

MNWB Grants awarded in 2025

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 2025, an overall sum of £182,663.94 was awarded in capital grants and £100 to jointly funded projects.

MNWB grants awarded in 2025 are as follows:

Grants over £10K

Care Ashore - Beneficiary Window Replacement Programme 2025 £25,000.00.

The windows in the beneficiary accommodation are either of powder coated aluminium construction or UPVC and are significantly beyond their serviceable life. This project will replace all windows within Care Ashore's (CA) beneficiary accommodation with modern UPVC double glazed units. The new units will improve thermal efficiency, helping residents to stay warm while reducing associated energy costs and the risk of condensation and mould growth. The window replacement forms part of CA's strategy to respond to beneficiary feedback and create homes residents are truly proud of. The target start date for the works is Monday 24th March 2025.

Stella Maris - Essential repairs to Plymouth Port Seafarers' Centre roof, redecoration of the centre and provision of new furniture and carpet £12,300.00.

Plymouth Port Seafarers' Centre is situated on the quay of Victoria Wharf and has been in existence for 22 years. It can be seen directly from ships calling at the port – which increases its popularity and footfall. Facing southwest it bears the full brunt of bad weather and storms that regularly blow in from the Channel. As a result, its condition has deteriorated in recent years. Despite temporary repairs in the past, the roof is prone to leaks which causes damage to the internal walls and deterioration to furniture and carpets. This has resulted in dampness and falling plaster, making it a less pleasant environment for the many seafarers and fishers visiting it. A portable dehumidifier has helped to alleviate some of the dampness, but it is now time to implement a bigger scale, longer term solution that includes external repair to the underlying problem of the leaking roof. In partnership with Victoria Wharf, Stella Maris plans to conduct a more comprehensive repair to the roof this summer - which will last for many years. At the same time, they plan to redecorate the interior and provide new furniture and carpets. Victoria Wharf has sought quotes to repair the roof and the most competitive is £24,600. They have agreed to fund half of this cost; and Stella Maris is requesting a grant of £12,300 from MNWB for the other half. In addition, it is anticipated the redecoration, new furniture and carpets will cost £5,000 – which Stella Maris will fund themselves or seek other funders for.

QVSR - 2025 Bedroom Refurbishment - Phases 2 & 3 £16,876.00.

Since 2009, QVSR has been upgrading its accommodation at East India Dock Road, investing approximately £8 million to convert 176 rooms into en-suite hotel-standard. This transformation provides residents with dignity and a place they can proudly call home.

However, due to limited funding, a small number of rooms—referred to as “Jack & Jill” rooms—remain. In these, two or three residents share a bathroom. There are eight such rooms in total (in three areas of the building). QVSR has initiated a programme to further upgrade these spaces, providing each room with its own en-suite facility. Phase 1 (three rooms) has been completed. A further support to their grant application would allow phase 2 & 3, comprising of five rooms, to commence.

Vector 24 - Operation Eastlight £27,804.28.

The purpose of the grant application is to support Project EastLight, a regional outreach initiative targeting seafarers, veterans, and vulnerable communities in Northeast Scotland. The project aims to reduce isolation and improve access to care for individuals with complex needs, particularly those facing systemic barriers such as trauma, poor mental health, addiction, or long-term health conditions related to their time at sea. It provides practical and emotional support, including help with appointments, one-to-one emotional care, advocacy, and connection to wider services, all through locally embedded, relationship-based outreach.

QVSR - Tilbury Renovations £23,000.

The purpose of this £23,000 grant is to improve the operational efficiency and overall seafarer experience at the Tilbury Seafarers' Centre through a series of essential upgrades. These include installing energy-efficient heaters to reduce rising electricity costs, expanding the shop area to meet seafarers' needs and increase revenue generation, reconfiguring storage space to maintain functionality despite planned layout changes, and redecorating the centre's interior to create a more welcoming and up-to-date environment. Together, these improvements will enable the centre to operate more sustainably, enhance service quality, and better support the wellbeing of the seafarers who rely on its facilities.

