



Annual Report 2018-19



SUPPORTING THE SEAFARING COMMUNITY FOR 180 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:

"I just wanted to write and thank you from the bottom of my heart. I've been in my home a little over a month now and feel emotional even trying to put into words how much it means to have a place to live and feel safe again. Thank you all for the grant and your help, it means the world to me."

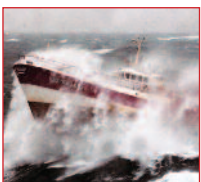
"I am writing to thank the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society for the talking microwave we were able to purchase with the grant you gave us – it has made a big difference to my life and I am now able to be a bit more independent. Thank you to all concerned, it has made my life a lot easier."

"My wife and I would like to say thank you very much for your generosity in helping us as a result of my accident, it will never be forgotten. A massive thank you to your charity for supporting us as we had to have the boiler replaced. The boiler and the hot water failed the first week into the accident which was very bad timing. It has been a massive help as I have now been out of work for 19 weeks but I'm determined to return to the sea as it's in my blood."

"I am writing to thank you for the cheque and help you have kindly given to help us. It has been a great pleasure dealing with your Honorary Agent who with his kind words of hope, wisdom and inspiration has been a great comfort to us at this time."

We are so grateful for the Society authorising payments for both the bed base and the bedroom carpet and having the regular grant will make a huge difference to our life.

I can only go on saying a huge, huge, thank you."



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

Founded in 1839 the Society was granted Royal Patronage with Queen Victoria becoming our first Patron; this has continued to the present day and we are delighted HRH The Princess Royal is our current Patron.





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 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
Commander Andrea Crook RN
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
Mr Robert Greenwood (from April 18)

**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: 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





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

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, and in this our 180th year of supporting the seafaring community, I am pleased to report that over the last year we have:

- Made regular grant payments in 1,438 cases at a cost of £1.1million
- Handled 580 new applications for assistance
- Taken on 89 new regular beneficiaries
- Completed 223 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 £288,000 were made to 501 people; this continues to be a rising trend and has a notable effect on the people involved, as reflected in a letter from a 55-year-old mariner:

"My wife and I would like to say a huge thank you for your generosity in helping us after my accident. It has been a massive help during my 19 weeks out of work. Progress is still very slow but I am determined to return to sea as it is in my blood".

The average age of our regular grant recipients' is 76, but they range in age from 45 to 104. The average age of new regular beneficiaries was 68. Approximately 49% have a fishing background and 33% 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, house repairs, clothing and holidays.

For one-off grants the average age of an applicant was 58, which has been steadily falling over the years. Many of the grants were awarded to those who were out of work and on Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA).

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 approx. £2.2M and total expenditure of just over £2 million there was an operating surplus of £191,000; this does not align with our longer-term strategy to operate a deficit budget, but reflects an exceptionally good year in terms of legacy receipts. Our long-term strategy seeks to recognise the slowly reducing population 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 amazing supporters, including into our large collecting mines and in response to our Christmas, Easter and Seafarers Awareness Week appeals achieved another record high of £219,000. This included a one-off donation of £25,000 from an exceptionally generous supporter, but the underlying donations still represented a 10% increase on the previous year.

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. We must also recognise our reliance on the support of our major grant funders, Seafarers UK and Trinity House, without whom we would be unable to maintain the level of support we provide and to whom we are most grateful.

We are pleased to have been joined by a new trustee, Cdr Andrea Crook RN, who brings additional valuable experience of the maritime benevolence sector, having served for many years as a Trustee of the WRNS Benevolent Trust, including most recently as its Chair. Sadly, we will shortly be bidding farewell to 2 of our longest serving Trustees; Capt John Hughes has been a Trustee of the Society for over 22 years, serving on the Executive Committee for many years before assuming the role of Deputy Chairman in 2008 and then Chairman in 2011. Cdre Laurie Hopkins has been a Trustee for over 15 years and, since 2012, has also been the Chairman of our Awards Committee, drawing on his own experience as a helicopter pilot to oversee the selection of winners for our Annual Skill and Gallantry Awards. Both have been outstanding supporters of the Society's work, including regularly spending time with our Honorary Agents and beneficiaries, as well as attending our weekly grants' meetings; both will be sadly missed and we wish them the very best for the future.

