



Annual Report 2014-15



Supporting Fishermen and Mariners Since 1839



Impact - Appreciation For Grants

A total of £1.4 million was paid in grants during the past year. From the many letters of appreciation received at Central Office, we know how our grants make a real difference to needy seafarers and their families. Extracts from just a few are given below:

"I am writing to yourself and everyone else who moved so quickly to help me when I badly needed it. My rent arrears and council tax arrears have now been taken care of. I appreciate enormously what has been done for me and the kind, non-judgmental attitude of everyone. Thank you very much indeed and I shall always remember with gratitude the vital part you played in helping me."

"I would like to thank you for donating funds towards my riser/recliner chair. It has made a huge difference to my life and has eased my pain when sitting. Thank you so much."

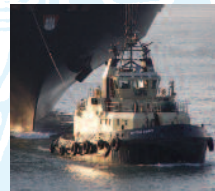
"I will take this opportunity to thank you and your charity for the financial help you have afforded me and my children since I lost my husband in 1984. As he had been ashore with heart problems two years before he died we had come to the end of our own resources. My husband was just a deck hand – hence just a wage and sometimes no wage if adverse weather conditions and unable to get to the fishing grounds. Your grant to us has been a Godsend and an enormous help to me over the years - especially when large items collapsed and weren't repairable. Once it was a gas oven and another time a washing machine, now how could I have purchased these without your generous grant? I do thank you and your Society most sincerely for all the help you have given me and my bairns. May God bless you all. Manny, many thanks."

"This is in gratitude to your Society for your help over the last 50 or so years. My father was a merchant seaman who sadly died in 1955 at the age of 40, leaving me, aged then 6 weeks and my brother then aged 7 years. As you can imagine times were extremely hard for my mum and I cannot tell you what a difference the help your Society gave meant to us. Christmas was made a more happy time with mum being able to buy little luxuries out of the grant she was given. Thank you so much."

"I'd like to thank you greatly for the death benefit grant, it was indeed a Godsend and it helped me a lot."

The Society's Purpose

The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society provides financial help to merchant seafarers, fishermen and their dependants who are in need. We pay an immediate grant to the widow of a serving seafarer who dies, whether death occurs at sea or ashore. Regular grants are paid to former seafarers, their widows and partners, whose circumstances justify on-going support. Special grants are made to meet particular needs in crisis situations. Practical assistance is given to seafarers of any nationality shipwrecked on the coast of the British Isles.



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Patron



Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal



Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society

(Shipwrecked Mariners' Society)

*Instituted 1839, incorporated 1850 and registered under the
Charities Act 1960. Registered charity no.212034*

Patron

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

President

Admiral Sir Peter Abbott GBE KCB

Vice-Presidents

Admiral Sir Jonathon Band GCB DL, Mr William Everard CBE
The Rt Hon Lord Brabazon of Tara PC DL, Mr Anthony West DL

Ex-officio Vice-Presidents

H E The Lt-Governor of the Isle of Man	The Lord Provost of Dundee
H E The Lt-Governor of Jersey	The Lord Mayor of Kingston-upon-Hull
H E The Lt-Governor of Guernsey	The Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne
The Right Hon The Lord Mayor of London	The Lord Mayor of Plymouth
The Right Hon The Lord Provost of Edinburgh	The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth
The Right Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow	The Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers
The Right Hon The Lord Mayor of Belfast	The Master of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners
The Right Hon The Lord Mayor of Cardiff	The Deputy Master of Trinity House
The Lord Provost of Aberdeen	
The Lord Mayor of Birmingham	

COUNCIL (TRUSTEES)

Chairman: Mr George Greenwood*

Treasurer: Mr Richard Coleman FCA*

Deputy Chairman: Mr Anthony Fawcett FCA*

Captain Roger Barker

Mrs Jane Clementson*

Mr Eamonn Delaney KSG*

Commodore Laurie Hopkins RN

Captain John Hughes FNI

Mr Rob Jardine-Brown

Captain Nigel Palmer OBE

Captain Graham Pepper FNI

Mrs Liz Price

Mr Michael Seymour*

Captain John Vercoe*

Mr Tim West

Commander Rosie Wilson OBE RN*

*Executive Committee Members

Bankers: CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 44 South Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1DS

Solicitors: George Ide LLP, 52 North Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1NQ

Blake Morgan, Harbour Court, Compass Road, Portsmouth PO6 4ST

Investment Advisers: Baring Asset Management Limited, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XY

Auditors: Sheen Stickland LLP, 7 East Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TR

Chief Executive: Commodore Malcolm Williams CBE RN



Where Are We?



