



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

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

Key points arising from the Council meeting held on 15 June 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. Branch Notes

The transfer of the production of Branch Notes to Gerolf Drebes in Germany proceeded smoothly and Gerolf is now fully established in the role. Branch Secretaries are reminded of the 100-word limit on Branch Notes published in Marine News, but also reminded that it is possible to place longer, more detailed notes on the Members' Area of the Society's website.

### 3. Annual General Meeting

The 2025 AGM will be held during May, in Torquay, and it is hoped that it will be possible to organise a harbour trip at Plymouth on the Sunday. The exact date, and further details, will be announced in Marine News once the arrangements have been finalised. To confirm the viability of a harbour cruise and to simplify the work of volunteers arranging the meeting, those minded to attend are urged to let the organisers know as soon as possible after the date is announced.

### 4. Marine News and Supplement

Later this year we intend to carry out a trial of splitting the distribution of Marine News and the monthly Supplement into two Mailchimp mailings, with Marine News, as now, being distributed at the beginning of

the month and the Supplement following a couple of weeks later.

### 5. Website

The highest priority for development of our website remains making provision for prospective new members to join directly online using the App on the WSS website, and it is hoped that this functionality will become available during the second half of this year.

### 6. eBay Sales

We still aim to test the sale of second-hand books from the Chatham Archive and Library using eBay, but the trial cannot proceed until a volunteer to manage the activity can be found. If any member thinks that they could take on this task, please contact Roy Fenton.

### 7. Volunteers

Volunteers remain urgently required to support the Society's activities, in particular activities at Chatham, the WSPL and the Publications Committee (see more details on publications in the July edition of Marine News). If any member thinks that they could contribute to any of these activities, please contact the appropriate Society officer, or any member of Council.

### 8. Honorary General Secretary

After over three decades in post Jimmy Poole announced, at this year's AGM, that he intends to retire from the role at next year's AGM. If any member feels they they could take the baton from Jimmy and fill this important role, they should consider putting their name forward.

### 9. Social Media

The WSS Facebook page now has over 900 followers. WSS Members who use Facebook are encouraged to view the Society's presence, and to encourage others who have an interest in ships and shipping to do likewise.