



## **WORLD SHIP SOCIETY BRANCH SECRETARIES BRIEFING March 2024**

*Branch Secretaries are requested to ensure that all members of their Branch are made aware of the content of this briefing.*

Key points arising from the Council meeting held on 16 March 2024 were:

### 1. Branch Information

Branches are again reminded to advise Jimmy Poole, General Secretary, and James Knowles, Webmaster, of any changes to Branch Officers, or to meeting arrangements, for inclusion in Marine News and on the Society's website.

### 2. Subscriptions

Following much discussion during March and April the Council will recommend for approval at the AGM that the annual subscription should be increased from £23 to £25 with effect from January 2025. This will be only the third increase in a period of ten years and will mean that the subscription for 2025 will be only £1 higher than that for 2015. Council will also recommend that the additional annual subscription for the paper copy of Marine News be increased by £2 to £59 for UK recipients and £72 elsewhere, the first increase in four years.

### 3. Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will be held over the weekend of 17 - 19 May at the King Charles Hotel, Brompton Road, Chatham. In view of the declining support for the Sunday harbour or river trip over the past few years and the associated financial loss the formal business of the weekend will conclude with the annual dinner on the evening of Saturday 18 May.

### 4. Website

Work on development of our website is currently focused on enabling new members to join directly from the website, to supplement the current ability to renew memberships through the website.

### 5. eBay Sales

Our ambition to test the sale of second-hand books from the Chatham Archive and Library remains but is paused until a volunteer to manage the activity can be found. If you feel that you could take on this task, please contact Roy Fenton.

### 6. Volunteers

Volunteers remain urgently required to support many of the Society's activities, in particular activities at Chatham, the WSPL and the Publications Committee where a volunteer to take on a managing editor role is urgently required. If you feel that you could contribute, please contact the appropriate Society officer, or any member of Council.

### 7. Social Media

The WSS Facebook page now has over 800 followers. WSS Members who use Facebook, or other platforms such as Instagram, are encouraged to view the Society's presence, and to encourage others who have an interest in ships and shipping to do likewise.