



The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society *in numbers*



The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society was founded in

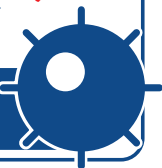
1839

as a result of the tragic loss of a fleet of fishing boats out of Clovelly on the north Devon coast the year before and has been providing financial support to mariners ever since

In 2022/23, the Society received **public donations of over £228,000**

including over £8,000 from 26 of our ex-WW11 large mines, converted to Charity collection boxes

The Society has around **50 collection mines** in operation on the coastlines for supporters and passers-by to donate to the Charity



Annually, the Society provides around

1,250 individuals/families

with regular grant payments at a cost of

£1 million

It also provides approx. 600 one-off grants at a further cost of £330,000



- Last year the Society handled nearly **800 new applications** for assistance
- The Society takes on over 100 **plus new regular beneficiaries** each year

Each year, the Society has over

20,000

visits to its website



The Society has had **SIX** patrons over its history

the first being Queen Victoria and the current being HRH The Princess Royal



Legacy donations in 2022/23 totalled

£311,000



From 1851 the Society operated

8 lifeboats, but it was subsequently agreed that one organisation should concentrate on saving lives at sea, while the other would focus on 'saving' lives ashore. In 1854, the Society transferred its lifeboats to the...



Lifeboats

The Society has had **18 presidents over the years**

In 1839, its first president was Admiral The Rt. Hon. Sir George Cockburn GCB, who was involved in the occupation of Washington and the burning of the White House in 1814 during the war with the United States



The Society runs an annual photography competition and **eleven** competitions have been launched so far, with over

10,000 entries received to date



2,042 entries

Annually, the Society secures around **500 pieces**

of coverage across national, regional, radio, trade, online and offline coverage



The Society operates through a national volunteer network of over

150 Honorary Agents





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.

Contents

Page No.

• Where We Are	4
• Chairman's Report	5-6
• Chief Executive's Report	6-7
• The Support We Provide	8
• The Impact that it has	9
• Regional Grant Expenditure	10
• Financial Review	11-12
Summary Income & Expenditure Account, Summary Balance Sheet	13
• Awards for Skill and Gallantry	
The Edward and Maisie Lewis Award	14
The Lady Swaythling Trophy	15
The Grace Darling Award	16
Crew Commendations	17-19
• Lord Lewin Awards	20





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 D Everard CBE

Ex-officio Vice-Presidents

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

Council (Trustees)

Chair: Captain Nigel Palmer OBE MNM* **Deputy Chair:** Commander Andrea Crook RN*

Treasurer: Mr William Plant FCA*

**Executive Committee Members*

Captain Roger Barker MNM FNI*

Mrs Nikki Miller

Miss Ruth Charles

Captain Graham Pepper FNI*

Mr Richard Coleman FCA

Mrs Elizabeth Price

Mr Eamonn Delaney KSG

Mr Michael Seymour*

Mrs Alison Harris

Captain John Vercoe FNI

Mr Rob Jardine-Brown

Mr Tim West

Commodore Mike Mansergh CBE RN*

Commodore Toby Williamson MVO RN*

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 150 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 184th year, I am delighted to provide an update on the Society's work, but before doing so I would like to acknowledge that this will be my final report after six years as Chairman of the Society. It has been an enormous privilege to play a small part in the vital work of supporting distressed mariners. I would like to thank the Chief Executive and all SMS staff, together with my fellow Trustees, for the unwavering support they have provided.

It has been another demanding year for the Society, in particular in responding to the cost-of-living crisis, and throughout the period we have continued to provide significant levels of support to uphold the welfare of seafarers and their families. This has translated into a 60% increase in new applications for our regular grant, alongside a 10% increase in those requesting one-off grants, noting that the previous year's one-off grants were already higher than average because of COVID.

In terms of headline figures, over the course of the last year, we have:

- Made regular grant payments to 1,253 people at a cost of over £1.0 million.
- Handled 770 new applications for assistance.
- Taken on 149 new regular beneficiaries.
- Made one-off or crisis grants to 611 people, at a cost of £336,000, of which 116 were a new type of grant introduced in response to the cost-of-living crisis.

