MERCHANT NAVY DAY 2007

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED or CONNECTED TO THE MERCHANT NAVY, AND OTHERS.

Further to my communication of the 27th January regarding the 2007 Merchant Navy Day service it has been decided to hold the service again in the Marple Memorial Park on Sunday the 2nd September. Meeting at 2-00pm, with music by the Hawk Green/Marple Bands. Service to commence 2-30pm.

Once again I have been fortunate to secure the services of the Reverend Ken Kenrick of St Peters Church, Stockport to conduct the service. It was agreed amongst Merchant Navy personnel present at the service in the park in 2005, that the Rev. Ken Kenrick be nominated the honorary Chaplin of the Merchant Navy in the Stockport Area.

For those who do not know, the Rev. Kenrick’s Church, St. Peters in Stockport, houses the replica bell of the SS Stockport, a convoy rescue ship which was sunk with all hands on the 23rd February 1943. As well as the replica bell a memorial plaque contains the names of the Captain, all 51 crew, 9 DEMS gunners, and 4 naval staff. The Stockport had rescued an estimated 91 crew from other sunken ships when she was torpedoed.

This years service, weather permitting, is expected to be one hour with hymns and readings. It is intended to highlight the part played by Operation Pedestal, the convoy that relieved Malta, changing the course of the war.

It is hoped that Ron Townley will be able to organise standards from ex service associations to attend. The present Mayor of Stockport, Councillor June Somekh is unable to attend due to having a previous engagement, however I will be contacting local MPs and local councillors, local youth organizations, Scouts, Guides, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Cadets and other youth groups would be very welcome along with Standards. Anyone with connections with these organisations please invite them.

Captain Ken Owen. F.R.I.N. M.N.I. will once again do the honour of raising the Red Duster which was kindly supplied by and in the care of Friends Of Marple Memorial Park and Marple Community Council.

Now getting Merchant Navy Day 2007 underway let’s just hope for fine weather on 2nd September.

Regards to all,

Ron Singleton
14 Hollins Green Road,
Marple, Stockport. SK6 6AN
Tel:- 0161 427 1023
E-mail:- maronbf3@ntlworld.com