

# ASHORE & AFLOAT

Autumn 2022



Faithfully Alongside the Naval Family



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**Pictured: The State Gun Carriage, which was pulled by 142 Naval Ratings carrying the coffin of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II moves along the Procession route, up Constitution Hill.**

The UK Armed Forces have played a part in the procession for Her Majesty The Queen's funeral and committal service in London and Windsor.

Marking the end to 10 days of proceedings, service personnel representing a variety of regiments, ships and air stations that held a special relationship with Her Majesty The Queen took part in the funeral processions in London and Windsor.

Around 4,000 regular and reserve soldiers, sailors, marines and aviators, as well as musicians from Armed Forces bands, took part in the proceedings. This included over 3,000 military personnel in central London, with 1,650 personnel forming part of the procession from the Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey and the procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch.

In Windsor, over 1,000 military personnel were involved in ceremonial activity, including 410 taking part in the procession from Albert Road, Windsor, to St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.

**Dame Agnes Weston's Royal Charity for the Naval Service**

Generally known as *Aggie's*  
Company No. 11114651 • Charity No. 1176596

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Kathryn Hearn

**Cover Photo**

Aggie's Family pastoral workers Karina Golledge and Niki Burge with beneficiaires from the Community Waves Portsmouth project enjoying a walk in 100acre wood.

# Trustee Reflection *by* Carole Backhouse – Trustee

Currently, people are just so worried by the many uncertainties and challenges happening all around them. From the war in Ukraine, COVID, the cost-of-living crisis, fuel crisis and the end of an era with the death of our Patron HM Queen Elizabeth. So, with all this turmoil there is an even greater need for a friendly face and a listening ear provided by our Pastoral Workers and volunteers.

Chatting to one sailor, he told me that they were seeking community and also that the car parks on base were now much fuller at the weekends due to the rising cost of fuel. Just like when the sailors from the gunboat HMS DRYAD asked Dame Agnes for somewhere to go that did not have alcohol in 1874, we are now finding that many trainees are asking for 'Aggie's' to be open in the evenings and particularly at weekends as an alternative venue to the bars.

As Trustees, we seek to follow what we feel God is saying to us with regard to the direction of Aggie's, especially in the area of creating new Pastoral Worker posts where there are unmet needs. Dame Agnes was always seeking to do the 'next great thing.' She always looked for new opportunities and sought God's direction in all that she did. As Paul writes to the Galatians 'Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' (Galatians 6 v9)

It is a joy to be involved as a volunteer Pastoral Worker with Alpha at HMS COLLINGWOOD, along with the Chaplain and Pastoral Workers. The Phase 2 trainees' interest in matters of faith and the bigger questions of life, has been sparked by the wonderful job that the Chaplains and Pastoral Workers at HMS RALEIGH are doing while they are in Phase 1 Training. They really do enjoy a good discussion, not to mention the homemade food!

For anyone who has not read Dame Agnes Weston's autobiography 'My Life Among the Blue Jackets,' it is a great read and is the motivation for all that we do today as a Charity. Although the world has changed so much, her original vision is still relevant.

It has been a privilege to have been involved with Aggie's for so many years, first as a Wren beneficiary where my own faith was born, then as a naval wife and now as a Trustee for over 10 years.



# New Starters

## Racheal McHugh – Communications Administrator

Racheal joined the Castaway House Team in September. She is working with the Storybook Waves project and assisting the Communications Manager for 18 hours a week. She recently moved to Hampshire with her Royal Marine husband, two children, one fluffy dog and two cats.



Racheal has previously worked as a secretary for the NHS and a PA for the National Probation Service before taking time out to have her children and travel abroad. In her spare time, she enjoys long walks in the countryside, seaside strolls and learning to play the piano.

## Caroline Raeburn – Operations & HR Administrator

Caroline joined Aggie's in August 2022 after 3 years accompanying her RN husband on a posting in the Netherlands and, before that, 20 years in various roles in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.



She provides 16 hours per week of admin support to the Ops and HR Manager.

