



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

Autumn 2020

network

The Newsletter of the Fishermen's Mission



Working together changing lives

*"The Fishermen's Mission
is a huge blessing for our
family, we are truly grateful
for their help."*

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

Behind the Beauty

Pittenweem, Anstruther, Crail, St Monans and Elie personify idyllic and picturesque fishing harbours in Fife, on the south east coast of Scotland. Here the fishing fraternity harvest prawns, lobsters, crabs, scallops, and razor clams from sapphire blue seas. Like many scenic coastal towns they look charming but poverty and unemployment lie hidden behind the quaint seafronts.

Dealing with such challenges requires key local partnerships as Fife Superintendent Colin Mackay explains:

“Over the years we have worked closely with the East Neuk Foodbank and it’s Project Coordinator Richard Wemyss. We share the belief that the foodbank is not just about handing out bags of food but dealing with isolation and assisting people to get back into work. Asking for help no matter how bad circumstances become is often the last thing people want to do. We offer confidential support, whatever the need may be.”

Working together the two organisations have assisted a young man whose father is a former fisherman, helping him complete the required courses and preparing him for a career in the fishing industry. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic they have supported individuals and families with food, often delivering necessary supplies. Others have been directed to additional support services. It is a close relationship, sharing areas of concern and mutually finding solutions.

Working together in community outreach has other benefits as Colin Mackay explains:



Fife Superintendent Colin Mackay with David Smith, Community Worker with the Coastline Community Church and Richard Wemyss, Project Coordinator of the East Neuk Foodbank

“Another project Richard is coordinating is the community restoration of the 1937 ring net fishing boat, the Manx Beauty. She



The Manx Beauty

CREDIT: SEAFISH

was built in the Fife fishing village of Cellardyke and fished out of the Isle of Man before becoming a port inspection vessel during WW2. She then returned to fishing at ports around the four nations of the UK. Today’s restoration project offers practical woodworking experience for

young people and older volunteers, building pride in our fishing heritage. Once fully restored, we’re hoping the Manx Beauty will provide local young people with practical skills and sea experience.”

Richard has also composed a lament for lost fishermen, written for bagpipes and fiddle, which has already been played at several memorial services and occasions.

Friends of the Fishermen’s Mission are so important. Colin Mackay comments:

“We are so thankful for friends like Richard and friends like our Network readers. They stand with us, work with us, and support us, helping our fishing communities. Joining together through volunteering and donating makes a real difference to those who need us most around our coastline.”

Fisherman Pete Mosley, 37, from Withernsea, East Yorkshire, was lost at sea last summer. One year on, Peter's partner, Gemma, shares with us the heart-breaking pain of her loss.

You walk with us forever



Pete Mosley

5th July 2019 – Just like any other day, Stinky Feet had gone to work. He loved fishing, said it was the best job in the world. Little did I know, several hours later, my life would be turned upside down. You went overboard and never made it back to the boat. Fishing boats rallied together, searching for you, but you were gone! The local church held a vigil, we threw flowers into the sea. We laid you to rest, celebrating your life, cut short far too soon.

5th July 2020 – I can't believe it's a year today. You left a huge hole in everyone's heart. It's been hard to carry on without you most days, but we still do. The perfume of your stinky feet, crabs and lobsters are still smelling out the flat. I want to tell you how our precious little girls have grown. How proud you would be of them. Most of all, I miss you. I long for one more cuddle and talk on the balcony, one more time putting the world to rights.



A Withernsea fishing boat returns

Today – I post frequently about my grief, sharing my feelings. Something I posted recently from C.S. Lewis, 'You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending.' I wouldn't change anything I had with you, Pete; our precious girls remind me of you every single day. I often put on a brave face; it's my way of coping but deep inside it hurts so much.

Tomorrow – I will talk about you to our girls, share pictures of them in

your arms - you will always be a big part of our lives - keep shining bright for us. Nothing will take away the time we had together. Nothing will take your place in my heart. I will continue to go slowly through each day, always keeping you tucked safely in my heart. With love in our hearts you will walk with us forever.

Throughout this tragic journey Gemma and her children, along with Pete's fisherman dad Arthur and mum Christine, have been supported by Fishermen's Mission Hull Superintendent Tracey Stephens. Giving comfort in their darkest days and hope for their future.



Gemma with Frankie & Peggy



Remembering Pete one year on

Credit: cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Paul Harrop - geograph.org.uk/p/5513296

The rhythmic churn of the waves, the pungent taste of salt on the lips, the heady aroma of freshly landed fish. For many of our fishermen the sea is in their blood, calling them from an early age. This is undoubtedly true of North Yorkshire Superintendent Rich Pashby, born a fisherman and now a Mission man!

