



Annual Report 2020-21

SUPPORTING THE SEAFARING COMMUNITY FOR 182 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:

"Thank you for the grant that I recently received. I bought a new sofa with the money so I now have something to lie on when I get home from upcoming operation.
Once again, thank you."

"I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society for the generous death grant I received which will be a huge help towards the cost of my late husband's funeral. I would particularly like to thank you for how easy you made it to claim and for your expeditious handling of it all.
Thank you so much and may God bless you and the work of your charity."

"Thank you for the deposit for my new boiler which was fitted last week. I just wanted to say a big thank you for helping us and for all the help we receive through the annual grant. We had no boiler since the cold weather started but the house is now beautifully warm and cosy and we have hot water at last!"

"I am writing to thank you so very much for the grant that arrived in my bank account yesterday. It's extremely kind of you and really is an enormous help.
With much gratitude and my very best wishes."

"I don't know how I can thank you all enough for what you have done for me. I would like to meet you all in person when this situation is over for a coffee, or tea, and have the opportunity to thank you all in person. This is going to make a real change to my situation right now. I intend to use most of this on skins and wellies so I can get back to work asap and with this I will always be reminded of you all and everything you have done, every time I go out to sea. Again, thank you so much."

"Thank you for the grant which was received this week. With even higher heating bills it's come at a time when it's most needed. Thanks again - we're very grateful to you."

"Good afternoon - we have recently been in receipt of a generous grant for new carpets in our elderly persons bungalow that we moved into recently.
Please pass on our thanks to everyone involved."

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 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 William Plant FCA*

Captain Roger Barker MNM
Mr Richard Coleman FCA
Commander Andrea Crook RN*
Mr Eamonn Delaney KSG*
Mr Rob Jardine-Brown
Commodore Mike Mansergh CBE RN
Mrs Nikki Miller

Captain Graham Pepper FNI*
Mr Robert Greenwood
Mrs Liz Price
Mr Michael Seymour*
Captain John Vercoe FNI*
Mr Tim West
Commodore Toby Williamson MVO RN

**Executive Committee Members*

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

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Drummond House (S) Branch, 1 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9JN

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

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

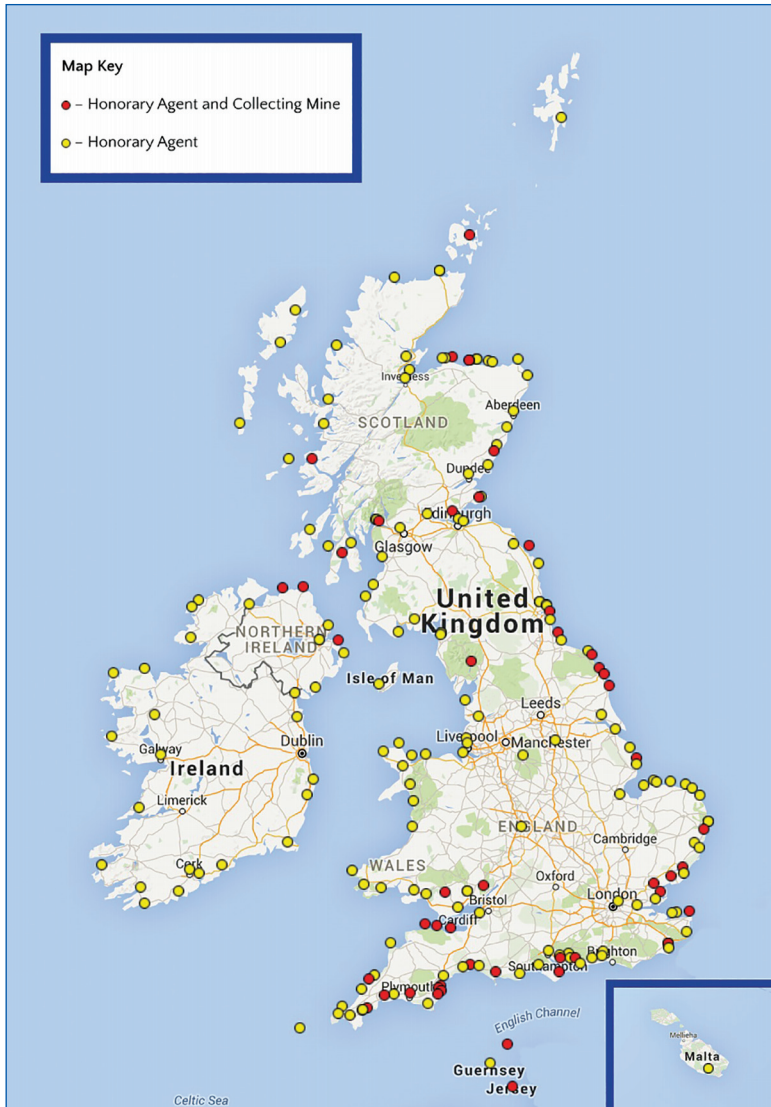
Investment Advisers: Sarasin & Partners LLP, Juxon House 100 St. Paul's Churchyard, London, EC4M 8BU