Outside of work Caroline has a great interest in crime fiction (and literature in general), attending author and publishing events as well as assisting a team of literary agents with sifting and proofing manuscript submissions.

## Jane Trethewey – Pastoral Worker – CTCRM

Jane Trethewey began working for Aggie's as a Pastoral Worker after the summer leave at CTC RM Lympstone and has loved the last month getting to know the Chaplaincy team, her Aggie's colleagues, some of the great guys who are training and working on the base... and even the Aggie's Gruffalo.



After a career working with a local council as a Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages, Jane moved to Devon and has spent the last 8 years working in a mix of voluntary and paid roles, alongside students, with a project to help people recovering from addiction. More recently Jane participated in promoting awareness of good Mental Health support within a Church context - something she feels passionate about. Her family, originally from Exmouth, have a strong connection with the military and both grandfathers and two uncles were based there as Royal Marines.

In her spare time Jane loves to be active, on two wheels if possible, either on her electric bike or on the back of her husband Ivan's motorbike and enjoys swimming and having fun with her two granddaughters. Over the pandemic she was able to pursue a love of painting. She considers herself, however, very much a beginner and paintings remain locked away in a shed in the garden.

Jane is excited about her new role at Lympstone. She says, 'I am loving meeting and building relationships with the recruits and feel so blessed that God can use me to encourage and support them through what might be the toughest challenge of their lives so far. The team here are awesome too!'

## Nikki Burge – Family Pastoral Worker – Aggie's Community Waves Portsmouth

Nikki grew up in Liverpool before moving to Oxfordshire to teach Business Studies, Economics, and ICT. As a former Senior Leader of pupil wellbeing, Nikki is no stranger to pastoral care and offering a helping hand. Nikki is proud to have taught in Quimper, Paris and Jinja, and enjoys travelling and meeting new people.



Being married to a sailor and as a mum to four boys, Nikki understands the challenges of naval life and strives to make a difference via her passion for uplifting the local community and bringing positivity. Nikki has previously been a volunteer at RN FPS, Hampshire Food Revolution, and her local church and school, and is a current volunteer editor for Storybook Waves; an Aggie's project about which Nikki is passionate.

With a penchant for being outdoors, Nikki spends her free time exploring the local area with her children and enjoys baking, looking after her dogs, cats, guinea pigs and tortoise and just having a decent cup of coffee!

## Jane Lamb – Family Pastoral Worker – Aggie's Community Waves Portsmouth

Jane grew up near Portsmouth and has been living in and around the area her entire life meaning she knows it well. This allows her to be able to offer advice to families who are new to the area.



She is a Navy spouse with two young children, living in SFA, so can relate to the difficulties Navy life can bring and is always on hand to listen and support.

Jane first came across Aggie's in 2018 while trying to create a community on her patch and get some groups running in the area. She successfully set up a weekly group at Highslopes and has held a variety of larger events voluntarily for RN FPS. Jane began volunteering with Aggie's in January 2021 and has continued to be involved with the group at Highslopes along with a variety of other community events.

# This is what we have done

## HMS Drake – HMNB Devonport

The Aggie's team at HMS Drake relaunched the Chaplaincy Haven in early October with a big bacon stand, smoothies, a Movie Night, a Call of Duty tournament, CAP Money Course taster and a chaplaincy pop in across the week. The team were exceptionally pleased with the turn out from serving personnel on the base and we are looking forward to the new timetable of events that is now in place across the week.



## Aggie's community Waves Portsmouth

What a summer it has been for the Portsmouth Community Waves team. With Katie White at the helm, we welcomed Jane Lamb and Nikki Burge as our new Families Pastoral Workers and together with old hands, Karina Gollidge and Elaine Davis, the team have taken Portsmouth and the surrounding areas by storm! The summer was busy with Families Days, Pop ups in the park and an array of super delicious picnics, as well as a wonderful woodland walk with den building. There were glitter tattoo and face paint galore at the Stansted House Summer Jamboree and at our Pirate themed Summer Spectacular, where we were pleased that no one had to walk the plank. Aaarrrghhhh, me hearties!

