

seaview



Seafarers UK releases £2m in funding
to support seafarers in need and their families during the coronavirus pandemic

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we ♥ seafarers

Request your **FREE** Seafarers Awareness Week window sticker to show your support for seafarers.

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Also in this issue:

COVID-19 Emergency Appeal

Seafarers UK launched the COVID-19 Emergency Appeal to address the immediate need of seafarers and their families at a time of crisis.

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Our Impact in 2019

Learn more about our grant funding in 2019, which supported more than 209,000 seafarers in need and their families.

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A warm welcome

from Catherine Spencer,
Chief Executive Officer, Seafarers UK

The team at Seafarers UK has been working from home during the COVID-19 crisis. We hope very much that you have been able to stay well and are not feeling too isolated. Thank you for the wonderful response to our Emergency Appeal and for continuing to be interested in the plight of our seafarers as, together, we tackle the impact of COVID-19.

We have been able to switch easily to remote working, enabling us to continue to support seafarers. We've had our busiest months in recent years and I'm privileged that our small team have pulled out all the stops to keep things moving.

We've worked across the sector with our colleagues in maritime industries and a wide range of maritime charities to ensure that we understand the challenges seafarers are facing. As a result, we've been able to provide hope and support to seafarers themselves, and to the organisations working on the frontline.

We feel very fortunate that Seafarers UK has been able to support thousands of seafarers who have kept working throughout the crisis, many of whom have been stuck at sea due to port and travel restrictions, and stranded miles away from home. We've also continued to support elderly and vulnerable seafarers in supported living and care homes.

Our trustees have always made sure that we have enough funds for immediate hardship, but have also invested to

ensure that we can support the sector in a meaningful way, in an emergency. It's thanks to your donations over many years that we've been able to release £2 million of funds to support seafarers through the COVID-19 crisis, and help them get back on their feet in the months to come. We'll use this £2 million, along with donations from our Emergency Appeal, to continue ensuring that seafarers do not face disadvantage, and we will be redoubling our efforts to fundraise in the knowledge that COVID-19 will bring a need for far more support.

Most of our work continues to support merchant seafarers and we've seen really exciting new projects. We've worked with Mission to Seafarers to ensure that seafarers can access welfare services through a new online system which is proving to be a very popular resource.

We have also been able to help British fishers sell their catch directly to the public, keeping fishers out of poverty, and helping to create new domestic markets to temporarily replace sales lost to export

and restaurants. We hope this will endure beyond the current crisis, and will continue to help fishers develop more economically sustainable businesses. You can read more about our efforts to support seafarers in need and their families at this time of crisis on page 4.

Finally, we say a very sad goodbye and give our thanks to Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson CB CVO, as he steps down as Chairman of the General Council after ten years. Seafarers UK's continued success is down to Peter's understated and impactful, collaborative style of leadership, helping to navigate the charity into its next century. He is a hard act to follow, but we are fortunate to announce Paul Butterworth, a Seafarers UK Board member, as the next Chairman of the General Council.

He was successfully interviewed by the General Council and his appointment has been confirmed by our President, HRH The Earl of Wessex and Forfar KG, GCVO. Paul Butterworth is a Partner and Head of the Maritime & Shipping Practice, based in London. He has 28 years of experience of the maritime sector, ten of which have been in executive search. This builds upon a first career that saw him serving at sea, where he enjoyed two ship Commands in the Royal Navy. We are delighted to welcome Paul as Chairman of the General Council, and look forward to working on our new strategy with him.



An audio version of Seaview is now available. Please email contact@seafarers.uk or call **020 7932 0000** to request your copy.



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Email contact@seafarers.uk Website www.seafarers.uk



Message from

**Paul Butterworth LLB (Hons) MNI,
Chairman of the General Council**

The appointment of a new Chairman of the General Council is a significant event for any charity. In succeeding Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson after ten years as our Chairman of the General Council, I am conscious that I have a hard act to follow, but I would like to pay tribute to Peter, for his long and dedicated service. He has steered the General Council – which gives strategic direction to the Chief Executive Officer and the management team – with a deft hand on the tiller, through some challenging seas. Our move towards better supporting the Merchant Navy and those in the fishing industry was a real change in direction, whilst of course, taking care not to neglect our Naval beneficiaries.

A lot goes on out of sight to ensure that Seafarers UK is well-managed and maintains high standards of governance. It is testament to Peter's leadership over the last decade that we find ourselves in excellent shape and able to release £2 million of funds to support those in real hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of my fellow trustees, past and present, I thank Peter for all that he has given.

But what of the future? Firstly, I thank colleagues for their support and our President for appointing me as the new Chair. Although I came ashore when I left the Royal Navy in 2005, I still pride myself on being a seafarer. Being active in the maritime services and shipping sectors for the last 15 years will, I hope, prove to be a useful background to help raise awareness and tackle real welfare issues that our UK and Commonwealth seafarers continue to face.

I look forward to meeting more of our beneficiaries, when it's safe to do so, and learning about the fantastic work of our delivery partners. In return, it is my aim to maintain the high standards of governance that you have come to expect from Seafarers UK, and ensure that, as we start our second century of supporting 'those in peril on the sea', we continue to focus on those who need our help the most.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Seaview, and thank you for your support and interest – without it, we could not achieve all that we do to benefit seafarers, who allow the country to stay open in the most challenging of circumstances.

How far has your lunch travelled?

Far from home and loved ones, seafarers continue to transport **95% of all UK imports during COVID-19**, including many foods that go into our lunch.

With your support, we can help seafarers and their families when they fall on hard times.

Help us make sure that your lunch is here tomorrow.

Donate through your pay to help seafarers today.

Find out more

www.seafarers.uk/payroll-giving



Seafarers UK releases £2 million in funding to support seafarers in need during COVID-19

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on merchant seafarers, fishers and their families, Seafarers UK has created a new Seafarers UK COVID-19 Emergency Fund of £2 million, with grants being awarded immediately to charity partners providing advice and support for individual seafarers affected by the widespread coronavirus impacts.

The new fund is intended for distribution in 2020/2021, with 75% allocated to the international merchant seafaring community and 25% to UK coastal fishing fleets. Effective partnership working with frontline charity organisations across the UK, plus those acting globally, ensures a rapid response to meet urgent welfare needs.