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

Chief Executive: Captain Justin Osmond Royal Navy



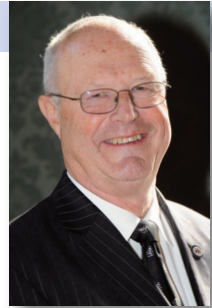
Where we are



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 180 Honorary Agents. The Society also has an Honorary Agent and a few beneficiaries in Malta.

Chairman's Report

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, and in this our 182nd year, I am delighted to provide an update on the Society's work after what has clearly been a demanding year for the nation as a whole, but for seafarers in particular. At the start of this reporting period, in April 2020, we had just entered the first national lockdown and were attempting to assess how the evolving pandemic might impact the seafaring population, whilst also noting the potential impact of our departure from the European Union. Whilst our decision making at that time was necessarily subjective, it was fairly evident that significant levels of additional support would be required to uphold the welfare of seafarers and their families. In the knowledge that things were likely to prove extremely difficult for many of our beneficiaries, Trustees took the bold decision to commit an additional resource of up to £1M in response to the pandemic.



I will outline some of the finer details of this response a little later, but would first like to give you a broad summary of our grant making activity. Over the course of the last year, we have:

- Made regular grant payments in 1,302 cases at a cost of £1.0 million
- Handled 832 new applications for assistance
- Taken on 102 new regular beneficiaries
- Completed 267 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 £389,000 were made to 723 people, which represents a 50% increase in the number awarded. This increase was almost exclusively driven by the pandemic, with nearly 300 grants provided to those who found themselves on state benefits either due to their inability to work or, for many fishermen, their inability to sell their catches due to the closure of fish markets. The total cost of COVID related grants was just over £160,000.

Total expenditure was £2.1 million, of which £1.8M, or 87%, was spent on charitable activities, which includes the cost of governance and administration. Incoming resources of approx. £1.6M therefore gave an operating deficit of £498,000, which is in line with our longer-term investment strategy, which sees the overall value of our investments gradually reducing in line with the slowly reducing numbers of seafarers (and seafaring families) within the UK. 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, both now and in the future.

Donations from our amazing supporters, including into our large collecting mines and in response to our Christmas, Easter and Seafarers Awareness Week appeals, were £216,000. This represents a 12% increase and clearly highlights the remarkable generosity of our supporters, who have provided more support than ever before in responding to the emerging crisis.

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, including both Trinity House and The Seafarers Charity, without whom we would be unable to maintain the level of support we provide and to whom we are most grateful.



