Merchant Navy Day Record
On 3 September more than one thousand Red Ensigns were flown ashore across the UK.

Successful 'Rowing Dangerously'
Former soldier Jordan Wylie has become the first person in history to successfully row solo, unsupported and unarmed across the most dangerous body of water on the planet, raising funds for Seafarers UK.
How far has your lunch travelled?

Seafarers play a vital role in our economy, transporting 95% of all UK imports, 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 payroll to help seafarers today
www.seafarers.uk/payroll-giving

Your chance to win up to £25,000 with our weekly lottery
Find out more www.seafarers.uk/our-lottery

It was a great privilege to take the helm at Seafarers UK in July 2019. Commodore Barry Bryant, CVO RN, Director General for the past 17 years, handed over an extremely well-run organisation which has repeatedly achieved far more than seems possible for our small workforce. I am very lucky to work with such a dedicated team of people who all have the welfare and safety of our seafarers at the heart of what they do. We are excited about our next voyage – as we plan the future for Seafarers UK – so that we can keep providing much-needed funds to support people who work at sea through every stage of their life journey.

We are able to support seafarers from cradle to grave by working in partnership with organisations that deliver quality services. I’ve been incredibly impressed by our Grants Team’s process for assessing applications for funding to ensure that we are spending money in the best possible way to alleviate need through specialist delivery charity partners. Central to our role is also ensuring that the maritime charities we work with are run efficiently and effectively, providing the very best for the maritime population and guaranteeing that maritime charities are following good governance practice.

My first few months have been busy with visits to a wide range of organisations such as Sailors’ Children Society, which provides much-needed frontline help and funds to the most vulnerable seafarers’ families, and the Merchant Navy Welfare Board, seeing the important role it plays to ensure seafarers across the world have access to port services, providing relief from months at sea. I’ve also been impressed by the ‘Get Sea Fit’ programme, to which we gave our biggest non-capital grant ever, helping to encourage fishers to take their healthcare seriously. It’s providing much-needed evidence that healthcare services need to be flexible to accommodate irregular working hours.

In the autumn, I attended London International Shipping Week, providing the chance to meet a wide variety of people who work in the maritime industry and to understand future challenges for shipping and the Merchant Navy. Our own event (which you can read more about on page 5) provided a fascinating insight into the benefits, risks and complexities of changing technology where crew welfare is concerned. We’ve been campaigning for safety at sea since our inception in 1917 – so it was hugely satisfying to hear maritime industry representatives talk of zero safety incidents being more than just an aspiration, and potentially a reality. But whilst modern technology will deliver ever-improving safety standards for the larger operators and their ships – there is still much to do to increase the welfare conditions for many seafarers working on smaller vessels and often out of reach of regular compliance checks.

Since joining, it’s been extremely rewarding to see the work that Seafarers UK has been doing to increase awareness of Maritime. Last year’s Seafarers Awareness Week campaign achieved fantastic media coverage – combating ‘sea blindness’ through a combination of TV, radio and social media coverage. Our pioneering ‘Fly the Red Ensign’ campaign part of Merchant Navy Day on 3 September - resulted in over one thousand locations across the country raising the Red Ensign to show appreciation for seafarers. The unveiling of the impressive ‘Watchkeeper’ monument by HRH The Princess Royal, a long overdue memorial to the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets, positioned proudly on Plymouth Hoe, also took place on 3 September on a beautiful bright, end of summer day. It is a fitting memorial to those that have served and will continue to serve at sea.

Seafarers UK is superbly positioned to provide help through our grants and through the advice and advocacy work we do. A great indication of this was the recent government announcement of £250,000 for the Maritime Careers Taskforce, a cross-sector forum which Seafarers UK chairs, and which is making it easier for young people to access and understand the possibilities of a career working at sea.

