

the seafarers' charity

Rolling Updates: Q4/2022

The Seafarers' Charity has forged strong links with organisations and individuals who care and are working towards the same goal as us, improving the lives of seafarers.

Here is an update on the charity's recent activity for our amazing network of advocates out there in their local communities supporting seafarers.

December 2022

Catherine Spencer, former CEO of The Seafarers' Charity, received an [OBE](#) in the New Year Honours. The award recognises Catherine's services to seafarers during her 3 years as CEO. Her tenure coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and mass redundancies at P&O – a 3 year period of unprecedented crisis for seafarers. During this time The Seafarers' Charity dispersed over [£10m in grant funding](#) to support maritime welfare charities to respond to seafarers' needs.

In 2022 The Seafarers' Charity awarded over £3 million to 61 different organisations supporting maritime welfare in the UK and internationally

Our convening and advocacy powers have been put to good use to support the [Nautical Institute](#) to open their membership to people working in the fishing industry throughout the world. We view this as recognition that the skills and professionalism required in modern day fishing is equivalent to that of other maritime professions. The Seafarers' Charity chaired a working group to develop a formal memorandum of understanding between the Fishing Industry Safety & Health (FISH) Platform and The Nautical Institute. The aim is to develop a strategy to achieve long-term positive change in worldwide commercial fishing. The interests of fishing will also be represented at a global level via the input of professional expertise to the Nautical Institute's technical committees which represent members' interests at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

November 2022

Following an open recruitment process and some strong competition, Tina Barnes, previously the Charity's Head of Impact, was promoted to Impact Director and now leads the charity's grants and advocacy programmes.

The [Safety Net for Fishing Families](#) was presented to a delegation of international safety experts at a conference in Thailand which included representatives from the ILO and IMO. The fishing Safety Net was used as a basis to create a [Safety Net for UK Seafarers](#) in partnership with the MNWB. Both are useful bespoke resources to support budgeting and money management during the current cost of living crisis.

The Seafarers' Charity is creating a list of **fishing memorials** around the UK with a view to launching a new event in 2023 (more details on this initiative soon). If you

have a fishing memorial near you, we would be delighted to add it to our list. Please email Julia.gosling@theseafarerscharity.org with the location and the name of memorial. If possible please include a photo of the memorial.

October 2022

Deborah Layde, Chief Executive of The Seafarers' Charity, was announced as Chair of the Women in Maritime Network, taking over the role from Sue Terpilowski, who was the Founding Chair of the Network. This role provides an excellent opportunity to lead and shape advocacy to support women working at sea.

6th October saw the Annual National Service for Seafarers return to St Paul's cathedral after a two-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is always a great opportunity to commemorate and celebrate all seafarers from across the maritime profession, alongside representatives of all sectors of the seafaring community including the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, fishing industry, nautical colleges, maritime youth groups and veterans' associations.

Fishing is a dangerous profession and The Seafarers' Charity is committed to improving fishing safety. We have funded an information [film](#) to help fishers meet new MCA inspection standards. In partnership with the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) and supported by the Fishing Industry Safety Group (FISG) the film is aimed at helping all owners to prepare for their MCA inspection following changes to the regulations for fishing vessels under 15 metres. It is available to view on The Seafarers' Charity's YouTube channel.

The Seafarers International Relief Fund (SIRF) survey of needs in August identified an ongoing need for hardship grants for seafarers and their families in Ukraine, The Seafarers' Charity trustees have agreed another SIRF grant award of £58,700 to the Mortrans Welfare Fund (part of the Marine Transport Workers Trade Union in Ukraine) for hardship grants.

The [London Marathon](#) took place on 2nd October with 20 runners running to raise funds for The Seafarers' Charity. Places are now available for the 2023 London Marathon. The Seafarers' Charity has a cheering point along the route on HQS Wellington to host your supporters and a post-run reception to say thank you. More information: <https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/events/london-marathon-2023>

September 2022

Following the sad death of Queen Elizabeth II, Paul Butterworth, Chair of The Seafarers' Charity's General Council, and Fredrick Onono, a member of staff and former RN, had the privilege of attending the state funeral of our late Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, representing our cause, our KGFS heritage and our long-standing relationship with the Royal Family. We were all very proud to watch Freddie on TV as he lowered our standard in respect as the Queen's coffin was driven past the Cenotaph.



Robert Greenwood, trustee of The Seafarers' Charity and Chair of the Impact Committee was awarded the prestigious Merchant Navy Medal for his services improving fishing safety.

Merchant Navy Day took place on Saturday 3rd September. Once again our [Fly The Red Ensign](#) campaign raised awareness and honoured, the contribution made by all merchant seafarers. More information:

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/merchant-navy-fund/merchant-navy-day>