



Annual Report 2017-18

SUPPORTING THE SEAFARING COMMUNITY FOR 179 YEARS



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 seafarers and their families in need. Extracts from just a few are given below:



"We are so grateful to the 'Shipwrecked Mariners' for your very generous grant. You have been angels and facilitated the process so easily for us; we cannot express how much we appreciate your help."

"We asked for your help for an adaption to our bathroom to assist me in getting in and out of the bath and we sincerely appreciate your help in making our lives easier and more comfortable.

We would like to say thank you for everything you have done for us."

"My wife and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you so much for the kind consideration you have shown us, giving the help you have, which has overwhelmed us both. We are so grateful to you; this grant has helped us to pay our rent arrears and allowed us the ease of worry."

"Just to thank you for all your help since my husband died. This has been very good and I have appreciated it. I hope you will be able to help others in the same way. God Bless and thanks again."

"Dear Shipwrecked Mariners, just a few words to you all to say a big thank you for my scooter and shed; it is such a life saver for me. You are all such lovely people and it's a pleasure to talk to you. I will be eternally grateful."



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. We also make funeral grants. Practical assistance is given to seafarers of any nationality shipwrecked on the coast of the British Isles.

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Our Patron

HRH

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 George Zambellas GCB DSC DL FRAeS

Vice-Presidents

The Rt Hon Lord Brabazon of Tara PC DL,
Mr Anthony West DL, Mr William Everard CBE

Ex-officio Vice-Presidents

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

Council (Trustees)

Chairman: Captain Nigel Palmer OBE MNM*

Deputy Chairman: Mr Anthony Fawcett FCA*

Treasurer: Mr Richard Coleman FCA*

Captain Roger Barker MNM

Mr Eamonn Delaney KSG*

Commodore Laurie Hopkins LVO RN

Captain John Hughes MNM FNI

Mr Rob Jardine-Brown

Commodore Mike Mansergh CBE

Captain Graham Pepper FNI*

Mr George Greenwood

Mrs Liz Price

Mr Michael Seymour*

Captain John Vercoe*

Mr Tim West

Commander Rosie Wilson OBE RN*

Mr Robert Greenwood (from April 18)

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: Sarasin & Partners LLP, Juxon House 100 St.
Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4M 8BU

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

Chief Executive: Captain Justin Osmond Royal Navy

**Executive Committee Members*





Where we are

The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society helps people all over the UK from its main headquarters in Chichester, West Sussex, and through a national volunteer network of around 200 Honorary Agents. The Society also has an Honorary Agent and a few beneficiaries in Malta.

Our Honorary Agents are situated mainly in port areas and they are actively involved in giving fundraising support and/or acting as caseworkers visiting former mariners and their dependants in need.

The UK's coastline is also home to our iconic red collecting mines. Originally more than 200 were donated by the Admiralty in recognition of the Society's unique contribution supporting seafarers, their families, as well as others shipwrecked, during both World Wars. Unfortunately the ravages of time and the weather have reduced their number. There are still around 50 in operation so if you spot one on your travels, please stop and make a donation. We are always grateful for donations of any size as they are key to what we do and enable us to continue providing financial or practical support to former fishermen and mariners across the country.





Chairman's Report

It is a real privilege to have been appointed Chairman of this long-established Society and in this, my first report, I would like to pay tribute to the work of my predecessor, George Greenwood. During his 3 years at the helm he has led the Society with

energy and enthusiasm, whilst clearly upholding our enduring purpose to help fishermen, mariners and their dependants who are in need; it is good that he remains a Trustee.

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, and in this our 179th year of supporting the seafaring community, I am pleased to report that over the last year we have:

- Made regular grant payments in 1,500 cases at a cost of £1.1million
- Handled 503 new applications for assistance
- Taken on 93 new regular beneficiaries
- Completed 281 three-yearly case reviews

Notwithstanding the above, we are not able to help in every case either because an individual's income is above our limits or they have insufficient sea service. One-off or crisis grants amounting to £247,000 were made to over 449 people; this continues to be a rising trend. But it is not just about financial assistance, crucial though that is, it is also about the less tangible aspects of the support we provide. This was reflected in a letter from a 78-year-old mariner:

"Thank you so much for the support you have provided to me, I am so very grateful. Since the loss of my wife of 50 years I have been so low and in bad health, but your support has restored my faith that there are good people in this world who care about each other".

