

## **MNWB Grants awarded in 2023**

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 £5,000 throughout the year, up to a total annual limit of £50,000. In 2023, an overall sum of £97,426.67 was awarded in capital grants and £37,100 to jointly funded projects.

MNWB grants awarded in 2023 are as follows:

### **Grants over £5K**

#### **Mission to Seafarers – Improvements at Falmouth Centre ahead of Tall Ships 2023**

**Grant awarded           £6,778.08**

Falmouth Seafarers' Centre was updated to be a safe and welcoming space to meet and assist the expected c. 2,000 seafarers visiting Falmouth for the prestigious Tall Ships Race in August 2023, a 3-day event. The Mission to Seafarers opened its doors through this time to welcome the anticipated increased influx of seafarers crew on the ships, and had a quayside presence to ensure that seafarers were aware of the centre and available welfare services. The building itself had not been improved since 2008 and was in need of repairs and a new roof to the patio area, a replacement door from the kitchen area to the Chapel, kitchen window blinds and fridge.

#### **QVSR Bristol Seafarers' Centre – 24 hour provision**

**Grant awarded           £25,000.00**

The grant was used to make the entire QVSR Bristol Seafarers' centre a 24-hour/7 days operation. Due to the size of the centre, QVSR felt that the best option was having a shutter at the bar area which staff could shut when closing for the day, leaving the rest of the centre accessible to seafarers 24-hour/7 days. The bar area was redesigned which involved removing some walls to create a more sensible serving area. The centre was further energised by the positioning of wall art to highlight the rich maritime history of the city of Bristol.

#### **The Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society – Nurse Call System and Lift Repair**

**Grant awarded           £30,496.00**

The Nurse Call System gives the ability for care home residents, many immobile, to call for assistance from nurses and others, which is vital for service delivery at RASS. The previous call system required replacement with a more modern, wireless system that could accurately record and be continually monitored. Equally vital to the delivery of a safe service for residents was the availability of 2 lifts in the care home, plus one for sheltered housing. All installed in 2001, one in the care home had ceased operating and the other two were fragile.

### **Grants under £5K (agreed by Chair and Chief Executive)**

#### **Merchant Navy Association - Annual MN Day Commemorative Service and Reunion**

**Grant awarded           £500.00**

This grant was used for the annual Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service and Reunion which took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 and was held at the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill, London.

**The Fishermen's Mission - North Shields Centre access and CCTV**

**Grant awarded                   £1,812.00**

The grant was used to improve access to, and the security of, the Crew Hoos. A locking system to be operated remotely by the Mission Area Office, via a mobile phone app, was installed. The CCTV system was replaced and upgraded to one which could be viewed remotely, to ensure nobody remains inside the building when the premises are locked at night.

**Nautilus Welfare Fund - 2 x new dining room tables and 8 x chairs for the dementia wing**

**Grant awarded                   £1,754.00**

The funding was used to purchase eight new dining room chairs and two tables for the main lounge/dining area of the care home. The previous chairs were fabric and not fit for purpose whereas the new chairs can be wiped clean thus reducing the risk of infections spreading in the care home.

**The Mission to Seafarers - 2 x laptops and 1 monitor at the Flying Angel Centre, South Shields**

**Grant awarded                   £2,343.00**

Due to the increase in management info and data, a faster and more efficient laptop was needed for the centre. A second laptop was also required for Reception and to be used by Volunteers to record and store shop sales and online training. The Monitor is used by the Centre Manager to store, monitor and retrieve expanding monthly account data, retained and updated on an Excel spreadsheet.

**Nautilus Welfare Fund - Replacement flooring at Mariners' Park**

**Grant awarded                   £2,345.00**

Replacement flooring was required in two of the properties on the estate, to enable the NWF to continue to deliver safe, clean and effective services on the estate.

**Nautilus Welfare Fund - Vital Signs Machine**

**Grant awarded                   £1,743.00**

The vital signs device in the care home was needed to aid the Registered Nurses in carrying out vital signs checks to the residents in the care home. The vital signs monitor measures the basic medical indicators of health - temperature, pulse, breathing, and blood pressure.