So, as we work on our next steps at Seafarers UK, thank you for your continued help and support which allows us to keep providing essential care to our seafarers, whether it’s at the start of their career, during difficulty or assisting with post-retirement help. I’m really proud to have joined an organisation which works so hard to help a population, often hidden from view, who are such a crucial part of the UK workforce and economy.
Seafarers UK in the limelight at inaugural Maritime UK National Awards Evening

Seafarers UK won the STEM Award at the first national Maritime UK Awards event, held in Southampton on Thursday 19 September. The STEM category was sponsored by DFDS and the award was for Seafarers UK’s ‘Marine Engineering Pathway’ project, delivered in partnership with Sea Cadets. Seafarers UK was also privileged to be chosen as the official charity partner for the inaugural Maritime UK Awards gala event and dinner. Hosted by Maritime UK member, Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, the gala evening took place at the Leonardo Royal Hotel with more than three hundred guests in attendance. Seafarers UK and Sea Cadets were jointly recognised for their three-and-a-half year partnership project, delivering in lights in front of such a fantastic industry audience at the Maritime UK Awards. Winning the DFDS STEM Award is a great boost for this collaborative effort as our project seeks to engage with a further 40,000 school children over the next two and a half years, opening their eyes to maritime opportunities and careers in general, but in particular to the world of marine engineering. ‘We were also grateful to Maritime UK for choosing Seafarers UK as its first Maritime UK Awards charity partner, and to all those who dug deep into their pockets on the night in order to help support our on-going work as we strive to make as much impact as we can. Our grant funding, working with expert delivery partners, ensures that the seafarer is supported at all stages of their life journey, including those who aspire to work at sea and are in training or education.’

Seafarers UK in the limelight at inaugural Maritime UK National Awards Evening

Successful Seafarers’ Welfare Conference at London International Shipping Week

How do we help the seafarer of the future? This was the question at the centre of discussions at a successful conference on 11 September about ‘The Impact of Technology on Crew Wellbeing’. The event – co-organised as part of London International Shipping Week (LISW) by Seafarers UK, The Mission to Seafarers, Apostleship of the Sea and Sailors Society, and generously hosted by satellite communications firm, Inmarsat – was attended by over 240 delegates from across the maritime sector with representatives from ship management and technology companies, trade bodies, welfare-based organisations, maritime services firms and trade unions.

Keynote speaker Dr Grahaeme Henderson, VP at Shell, highlighted the importance of the work being carried out by the four LISW-nominated charities. He said: ‘As an industry, we can do much more about caring for our own and other people’s wellbeing. We can become a leading industry in the challenging area of mental health’. He also spoke of his aspiration for a zero-incident-based industry, which resulted in a good discussion amongst fellow panelists and from the floor as to whether this was an achievable aim, or not.

There were four key panel debates during the afternoon, looking at everything from how technology could improve health and safety issues, to 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. Overall, one key message from the conference seemed to be that charities are key frontline sources of information and support in the maritime space and that they should be better listened to.

The day concluded with the International Seafarers’ Welfare Assistance Network Awards, which allowed seafarers to nominate their welfare heroes across four categories. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore won ‘Port of the Year’, ‘Shipping Company of the Year’ was awarded to DFDS and the award was for its ‘DFDS STEM Award is a great boost for this collaborative effort as our project seeks to engage with a further 40,000 school children over the next two and a half years, opening their eyes to maritime opportunities and careers in general, but in particular to the world of marine engineering. ‘We were also grateful to Maritime UK for choosing Seafarers UK as its first Maritime UK Awards charity partner, and to all those who dug deep into their pockets on the night in order to help support our on-going work as we strive to make as much impact as we can. Our grant funding, working with expert delivery partners, ensures that the seafarer is supported at all stages of their life journey, including those who aspire to work at sea and are in training or education.’

Successful Seafarers’ Welfare Conference at London International Shipping Week

The Annual National Service for Seafarers took place in St Paul’s Cathedral on 9 October 2019.

Since 1905, this event has paid tribute to all members of the seafaring profession, past and present, and given encouragement to young people who are the seafarers of tomorrow.