The average age of our regular grant recipients' is 76, but they range in age from 44 to 104. The average age of new regular beneficiaries was 70. Approximately 49% have a fishing background and 34% have served in the Merchant Navy, while the balance served in both; some also served in the RN.

Regular beneficiaries reported that the top five specific uses for their grants (after general living expenses) were; paying utility bills, household equipment, clothing, house repairs, and holidays.

For one-off grants the average age of an applicant was 61, which has been steadily falling over the years. Many of the grants were awarded to those who were unemployed and on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) and those on Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) unable to find work owing to illness or a disability.

Ninety per cent of our expenditure, amounting to just over £1.8 million, was spent on charitable activities (which includes the cost of governance and administration). With incoming resources of just under £1.6M and total expenditure of just over £2 million there was an operating deficit of £444,000, which aligns with our longer term-strategy. Investments generated 54% of our total income. Our strategy seeks to recognise the slowly reducing numbers of people with a seafaring

background and aims to balance the needs of current grant recipients against those of potential future beneficiaries. In essence, we remain committed to ensuring that we maintain sufficient funds to provide support to anyone who is in need and meets our criteria.

Donations from our amazingly generous supporters, including into our large collecting mines and in response to our Christmas, Easter and Seafarers Awareness Week appeals were at a record high of £176,000, representing an annual increase of over 9%.

It is very important that we maintain diversity, and hence resilience, across our sources of income because we believe that the support we provide will be needed for as long as we are an island nation.

I am delighted to report that trustees agreed to increase the regular grant by £1 per week, which now equates to an annual grant of £780. We could not do this without the support of our major grant funders, Seafarers UK and Trinity House, to whom we are most grateful.

We are pleased to have been joined by a new trustee, Mr Robert Greenwood, who brings valuable experience to the Council having started his fishing career in 1995. He is currently the Safety and Training Officer for the National Federation of Fishermans Organisations (NFFO). Sadly, at the end of March we said goodbye to Malcolm Williams, who had so successfully piloted the Society for 14 years. Malcolm has been a passionate advocate for the communities we exist to support, skilfully evolving the Society to best meet day to day needs whilst also helping to raise the profile of an oft-forgotten sector of society,

including its important contribution during both World Wars. We wish him well in retirement and welcome Justin Osmond as our new Chief Executive

Since 1851 we have been making awards for outstanding acts of skill and gallantry at sea and this year's 6 winners (page xx) have as ever displayed those timeless qualities of selflessness, determination and courage that the sea demands from those who help others in distress. We have also recognised the outstanding contributions of 2 Honorary Agents (page xx) by presenting them with the Society's Lord Lewin Award.

Our key aims for the coming year are:

- Continuing our enduring task of helping fishermen and mariners and their dependants in need
- Maintaining the rolling programme of three-yearly reviews of beneficiaries' circumstance
- Finding new avenues to spread the word about our work to those who may need our assistance and to those who might wish to support us
- Subject to affordability, increasing our regular grant in line with inflation
- Increasing our knowledge of additional sources of help, advice and assistance for those in need

I would particularly like to thank my fellow trustees for their commitment to the work of the Charity and to the Central Office staff in Chichester without whose skills, dedication and enthusiasm the Charity would not run.

Nigel Palmer



Chief Executive's Report

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to serve the Society as Chief Executive and very much look forward to continuing the vital work which my predecessor led so successfully for 14 years. My first reflections on the job have been

extremely positive, in particular the incredible dedication and professionalism I have seen not only in our Head Office staff, where I have been blessed with a fantastic team, but also throughout the HA network, be they involved in managing our mines, raising funds more generally, distributing cheques or conducting important casework.

The first few months have, as you might expect, been fairly busy, but with the highlight being a trip to visit Honorary Agents and beneficiaries in Hull and Grimsby. Notwithstanding the excellent handover I received from Malcolm, this provided some first-hand experience of the issues affecting seafarers and their families. I undoubtedly have a lot to learn about both the Merchant Navy and fishing communities but am very much looking forward to regular visits to both HA's and our beneficiaries throughout my time as Chief Executive. I see this is an essential linkage between our Trustees and life in the communities we support; our HA's valuable knowledge and insight is key to ensuring that the Society recognises and adapts to changing circumstances, thereby continuing to meet the needs of our seafaring family.

