



Annual Report
2023-24

**SUPPORTING THE SEAFARING COMMUNITY
FOR 185 YEARS**

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 2023/24, the Society received **public donations of over £237,000**

including over **£4,000** from 23 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 over

£1 million

It also provides approx. 700 one-off grants at a further cost of £340,000



- 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 2023/24 totalled

£267,000



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 around

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.



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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 ADC 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: Commander Andrea Crook RN*

Deputy Chair: Commodore Mike Mansergh CBE DL RN*

Treasurer: Mr William Plant FCA*

**Executive Committee Members*

Capt Roger Barker MNM FNI*
Miss Ruth Charles
Mr Richard Coleman FCA
Mr Eamonn Delaney KSG
Mrs Alison Harris*
Mr Rob Jardine-Brown
Capt Nigel Palmer OBE MNM

Capt Graham Pepper FNI*
Mrs Elizabeth Price
Mr Michael Seymour
Capt John Vercoe FNI
Mr Tim West
Cdre Toby Williamson MVO RN*

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

• The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, 36 St Andrews Square. Edinburgh EH2 2YB

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

• Blake Morgan, New Kings Court, Tollgate, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh SO53 3LG

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.



Chair's Report

On behalf of my fellow Trustees, and in this our 185th year, I am delighted to provide an update on the Society's work after what has been another demanding year, in particular in continuing to respond to the cost-of-living crisis. In line with our primary purpose, we have continued to provide significant levels of support to uphold the welfare of seafarers and their families, including delivery of a second year of dedicated cost of living grants, designed to help those most affected by the crisis. This has resulted in the number of one-off grant applications rising above last year's level, and almost reaching the level seen at the peak of the COVID crisis. Applications for a regular grant have fallen from the extremely high numbers seen last year, but are still running 30% higher than the long term average. These numbers are clearly indicative of the ongoing pressure being placed on the many seafarers, and their families, who are struggling to live on their limited income.



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

- **Made regular grant payments to 1,245 people at a cost of over £1.1 million.**
- **Handled 798 new applications for assistance.**
- **Taken on 125 new regular beneficiaries.**
- **Made one-off or crisis grants to 707 people, at a cost of £347,000, of which 210 related to the cost-of-living crisis.**

Total expenditure was £2.2 million, of which 88% was spent on charitable activities. With incoming resources of approx. £1.4M we had an operating deficit of £865,000, 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 £237,000 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 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.



Chair's Report - Continued

Looking forward, our primary focus over the coming year remains our enduring task of helping fishermen and mariners in financial need. Within this we are looking carefully at ways to better support working mariners, particularly those on benefits, as we recognise the enormous financial pressure they often face in making ends meet.

In conducting this work, I would particularly like to thank my fellow Trustees for their commitment to the work of the Charity, in particular to Eamonn Delaney, who is standing down after 17 years as a Trustee, including 11 years on the Executive Cttee; to Richard Coleman who is standing down after 14 years, including 8 years as the Society's Treasurer and to Nikki Miller who stood down earlier this year after 4 years as a Trustee. Thank you all for your dedicated service to the Society - we wish you all the very best for the future. I would also like to thank the Central Office staff in Chichester without whose skills, dedication and enthusiasm the Charity would not run.

Andrea Crook



Chief Executive's Report

As the Chairman has already mentioned, grant applications related to the cost-of-living crisis have been a significant feature of this year's activity, alongside elevated demand for more routine support. Moving forward, levels of demand remain difficult to predict, for both regular beneficiaries and those requiring one-off support. As usual, Trustees will be conducting an annual review of our long-term finances later this year and