The service recognised the 425th anniversary of The Hospital of Sir John Hawkins, Knight, in Chatham and the 325th anniversary of Greenwich Hospital.

We were also pleased to once again award five Gosling Music Bursaries to support musical education and the 1st Sea Lord, Admiral Radakin, presented the awards to the young recipients. We acknowledge the sad death of Sir Donald Gosling a few weeks prior to the Annual National Service for Seafarers and will always remember him as a valued supporter. It is with his generosity that the bursaries were able to occur. In 2020 the Annual National Service for Seafarers will take place on 14 October.
Seafarers Awareness Week to focus on ‘Seafarers Safety’

This exciting new theme for 2020 reflects Seafarers UK’s Royal Charter Object ‘The Promotion of Safety at Sea’.

It has been well received by a wide range of potential participants, including the Department for Transport that has agreed to shift its annual ‘Maritime Safety Week’ to coincide with Seafarers Awareness Week. Seafarers UK intends to secure funding to commission research that will reveal the causes of accidents and fatalities, affecting seafarers of all nationalities, with an emphasis on the men and women who work on-board merchant vessels: Cruise ships, Passenger ferries, Freight ferries, Cargo ships, Container ships, Tankers, Workboats, Commercial yachts (aka ‘superyachts’).

The charity will then raise awareness – within and beyond the maritime industry – of steps that employers and seafarers should take to highlight hazards, reduce risks and improve safety at work, including enhanced training.

The change Seafarers UK is seeking is a significant reduction in the number of life-changing injuries and deaths.

Government invests in maritime careers promotion

The Department for Transport has given a £250,000 grant to support the promotion of employment opportunities across the UK’s whole maritime sector, including seafaring jobs.

Administered by the pan-industry umbrella organisation Maritime UK, the funds will be used to recruit a full-time Programme Manager (Careers & Outreach) to produce new promotional materials, including for school children; and to coordinate participation in popular skills and careers shows around the UK.

The new post will also serve as secretariat for a Maritime Careers Taskforce of 30 people, chaired by Catherine Spencer, Seafarers UK’s Chief Executive Officer. Paving the way for ‘professionalising’ maritime careers promotion, new resources have been added to the Maritime UK (MUK) website.

MUK states: ‘As an island nation, the UK is proud to have one of the most vibrant and competitive maritime sectors in the world – and our strength is largely due to our workforce. With a truly diverse range of both sea and shore-based careers, the maritime industries, shipping, ports, services, engineering and leisure marine, offer a unique range of rewarding careers for all.’
Seafarers UK was pleased to be one of Jordan Wylie’s chosen charities for the ‘Rowing Dangerously’ challenge, which saw him row unsupported across the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.

Former soldier Jordan Wylie has become the first person in history to successfully row solo, unsupported and unarmed across the most dangerous body of water on the planet. The gruelling voyage that took 13 hours and 42 minutes saw Jordan row across the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait on 4 October, from Djibouti to Yemen and back. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait is a strategic waterway passage located between Djibouti on the Horn of Africa and Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, that links the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean via the Gulf of Aden. It is perhaps the most important, most dangerous and most geo-politically contested strait of water on the planet. One of Jordan’s main motivations was to raise money for three charities – Frontline Children, Epilepsy Action and Seafarers UK. Jordan said: “The maritime industry is full of hard working, humble and inspirational people that often go about their business in the shadows of society on the high seas. I am proud to be flying the flag for Seafarers UK and helping to raise awareness for the incredible charity.” In 2019, Jordan raised over £5,000 for Seafarers UK and we are hugely grateful for his commitment and determination to raise awareness of our charity. The funds raised through this incredible world-first attempt will allow us to provide support to children whose parents have been injured, traumatised or even killed whilst working at sea.

Find out more about the challenge and help Jordan reach his fundraising target: www.givepenny.com/rowingdangerously

The research uncovered a high incidence of debt problems.

