

## **MNWB Grants awarded in 2024**

MNWB's main priority is to provide support services to its Constituents, PWCs and working groups, and its secondary priority is to provide capital grants. The amount made available for grants annually is based on the overall return from the investment portfolio after deducting revenue costs and services to Constituents. Under the Small Grants Programme, the Chair and Chief Executive are authorised to allocate individual grants of up to £10,000 throughout the year, up to a total annual limit of £100,000. In 2024, an overall sum of £111,768 was awarded in capital grants and £3,100 to jointly funded projects.

MNWB grants awarded in 2024 are as follows:

### **Grants over £10K**

#### **Care Ashore – Main Building Fire Doors**

**Grant awarded           £46,000**

Care Ashore's main building and connecting annex houses some 25 residents, the kitchens, canteen, guest rooms and social club/bar, plus offices. It is a late Victorian building, now being renovated after a period of neglect. The 2024 Fire Safety Act and 2022 Fire Safety Regulations have required a review of safety in the building. Ensuring that the main building meets all fire safety standards is critical. Various fire door changes and associated works were proposed after an inspection by fire safety professionals.

#### **Stella Maris – Southampton Seafarers' Centre**

**Grant awarded           £13,786**

The grant was awarded to part-fund the set up and running for the first year of a new seafarers' centre in Southampton. The volunteer-run centre is set up as a lounge and offers seafarers a place to relax away from their vessels and access to Wi-Fi, to seek guidance on local amenities and is a place to offer support and assistance to seafarers who find themselves in need. The centre is open 5 days a week, during office hours, but with the intention to provide services into the early evening when required. The centre also acts as a hub for Stella Maris and the other maritime charities to coordinate ship visiting activities and other welfare services to seafarers. It is also a natural base for volunteers from the Mission to Seafarers, Sailors Society and Stella Maris as required.

### **Grants under £10K**

#### **Naval & Military Bible Society - Portacabin**

**Grant awarded           £7,850**

NMBS is the main supplier of printed resources to MNWB's constituent members, particularly those charities and seafarers' centres that provide port based and ship visiting services. Based on demand from constituent organisations, NMBS supplies welfare related booklets and literature for seafarers on topics such as mental health, loneliness, stress and conflict. It also supplies the Chaplains from all societies with Christian materials. To accommodate increasing demand from port welfare organisations, NMBS needed to extend its dry storage and fulfilment facility by adding a portacabin to its existing premises. As well as order processing, the new facility has facilitated a faster pick,

pack and dispatch process from the charity's warehouse to meet the needs of the seafarers it provides resources to through the welfare societies.

#### **Seafarers Hospital Society - Fishing for Better Health Clinic**

**Grant awarded                   £6,663**

The Fishing for Better Health Project takes the services of a GP surgery to fishermen in the harbour in Brixham as part of SHS's ongoing work to keep fishermen fit to work at sea. This project is a joint project between SHS and Compass House Medical Practice in Brixham and aims to work directly with fishermen in Brixham conducting a bi-monthly clinic at the quayside. The project aims to help around 150-200 + fishermen over the year, with approximately 20-30 fishermen per session. Importantly, this project also aligns with several of the NHS Core20PLUS5 health priorities including COPD, diabetes diagnosis, early cancer diagnosis and hypertension case-finding.

#### **Seafarers Hospital Society - Mental Health Support – Togetherall**

**Grant awarded                   £5,700**

SHS funds Togetherall annually to offer a free, confidential online service to seafarers who need help with mental health and wellbeing support. The MNWB grant is being used to fund the service for one year. Togetherall is the only online peer-support community that is moderated 24/7 by fully trained mental health professionals and led by an on-duty clinical team. The service offers psychosocial support, educational and self-care intervention including peer interaction with clinical moderation. This is a multi-component intervention targeted at providing a broad range of support to a wide spectrum of seafarers with mild to moderate mental health and well-being concerns. Togetherall can be used as interim support while the seafarer is waiting for a clinic-based service.

#### **The Mission to Seafarers - Belfast Cruise Ship Terminal - Crew Welfare Portacabin**

**Grant awarded                   £4,139.46**

The grant was awarded to provide a temporary mobile portacabin in Belfast Cruise Berth for the duration of the cruise season in 2024. The project is run jointly between The Mission to Seafarers, Seafarers' Christian Friend Society and Stella Maris. The portacabin provides a facility where seafarers can chat with a chaplain, have tea and coffee, and access free Wi-Fi, among other things, including providing literature and signposting if help is required. It provides a safe space for seafarers to discuss private matters or concerns in confidence. Belfast has recently been problematic in gaining access to cruise ship crew, so the portacabin is located within the cruise berth. The three charities involved have attended regular meetings together since August 2023, along with MNWB Ambassador Paul Hayes, to ensure their efforts are coordinated to maximise the effectiveness of this project. Belfast Harbour is also supportive, and agree this project is of great benefit to the circa 90,000 crew visiting Belfast on board a cruise ship this year.

