



THE  
FISHERMEN'S  
MISSION

Summer 2018

# network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission

## the toughest job

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Providing a lifeline of welfare and support to fishermen and their families

# Around the Ports

## Our man for all seasons

*Interior design specialist and a gentlemen's fine tailoring expert may not be the skill set normally associated with a Fishermen's Mission Superintendent. However, for Kenny Brandie, our man in Aberdeen, it's all part of a day's work showing just how versatile our Fishermen's Mission Port staff are.*



Superintendent  
Kenny Brandie

Kenny also supports active fishing communities south of Aberdeen in Angus and Fife. Here he worked alongside Superintendent Peter Donald who has recently retired and will be greatly missed.

Powered by an army of Aberdeen volunteers and sheer hard work, Kenny's first year in the Fishermen's Mission has been a real success. Kenny comments,

"It's been a whirlwind year but I thank God for how he has helped me meet and serve so many wonderful people."

**Thank you, know that your prayers and gifts mean Kenny is our man for all seasons on the East coast of Scotland.**

Kenny has been in post for a year and has made it his mission to meet as many fishing families as possible. Serving fishing communities from Aberdeen to Fife this ex-fisherman is passionate about providing whatever support is needed whether practical, spiritual or financial. Sometimes that can take a man out of his comfort zone as Kenny explains,

"It's been an amazing year with all sorts of challenges. I have organised the redecoration of a retired fisherman's home, choosing the paint and the wallpaper. Thankfully I also arranged a decorator so had no need to wield the paint brush myself!"

Shopping for a complete wardrobe of clothes for a retired fisherman was also a task for Kenny this year but underlying these everyday roles is a crucial theme. Kenny explains,

"Our aim is always to show our beneficiaries that we wholeheartedly care for every aspect of their lives. It may start with a request for practical help, such as providing a new cooker but often develops to more personal and emotional needs as the relationship grows."

Often the retired fishermen Kenny meets are lonely and isolated and the simple act of sharing a coffee and a

chat can show someone they are not forgotten.

Although the fishing industry in Aberdeen is now virtually non-existent a large number of retired fishermen and their families remain. Kenny has covered many miles over the last twelve months, becoming a trusted friend to many along the Aberdeen coastline.



Superintendents Kenny Brandie  
and Peter Donald



Always ready for a chat



Bonny Arbroath harbour

# Team North Shields

*In a working life spent riding treacherous seas it's fair to say fishermen are used to getting wet. However, getting soaked at home when water pours through your ceiling due to a faulty boiler is a different matter completely! Especially during the depths of one of the coldest winters for many years when heating and hot water are essential.*

This was the emergency recently faced by a retired North Shields fisherman.

Thankfully, as the cold set in, he knew exactly who to call in his hour of need. Being a regular at the North Shields Retired Fishermen's Club meant an SOS to local Fishermen's Mission Superintendent Peter Dade was soon on its way.

Wasting no time, Peter contacted the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society who provided a grant for a new boiler.

Peter oversaw the boiler installation which resulted in one dry, warm and very relieved fisherman and his wife.

North Shields is the biggest prawn port in England and Wales with up to 60 boats in the harbour throughout the season. Fishermen visit the crew 'hoos' for showers and refreshment. Many engaged in this year's Fishermen's Health Check Scheme at North Shields. Away from the harbour, Peter's work stretches along the North East coastline taking in ports from Amble to Hartlepool. There is a solid base of active fishermen and their families alongside the retired fishing community to care for, making this very much a team effort. Peter explains,

"Without our volunteers we couldn't do the work we do. They're an invaluable part of the team here. Volunteers such as Mike and Dot Smith have clocked up over 60 years of fundraising support between them which really is remarkable."

Last year was a special one for Peter as he celebrated 25 years of service for the Fishermen's Mission. Colleagues past and present joined Peter and his wife Sue along with the North Shields team in a special

service at the local Baptist church. Peter recognises that though there have



**Peter's silver service! 25 years a Mission man! Superintendent Peter Dade (left) with Senior Superintendent Tim Jenkins.**

been enormous changes over the years, the core Christian caring work of the Fishermen's Mission remains unaltered,

"Always providing a lifeline of welfare and support for fishermen and their families, I think our founder Ebenezer Mather would have been very proud of just how far we have come."