Seafarers UK has already funded an additional Fishing Specialist Caseworker post at SAIL to raise awareness of the help available within the fishing industry and we will be working with our funded maritime welfare charities to determine what more can be done to help our fishers. Research on the Financial Resilience of Fishers was undertaken by Dr Paul Jones, a leading researcher on financial inclusion at Liverpool John Moores University. The emerging findings were shared at the Maritime Charities Group conference on 28-29 October 2019 and the research report is due to be launched in early 2020.

A new research project from Seafarers UK is highlighting the financial problems faced by UK fishers and their families. Typically, these were debts related to housing, where a person could lose their home or face a prison sentence if the debt remains unpaid. Urgent vessel repairs or illness often cause further disruption and exacerbate the debts. Many share fishermen are self-employed and are therefore responsible for their own taxation and national insurance contributions, as well as planning for sickness, accidents and pensions – all of which requires a higher degree of financial capability than is required from contracted employees. A positive finding from the research is how well the variety of maritime welfare charities work together to provide fishers and their families with an holistic wrap-around response providing advice, grants and access to other services. However, Seafarers UK believes more can be done!

We are at the early stages of considering the implications of the research findings and working out how we can influence and inform the financial environment to offer greater financial resilience and support for fishers and their families.

Financial Resilience or a Fragile Reality

A funding partnership between Seafarers UK, the Fishmongers’ Company’s Fisheries Charitable Trust, Defra and the Maritime Charities Group is behind a new research report on the Financial Resilience of Fishers. The research explores real-life experiences of over 400 fishers and their families who have received help from maritime welfare charities such as the Seafarers Advice & Information Line (SAIL), Seafarers’ Hospital Society, Fishermen’s Mission and Shipwrecked Mariners Society, with a specific focus on the inshore fleet that operate within six nautical miles of the UK’s coast. This includes a number of share fishermen who do not have a contract of employment with a regular income, but receive a share of the profits earned from fishing. Thanks to a grant from Defra, the researchers also visited and met fishers in Newlyn and Whitehaven areas.

The research uncovered a high incidence of debt problems arising from living on a low income, vulnerability to changes in fish stocks, market access and prices, fuel prices and unpredictable weather. The research explored real-life experiences of over 400 fishers and their families who have received help from maritime welfare charities such as the Seafarers Advice & Information Line (SAIL), Seafarers’ Hospital Society, Fishermen’s Mission and Shipwrecked Mariners Society, with a specific focus on the inshore fleet that operate within six nautical miles of the UK’s coast. This includes a number of share fishermen who do not have a contract of employment with a regular income, but receive a share of the profits earned from fishing. Thanks to a grant from Defra, the researchers also visited and met fishers in Newlyn and Whitehaven areas.

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Helping seafarers and their families since 1917

Seafarers Link
Free Group Friendship Calls

Seafarers UK has teamed up with The Silver Line to provide regular, free group telephone friendship calls for former seafarers, including those with a Merchant Navy or fishing background.

The telephone calls take place for an hour each fortnight and are incredibly easy to join. They are completely free and a great way to build connections with fellow ex-seafarers across the country from the comfort of your own home.

Hospitality Action

Hospitality Action, established in 1837, offers advice and support when times get tough to all who work, or have worked within the hospitality sector in the UK, including cruise ships. If you work, or have worked, on a cruise ship, and are experiencing physical illness, mental health issues caused by financial difficulty, family problems or legal concerns, Hospitality Action may be able to help you get back on your feet again.

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For more information, visit www.hospitalityaction.org.uk or ring their 24/7 helpline on 0808 802 0282.