Seafarers UK Chairman Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson CB CVO BA said: 'The trustees of Seafarers UK are releasing £2 million of new funds to help seafarers and fishers recover from the widespread impact on their wellbeing and livelihoods as a result of the coronavirus. We will work with our charity partners to provide both hardship funding and innovative new projects to support our seafarers through and beyond the current crisis. Our long history of helping those who work at sea enables us to target effective and meaningful support to where it is most needed.'

Catherine Spencer, Seafarers UK Chief Executive Officer, said: 'We could not have done this without our loyal supporters, whose generous donations over many years have been used

for immediate need, and built into a reserve fund to deal with exactly the type of challenge we are facing. I am immensely grateful that donations have been so well managed by our trustees, ensuring that we are able to provide significant help to the sector during its biggest challenge since the Second World War.'

The new Seafarers UK COVID-19 Emergency Fund of £2 million is in addition to Seafarers UK's existing annual budget of £2 million grants to support charitable organisations.



'The trustees of Seafarers UK are releasing £2 million of new funds to help seafarers and fishers recover from the widespread impact on their wellbeing and livelihoods as a result of the coronavirus.'

Seafarers UK Chairman
Vice Admiral Peter
Wilkinson CB CVO BA

How the £2 million fund is allocated

Seafarers UK has immediately allocated £500,000 of its Emergency Fund, to support fishers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic across Britain:

- **£250,000** to provide match funding with The Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust, for innovative projects to support fish and seafood businesses (read more about this on page 6);
- **£200,000** was awarded to The Fishermen's Mission to provide hardship welfare grants to fishers and their families (read more about this on page 6), and
- **£50,000** was reserved for organisations working with fishers around the UK.



'We are supporting welfare and providing hardship grants, but also tackling the underlying causes of financial difficulty.'

'We are supporting fishers by creating new online routes to consumers, and access to a previously untapped domestic market in the UK that we hope will endure beyond the COVID-19 crisis.'

Seafarers UK's Chief Executive Officer,
Catherine Spencer

Other organisations supported by our funding

Counselling services



£57,736 was awarded to a national charity **Relate**, the largest UK provider of relationship support services. The grant from Seafarers UK will provide free

relationship counselling for 120 merchant navy and fishing families over a 12-month period. Relate's service will provide professional help to those in need, especially as COVID-19 is putting extra pressures on many people's lives.

If you are a Merchant Navy seafarer or a fisher and you think you could benefit from this service, please contact **Seafarers Advice and Information Line** on **0800 160 1842**.

If you are a serving or former **Royal Navy and Royal Marines** personnel, please call **Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity** on **0130 238 0279**.

To access this service via **Seafarer Support**, please call **0800 121 4765**.

For more information, visit www.relate.org.uk

Hardship and poverty relief

£100,000 was awarded to **Cornwall Community Development Ltd** to support their Cornwall Animation* Project, providing grants and information on financial services available for fishers, as well as support in applying for funding.

During the coronavirus crisis, the project has been able to support the diversification of the fishing industry by helping fishers access funds for processing equipment, refrigerated vehicles and marketing initiatives to help them sell their catch directly to consumers.

*Animation is a term used in some parts of the European fishing industry. Animateurs work with fishermen as facilitators to provide business support.

COVID-19 residential support



£40,000 in funding was awarded to **Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest (QVSR)**. Their frontline service accommodates retired seafarers and ex-servicemen between 60 and 90 years old. The centre has been badly affected by COVID-19

with added pressures on the services they provide. Several residents tested positive for COVID-19 and two residents passed away from the virus. The emergency funding from Seafarers UK enabled QVSR to provide Personal Protective Equipment for all staff.

'The staff stood by me and communicated with the emergency services on my behalf, when I struggled to breathe. At one of the most vulnerable times of my life, it's something I will never forget!' said one resident upon return from hospital.

Emergency aid for international seafarers

£150,000 in funding was awarded to the **International Seafarers' Welfare & Assistance Network (ISWAN)** towards the Seafarers' Emergency Fund and SeafarerHelp, a free 24-hour multilingual helpline for seafarers.

In early April, an Indian seafarer, Parnav, contacted SeafarerHelp asking for urgent support. He was stranded in Tunisia after his shipping company informed him that there would be no crew change until the end of the month and advised him to return to India at his own expense.

Thanks to the grant from Seafarers UK, SeafarerHelp and ISWAN were able to access funding from the Seafarers' Emergency Fund to cover Parnav's hotel expenses, and support more seafarers like Parnav, who needed essential aid during COVID-19.

All grants awarded to-date to support the maritime sector during COVID-19:

- **£5,000** – Anglo Scottish Fishermen's Ben & Provident Fund
- **£15,000** – Aberdeen Seafarers' Centre
- **£10,000** – Hull 4 Heroes
- **£15,000** – Humber Seafarers' Service

- **£1,029** – Islay & Jura Community Enterprises Ltd
- **£17,000** – Mission to Seafarers
- **£60,000** – Mission to Seafarers South Africa
- **£2,500** – Portpatrick Harbour Community Benefit Society

- **£40,000** – Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest
- **£10,000** – Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest - Tilbury
- **£18,000** – Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphans Institution
- **£20,000** – Sailors' Children's Society

Support for seafarers affected by COVID-19

Supporting the UK's fishing industry during COVID-19

The coronavirus crisis led to the collapse of seafood markets across the UK.

To support the seafood supply chain, the Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust and Seafarers UK developed and matched-funded a £500,000 Rapid Response Grant Programme (RRGP) which will:

- seek diversification opportunities for seafood and fishing businesses;
- promote the consumption and sale of local seafood;
- provide seafood-based community meals.

Applications for grants were accepted from 8 April to 21 May via the Fishmongers' Company's 'Fish on Friday' website.

A total of 158 applications were received, with 127 projects and 132 organisations approved for immediate funding by a panel of industry experts from across the UK.

Many applications came from small-scale fisheries, who sought funds which would enable them to sell their catch directly to the public.

The Company's Fisheries Team explored ways in which the impact of the RRGp could be extended beyond the current cycle of grants, including leveraging newly available government grants, and providing ongoing digital, networking, and marketing support for fishers.



Sea Source, Kilkeel, Northern Ireland



'Sincere thank you to the Fishmongers' Company and Seafarers UK for the financial assistance. The funding has enabled a few of our fishers in Northern Ireland to keep working and fishing to order. Our seafood shop in Kilkeel has been turned into a hub from where home deliveries are dispatched, allowing us to bring staff out of furlough.'

Alan McCulla,
Chief Executive, Sea Source

Support in the eye of the storm

In south-east Scotland, the collapse of the European shellfish market during the COVID-19 crisis saw most of the fishing boats tied up with no income for the foreseeable future.