More generally, in getting to grips with the job I have been struck by the wide range of needs which we are asked to meet, including ever more frequent requests to support people in cases where our welfare system would previously have provided assistance. This is a clear legacy of austerity; it will be very interesting to see whether this position is ever reversed or whether today's situation becomes the 'new-norm'. It has also become readily apparent that many of our beneficiaries struggle with the ever-increasing presumption that everyone is connected to the web. We know from our regular survey of beneficiaries that the vast majority aren't online. This is an issue which requires careful consideration as part of our wider efforts to ensure we continue to meet seafarers needs.

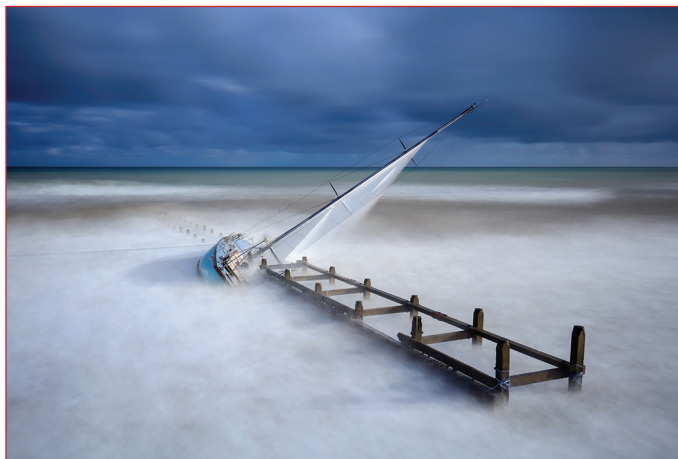
On a financial note, the Trading Company's activities generated a remarkable profit of over £12,000. However, more importantly our loyal card buyers donated over £92,000 throughout the year; an amazing sum which is clear testament to their ongoing generosity in economically uncertain times.

In addition, we received further public donations of over £83,000, including £12,000 from 32 of our large mines which were opened during the year. Special thanks are due to those Agents who look after them so well despite the ravages of time, sea air and (occasionally) vandalism.

Legacy income was significantly higher than last year but close to the longer-term average. We are always extremely grateful to those who remember us in this way and in so

doing, make a contribution to the welfare of future generations of fishermen and mariners; it would be wonderful if you would consider supporting us in this way.

Our annual photographic competition now in its sixth year is run on-line to encourage a younger generation to consider supporting us and to celebrate our enduring relationship with the sea. It attracted 862 entries from 342 individuals. The winning image, 'Fighting until the End', Cart Gap, Norfolk (below) was taken by Chris Herring. My thanks to our expert panel of judges: Sunday Times Picture Editor, Ray Wells, Amateur Photographer Group Editor, Nigel Atherton and Picture Editor of the i, Sophie Batterbury. Of particular interest,



we will be launching a new calendar this year (as part of our Christmas card catalogue) which will feature a selection of stunning images from previous years of the competition. I commend it to you as an excellent way of raising the profile of the society, whilst also ameliorating some of those tricky Christmas present decisions for friends and family!

Our Honorary Agents, of whom there are 179 (ranging in age from 33 to 90), are at the heart of what we do, whether it is casework, fundraising or simply acting as a representative and spreading the word about us. But we are part of a network of support and I would particularly like to thank the Superintendents of the Fishermen's Mission, SSAFA, the Mersey Mission to Seafarers and Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest for their work on our behalf, as well as the Seafarers Hospital Society (with whom we often share cases) and SAIL (the Seafarers' Advice and Information Line) for their advice on complicated debt or benefit issues. I look forward to building ever stronger linkages with these organisations and harnessing our collective ability to enhance the support we offer to the seafaring community.

And finally, I would like to thank the entire Head Office team of Alison, Barbara, Joyce, Sami, Stephen and Sylvia for their unwavering support during my first few months in this fantastic role.

Justin Osmond



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), Funeral 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 as to how the grant is spent.
- Purchase and replace defective white goods and other items such as beds and carpets.
 - Remain mobile within the home, for example, through the installation 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, thereby enabling them to remain independent at home.
 - 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 essential household repairs, for example, to tackle damp problems, replace doors and windows thereby helping them to remain in their own homes.
 - Pay for heating, pay off priority debts (eg. utility bills and Council Tax).
 - Buy clothes and shoes.
 - Take a rare holiday.