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70 Years Since The Guns Fell Silent



In 2015 we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of WW2; six years of conflict in which the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society made a unique and significant contribution to the lives of thousands of survivors; not just sailors but soldiers, airmen, nurses and civilians who were landed at British ports after being rescued – particularly during the Battle of the Atlantic.

In 1941 at Greenock alone the Society helped 3,120 survivors from 311 ships; in 1942 it was 4,357 from 288 ships and in 1943, 3,680 from 252 ships.... and that was just one port. There were 22 others!

In fact the numbers of people the Charity assisted as a direct result of WW2 are quite remarkable – and this includes fishermen and their dependants:



Over 60,600 Seamen; 6,600 Widows; 8,000 Orphans and 4,100 Aged Parents were helped.

The immediate assistance provided to survivors arriving back in Britain was for clothing, food, accommodation and rail passes to get them home to their loved ones.



Charity Vice-President and former First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jonathon Band, has presented a short film commemorating the work of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society during the war years. The video, which was filmed on-board Britain's most iconic ship: Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship, HMS VICTORY, can be viewed on the Society's website at:

www.shipwreckedmariners.org.uk/Home/HowWeHelp/WartimeContribution.aspx

or for those of you with the facility
to do so, scan the QR code here





Chairman's Report

It is a great privilege to have been appointed Chairman of our long established Society whose purpose remains enduring, to help fishermen and mariners and their dependants who are in need.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees I would like to thank my predecessor Captain John Hughes for so ably leading us over the last three years and it is good that he remains a Trustee.

On behalf of the Council I am pleased to report that over the last year we have:

- **Made regular and one-off grants in 2,252 cases amounting to an expenditure of £1.4million**
- **Handled 612 new applications for assistance**
- **Taken on 102 new regular beneficiaries**
- **Completed 280 three-yearly case reviews**
- **Contacted 2,900 Life Members of the Society to remind them of their surviving spouse's entitlement to a death benefit grant**

Our beneficiaries ranged in age from 49 to 102 years. Approximately 47per cent had a Fishing background and 33 per cent Merchant Navy, while the balance served in both and some in the RN as well.

Expenditure amounted to £2.1 million which with incoming resources of £1.5 million led to an operating deficit of £608,000. This was largely owing to fewer than normal legacies, a key but unpredictable source of income. This was offset by an increase in the value of our investments. Generous grants from Seafarers UK and Trinity House and from a number of loyal smaller trusts remain very important sources of income to us: diversity is essential for the long term.

The cost of our Charitable Activities amounted to 83 per cent of all our expenditure. In addition to the grants this includes the cost of case-working and a share of administrative overheads. We continued to administer grants on behalf of Trinity House to their annuitants.

Regular grants were paid to 1,766 people at a cost of £1.1 million. A not untypical situation where we take someone on as a regular beneficiary is that of Mr I:

Aged 76 with 60 years at sea he was struggling financially since he had been forced to retire two years ago through ill-health. This man and his wife receive the basic Pension Credit, which after housing costs left them with only £203 per week. We awarded a regular grant.

One-off grants were made in 457 cases at a cost of £241,000. Two typical examples:

Due to his disabilities, Mr T, aged 62, with 39 years sea service, lives with his 83 year old mother and was asking for help towards a stair-lift so that his bedroom and the upstairs bathroom could be more accessible. His net weekly income was £99.95 and he had no savings. Social Services had suggested that his bed be moved downstairs and they would supply a commode. We felt this was unsatisfactory so we and another charity gave £800 each to enable the stair-lift to be fitted.

A couple, aged 37 and 35 with two children, had their wedding planned for 2015. While out fishing he fell from his boat and drowned. We made two payments, seven weeks apart totalling £2,600.

We conducted a periodic actuarial review during the year which gave Trustees the confidence to increase the regular grant by £1 per week to £14 or £728 per year. This offsets most of the increase in inflation since 2002 when the grant was £10. While the official headline inflation rate fell to zero in February that is



not the experience of our beneficiaries who spend a disproportionate amount of their low and fixed incomes on food, heating and lighting compared with other groups in society. Since 2008 food prices have risen by 28 per cent and domestic energy costs by 62 per cent.

2015 marks the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII, six years of conflict in which the Society made a unique and significant contribution to the lives of thousands of survivors of shipwreck. Our Minute books record 35,263 of them being landed at 23 ports across the British Isles and supported at a cost in today's prices of £4 million, mainly through providing food, accommodation, clothing and travel warrants. This was in addition to the Society's more usual work.

Our Honorary Agents are key to our work whether it is completing applications for us or raising funds and this year we have two outstanding Lord Lewin Award winners Superintendent Tracey Stephens from Hull and John Wason of Lyme Regis.