Returning to more current events, the impact of COVID19 has clearly been felt by people across the world, albeit the financial impacts of the pandemic have affected different areas of society in different ways. Whilst acknowledging the massive government effort to support working age people, our recent experience has left us in no doubt that the pandemic has been hardest for those who have least. Many of our beneficiaries suddenly found themselves without any income, and in many cases not knowing where to turn. For the majority Universal credit was the only support available which, whilst seemingly providing them with a way forward, left them without any way of putting food on the table or keeping the lights on until their first payment arrived. The Society therefore decided to assist in this area, with the majority of our COVID payments to date helping keep families afloat during, and immediately after, applying for benefits. The impact of this work is best represented by a comment from one of our HA's which simply said:

“Thank you all for the amazing effort to get as much help as possible to our fishing families. Please don't think that it goes unnoticed - so many fishermen have got back to us to say that your support made all the difference to them and to their families”.

In conducting this activity, it is important to acknowledge that we have not worked alone; as usual we have drawn on our extremely close relationship with The Fishermen's Mission, who have continued their fantastic work liaising with our existing beneficiaries, whilst also spreading the word to others who may need our help. We have also worked very closely with the Seafarers' Hospital Society and the Sailor's Children's Society, with all four organisations meeting together on a bi-weekly basis throughout the pandemic to share our different experiences of COVID related need, but perhaps most importantly to ensure a coherent response to an ever-evolving crisis.

Looking forward, the unprecedented scale of the pandemic will inevitably mean that the financial impacts will be with us for years to come. In the near term, we fully expect to see increasing numbers of people struggling with the debts that have accrued over the course of the crisis, with little opportunity for repayment as they struggle to re-establish their former levels of income. As such the Society will be doing its best to assist with this issue and help people get their lives back on an even keel. However, we will also be continuing with all our more routine grant making activity, including both regular grants and our various different forms of one-off support.

I very much hope the above has not only provided some useful insight into the Society's work, but also demonstrates our commitment to continually adapt to changing circumstances. In essence we remain focussed on responding to Seafarer's needs and maximising the support we provide to our beneficiaries.

Our key aims for the coming year are:

- Continuing our enduring task of helping fishermen and mariners and their dependants in need
- 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
- Increasing our knowledge of additional sources of help, advice and assistance for those in need
- Maintaining the rolling programme of three-yearly reviews of beneficiaries' circumstance

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



In more normal times one of the highlights of my year involves visiting both Honorary Agents and beneficiaries throughout the UK. Sadly however, the pandemic put paid to any thoughts of a road trip during 2020/21, but it has nonetheless been an exceptionally busy year, largely driven by the significant level of demands associated with COVID19. So I would like to start by offering 2 thank yous, firstly to our amazing band of supporters who responded so generously to the emerging crisis, thereby enabling us to continue our vital work, but secondly to all those who have worked so hard to ensure continued delivery of support during such demanding times, not only within the Shipwrecked Mariners team, but also in the many other organisations with whom we work. It has been a real privilege to be part of such a unified effort during a time of extreme need, and I have no doubt that the collaborative nature of this year's activity will provide a strong platform from which to develop even better support in the years to come.

Turning to more routine matters, the demographic of our regular beneficiaries remains broadly the same, ranging from 43 to 102 years old but with an average age of 76. Approximately 51% have a fishing background and 31% have served in the Merchant Navy, while the balance served in both. Regular beneficiaries reported that the main 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 55, which has been steadily falling over the years due to a significant and growing proportion of these grants being awarded to working age beneficiaries.

Since 1851 we have been making awards for outstanding acts of skill and gallantry at sea and this year's 3 winners (pages 14-16) 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 contribution of 1 of our Honorary Agents (page 16) by presenting them with the Society's Lord Lewin Award.

Turning to other internal matters, having recently amalgamated our trading activity into the main charity it has been another very successful year. Turnover at £93,000 was up by 18% on last year, representing a very strong result given the highly competitive nature of this market, the general reduction in Christmas card sales and the potential difficulties associated with the COVID19 pandemic. In conjunction with these sales, the Society also received over £150,000 worth of Appeal related donations, which clearly demonstrates the value of our trading activity in generating funds for the Society's work, whilst also providing numerous opportunities to advertise our work to the wider public. In addition, we received further public donations of over £66,000, which includes donations into our large collecting mines. Special thanks are due to those Honorary Agents who look after them so well despite the ravages of time, sea air and (occasionally) vandalism.