**We are always thankful for the amazing support from our volunteers and donors. Without your help the Fishermen's Mission's work would not be possible.**



**Fantastic Fundraisers Mike & Dot**



**Boats ready to sail at North Shields**

# Hull Remembers...



*“I am going over. We are laying over. Help me. I’m going over,”*

*“Give my love and the crew’s love to the wives and families.”*

The final, desperate message from skipper Phil Gay of the Ross Cleveland as it sank whilst sheltering from a storm in an Icelandic inlet on February 5th 1968.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the Triple Trawler Tragedy a Memorial Service was held at Hull Minster. 650 people gathered to reflect and remember together. Many felt comforted by the service and the opportunity to have an affinity with other families. The names of each of the 58 trawlermen lost 50 years ago were read out and candles were lit for all who have lost their lives to the sea.

The Ross Cleveland was the third Hull fishing vessel to perish in the space of 26 tragic days. The St Romanus was lost in the North Sea on January 11th 1968 and the Kingston Peridot sunk off the coast of Iceland on January 26th 1968.

58 Hull fishermen perished in what became known as the Triple Trawler Tragedy. This was Britain’s worst peacetime fishing disaster, leaving the city of Hull in mourning.

Donald Woolley, Fishermen’s Mission Assistant Superintendent at the time, informed half of the families of their loss. He remembers the impact on the city,

“Many of the people who lost their husbands or partners were of no age at all. They must have been terribly traumatised by what happened to them. One minute they were happy



and content, looking forward to their men coming home, but in fact they were never to return.”

As Donald went about his work of comfort and care he witnessed a moving spirit of resilience amongst the women, “These women were quite remarkable, I’ve never seen such bravery. They were brave because they had to carry on, they had to manage a home, the children had to go to school, they wanted to show their love and their dad’s love to their

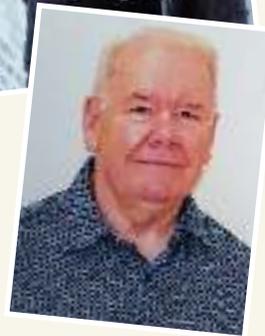
children...but he was never going to be there again.”

Donald recalls meeting Harry Edom, the lone survivor of the tragedy. Harry gave Donald a New Testament he had received when he was rescued in Iceland. Donald recalls,

“Harry gave me the New Testament and wrote a dedication inside to our son Richard. We are proud to have received it from Harry and have treasured it for 50 years.”



Jean Shakesby who lost her father on the St Giles speaking at the Fishermen’s Mission 2018 AGM.



Donald Woolley at the time of the tragedy (top) and today (bottom)

# ...and looks to the future

*“We know family members of those who died and I am one of them. My Uncle David was lost on the St Romanus. As a small child I remember the devastating grief of my family. We lived in hope that one day he would return. He never did.”*

Fishermen’s Mission Hull Superintendent, Tracey Stephens, speaking personally on the ripples of the Triple Trawler Tragedy 50 years on. Today, Hull is a very different fishing port but the love and care shown by the Fishermen’s Mission to Hull’s fishing community has never changed.

Assisted by Superintendent Sal Van Beem, Tracey is a friendly face along the North Yorkshire Coast, regularly travelling to ports such as Bridlington, Whitby and Scarborough. With over 640 beneficiaries in Hull and more than 200 along the coast, keeping in touch with everyone is vital as Tracey explains,

“Being a familiar face is paramount. It shows we care and are ready to help. I take time to listen and to chat, building relationships and trust. Working fishermen in need are accessing our welfare provision alongside those from the retired fishing community.”

As with 50 years ago, fishing remains highly dangerous. In November 2017 Darren Morley was lost overboard from a Scarborough fishing boat whilst shooting pots. Tracey supports Darren’s wife Donna and his 10-year-old son. Tracey comments,



**Darren & Donna.**

“Donna values the time I spend with her. We talk about her grief, we laugh and cry and share special memories of Darren. Donna feels unable to burden her family with her feelings so talking to someone independently is very important for her.”