From the **cradle** to the **fish dock**

Rich Pashby grew up in a Scarborough fishing family, becoming a trawler skipper aged 18. Leaving the sea behind, Rich is now our man around the harbours of North Yorkshire, serving a 46-mile stretch of notoriously dangerous coastline from Staithes to Bridlington. Shellfish is the main catch with Bridlington being one of the biggest crab and lobster ports in Europe.

Although now retired from fishing, Rich retains a special empathy with

North Yorkshire fishermen, as he shares here:

“I’ve been in post just over a year and it’s been a privilege to support people like Bob. He is a retired trawler skipper struggling to make ends meet by making lobster pots. He has crippling arthritis and needs a mobility scooter to get about but was unable to afford a replacement battery. Bob contacted me and we were able to access a bi-annual grant from the Shipwrecked Mariners’ Society. Bob’s financial outlook is now more secure, and he also has a new battery for his scooter.”

Covid-19 had a devastating impact on Yorkshire fishermen, as Rich explains: “Fishermen who had barely survived a poor winter called for help, many for the first time. We’ve supported fishing families through these difficult times, providing laptops for home schooling



Born to be a fisherman, Rich Pashby checks landings at a tender age!

and essentials like children’s clothes, food, and utility payments. Engaging with new clients was great and I’m looking forward to taking up offers of a post-lockdown cuppa with many of our retired fishermen who I’ve kept in touch with by phone.”

Rich recently supported Jackie, a fisherman’s wife with four children. Jackie relates how the Fishermen’s Mission helped:

“Covid-19 made things very difficult for my family. I would never normally ask for help, but with the boat tied up, we had no income. Rich at the Fishermen’s Mission asked what my family needed, and it was happily provided. The Fishermen’s Mission is a huge blessing for our family, we are truly grateful for their help.”

Having Port Officers like Rich Pashby at the heart of our fishing communities is only possible through your support. Please consider donating today. Thank you.



A familiar face on the Scarborough seafloor

Top of the Scots!

With over 400 miles of rugged Scottish coastline to cover, Fishermen's Mission North of Scotland Superintendent Michael O'Neill must be ready for any eventuality. Every day brings new challenges and no two days are the same. Michael tells of how the Fishermen's Mission helped in a particularly distressing fishing incident.

"We had a fisherman on his last trip before retiring who died after suffering a badly cut leg which very quickly became seriously infected. Tragic as this was, the situation was made even worse as the fisherman's wife was in the last stages of terminal cancer.

"Our fisherman had been about to fly home from Spain to be alongside his wife for the little time she had left. Now the fisherman's wife was desperate for her husband's body to be returned home so she could arrange his funeral as the last act of love towards him before she herself died.

"Intense and sensitive negotiations with the local police, government agencies and the Spanish Consulate followed. Thankfully, the fisherman's body was quickly released and flown home."

Incidents like this one are heartbreakingly difficult to deal with, as Michael explains:



Michael O'Neill at Portmahomack harbour

"This case left me with a mixture of emotions - sad but also satisfied that we made a really terrible situation slightly less terrible for a family that was going through such a dark time."

Michael serves a vast area stretching around the top of Scotland from



Credit: Kevin Phillips from Pixabay

The catch returns to Ullapool

Inverness in the east to Gairloch in the west. Fishing here varies from small open crab boats to huge international white fish trawlers. Michael's clients are just as varied with active fishermen from the UK and overseas, retired fishermen and fishing families all coming under his care. As Michael explains, that can result in many different needs:

"I have recently dealt with a whole spectrum of situations ranging from financial difficulties, loneliness, safeguarding issues regarding a suicidal fisherman and unfortunately deaths at sea. Currently with Covid-19 one of my main duties has been calling vulnerable clients. It is very rewarding hearing someone on the end of the phone, who I am often the only person they speak to that day, laughing and forgetting about the isolation for a little while.

Knowing that I am making a difference to people's lives means so much. A special thank you to all supporters of the Fishermen's Mission for making our vital work possible, we cannot serve without you.



Ullapool Harbour

A Legacy for Leslie

Gifts in Wills from people who are passionate about supporting the Fishermen's Mission represent around 40 per cent of the entire charity's income each year. These wonderful gifts can help people like Leslie.

Leslie is 63 and lives alone in St Martin, Jersey. He started fishing commercially in 1972 working on the third largest potting boat in the Channel Islands catching lobsters and crabs.