*The **SPECIAL or ONE-OFF/CRISIS GRANT** enables the recipient among other things to:*





The Impact that it has:

Mr H, in his late 70's with 26 years sea service, approached us in dire financial need. Both he and his wife were severely disabled and receiving very little state support. **Our advice meant they were able to claim significantly increased benefits**, amounting to nearly £160 per week, to cover their care and mobility needs. Whilst this placed them above our financial limits for further support, it nonetheless made a huge difference to their overall well-being.

Mr I, in his mid-40's with 25 years sea service, was hit by a car whilst out walking, resulting in fatal injuries. He left his wife and 4 young children, all of whom were under 10 years of age. **We provided an immediate relief grant of £1,900.**

Mr M, in his late 30's was diagnosed with a degenerative disease and needed a specialist bed. The NHS was only able to offer him a hospital bed in a downstairs room, meaning he couldn't continue sharing a bed with his wife. In conjunction with Seafarers Hospital Society we were able to provide £4,900 for the required bed. A letter of thanks stated "Mr M had a great night's sleep and enjoyed watching TV before going to sleep. We had a little 5-year-old visitor in the night who was delighted she got to sleep between us again. **I cannot thank you enough – without your help I don't know where we would be'.**

Mr S, in his early 80's with 15 years sea service needed to relocate from temporary accommodation to a permanent home following diagnosis with a terminal condition. They had no cooker, washing machine or house furnishings of their own. The

only savings they had were earmarked for funeral costs, which were likely to be required within 18 months. We provided a setting up **home grant of £1,000 to support their urgent move to a new home.**

'I am writing to thank you for the £400 grant you sent me after I contacted the Seafarers Advice and Information Line. I never thought I would ever find myself in this situation but am so glad there was support out there for me.'

Mr A, in his early 20's with 3 years sea service, was unable to work due to a severe injury to his hand suffered whilst working in the galley of his fishing boat. With no savings to rely on, and subject to significant delays in progressing his benefits claim through the DWP, he had built up significant rent arrears due. We provided a **£900 grant to clear his arrears and provide additional funds** (administered through the Fisherman's Mission) to meet his immediate needs.

Mrs C, in her late 50's, had recently lost her husband and son when they drowned during a tragic accident. Her husband had previously served at sea for over 40 years. With no savings and a weekly income of less than £115 per week, **she was in desperate need of a replacement boiler; we provided a special grant of £1,000 towards the cost of a new one.**

Mr G, in his late 60's with 35 years sea service, approached us as they were in desperate need of a tumble dryer, as well as basic items of clothing for the coming winter. With no savings and an income of less than £170 per week their immediate need was met by another maritime charity (Nautilus); however, based on our follow up investigation **we awarded a regular weekly grant to supplement their limited income.**

Financial Review

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting & Reporting by Charities (SORP) 2015 (FRS 102).



Principal Sources of Income

Overview

Total Income (including investment income) for 2017/18 was £1.6M with expenditure of £2 million. Overall there was a £1.3 million operating deficit, similar to last year. The Trustees budget for an operating deficit but plan for this to be largely offset by income from investments and gains on investment assets. Overall Net Expenditure after returns on investments was £0.4 million compared to Net Income the previous year of £2.3 million.

Investments

Investments generate income that is key to supporting our beneficiaries. This year the value of our investments has reduced to £25.3 million from £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 TR for 2017/18 was 5.3% of the rolling average portfolio value. The Finance Committee meets annually and additionally as required, and investment performance is monitored by Council quarterly.

Legacies

Receipts this year at £245,000 were up by £49,000 on last year. We are enormously grateful to those who chose to remember us in this way; their gifts are put to good use in helping the next

generation of seafarers and their dependants. Legacies are a vital but inherently unpredictable source of income.

Donations / Fundraising

Public donations through our Agencies, which includes our collecting mines, and direct to Central Office and from Appeals (see Trading below) amounted to £176,000, a 9.4% increase on last year. We are most appreciative of the generosity of those who support us in this way.

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.

Trading

This has been a good year for Shipwrecked Mariners Trading Limited, the Society's wholly owned trading subsidiary which sells 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 £84,000 was 2.5% up on last year, another very pleasing result given the highly competitive nature of this market and the general reduction in Christmas card sales due to ever rising postal charges and growing use of social media to send greetings. The Company covenanted £12,378 to the Society. This, together with just under £93,000 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 greatest group of supporters, and very loyal and generous too.