**Hull Superintendents Tracey Stephens and Sal Van Beem.**

Tracey has recently been supporting Stephen, a seriously ill, retired fisherman. His wife died a few years ago and he was struggling to cope without her. Stephen had fears about his forthcoming surgery and Tracey acted as an advocate, helping Stephen express his anxiety to his consultant. Reassurance was given and the surgery went ahead. Tracey was Stephen’s first visitor following the successful operation. He held her hand tightly and wept, saying that he was helpless without the love and support given by Tracey and the Fishermen’s Mission.

**People like Donna and Stephen rely on Tracey and the Fishermen’s Mission when all seems lost. We can only be there for them if you are there for us. Please continue to support our work, it is so important.**



Fishermen’s Mission Hull Superintendent Tracey Stephens (right) brings a floral tribute.



Sorting Scarborough crabs

# CLAIRE LOVES HER NETWORK!

Fishermen's Mission Port Officers are versatile people, keen to turn their hand to anything and everything. On a regular tour of the harbour at Eyemouth, Superintendent Claire McIntosh came across a fisherman with a hole in his net.

The weather was appalling with rain lashing down and Arctic winds chilling to the bone. Dunbar fishermen, Sam Mason and Eddie Johnstone, had just arrived in port on the FV Acturus. An inspection of their nets showed holes wider than the legal limit so some emergency knitting was required. Claire takes up the story,

"I saw them on the harbour working, looking windswept and frazzled. I togged up and ventured out to see how they were. Eddie and Sam were soaked and frozen to the core, so I offered to help."

Sam spent a few minutes showing Claire the ropes and her new career as a fishing net knitter and mender had begun. Claire continues, "Helping out allowed Eddie to get defrosted and dry. I spent about an hour working with the guys and hopefully did a good job!"

Come rain or shine, Fishermen's Mission Superintendents will always get stuck in, making a real difference.



Fisherman Sam looks on as Claire goes networking



Andy, Luke and Tim ready for the scampi takeover

The Norfolk coastal town of Cromer is renowned for its fabulous Cromer crabs, there is even an annual festival to celebrate the cute crustacean. The Cromer Crab and Lobster festival have been supporters of the Fishermen's Mission for many years. However, this year, we thought we would try to make our mark on the festival by introducing a secret weapon...Whitby Scampi!

Fishermen's Mission Lowestoft Senior Superintendent Tim Jenkins and East of England Fundraising Manager Andy Malcolm became overnight scampi gourmet chefs to serve up this tasty delicacy to the crab-loving crowds. Ably assisted by Luke Richardson from Whitby Seafoods, the Scampi

## The great Whitby Scampi invasion

takeover was a success with nearly 200 portions of the 'World's Best Scampi' being sold in aid of the Fishermen's Mission. Andy Malcolm comments,

"Invading Cromer and taking on the crabs with scampi was a brave move but the two complimented each other perfectly!"

Crabs may still rule in Cromer...but Whitby Scampi is catching up fast! Special thanks to Whitby Seafoods for

the use of their scampi van and their wonderful support of the Fishermen's Mission.



Toby enjoys a taste of Whitby scampi!



Sunshine scampi team

# Loyalty & Commitment

*Every supporter of the Fishermen's Mission is special to us. We could not do our vital work without them. At the Fishermen's Mission AGM in April we saluted some exceptional fundraisers.*

## CHALLENGE OF THE YEAR:

*Mal Mallon*

Cycling 1500 miles visiting the UK's top ten fish & chip shops whilst raising £9,000 is superhero stuff from Mal Mallon!

## TEAM OF THE YEAR:

*Fishermen's Mission  
Helston Charity Shop*

Fashion shows, 'kids only' evenings, a pop up shop and more from our wonderful team and volunteers at Helston.

## EVENT OF THE YEAR:

*Porthleven Baulk  
Auction*

Reclaiming baulks from the sea to make stunning art work raising £40,000!

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AWARD:

*Stanway Evangelical  
Church*

Through prayers, friendship, and giving, Stanway Evangelical are at the heart of our work.

## TWITTER FRIEND OF THE YEAR:

*Julie Snowden*

Friends in the social media world are vital. Julie is our Twittersphere champion!