Grants under £10K

Stella Maris - Sheerness Seafarers' Centre refurbishment £4,783.00

To refurbish the Sheerness Seafarers' Room by replacing worn flooring, furniture and recreational equipment and redecorating the space, ensuring a welcoming, safe and professional environment for seafarers visiting the Port of Sheerness. This will improve access to rest and wellbeing support for seafarers—particularly those with limited shore leave—and enable Stella Maris chaplains and volunteers to provide more effective pastoral and practical assistance.

Stella Maris - Hull Seafarers' Centre refurbishment £4,881.00

To reconfigure and refurbish the Hull Seafarers' Centre by creating a dedicated games and recreational room through the installation of a partition wall and the provision of new recreational equipment. This will enable more flexible, 24-hour use of the centre, enhance wellbeing and relaxation opportunities for seafarers visiting the Port of Hull, and strengthen Stella Maris' capacity to provide effective pastoral and practical support to a large and active seafaring community in the Humber region.

Mission to Seafarers - Newport Seafarers' Centre - feasibility project £9,999.00

To fund the feasibility and planning phase for the full refurbishment of the Mission to Seafarers' Flying Angel Centre in Newport, including a comprehensive structural survey, architects'

drawings, and stakeholder consultation. This work will define the scope, design, and future use of a renewed, eco-friendly seafarers' centre that can operate as a 24/7 welfare hub, chaplaincy base, and community space, and will provide the essential foundation for fundraising and delivery of a major capital redevelopment to meet growing seafarer welfare needs in South Wales.

The Fishermen's Mission - Newlyn Centre refurbishment £4,800.00

To refurbish, furnish, and equip a newly available room at the Fishermen's Mission premises in Newlyn to create a dedicated Welfare Room that provides a private, welcoming, and confidential space for fishermen to receive practical, emotional, and pastoral support. The project will improve the charity's ability to deliver effective welfare services, respond to incidents at sea, support vulnerable and foreign national fishermen, and accommodate partner organisations, while also making minor improvements to the existing staff office to enhance functionality and visitor experience.

QVSR - Immingham Seafarers' Centre Fire Alarm Upgrade £8,900.00

To upgrade the fire alarm system at QVSR Immingham to a compliant commercial BS 5839-1:2017 Grade A Category L4 system, improving fire detection, safety, and regulatory compliance across the seafarers' centre. This will ensure the ongoing safe operation of a vital port facility used by seafarers and port workers, providing effective fire monitoring, clear identification of fire locations, and enhanced protection for all users of the building.

MNA - MN Day Commemorative Service £500.00

To deliver the Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service and Reunion at Tower Hill, London, including a band-led parade, standards, and memorial service, in order to commemorate Merchant Navy Day, honour the service and sacrifice of merchant seafarers, and bring shipmates together to reconnect, reflect, and raise public recognition of the Merchant Navy and its contribution to the nation.

Seafarers Hospital Society - Digital Psychological Support for Seafarers and Fishermen via Togetherall £5,000.00

To provide free, confidential, 24/7 digital psychological support to seafarers and fishermen through the Togetherall online platform, improving access to mental health resources, peer support, and self-help tools. The project aims to reach and support at least 200 seafarers and their families, particularly those at risk of poor mental health or unable or unwilling to access traditional services, thereby promoting wellbeing, reducing isolation, and complementing existing welfare and clinical support provision.

Mission to Seafarers - Humber - Personal Safety Devices £4,204.34

To purchase and implement personal safety (lone worker) devices for Mission to Seafarers volunteer ship visitors operating across the Humber ports, enhancing their safety while conducting ship visits, particularly when working alone. The project will reduce risks associated with boarding vessels, isolation, and exposure to potentially hazardous or volatile situations, ensure compliance with health and safety obligations, and provide volunteers and management with greater confidence, real-time support, and rapid emergency response capability while delivering essential welfare services to seafarers.