Our Grant-Making in 2019

In 2019 Seafarers UK awarded 53 grants worth £2,212,966 to 43 organisations to fund the frontline delivery of services to seafarers.

\[\text{£2.2 million in funding to beneficiaries} \]
\[\text{43 organisations supported} \]
\[\text{53 grants awarded} \]

% of grants awarded
by sector:
\[48.8\% (\text{£1,079,238)} \text{ Merchant Navy} \]
\[35.7\% (\text{£790,617)} \text{ Fishing Fleet} \]
\[10\% (\text{£222,111)} \text{ Maritime Youth} \]
\[5\% (\text{£110,500)} \text{ Royal Navy} \]
\[0.5\% (\text{£10,500)} \text{ Cross-sector} \]

% of grants awarded
by geographical location:
\[62.5\% \text{ of grants are UK-wide (\text{£1,382,510)} } \]
\[12.8\% \text{ England: } \]
\[6.5\% \text{ North West (\text{£143,716)} } \]
\[0.5\% \text{ North East (\text{£12,000)} } \]
\[2.4\% \text{ South West (\text{£53,215)} } \]
\[3.4\% \text{ South East (\text{£75,000)} } \]
\[11.5\% \text{ Scotland (\text{£255,000)} } \]
\[0.2\% \text{ Wales (\text{£5,000)} } \]
\[13\% \text{ Commonwealth (\text{£287,065)} } \]

Grants awarded
by categories:
\[\text{Accommodation and Supported Housing: £269,000} \]
\[\text{Advice and Information Services: £307,233} \]
\[\text{Handship and Poverty: £377,746} \]
\[\text{Health Care Services: £355,111} \]
\[\text{Maritime Training and Safety: £844,400} \]
\[\text{Port-Based Welfare Services: £1,273,065} \]
\[\text{Welfare Support and Services: £5,000} \]

Maritime Charities Group Conference 2019

The Maritime Charities Group conference took place on 28-29 October 2019 at Trinity House in London, attended by over 120 maritime organisations.

Two years on from the publication of Navigating Change: A Review of the UK Maritime Charity Welfare Sector, the conference provided an opportunity to reflect on changes in our sector and in wider society.

Delegates heard presentations on social care, Merchant Navy Veterans, the need for diverse trustee boards and social entrepreneurship skills in maritime charities. A wide range of workshops were facilitated by Relate, SAIL, The Silver Line and Getting on Board. Narativ UK led three sessions on storytelling best practice.

To learn more about the Maritime Charities Group and the conference, visit www.seafarers.uk/maritime-charities-group or phone 020 7932 0000.
Port-Based Welfare Services

9 grants to 6 organisations helping 176,081 people

£70,000 in funding was awarded to Stella Maris formerly the British Seamen’s Benevolent Fund to support seafarers visiting ports, providing spiritual and welfare support in Scotland, North East England and East Anglia.

With turnaround times for cargo vessels in UK ports one third of the duration in 2006, seafarers no longer have the opportunity to pay off their debts, the London International Shipping Week. The win is a great testimony to the good work that Peter and his team do, and you can read how volunteers Hugh and Mary helped one particular seafarer and his family, below.

Hugh and Mary Ward, husband and wife ship visitors from Tees, have been volunteering with Stella Maris for six and four years respectively. They have been known to the seafarer-on-board ships that come into the port regularly and have supported them over the years. Bill Day, a seafarer from the Philippines, had just become ill when his vessel docked for a few days. The Ward’s and Stella Maris had been aware of the situation and had offered to support him in any way possible.

The next time they saw him, he was much improved and they knew that something was not right. Hugh and Mary made sure they visited him again, and he started to open up about problems at home.

The Wards offered to help his family, and the seafarer’s family were overjoyed to learn that Hugh and Mary’s intervention led to Stella Maris raising funds to pay off the family’s outstanding debt.

£50,000 in funding was awarded to Scottish Nautical Welfare Society to support regular grants to 500 officer Merchant Navy seafarers and welfare services in Scotland.

In addition to the financial support that all beneficiaries are assessed for in terms of need, the Society maintains regular personal contact, providing social interaction. Home Visitors visit all beneficiaries regularly on request, and those who are housebound are visited more frequently. All visits are recorded and reviewed so that additional support can be provided if needed, and the visits are much appreciated, especially by those who are frail and housebound.

