

Greetings from Western England, Wales & Northern Ireland

Hello from Keith Dickson, Fishermen's Mission Senior Superintendent for Western England, Wales & Northern Ireland.

"Here is a view of the magnificent Fishermen's Mission team covering our area. Working in Ports covering the whole coastline from Devon to Wales, north to Cumbria and across to Northern Ireland, each member of our team is so thankful and humbled to have your wonderful support. We can only carry out the vital caring work of the Fishermen's Mission with you as our friends and partners. Thank you!"



DELICIOUS DORSET!



A sunny early July weekend in Weymouth saw crowds flock to the 2016 Champagne Pommery Dorset Seafood Festival. Now in its ninth year the event celebrates seafood and sustainability whilst also raising money for the Fishermen's Mission. Over the weekend close to £10,000 was raised, including £2,450 raised by Whitby Seafoods who travelled all the way from North Yorkshire to sell scampi and support the Fishermen's Mission. Our thanks to all involved in this wonderful event.

Fishermen's Mission stall (top left)
Whitby Seafoods van (bottom left)



Albert Selfie board with Gus from Seafish

The story of Skipper Lake

South Wales Superintendent Chrissy King was contacted by Mick Lake to research Mick's great grandfather, 'Skipper' Lake. Documents for the period were scarce but together Mick and Chrissy uncovered the remarkable story of Skipper Lake.

Born in 1877 Thomas Harry 'Skipper' Lake joined the Fishermen's Mission in 1891 as a 14 year old boy. In its early days the Fishermen's Mission was a floating missionary society with converted fishing smacks making up the 'Mission Fleet'.

By 1902 Skipper Lake was at sea and in 1912 he took command of MV Alice Fisher. The First World War took Skipper Lake to Scappa Flow in command of the MV Euston, providing amenities for crews of minesweepers and patrol boats. As the war ended the Milford Haven Institute for Fishermen became the next port of call for Skipper Lake where he was held in very high esteem. The Vicar of Milford Haven describing his work with local fishermen as "constant devotion to their highest welfare."



Skipper Lake in Mission uniform

In 1928 Skipper Lake was posted east to the Gorleston Institute where he served until his retirement in 1942. In total he served the Fishermen's Mission for 51 years, truly a remarkable "Mission Man".

In an instant...

Date: 20th March 2016
Place: Twenty miles south east of Kilkeel, Northern Ireland.
Weather: Fine
Situation: Kilkeel Fishing Vessel Carraig Cuan taking on water and sinking fast. Three crew on board.



Seafish www.seafish.org



Experienced crewman Jerome McCartan takes up the story.



Jerome McCartan

"The trawl was progressing normally, everything ok, but then we had some water in the bilges. That is not unusual but the skipper ensured we put on our lifejackets as a precaution – a

decision that saved my life. Within seconds mild concern turned to panic and I was suddenly in the sea. The freezing water engulfed me. I quickly began to lose consciousness. I spent 25 minutes in the water before help arrived. Hypothermia had set in and I was close to death."

The Coastguard helicopter rescued all three crew and transferred them to Drogheda hospital.

That evening Fishermen's Mission Superintendents at Kilkeel Lesley Hammond and

Ingrid Perry visited the hospital to check on the condition of the fishermen. Two were being discharged and were given fresh clothes for the journey home. Jerome had been in the water the longest and was still quite poorly as the hospital team strived to get his body temperature to rise. Thankfully Jerome recovered and left hospital but that was not the end of our involvement.



Lesley Hammond & Ingrid Perry

Lesley Hammond comments on the days following the sinking, "We kept in close contact with Jerome via phone calls and visits. Understandably he was very nervous even walking by the harbour and had a fear of returning to the job he loved. With help and support from his friends and the Fishermen's Mission Jerome eventually was able to walk along the harbour, then board a fishing boat and finally return to sea. It's great to see him once again doing the job he has done all his working life."

The trauma and stress of shipwreck can never be underestimated. 2015 saw the Fishermen's Mission help 280 fishermen following emergencies at sea. Without your support we could not even help one.

Wonder women!

Lesley Hammond and Ingrid Perry showed off their Superhero skills by abseiling down the Europa Hotel in Belfast. 170 feet of decidedly dicey dangling descent held no fears for our Kilkeel Port Officers.

Lesley comments, "We wanted to do something different. The weather wasn't great but we made it down anyway, raising an amazing £1,260. A fun fundraiser for a great charity and a great day's craic!"

