



Welcome back to our newsletter!

Welcome to the latest edition of Welfare Watch.

Summer has been a busy one for MNWB, with new partnerships being formed, fresh initiatives taking shape and supporters going the extra mile for maritime welfare - it's fantastic to see!

In this edition, you'll read about the launch of our newest Port Welfare Committee in the Isle of Man, extending our network and strengthening support for seafarers in another key maritime community.

We're also celebrating the continued success of the Seafarer Pledge, with organisations from across the sector coming together to demonstrate their commitment to those who keep global trade moving.

You'll also find stories of determination and dedication, from Chair Andrew Cassels' 205-mile cycling challenge for Sailors' Children's Society to MNWB Ambassador

Gordon Foot's Arctic trek in support of QVSR. Both are remarkable examples of people stepping up to make a difference.

Elsewhere, we highlight the importance of partnership working through Sharon Coveney's recent visit to ALABARÉ and showcase Care Ashore's new look as the charity embarks on an exciting new chapter.

Thank you, as always, to our members, partners and supporters. Together, we're helping to ensure seafarers and their families receive the recognition, support and opportunities they deserve.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Stuart Rivers
MNWB Chief Executive

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MNWB launches Isle of Man Port Welfare Committee at conference



MNWB has expanded its Port Welfare Committee (PWC) network to the Isle of Man, bringing local maritime organisations together to strengthen welfare support for seafarers.

Announced at the Isle of Man Maritime Conference on 16 July, the new committee joins MNWB's network of 15 PWCs and the National Seafarers' Welfare Board in Gibraltar. Meeting three times a year, members will share insights, identify challenges and work together to improve welfare provision for seafarers.

MNWB CEO Stuart Rivers attended the conference, taking part in a panel discussion on skills and seafarers before delivering a keynote address. He highlighted the importance of collaboration across the maritime sector, the work of MNWB, and the growing impact of the Seafarer Pledge.

He said: "The Isle of Man has a proud and thriving maritime community, and this new Port Welfare Committee builds on that strength."

[Find out more](#)

Chair's epic 205-mile cycle challenge for seafaring families



MNWB Chair Andrew Cassels is back in the saddle and taking on a gruelling 205-mile cycling challenge in support of Sailors' Children's Society (SCS).

After an eight-year break from cycling, Andrew is training for Bridge to Bridge, a two-day ride from the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge (Dartford) to the Humber Bridge. The challenge will see him cover 105 miles on day one and a further 100 miles on day two.

SCS supports children from seafaring families facing some of life's toughest challenges, including bereavement, serious illness and family breakdown. For more than 200 years, the charity has provided vital financial, practical and emotional support.

The challenge takes place from 11 to 13 September, with Andrew already clocking up the miles in preparation.

[Read Andrew's blog here to learn how your support will help SCS.](#)

Support Andrew

New Prime Minister welcomed by MNWB



MNWB welcomed the appointment of Andy Burnham as Prime Minister and called for a renewed focus on the needs of seafarers, fishers and their families.

In a statement, MNWB CEO Stuart Rivers said the organisation looked forward to working with the new Government to ensure those working at sea received the recognition and support they deserve.

As the UK's National Seafarers' Welfare Board and the UK association of maritime welfare charities, MNWB highlighted the vital role seafarers and fishers play in keeping global trade moving and supporting the economy.

[Read the statement](#)

Maritime industry backs Seafarer Pledge



Maritime leaders, charities and industry organisations gathered at Norton Rose Fulbright to celebrate the Seafarer Pledge, recognising the vital contribution of seafarers and the growing commitment across the sector to supporting their welfare.

The day featured maritime heritage displays from the Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust and the Mercantile Marine Memorial Trust (Under Steam), before guests heard from Steven Jones and MNWB Deputy Chief Executive Sharon Coveney on the importance of putting seafarers front and centre across the sector.

Organisations signing the Pledge were presented with official certificates in recognition of their commitment to improving support, opportunities and visibility for seafarers. So far, more than **80 organisations** have signed the Pledge!

