

RAISE FOR THE RED ENSIGN

FOR MERCHANT NAVY DAY
3RD SEPTEMBER



Celebrating the faces behind the Red Ensign

Merchant Navy Day is on Sunday 3rd September, when once again we will be asking the nation to fly the Red Ensign and pay tribute to our merchant seafarers, past and present.

A day for recognition and respect

As an island nation, seafarers have been absolutely crucial in times of war; keeping supply lines open during two World Wars and reaching far-flung areas of the world like the Falklands to defend our citizens.

In 1928, HM King George V honoured the contribution made by the Merchant Navy in peace and war by appointing a member of the royal family as its head, thus treating the merchant service with as much respect as the armed forces.

More recently, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK Government rightly recognised those working

in the Merchant Navy as key workers; a reflection of the vital role they played during the crisis.

Today, there are around 80,000 men and women working at sea. They continue to bring in over 90% of our imports, so without them we'd be facing empty shelves in our shops, chemists and supermarkets.

Supporting the faces behind the flag

Merchant Navy Day is a time to recognise the unique contribution our seafarers make to the United Kingdom, and our Fly the Red Ensign appeal is our 'thank you' to the seafarers who have worked so hard to keep this country going.

Please support this year's appeal by making a donation today. All the details can be found on the front page.

For information on In Memoriam Giving, or to request envelopes for a donation collection at an event or service, please email mnfund@theseafarerscharity.org or phone **020 7932 0000**.

The Merchant Navy Fund (MNF), administered by The Seafarers' Charity in partnership with the Merchant Navy Welfare Board, is a unique fund to specifically benefit UK Merchant Navy seafarers and their families. The aim of the fund is to help finance those charities supporting our own Merchant Navy seafarers. Thanks to your donations, we continue to make a difference and improve lives. For more information, please visit www.merchantnavyfund.org, email mnfund@theseafarerscharity.org or phone **020 7932 000**.

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DATA PROTECTION: If you would prefer in future not to receive information about the Merchant Navy Fund, please email mnfund@theseafarerscharity.org, phone 020 7932 0000, or write to The Merchant Navy Fund, 8 Hatherley Street, LONDON, SW1P 2QT.

The Merchant Navy Fund is administered by The Seafarers' Charity (King George's Fund for Sailors), in partnership with the Merchant Navy Welfare Board. The Seafarers' Charity is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, No. 226446, incorporated under Royal Charter. Registered in Scotland, No. SC038191. Registered office: 8 Hatherley Street, London, SW1P 2QT.



Merchant Navy Fund Supporting Partners



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
UK MERCHANT NAVY SEAFARERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

SUMMER 2023

Hello,

Welcome to the summer 2023 edition of the Merchant Navy Fund newsletter.

Thanks to your incredible generosity, since the establishment of the Merchant Navy Fund in 2012, we've raised over £800,000 in donations and awarded over £750,000 to-date in grants to organisations focussed on improving the lives of UK serving or retired Merchant Navy seafarers and their families.

So far in 2022-23, supporters like you have enabled us to award £84,020 in grants to our partners, a few of which you can read about in the following pages.

Thanks to your generosity, many merchant seafarers and their families have received practical help or emotional support in times of

need. We are incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve so far, all thanks to your support.

Don't forget, this year's Merchant Navy Day is on **Sunday 3rd September**. For 2023, Merchant Navy Day is about celebrating the faces behind the Red Ensign; the men and women who serve, or have served, as merchant seafarers.

As rising food and heating costs have pushed many seafaring families into hardship, we're asking you to support our Fly the Red Ensign appeal by making a donation to the Merchant Navy Fund, if you can. You can also show your support by flying the Red Ensign or raising awareness about the Merchant Navy Day on social media.

For more information about how to get involved, visit www.merchantnavyfund.org

We are confident that the Fund will be here to continue to support UK Merchant Navy seafarers and their families in need into the future, but we rely on the support of our kind and loyal donors to be able to do that. **If you would like to donate, the easiest ways are online, by text, or by post:**