Total expenditure was £2.1 million, of which 87% was spent on charitable activities. With incoming resources of approx. £1.5M we had an operating deficit of £545,000, which is in line with our longer-term financial strategy. In essence our strategy reflects the fact that the best available estimate of future numbers of seafarers (and seafaring families) within the UK suggests a reduction of 50% between 2020 and 2050. As such, we plan to halve the real term value of our investments over the same period, thereby matching our spending power with the size of the beneficiary population and ensuring our ability to support 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 appeals, were £228,000 which clearly highlights the remarkable generosity of our supporters over this difficult period. We must also recognise our reliance on the support of our major grant funders, 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.

In conducting our work, it is also important to acknowledge that we have not worked alone; as usual we have drawn on our extremely close relationships with

Chairman's Report - Continued

many of our very close partners, including The Fishermen's Mission, Seafarers' Hospital Society, Sailor's Children's Society, Sailors Advice and Information Line, Nautilus International and SSAFA, to ensure a coherent response to the ongoing crisis. Of note we believe increased demand will be with us for many months to come and are already considering extending the measures introduced last year to help people get through the coming winter.

I very much hope this has provided you with some useful insight into the Society's work, but also demonstrates our commitment to continually adapt to changing circumstances. We remain as committed as ever to ensuring we maximise the support available to those who need it.

As such our primary aim over the coming year is continuing our enduring task of helping fishermen and mariners and their dependants in financial need. In doing this 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. As an aside, if you're interested in getting more involved in the work of the charity, particularly as a Trustee, then please feel free to contact Head Office.

Nigel Palmer



Chief Executive's Report

As the Chairman has already mentioned, the cost-of-living crisis has driven significant additional demand over the last year, which we've fulfilled whilst continuing to meet more routine demand. Going forward, the Society faces a number of challenges, with perhaps the most difficult of these being uncertainty over future levels of demand. With over 75% of our grant expenditure committed to regular grant payments, and with a significant upturn in take on rates for such beneficiaries, Trustees will be carefully reviewing our long-term financial projections to ensure we remain on a firm financial footing. Such decisions are made even more complex by our efforts to raise the regular grant in line with inflation, which I'm pleased to report has led to a 13% uplift in the size of our annual grant over the last 2 years.

It is clearly difficult to be managing a second 'once in a generation' crisis hot on the heels of the last one, but Trustees firmly believe it is right to lean into this crisis and ensure much needed support is provided to those who so desperately need it.

Turning to more internal matters, it has been another very successful year for our trading activity, which remains a key pillar of our fundraising efforts. Whilst sales have returned to pre-COVID levels, the long-term trend in donations remains

positive, with nearly £143,000 received during the year. This income, alongside an average of £200,000 each year received in legacies from our very loyal card buyers, clearly demonstrates the value of our trading activity in generating funds for the Society's work. In addition, we received further public donations of over £86,000, 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.

Our annual photographic competition, now in its eleventh year, is designed to celebrate our enduring relationship with the sea. The competition attracted 1,056 entries from 324 individuals. The winning image, "Can someone please let me out now" was taken by Ian Watkin. My thanks to our expert judges: Editor of the i, Sophie Batterbury and former Sunday Times Picture Editor, Ray Wells.



Our Honorary Agents, of whom there are 150 (ranging in age from 37 to 87), are central to what we do, whether it is casework, fundraising or simply acting as a representative and spreading the word about us. Our heartfelt thanks go to all those who serve in this way, but I would also like to echo the Chairman's thanks for the support we've received from those organisations working alongside us. We look forward to further developing the very strong linkages which already exist amongst those focussed on delivery of front-line support.

Looking forward, there is much to be done in the coming year, not only in continuing to respond to the cost-of-living crisis but also to ensure that our core support evolves to best meet the needs of the communities we seek to serve.

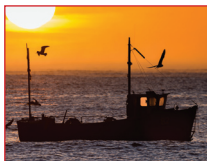
And finally, none of this would be possible without the efforts of my fellow staff members in Head Office and I would like to thank the entire team of Alison, Sam, Sami, Stephen and Sylvia for their unwavering support and unswerving commitment to seafarers and their families.