Katie is incredibly proud to lead the 'Pompey Military Kids' (PMK) scheme, and together with Chief Petty Officer Helen Richardson, the annual PMK school sports day was held at HMS Temeraire, with our ever-fantastic CEO, Chris New, getting in on the action and leading the kids with their star jumps! It was brilliant to be able to hand out trophies to those who encompassed what we were looking for in our 'PMK Sportsperson 2022': perseverance, hard work, good attitude, and all-round team player.

The team are now proud to have launched their smashing new autumn programme across the Portsmouth, Fareham and Gosport area, which includes: Rhyme Time at four different centres; a lovely Walk and Talk along the beach front; a 'Get Active with Aggie's' Couch to 5k running group with our exclusive run coach, Anna Gordon; a 'Waggies with Aggie's' dog walking group; and the ever popular 'Get OWT', which is an outdoor craft and activities group where we let nature nurture little ones. Our wonderful Families Pastoral Workers also support the RN FPS Chill & Chat sessions at Peak Lane, Phoenix and Crossley for those families who may need a chat or some additional support and we are super excited to not only support the Sultan Aggie's team with an After School Club weekly at Crossley, with Book Club once a month, but to now establish a second Community Waves After School Club at Ranvilles Junior School, open to all RN, RM and RFA families.

Hold on to your hats though, as there is yet more fun coming up. Follow our socials for information on our Scarecrow Trail, Light Party, Get OWT@ Stansted Special, Aggie's Butties on Patch, Lantern Remembrance Walk and we feel it is not too early to mention our evening Christmas Wreath Making Workshops. Yes, Pompey! Let us be havin' ya! Come and join in with the fun; we would LOVE to see you all there.



## HMS Sultan

### Andy's Man Club -

When Aggie's Pastoral Workers Becky and Steve from HMS Sultan met with the Andy's Man Club team during Mental Health Awareness week in 2021, they were so impressed with the group, their ethos and down to earth approach to mental health, they decided that HMS Sultan needed more of the Andy's Man Club. After a number of conversations and emails the team arranged for Andy's Man Club to join Aggie's at the Haven at the beginning of October. Andy's Man Club is a talking group that offers a safe space for men to talk about their issues. The group is run by men for men, with many of the facilitators having experienced mental health issues. The event was a remarkable success, and the team will be back at HMS Sultan in November.



### Head Office – ERS

CEO, Chris New and Communications Manager Kathryn Hearn recently attended the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Employer Recognition Scheme awards evening. Kathryn was delighted to receive the Re-Validation of Aggie's Silver status from the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire on behalf of all Aggie's Staff, Volunteers and Trustees.

## HMS Nelson

Ratings from Portsmouth Naval Base, along with Aggie's Pastoral Worker Paul Jackson who is a volunteer for the Commonwealth Graves Commission (CWGC), assisted with a muster of war graves in Gosport. The task included cataloguing scattered graves and taking photos of defects for later action by the CWGC. It was an ideal occasion to get Sailors out in the fresh air and exchanging conversations as well as providing a service to the Community.