With the hospitality sector and fish markets closed, it was clear how difficult the pandemic would be for fishers and their families.

Seafarers UK released an emergency grant of £200,000 to the Fishermen's Mission to provide hardship welfare grants to support those affected by the crisis.

Robert, a fisherman from Port Seton, tells us how COVID-19 affected his family: 'We just about survived a harsh winter when the coronavirus pandemic began. With no catch to sell, I could not support my wife and our two wee girls. My circumstances

meant I was not eligible for either Universal Credit or assistance from the Scottish Government Hardship Fund. It's never easy to ask for help, but I'm so relieved that the Fishermen's Mission was there for me. It means that the light and heat can stay on at home and there is food on the table.'

Fishermen's Mission Eyemouth Superintendent Claire McIntosh, who helped Robert access emergency funds says: 'Robert's family would be facing an extremely bleak time trying to survive, but with our expert help and an emergency hardship grant, they have hope of getting through the crisis.'

Ali Godfrey, Director of Business Development at the Fishermen's Mission explains the importance of



(Top) fisher Robert with his two daughters
(Bottom) fishing boats tied up at Port Seton

Seafarers UK to the Fishermen's Mission: 'The generous emergency funding given by Seafarers UK means that our frontline staff can confidently support fishers.'

Seafarers UK COVID-19 Emergency Appeal

We are particularly dependent on our seafarers to keep the UK supplied with food, medicine, fuel and other essential supplies.

In fact, the Government has acknowledged the importance of those who work in the supply chain during the COVID-19 pandemic and has officially designated seafarers as key workers.

Far from home and with many restrictions in ports, COVID-19 brought a wide range of challenges for seafarers. There's been an increasing number of reports of crews being abandoned in foreign ports, without money or food, and unable to fly home. Restrictions on crew changes and quarantine periods separated many seafarers from their families for even longer, at what is already a distressing and unsettling time. Many ports on maritime trade routes still prevent shore-leave, thus denying access to shore-based facilities, including welfare services. Crews are being left unassisted on board and having to rely on charitable support or even local pity.

The effects of COVID-19 left many seafarers feeling very isolated, depressed, and worried about their families back at home, as well as extremely anxious about when they can see their loved ones again. It has, therefore, never been more important for our seafarers to have somewhere to turn to for support.

We're using our £2 million Emergency Fund released from the charity's reserves, and our expertise to support our charitable partners, to provide care and finance where it's most needed.

We want all seafarers and their families to be fit for work when the British economy picks up again and be free from hardship. The decline of fundraising income across the charity sector means that we will also need to help many smaller maritime charities who provide vital frontline support to the most vulnerable in our seafaring community. We want to make sure that these charities can continue to work with those in need and survive the storm to provide support in the future. We know that welfare needs in the aftermath of the pandemic will endure, increasing the number of people who will need our help, and that need is likely to be well beyond the £2 million we have released.

As a result of the pandemic, Seafarers UK is set to lose thousands of pounds in fundraising revenue from our 'challenge' events this year, such as the now cancelled 24 Peaks Challenge. We are yet to know whether our most lucrative event, the London Marathon, will proceed on 4 October.

That's why, despite having access to reserve funds to tackle the urgent needs created by COVID-19, we are asking our supporters to help us with our COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, so that we can keep helping now, and in the years to come.

If you haven't had a chance to support our COVID-19 Emergency Appeal yet, please donate what you can by completing the donation form attached. You can also donate online at www.seafarers.uk, phone 020 7932 0000 or text:

SEAFARERSUK 3

to 70085
to donate

£3

SEAFARERSUK 5

to 70085
to donate

£5

SEAFARERSUK 10

to 70085
to donate

£10

SEAFARERSUK 20

to 70085
to donate

£20

Please note that due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 on the way our charity operates, it currently takes 2-3 weeks for us to process your postal donations. We, therefore, encourage you to make donations online, by phone or text.

Please Support our COVID-19 Emergency Appeal

Please return your
completed form to:
Seafarers UK
8 Hatherley Street
LONDON SW1P 2QT

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other) _____

Name _____

Home address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

(By giving us your email address, you agree we can forward you information about Seafarers UK)

I wish to donate £ _____

I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAF Voucher payable to Seafarers UK £ _____

Please charge my Credit/Debit /CAF Card

(We don't accept American Express or Diners Club)

Name as seen on card _____

Card number

Start date

Expiry date

Issue number

3-digit security code

(If applicable)

(Last 3 digits on signature strip)

Signature _____

Date _____

(Credit/Debit card donations must be authorised with your signature and date)

giftaid it

Make your gift worth 25% more with Gift Aid. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Seafarers UK. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

I am not a UK taxpayer and I am unable to take part in the Gift Aid Scheme.

Signature _____

Date _____

A Gift in your Will could help Seafarers UK continue our work improving the lives of seafarers in need. Please tick this box for more information.

Data Protection

We really value your support and would like to keep you up to date about our campaigns and work in the future. Please indicate below how you would like us to contact you in the future.

By post by telephone by email

If you do not wish to be contacted in the future, please email seafarers@seafarers.uk or call 020 7932 0000.

Seafarers UK complies with the Data Protection Act 2018. Information on the use of personal data by Seafarers UK is available from: Seafarers UK, 8 Hatherley Street, London SW1P 2QT

If you would prefer to make a regular donation by Direct Debit, please complete the reverse of this form. Thank you.



To spread the cost of your donation and help us to save on administration costs, you can set up a regular donation by Direct Debit. Regular income also means we can plan our work more effectively and will guarantee our commitment to support those in the maritime community that truly need our help.

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other) _____

Name _____

Home address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

(By giving us your email address, you agree we can forward you information about Seafarers UK)

I would like to make a gift to Seafarers UK of:

£5 £10 £20 £30 Other £ _____

Please debit my Bank/Building Society account on 1st or 15th of each month or annually

I would like to amend my gift to Seafarers UK. I authorise you to amend my monthly/annual (delete as appropriate) payment to £ _____

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Name and full address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager	Bank/Building Society
Postcode	

6	8	8	6	9	2	Originator's Identification Number
						Bank/Building Society Account Number
						Branch Sort Code
Reference						

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society. Please pay Seafarers UK Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Seafarers UK and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Name(s) of Account Holders(s)

Signature(s)
Date

giftaid it

Make your gift worth 25% more with Gift Aid. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Seafarers UK. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

I am not a UK taxpayer and I am unable to take part in the Gift Aid Scheme.