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.
- Annual events in key ports enable our Honorary Agents to see beneficiaries face-to-face at least once a year and to discuss financial and other matters.
- 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:

Mrs T, a widow in her early 90's, had lived a fiercely independent life and was still living in the same house where she had raised her 7 children. **Battling severe arthritis and dementia**, her family were keen to ensure she was still able to have trips out and enjoy social activities. **We were able to provide an electric wheelchair, whilst also providing a regular grant to supplement her very low income.**

Many thanks for the money which has recently been paid into my account. This is a **much-appreciated gift and a great help when work needs to be done around the house.** I am waiting for the tiler to fix some slates on the roof and just last month had to get the plumber to fix a leak so your grant will be very helpful.

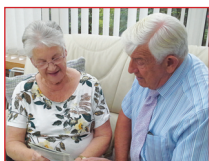
Mr B, in his early 60s with 20 years sea service, was suffering from PTSD as a result of service in a number of war zones. This and other disabilities had left him close to housebound, with taxis to the hospital taking up a significant percentage of his income. Both he and his wife were retired, and she was acting as his full-time carer. **We were able to award a regular grant to help them steer clear of debts during a very difficult period.**

I would just like to say a **huge 'THANK YOU' for the grant to decorate my living room, hall and staircase.** What a difference it has made. The place looks a lot brighter and cheerier now. Also to say thank you for my regular grant, which enables me to keep on top of the ever rising costs.

Mr H, in his late 40s with nearly 30 years sea service, had been suffering from cancer for a number of years, meaning **he and his family were struggling to meet their day-to-day living costs.** This was exacerbated by the need to keep his house warm at all times as a result of his cancer. Having built up debts and in need of replacement white goods **we were able to help in both cases, which significantly improved both their financial and mental health.**

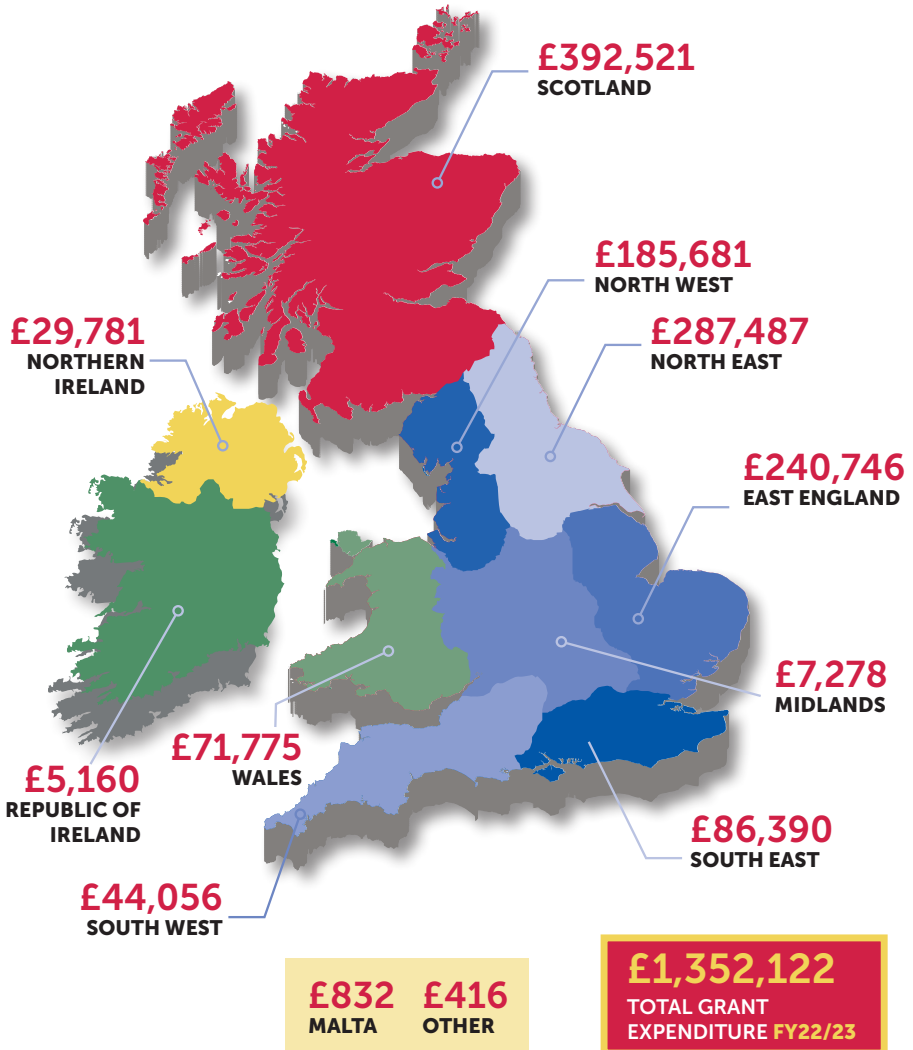
Mr N, in his late 20s with over **10 years sea service, was suffering from a serious back injury. Unable to work** he had built up rent and council tax arrears and was being threatened with eviction. Working with the Sailor's Advice and Information Line (SAIL) we were able to **clear the arrears, ensure he was on the maximum benefits, and establish a plan to maintain a stable financial position until he returned to work.**