Since 1851 we have been making awards for outstanding acts of skill and gallantry at sea and this year's 3 winners pages 14-19 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 20 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

It's been a busy but very enjoyable first year as Chief Executive, the highlight of which has been meeting Honorary Agents and beneficiaries across the country to learn more about the work we do and the impact it has. It is clear from all of these interactions that if you are solely reliant on a state

pension with no savings, then life can be very difficult. However, I have also been struck by the increasing number of people who are approaching retirement age, but after many hard years at sea are struggling with physical or mental conditions which stop them from continuing, or do not have the transferrable skills to find alternative employment. It would be something of an understatement to say that existing on £73.10 a week (the amount paid for either Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) or Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)) is a dire situation and we are therefore attempting to do more to support people who are affected in this way.

In more general terms, having been given a year by the Trustees to find my feet and reflect on the future direction of the Society, my main observation is that the work we do is every bit as relevant today as it has been in the past. We are clearly providing much needed support to a very worthy group of seafarers (and their families) and I see no obvious reasons for revolution in the way we do our business. There are however opportunities for us to better meet ever-evolving

needs (as per the example outlined above) but we are also considering other initiatives, such as assisting people in understanding how they can make their money go further. We are keenly aware that over 65% of our beneficiaries have no access to the internet or online information, and are frequently unaware that they could be saving significant amounts of money on routine bills, particularly utilities. As such we are currently considering options for assisting people in this regard, in particular whether a 'digital friend' could help people in their own homes and demonstrate areas where savings may be possible. These are but 2 of several initiatives which reflect our desire to ensure we maximise the impact of the support we provide.

Turning to more internal matters, our Trading Company's activities generated a fantastic profit of over £10,000. However, more importantly our loyal card buyers donated over £129,000 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 £90,000, including £9,000 from 29 of our large mines which were opened during the year. Special thanks are due to those Honorary Agents who look after them so well despite the ravages of time, sea air and (occasionally) vandalism.

This year saw legacy income of £841,000, an amazing sum which is significantly above the long-term average and the highest total for over 13 years. 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 seventh year is run on-line to encourage a younger generation to consider supporting us and to celebrate our enduring relationship with the sea. This year we were most grateful to receive sponsorship from Ensign Pensions and the Fishmongers' Company. The competition attracted 814 entries from 294 individuals. The winning image, "Landing Mackerel" was taken by Laurence Hartwell. My thanks to our expert judges: Sunday Times Picture Editor, Ray Wells and Picture Editor of

the i, Sophie Batterbury. Of note we launched a new calendar last year (as part of our Christmas card catalogue) featuring a selection of stunning images from previous entries to the competition. This has proven to be very popular and I commend it to you as an excellent way of raising the profile of the Society, whilst also serving as an excellent Christmas present for any friends and family who prove hard to buy for.

Our Honorary Agents, of whom there are 177 (ranging in age from 34 to 91), 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 and Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest for their work on our behalf, as well as the Seamen's 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, Sami, Stephen and Sylvia for their unwavering support over the last year and their unswerving commitment to those we seek to support.

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.

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

- 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 Impact that it has:

Mr G, in his 40's with 24 years sea service, was left severely disabled and wheelchair bound following a serious traffic accident. Having received support from a range of charities to modify and equip his home, all his immediate needs had been met, however **we were happy to award a regular grant to supplement his very limited income.**

Mr F, in his late 20's with 12 years sea service, was off work following a serious injury to his leg. He and his young family had been managing until their **boiler broke down**; with no savings to fall back on and winter approaching, **we provided a replacement.**

Mr T, in his 50's with 25 years sea service, had used all his savings and redundancy money during a prolonged period of unemployment. Despite having recently secured a new job, he was being threatened with eviction; **we were able to provide funds to help with the arrears and alleviate the significant stress placed on him and his family.**

"As my husband is no longer able to write I have signed this letter on his behalf, but **thank you so much for all that you have done for us** – the replacement boiler has now been fitted and it's wonderful to have a warm home once again."

Mr P, in his early 70's with 50 years sea service, was struggling with debt and believed the only way out would be to return to work. We referred him to the Sailors Advice and Information Line (SAIL) for debt advice, whilst also **approving a regular grant to bolster his limited income.**

Mr B, in his early 50's with 10 years sea service, had been homeless for a significant period; he was working with SSAFA to find a new home and **we were able to provide a setting up home grant of £1,000 to provide furnishing and white goods.**

Mr A, in his late 60s with 35 years sea service, approached us as he and his wife were struggling to make ends meet. We were able to advise them on claiming various benefits, which resulted in extra income of over £100 per week. **Whilst this placed them outside our limits for support, they were nonetheless over £5,000 pa better off.**

"I am so grateful to you all at Shipwrecked Mariners for your very generous grant. **The new flat you helped us move to is so peaceful, quiet and damp free, which is such a joy. Thank you so, so, so much.**"

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 2018/19 was £2.2 million with expenditure of £2.0 million, giving an operating surplus of £191,000. This compares to a deficit of £444,000 in the previous year. In the long term 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 Income (after returns on investments) was £1.1 million compared to Net Expenditure the previous year of £0.4 million.