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A Gift in your Will could help Seafarers UK continue their work improving the lives of seafarers in need. Please tick this box for more information.

EMAPP20DD



The Direct Debit Guarantee

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer.



- This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Seafarers UK will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.
- If you request Seafarers UK to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Seafarers UK or your Bank or Building Society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your Bank or Building Society. If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Seafarers UK asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your Bank or Building Society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify Seafarers UK.

Maritime Charities Group's support for the sector



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maritime Charities Group (MCG), of which Seafarers UK is a

member, collaborated to provide emergency funding for the maritime welfare sector, and explored how best to support the sector as it emerges from the coronavirus crisis.

In a recent debate in the House of Lords on challenges for the charitable sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, Lord Jeffrey Muntevans, a trustee of Seafarers UK, said: 'We are very fortunate to have the MCG and its members in the maritime sector. The Group's ten members are working together to co-ordinate their COVID-19 response, fund delivery partners working on the ground and fast-track grants to those in need.' The MCG Chairman, Cdr Graham Hockley LVO RN said: 'There's a long-term funding crisis ahead that will require collaborative funding arrangements and Government support.'

Maritime Charities Group members



To learn more about the Maritime Charities Group, visit www.seafarers.uk/maritime-charities-group



HAVE YOU OR YOUR RELATIONS EVER SERVED IN THE MERCHANT NAVY?

Please help us to help other UK serving and retired Merchant Navy seafarers and their families who are struggling in difficult times. The Merchant Navy Fund is an exciting and much-needed collaborative initiative by two national charities, the Merchant Navy Welfare Board and Seafarers UK. Both organisations recognise that many people with a Merchant Navy background would like their donations to be used specifically in support of British Merchant Navy seafarers and their families.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please consider making a regular donation of just £10 per month. We also welcome one-off donations. www.merchantnavyfund.org
 mnfund@seafarers.uk
 020 7932 0000



MERCHANT NAVY WELFARE BOARD

SUPPORTING UK MERCHANT NAVY SEAFARERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHEN THEY NEED A LIFELINE

Seafarers UK (King George's Fund for Sailors) is a Registered Charity, No. 226446 in England and Wales, incorporated under Royal Charter. Registered in Scotland, No. SC038191. Registered Office: 8 Hatherley Street, London SW1P 2QT.



Speaking up for seafarers

Seafarers Awareness Week was launched by Seafarers UK in 2010, as a targeted PR campaign to overcome ‘sea blindness’ and raise awareness of the UK’s ongoing dependence on seafarers.

But it has taken this year’s coronavirus pandemic to make politicians and the public sit up and take notice of the vital role professional seafarers play in ‘Keeping Britain Trading’.

Recent mainstream media attention has focused on seafarers being stranded on merchant vessels, well past their contract end dates, as ports worldwide forbid disembarkation and airlines cut services that would otherwise be used for repatriation.

Restrictions imposed by governments mean crew changes on merchant vessels have had to be curtailed by most ship operators, preventing fatigued seafarers returning to their homes and families. It is estimated that, globally, every month 150,000 merchant seafarers need to be moved to and from ships to comply with international maritime regulations.

Cruise ship workers have also been in the spotlight as passengers, including those with COVID-19, have been evacuated, leaving some crew quarantined on vessels that are effectively out of action for many months.

The wellbeing of merchant seafarers’ families is the theme of our Seafarers Awareness Week campaign this year.

Seafarers UK is calling on the UK Government to recognise permanently that merchant seafarers are ‘key workers’, whatever their nationality. Ships visiting UK ports must not be prevented from making crew changes, which are essential to ensure the safety of seafarers and other maritime workers.

Meanwhile, as Seafarers UK’s trustees have released additional funds of £2 million to support seafarers impacted by the widespread effects of the coronavirus, we are taking the opportunity provided by Seafarers Awareness Week to encourage major donors, businesses, trusts and foundations to support our charity during this crisis.



 To find out more about Seafarers Awareness Week, visit www.seafarersweek.uk

we  seafarers

Show your support for seafarers!

To coincide with Seafarers Awareness Week, Seafarers UK has produced a window sticker (size 250mm x 50mm) for supporters to display on cars, taxis, minibuses, boats, etc.

Stickers are offered free to Seaview readers. Please email your name and address to week@seafarers.uk.

Or send your request to **SAW Sticker, Seafarers UK, 8 Hatherley Street, LONDON, SW1P 4QT.**

Our Impact in 2019

Seafarers UK has been championing seafarers since 1917. We support seafarers throughout their seafaring career: from first considering a career at sea, to working at sea, managing relationships at home while adapting to a seagoing life, then coming ashore and during retirement.

We do this by giving grant funding to organisations and projects that make an impact on seafarers' lives, across the Merchant Navy, Fishing Fleets, Royal Navy, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Royal Marines.

Our key aims are to improve the quality of life for seafarers and their families in times of need by securing more efficient aid and support for them, and to ensure the effective distribution of funds to those organisations that help them, so as to assist as many people as possible.

What we delivered in 2019:

- **£2.2m** awarded in total funding*
- **43** organisations supported
- **53** grants awarded

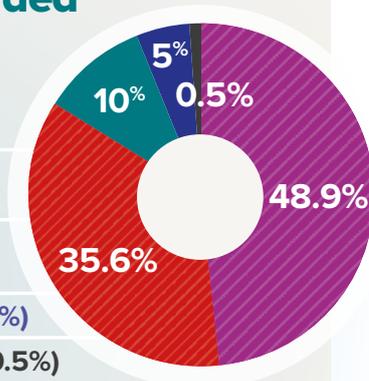
*based on actual grants made in year

How we made a difference in 2019:

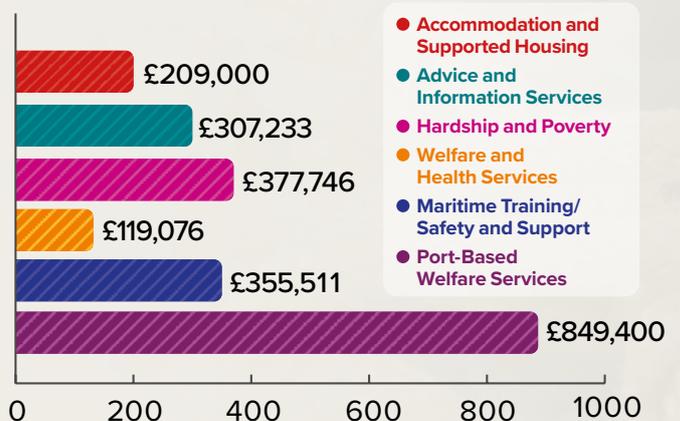
- **209,205** people supported by our funding
- **7** new organisations supported with grant funding for the first time
- **£80,556** was awarded in Merchant Navy Fund grants