Some of them have been buying our cards for over 50 years and are extremely generous in their support of the Society's work. Our cards are ambassadors for us and we are continually aiming to increase the number of card buyers.

Expenditure

Costs of Raising Funds

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 £1.8 million, which was 90% of all expenditure. Of this figure £1.4M million, 67% of all expenditure, was on grants to individuals. The Society works extremely hard to minimise fundraising and support costs, thereby maximising the proportion of funds spent on charitable activities and delivering the maximum level of financial support directly to our beneficiaries.

Reserves Policy And Designated Funds

The Trustees aim to maintain sufficient funds as reserves in order to generate the income required to carry out the purpose of the Charity. Without this the Society would be unable to respond to need to the extent that it does or would have to increase its fundraising activities and associated expenditure, and in so doing be largely competing with other charities in the maritime sector. Every five to six years the Society conducts a full actuarial review against various scenarios to determine whether we will have sufficient financial resources to meet the projected demand. An interim review was conducted in 2017.

The Society's Unrestricted Funds are split into 3 components:

- **General Fund**

This holds sufficient resources in short term realizable investment assets and cash to support administrative overheads and grants for a period of at least twelve months.

- **Investment Property Fund**

This is equivalent to the value of the Head Office building;

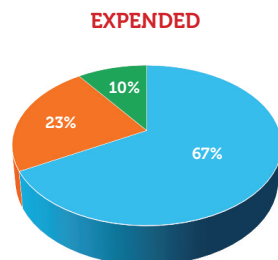
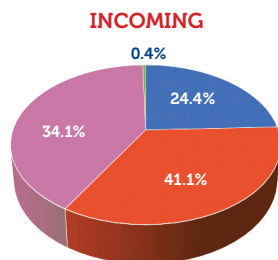
- **Designated Fund – Income Generation to support Grants**

This is a designated fund which is specifically maintained to generate investment income to support future grant payments (both regular and one-off). The Society's Total Return policy recognises that the value of this fund (in real terms) will slowly reduce over time, albeit this will be managed in line with our actuarial review to ensure sufficient funds to meet longer term need.

The above structure is a slight change from last year, with the previous 'Designated Fund for one-off grants' being amalgamated into General Funds to provide a clearer estimate of expenditure for the coming year. It should be noted that the investment return from the Designated Fund only provides approximately 60% of the expenditure required for grants; the remainder needing to be provided from other funding sources, including donations, legacies and external grants.

The above investments are managed by Sarasin LLP, mainly in a CAIF (Charity Approved Investment Fund) but there is also a small portfolio in cash or near cash instruments, which is kept topped up, to avoid the need to sell stocks and shares when the market is unfavourable. The level of designated reserves is reviewed annually.

Summary Income and Expenditure Account



Incoming Resources

	2018	2017
Donations	175,832	160,747
Legacies	245,276	196,205
Grants	295,563	341,428
Other	2,540	2,690
Total	719,211	701,070

Resources Expended

Raising Funds	193,008	191,950
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Charitable Activity

Grants	1,355,372	1,407,100
Other Costs	459,311	437,506

Total Resources Expended 2,021,302 2,050,233

Operating Surplus/(Deficit) (1,302,091) (1,349,163)

	2018	2017
Income From Investment	858,073	821,501
Net Gains/(Losses) On Investments	64,057	2,802,247
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(379,961)	2,274,585

Summary Balance Sheet

	2018	2017
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	13,724	18,299
Investments	25,347,289	25,768,619
Investment Property	1,150,000	1,150,000
Net Current Assets	330,509	284,565
Net Assets	26,841,522	27,221,483
Funds		
General Funds	2,053,820	1,754,150
Investment Property Fund	1,150,000	1,150,000
Designated Fund Regular Grants	20,559,314	20,917,011
Designated Fund One-off Grants	–	245,000
Restricted Funds	3,078,381	3,155,322



Awards For Skill and Gallantry 2018

The Edward And Maisie Lewis Award

For an Outstanding Air/Sea Rescue

The rescue of 23 crew members in demanding and dangerous conditions was accomplished through the highest standards of skill, professionalism, crew co-operation, flexibility and determination.