Graham Yarr, our Grants Manager for over 19 years, retired at the end of June. Last November he was awarded the Merchant Navy Medal (honoris causa) in recognition of the welfare support that he has given to many thousands of people over that time. We welcome his successor Samantha, 'Sami', Raeburn.

We have been making awards for conspicuous acts of skill and gallantry at sea for 164 years and the actions of this year's winners are as impressive as any nominations we have received. You can read about their exploits on pages 16-20.

The 30th July marked the 165th anniversary of the passing of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Society Benevolent Act. Testament to the farsightedness of our Victorian forebears, this comprehensive piece of legislation remains our governing document to this day. Times and needs have changed. We have evolved with them and believe that we are still giving the support that some mariners need in a very different world.

"I am writing to thank SMS most sincerely for the generous grant used towards renovations around our home. It is difficult to express how much this has helped my husband who suffers with Alzheimer's and with the sad deterioration of his cognitive skills he worries that he is unable to support his family, which has caused him much distress. Your grant has removed a great deal of worry for which we are very grateful."

Our key aims for the coming year are:

- **Increasing our regular grant by £1 to £14 per week, £728 per year, to keep pace with inflation since 2002**
- **Continuing our enduring task of helping fishermen and mariners and their dependants in need**
- **Maintaining the rolling programme of three-yearly reviews of regular beneficiaries' circumstances**
- **Finding avenues to spread the word about our work to those who may need our assistance and to those who might wish to support us**
- **Increasing our knowledge of additional sources of help, advice and assistance to those in need**
- **Conducting an independent review of our investment managers as part of our corporate governance and risk management**

My thanks to my fellow trustees for their time and commitment to the Society's work, to our Honorary Agents across the British Isles, from Shetland to the Channel Islands and from Lowestoft to Portrush, and to the head office staff; Malcolm, Stephen, Graham / Sami, Barbara, Julia, Joyce and Susan who manage the enterprise.

George Greenwood





Chief Executive's Report

As part of the process of adjusting to the times mentioned by the Chairman, we have reviewed our grants policy and have given ourselves greater discretion to help those who are unemployed and are either on Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Ill-fortune can strike at any time:

Mr C a 46 year old fisherman was rescued from his sinking vessel in rough seas, a rescue in which he nearly lost his life, and found himself off sick and on ESA. With two children and a modest mortgage that is a tough challenge and we were able to help with a grant of £900. Hopefully he will be able to return to sea. Having fractured his pelvis, wrist and elbow in an accident at sea, Mr H aged 44 with 26 years at sea was off work and due to being assessed wrongly by the DWP, had run up rent arrears. He had been given notice of eviction if the arrears of £800 weren't cleared so we covered this and awarded him an additional £200 to help with his immediate needs.

We have also introduced a modest funeral grant (£300) for regular beneficiaries or their dependants in response to concerns raised by the Deep Sea Fishermen and the Merchant Navy Association about the rising costs of funerals causing surviving spouses/partners to go into debt. I am always looking at ways in which to cost-effectively spread the word about our existence and what we can do, particularly for retired Merchant Navy people, who unlike fishermen, do not generally live in communities. This year the RMT Union publicised our work to their branches across the country.

We are most grateful to all those organisations, RNMDSF, SSAFA, the Mission to Seafarers, the Mersey Mission and the Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest who do casework on our behalf. One of the organisations we have long worked closely with is SAIL, the Seafarers' Advice and Information Line; an offshoot of the Greenwich Citizens Advice Bureau with an extensive understanding of the problems that can affect fishermen and mariners. We will often

refer people with serious debt and benefit problems to them for advice and, on the basis of that advice, we can help the individual in the most effective way; this might be by paying off a specific priority debt or covering the cost of a debt relief order or bankruptcy.



It is important to maintain the Society's profile and 2014 was the second year

of our maritime photographic competition which attracted over 400 entries – we time it to coincide with the start of Seafarers Awareness Week. The winning picture of a wreck of the steam trawler Sheraton off Hunstanton beach in Norfolk was submitted by Justin Minns.



This year 29 of our mines – a largely different 29 to last year - were opened and yielded up over £10,000. My thanks to those Honorary Agents who look after them, it's getting harder I know! I am still looking for someone to visit all our mines by sea or land. We estimate that the former would be a trip of over 2,400 miles - just right for an adventurous spirit.