The Society’s Home Visitors also assist with hospital admissions and releases and visit people during their stay in hospital. A hamper of fresh produce and hospital bills are covered, to ensure that there is no gap between care provided in hospital, to ensure that there is no gap between care in hospital and to support a free advice and information telephone service delivered by Greenwich Citizens Advice Bureau, to support a free advice and information telephone service for seafarers and their dependants.

Stella Maris’ Teesport team wins Safety at Sea award.

Awards to 4 organisations helping 121,319 seafarers

£120,000 in funding was awarded to support the Seafarers Advice and Information Line (SAIL) delivered by Greenwich CHIRP Maritime Advice Bureau, to provide a free advice and information telephone service for seafarers and their dependants.

SAIL provides advice on a range of specialist subjects including welfare benefits, debt, employment, housing, relationship and family issues, tax and National Insurance.

Louie, a seafarer who was being hit for all of his adult life, was supported by SAIL when the unpredictable income led to devastating effects and Louie found he was unable to manage by himself. Louie told us “SAIL was such a lifeline. We sorted out all my debts and I don’t get any unexpected bills. Now everything’s organised, the changes in my life have just been brilliant. I just cannot thank you enough.”

SAIL was such a lifeline.

I just cannot thank you enough.'

Maritime Training and Safety

9 grants to 10 organisations helping 21,941 seafarers

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

In the last year, CHIRP Maritime received 98 maritime incident reports concerning poorly positioned pilot ladders, mooring ropes and poor communications with topside-berthing. The safety lessons learned from the confidential reports are circulated to seafarers and a variety of organisations through a quarterly newsletter in English, Portuguese and Filipino and its estimated reach is over 300,000 readers worldwide.

Thanks to the grant from Seafarers UK, CHIRP Maritime can contribute to the enhancement of maritime safety through their confidential reporting system for all organs in the industry.

Seafarers Advice

3 grants to 3 organisations helping 433 people

£27,000 in funding was awarded to Age UK Wirral to provide activities and events aimed at targeting social isolation amongst older seafarers. The project is bringing Merchant Navy and Armed Forces seafarers and their families together, allowing them to share their experiences and enjoy a wide range of social activities including coffee mornings, art classes and national-related visits.

One of the beneficiaries of this service is Tony, who played in the Canadian Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy. He had worked all over the ships and concluded his career by ministering submarines at Cammel Laird in Birkenhead. He is highly decorated for his services, and his awards include the Canadian equivalent of the MBE.

Tony suffered from depression and his illness was making it hard for him to carry on. The Activities Co-ordinator at Age UK Wirral took the time to learn more about him and encouraged Tony to attend activities in the company of other comrades, such as communication services. Although he felt badly, Tony willingly committed himself to attending various events. Over a period of three months, he reduced his medication and said he was much happier as a result: “I was given the will to live. I now enjoy going to outings and talking to others.”

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Tony suffered from depression and his illness was making it hard for him to carry on. The Activities Co-ordinator at Age UK Wirral took the time to learn more about him and encouraged Tony to attend activities in the company of other comrades, such as communication services. Although he felt badly, Tony willingly committed himself to attending various events. Over a period of three months, he reduced his medication and said he was much happier as a result: “I was given the will to live. I now enjoy going to outings and talking to others.”

Seafarers Advice

3 grants to 3 organisations helping 433 people

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In the maritime community that truly need our help.

Effectively and will guarantee our commitment to support those who otherwise would have not been able to access this opportunity. With a great experience, as it has prepared me for work. I have been applying for jobs and have a few prospects for the future.

Would I like to undertake that without this funding it would not have been possible for me to follow what has always been an ambition and career goal for my future. I have really embraced my time here at UKSA, learning all that I can and preparing myself for the future. Thank you so much for the opportunity.

In 2018, 20% of UKSA’s students received financial support, thanks to partners including Seafarers UK, who enabled them to provide bursaries to young people, who otherwise would have not been able to access this opportunity. With the help of customers training alongside those receiving financial help, all of the young people are on a level playing field regardless of their background or financial circumstances.