On Monday 14th August 2017, MV Cheshire, was on passage from Norway to Thailand with a cargo of approximately 43,000 tonnes of fertilizer, when an explosion occurred in one of its cargo holds. An accumulation of water had been discovered in the hold 2 days earlier, with temperatures of the cargo subsequently starting to rise as the fertilizer decomposed, resulting in the emission of large quantities of toxic gas. Initial intentions had been for the vessel to call at Las Palmas to address the emergency, but as temperatures in the hold continued to rise the vessel was ordered to a position south of Gran Canaria. Whilst maintaining this position a large explosion occurred in hold number 4.

The Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination Centre in Las Palmas were closely monitoring the situation. Having previously placed the Spanish Maritime Safety and

Rescue Society (SASEMAR) on standby, they requested an immediate scramble of their rescue assets to assist with the incident. Two salvage helicopters (call-signs Helimer 202 and 207) were quickly airborne and on transit to MV CHESHIRE. Helimer 202 (from Las Palmas) was the first to arrive on scene and witnessed the ship emitting huge amounts of toxic fumes. The crew's immediate priority was to closely assess the conditions, the movement of the vessel and the magnitude of fumes emanating from the ship. Despite the obvious danger of further explosion, Helimer 202's captain bravely positioned the helicopter over the ship and commenced evacuation, initially rescuing 4 seafarers. This required the helicopter rescue swimmer to be winched on to the deck, including leaving the wire and using breathing apparatus to assist one of the seafarers.

As Helimer 202 was preparing to depart, Helimer 207 (normally based in Tenerife) arrived on scene, and quickly took over the rescue. The helicopter captain did not hesitate in again placing the whole crew in harms' way, quickly winching the rescue swimmer on to the deck of the ship and moving between bow and stern to rescue a total of 11 personnel. The clear visibility away from the ship enabled good communications between the winchman and the rescue swimmer. However, the conditions on deck were such that the rescue swimmer needed oxygen when he arrived back in Las Palmas.

As Helimer 207 departed the scene, Helimer 202 rejoined the rescue to complete the evacuation of the remaining 8 personnel. Unfortunately, due to the intensifying fumes the last 5 evacuees had to retreat to a sealed room for safety. The rescue swimmer therefore had to leave the wire and battle through the fumes to locate the remaining crew members and then rapidly guide them to the bow for evacuation. Having recovered all the ship's crew, the rescue swimmer was being winched back on board when a second large explosion occurred in hold no 4. This could have had tragic consequences had it occurred earlier in the rescue. The rescue swimmer required medical attention on his return to Las Palmas due to the effects of fumes.



Overall the entire helicopter crew demonstrated great skill and bravery during this very dangerous and challenging operation.

Their commitment and professionalism ensured the safe evacuation of 23 seafarers and was clearly in keeping with the finest traditions of the Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Society. They are thoroughly deserving of the Edward and Maisie Lewis award for an outstanding air/sea rescue.



Individual Commendation

Javier Losada Carballo and Víctor Torres Navarro Helimer 202 / 207 Rescue Swimmers

Professionalism, dedication and outstanding bravery ensured the rescue of 23 crew from the burning MV CHESHIRE

On 14th August 2017, salvage helicopters Helimer 202 and Helimer 207 of the Spanish Maritime Safety and Rescue Society (SASEMAR) were both scrambled to a serious incident 30 miles south of Gran Canaria. Reports had been received the bulk carrier MV CHESHIRE was subject to a major fire in one of its cargo holds. The rescue swimmer on board Helimer 202 was Javier Losada Carballo and on Helimer 207 was Víctor José Torres Navarro.

Helimer 202 was the first on the scene, and with conditions onboard becoming increasingly dangerous, the decision was made to evacuate all personnel.

Javier Carballo was the first on board and exhibiting exceptional bravery amidst the extreme conditions of heat and toxic smoke, and with the ever-present danger of further explosions, proceeded to airlift 4 crew members from the ship, including leaving the relative safety of the wire and use breathing apparatus to assist the crew.

Javier's actions were quickly followed up by those of Victor Navarro, who exhibiting the same degree of bravery battled with the onboard conditions, moving between bow and stern of the

ship to rescue a further 11 crew whilst notably suffering the ill effects of the toxic fumes.

As Victor departed the ship he was replaced once again by Javier, who evacuated a further 8 crew members, 5 of whom had retreated to an isolated room to protect themselves and who he had to locate and lead to safety.