The Pledge is a sector-wide commitment to ensure seafarers receive the recognition, respect and support they deserve. It provides a practical framework for organisations to champion seafarer welfare, raise awareness of maritime careers and help create lasting positive change across the industry.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended and to all those who have signed the Pledge. Together, we're helping to ensure seafarers are valued, visible and supported, both at sea and ashore.

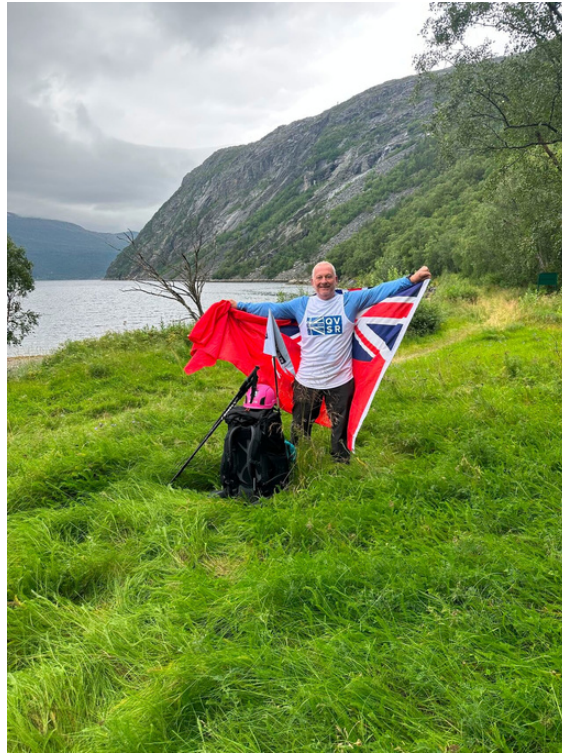
[Sign the Pledge](#)

[Read about the Pledge](#)

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Gordon completes epic Arctic challenge



MNWB Ambassador Gordon Foot has successfully completed his epic Nordic Challenge, trekking through the Arctic Circle to raise awareness of seafarer homelessness and support Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest (QVSR).

After months of preparation, Gordon spent eight days hiking between remote mountain huts across Lapland, travelling through Sweden and Norway while seeking shelter along the way.

His challenge shines a light on the homelessness faced by seafarers, veterans and others in need, while raising vital funds for QVSR, which provides accommodation and support for up to 175 people in Poplar.

Congratulations to Gordon on this remarkable achievement and for raising over £9,000 for QVSR.

[Support Gordon](#)

Staff Spotlight: Deputy CEO meets charity tackling homelessness



A recent meeting between ALABARÉ CEO Andrew Lord and MNWB Deputy Chief Executive Sharon Coveney highlighted opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the two organisations.

The discussion explored ALABARÉ's work supporting people facing homelessness and other complex challenges, as well as its ambitions for future service development.

It also provided an opportunity to consider how MNWB can further support ALABARÉ through its work across the welfare sector and as a valued member organisation.

MNWB thanks Andrew for his time and insights, and remains grateful for ALABARÉ's continued support, including its role as a founding signatory of the Seafarer Pledge.

About ALABARÉ

Member Feature: Care Ashore rebrands with MNWB support

In each newsletter, we will be promoting our members in this section. If you want to share anything you have been up to, please don't hesitate to reach out and we can feature you.



Care Ashore, the seafarer accommodation charity, has announced the launch of its new logo and website.

This rebrand comes as a way of bringing awareness and viability to reach more people who could benefit from the services which Care Ashore provides. Care Ashore provides high-quality independent and supported accommodation for former seafarers and their families on their 250-acre Springbok Estate in Surrey.

Sharon Coveney, Deputy CEO of MNWB which supported the re-brand, said:

“We’re proud to support Care Ashore with this important rebrand and new website. It’s clear they are committed to raising their profile and making it easier for seafarers to understand and access the support available.”

[Check out Care Ashore](#)

[Read the story](#)

[Donate to MNWB](#)