Online

bit.ly/MNDAY2023



By Text

MERCHANTNAVYDAY 3
to 70085 to donate £3

MERCHANTNAVYDAY 5
to 70085 to donate £5

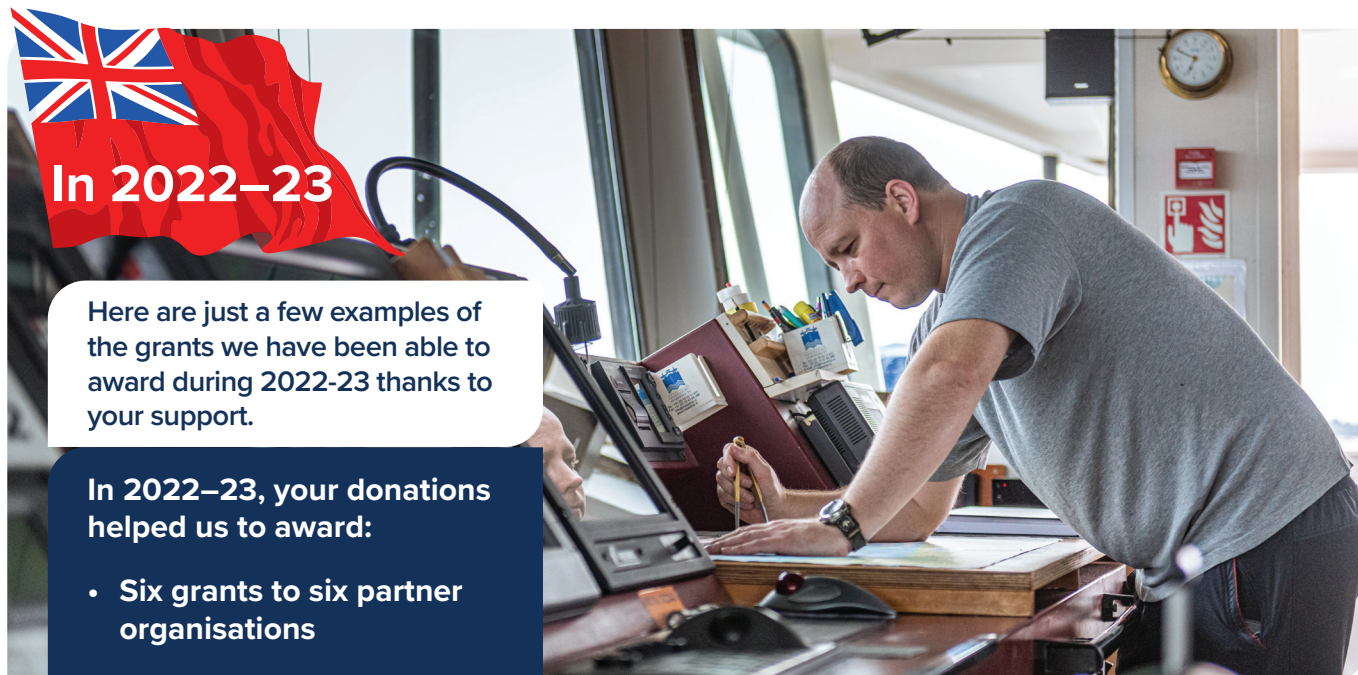
MERCHANTNAVYDAY 15
to 70085 to donate £15

By Post

Please complete the donation form enclosed and return it with your donation in the freepost envelope provided.



You make a life-changing impact



In 2022–23

Here are just a few examples of the grants we have been able to award during 2022-23 thanks to your support.

In 2022–23, your donations helped us to award:

- Six grants to six partner organisations
- £84,020 in total funding

A £15,000 grant was awarded to The Shipwrecked Mariners' Society



This grant was awarded for the provision of a top-up fund to support emergency grants to merchant seafarers and their dependents in real poverty, but who do not fit within the charity's eligibility criteria of ten years of service at sea.

“

The Merchant Navy Fund has helped us to support additional Merchant Navy seafarers who are particularly deserving but who would ordinarily sit just outside our usual criteria. For example, we received an application from a gentleman who had no savings and was in desperate need of a fridge freezer. He didn't meet our usual criteria, but we were able to buy a new fridge freezer for him thanks to a grant from the Merchant Navy Fund.”

Samantha Raeburn, Grants Manager, Shipwrecked Mariners' Society

A £27,000 grant was awarded to Age UK



The grant was awarded to ensure the continued provision of Seafarers' Group Telephone Friendship calls, which reduce loneliness and isolation, improve wellbeing, and provide older seafarers with the opportunity to link up with others from their communities. In addition, members on the service also have access to all additional services offered by Age UK.

“

Sometimes I just feel like having a chat and there's no one I can phone. Now that I've joined The Silver Line, I've got a whole lot of new friends and have had some lovely conversations.”

Vera, The Silver Line member, funded by the Merchant Navy Fund

A £25,000 grant was awarded to Sailors' Children's Society



This grant was awarded to support children and young people from Merchant Navy families on low incomes to help with essentials such as food and heating, winter coats and shoes, as well as school uniforms, equipment and trips. The Society also provides vital support following a traumatic event, such as a serious injury or illness affecting a parent.

As the cost-of-living crisis has intensified over the past couple of years, the Society's support has been a lifeline for many serving and retired Merchant Navy seafarers and their dependant families.

Michelle's story

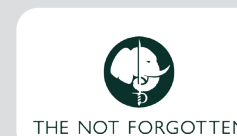
Michelle's partner, Dave, was critically injured on the cargo ship he worked on. Michelle was told by doctors that he would require long-term care in a specialist residential unit.

With Dave unable to work, Michelle was suddenly plunged into an extremely worrying situation, not knowing how she would provide for their six-year-old daughter, Rosie.

In desperation, Michelle turned to Sailors' Children's Society for help. Thankfully, a case worker was able to offer support for Rosie in the form of clothing and welfare grants. In addition, the Society arranged for some emotional support for Michelle to help her during an extremely difficult time.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity.

A £1,600 was awarded to The Not Forgotten



This grant was awarded to provide entertainment and recreational events and activities for the seafaring community, to combat isolation and loneliness among veterans by bringing them together.

The organisation has been providing entertainment and activities for more than a hundred years. Last year's events included their Annual Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, which was held on behalf of the wider military community.

Their other events included fishing trips, concerts in care homes, Christmas lunches, a Christmas party at St James' Palace, as well as visits to numerous sporting events, such as rugby internationals and Wimbledon.

“

Thanks to funding from the Merchant Navy Fund, The Not Forgotten will be able to continue organising recreational events and enhancing the wellbeing of its 11,000 beneficiaries, of which 700 are Merchant Navy.”

A £13,200 grant was awarded to Age UK Wirral



Thanks to supporters like you, this grant was awarded to support the wellbeing of residents at Mariners Park, Wallasey, through helping older resident seafarers to overcome digital communication challenges to be able to keep in contact with family and friends, therefore reducing their isolation.