% of grants awarded by sector:

- **Merchant Navy** £1,084,238 (48.9%)
- **Fishing Fleet** £790,617 (35.6%)
- **Maritime Youth** £222,111 (10%)
- **Royal Navy** £110,500 (5%)
- **Cross-sector** £10,500 (0.5%)

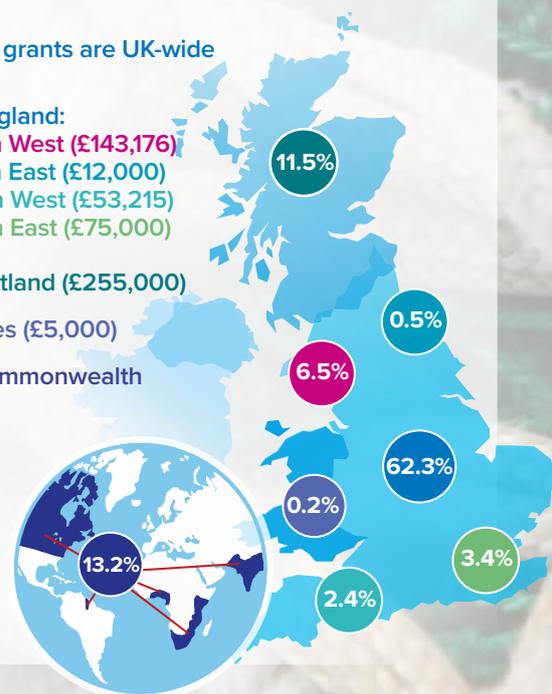


Grants awarded by category:



Grants awarded by geographical location:

- **62.3%** of grants are UK-wide (£1,382,510)
- **12.8%** England:
 - 6.5% North West (£143,176)
 - 0.5% North East (£12,000)
 - 2.4% South West (£53,215)
 - 3.4% South East (£75,000)
- **11.5%** Scotland (£255,000)
- **0.2%** Wales (£5,000)
- **13.2%** Commonwealth (£292,065)



Our manifesto for seafarers



Launched in 2019, our ten-point manifesto for seafarers sets out our aspirations for seafarers' welfare and safety before, during and after their seafaring career.

In partnership with others, Seafarers UK will use its grant funding, encourage closer collaboration and advocate on behalf of seafarers so that all seafarers can:

- **be kept safe** and return from their seafaring voyages
- **take care** of their families and dependants during long periods away from home
- **feel less lonely** or isolated when working at sea, through maintaining connections with family and friends ashore
- **access free**, high-quality welfare services
- **access independent advice**, information and support
- **be provided with regular welfare breaks** in respect of hours of work, shore leave, length of journey, etc.
- **thrive** and have their uniqueness respected within a culturally diverse working environment without fear of bullying or harassment
- **be supported** to train and develop careers working at sea
- **transition from sea to shore**. This includes supporting the provision of short-term accommodation and other welfare and support services
- **obtain dignity** in retirement through access to financial security, appropriate accommodation and a network of support from maritime welfare charities

Our grant-making

Seafarers UK continued to support the core costs of organisations delivering services to seafarers and their families.

We believe that this approach to funding provides maritime welfare charities with the ability to develop and enhance their existing services and enables them to respond to the emerging needs of seafarers.

Our grant-making is also informed by the Maritime Charities Group's Funding Principles, jointly developed by Seafarers UK in 2019. These principles ensure that we look to encourage a preventative and innovative approach, with seafarers engaged in the development of service design and delivery in order to achieve maximum impact for seafarers. We also assisted those we fund by co-creating and presenting at an Impact Workshop, in Portsmouth, to assist our delivery partners evidence and enhance their impact.

We also aimed to be proactive in our funding. Grant applications provided evidence of the need for working seafarers to have access to an external, independent source for help and advice. We responded to this by providing grant funding for ship visitors, advice lines and caseworkers.

We also supported CHIRP Maritime – a confidential reporting programme for seafarers to report unsafe practices at sea.

'Fishing For a Future' research, commissioned by Seafarers UK, revealed the evidence of poor health care directly related to the business of fishing and the difficulty in obtaining both medical and dental appointments. This led to funding provided for an innovative partnership between the Fishermen's Mission and Seafarers' Hospital Society to deliver dental care and preventative physical and mental health care for fishers in fishing ports.



Fishing boats in Hartlepool

Our Impact in 2019

Sector Efficiency and Effectiveness

Seafarers UK continued to contribute towards strategic development in the maritime welfare charity sector via its membership and chairing of the Maritime Charities Group (MCG). It played a key part in promoting the findings of the Navigating Change research and the delivery of the very successful Maritime Charities Group Conference 2019. Seafarers UK Grants Director, Deborah Layde, chaired an important conference session on best practice in trustee recruitment.

Seafarers UK worked with its project partner Nautilus Welfare Fund (NWF) to deliver new apartments and bungalows specifically for Merchant Navy Veterans at Mariners' Park, Wallasey.

Seafarers UK 'Fishing For a Future' research has had a significant impact. It has been directly attributed by Defra as a contributory reason for taking forward their own research into the social needs of fishers. In addition to taking forward this new proposed research, Deborah Layde has been invited to be a member of the governance panel steering the development of the research.

In 2019, conversations were held with interested parties, including engagement and attendance at the All Party Parliamentary Group on Fisheries, and with the fishing community, concerning the recruitment of new entrants. Already, a new project has been funded in Norfolk to promote fishing as a career amongst local schools and other opportunities for funding are being explored. But it is clear that the challenge is perceptions around careers in the seafood sector allied with the need to send a clearer message about the diverse and exciting roles on offer and thus there is more to be done by working with key influencers in the sector.



Tower Bridge, London

Campaigning and Influence

Seafarers UK continued its policy of keeping MPs and Peers informed about the charity's work and actively developing relationships with the two Government departments that have the greatest influence over legislation and policy affecting seafarers and fishers; the Department for Transport and Defra.