## CORPORATE FRIEND OF THE YEAR:

*KFE*

Longtime supporters KFE were 'On a Mission' in 2017 raising an astonishing £13,000.

## FISH & CHIP SHOP OF THE YEAR:

*Towngate Fisheries  
of Idle, Bradford*

Fabulous fish & chips and a brilliant £7,500 raised by Mark Drummond and his team.



Our 2017 fundraising superstars!

## RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR:

*J Sheekey*

Top London fish restaurant, J Sheekey, produced a beautiful calendar featuring equally beautiful Padstow fishermen!

## FRIEND OF THE YEAR:

*Chris Boulton*

Photographer Chris Boulton freely devoted his time and work for our 'Fishermen of St Ives' calendar raising £8,000.

## OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD:

*Ken Bishop*

Our man in the East of England, Ken Bishop has raised over £90,000 in 14 years of friendship with Albert, our chippy collecting box.

## THE STANLEY PRITCHARD AWARD:

*Ruth Creasey*

Ruth Creasey is an extraordinary volunteer in Hull, who worked tirelessly on the exhibitions for the Hull City of Culture 2017.

## Girl Power!

Tesco fishmongers Emma Mckeating and Nicola Rowbotham have been on quite a journey. They decided to walk from Emma's Tesco fish counter in Stoke to the Flatfish fish processing factory in Grimsby. Why undertake such a road trip on foot? To raise funds for the Fishermen's Mission of course!

After nine days of walking, 145 miles of hills and valleys traversed, blisters, stiff legs, getting soaking

wet and sunburnt, the girls completed their fishy trek.

Emma and Nicola are passionate supporters of our work and we can't thank them enough for the £2,000 raised. Girl power indeed!



Emma & Nicola Set off from Tesco in Stoke (left)

The finish line! (above)

# A Time to Remember



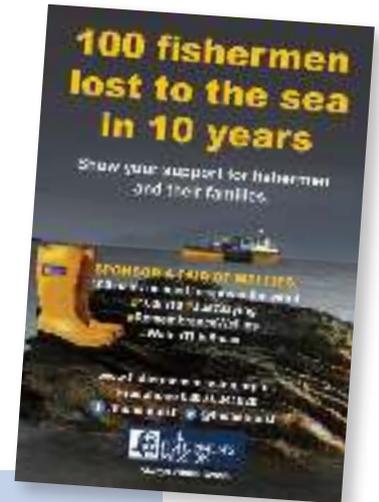
There is a devastating impact on families and communities when fishermen are lost at sea. The Fishermen's Mission have a deep understanding of the pain such loss brings and are always within reach to help those left behind.

Now it's time for us all to remember the 100 in 10.

Join our 100 in 10 campaign and support fishing families by sponsoring a pair of yellow fishermen's wellies. We have a limited number of 100 remembrance wellies available,

each with the Fishermen's Mission logo, for £45 + £9 p&p. Sizes (5.5-13).

The Fishermen's Mission will tie a yellow ribbon to their Head Office flagpole for each pair sold. The 100 wellies will then be photographed with 100 pairs of women and children's shoes to show the rippling impact of such terrible loss.



## Contact us

Visit: [www.fishermensmission.org.uk](http://www.fishermensmission.org.uk)

Email: [100in10@fishermensmission.org.uk](mailto:100in10@fishermensmission.org.uk)

Call: 0800 6341020

## How you can help us

### Make a donation

We receive no government funding or lottery support so every single donation makes a real difference to us. You can make a donation by calling **FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020** or donate online at [www.fishermensmission.org.uk](http://www.fishermensmission.org.uk) or post a cheque to our address shown below. **For every £1 we generate we spend 88p on our services.**

### Become a volunteer

We are always grateful for the help given to us by our dedicated volunteers. If you can spare a few hours each month do get in touch **FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020** or email [enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk)

### Remember us in your will

Everyone wants to ensure that friends and family are well provided for if you are writing or updating your will. However, just a small gift to the Fishermen's Mission can make all the difference to our work and ensure that your help continues. If you would like a legacy leaflet call **FREEPHONE 0800 634 1020** or email: [SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk](mailto:SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk)

## How to contact us:

Telephone us: 01489 566910

Freephone: 0800 6341020

Email us: [enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk)

### Write to us:

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