On behalf of myself and my husband we just wanted to say **thank-you for your cost-of-living grant. It was a really big worry off our minds** to know this would help toward the rising costs. Since my husband's stroke he feels the cold so much and cannot move around due to his poor mobility. Thank you again.





Regional Grant Expenditure



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 2022/23 was £1.5 million with expenditure of £2.1 million, giving an operating deficit of £545,000. This compares to a deficit of £273,000 in the previous year. In the long term the Trustees budget for an operating deficit but plan for this to be partially offset by income from investments and gains on investment assets. Overall net expenditure (after returns on investments) was £2.3 million compared to a net income of £0.5 million last year, noting Trustees expect this figure to be subject to large variations due to the nature of its investment holdings.

Investments: Investments generate income that is key to supporting our beneficiaries. This year the value of our investments has fallen by approx. £2.1 million to £27.7million. 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 4.5% of our investments (income and capital) during 2022/23. 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 alongside the separate bi-annual reviews undertaken by Council. Of note, during the course of the year Trustees conducted a routine review of our investment advisors and chose to re-appoint Sarasin & Partners in this role.

In conjunction with this review, Trustees also approved a change to the Society's Investment strategy, which in essence now maintains an increased level of short-term investments (cash or near-cash) alongside a long-term investment fund with a greater focus on equities. The cash portfolio exists to enable the Society to continue its operations following a major stock market crash, noting the nature of equity-based investing means these will inevitably occur. The value of the cash holding is set at a level to ensure uninterrupted operations following a (worst case) 30% fall in stock market value. Such funds would enable the Society to maintain expenditure levels for (up to) 5 years without having to sell depreciated holdings, and whilst the market recovers to its original level. Trustees believe this will provide a better long-term return on its investments, whilst also enabling the Society to continue its operation during inevitable periods of stock market turbulence.

Legacies: Receipts this year were £312k, slightly down from £325k last year, although still representing an above 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 from appeals (see Trading below), direct to Central Office and through our Agencies, which includes our collecting mines, amounted to £228,000 which is somewhat down on last year's total of £261,000, although last year's figures included some large one-off donations which were unlikely to be repeated. In essence we are delighted that the underlying level of donations continues to show a year-on-year rise. 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 Trinity House London and The Seafarers Charity, both of whom have a long history of generous support for our work. The annual grants we receive from them are essential to our work and we maintain a close dialogue with both organisations.



Trading: This has been another 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. Turnover at £73,000 was down on last year, but is in line with longer term trends, noting the highly competitive nature of this market and the general reduction in Christmas card sales. In conjunction with these sales, the Society also received over £143,000 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. 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 £1.82 million, which was 87% of all expenditure. Of this figure £1.35 million (65% 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 investments in order to generate the income required to carry out the purpose of the Charity both now and in the longer term. 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. The Society conducts an annual review of its long-term finances using an actuarial model based on a range of future scenarios. In essence this enables Trustees to determine whether we will have sufficient financial resources to meet projected future demands, based on estimated returns from our investments alongside our annual fundraising activity. The results of this year's review confirmed that the Society's finances remain robust. Of note this included the additional costs of uplifting our regular grant for a second year running, whilst also introducing a new range of cost-of-living grants to help those most affected by the ongoing crisis.