Chaired by Seafarers UK, the Maritime Careers Promotion Forum secured a £250,000 grant from the Department for Transport and evolved into the Maritime Careers Taskforce, having made two key recommendations to Maritime UK: increased participation in careers promotion events and the employment of a Careers & Outreach Manager to promote the diverse range of maritime employment opportunities for UK residents, including pan-sector seafaring roles.

Refreshed with a new theme, Seafarers Awareness Week (8-14 July 2019) publicised the challenges facing UK fishers, especially the coastal fishing fleet, as they braced themselves for Brexit. Mainstream media interest was widespread across the UK, with a total of 42 TV and 24 radio items, including our Grants Director being interviewed on BBC TV News, together with 35 audio features and online coverage reaching a potential audience of more than 14m people.

Seafarers UK was invited to join the Maritime & Coastguard Agency-led 'Safety Funding Group' for fishers to assist with the distribution of £1m funding awarded by Government to the sector. This was in response to campaigning by many leaders in the fishing sector, complemented by Seafarers UK's separate campaign, backed by evidence from our 'Fishing For a Future' report.

Later in the year, local authorities and councils continued to respond positively to our popular 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day' campaign, which resulted in the British Merchant Navy's official flag being flown in more than one thousand locations ashore on 3 September, including at 10 Downing Street!



 The British Merchant Navy's official flag was flown in more than one thousand locations ashore on 3 September.'

The impact of our work

Port-Based Welfare Services

-  £849,400 awarded
-  9 grants
-  176,081 people supported

£70,000 in funding was awarded to Stella Maris to support ship-visiting teams.

Stella Maris' network of chaplains and volunteers carry out 10,000 ship visits each year addressing welfare needs and helping to reduce seafarers' sense of isolation.

In September 2019, Stella Maris' team from Tees and Hartlepool won the Shoreside Team of the Year Award at the Safety at Sea Awards for their work in supporting seafarers.

Welfare and Health Services

-  £119,076 awarded
-  14 grants
-  823 people supported

£739,000 was awarded towards SeaFit, an innovative programme to provide health and wellbeing support for UK fishers and their families.

The project, delivered in partnership with Seafarers Hospital Society and Fishermen's Mission, provides free of charge clinics at the harbourside, that offer health checks, dental services, physio and mental health support to improve long-term physical and mental wellbeing of fishers and their families.

Hardship and Poverty

-  £377,746 awarded
-  9 grants
-  985 people supported

£50,000 in funding was awarded to Scottish Nautical Welfare Society to support Merchant Navy seafarers in Scotland.

The Society supports its beneficiaries by providing financial assistance and regular personal contact, enabling social interaction. Their Home Visitors visit all beneficiaries regularly on request. All visits are much appreciated, especially by those who are infirm and housebound.

Maritime Training/ Safety and Support

-  £355,511 awarded
-  10 grants
-  21,941 people supported

£20,000 in funding was awarded to CHIRP Maritime for their Confidential Hazardous Incident Reporting Programme, aimed at improving the safety of the industry.

In the last year, CHIRP Maritime received 98 incident reports concerning poorly positioned pilot ladders, mooring ropes and poor communications with tugs while berthing.

The safety lessons learned from the confidential reports are circulated to seafarers and organisations through a quarterly publication, reaching 300,000 readers worldwide.

Advice and Information Services

-  £307,233 awarded
-  7 grants
-  6,110 people supported

£120,000 was awarded to Seafarers Advice and Information Line, delivered by Greenwich Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), to support a free advice and information telephone service for seafarers and their dependants. A new development in 2019 was our funding of a Fishing Specialist Caseworker role, based at CAB, to provide extra support for fishers and raise awareness of the service amongst the fishing industry. Our funding was assisted by additional funds from Defra and Fishmongers' Company's Charitable Trust.

Accommodation and Supported Housing

-  £209,000 awarded
-  5 grants
-  3,265 people supported

£10,000 in funding was awarded to Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society, a charity that provides housing and nursing care to former seafarers, their widows and dependants at the Belvedere House Nursing Home in Surrey.

Approximately one third of their residents require subsidy as they are unable to afford the cost of care. Local authority funding covers 50-66% of the costs for these residents. Funding from Seafarers UK will support the organisation's core costs and accommodation for 45 Merchant Navy seafarers.

Our Impact in 2019

Fundraising and Communications

Our Fundraising and Communications Team developed new avenues for growing income for the charity. Greater focus was placed on our approach to Individual Giving, with a payroll-giving scheme, a new lottery and a free online Will-writing service launched in 2019. The Merchant Navy Fund continued to focus on UK Merchant Navy seafarers in terms of both raising awareness of the Fund and donations.

Our ability to use digital channels for effective campaigning, engagement, awareness-raising and fundraising work continued to evolve during 2019. There was also a greater focus on the use of animated content in helping to promote our appeals and events and get our message across more clearly via digital means.

Collaboration continued to be a core theme for the charity's Fundraising and Communications work in 2019. A key example of this was the launch of Phase II of the Marine Engineering Pathway project, in partnership with Sea Cadets. The collaborative project won the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Award at Maritime UK's National Awards event in September.

Seafarers UK worked closely with International Seafarers' Welfare & Assistance Network, Mission to Seafarers, Sailors' Society and Stella Maris to deliver a successful conference at London International Shipping Week, about 'The Impact of Technology on Crew Wellbeing'. The conference, attended by over 240 delegates from across the maritime sector, looked at how technology could improve or may impact on physical and mental health and safety issues, how other industries are tackling issues like fatigue, isolation and long contracts, and how the maritime sector might learn from them, as well as how charities should prepare for the welfare needs of future generations of seafarers.



Catherine Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, Seafarers UK, at the Maritime UK awards ceremony.