#### **Marine Society & Sea Cadets (MSSC) - Digital Library for Seafarers**

**Grant awarded                   £4,525**

The grant has been used to provide access to MSSC's digital library, for an unlimited number of seafarers that visit seafarer centres in the ports of Belfast, Grangemouth, Humber, Southampton and Tilbury; and Port Chaplains who visit seafarers on board ships. Licences are valid for 12 months from date of issue. The Marine Society Digital Library app is the natural evolution of the traditional crew book library, which Marine Society have been supplying onto ships for over 100 years and are convinced of the positive contribution books can make to the welfare of seafarers.

### **The Fishermen's Mission - Port Banners**

**Grant awarded           £2,602**

The project involved the design and production of banners to be displayed at a number of the UK's larger and busier fishing harbours, to ensure they are seen by the widest possible audience of active fishermen. The banners raise awareness of services provided by The Fishermen's Mission and how to get in touch, giving fishermen the opportunity to seek help for a range of welfare related issues. Three designs were produced, focusing on financial support, mental health support and the SHOUT 24/7 mobile phone text based mental health service. The banners are weatherproof and of a mesh material, making them more resistant to damage from strong winds given the locations in which they will be displayed. 13 sets of banners (39 in total) were produced with each chosen port displaying three banners. Harbours included Newlyn, Kilkeel, Troon, Fraserburgh and Brixham.

### **Annual National Service for Seafarers**

**Grant awarded           £1,000**

The Annual Service of Thanksgiving for Seafarers is held in St Paul's Cathedral. This Service recognises the value of seafarers and their contribution to society. It also encourages young people to consider careers in the maritime sector as valuable and worthwhile.

### **Seafarers' Christian Friend Society - Aberdeen Project**

**Grant awarded           £809**

The grant was used to provide a laptop and portable projector to the Port Chaplain in Aberdeen to assist with their work supporting seafarers in the Port of Aberdeen. The laptop is required for the submission of written monthly reports recording the number of vessels visited and number of seafarers engaged with; and the preparation of monthly newsletters to supporters. The projector will also be used to take on deputations to Churches and support groups informing them of the work of SCFS and the need for new volunteers and care packages for seafarers.

### **Merchant Navy Association – Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service & Reunion**

**Grant awarded           £500**

This grant was used for the annual Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service and Reunion which took place on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and was held at the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill, London.

### **Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society – Website Redesign**

**Grant awarded           £10,000**

A modern website has been identified as an essential tool for engagement with the community and partners. The immediate objective will be to promote that Belvedere House is fully open to support seafarers with nursing and living with dementia care. The primary audience is the generation seeking to find appropriate resident centred care for their loved ageing seafarers, irrespective of their financial situation. The refreshed website aims to reflect a modern and colourful brand, using warm photography to create a visual identity that works on digital media.

### **Marine Society & Sea Cadets – Digital Library Marketing Materials**

**Grant awarded           £675**

The grant is to help promote access to MSSC's digital library, for an unlimited number of seafarers that visit seafarers' centres around the UK and Port Chaplains who visit seafarers on board ships. 90 posters, 3,000 flyers and 2,250 stickers will be produced for the Ports to promote free access for seafarers.

### **The Mission to Seafarers – Critical Incident Stress Management Training**

**Grant awarded                    £7,519**

The funding will help to train 17 UK-based frontline and operational staff in group crisis interventions through the certified Critical Incident Stress Management Course (CISM). The training course is designed for first responders involved in the care of groups following traumatic incidents and is pertinent to MtS personnel when supporting groups of seafarers experiencing a crisis. The training content and scenarios will be adapted to specifically suit the maritime sector, with modules including: Crisis Management Briefing, Defusing, and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. Course participants will learn about the key crisis intervention and stress management terms and gain a comprehensive understanding of the Critical Incident Stress Management system.

### **Partnership & MNWB Projects**

#### **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Pilot Project**

**£3,000**

Six EDI workshops have been completed at various Port Welfare Committee meetings across the UK. Using the feedback provided by participants, the team will produce an end-of-project report highlighting the key findings. This will enable the EDI working group to consider the next steps, which may include potential funding applications for an additional project.

#### **MN Medal**

**Annual contribution                    £100.00**

The Board administers the Merchant Navy Honours Consultative Committee (MNHCC) on behalf of the UK maritime industry. The committee, formally known as the Merchant Navy Medal Committee, meets by agreement with the Department for Transport and acts in an advisory capacity. The MNHCC can recommend awards to persons from the maritime industry that include higher Honours and medals for acts of courage. The Board operates the Merchant Navy Medal website [www.merchantnavymedal.org](http://www.merchantnavymedal.org), provides the Committee secretary and administers the MNM restricted fund.