Mr George Leiper, a regular beneficiary and a Merchant Navy veteran of the Arctic Convoys, was awarded the Russian Ushakov medal which was presented to him by the Consul General of the Russian Federation at Aberdeen Town House. Awarded 'for personal courage and valour' it is one of the most important Russian naval decorations. He is also the holder of the Atlantic Medal, the Italian Medal for the Sicily Invasion and the Pacific Medal with Bar for Burma.



The Trading Company had a very successful year generating a profit of £9,500 which has been covenanted to the Society but more impressive still was the generosity of our card buyers who also donated £66,000 over the year.

Talking of generosity, our Fowey Mine was broken into back in February and all the contents stolen. A local lady read about this and donated the handsome sum of £400 to offset the loss. She wishes to remain anonymous - we are most grateful to her.

I regard our Christmas and correspondence cards as ambassadors for the Society so it is good to know that orders are received from all parts of the globe including New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, Oman, Austria, Canada, the USA and Chile.

In January I went to the launch of Stamp & Go's CD, "Shipwreck", at Falmouth Maritime Museum which they composed for our benefit including the song "In Bideford Bay" written to mark last year's 175th Anniversary. Proceeds from its sale come to the Society.

Dr Cathryn Pearce, FRHistS, a Research Fellow at the Department of History, University of Greenwich, has secured funding for a project to look into lifesaving and the role of the community in helping the victims of shipwreck. Part of the project involves using our archives to see how the Society helped in particular cases and matching those to local history and newspaper records.

The pace of the welfare reforms is slow, particularly the implementation of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments. We know that in the case of the latter it can take many months to be assessed as can the work capability assessments for Employment and Support Allowance. The 'spare room subsidy' still causes problems where there are no smaller properties to move to but the housing benefit has still been withdrawn – the picture is variable across the country and creates uncertainty and financial difficulties for some beneficiaries.

My thanks to my team here for keeping the show – in all its many facets - on the road or perhaps it should be 'at sea' but then that probably isn't quite the right simile to do justice to their good work.

Malcolm Williams



The Support We Provide

The Society fulfils its charitable objectives primarily through a variety of grants: Regular; Special or one-off; Immediate; Death Benefit (to former Life members) and Shipwreck.

The Regular Grant is important for the following reasons:

- It is a significant proportionate increase in a beneficiary's income, aids budgeting and helps recipients avoid arrears or going into debt.
- It establishes an on-going relationship between ourselves through the local Honorary Agent with the beneficiary which is more than just financial and which can be particularly important to those who live alone.
- The regular biannual contact, particularly where cheques are handed out, enables our Honorary Agent to see beneficiaries face-to-face at least twice a year and to discuss financial and other matters of concern.
- The associated three-yearly reviews provide an opportunity to find out if additional assistance is required.
- It is the recipient's decision on how the grant is spent.

The Special or one-off/crisis grant enables the recipient among other things to:

- Purchase and replace defective white goods and other essential items such as beds and carpets.
- Pay for essential household repairs, for example, to replace rotten window frames, thereby helping them to remain in their own homes.
- Remain mobile within the home, for example, through the purchase of a stairlift.
- Make adaptations to deal with infirmities and disabilities, for example, to replace a bath with a walk-in shower, or provide a riser / recliner chair.
- Get out of their homes without assistance or with reduced assistance through improved mobility, for example, by providing an electrically powered vehicle.
- Cover the cost of private occupational therapist (OT) reports connected with the above.
- Pay for heating.
- Pay off priority debts, eg. utility bills.
- Buy clothes and shoes.
- Take a rare holiday.



Examples of the range of support we provide and the impact that it has:

- Mr S, aged 64, married with 40 years sea service suffers from severe medical problems and has limited mobility. They have no savings and he was asking for help with a specialist adjustable bed to improve his sleep by reducing the pain. On the recommendation of our Honorary Agent and his doctor, we covered the £990 needed.
- Mr Q, aged 53 with 17 years sea service, a weekly net income of £72.40 and no savings had a vascular disease that badly affected his sight. He asked if we could pay for a Video Magnifier to help him read such mundane things as his mail and cooking instructions. We funded the £450 needed and received a letter of thanks saying; "Books have been my constant companions since I first went to sea and I felt like I had lost an old friend, but now they are back."
- Mrs P, a 51 year old lady mariner with 10 years sea service on an income of £123 per week with no savings, was recovering from cancer and depression and was asking if help could be given towards her high heating costs, as owing to her illness she needed the heating on constantly.
- Mr D a fisherman of 25 with 5 years sea time broke his leg in an accident at work and had waited several months before asking for some financial help to support himself, his partner and two young children until he is fit to return to work. Their net weekly income was £134 and they had no savings. We gave £600.
- Mr T aged 81 with 45 years at sea, has been receiving a regular grant since 2003 and this was the first request for any additional help. Both the front and back doors needed replacing. The back door was the most urgent, it was rotten and Mr T had tried to repair it by stuffing the gaps with newspaper. He had no savings. We covered the cost.
- Mr S aged 70 with 32 years sea service asked for help towards the installation of a stairlift. Due to their disabilities both Mr and Mrs S, who look after their 44 year old son with learning difficulties, were finding it increasingly difficult to access the upstairs bathroom. Social services had been approached and their solution was to supply a commode in the kitchen. We gave £2,690 and another charity gave £1,500 so that a stairlift could be installed.