Legacy receipts for the year were £166,000, which is down on last year. However, 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 ninth year, is designed to celebrate our enduring relationship with the sea. The competition attracted 1,578 entries from 457 individuals. The Fisherman's Wake (Whitstable) was taken by Michael Marsh. My thanks to our expert panel of judges: Online Picture Editor at The Telegraph, Neil Stevenson, Picture Editor of the i, Sophie Batterbury and former Sunday Times Picture Editor, Ray Wells.



Our Honorary Agents, of whom there are 170 (ranging in age from 36 to 87), 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 also recognise that we are part of a network of support and I would particularly like to thank the Superintendents of the Fishermen's Mission, as well as caseworkers from SSAFA, Mission to Seafarers and Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest for their work on our behalf. I would also like to thank the Seafarer'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 our partners across the sector and further enhancing the support we offer to the seafaring community.

Looking forward, there is much to be done in the coming year, not only to continue our work supporting those whose lives have been so badly affected by the pandemic, but also in continuing our more routine work, including rejuvenation of some of the initiatives which were placed on hold at the onset of the pandemic. I look forward to working with the whole Shipwrecked Mariners team, as well as our close partners, to ensure continued delivery of much needed support to the maritime 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

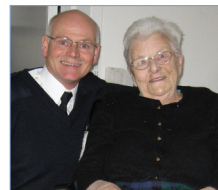
The Society fulfils its charitable objectives primarily through a variety of grants: **Regular; Special or One-Off; Immediate; Death Benefit (to former Life members), Funeral and Shipwreck.**

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.

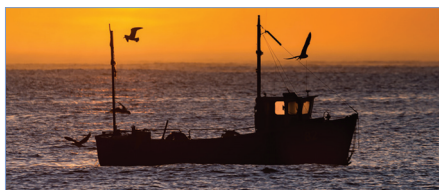
The SPECIAL or ONE-OFF/CRISIS GRANT enables the recipient among other things to:

- 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 J, in his late 30's, with nearly 20 years sea service, approached us as he had lost all his earnings due to the coronavirus pandemic. His boiler had recently broken down and his family, which included four young children, were living without heating or hot water. We were able to provide over £3,000 to replace their boiler; we also referred them to our partner charities who provided additional help with general living costs, as well as with laptops to enable the children to keep up with their schooling.
- "I don't know how I can thank you all enough for what you have done for me. It's going to make a real change to my situation right now and allow me to get back to work. I will be reminded of you all and everything you have done every time I go out to sea. Thank you so much"
- Mrs G, a widow in her late 70's, approached us to request a regular grant. In reviewing her situation, we were able to talk to her about additional benefits, as well as rebates on certain bills; these subsequently provided her with over £80 per week in extra funds. Whilst this meant that her income was above the qualifying level for a regular grant, she was nonetheless over £4,000 p.a. better off.
- Mr T, in his early 60s with over 30 years sea service, had been re-housed by the local authority having been recognised as a vulnerable adult following a brain injury. He had previously been targeted by criminals who took over his home and kept him locked in a bedroom. Having been moved closer to his family his situation was much improved, but he was in need of a few domestic items. We took him on as regular beneficiary, with the initial grant more than covering his immediate needs.
- "Thank you all for the amazing effort in December to get as much help as possible to our fishing families. Please don't think that it goes unnoticed - so many fishermen have got back to us to say that your support made all the difference to them and to their families".
- Ms G had previously lost her partner in tragic circumstances. In her late 20s with 3 young children, she was struggling to make ends meet. She had been offered a new property which would significantly improve her situation but needed multiple items to furnish the house. In conjunction with another charity, we provided £1,500 to help her establish a suitable home for her young family.
- Mrs E, a widow in her early 80's, was already in receipt of a regular grant but was struggling to keep up payments on her rented washing machine. She also needed to replace her threadbare carpets, which were a significant trip hazard. We were happy to pay for both items.