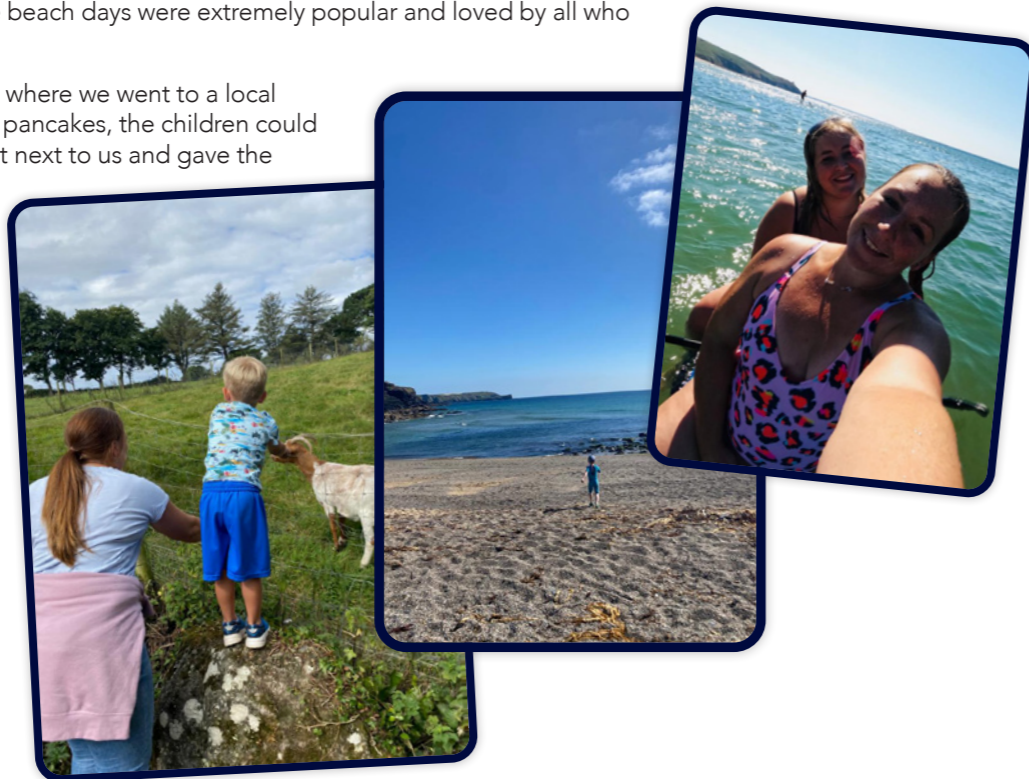


## RNAS Culdrose

Well, what a summer! We have been so remarkably busy this summer. Lots of fun days out, my favourite being the beach days. So lovely to see families come together, have fun, and talk through what is going on in their lives and everyone supporting them. The beach days were extremely popular and loved by all who came.

We also did pancake mornings, where we went to a local pancake barn and ate delicious pancakes, the children could play safely on the play area right next to us and gave the parents a chance to chat and come together and again support one another.

The days out this summer have built relationships with other military personnel and the families, they have given them an informal space to speak to me and have pastoral conversations and have made people feel like they are a part of something.



## Arbroath

There were lots of happy faces as The Storybook Waves Book Club returned to the Haven at RM Condor in October. Kicking off with 'Giraffes Can't Dance' the children had great fun making giraffe masks and checking out each other's dance moves! October also saw the return of Aggie's Butties. These two events, along with Coffee Afternoon, Wednesday Wiggles, and the all new Waggle Walk with Pastoral Worker Seonid and her puppy Aggie, will ensure that families stationed in RM Condor will be entertained across the week.



## Worthy Down – Pamper evening

Chloe Sheppard, Aggie's Pastoral Worker at Worthy Down, put her feet up on the job this month! But all for a good reason. Chloe hosted a 'Girls Pamper Night' and invited some of the students to stop and relax from the busyness of the day. It was a wonderful opportunity for the students to get to know each other and Chloe. They had a great pamper, played soca music, which they missed from their West Indian home, and had chocolate treats and Hot chocolate.

## Aggie's Community Waves Plymouth - Aggie's Summer adventures

Across the summer months we enjoyed a selection of 'Aggie's Adventures' sessions at various locations with survival skills, sunshine, sandwiches, and sandcastles. Walks included beaches, woodlands and sandcastles. Walks included beaches, woodlands and crossing the Tamar Bridge from Devon into Cornwall, learning some interesting history and facts. Walks are a wonderful way to relax and chat whilst taking in the scenery and fresh air and making new friends.

The Craft and Sewing sessions produced a variety of handmade items including clothing, patchwork projects, charity fundraiser items supporting various charities close to our hearts, glass engraving and mandala pebble painting.

We had great fun on the water when we took part in Plymouth's Big-Blue Splash with an introduction to sailing day in Plymouth Sound.

We always welcome new participants, please get in touch if you would like to join us.