considering these uncertain demand levels alongside our ongoing desire to ensure our regular grant keeps pace with inflation; subject to a positive outcome, we hope to raise our regular grant by a further 6% (£1 per week) in April next year. These competing pressures are never easy to manage, but Trustees remain firmly committed to maximising the level of support we provide, thereby ensuring 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 volumes have reduced from last year's levels, the number of people buying our cards has remained stable, albeit with lower numbers of cards being bought by each customer. This reflects a general reduction in the number of Christmas cards being sent throughout the UK, in particular driven by the ever-increasing cost of postage. However, those buying our cards continue to demonstrate outstanding generosity with over £133,000 received during the year. This income, alongside an average of £275,000 each year received in legacies from 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 £104,000, 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 twelfth year, is designed to celebrate our enduring relationship with the sea. The competition attracted 665 entries and the winning image “The Beer Fleet” was taken by Paul Newman. My thanks to our expert panel of judges: Picture Editor of the i, Sophie Batterbury and former Sunday Times Picture Editor, Ray Wells.

Our Honorary Agents, of whom there are 140, 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 add my personal thanks to those organisations working alongside us on a day-to-day basis. One of the things I have found most encouraging during my time as Chief Exec is the amazing spirit of shared endeavour amongst those delivering front line benevolent support, with a tangible focus on what we can achieve collectively, rather than seeking individual recognition for our own organisations. We look forward to further continuing our work with you for many years to come.

Looking forward, there is much to be done in the coming year. This will include a review of how we can do more to support working age seafarers, but more generally 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

Below are some examples of the support we have provided over the course of the year, as well as some of the thank-you messages we have received following grant awards.

Mrs G, a widow in her early 80's living in a remote part of Scotland, **was without heating for several winter months** after her boiler broke down. **Not really knowing where to turn she was eventually directed to us** by a distant neighbour. We were able to **swiftly fund a replacement boiler**, whilst also taking her on as a regular beneficiary to assist her in dealing with her day-to-day living costs.

Since losing her husband at sea Mrs K has **struggled to raise her 3 young children**. Whilst receiving regular support from another charity, she was unable to avoid building up significant arrears. Working with the Sailor's Advice and Information Line **we helped her to apply for additional benefits, whilst also clearing her arrears**, which placed her in a more stable financial position going forward.

"Thank you so much for the recent cost-of-living grant, it was very much appreciated and a welcome surprise. **Thank you again for your support through the years.**"

Mr T, in his late 30's with 15 years sea service, **was facing eviction from his family home when the landlord decided to sell the property**. After a very stressful period in temporary accommodation with his wife and disabled son, the **Council eventually found them a property, but it did not have any floor coverings. We were able to provide a grant for carpeting, whilst working with other charities to provide for additional needs.**

"**I would like to thank you for the invaluable support I have received.** I could hardly sleep last night thinking of what it means to me and that this may be the last weekend of no food or heating. Thank you once again for your help."

Mr A, in his late 20s with 11 years sea service, was unable to work as his boat (and many others) had been damaged during an extreme weather event. Unable to meet the regular costs of supporting his wife and young family, **we were able to provide a grant to tide them over until the boat could be repaired** and he could return to work.

"After an horrendous 9 months **we have finally had a ray of hope - that being the support you have provided.** Many, many thanks."