Financial Review

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting & Reporting by Charities (SORP) 2005.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF INCOME

Overview

Total incoming resources for 2014/15 were £1.5 million with expenditure of £2.1 million. Overall, there was a £608,472 operating deficit compared with a deficit of £130,441 last year. The main reason for this was lower legacy income. The Trustees budget for an operating deficit, but plan for this to be offset by gains on investment assets.

Investments

Investments generate income that is key to supporting our beneficiaries. This year the value of our investments has increased from £24.5 to £25.8 million. A total return (TR) policy is operated which requires the investment managers to fund our budgeted yearly operating deficit from either income or capital: the planned TR for 2014/15 was 6% of the portfolio value. The Finance Committee meets annually and additionally as required, and investment performance is monitored by Council quarterly.

Legacies

Receipts this year at £111,792 were the lowest for five years. We are enormously grateful to those who choose to remember us in this way; their money is put to good use in helping the next generation. Legacies are a vital but inherently unpredictable source of income.

Donations

Agency Income and donations direct to Central Office amounted to £80,163 compared with £68,971 last year and this can in part be attributed to people's generous response to our 175th Anniversary. Encouragingly the Christmas related Appeal donations continued to grow (see under Trading below). We are most appreciative of the generosity of those who support us.



Grants

Grants from Seafarers UK (SFUK) and Trinity House, London, are essential to our work and we maintain a close dialogue with both organisations so that they are aware of our needs. In September we also received £14,000 from SFUK's Merchant Navy Fund (MN Fund) which is for one-off grants specifically for those who served in the Merchant Navy. This is treated as a Restricted fund.



Trading

This has been a good year for Shipwrecked Mariners Trading Limited, the Society's wholly owned trading subsidiary which continued to sell Christmas, birthday and correspondence cards and related items by mail order through its supplier, Impress Publishing, via the seasonal shop at Central Office, the Honorary Agents and the Chichester Cards for Good Causes outlet. Turnover at £80,000 was up on last year, despite the impact of ever rising postal charges and the growing use of social media.

The Company covenanted £9,566 to the Society compared with £5,602 last year. This, together with over £66,000 worth of Appeal related donations means that the Company continues to make a significant contribution to the Society's funds as well as advertising our work to the wider public: our card buyers are our main supporters. Some of them have been buying our cards for over 50 years and have been very generous in their support of the Society's work. We are continually aiming to increase the number of card buyers.

EXPENDITURE

Costs of Generating Voluntary Income

These relate largely to the cost of the annual Appeal and wider publicity throughout the year which is aimed at both potential donors and those who might refer potential beneficiaries to us for assistance.

Charitable Activities

Charitable Activities amounted to £1.7 million, which was 83% of all expenditure. In addition to grant making of over £1.4 million, Charitable Activities includes the salaries of the two members of the grants team and a proportion of the Chief Executive's salary, agency support costs and the Society's annual awards for skill and gallantry at sea.

Actuarial Review

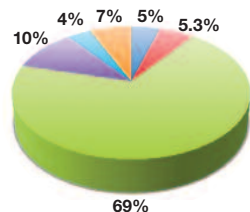
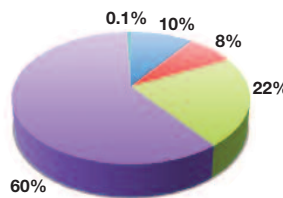
The Society conducted one of its periodic actuarial reviews during the year to assess how well our forecast incoming resources match our projected beneficiary numbers under a variety of scenarios.

RESERVES POLICY

The Trustees aim to maintain sufficient funds as reserves in order to generate the income required to carry out the role of the Charity. These funds are invested through Baring Asset Management Ltd and are the major single source of our income: 60 per cent in this financial year. Without this the Society would be unable to respond to need to the extent it does.