Two years later, tragedy struck. Leslie lost his closest friend in an accident while working on the same boat together out at sea. The sudden loss profoundly affected his mental and emotional health and forced him to stop fishing in 1986 due to psychological trauma.

Recently, during a routine appointment with his dentist, Leslie was told that he urgently needed some new teeth to help him comfortably eat and safeguard him from future pain and discomfort. With no free dental treatment on the Channel Islands and the cost of the treatment estimated at £4,000, this was simply unaffordable and caused Leslie considerable stress.



Superintendent Nick O'Neill engaging with a local fisherman on a harbour visit

Thankfully, a retired fisherman told Leslie about the Fishermen's Mission. The Jersey Citizens Advice Bureau met with Leslie and contacted our Superintendent for the South Coast, Nick O'Neill. Within days, Nick had arranged a visit to St Martin to meet with Leslie and see how he could help.

Liaison with the Fishermen's Mission and the Jersey Citizens Advice Bureau resulted in a great outcome for Leslie. With half the money he needed covered by the Jersey Citizens Advice, Nick was able to obtain two other grants to cover the remaining cost of the treatment.

Leslie's essential dental work is now complete, and he still regularly keeps in touch with Nick. He told us:

"I have not really spoken to people about the impact of losing my friend overboard in 1974. Speaking to Nick has given me some relief on this issue. Nick and the Fishermen's Mission have done so much for me and made such a big difference to my life. I am so grateful and can't thank them enough."

For information about how you can support the Fishermen's Mission with a gift in your Will, or to order our FREE legacy leaflet, please contact Sophie at SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk or call her, in complete confidence, on 07901 673148.

Hello Shoppers!

The Fishermen's Mission's one and only charity shop in Helston, Cornwall, has re-opened bigger and better than before! The shop has moved to a three-storey building in the centre of town and has become so much more than just a shop. Fishermen's Mission charity shop manager Mel King explains:

"We are so excited to reopen! The new shop has vastly more space for retail with excellent storage and great office space for our South West team. We've also opened a friendly community hub for active and retired fishermen, allowing them to meet



Our Cornish Mermaids calling in shoppers



our staff and access Fishermen's Mission services."

The transformation of the space from a Job Centre to a charity shop with community hub, and its ongoing success, is a mammoth team effort as Mel King explains:

"We are indebted to our wonderful team of volunteers who helped us reopen and keep the shop running. Every penny spent goes to helping fishermen and their families in need, that's all we need to spur us on."



Mel King and her happy Helston helpers

Prayer changes things...

■ 2021 sees the 140th anniversary of the Fishermen's Mission. From day one our ministry has been underpinned by prayer and prayer remains a priority for the modern Fishermen's Mission. You can join us as we pray for our fishermen, their families, our clients, our supporters, and our vital work around the UK coastline.

To receive your free Fishermen's Mission Prayer Calendar 2021 simply tick the 2021 Prayer Calendar box on the perforated donation slip and return it to us, call us for free on 0800 6341020 or visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk/prayercalendar

Thank you for your prayers.



CREDIT: SEAFISH

A Fyne partnership

■ To coincide with World Oyster day on 5th August, the Fishermen's Mission received vital support from Talisker Whisky and Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd who jointly launched the #SHUCKTOGETHER campaign. Each time a photo of a Talisker & Oyster Signature Pairing Kit was shared via social media, using the hashtag #SHUCKTOGETHER, £1 was donated to the Fishermen's Mission. Through the powers of social media, the partnership raised £2,000, helping support the economic recovery of coastal communities that have been severely impacted in recent months.



THANK YOU!

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on some of our fishermen and their families. The Fishermen's Mission's response has been incredible...

- Over £250,000 given out in emergency grants to fishermen in need
- Many hundreds of welfare interactions with clients
- Fears calmed, hope restored, lives changed

We could not do this without you, our wonderful supporters. Thank you from every fisherman, every fishing family and from us all at the Fishermen's Mission.



Calendar Gills

Our 2021 Fishermen's Mission Calendar is so much more than just pretty pictures and dates! Each month features a unique and bespoke piece of art which corresponds with the fish used in each of the seafood recipes supplied by our celebrity chef supporters including Nathan Outlaw and Tom Brown. Visit www.fishmishmarket.org.uk or use the enclosed flyer to get the most inspiring 2021 calendar available!

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 6341020** or donate online at 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 6341020** or email: 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 6341020** or email: SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk

How to contact us:

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