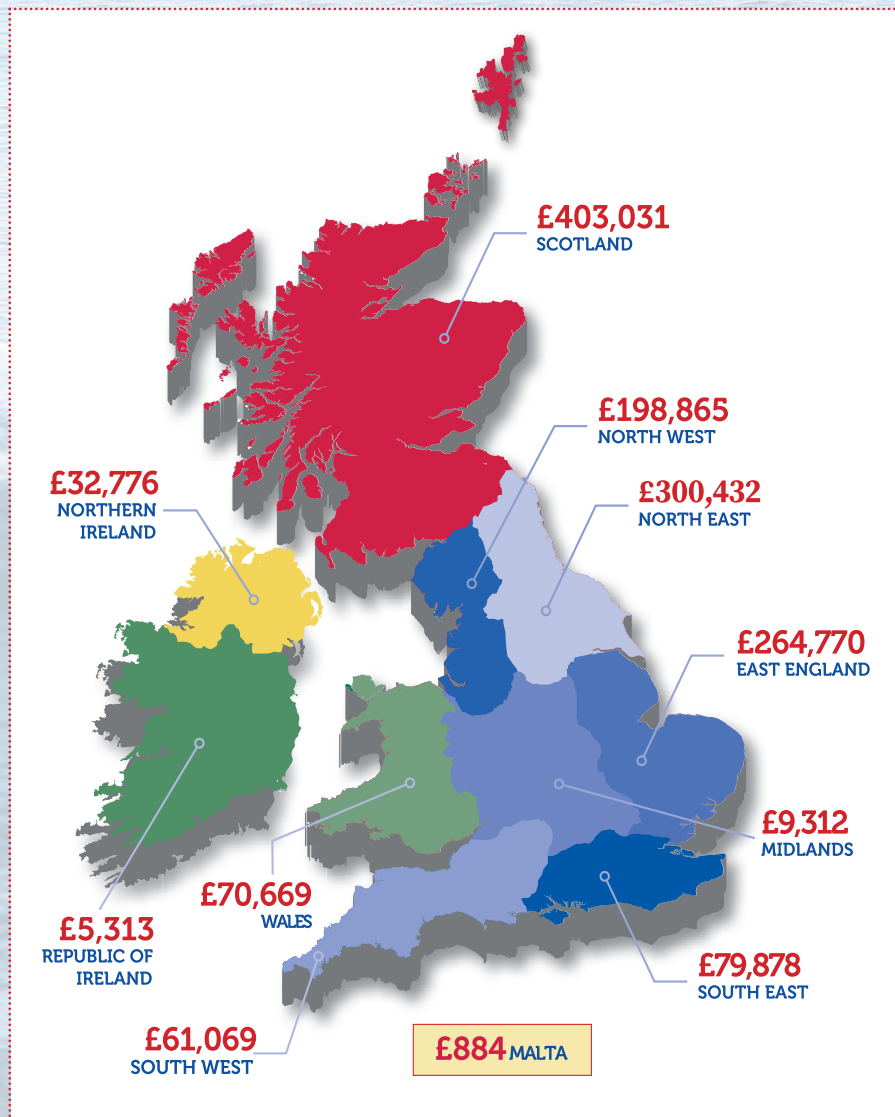
Mr F, in his early 80's with 30 years sea service, was increasingly struggling with his breathing and was virtually **housebound due to difficulty walking** any distance. This was significantly affecting his mental health. In conjunction with the Sailors Hospital Society, **we were able to provide a mobility scooter** which he subsequently reported using almost every day and has had a transformational impact on his health and wellbeing.





Regional Grant Expenditure

£1,426,998 TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURE FY23/24



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 2023/24 was £1.35 million with expenditure of £2.2 million, giving an operating deficit of £865,000. This compares to a deficit of £545,000 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 income (after investment gains) was £0.95 million compared to a net expenditure of £2.3 million last year. It should however be noted that 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 increased by approx. £1.0 million to £28.8 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 4.9% of our investments (income and capital) during 2023/24. 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.

Legacies: Receipts this year were £267k, down from £312k last year and slightly below the long-term average of £275k. Of note, Trustees fully expect significant year-on-year variation in such receipts and use the long-term average to aid financial planning. However, irrespective of the sum received we remain enormously grateful to those who chose to support us in this way; such gifts are put to good use 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 £237,000 which is slightly up on last year's total of £228,000. We remain 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 a good year for our trading activity, which remains focused on selling Christmas, Birthday, and correspondence cards (via mail order and online) through our supplier, Impress Publishing. Additional sales come via our seasonal shop at Central Office. Whilst turnover at £63,000 was down on last year, reflecting the general reduction in Christmas card sales across the UK, the number of supporters buying our cards remained at the same level (albeit the number of cards they bought was reduced). Of note our trading model does not seek to make significant profit from card sales, as we are incredibly fortunate that those who buy our cards tend to support us (throughout the year) with generous donations. This is reflected in the £133,000 worth of appeal related donations which we received over the last year. 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.