Investments

Investments generate income that is key to supporting our beneficiaries. This year the value of our investments has increased from £25.3 million to £25.9 million. A total return (TR) policy is operated which requires the investment managers to fund our budgeted yearly operating deficit from a combination of income and capital: due to higher than average legacy receipts, this year's drawdown was lower than normal, representing only 2.4% 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 £841,000 were up by £595,000 on last year, which is by far our highest level of legacy income since 2005. 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 £219,000, albeit this included a one-off grant of £25,000 which is unlikely to be repeated. Overall this represents an underlying increase in donations of 10.4%. We are most appreciative of the generosity of those who support us in this way.

Grants

We have a very close relationship with two key charities, namely Seafarers UK and Trinity House London, who have been extremely generous over many years in supporting our work. The annual grants we receive from them 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 £83,000 was very slightly down on last year, but represented another very pleasing result given the highly competitive nature of this market and the general reduction in Christmas card sales. The Company covenanted £10,611 to the Society. This, together with just over

£129,000 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 £1.4 million, 70% 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 three components:

- **General Fund**

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

- **Investment Property Fund**

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

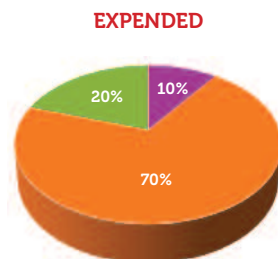
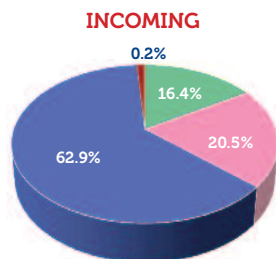
- **Designated Fund – Income Generation to support Grants**

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.

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 funds held in the 3 different components of unrestricted funds is reviewed annually.

Summary Income and Expenditure Account



Incoming Resources

	2019	2018
Donations	219,126	175,832
Legacies	840,756	245,276
Grants	274,634	295,563
Other	2,040	2,540
Total	1,336,556	719,211

Resources Expended

Raising Funds	201,103	193,008
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Charitable Activity

Grants	1,411,898	1,355,372
Other Costs	411,458	459,311
Total Resources Expended	2,024,459	2,021,302
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(687,903)	(1,302,091)

	2019	2018
Income From Investment	878,846	858,073
Net Gains/(Losses) On Investments	937,926	64,057
Net Income/(Expenditure)	1,128,869	(379,961)

Summary Balance Sheet

	2019	2018
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	10,293	13,724
Investments	25,914,121	25,347,289
Investment Property	1,150,000	1,150,000
Net Current Assets	895,977	330,509
Net Assets	27,970,391	26,841,522
Funds		
General Funds	2,128,000	2,053,820
Investment Property Fund	1,150,000	1,150,000
Designated Fund		
Income Generation to Support Grants	21,588,600	20,559,314
Restricted Funds	3,103,791	3,078,381



Awards For Skill and Gallantry 2019

The Lady Swaythling Trophy

For Outstanding Seamanship

Professionalism, good judgement, excellent leadership and outstanding seamanship ensured the safe recovery of a crew member following a man overboard incident.



In the early hours of Sunday 10th March 2019, 2 hours before sunrise, a fisherman from the Fishing Vessel Emelia Jayne was swept overboard, having been struck by a very large wave which lifted him off his feet and over the side of the vessel. Jay Holden, the skipper of the Emelia Jane immediately reported to the coastguard that they had a man overboard situation, 25NM Southeast of Salcombe, with the weather on scene reported as being Westerly Winds at Severe Gale Force 9 and 20ft seas.

The skipper was notably very calm and collected when communicating with the coastguard, in what would have been a very busy and demanding time onboard. He immediately turned the vessel about and started to head back along his mean line of advance, towards the last known position of his crewman. The dark night and high seas made it very difficult to see anyone in the water, but

as they proceeded along the line they eventually reported hearing shouts, which they navigated towards. The conditions resulted in significant difficulty in maintaining a steady course but despite the treacherous sea the crew were eventually able to identify a casualty in the water. The skipper positioned the vessel close enough to deploy a life ring in order to give him extra support, however the severe conditions prevented them from being able to recover him onboard.

Following further liaison with the Coastguard, the Newquay Coastguard helicopter, callsign Rescue 924, arrived on scene and the Emilia Jayne deployed an orange smoke flare to help identify the casualty and this enabled a swift recovery by the winchman back to the aircraft.