Both rescue swimmers demonstrated great skill and bravery during this challenging operation; not only were the cargo holds emitting huge volumes of toxic gases throughout this difficult sequence of airlifts, but they tenaciously and expertly carried out their duties despite the ever-present danger from further explosions. This reality of this risk was thankfully only emphasised as Victor was recovering to the helicopter following the successful evacuation of the last crew members, when a large explosion engulfed the majority of the ship in smoke and debris.

The courageous and skilful actions of both Javier Carballo and Victor Navarro deserve special recognition and it is for this reason that they are both awarded Individual Commendations for their actions.



Individual Commendation

Mr Steve Chamberlain - Deck Officer Wightlink

Quick thinking, determination and exceptional bravery ensured the rescue of man from perilous conditions in Portsmouth harbour.

At approximately 2300 on Saturday 3rd February 2018, Wightlink's ST CLARE car ferry was at her berth in Portsmouth harbour, where members of the crew were carrying out maintenance duties on the car deck before the midnight sailing to the Isle of Wight.

With temperatures just above freezing a man fell into the water at the Gunwharf Quays shopping and entertainment complex but went unnoticed by anyone in the vicinity. The ebbing tide was moving very quickly and carrying him out of the harbour. Crew member Robbie Mihell spotted the man in the water on the starboard side of the ship, between ST CLARE and Gunwharf Quays and immediately called "man overboard". A life ring was thrown from the ship but the man was apparently incapable of taking it and the crew observed his head was dipping into the water.

Quickly assessing the situation and with little thought for his own safety, Deck Officer Steve Chamberlain threw himself into the water to rescue the man.

Launch coxswain Peter Simmonds heard the radio alert from the ship and swiftly headed towards the incident in the Wightlink motor launch. Other staff immediately contacted the

emergency services and within 5 minutes an ambulance and several police cars were in attendance. By the time the coxswain located Steve Chamberlain he was supporting the casualty with the life ring. Having safely positioned the man in the life ring and secured him via a line thrown from the launch, Steve was able to exit the water via a quayside ladder.

Meanwhile, ST CLARE crew members Paul Cooke, Robbie Mihell and Chris Freemantle transferred to the launch to assist the coxswain and were quickly joined on scene by a police launch. In all it took six men to pull the casualty out of the water, which they knew had to be done carefully to avoid further injury. Whilst still conscious the casualty was clearly suffering from hypothermia and received immediate treatment from the ambulance crew before being transferred to hospital.

Notwithstanding the professional and dedicated responses of all those involved in this rescue, it is clear that without Steve's courageous actions there is a strong possibility that the casualty would have died. His selfless and immensely brave actions, in throwing himself into the sea on a dark winters night, in temperatures very close to freezing, deserve special recognition and it is for this reason he is awarded an Individual Commendation for his actions.



Crew Commendation

Crew of ST BARBARA V

Outstanding teamwork, skill and determination ensured that 5 crew were swiftly rescued from their sinking yacht.

On 7th December 2017 the crew of ST BARBARA V, all of whom were from 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, were on passage from Tenerife in the Canary Islands. Upon rounding the southern end of Tenerife they were subjected to Force 7 winds with the sea state rapidly rising. Having watched with interest as another yacht approached their position, she started heeling at an unusually high angle and then broached violently, with her mast hitting the water. Despite the crew's best efforts to hang on to the rails there was no way they could prevent themselves from falling into the water. Within seconds the yacht had turned completely upside-down, with it quickly becoming obvious that the reason for her capsizing was the loss of her keel.

Lt Col Neil Wilson, the skipper of ST BARBARA V, was at the helm at the time and immediately alerted the Mate (John Johnston), started the engine and put the on-deck watch into action. Under the guidance of their Watch-



leader (Capt James Lambden) and despite the testing conditions, they rapidly dropped the two headsails, lashing them to the foredeck, which allowed ST BARBARA to turn back to assist.

The stricken yacht had five German-Swiss crew on board, four of whom had floated clear but the fifth, the only female, was still attached by her harness inside the inverted yacht. Her husband removed his life jacket, dived beneath and incredibly managed to release her. They were fortunate to resurface within close proximity to their

yacht's life buoy and the husband's life jacket which he put back on.