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

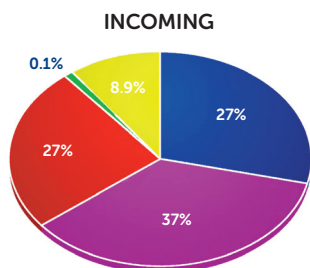
- **General Fund:** This holds sufficient resources in short term realizable investment assets and cash to support administrative overheads and regular grants for a period of at least twelve months.
- **Investment Property Fund:** This is equivalent to the value of the Head Office building;
- **Designated 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 despite the significant size of 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 also within a portfolio of cash or near cash instruments. The level of funds held in the above components are reviewed annually.

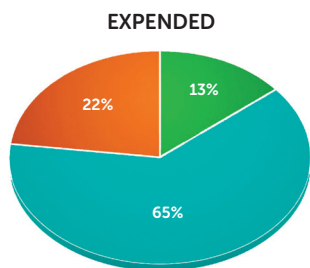


Summary Income and Expenditure Account



Incoming Resources

	2023	2022
Donations	228,484	260,565
Legacies	311,684	325,052
Grants	232,629	226,980
Other	1080	1340
Trading Income	73,348	89,745
Total	847,225	903,682



Resources Expended

Raising Funds	267,013	276,502
Charitable Activity		
Grants	1,352,122	1,262,603
Other Costs	470,232	457,402
Total Resources Expended	2,089,367	1,996,507
Operating Deficit	(1,242,142)	(1,092,825)

Income From Investment	696,308	819,279
Net Gains/(Losses) On Investments	(1,759,579)	819,760
Gains/(Losses) on Revaluation of Fixed Assets	-	(40,000)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(2,305,413)	506,214

Summary Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets	16,618	25,006
Investments	27,749,581	29,865,219
Investment Property	1,110,000	1,110,000

Net Current Assets

550,700 732,092

Net Assets

29,426,904 31,732,317

Funds

General Funds	2,071,448	2,208,161
Investment Property Fund	1,110,000	1,110,000
Designated Fund		
Income Generation to Support Grants	22,946,061	24,881,011
Restricted Funds	3,299,395	3,533,145





Awards for Skill and Gallantry

The Edward and Maisie Lewis Award

For an Outstanding Air/Sea Rescue



The rescue of 8 crew from the French yacht 'Gannet' in storm force 10 conditions, demonstrated the highest standards of judgement, professionalism and crew co-operation, combined with outstanding initiative and courage.

On the night of Monday 31st October 2022, Storm Claudio was pounding the south coast of England. At 2107, Rescue 924, a Bristow search and rescue helicopter based at Newquay airport,

was scrambled to conduct an urgent medical transfer. However once airborne it became clear that an even more serious situation was developing aboard the French yacht 'Gannet', which was being managed by the Falmouth Coastguard and the RNLI's Penlee Lifeboat. The yacht was taking on water and the 8 crew were considering abandoning the vessel, despite there being insufficient life jackets for all those on board and 2 crew being in a 'poor' condition.

Over the course of the next 1 hour and 7 minutes, the crew of Rescue 924, comprising the Captain (Debdash Bhattacharya), the Co-Pilot (Mark Coupland), the Winch Operator (Jason Bibby) and the Winchman/Paramedic (Carlton Real), battled Force 10 winds, driving rain, mountainous waves and extremely poor visibility to affect a hugely challenging rescue.

Arriving on scene they were able to see that the yacht was under tow from the Penlee lifeboat, but was still pitching and rolling very heavily, whilst also slewing by up to 60 degrees as it was dragged up the face of the 7m waves and then plunged down the retreating side.

Despite the immense difficulties posed by the erratic motion of the yacht, the crew were able to safely deliver the winchman to the deck of the yacht, prepare the crew for extraction and lift all 8 of them to safety. Encountering significant difficulties along the way, including the loss of multiple hi-lines and damage to one of the aircraft's winch wires, the last lift of the rescue proved particularly challenging. Having recognised that the motion of the vessel would become even more unpredictable once the helm was left unattended, and could very easily result in the yacht broaching, the crew decided that a triple man lift, normally only used in extremis, was the appropriate course of action to extract the last 2 yachtsmen and this task was completed with exceptional professionalism.

In summary, the diverse challenges posed by this rescue, including the very real danger to the winchman and casualties caused by the unpredictable motion of the yacht's mast and rigging, required an exceptional level of skill and judgement from all 4 members of the crew. In responding to these challenges, the crew demonstrated outstanding professionalism, crew co-operation, initiative and courage and as such are fully deserving of the Edward and Maisie Lewis Award for 2023.