Of note the casualty, who was wearing his lifejacket, survived for over an hour despite bitterly cold seas and 20ft waves.

Whilst the rescue of this crewmember clearly involved multiple parties, Jay Holden's quick thinking, cool professionalism and excellent seamanship, including a long-term focus on maintaining a robust safety regime, clearly underpinned this amazing rescue.

Speaking after the rescue, the helicopter's crewman, Spike Hughes, said: "I've been doing search and rescue for nearly twenty years and Reegan was the first fisherman I've taken out of the water who was conscious and alive, but he was also the first fisherman I took out of the water wearing a lifejacket."

All too few fishermen routinely wear a Personal Flotation Device (lifejacket to you and me) without which the skilful and tenacious actions of all concerned would almost certainly have proved inadequate to save a life.

Based on the above event, the Lady Swaythling Trophy for 2019 is presented to Jay Holden, the skipper of the Fishing Vessel Emilia Jayne, for his outstanding seamanship both prior to and during the rescue of his crew member following a man overboard incident.





The Edward and Maisie Lewis Award

For an Outstanding Air/Sea Rescue

The rescue of 2 critically ill patients in demanding and dangerous conditions was accomplished through the highest standards of skill, professionalism, crew co-operation, flexibility and determination.



On the afternoon of Thursday 17th January 2019, the crew of helicopter Rescue 01 based at Mount Pleasant Airfield in the Falkland Islands, were given advanced notice of the need to conduct 2 consecutive, complex and demanding rescues that would prove a challenge to every facet of their airmanship, skill, determination and bravery.

At 03:55 on the 18th January, an hour before sunrise, Rescue 01 was launched into severe weather conditions to rendezvous with the MV JAMES CLARK ROSS, some 200nm E/SE of the airfield, in order to recover a critically ill patient with life threatening injuries. Having arrived on scene conditions were assessed as severe, with strong gale force winds in excess of 45 knots and a high swell. Operating at the very edge of their endurance, the crew had minimal time to affect a stretcher transfer of the casualty. The severely pitching deck and extreme spray

caused by the vessel plunging into the significant swell required an innovative approach to the recovery, requiring exceptional skill from the whole crew but particularly the pilot, Capt. Johnny Green. Of note, this skill and professionalism was delivered despite keen awareness of operating at the extremes of the helicopter's endurance, and the resulting pressure to conduct their life saving task in very limited time, or risk having insufficient fuel to return to base. However, having successfully recovered the casualty, Rescue 01 returned to Mount Pleasant Airfield, with the casualty immediately then onward transferred by plane due to the critical nature of his condition. Their mission had lasted 4 hours and 36 minutes.

However, just over 2 hours later, Rescue 01 was once again airborne, with the same crew, this time heading towards another critically ill patient aboard MV

PLANCIUS, which was also located 200nm E / SE. On scene the weather had significantly deteriorated, particularly in terms of the sea state and swell, with the severely pitching deck making the "Hi line" transfer even more treacherous. Despite these very demanding conditions the whole crew demonstrated exceptional professionalism, skill and bravery to recover the patient with life threatening injuries. The helicopter arrived back at Port Stanley airfield 4 hours and 44 minutes after take-off.

It is therefore clear that the crew selflessly operated at ranges well beyond that which would normally be expected, in 2 exceptionally demanding back to back missions; but did so despite significant risk to themselves but based on a clear imperative to save lives. The crew were well aware they were operating at max range, in the most hostile of environments, and that if something had gone wrong, there was no secondary SAR helicopter coming behind to rescue them.

The complex technical nature of the missions in such challenging weather conditions required exemplary handling skills and airmanship, outstanding Crew Resource Management, clear determination and exceptional bravery to execute 2 textbook rescues. The total flight time was a staggering 9 hours 20 minutes with just over 2 hours turn around on the ground

between launches, which is an incredible feat of endurance in itself, not to mention the ability to maintain such impeccable standards of professional airmanship throughout. As such the crew of Rescue 01 has been selected as this year's recipient of the Edward and Maisie Lewis Award for an outstanding air sea rescue.





Crew Commendation

Crew of Rescue 924

Outstanding airmanship, combined with teamwork, skill and determination, ensured the rescue of 6 crew from the stricken Fishing Vessel LA FANETTE.