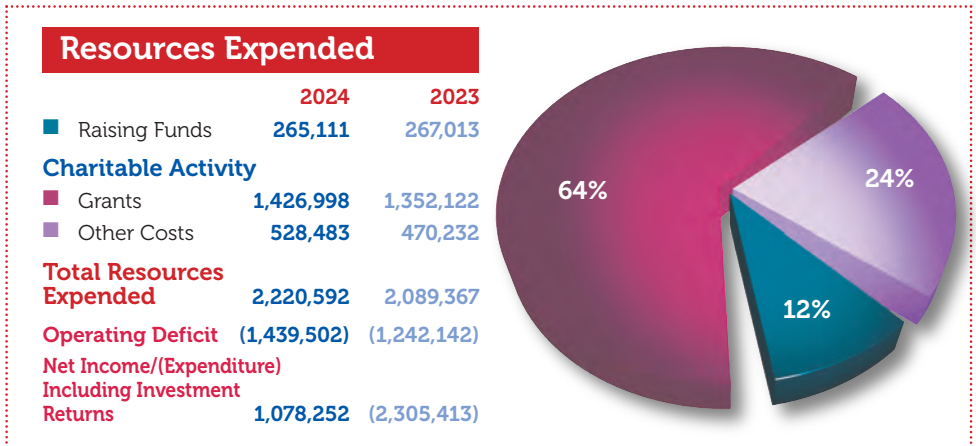
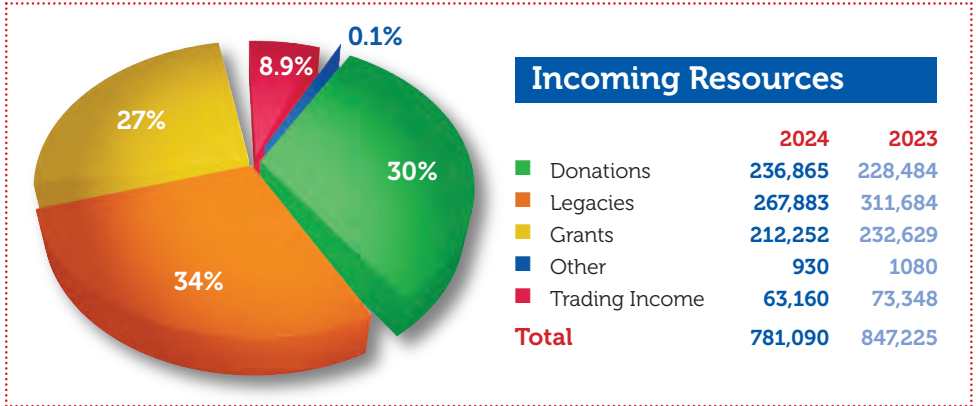
Charitable Activities: Charitable Activities amounted to £1.96 million, which was 88% of all expenditure. Of this figure £1.43 million (64% of all expenditure) was on grants to individuals. The Society works extremely hard to minimise fundraising and support costs, thereby maximising the proportion of 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.



Summary Income & Expenditure Account



	2024	2023
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets	11,791	16,618
Investments	28,795,516	27,749,581
Investment Property	1,110,000	1,110,000
Net Current Assets	587,849	550,700
Net Assets	30,505,156	29,426,904



Awards for Skill and Gallantry



Crew Commendation

For meritorious actions in rescuing others

Professionalism, teamwork and exceptional scene management skills saved the lives of 2 seriously injured casualties onboard a Spanish fishing vessel.

It was 0430 on Wednesday 29th November 2023 when the Stornoway SAR team received urgent tasking to provide assistance to the Spanish Fishing Vessel Lodario. Reports were that two men on board had been involved in an accident with the ship's winching gear, with injuries including amputated and seriously damaged legs, and one man still trapped in the mechanism.