Summary Income and Expenditure Account



INCOMING RESOURCES	2015	2014
VOLUNTARY INCOME		
◆ Donations	146,230	121,015
◆ Legacies	111,792	482,667
◆ Grants	321,791	414,260
◆ Investment Income	879,400	853,942
◆ Management Fee	3,680	4,190
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	1,462,893	1,876,074
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
◆ Costs of generating voluntary income	95,596	76,272
◆ Investment Management	115,670	115,713
CHARITABLE ACTIVITY		
◆ Grants	1,426,057	1,428,037
◆ Other Cost	216,862	203,811
◆ Agency Support	79,603	77,704
◆ Governance	137,577	104,978
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	2,071,365	2,006,515
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES	(608,472)	(130,441)
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS:		
Realised	97,102	(252,300)
Unrealised	1,459,948	461,812
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	948,578	79,071

Summary Balance Sheet

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible Fixed Assets	14,993	41,153	14,993
Investments		24,863,003	23,578,456
Investment Property	900,000	900,000	900,000

NET CURRENT ASSETS

274,568	636,697
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NET ASSETS

26,078,724	25,130,146
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FUNDS

Restricted	3,170,359	3,117,991
Unrestricted	22,908,365	22,012,155
	26,078,724	25,130,146

The Lord Lewin Awards 2015

The Lord Lewin Award is for outstanding service to the Society

Superintendent Tracey Stephens – Hull

Superintendent Tracey Stephens has been our Honorary Agent in Hull since 2010. In that time she has supported many hundreds of fishermen and their dependants: currently 260 beneficiaries of ours. Over the past three years alone she has sent us 187 new applications for assistance, and has completed 94 reviews on our behalf. That support ranges from helping them to get grants for essential household items, advice on benefits and debts, to taking funerals and seeking charitable assistance. It is a big full time job which she does with diligence and compassion. Tracey comes from a Hull fishing family and has a natural affinity with our beneficiaries. She sees poverty, loneliness, desperation, injury, illness and the struggles of everyday life. Positive, cheerful, thoughtful and determined – she doesn't take no for an answer. It is evident that she is trusted and respected by the community; a lifeline for those in need. Her motivation is to help people and when Tracey is on your side she brings hope. Her work on behalf of fishermen, mariners and their dependants is deserving of our recognition.



John Wason – Lyme Regis

Mr John Wason of Lyme Regis is 80 years young and has been our Honorary Agent for 24 years. He started his working life at the age of 15 as a farmer on the Somerset Levels but was drawn to the sea and fishing and so moved to the Dorset coast where he is still fishing – for crab and lobster. His three sons and two grandsons are full time fishermen too. He looks after our large collecting mine in Lyme Regis which generates in the region of £400 each year and he recently generously donated £200 to replace lost funds following a break-in to the mine. By maintaining the mine he advertises our

existence to donors and potential beneficiaries; the mines raise a steady and important stream of income for the Society. His efforts are greatly appreciated and deserving of our recognition.



AWARDS FOR SKILL AND GALLANTRY 2015

Edward and Maisie Lewis Award

For an outstanding air/sea rescue

Leadership, outstanding teamwork, skill and bravery ensured the rescue of a fisherman lost overboard



On 28 July 2014, the crew of 'Rescue 01' were tasked to go to the assistance of a fisherman lost overboard from the fishing vessel *Venturer*, 60 nautical miles NE of East Falkland in position S50 35.00 W057 25.00. Given the immediate need to recover the fisherman before hypothermia set in, and having taken stock of the atrocious weather and pitch black night, 'R01' a RAF Sea King HAR 3 of 1564 Flt, 905 EAW, Mount Pleasant launched at 1940.

On departure, Flt Lt Ian Campbell (Captain) immediately recognised that there was no prospect of a direct over-land transit due to the low cloud, high terrain and freezing conditions which prevented him from climbing the aircraft. He took an easterly over-water route working closely with the Radar/Winch Operator Sgt Mike Boissier-Wyles and Co-Pilot Flt Lt Tom Greene to remain clear of land before turning onto a direct track for the search area. Sgt Dan Allanson (Winchman) used the transit time to ensure that he had the cabin fully prepared and ready to receive the casualty.

En-route, information of a possible sighting of the casualty was received via a Hercules transport aircraft that was operating on-scene as a communications relay. Ian Campbell directed the radar operator to determine the open-water drift using a known point of entry into the water and this sighting. A start point 6 nm SW of the original location was determined along with a line of advance for the search. On scene at 2100 the crew encountered low cloud, torrential rain and with no ambient light the visibility was down to 200 metres. In the total darkness the night vision goggles were performing poorly and with no observable horizon, Ian Campbell was forced to fly with greater reference to instruments and rely on his searchlight.