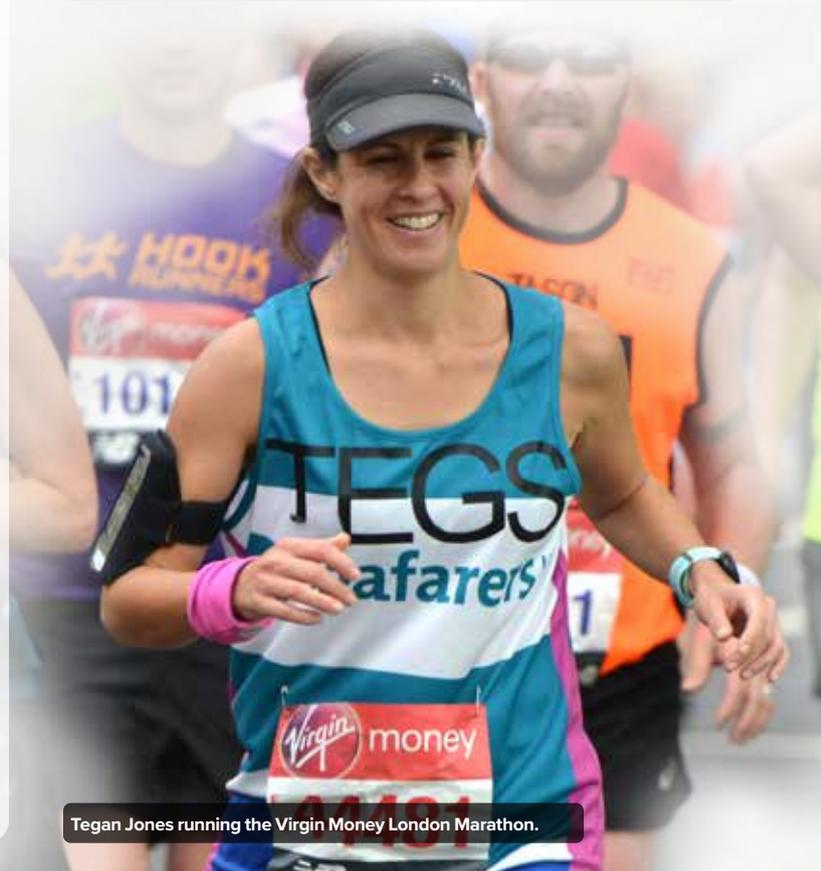
Our fundraising

- £1.4m total donations and legacies received
- £185k in other funds raised*
- £3,046m total charitable activity expenditure

*From events, charitable activities and Seafarers Ltd.

Throughout 2019, we organised a number of successful fundraising events including our annual 24 Peaks Challenge and Royal Marine Band concerts across England and Scotland, and had a really good turnout for the Virgin Money London Marathon and Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100, raising a total of £159,000.

During 2019, we had two Individual Giving appeals – the Fishing Appeal to fund essential support services for fishers and their families, and the Maritime Youth Appeal to provide access to education and training for disadvantaged young people and help future seafarers safely navigate their lives at sea, raising £11,125 and £12,286 respectively.



Tegan Jones running the Virgin Money London Marathon.

Thank you to our supporters

Seafarers UK is incredibly lucky to have a number of very loyal supporters of our charity. Through their commitment and dedication to our cause, we are able to continue helping seafarers in need and their families. We are extremely grateful to all our supporters, donors and volunteers.



Derek Cardno, from the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, who cycled in the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 and raised

over £8,000; and Nigel Blazeby from Waterdance Ltd, who also took part and raised over £1,000 for the charity.

Firouz Mal and his two sons, Nadar and Neema, who ran the Virgin Money London Marathon and raised over £20,000.



Fletcher Group, who took part in the 24 Peaks Challenge for the first time and won the Top Fundraising Award for raising over £12,000.



Jordan Wylie, who has become the first person in history to row solo, unsupported and unarmed across the most dangerous body of water on the planet, the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, and nominating Seafarers UK as one of the charities to benefit from the funds raised.



London URNU students Joshua Jelley, Isobel Larken and Daniel Grant, who were awarded the coveted 'London Classics' medal for completing the Virgin Money London Marathon, Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100, and Swim Serpentine in aid of Seafarers UK.



 **Maersk** who took part in the 24 Peaks Challenge and won the Top Ambassador Award, thanks to Asbjorn Kops, who recruited three teams for the event.

UK Chamber of Shipping CEO, Bob Sanguinetti, for running the London Marathon and raising almost £11,000.



Mark Ashley-Miller, for raising £2,000 through his unique challenge of circumnavigating around the UK, attempting to visit all 459 Harbour Masters.



 **Sea Cadets** for their support for Seafarers UK at various fundraising events across Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Scotland & Northern Ireland

by John Hood, Scotland & Northern Ireland Representative



It has been heartening to see our maritime charities and communities in Scotland and Northern Ireland working together to support seafarers and their families affected by COVID-19.

Our partner organisations have responded to the coronavirus crisis and continued to deliver the best possible level of service, whether supporting serving seafarers through the network of port chaplains, or delivering much-needed supplies

and moral support to our retired seafarers and their dependants.

The hardships experienced by merchant seafarers and fishers are the focus of our COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, about which you can read on page 4 of this newsletter.

Looking ahead, we are continuing to monitor the situation surrounding COVID-19 and, therefore, our planned activities for Merchant Navy Day on 3 September are under review. We have also taken the decision to cancel this autumn's Royal Marine Band Concerts scheduled to take place in Edinburgh and Perth.

Our reliance on the sea and those who serve on it has been brought into sharp focus during this pandemic and we look forward to calmer waters ahead.

Understanding the Needs of Older Merchant Navy Veterans



In 2017, Seafarers UK secured funding from the Aged Veterans Fund for a three-year project to research the needs of Merchant Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary veterans.

The project, delivered in partnership with the Nautilus Welfare Fund, and the Institute of Public Care at Oxford Brookes University, researched the size, location, health and social care needs of the Merchant Navy Veterans' community, their spouses or partners. The project also evaluated two approaches to providing specialist support for veteran merchant mariners – the provision of accommodation at Mariners' Park in Wallasey; and caseworker services in Hull, Merseyside, Southampton and Glasgow, providing support for veteran mariners in their own homes.

Over 300 veterans completed questionnaires as part of the research, and over 70 individual interviews were undertaken, with findings incorporated in the 'Understanding the Needs of Older Merchant Navy Veterans' report, published in April 2020.

Key findings:

54%

of the veterans included in the research are living alone – either through divorce, bereavement or having never married.

20%

of interviewees described their mental health as a current challenge.

60%

of the interviewees had first-hand experience of conflict.



To download the 'Understanding the Needs of Older Merchant Navy Veterans' report, visit www.seafarers.uk/aged-veterans-fund

Five minutes with... Asbjorn Kops



Asbjorn Kops, Maersk's Head of Product for the UK and Ireland, is a long-time friend and supporter of Seafarers UK.

After taking on our annual 24 Peaks Challenge for the past four years, he also signed up to run this year's London Marathon, which, due to COVID-19, has been postponed until autumn.

Asbjorn decided to run 26.2 miles in his garden on the original London Marathon date, Sunday 26 April, raising vital funds for Seafarers UK.