At 0318, Rescue 924 was tasked to evacuate the crew of FV LA FANETTE which was drifting, having lost power, approx. 7 nm west of Land's End and at risk of running aground. Arriving on scene just 40 minutes later, they encountered gale force 9 winds, with gusts up to 60 knots, and 20ft waves. The vessel was pitching and rolling unpredictably and laying beam on to the wind, without any ability to manoeuvre itself. It rapidly became obvious that selection of a suitable transfer point would be very difficult, particularly as the stern was cluttered with nets and trawling gear making it unsuitable for winch transfer. Having investigated various positions around the deck for 30 to 40 minutes, requiring both the right- and left-hand seat pilot to fly the aircraft, it became evident that the safest winching location was the bow; this provided the pilot with the best visual references and a relatively safe approach angle, albeit even this was partially compromised by a crane on the starboard side. With the



automatic flight control system regularly dropping out due to the strength of the wind and turbulence, the majority of the operation had to be flown manually; this required exceptional airmanship, with the aircraft hovering 90 degrees out of wind, effectively flying sideways, to maintain formation with the bow/transfer area. In this position, the aircraft sat at approximately 15 degrees right wing low with the cyclic at nearly full right displacement in order to maintain a stable hover. With limited cyclic control available, a number of dummy approaches were conducted and after a dynamic risk assessment, the whole crew were satisfied that it was safe to proceed.



The 6 crew members of the FV LA FANETTE were grouped near the bow ready for evacuation, dressed in immersion suits and wearing life jackets. Having deployed the winch-man to the deck, he informed the crew that due to the extreme conditions and to expedite the evolution, 2 crewmembers would be winched together requiring only 3 lifts; he would remain on deck until all crew had been rescued. With the vessel pitching and rolling violently the winchman calmly briefed the crew on the requirements for a hi-line transfer, after which the aircraft remained in a low hover just off the bow with each transfer conducted under the calm reassuring con of the Winch Operator. The evolution was not without difficulties; during the first transfer the vessel lurched and pitched up causing the two survivors to impact the bow, with one sustaining a shoulder injury. On the last lift, the hi-line parted due to the conditions and a second hi-line had to be used to recover the winchman. With all crew on board, Rescue 924 returned to Newquay where the injured fisherman received medical attention.

This rescue was conducted at night, in atrocious weather and sea conditions, with the added pressure that the vessel was slowly drifting towards rocks. Although the crew of FV LA FANETTE were wearing immersion suits and life jackets, if they had entered the water, their chances of survival in the raging sea would have been

very slim. The rescue was dynamic, in appalling conditions but from commencement of the winching it took less than 20 minutes to recover all 6 crew and winchman to the aircraft.

This rescue stretched the capabilities of the crew and the aircraft; however, it was conducted calmly with the highest level of skill, bravery and professionalism. As such the crew of Rescue 924 are fully deserving of a crew commendation for an outstanding air sea rescue.





Lord Lewin Awards 2019



Sylvia Van Beem Caseworking - Hull

Superintendent 'Sal' Van Beem has worked for the Fishermen's Mission in Hull for 4 years, during which time she has also served as a loyal Honorary Agent for the Society. Of note, Hull and the surrounding area

is the Society's busiest outstation and Sal serves as part of the small team which supports over 200 regular beneficiaries. During her tenure she has developed a very strong relationship with fishermen and their families, providing her with a deep-seated understanding of their needs. She has submitted hundreds of applications for support on behalf of both regular beneficiaries and those requiring one-off support, as well as conducting large numbers of reviews. Consistently showing immense dedication and compassion, her casework routinely provides a level of detail and insight which enable timely and well-considered support to be provided to those in need. Always cheerful and full of fun, she is much liked and incredibly well respected by everyone in the Society, as well as by our beneficiaries, particularly due to her obvious dedication to upholding the welfare of mariners and their families. Ever willing to go the extra mile for those in need of help, she never fails to respond to urgent queries or issues.

Sal is highly deserving of an award to recognise her dedicated service and exceptional commitment to the maritime community.

Caroline Spencer

Fundraising – Brightlingsea

Caroline has been our HA in Brightlingsea since 2003, having taken over the role from her late husband (Jim) who had himself been our HA since 1991. Caroline has been an amazingly effective and dedicated fundraiser for the Society, not only in managing one of our large mines, including overseeing the delivery and installation of a brand new mine in 2007, but also in undertaking a wide range of additional activities, including delivering fundraising talks on behalf of the Society, helping to promote our Christmas Cards and in administering several model collection mines in the local area. Her collective efforts (as well as those of her husband) have raised many thousands of pounds for the Society over the years, thereby providing essential funds to continue our very important work to support seafarers and their families who are in need.

As an exceptionally committed and long term supporter of the Society, Caroline is thoroughly deserving of special recognition for her outstanding efforts.





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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