With sea state 8 and 50 kts of wind, the probability of locating the casualty in the 45 ft swells was very low. However at 2140 on their second sweep of the area the casualty was sighted 30 metres ahead of the aircraft. With the casualty found, the Pilot decided to hover at 80 ft to allow sufficient clearance from the rapidly changing wave peaks. The standard procedure for this type of recovery at night is for the aircraft to be manoeuvred by the winch operator via autopilot with the aircraft at 50ft; but Ian Campbell recognised that the autopilot could not maintain a stable hover in the atrocious conditions and consequently elected to conduct a manual hover at a higher height than normal.



With severe sea conditions and a winching height of 80 ft, Dan Allanson showed no hesitation in leaving the aircraft to assist a casualty whose chances of being alive were assessed as slim given the

length of time he had been in the near freezing water (4 degree C). On entering the water Dan was immediately submerged as changes in wave height outpaced the maximum speed of the aircraft winch. On resurfacing, the lashing spray and crashing wave peaks presented a daunting challenge. Dan Allanson's courage in these conditions cannot be underestimated and combined with the skill of the winch operator, Mike Boissier-Wyles and Ian Campbell's exceptional flying accuracy, he was delivered to the casualty on the first attempt.

The physical effort of man-handling a large casualty in the 45 ft swell proved to be highly demanding and with the violent wave motion the winch cable became wrapped around Dan Allanson's legs. He was forced to release the casualty to free himself from this entanglement. In doing this and then reconnecting with the casualty and recovering him to the aircraft, Dan showed exceptional determination, strength and stamina. The physical and mental demands placed on him within this extremely violent and chilling environment were enormous. He was immersed for almost 15 minutes.

On entering the cabin and without time to recover, Dan and Mike immediately began to provide life support to the casualty. Flying through atrocious weather conditions the fisherman was delivered to King Edward Memorial Hospital, Port Stanley, at 2210 where sadly he subsequently died.

The difficulties faced by this crew go far beyond those which it is possible to train for. Indeed, the meteorological conditions experienced during this rescue were as poor as anyone could expect to encounter during an entire career in Search and Rescue. Under the calm leadership of Ian Campbell his crew demonstrated outstanding professionalism, teamwork, determination and bravery.





Individual Commendation

Sergeant Dan Allanson QGM (Winchman)

Courage, stamina and skill ensured the successful recovery of a fisherman lost overboard

Sergeant Allanson was the Winchman on 'Recue 01' an RAF Sea King of 1564 Flt, 905 EAW, Mount Pleasant in the Falkland Islands when it launched at 1940 local on the night of 28 July in response to a call for assistance to locate a man lost overboard from the fishing vessel *Venturer*, 60 nautical miles NE of East Falkland. The weather was atrocious and it was pitch black.

Sgt Dan Allanson used the transit time to ensure that he had the cabin fully prepared and ready to receive the casualty.

Arriving on scene a start point 6 nm SW of the original location where the man was lost overboard was established and the search began. With low cloud, torrential rain and no ambient light the visibility was down to 200 metres.

With sea state 8 and 50 kts of wind the probability of locating the casualty in the 45 ft swell was very low. However, on their second sweep of the area the casualty was sighted 30 metres ahead of the aircraft at 2140. With the casualty found, the Pilot decided to hover at 80 ft to allow sufficient clearance from the rapidly changing wave peaks. The standard procedure for this type of recovery at night is for the aircraft to be manoeuvred by the winch operator via autopilot with the aircraft at 50ft; but in the atrocious conditions a stable autopilot hover was not going to be possible and so the pilot elected to conduct a manual hover at a higher height than normal.

With severe sea conditions and a winching height of 80 ft, Sgt Allanson showed no hesitation in leaving the aircraft to assist a casualty whose chances of being alive were assessed as slim given the length of time he had been in the near freezing water (4 degree C). On entering the water Dan was immediately submerged as changes in wave height outpaced the maximum speed of the aircraft winch. On resurfacing, the lashing spray and crashing wave peaks presented a daunting challenge. Dan Allanson's courage in these conditions should not be underestimated and combined with the skill of the winch operator, Mike Boissier-Wyles and Ian Campbell's exceptional flying accuracy he was delivered to the casualty on the first attempt.



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On entering the cabin and without time to recover, Dan Allanson and Mike Boissier-Wyles immediately began to provide life support to the casualty. Flying through atrocious weather conditions the fisherman was delivered to King Edward Memorial Hospital, Port Stanley where unfortunately he subsequently died.



Individual Commendation

Mr Chris Macdonald of Solent Towing

*Heroism and quick thinking
saved a life*

Just after 2000 on 30 March 2015, 'Asterix', one of Solent Towing's tugs operating at the Fawley Marine Terminal in Southampton, capsized during a towing operation.

