



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

Autumn 2017

network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission

A Voice For Our Fishermen



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

Erik's a great geezer!

It's always nice to get a surprise visitor, especially when your visitor is 94 years old! That was certainly the case when Erik Baker called on Senior Superintendent Tim Jenkins at Lowestoft.

Erik was a 'Mission Man' from the days when the Fishermen's Mission operated on land and sea. Mission ships sailed alongside fishermen, caring for them as they fished. The last ships sailed from Lowestoft in the early 1960's.

Erik recalls life on board, "My job was to look after the auxiliary engines. I was known as 'The Geezer' but I wasn't always popular. It was my



Erik Baker holding 'No'ard the Dogger' written in 1886 by our founder Ebenezer Mather

role to turn the engines off at night. This meant bed time for the entire crew as with the engines turned off there was no lighting!"

As Erik shared his stories of how the Fishermen's Mission cared for fishermen so many years ago, Tim was challenged by his example, "After such a long association, it's wonderful that Erik remains a faithful supporter of the Fishermen's Mission, regularly giving donations and praying. We can all follow Erik's example by supporting a charity which is as vital today as it was when the work began 136 years ago."

God moves...

At fishing ports and harbours around our coastline one of the summer highlights is the annual Harbour Blessing services. This year has been no different with the sun shining brightly at several open-air events.

None more so than at Troon, where Superintendent Paula Daly describes the scene.

"Well over 200 locals and fishermen attended in glorious sunshine to join in prayers for

the fishing fleet and lifeboat. It is always a real privilege for the Fishermen's Mission to serve in this way"

Our mascot 'Albert' also attended but thankfully left the playing of the bagpipes to young Ryan Power.



...In mysterious ways!

With the showers in constant use there is always a need for fresh towels at the Troon Fishermen's Mission Centre. When supplies ran short Superintendent Karen Burston sent out an appeal to local churches. Karen was soon inundated with a mountain of towels but the source was rather surprising. Great early summer weather enticed over 6,000 teenagers to descend on Troon for a beach party in late July. A massive clear up operation followed and over 200 towels left on the beach were donated to the Troon Fishermen's Mission. An answer to prayer but maybe not quite as imagined!



Supt Karen Burston with tonnes of towels!



Troon Lifeboat blessed

Colin's Fish Friday Emergency

Date in the diary
Store collections organised
Volunteers informed and equipped
Fresh fish sourced from local boats
Fish processing and delivering arranged
Local hotels ready for event



Colin with the engineer from the Spanish fishing boat

Over two months of preparation meant Scrabster Superintendent Colin Mackay was ready for his best Fish Friday ever. The Fishermen's Mission National Fundraising Day would once again be a roaring success in North East Scotland. All the plans were made, what could possibly go wrong? As Fish Friday 2017 began this July Colin Mackay's mobile burst into life. Two fishermen were seriously injured on board their boats. The Fishermen's Mission emergency response was launched.

News was received of a Spanish fisherman who had severely damaged his eye with a fish hook and another with a badly injured thumb where serious infection had taken hold. Frantic phone calls to volunteers to

man the fort were made and Colin sped off to Scrabster Harbour. Both casualties were met by Colin and taken to the A&E department at Caithness General hospital. Neither spoke any English, both were anxious, frightened, and in agony. Colin used a translation service, via his Fishermen's



Colin & the FV Boy Andrew crew who donated fish for Fish Friday

Mission mobile phone, to talk to the injured fishermen and to reassure them that treatment would soon be underway.

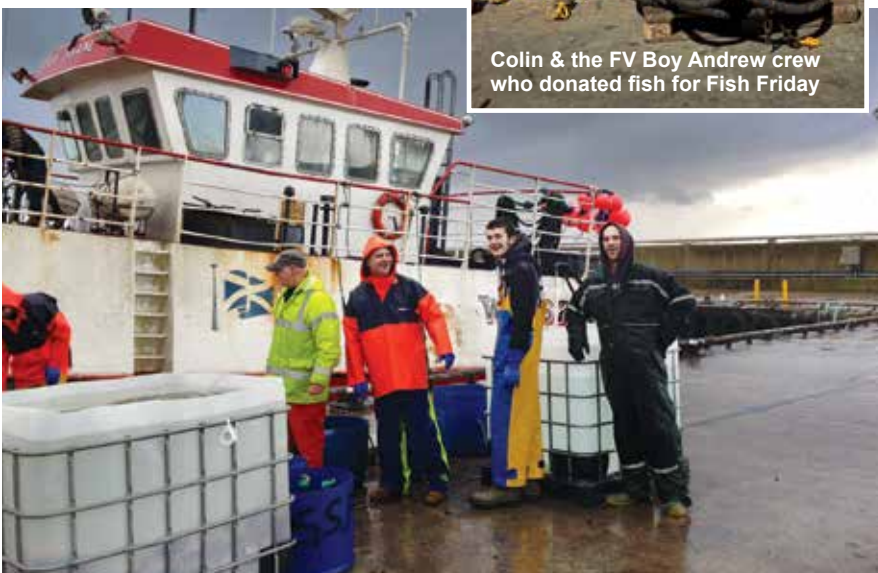
The fisherman with the injured hand was treated immediately and after a short recovery period in hospital he returned to his boat.