The Lady Swaythling Trophy

For Outstanding Seamanship

Quick thinking and skilful seamanship helped save the lives of five pair trawling fishermen whose boat sank off the northeast coast of Scotland following a collision.

On Thursday, 6th October 2022, two sister pair trawlers, Guiding Star and Guiding Light, were fishing in challenging conditions, including rough seas and almost gale-force winds. Soon after hauling in the catch and whilst retrieving their gear, the two vessels collided. Guiding Light's bow rose in the swell and struck the Guiding Star, slicing its stern open. The water ingress quickly flooded the accommodation, and the vessel started to go down.

Rapidly assessing the severity of the situation, Guiding Light's 1st engineer, Kriss Leel, immediately started the forward crane and prepared a number of throwing lines. Seeing how quickly the boat was sinking, Kriss made every attempt to alert his friends on the other vessel to the rapid flooding and the limited time they had to escape. It soon became apparent that the immersion suits and lifejackets needed by Guiding Star's crew were inaccessible, as they were stored in the flooded compartment. Guiding Light's crew responded quickly to transfer their own equipment, using a heaving line to act like a pulley system. The life raft was subsequently launched, and Guiding Star's crew abandoned the vessel just moments before it foundered.

Guiding Light's skipper expertly manoeuvred his vessel through a debris field to attempt a recovery. With no time to waste, Kriss used the power block and precisely lowered heaving lines down to the life raft's entrance, before skilfully operating the controls to lift 3 crew members from the raft whilst avoiding violent movements and minimising the pendulum effect caused by the sea's motion. Soon afterwards a large wave struck the life raft, causing it to capsize, and the remaining crew entered the water. Kriss could not see his colleagues in the water but kept his composure, taking direction from those on deck to locate and recover two more crew members directly from the water. The last three crew members grabbed hold of the upturned raft and started to drift away but were then rescued by a helicopter as it arrived on scene.

In summary Kriss demonstrated exceptional seamanship in the face of a grave situation, in relentless conditions, and given the possible consequences, under considerable pressure. While unconventional as a rescue, Kriss's calmness and skill in operating the power block, supported by his fellow crew, resulted in the rescue of his five colleagues from a life-threatening situation. As such his actions are wholly worthy of recognition. The Lady Swaythling Trophy for 2023 is therefore presented to 1st Engineer Kriss Keel for outstanding seamanship during the rescue of his fellow crew members.



The Grace Darling Award

For Exceptional Bravery

Exceptional bravery, combined with incredible composure and stamina, saved the lives of 2 people caught in a riptide.



Just after midday on Saturday 21st January 2023, Emily Greenwood was enjoying a walk across Holywell Bay with her son Isaac, who was in his beach wheelchair. Alerted by shouts from the water, she quickly realised that a boy and adult male were in trouble, struggling against a riptide and being pulled out to sea.

She immediately pushed her son further up the beach to a safer location and then ran to the water's edge shouting and waving to them to swim across the current not against it. However, the pair were not responding, and she could see they were growing weaker in their actions and were in grave danger of drowning. She looked around but realised that there was no one else close enough to help. Whilst fully aware of the extreme personal risk involved, and conscious of the sea conditions, distance and especially the water temperature, which was near its winter minimum, Emily made the extremely courageous and selfless decision to enter the water. She stripped to her underwear and swam in excess of 100m through the numbingly cold surf to get to the casualties.

On reaching the casualties she instructed father and son to remain calm and keep hold of the body board, assisting them to do so. She then began the arduous task of towing them across the rip current towards the south end of the beach, whilst repeatedly being hit by large waves. Records from Emily's smart watch show that she was in the water in excess of 15 minutes and covered a distance of approximately 400m. On reaching shallow water the son was able to wade out of the water, but the father was in a state of collapse. Despite her exhaustion, Emily managed to support him enough to keep his head above water and with the assistance of another beach walker, was able to recover the casualty out of the surf. He was hypothermic, unable to move, blue with cold, vomiting and in need of urgent medical assistance.

Once again putting the needs of the casualty first, Emily ran the 400m back to her son and immediately returned with him so she could use the heated seat and blankets contained in the wheelchair to try and stem his deepening hypothermia. It was only then that Emily considered her own needs and dressed herself.