There was a strong wind blowing, sea conditions were choppy and the water was cold.

One of the two crew members on board was trapped inside the wheelhouse as the tug was towed upside down by the ship it had been assisting, and then remained inverted for just over one hour before she flipped on to her port side, exposing her starboard side wheelhouse windows just above the waterline.

At this point the missing man was spotted inside the wheelhouse, about 5 metres away from where some of the company's men were stood debating what to do next to locate the missing man.

Chris Macdonald, a Solent Towing Seaman, leapt into the water, taking with him a sledge hammer and swam to the upturned tug. He scrambled up onto the side of the wheelhouse and whilst standing on the window, smashed it so that he dropped into the wheelhouse and was able to extricate his colleague to safety. The vessel sank a matter of seconds later.

Without Chris' prompt action that night their colleague would have died. There was very little of an air pocket remaining in the wheelhouse and if the vessel had sunk with him still inside he would definitely have been lost. He was hypothermic and barely conscious when recovered from the water.

Chris Macdonald's heroic action saved a life.





Individual Commendation

**Jake Bowman-Davies,
Skipper of FV Cesca**

Leadership, cool headedness and excellent judgement prevented loss of life and ensured that four men were rescued from their sinking vessel

On the night of 12 February 2015 FV Cesca (M21), a 15 metre crabber with a four man crew ranging in age from 16 to 30, from Milford Haven, was en route to Conwy when she started taking on water.

It was a dark, clear, cold night with an air temperature of 2 degrees C. The wind was SSE at 20-30kts with moderate to rough seas.

One of the crew woke the skipper, Jake Bowman-Davies, 16, to alert him to the fact that they were taking on water. He went to the bridge to assess the situation and at 2222 called the Holyhead Coast Guard to alert them to the situation and to request assistance. The vessel was 8 nautical miles SW of Bardsey Island off the Lleyn Peninsula.

The RAF SAR helicopter, 'Rescue 122', was scrambled from RAF Valley, Anglesey, and reached the Cesca within 40 minutes by which time she was 2.5 nautical miles NW of Bardsey.

When the helicopter arrived they directed FV Cesca to turn to a course that would enable them to lower the winchman and a pump to the deck. As Cesca altered course to the new heading the engine stalled. Weighing up the situation the skipper decided that with the continuing ingress of water it was time to abandon ship. He ordered the release of the liferaft and the crew to abandon ship. The liferaft did not fully inflate so they were exposed to the elements. The four men were then recovered to the helicopter and taken to Bangor hospital.

The abandoned vessel turned over and sank at 0033.

Robert Bowyer, Senior Maritime Operations Officer at Holyhead, on watch at the time said that, "It is often a difficult judgement call for any Captain to call for assistance and even more difficult to leave his vessel, which is his livelihood. By calling for assistance when he did the Captain of the Cesca gave the rescue services time to get on scene and try and save his vessel. Although they did have to abandon ship he and his crew are safe and well this morning."

Skipper Jake's leadership, cool headedness and excellent judgement ensured the safety of his crew: impressive in one so young.



Help us to Help Them

There are many ways you can help us to provide a lifeline for seafarers and their families in need:

BY MAKING A DONATION

Donations, however large or small, may be sent to Central Office at any time.

BY MAKING YOUR GIFTS TAX EFFECTIVE

Providing you pay income tax or capital gains tax, all your donations can be treated as Gift Aid. This means that for every £1 that you donate, the Society can claim an additional 25 pence from the taxman. It is only necessary to sign one form to cover all donations until you notify us otherwise. Please complete and return the attached reply card.

REGULAR GIVING BY STANDING ORDER

If you would like to make a regular donation by banker's order please let us know and we will send you the necessary form. The Society very much appreciates such regular support, which provides a steady source of income and helps us plan for the future.

BY REMEMBERING THE SOCIETY IN YOUR WILL

If you are making, or renewing your Will please remember the needs of our seafarers and their widows in financial distress. Your gift could make a real difference to them for years to come. You may wish to consider either:

- A residuary legacy - which means you leave the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society all or part of your estate once other gifts to family and friends have been distributed or
- A pecuniary legacy - which is a fixed sum of money.

Please let us know if you would like further advice on legacies.

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Do you, or someone you know, use eBay to sell unwanted items?

If so, the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society is able to accept donations from the sale of your goods. You can easily choose what percentage of the funds raised through your auction that you would like the Society to receive when you compile your listing, so please give us a thought and help us generate funds – however small – from this revenue source.



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