Why were you inspired to raise funds and awareness for Seafarers UK?

I work for Maersk and we have been supporting Seafarers UK for years. This year's 24 Peaks Challenge was cancelled, so raising money for Seafarers UK in other ways was important for me.

What made you decide to run a marathon in your garden?

I run a marathon each spring and I was looking forward to running the London Marathon for the first time. When I saw the Seafarers UK COVID-19 Emergency Appeal, I wanted to do my bit to help.

With speakers set out along the route of the garden and cheered on by his wife and daughter, Asbjorn completed the challenge in under four hours. We thank Asbjorn for his amazing effort!

What do you think was the hardest part of your challenge?

It was pretty dull running the same lap 210 times without the public cheering, as they do at normal marathons. It was tempting to take a break, but I wanted to treat this as any other marathon. The route around my garden was very windy and curvy, so it wasn't my personal best time!

What was the best part about your challenge?

It was a very memorable marathon day, which, I am certain, will not fade away in my memory, as some of the other marathons have. This challenge was very unique.



Challenge events impacted by COVID-19

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, it has been a disappointing start to what was promised to be a successful and exciting year for Seafarers UK challenge events.

We wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who has signed up to an event. We will do our best to keep you updated on the status of the events scheduled for the rest of the year.

Virtual fundraising

Whether it's a walk or a run, a virtual quiz or an online birthday party, please make sure your activity can be done in a safe manner and follows the Government's guidance. Any money you raise, no matter how small, will go towards funding organisations and projects that make a real difference to the maritime community.

For more information about how you could get involved, visit www.seafarers.uk/supporting-us, email events@seafarers.uk or phone 020 7932 0000.

24 Peaks Challenge continues

Despite the cancellation of 24 Peaks Challenge, one of the most demanding events in our calendar, ten members of the Maersk team have decided to take on their own challenge over the original 24 Peaks weekend, 4 – 5 July, to help raise much-needed funds for seafarers and their families at this time of crisis. Following the Government's guidance on social distancing, they walked or ran 32 miles or more over 24 hours, which is the original distance of the challenge. One member of the team attempted to cycle 240 miles in 24 hours!

To learn more about their challenges and to help them reach their fundraising target of £4,000, please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richard-buckley3



To sponsor Asbjorn Kops as he continues to fundraise for Seafarers UK ahead of the Virgin Money London Marathon on 4 October, visit <https://bit.ly/VirginMoneyGiving-AsbjornKops>

The Annual National Service for Seafarers



Since 1905, the annual Service has paid tribute to all members of the seafaring profession, past and present.

This year, the event is planned to take place in St Paul's Cathedral in London on Wednesday 14 October. We are working with St Paul's Cathedral and closely monitoring the situation surrounding COVID-19. The health and safety of attendees, staff, partners and volunteers is our main priority and the event is, therefore, subject to change or cancellation.

If you wish to register to receive an application for tickets, please email anss@seafarers.uk with your name, postal address and contact telephone number, or phone **020 7932 0000**.

In Memoriam

We'd like to thank the families and friends of those recently deceased, who have chosen to support Seafarers UK in their memory.

We would also like to thank those people who have chosen to make a quiet personal remembrance of a friend or relative anonymously. We may not have their names, but we acknowledge them all with honour and respect.

Mr Eric Benjamin Atherton

Mrs M W Ballantyne

Mrs Nancy Lillian Bates

Captain Joseph (Joe) Leonard Chapman RD
MNI RNR (Ret)

Captain Lewis Chelton RN

Mrs Phyllis Mary Daphne Davidson

Mr Ian Douglas Hannah

Lt Roy Coggan Hill RN

Mrs Hearty Florence Hill WRNS

Mr George Pigott

Mrs Olwyn Sanderson

Mr Gerald Brian Saunders

Mrs Pauline May Snellgrove

Mr Richard Sweet MN

Mr Ronald Richard Taylor

Mr David Wood Tucker

Captain John Yule MN

A donation in memory of a loved one is a special way to honour their memory while supporting seafarers in need and their families. If you are organising a funeral or memorial service then you may want to consider asking for donations instead of, or as well as, flowers. For further information or to request envelopes for a donation collection at a service, please contact **Carole Hunt** on **020 7932 5991** or email carole.hunt@seafarers.uk



We would like to pay tribute to our former Chairman Admiral Brian Brown KCB CBE, who passed away in April, aged 85. He served as the Chairman for Seafarers UK from 1993 to 2003 and as a Vice President until his passing. Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

We would also like to acknowledge and pay tribute to all those who have lost their lives or have been affected by COVID-19. We recognise the personal sacrifices that people and keyworkers, including seafarers, have made during the coronavirus pandemic.



In partnership
with



Make Your Will For Free

Book a telephone appointment today with Seafarers UK's partners, McClure Solicitors, and help to support seafarers in need.

Find out more
www.seafarers.uk/free-will-offer

In 2019 Seafarers UK gave £2.2m in funding to 43 maritime charities and organisations. Seafarers UK receives no government funding and is heavily dependent on public donations and legacies to maintain its grant-making programme.

Seafarers UK has partnered with McClure Solicitors to offer you a free Will preparation service. All you need to do is consider making a donation to Seafarers UK, but there is no obligation to do so. It doesn't matter how much you donate - each donation will help to make a difference to the lives of those who need our support.

Find out more

To find out more about the free service offered by McClure Solicitors or to make a telephone appointment, please call **0800 852 1999** or email contactus@mcclure-solicitors.co.uk and quote 'Seafarers UK'.

Seafarers UK was originally set up in 1917 as King George's Fund for Sailors, with the aim of helping people in the maritime community by providing vital funding to support seafarers in need and their families.

Now operating under the name Seafarers UK, the charity continues this work by giving money to organisations and projects that make a real difference to people's lives, across the Merchant Navy, Fishing Fleets, Royal Navy Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Royal Marines.

Seafarers UK
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London SW1P 2QT

Telephone 020 7932 0000
Website www.seafarers.uk

Our website has up-to-date information on fundraising events, campaigns, ways to donate, how to apply for grants or get help for seafarers in need.

 Seafarers_UK  SeafarersUK
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Catherine Spencer

To keep up to date with all our fundraising activities and to find out how to get involved, sign up to our regular email newsletter, Seapost. Simply email seafarers@seafarers.uk or visit www.seafarers.uk. If you're already receiving our email newsletter and would like to unsubscribe, please click on the 'unsubscribe' link in the footer of the latest issue received.

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