The casualty was subsequently treated by the Coastguards and surf lifesaving volunteers who arrived on scene, before being transported to hospital by rescue helicopter. He subsequently made a full recovery.

In summary Emily Greenwood demonstrated outstanding bravery, incredible composure and unbelievable stamina to rescue 2 casualties from almost certain death. As such she becomes the Society's first ever recipient of the Grace Darling Award for exceptional heroism.



Crew Commendation

For meritorious actions in rescuing others

Selflessness, determination, professionalism, and stamina saved the lives of 31 people in the English Channel.

It was the early hours of Wednesday 14th December 2022 when the skipper of Fishing Vessel Arcturus was alerted by one of his crew to the presence of significant numbers of people in a large dinghy close to his vessel. This signalled the start of a herculean effort to save 31 people from the icy waters of the English Channel. As the fishing vessel came closer to the dinghy, the floor gave way and panic quickly ensued with over 31 people in the ice-cold water. Those who could, began swimming towards the fishing vessel and clinging on to any part of the boat they could reach, including the fishing gear.

The skipper and crew immediately raised the alarm and began helping everyone they could to get out of the water. The vessels dimensions and fishing gear made this a very difficult task, as did the pitch-black conditions. Whilst the crew are regularly trained in man overboard recovery, the large numbers of screaming and panicking people in the water, including both men and children, resulted in a situation which was far beyond anyone's previous experience or imaginings.

However, over the course of a few short hours the crew managed to rescue 31 people from the icy water. Once onboard the crew providing follow-on care for all those onboard. This included medical assistance for the many people suffering from hypothermia and cold-water shock, in particular by providing a warm shower and hot drinks, whilst selflessly distributing every spare piece of clothing the crew and skipper had onboard. Casualties were then placed in the crew's own bunks and wrapped up with all available bedding.

In summary, it is clear that the actions of the skipper and crew of FV Arcturus directly saved 31 lives. Although it was pure chance that they stumbled upon the dinghy at the time it started to sink, without the crew's selfless actions, many of those rescued would have drowned. As such the skipper and crew are fully deserving of a Crew commendation for their selfless and hugely professional actions in saving 31 lives.

Crew Commendation

For meritorious actions in rescuing others

Professionalism, teamwork and adaptability resulted in the rescue of a yacht and all 5 crew members.

Hours after sailing from Portsmouth on the night of 10 November 2022, HMS DIAMOND, a Type 45 Destroyer based in Portsmouth, responded to a Mayday call from a stricken yacht, the 'Zapopan' with 5 crew on board. The yacht was in the central English Channel, southeast of St Catherine's Point and taking on water.



On arrival on scene, it became clear that a boarding team would be required to assist the flooded and drifting yacht, particularly as its crew were suffering from acute sea

sickness. Conditions were poor, with gale force winds and heavy seas, and embarking onto the yacht would be particularly perilous in the dark, with the yacht drifting and subject to extreme rolling movements.

The initial team despatched to the yacht focussed on evaluating the crew's condition, whilst also assessing whether the vessel could be saved. Having also assessed the crew, it was decided to transfer 3 of them, who were in particularly poor condition, back to HMS Diamond. A physical assessment of the yacht suggested that the flooding could be stopped but would require additional support and equipment from the ship. The very challenging conditions were brought home when one of the yachtsmen misjudged his jump to the sea-boat and fell between the 2 vessels, albeit the calm professionalism of the sea boat crew ensured he was very swiftly recovered.

Once supplemented with additional personnel and equipment, the boarding team were able to restore engine power and bring the yacht ahead, whilst also raising the mainsail, both of which helped to provide greater stability. The team used a creative combination of damage control techniques to mitigate the risk of capsizing, whilst working to stem the flooding and start the slow process of pumping out the yacht. All of this was achieved whilst the vessel was rolling over 30 degrees from side to side.

Over the course of a long night, the crew continued to work below decks to stabilise the yacht, whilst navigating towards more sheltered waters. Throughout this period the team demonstrated the highest standards of seamanship, teamwork and adaptability, to overcome an extremely challenging situation in arduous conditions. As such they are fully deserving of a crew commendation for their outstanding efforts.