This project has successfully completed its goals of raising awareness of maritime engineering and its related careers. This project would not have been possible without the generous support from Seafarers UK.

Thank you.
Circumnavigating Great Britain in aid of Seafarers UK

Mark Ashley-Miller is now ten months into his Harbour Master Sailing Challenge, a voyage he set out on from Dartmouth last March, circumnavigating Great Britain in a clockwise direction.

Mark is sailing his 34ft ketch ‘Good Dog’ from harbour to harbour, aiming to meet as many Harbour Masters as possible in order to gather a unique record of them, their harbours and their work. So far he has sailed over 2,000 miles, visited 90 harbours and met with 78 Harbour Masters. Harbour Master Sailing Challenge is in support of Seafarers UK, raising funds and awareness of men’s mental health in the maritime industry. Mark says: ‘I have been lucky enough to witness first-hand the work supported by Seafarers UK - Seafarers’ Missions, health programmes for fishing crews and funding of safety equipment.’

The challenge will continue in 2020, starting from Oban.

Prudential RideLondon

We had a very successful year at the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 with nine cyclists taking on the 100-mile ride through London and Surrey, fundraising a total of over £32,000 to support our grant-funding programme.

We wanted to say a huge thank you to all teams for their commitment to the event - from months of training and preparation, to fundraising and for the great atmosphere and camaraderie throughout the weekend.

To find out more or to sign up to an event, please email events@seafarers.uk

Swim Serpentine 2019

For the first time last year, Seafarers UK offered places for Swim Serpentine - a one or two-mile open-water swimming challenge across the Serpentine in Hyde Park, London. We would like to congratulate all of our swimmers, and in particular, Daniel Grant, Joshua Jelley and Isobel Larken from London University Royal Naval Unit, who, upon successful completion of the swim, were awarded with the ‘London Classics’ medals for completing the three biggest sporting challenges in London, including the Virgin Money London Marathon and the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100. What an achievement!

24 Peaks Challenge

Teams took to hiking 24 peaks across the Lake District over the weekend of 6-7 July 2019, raising £50,000 for Seafarers UK.

The weather favoured the walkers with cool early morning starts and clear skies to enjoy the amazing views of the Lake District. With each peak standing over 2,400 feet, this 30+ mile challenge tested and pushed every walker to their personal limits. The teams trained for several months and held various fundraising events in support of seafarers in need and their families. Corporate clients, suppliers as well as friends and family members contributed to the funds raised through raffles and bake sales to help the teams reach, and in some cases, exceed their fundraising targets. The challenge raised a total of £50,000 (including Gift Aid) and we thank everyone involved!

Teekay Shipping Glasgow completed the challenge in an impressive 19 hours 13 minutes and 42 seconds - the fastest time of the weekend. A new team to our 24 Peaks Challenge, Fletcher Group, were presented with the Top Fundraiser Award. On receipt of the award, Managing Director Keith Fletcher, announced there would be a further company donation to almost match what the team raised. Maersk entered the challenge with three teams and received the Top Ambassador Award for encouraging the biggest participation. We really appreciate the support from these great friends of Seafarers UK.

Thank you to all teams for their commitment to the event - from months of training and preparation.
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 known their names, but we acknowledge them all with honour and respect.

Mrs M W Ballantyne
Mrs Heather Barthelmas
Mr Louis Edwin Regis (Reg) Belcourt
Ms Irene Bishop
Mr Arthur Douglas Cason
Mr William John Donaldson
Mr Keith Eustace-Pedlar
Mr David Evans
Mr Peter Edmund Guest Bartlett
Captain Gordon John Hartshorne MN
Mr Paul Hershaw
Mrs Margaret Ironside
Mr Bertrand Ireland
Lt Cdr L K Lindsay
Surgeon Captain Donald Eric Mockay RN (Ret)
Mr William Ritchie
Mrs Renee H Soffer
Mrs Pauline Smelligrove
Mr Ronald Richard Taylor
Lt Cdr David Alun Tink RN (Ret)
Mr Francis Gilbert Turner (Bert)
Mr R J Yeamans

