thank you **Facilities and equipment**

Thank you! For providing free or reduced cost use of facilities and equipment.

Thank you **Time and prayers**

Thank you! For the time and energy given to volunteer, and for the vital work done by all who pray for Aggie's.

Thank you **Words of encouragement**

Thank you! For messages of encouragement and support: 'It is always a pleasure to see Aggie's is still doing for the Sailors and their families what I found a help in Devonport Barracks in 1945 – May you prosper'.....
'May the Lord continue to bless you and your fellow workers in all you do for him and for others during 2015'.

We are all of one heart and of one soul, and we know how "to haul upon one rope."

Agnes Weston, 1912



Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity: generous support to specific projects and activities, including grants towards the running of Braeholm, our families centre in Helensburgh; books to support Storybook Waves; and Champions, our community based project on the Rowner estate in Gosport.



The Royal Marines Charitable Trust Fund: enabling a Pastoral Worker to support families in the Lymstone area.



Greenwich Hospital

Greenwich Hospital: generously providing funding for a member of staff to assist us in measuring the impact both of the Armed Forces Coordinators project and of our work generally; thus helping us further to improve practice.



Reading Force: strategic partners enhancing the impact of Storybook Waves through books, reading together and scrapbooking.



The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Children's Fund: supporting the Ark project in Plymouth.

The Privy Purse Charitable Trust

The Scouloudi Foundation: generous support towards our work.

Asda, Gosport: support from the store's "Community Life" fund.



The Royal Naval Chaplaincy Service: strategic partner in delivering Pastoral Workers to work within Chaplaincy teams at Royal Navy and Royal Marines' establishments.

Saint Bartholomew's: The Fleet Air Arm Memorial Church.

The Chaplaincy, HM Naval Base, Devonport: 'Bish's Bucket' foreign currency donations.

St Ann's Church, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth.

The Methodist Forces Board: strategic partners resourcing Pastoral Workers at HMS SULTAN.

St Mary's Church, Rowner: strategic partner enabling us to deliver Champions activities with children, young people and adults.

Alverstoke Evangelical Church: financial and other support to Champions.



Alpha: providing Military Alpha's well established videos and booklets for the Alpha groups in Faslane and Devonport in local Aggie's and Chaplaincy partnerships.

Christianity Explored: Innovative Bible based study materials helping Royal Marines to develop spiritual faith at Lymstone in a local Aggie's and Chaplaincy partnership.

The Naval Christian Fellowship: working together to deploy the Christian magazines *Sorted* and *Liberty* to the Royal Navy and Royal Marines.

Naval, Military & Air Force Bible Society: working together to distribute Bibles to sailors & Royal Marines.