## Norton Manor – summer sports camp

Earlier in the year Aggie's Pastoral Worker Rachel O'Malley saw a need for a summer sports camp for school aged children at Norton Manor. Rachel applied for a grant with the Naval Children's Charity, launched and administered the two-week camp ensuring that every child had a fantastic time. The camp went down well with all involved. Here is what some parents them had to say:

*Summer kids club has been fantastic - the kids have loved it! And financially with Dad working away it has meant I have been able to work. Also, just for the kids to mix with other military families and make friends is so important. Thank you so much.*

*It has been brilliant and an extremely helpful Summer Camp. It has helped me very much during the last week of summer. Would like to see more camps in the future.*



# Our Patron – HMTQ

When expressing his condolences to the people of the United Kingdom, President Macron of France said "To you, she was YOUR Queen. To us, she was THE Queen." Her Majesty was unique: admired, respected, and revered the world over, even in countries which are not politically aligned with the UK. It has been an indescribable honour, therefore, to have had Her Majesty as our Patron for the last 70 years, nearly half the existence of our charity. As the daughter, wife, and mother of three serving naval officers, she was unusually qualified to appreciate the value of what Aggie Weston's has to offer.

The Royal connection dates to 1890. Following the sinking of HMS EURYDICE in 1878, Aggie set up a disaster relief fund for the families of those who were lost. This catastrophe was followed in 1890 by the loss of HMS SERPENT after she hit a reef and sank off the coast of Spain with the loss of all but 3 of the 176 crew onboard. As a result of this event the EURYDICE fund grew into an enduring disaster relief fund which would go on the help the families of many sailors who died in the course of their duty. The Chair of the fund was the CINC Devonport, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. He asked both Aggie and Sophia Wintz, her business partner, to be members of the committee that would distribute the funds. The Duke became a very vocal supporter of Aggie's work and, at the Naval Exhibition in London in 1892 where Aggie was running a Sailors Rest exhibit, he introduced her to The Queen. Her Majesty was, not surprisingly, hugely impressed by what she saw and issued the Royal Warrant which made the charity the Royal Sailors Rest.

Following the death of Queen Victoria, Edward VII continued the Royal patronage of the charity, as did successive monarchs, including Queen Elizabeth II.

Queen Elizabeth's life did not overlap that of Aggie Weston's. Had it done so, I suspect they would have been great friends. In her famous speech made in Cape Town, aged twenty-one, The Queen said, "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong." Aggie might have said the same when she, along with Sophia Wintz, agreed to open the first Sailors Rest in Devonport in the full knowledge that

this would be a life's work leaving no capacity for any other future. Aggie, like Her Majesty, committed her life to the service of others and died "in harness" having never retired.

Her Majesty, talking about courage, said a "golden thread of courage has no end." This reminds me of one of Aggie's famous quotes: "And so my work is, to say the least, varied and in the spirit of love and, I hope, common sense runs through it like a thread of gold." A "Spirit of love," "common sense" – these are things of which Her Majesty would surely have approved.

We know of only one occasion when Her Majesty The Queen visited a Royal Sailors Rest, which was in 1962 when she was the guest of Rear Admiral Horace Law (as he was at the time) at the Portsmouth RSR. The charity has, however, maintained regular correspondence with the Palace, sending copies of Making A Difference, writing letters of congratulations and condolence, and always receiving a swift and hugely appreciative reply. Her Majesty has always been included in our monthly cycle of prayer, as will King Charles III.

Her Majesty role modelled the Core Values of the Royal Navy as well as anyone I can think of: Courage; commitment; discipline; respect for others; integrity; loyalty. She also role modelled the Fruit of the Spirit, captured in Galatians 5 verses 22 and 23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." In every way Her Majesty set us the example of what good looks like, but she was the first to admit she could not have done it on her own. It was her Christian faith that enabled her to become the person she became, to serve so selflessly, and to become so admired.

Following her death, one small bear seemed to appear on our televisions as often as anyone else. He captured the mood of the nation perfectly when, following a memorable afternoon tea, he said "Thank you... for everything."