For more information in Memoriam Giving, please phone Carole Hunt on 020 7932 5986 or email carole.hunt@seafarers.uk

Captain Robin Sard RD RNR

Robin Sard died on 30 May 2019 having suffered a catastrophic stroke at home on 29 May. Robin was born in Oxford, moving as a seven-year-old to Tonbridge, where he was educated, and then to Uckfield. He started his naval career as a dockyard apprentice at Chatham before becoming a Marine Engineering Officer in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA). He then joined the Royal Naval Reserve (RNR) of HMS Sussex having left the RFA after eight years’ service. On promotion to Commander RNR in January 1984, Robin was appointed as the Division’s Senior Engineering Officer, ultimately becoming Head of the Engineering Branch for the entire RNR and being promoted to the rank of Captain in 1994.

Robin’s civilian employment was with the Shell Oil Company (London) in commercial sales. He latterly took on a personnel role looking after the welfare of Shell pensioners. In his spare time, Robin was a keen golfer and spent many happy hours sailing in the Solent.

Robin and his wife Alex moved to Portsmouth in 2000. When Alex retired from the Royal Navy in 2006 and joined Seafarers UK, Robin was more than happy to engage with her community and spent many happy hours sailing in the Solent. Robin and his wife Alex moved to Portsmouth in 2000. When Alex retired from the Royal Navy in 2006 and joined Seafarers UK, Robin was more than happy to engage with her community and spent many happy hours sailing in the Solent.

Robin’s departure from the Navy after the war, he teamed up with fellow ex-service man Ronald Hobson to buy a bombsite in London and turn it into a car park. Over the next 50 years, this venture grew into the highly successful business, National Car Parks. Sir Donald was also a long-time advocate, supporter and benefactor of the Royal Navy, including four years as chairman of the White Ensign Association. The foundation he established has supported and rewarded the maritime family from Sea Cadets and veterans to museums and heritage.

Our thoughts and wishes are very much with his family at this time, and Seafarers UK is thankful to Sir Donald Gosling, the Gosling Family and the Gosling Foundation for their generosity to the charity over many years. His most recent donation supported Seafarers UK’s award-winning Marine Engineering Pathway project with Sea Cadets. Sir Donald joined the Royal Navy in 1944 and subsequently served in the cruiser HMS Leader. Following his departure from the Navy after the war, he teamed up with fellow ex-service man Ronald Hobson to buy a bombsite in London and turn it into a car park. Over the next 50 years, this venture grew into the highly successful business, National Car Parks. Sir Donald was also a long-time advocate, supporter and benefactor of the Royal Navy, including four years as chairman of the White Ensign Association. The foundation he established has supported and rewarded the maritime family from Sea Cadets and veterans to museums and heritage.

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 and Royal Marines.

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Sir Donald Gosling

Seafarers UK was saddened to hear that Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Donald Gosling KCVO died on 16 September 2019. Sir Donald was a Vice-President of Seafarers UK and gave generously to the charity over many years. His most recent donation supported Seafarers UK’s award-winning Marine Engineering Pathway project with Sea Cadets. Sir Donald joined the Royal Navy in 1944 and subsequently served in the cruiser HMS Leader. Following his departure from the Navy after the war, he teamed up with fellow ex-service man Ronald Hobson to buy a bombsite in London and turn it into a car park. Over the next 50 years, this venture grew into the highly successful business, National Car Parks. Sir Donald was also a long-time advocate, supporter and benefactor of the Royal Navy, including four years as chairman of the White Ensign Association. The foundation he established has supported and rewarded the maritime family from Sea Cadets and veterans to museums and heritage.

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Trinity House is proud to support Seafarers UK

Trinity House is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers, providing education, support and welfare to the seafaring community with a statutory duty as a General Lighthouse Authority to deliver a reliable, efficient and cost-effective aids to navigation service for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

www.trinityhouse.co.uk