The ship was a long way out - more than 100 miles northwest of Stornoway. The crew immediately worked with the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre to deploy a specialist team from Glasgow Hospital to Stornoway to ensure support would be available as soon as the casualties arrived at the airbase. They also requested support from the Inverness SAR helicopter, noting that a second winch paramedic would enable the 2 medical experts to each focus on a single patient.

Arriving at the ship around one hour later, the crew were faced with difficult conditions, including squally weather and heavy seas, with a pitching and cluttered deck. The winch operator, John Carrigan, used his expert con and winch control to safely deliver Norman 'Nam' Macleod to the deck, where he was met with a desperate and confusing scene. One casualty had lost a leg at the groin and his other leg was seriously injured. The other casualty, although no longer trapped in the winching mechanism, had lost the lower part of one leg; both men were in a life-threatening state and needed urgent care. Their colleagues, all distressed, spoke no English and the cluttered deck was pitching up and down in the swell. With the second helicopter still an hour away, Nam quickly established that both casualties needed urgent specialist care and would need to be evacuated with minimum delay, despite the additional difficulties in managing two individuals with severe trauma.

Nam's first job was to assess the casualties, with his first priority being to stop the bleeding for the most seriously injured man. With help from the team on the aircraft the first casualty was then winched on-board. Returning to the second casualty, he had to apply tourniquets to both legs to stop the bleeding. Again, the crew did a great job assisting the recovery to the aircraft and as soon as they were enroute, Nam and John focused on providing medical care during the extended transit to Stornoway. By this time the specialist medical team had arrived from Glasgow and the two injured men, although still in a very serious condition, could be transferred into their safe hands.

Given the extent of the injuries to both men, it is clear that the professionalism, teamwork and exceptional scene management of the crew, in hazardous conditions, ensured the survival of both casualties. As such the crew of Rescue 948 are fully deserving of a crew commendation for their outstanding efforts.





Individual Commendation

For meritorious actions during a Medevac mission

Outstanding airmanship, professionalism and cool thinking resulted in the safe recovery of the aircraft following a serious engine malfunction.

On Wednesday 20th September 2023, Lieutenant Daniel Burnett was the aircraft commander of an 847 Naval Air Squadron Commando Wildcat helicopter tasked to conduct a 100nm MEDEVAC flight from HMS Queen Elizabeth to Newcastle Hospital.

However, only 30nm into the transit, with 3 MEDEVAC passengers onboard, the crew were alerted to an engine malfunction by a Red 'ECU2 FAIL' Warning caption. It quickly became clear that one of the aircraft engines had suffered a serious fault and whilst still operating, was stuck 'on' at a very high-power setting, with no means of adjusting it. The aircraft was cruising at 140kts, and whilst the aircraft's second engine had automatically reduced power to limit the aircraft's rotor speed, the rotor blades were rotating faster than normal. More importantly, any rapid reduction in pitch, to slow down or to descend, would risk the aircraft suffering a catastrophic rotor overspeed.

Noting the severity of the emergency, Lt Burnett elected to return to the ship, rather than continue to Newcastle. Having declared an emergency, the crew were informed that due to the positioning of other aircraft on the Flight Deck, conducting a running landing was not an option. Lt Burnett briefed the crew that they would be required to reconfigure the aircraft flight profile in order to lose height and reduce speed, which may require shutting down the affected engine. However, with 3 MEDEVAC passengers onboard and a requirement to conduct an approach to the hover, Lt Burnett chose to keep both engines running to ensure sufficient power was available to facilitate a safe approach.