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 2020/21 was £1.6 million with expenditure of £2.1 million, giving an operating deficit of £498,000. This compares to a deficit of £371,000 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 £4.7 million compared to Net Expenditure the previous year of £1.4 million, which in the main reflects an extraordinary year for the stock market, despite the impact of COVID19.

Investments - Investments generate income that is key to supporting our beneficiaries. This year the value of our investments has risen from £25.0 million to £29.5 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: we drew down a total of 5.0% of our investments (income and capital) during 2020/21. This aligns with our actuarial model and represents a sustainable level of expenditure to meet beneficiary needs both now and in the future. Investment performance is reviewed bi-annually by the Investment Committee, which provides additional oversight beyond the bi-annual review undertaken by the full Council.

Legacies - Receipts this year were £165,814, down from £225,215 last year, which represents a below average year. However, irrespective of the sum received we remain 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 £216,000 which is significantly up on last year's total of £193,000. 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 The Seafarers Charity 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 very good year for our trading activity, which remains focussed on selling Christmas, birthday and correspondence cards (via mail order) through our supplier, Impress Publishing. Additional sales come via our seasonal shop at Central Office, our Honorary Agents and the Chichester Cards for Good Causes outlet. Turnover at £93,000 was up by 18% on last year, representing a very strong result given the highly competitive nature of this market, the general reduction in Christmas card sales and the potential difficulties associated with the COVID19 pandemic. In conjunction with these sales, the Society also received over £150,000 worth of Appeal related



donations. This once again demonstrates the value of our trading activity in generating funds for the Society's work, whilst also providing numerous opportunities to advertise our work to the wider public. Our card buyers are our greatest group of supporters and have remained as loyal and generous as ever, in particular in recognising the severe hardship faced by so many mariners (and their families) over the last year. Some of these supporters have been buying our cards for over 50 years, which is an amazing testimony to their steadfast support of our work.

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 £1.83 million, which was 87% of all expenditure. Of this figure £1.41 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 projected future demands. A full review is planned for 2021.

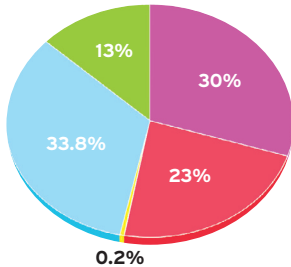
The Society's Unrestricted Funds are split into three components:

- **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.

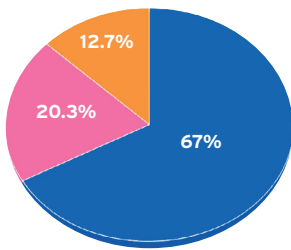
It should be noted despite the significant size the Designated Fund, the investment return only provides approximately 50% of the expenditure required for charitable activities; the remainder needing to be provided from other funding sources, including donations, legacies and external grants.

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	2021	2020
Donations	216,492	192,414
Legacies	165,814	225,215
Grants	242,195	270,849
Other	1,650	1,800
Trading Income	93,692	
Total	719,843	690,278



Resources Expended	2021	2020
Raising Funds	265,862	183,470
Charitable Activity		
Grants	1,407,209	1,375,898
Other Costs	427,766	413,383
Total Resources Expended	2,100,837	1,972,751
Operating Deficit	(1,380,994)	(1,282,473)

Income From Investments	883,287	911,028
Net Gains/(Losses) On Investments	5,153,917	(1,038,958)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	4,656,210	(1,410,403)

Summary Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets	10,019	13,102
Investments	29,499,086	24,974,646
Investment Property	1,150,000	1,150,000

Net Current Assets	566,998	422,240
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Net Assets	31,226,103	26,559,988
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Funds

General Funds	2,327,749	2,191,000
Investment Property Fund	1,150,000	1,150,000
Designated Fund		
Income Generation to Support Grants	24,289,206	20,310,780
Restricted Funds	3,459,148	2,908,208



The Lady Swaythling Trophy (2020)



For Outstanding Seamanship

Professionalism, leadership and outstanding seamanship ensured the safe recovery of the crew of a sinking sailing vessel.