**Lighthouse Seafarers' Mission – Project Upgrade – TV and boiler**

**Grant awarded                   £3,806.67**

The grant was used to provide a modern larger TV screen and better audio, to enable better viewing for increased numbers of seafarers within the Mission. Also, to replace the ageing Boiler which had required double the amount of necessary maintenance and proved costly. Given the reasons for seafarers being accommodated within the Haven (i.e. recuperation from either sickness or injury), the Haven has to run at a much higher temperature than the remainder of the Mission.

**Royal Liverpool Seamen's Orphan Institution - Self-managed Information website with greater functionality/tools**

**Grant awarded           £5,000.00**

This project will enable RLSOI to manage the organisation more efficiently, promote greater awareness of their work, developing greater fundraising opportunities, and foster a more open, self-helping, community among beneficiaries.

**The Mission to Seafarers - Hot water provision at MtS North Tees & Hartlepool**

**Grant awarded           £5,000.00**

The old boiler which used to provide heating and hot water at The Mission to Seafarers Centre in North Tees and Hartlepool was obsolete since aircon was installed the previous year and there was no provision for hot water. The grant was used to install a small immersion heater, remove the old boiler, drain and remove the old oil tank, install some small heaters into the toilet areas and remove the old radiators.

**Aberdeen Seafarers' Centre – Bicycles for Seafarers**

**Grant awarded           £4,850.00**

The grant was used to provide bicycles, free of charge, for the use of seafarers visiting the port of Aberdeen. This is expected to greatly enhance their ability to visit the city centre and other shopping centres/attractions. It is also an environmentally friendly and healthy method of transport. A pool of 12 bicycles is located at 2 or 3 locations within the North and South harbours. The bicycles are locked and seafarers obtain the code to unlock the bicycle by texting a dedicated code number along with disclaimer of liability. Bicycles are returned and locked at end of use. The re-cycled bicycles are supplied under a 2 year contract with Stella's Voice, Peterhead. The contract includes pre-delivery inspection and regular servicing by qualified Velotech mechanics and the replacement of any damaged, stolen or irreparable bicycles during the period of the contract.

**Annual National Service for Seafarers 2023**

**Grant awarded           £1,000.00**

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.

**QVSR Tilbury – Cruise Crew Lounge**

**Grant awarded           £4,999.00**

The funding was awarded towards the refurbishment of a Crew Lounge at the London Tilbury Cruise Terminal. Three rundown offices along the quayside have been transformed into a more attractive and welcoming space for seafarers. In the crew lounge seafarers are able to enjoy refreshments while catching up with family and friends via the free Wi-Fi, and chat with fellow crew members away from their work environment. There is also a small shop to buy top-ups, confectionary items and souvenirs. As a result of funding from The Seafarers' Charity and a private donor QVSR have been able to carry out some of the improvements, but were still short of funds to complete the full refurbishment which included heating, additional soft seating, window blinds and a hot water tap.

## **Partnership & MNWB Projects**

### **MNWB Vehicle Replacement Programme**

**Annual contribution                      £31,000.00**

The VRP is one of the Board's most popular and successful programmes. It is managed by MNWB and jointly funded by MNWB, the Department for Transport, TK Foundation and Trinity House. Having started in 2008, the now annual vehicle replacement project gives substantial grants to help voluntary organisations purchase new vehicles. The project enables welfare personnel to undertake ship and home visits as well as transporting seafarers in and around the ports. The programme helps replace minibuses, MPVs and cars that remain essential to the provision of welfare services to our seafarers.

### **MNWB, DfT and Trinity House - MiFi project**

**£6,000.00**

In 2023, The Department for Transport, Trinity House and MNWB funded this collaborative initiative, which has continued to provide a lifeline for seafarers and fishers, particularly during the pandemic. The project, which started in 2019 as a pilot project funded by ITF Seafarers' Trust, is managed by the MNWB and supports the work of front-line welfare societies, providing seafarers and fishers in ports around the UK with access to free internet to connect with their families and friends. There are 40 MiFi units deployed throughout the UK to the following Maritime Welfare Charities' (MWCs) who provide welfare visits to ships arriving in UK ports: Aberdeen Seafarers' Centre, The Fishermen's Mission, Invergordon Seafarers' Centre, Liverpool Seafarers' Centre, The Mission to Seafarers, Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest, Stella Maris and Sailors' Society.

### **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.