Lt Col Wilson manoeuvred ST BARBARA close to the other three crew members who had floated clear of their upturned hull, at which stage the crew were able to use throwing lines to haul them to the boat and then manhandle them on board. Whilst this may sound relatively simple, the prevailing conditions dictated that it was anything but. The skipper needed to use significant skill to keep the ST BARBARA pointing head-to-wind, requiring a slight forward motion into the heavy sea. This added to the difficulties the crew (Bombadier Matthew Fisher and LBdr Luke Templeton) were having when trying to drag the soaked and fully clothed casualties over the high stern rail. It took the collective efforts of people to achieve it but they did so remarkably quickly.

Having recovered 3 casualties, ST BARBARA turned to recover the remaining two, who had by now been in the water for over 20 minutes. The skipper again demonstrated significant skill by bringing them alongside at the first attempt and subsequently recovered them in the same way. All five crew were taken down below to be triaged by the Ship's medic (Sgt Pete Edwards) and provided with warm, dry clothing and reassurance by Sgt Paul Burnett and Capt Joshua Roughton.

It is without doubt that had ST BARBARA V not been so close to the emerging disaster, and then recovered the crew so swiftly, that with a strong offshore wind and falling daylight, their chances of survival would have been minimal.

The whole crew demonstrated outstanding skill, teamwork and tenacity in responding to an emerging disaster and are fully deserving of a Crew Commendation to recognise their actions.





Lord Lewin Awards 2018

Caseworking

Revd George Ayoma - Fleetwood

Superintendent George Ayoma has worked with the Fishermen's Mission for many years but has been the Mission Area Officer (and our HA) for Fleetwood since 2008. He supports 72 regular beneficiaries within the local area and works very hard to ensure they all know him personally and feel they can call upon him at any time.

George is sometimes known as "Mr Fleetwood" and his understanding of the area and its community has resulted in him being highly regarded and very well liked. He is one of our most diligent HA's, working tirelessly to ensure swift completion of applications and reviews, whilst also delivering cheques to regular beneficiaries and distributing them at the biannual grant pay out. Of particular note, it is his applications that demonstrate his unfailing commitment to those living in one of the most deprived areas of the country.

He has an admirable ability to present the underlying context of each case, showing clear compassion and understanding for the individuals he visits.

George is highly deserving of an award to recognise his long service and exceptional commitment to the maritime community.



Fundraising & Caseworking

Martin Douglas - Filey

Martin Douglas has been an Honorary Agent for 27 Years, undertaking both casework and fundraising activity.

He is also an Honorary Agent for the Fishermen's Mission. Although the number of regular beneficiaries in the Filey area has diminished over time (nearly 30 in the 1990's but currently down to 4) Martin still delivers cheques and undertakes casework as required. He also looks after the Filey mine, including spending significant time restoring it following numerous cases of vandalism. Using his own initiative, he negotiated with the local Council for the mine to be refurbished and moved to a more prominent position; one which is also 'protected' by CCTV cameras. More recently he has taken over responsibility for the mines at Scarborough and Bridlington as the Fishermens' Mission are no longer able to do this for us.

Overall Martin has dedicated a significant amount of time, effort and personal resources to fulfil both his caseworking and mine management duties; nothing is too much trouble for him. He always responds promptly and enthusiastically to any request placed on him and is widely admired for his selflessness and dedication to others. As such Martin is highly deserving of an award to recognise his extremely long service and outstanding dedication to the Society's work.





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 standing 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:

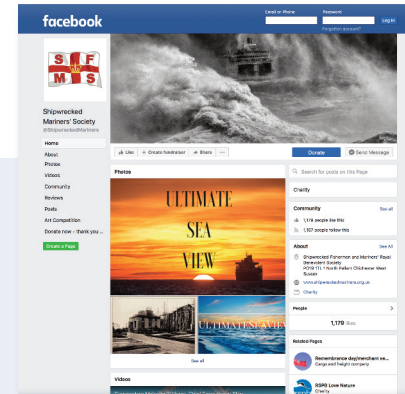
- **A residuary legacy** - which means you leave the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society all or part of your estate once other gifts to family and friends have been distributed or
- **A pecuniary legacy** - which is a fixed sum of money.

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



Website and Social Media

The Society's website shipwreckmariners.org.uk has extensive and interesting content - and it's mobile friendly too - so take a look. It's regularly updated with latest news, and along with our social media channels, is the fastest way to keep up-to-date with what's happening here at Central Office and around the country. So please, 'Like' us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter - and check out our YouTube Channel too!





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