At 1332 on Friday 20th September 2019, whilst on passage across the North Atlantic, MV Maersk Montana received a distress call from the sailing vessel La Belle Vita, which reported that it was taking on water. It rapidly became clear that the vessel was sinking and would have to be abandoned. Maersk Montana immediately diverted at high speed to provide assistance.

Within a few short hours the Maersk Montana, commanded by Captain Richard Hoey, had closed on the last reported position and located the sailing vessel.

Noting the very significant challenge of bringing a 51,000 tonne, 4544 TEU, high sided container vessel alongside a stricken yacht in Force 8 conditions, Captain Hoey quickly established a plan. Noting that ship handling was likely to be anything but graceful in the prevailing conditions, he positioned his vessel upwind of La Belle Vita, and skilfully set his speed such to enable him close on the stricken vessel, whilst keeping his speed low enough to be able to rapidly run the engine astern. Expertly using a combination of power and drift the Captain, aided by multiple members of his crew acting as lookouts, positioned his vessel close enough to La Belle Vita to deploy a messenger line. This enabled the well drilled and highly skilled crew to start the process of drawing the yacht alongside and securing it to the side of the ship.

Once safely alongside the Captain gave direction to scuttle the sailing vessel, before safely recovering the crew on board via a pilot ladder.

Whilst the above rescue lasted only a few hours from start to finish, it was only made possible by a vast amount of experience of both crew management and ship handling. As such the Lady Swaythling Trophy for 2020 is presented to Capt Richard Hoey, Captain of MV Maersk Montana, for his outstanding seamanship during the rescue of the crew of the sailing vessel La Belle Vita.

The Emile Robin Award

For the rescue of survivors in perilous conditions

Following catastrophic damage to his vessel, caused by the detonation of unexploded ordnance on the seabed, the selfless and heroic actions of Galwad y Mor's skipper ensured the safe evacuation and rescue of 6 crew members.

On the morning of Tuesday 15th December 2020, the potting fishing vessel Galwad Y Mor was operating in crabbing grounds east of the Wash when an underwater explosion raised the vessel up from the sea surface before depositing it back, very heavily, on the water. The 5 crew who were working on deck were thrown off their feet and deluged with sea water. Galwad y Mor's skipper, Lewis Mulhearn, who was in the wheelhouse at the time of the explosion, was severely injured. Despite having received a significant blow to his head, which left him dazed, the skipper swiftly took stock of the situation, with it rapidly becoming apparent that four of his crew were also severely injured. The wheelhouse had been decimated by the explosion, as had the vessel's hull and internal machinery. Power had failed completely and water was pouring into the engine room. Having located the emergency handheld VHF radio in the debris of the wheelhouse, the skipper sent a distress message on channel 16 whilst also contacting sister vessel, Ingenuity, to request that a distress message be relayed to the coast guard.

Noting the significant ongoing risk to his crew, and despite his severe injuries (which included three broken vertebrae, a broken sternum, knee damage, a broken orbital bone and multiple face lacerations) the skipper, with the help of a crew member, launched the vessels life raft, before ordering the crew to change from their personal floatation device into foam lifejackets and prepare to abandon ship. All the crew were eventually picked up by 2 boats operating from an offshore support vessel, with the skipper ensuring he was the last to evacuate the vessel.

It is clear from this report that Lewis Mulhearn remained calm and professional throughout this extraordinary and extreme event, which was later shown to have been caused by the detonation of unexploded ordnance on the seabed. Despite great uncertainty over the condition of his vessel, and the extent of injuries to his crew, he rapidly assessed the risks and made timely and well-balanced decisions to ensure the safe evacuation of all personnel. All of his actions, including carrying crew members into the attending rescue boats, were conducted despite being in very considerable pain, not least of which came from a broken back. Of particular note the effectiveness of his actions was enhanced by a strong safety culture onboard the vessel, which via regular safety drills ensured that the whole crew was well prepared for emergencies.