**May Her Majesty rest in peace and rise in glory.**



On arrival at the Royal Sailors' Rest in Albert Road the Lord Mayor will ask leave to present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Rear Admiral H. R. Law, O.B.E., D.S.C., the Chairman of Trustees. Rear Admiral Law will ask leave to present trustees and officers of the Royal Sailors' Rests.

Rear Admiral Law will present to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness:

*Trustees:* Commander L. H. Stileman, R.N.  
Mrs. Bernard Curry, M.B.E.  
Commander A. B. M. Fairbairn, R.N. (and Mrs. Fairbairn)  
Miss L. K. Flynn  
Lieut. D. Wright, R.N.


*General Secretary:* Lieut. Comdr. F. M. Savage, F.C.C.S., R.N. (and Mrs. Savage)

*Treasurer:* Lieut. A. G. Miller, M.B.E., R.N. (and Mrs. Miller)

*Lady Superintendents:* Miss E. M. Carr  
Miss M. R. Billing

*Architect:* Mr. A. C. Luxton, A.R.I.B.A. (and Mrs. Luxton)

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will then visit the Royal Sailors' Rest, visiting the Restaurant, Television room, bedrooms, Main Hall, Small Hall, Billiards' room, and Reception and will leave the Rest at 3.15 p.m.

  
 BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Over the years, I have watched with interest as Dame Agnes Weston's Royal Charity for the Naval Service has evolved to meet the unique and ever-changing needs of the naval community across the United Kingdom.

Having been a naval daughter, wife and mother myself, I know that life can be challenging not only for those serving but for those left at home. The need for pastoral guidance and practical support continues to be as important as when Queen Victoria bestowed the title 'Royal' on the Charity in 1892.

As your Patron, I have pleasure in offering my good wishes and continued support to all concerned with the work of Aggie Weston's.

ELIZABETH R.



# Christmas Cards and Christian Gifts that assist our ministry

Once again this year we shall benefit from the sale of Christmas cards and the other cards and gifts available from Gospel Cards, etc.

20% of their Christmas card sales and 5% of the sale of other items will be given to 25 Christian missions including Aggie Weston's. (To date, we and other societies have received over £360,000 in this way.)

Produced to a very high standard, the calendars, books, etc. make excellent gifts for children and adults; while the cards are perfect for sending to Christians and non-Christian family and friends.

Please see the enclosed catalogue for details, and please remember to circle our name if you place an order – thank you.

Full details of the cards, etc. are on their website [www.GospelCardsEtc.com](http://www.GospelCardsEtc.com)



## Our donors



## Our supporters



## Thanks to BAE Systems

Thanks to a generous donation from BAE Systems Aggie Weston's has been able to increase the pastoral hours available to the Aggie's Community Waves team in Portsmouth, by increasing the hours worked by Jane Lamb and Nikki Burge.

Nikki works in the Fareham area providing support to families through events such as Rhyme Time, Gaet OWT and Active with Aggie's and Jane works in the north of Portsmouth in the Highslopes community centre supporting families at the local coffee morning and Rhyme Time event for young families.



Aggie's continues to be blessed by the continued financial support of the organisations that provide our grants and the generosity of our donors and supporters who have faithfully given us both money and prayer in support of our work.

**Thank you!**



Aggie's is a Christian charity that has been serving the Royal Navy since 1876. It bears the name of its founder, Dame Agnes Weston, who set up the charity to provide support and comfort to the Royal Navy through the provision of Royal Sailor's Rests in Dockyard areas. Although the Rests have now gone, our Pastoral Workers continue to abide by the principal established by Aggie, namely, to demonstrate the Love of God to all members of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and their families by providing help and pastoral support without judgement or prejudice.



*"For the Glory of God and the Good of the Service"*

If you would like to learn, more about the work of Aggie Weston's and how you can support us, either by donating, volunteering, or remembering us in your will please visit our website at [aggies.org.uk](http://aggies.org.uk) or contact our central office on 023 9265 0505.