QVSR - Fundraising Consultancy £8,100.00

To secure specialist fundraising consultancy support to develop and implement a structured fundraising strategy for QVSR, enabling the charity to generate sustainable income to support the running costs of its six seafarers' centres. The project will establish a clear case for support, identify fundable projects, develop prospect pipelines across trusts, foundations, and corporate donors, and address a significant operating deficit, strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of QVSR's welfare services.

Nautilus Welfare Fund - New washing machine for Mariners' Park Care Home £7,724.00

To purchase and install a replacement washing machine/dryer at Mariners Park Care Home, ensuring the safe, effective, and timely laundering of residents' clothing and linen. This will maintain essential care home operations and support the wellbeing, dignity, and hygiene of up to 50 residents annually following the failure of the existing machine.

Mission to Seafarers - Milford Haven Operational Set Up £6,607.00

The Mission to Seafarers (MtS) is seeking funding to support the fit-out of a newly established operational centre in Milford Haven, which will significantly enhance welfare provision for seafarers visiting one of the UK's most strategically important ports. While MtS has secured initial funding to cover staffing and office rental costs through Trinity House and a community grant from Milford Haven Port Authority, the new operational centre currently remains an empty shell and requires essential infrastructure investment to become a functional, welcoming, and safe space for both seafarers and the frontline team.

ANSS 2025 - Annual National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's Cathedral 2025 £1,000

The grant will support the delivery of the Annual National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's Cathedral 2025, a long-standing tradition dating back to 1905. The service honours the invaluable contributions of seafarers to the UK and global communities. This project seeks to bring together seafarers, their families, maritime organisations, and the wider public in a collective act of recognition and remembrance. The event aims to raise public awareness of the maritime sector and its people, fostering appreciation and support. Success will be measured through attendance figures, representation across maritime sectors, and feedback from participants and partner organisations, helping to demonstrate increased engagement and recognition of seafarers' essential roles.

Royal Alfred seafarers Society - Fire doors upgrade £5,724

The Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society is seeking funding support from the MNWB to address a critical safeguarding concern within the Nursing Wing of Belvedere House. This request pertains to the second phase (BRAVO) of a fire safety improvement project, which aims to mitigate the identified risk of absconding and falls through the installation of appropriate access controls on five fire exit doors.

Nautilus Welfare Fund - New Furniture Mariners' Park Care Home £9,453.60

Mariners' Park Care Home are seeking a grant of £9,453.60 to replace outdated furniture with wipeable, infection-control-compliant chairs, identified as necessary following recent audits. The new furniture—12 Queen Anne chairs and 3 two-seater sofas in red faux leather—will be

purchased from a previously used and trusted supplier. This upgrade aims to improve hygiene standards and enhance the overall environment for residents and staff.

Naval & Military Bible Society - Website Upgrade £5,000

The grant will fund a complete rebuild of the NMBS website to address technical obsolescence and improve accessibility, particularly for Ministry of Defence users and other key audiences. The new website will clearly showcase NMBS products and resources, streamline ordering and donations, and better serve its global user base of seafarers, service personnel, veterans, chaplains, and cadet groups.

Royal Alfred seafarers Society - Main Door Control Access System £9,912.00

The purpose of this grant application is to reinforce safeguarding and security at Belvedere House Care Home by replacing the obsolete Main Door Access Control System. This critical upgrade will ensure the safety and wellbeing of seafarers and their loved ones in our care, while supporting staff in maintaining efficient supervision and enabling residents to enjoy maximum freedom within a secure environment. The new networked system will also facilitate safe access for staff and families, maintain compliance with Care Quality Commission (CQC) requirements, and support the Society's overarching safeguarding and care standards.

Partnership & MNWB Projects

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, provides the Committee secretary and administers the MNM restricted fund.