As such Mr Lewis Mulhearn has been selected as the 2021 recipient of the Emile Robin Award to recognise his heroic and selfless actions in rescuing fellow survivors during this extremely perilous incident.



Individual Commendation

For meritorious actions in rescuing others

Quick thinking and high-quality seamanship saved the lives of 7 sea anglers whose boat sank off the northwest coast of Scotland.

On Saturday 1st August 2020, the sea angling vessel Kerry broadcast a mayday stating that she was rapidly sinking. With only a few brief minutes to abandon ship, the skipper and 6 sea anglers were unable to inflate the life raft before the vessel went down. Once in the water it became clear that several of the anglers couldn't swim and that some hadn't donned their life jackets correctly; as such they were having to physically cling onto them to remain afloat, a task made even more difficult by the hypothermic effects of the cold sea water.

The mayday call was heard by a local fisherman, who knew the boat's owner and immediately contacted his son, Peter Paterson. Peter rushed to his own boat Silver Dawn, which was moored in the harbour, and persuaded a friend to act as his crew. Arriving at the scene some 25 minutes later, the casualties could be seen only a few hundred metres away from the cliffs. Two of the casualties, both of whom were over 70, were clearly suffering the effects of cold-water immersion and needed to be rescued quickly. Expertly manoeuvring his boat and with the skilled assistance of his crew member, he picked up the first 2 casualties before positioning to embark the remaining 5. Once aboard he transported all of the casualties back to Kinlochbervie harbour, where the emergency services were waiting to provide medical support. 3 of the anglers were transferred to Inverness Hospital, but thankfully released later that day.

In essence Peter Paterson's swift and selfless actions led to a textbook recovery of 7 personnel, some of whom may well have perished if they had remained there any longer. As such he is fully deserving of an individual commendation for a time critical rescue.



Lord Lewin Award 2021

Claire McIntosh

Caseworking - Eyemouth

Claire has worked for the Fishermen's Mission as the Mission Area Officer for Eyemouth since 2016. Throughout this time she has worked extremely hard to establish herself as a key supporter of the local maritime community, notably generating a significant increase in the number of beneficiaries who now receive support.

Working in a part time role, she produces exceptional grant applications, using her significant experience of supporting people on low incomes to deliver detailed and informative reports. These not only provide a clear articulation of specific needs, but also the broader context of each case, thereby enabling the grants committee to make well considered and balanced decisions based on a clear understanding of the underlying situation. She has worked extremely hard over the course of the last year, noting Eyemouth fishermen have been hit particularly hard by the impact of COVID19. Completing 35 successful applications over this period, she has ensured delivery of much needed support to numerous individuals and families who found themselves in desperate situations.

Her dedication and compassion shine through in everything she does and as such she is fully deserving of an award in recognition of her outstanding work.

Maritime Photographic Competition 2021



Overall Competition Winner

Michael Marsh - The Fisherman's Wake (Whitstable)



Winner - Coastal Views Category

David Dodds - St Mary's Lighthouse (Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear)



Highly Commended - Coastal Views Category

Ian Finlayson - Evening Cast (Crovie Harbour, Banff)



Maritime Photographic Competition 2021



Winner - Industry Category

Chris Mole - Old Rope (Newgale, Pembrokeshire)



Highly Commended - Industry Category

Tom Collins - LPG Tanker Bayamo leaving the River Tees

Maritime Photographic Competition 2021



Winner - People & Recreation Category

Jacky Pratt - Hopeman Happiness (Moray)



Highly Commended - People & Recreation Category

James Gunn - Thurso Bay Surfer (Scotland)



Maritime Photographic Competition 2021



Winner - Ships & Wrecks Category

David Stearne - Pinnace & Barges rot in their graveyard in the Medway mud



Highly Commended - Ships & Wrecks Category

Susan Pilcher - Fairchance (Dungeness)



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 anytime. If you would like to donate online please scan the QR code or visit shipwreckedmariners.org.uk/donate



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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