At 2nm from the Ship, it quickly became apparent that the aircraft's power setting was driving an unacceptably high approach speed. As such, Lt Burnett skilfully elected to conduct a number of 'S' turns to reduce the rate of closure on the ship, whilst maintaining a workable approach path. He then managed to establish the aircraft in a standard hover alongside the ship, whilst ensuring that the rotor speed stayed just within its speed limits. The next phase of Lt Burnett's plan was to order the faulty engine to be selected to "Ground Idle" and then "Off" in order to reduce power and enable the aircraft to complete a controlled landing. Unfortunately, when this action was taken the engine remained on and frozen at the high rotor speed. However, having carefully thought through the many possible outcomes of his plan, Lt Burnett was prepared for this and quickly ordered the No2 Engine fuel valve to be closed. As the power from the No2 engine decreased, he skilfully manoeuvred the aircraft to land on 6 Spot.

Lt Burnett's exceptional technical knowledge, outstanding airmanship and composed leadership of his crew undoubtedly averted the escalation of this dangerous emergency into a life-threatening situation. His remarkable decision-making during recovery both protected the lives of those aboard and preserved the airframe for future operational tasking. His outstanding captaincy of this complex emergency, combined with the added pressures and challenges of embarked operations, epitomises the finest traditions of the Fleet Air Arm. As such, Lt Burnett is fully deserving of a commendation to recognise his outstanding actions.





Lord Lewin Awards

QUEEN VICTORIA SEAMEN'S REST

Caseworking – Poplar, London

The staff of QVSR have served as our Honorary Agents for many decades, diligently supporting seafarers living both in the “Queen Vic” and in the local community, as well as those visiting the port of London. Extremely supportive of the work we do, their staff are an absolute pleasure to work with and remain dedicated to helping in any way they can. With 19 regular beneficiaries living in QVSR and the surrounding area, they regularly submit applications for much needed support. Routinely going out of their way to help those in need, their can-do attitude includes reach out to prospective beneficiaries and spreading the word about the support available to both serving and retired seafarers. Consistently completing grant applications and beneficiary reviews to a very high standard, the team provide concise and relevant information which forms an excellent pen picture of each specific need. They also have a superb understanding of the people they work with and consistently show respect and compassion to all those they encounter. As such QVSR is highly deserving of an award to recognise their dedicated service and exceptional commitment to the maritime community.



JAMES RYELAND Fundraising – Dover

James has been our Honorary Agent for the last 27 years, although his full time role is as the Managing Director of George Hammond Marine Ltd. Preceded in his HA role by both his father and his grandfather, he has taken on a range of responsibilities during his tenure, including delivering annual grant cheques to local beneficiaries. However, his main role has been to manage the large collecting mine in Dover. This work has previously included managing an extensive restoration in 2017, including raising over £1,500 to fund the project, thereby delivering a magnificently restored mine fit for many further years of service. In 2023 the area where the mine was situated was affected by demolition work, which resulted in James arranging the relocation of the mine to the travel centre in the Eastern dock. Something of a glutton for punishment, James has recently volunteered to take over the management of another mine located in Broadstairs, whilst also assisting with the relocation of a mine previously situated in Harwich. As an exceptionally committed supporter of the Society, James is thoroughly deserving of special recognition for his outstanding and longstanding efforts as our Honorary Agent.





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.



FREE WILLS Writing Service

The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society has partnered with **Free Wills** to give our supporters and Honorary Agents the opportunity to create their legally binding, solicitor checked, Will (England & Wales) **completely free of charge**. To note this can be done online, or over the phone. Wills can be created anytime throughout the year and there is absolutely no cost to either create a Will, or to update your Will, once created. Once complete Free Wills will send you an electronic version of your Will, which you can either print out yourself, or get a friend/family member to print out for you. Optional services are available at a cost for example, a professionally bound hard copy version of your will, but there is absolutely no obligation to purchase these.

Free Wills is a full member of The Society of Will Writers; is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and has over 5,000+ trusted reviews with an overall 4.9 out of 5 rating on Trustpilot. To find out more visit: www.freewills.co.uk/charity/shipwreckedmariners



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