Crew Commendation

For meritorious actions in rescuing others

Skill, professionalism, and exceptional stamina have helped ensure the safety of personnel and shipping in the English Channel.

In mid-2022 HMS MERSEY was assigned to supporting the pan-Government response to the migrant crisis in the English Channel. A highly important and sensitive operation, MERSEY's presence has helped to ensure the safety of personnel and ships in the busiest shipping lane in the world. On task from June to October 2022, and again in early 2023, the Ship spent 120 days at sea, providing 24/7 support in response to incidents associated with the 655 boats which crossed the channel during that period.

This tasking placed substantial extra demands upon the ship's Seamanship Department, who had to manage very significant levels of additional tasking whilst also coping with major shortfalls in its own staff numbers. This routinely and regularly resulted in personnel having to work long hours during off duty periods, conducting inshore sweeps and surveillance patrols. As the only persistent 24/7 unit on task, the Ship was repeatedly called upon as the first line of response to developing emergencies, with MERSEY's sea boats frequently on scene supporting RNLI and Border Force maritime units during migrant personnel recovery, as well as recovering abandoned vessels. Such operations often took place in challenging conditions, including operations at night, which required the highest standards of seamanship. The skill and tenacity demonstrated by the boat crews has been commended by multiple agencies, including the Government's Joint Commander of the migrant crisis, as well as by the RNLI and HM Coastguard. Central to all this achievement has been MERSEY's relatively small Seamanship Department, who have had to remain flexible and resolute in order to achieve their varied tasking. As such the team are fully deserving of a crew commendation for their outstanding work upholding the safety of personnel and shipping in the English Channel.





Lord Lewin Awards

GWEN RAYNER

Caseworking - Tyne and Wear

Gwen has been our Honorary Agent in South Shields since 2021, noting her main role is as a Nautilus caseworker in the local area. Extremely committed to supporting us in whatever way she can, including via our Annual events, Gwen always responds quickly and efficiently to any requests for support. Her applications are consistently well written, providing the Grants team with an excellent understanding of the immediate need, but also the contextual background to the case. She has a really good understanding of the people she works with and shows empathy and compassion to all those she encounters. Gwen regularly goes above and beyond to ensure each individual is in receipt of all of the benefits they are entitled to, whilst also ensuring they are signposted to other services they may need, including debt advice.

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



KEITH LANGWORTHY

Fundraising – Dartmouth

Keith is a River Officer in Dartmouth, working as part of the Dart Harbour Team, but also serves as our Honorary Agent, having volunteered for the role in 2018 following a request for support. With responsibility for managing the large collecting mine on Dartmouth's promenade, he has overcome significant difficulties over recent years, including damage caused by local thieves, but more recently in undertaking a full

refurbishment of the mine. Having persuaded his boss to loan Dart Harbour's barge to transport the mine to a local workshop, Keith began working on the mine during his spare time, including most of his lunch hours. This involved a very extensive restoration, which took over 11 months to complete, but in early 2021 the mine was returned to its pride of place on the promenade, where it has continued to generate much needed funds to support the Society's work.

As an exceptionally committed supporter of the Society, Keith is thoroughly deserving of special recognition for his outstanding efforts to restore and maintain our Dartmouth mine.





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:

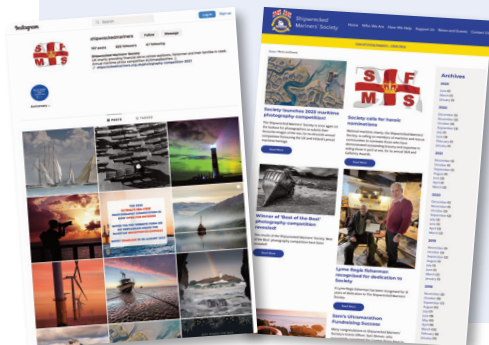
- **A residuary legacy** - which means you leave the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society all or part of your estate once other gifts to family and friends have been distributed or
- **A pecuniary legacy** - which is a fixed sum of money.

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

Website and Social Media

The Society's website shipwreckedmariners.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 Instagram Channel too!





SHIPWRECKED MARINERS' SOCIETY

1 North Pallant, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1TL

T: (01243) 789329/787761

E: general@shipwreckedmariners.org.uk

W: www.shipwreckedmariners.org.uk



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