Issue #17

Welfare Watch



Welcome back to our newsletter!

Welcome to the latest edition of *Welfare Watch*.

There is plenty to share as we approach the end of another busy year for MNWB and our members.

In this edition, we reflect on Remembrance Weekend and the privilege of representing the Merchant Navy at the Festival of Remembrance and Trinity House.

We also introduce our new partnership with Cranfield Trust, share news from the UK Harbour Masters' Association Autumn Conference and report on the first meeting of our new Isle of Man Port Welfare Committee.

There is still time to nominate someone for our Annual Awards, and I hope you will also take the opportunity to read our 2025 Annual Review, which highlights the

tremendous work taking place across our network.

We hear from our Chair, Captain Andrew Cassels, on why being a trustee matters, welcome Gemma Watton back from maternity leave and congratulate Care Ashore on 80 years at the Springbok Estate.

There is also an opportunity for MNWB members to attend the upcoming Marketing in Maritime event in London.

Thank you, as always, to our members, partners, volunteers and supporters for everything you do for seafarers, fishers and their families.

I hope you enjoy the read.

Stuart Rivers
MNWB Chief Executive

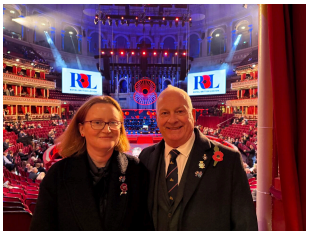
Donate to MNWB

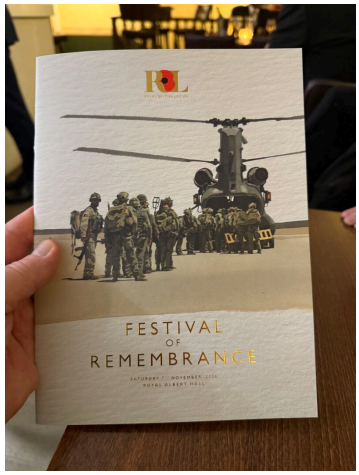
MNWB pays tribute during Remembrance weekend













Over Remembrance Weekend, MNWB was proud to support national commemorative events honouring those who have served at sea and beyond.

We co-ordinated the Merchant Navy contingent at the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, bringing together seafarers and cadets from across the maritime sector to represent the Merchant Navy with pride and respect.

MNWB was also represented at the Remembrance Sunday service at Trinity House, where trustee Richard Welch laid a wreath on behalf of the charity. Capt. Cassels, Port Welfare Committee Manager Sarah Edward and MNWB Ambassador Gordon Foot attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, ensuring MNWB was represented throughout the weekend.

These events are a poignant reminder of the courage, commitment and sacrifice of merchant seafarers and all those who have served. We remain proud to play our part in preserving their legacy and ensuring their contribution is remembered.



Exciting new partnership unveiled

Maritime welfare charities across the UK are set to benefit from a major new partnership between MNWB and Cranfield Trust.

The agreement gives MNWB's 47 member organisations access to free specialist consultancy and mentoring from Cranfield Trust's network of 1,300 experienced volunteers. Support is available across key areas including governance, strategy, finance, leadership and organisational development.

The partnership comes at a time when many charities are facing growing financial and operational challenges, helping organisations strengthen their foundations and plan for the future.

Stuart Rivers, Chief Executive of MNWB, said:

“Our members do extraordinary work supporting serving and retired seafarers, fishers and their families. We want to ensure they have access not only to funding, but also to the knowledge, skills and expertise that help organisations thrive.”

Learn more



Chosen charity for prestigious conference

MNWB has been chosen as the charity partner for the UK Harbour Masters’ Association (UKHMA) Autumn Conference 2026, providing a valuable opportunity to highlight the support available to seafarers and their families.

The conference, which takes place at the Victory Services Club in London on 25 November, will bring together harbour masters and maritime professionals from across the UK to discuss key issues affecting the sector and share best practice.

As the event’s charity partner, MNWB will raise awareness of the work carried out by its network of maritime welfare charities, which support serving and retired seafarers, fishers and their families.

“This partnership provides a valuable opportunity to raise awareness of MNWB, strengthen relationships across the sector and generate funds to support our work,” said **MNWB CEO Stuart Rivers.**

Read more



New PWC kickstarts on the Isle of Man

A new Port Welfare Committee for the Isle of Man has officially got underway, with members gathering for their first meeting following its launch earlier this year.

The committee was established at the Isle of Man Maritime Conference and brings together key organisations from across the maritime sector to improve support for seafarers visiting the island's ports.

Our 16 Port Welfare Committees, and the National Seafarers’ Welfare Board in Gibraltar, play a crucial role in identifying local welfare needs, strengthening partnerships and ensuring crews can access practical help and support while ashore.

The first meeting, chaired by Captain Lee Clarke-Vorster, marked the beginning of a coordinated effort to enhance seafarer welfare on the island, with members committed to working together to address challenges and improve support for those working at sea.

Read about the PWC

MNWB Annual Awards 2026

There's still time to submit your nominations for the MNWB Annual Awards for Services to Seafarers' Welfare 2026.



Nominations close on **30 November**, so don't miss the opportunity to celebrate those whose dedication, innovation and commitment are making a real difference across the sector.

Award Categories:

Lifetime Achievement Award
Most Collaborative Organisation
Rising Star
Team Member of the Year
Volunteer of the Year

⏰ **Nominations close: 30 November 2026** ⏰

Nominate here

A year of making a difference



Our 2025 Annual Review highlights the work of MNWB members, partners and Port Welfare Committees in supporting seafarers, fishers and their families across the UK.

The review showcases a year of collaboration, commitment and practical support across the maritime welfare sector, helping to improve wellbeing and strengthen local services for those who work at sea.

Read the full review to learn more about the impact achieved together.

Read here

BLOG: Why being a trustee matters?



During Trustees' Week this year, our Chair, Captain Andrew Cassels, shared his thoughts on the importance of being a trustee.

His story highlights the important role trustees play in supporting charities and helping shape their future.

Read Capt. Cassels' blog below.

Read more

Staff Spotlight: Gemma returns

We're delighted to welcome Gemma back to MNWB following her maternity leave.



As Digital Marketing Officer, Gemma helps manage MNWB's website, social media, email marketing and digital campaigns, making sure seafarers, supporters and member charities stay informed about our work and the services available across the maritime welfare sector.

If you need any digital marketing advice, contact Gemma.

Contact Gemma

Member Feature: 80 years of Care Ashore

Congratulations to Care Ashore on celebrating 80 years at the Springbok Estate.

Residents, staff, volunteers, supporters and partners came together to mark this important milestone and celebrate eight decades of providing accommodation, training and welfare support to seafarers.

A highlight of the event was the unveiling of a commemorative plaque by MNWB Deputy CEO Sharon Coveney, marking both Care Ashore's 80th anniversary and its recent rebrand.

We are proud to celebrate this achievement with our member charity and wish Care Ashore every success as it continues its vital work supporting seafarers into the future.





More about Care Ashore



MiM Connect: Adjusting the Sails

We're pleased to share that our friends at Marketing in Maritime have kindly made a number of complimentary tickets available to MNWB members for their upcoming event this December.

As part of this collaboration, we have more exciting plans that will be shared shortly.

🎟️ MiM Connect: Adjusting the Sails
📍 240 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8BU
🕓 4:00pm

MEMBERS ONLY
If you'd like to attend, register for your complimentary place here:
🔗 https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/2002436861557/?discount=MNWB

We look forward to seeing members of our maritime community there. ⚓

Donate to MNWB

View email in browser

update your preferences or unsubscribe