The situation for the fisherman with the injured eye was not so straightforward. The battle was on to save his sight. More specialist treatment was required so Colin drove the fisherman to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Colin once again assisted the medical team with translation duties.

Thankfully the treatment was successful and one relieved Spanish fisherman with a sore eye was eventually returned to his boat.

After a day when his services required travelling 400 miles, Colin just had time to thank his Fish Friday volunteers for raising nearly £2,000 before heading off to the remaining appointment in his diary for that day...a wedding reception! Colin's lateness on this occasion was excused!

Your support provided Colin with a phone, access to a translation service, a car, as well as the time and local knowledge to save a fisherman's eyesight. When emergency strikes, we are there for our fishermen. Your help and your help alone makes that possible.



Around the Ports

A voice for our fishermen

Whether it's the prices paid at market, the scarcity of fish or just gossip about other crews and skippers you will rarely find fishermen short of a word or two.

South Wales Skipper John loved nothing more than passing the day with a good yarn and a warm cuppa. But when cancer struck and John underwent surgery to remove his tongue, his life was drastically impacted. Into John's despair steps Chrissy King, Fishermen's Mission Superintendent for South Wales. Chrissy organised a laptop for John and funding for broadband access. Chrissy comments,

"It may seem a very practical solution but this laptop has transformed John's life, giving him back the voice he once had. John can now shop online and keep in touch with his friends and family, something we all take for granted"

Giving our fishermen a voice is something the Fishermen's Mission is often called upon to do. This could mean accompanying a retired

fisherman at a medical appointment or speaking as an advocate for a fisherman in court.

Chrissy speaks of a typical case, "Recent changes to the system has seen some sick or retired fishermen having their benefits cut. They struggle financially and are unable to pay their bills. As well as securing funding from the Seafarers Hospital Society and



Milford Haven Skipper 'French' meets Supt Chrissy King and Fishermen's Mission CEO David Dickens



Robert from FV Stephanie chats with Chrissy at Milford Haven quay.



Fishermen's tribute on the Rath, Milford Haven.

the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society to help in such circumstances I have successfully appealed decisions to cut benefits through the courts. I recently spoke for a fisherman whose benefits are now reinstated with eight months' back payment made."

Chrissy has been serving the fishing ports of South Wales since 2012. Every day is different as Chrissy combines outreach welfare work around the coastline with fundraising tasks and leading Sea Sunday services. There are good days when a simple visit can make all the difference to the life of a lonely fisherman's widow. There are dark days also, such as in 2016 when three Milford Haven fishermen lost their lives fishing in the space of one week.

Superintendent Chrissy King serves the fishermen of South Wales by giving them a voice, so let's leave the last word to her,

"I feel very privileged to be a part of the Fishermen's Mission family. Your support means I am able to go into fishermen's homes in time of need and be a trusted friend who can listen and speak up for our fishermen. Thank you and Pob Bendith."

If asked to name the UK's biggest fishing port many people will answer "Grimsby." That was certainly true in the 1950's when over 500 trawlers set out to sea. Today only a handful of boats remain but the outreach work of the Fishermen's Mission in Grimsby is as vibrant as ever..

Grimsby: In the thick of the action

Superintendent Tony Jewitt, who has served in Grimsby since 2010, sets the scene,

"The Fishermen's Mission building was housed in a portacabin on the Grimsby Fish Docks, close to the fish market. However, the demand from retired fisherfolk far outstripped that of active fishermen so we moved our operations into the community ensuring we were in the thick of the action."

Today Grimsby's Fishermen's Mission is housed in an NHS building allowing scope for cross referral, ensuring the best possible care for over 1,000 beneficiaries. The bulk of Grimsby's work concentrates on retired or shipwrecked fishermen and their families. Their needs range from providing a simple washing machine to more complex issues where multi-agency involvement is necessary. Tony speaks of some typical cases, "Recently we helped a fishing family with a disabled daughter in need of a new custom made chair to aid her mobility. Later this year we are



Supt Tony Jewitt



Enjoying the Grimsby Trawlermen reunion

arranging the makeover of several elderly fishermen's homes."

At Grimsby and throughout the UK the Fishermen's Mission look beyond just the provision of equipment to discover what the real needs in the fishing community are. This is what it means to be in the thick of the action, as Tony explains,

"Grimsby has a huge problem with isolation and loneliness. To begin to combat this we have our annual fishermen's reunion. Up to 200 retired fishermen meet at the towns' National Fishing Heritage Centre to meet old friends and make new ones. It's a great event for former fishermen to 'hook up' (excuse the pun) and talk about days gone by."

Tony also speaks of the Lost Fishermen's Service at Grimsby Minster,



Getting beyond the basic need

"This important service gives an opportunity for those who have lost someone at sea, or are grieving more recently, to come together and share each-others pain."

The expansive needs of the Grimsby fishing community keep Tony Jewitt in the thick of the action. But through the grace of God there is also joy in making a real difference to the Grimsby fishing folk he has been called to serve.

The Prince in Porthleven

The Royal Family have always shown a keen interest in our work with our Royal Patronage dating back to Queen Victoria.

It was a delight to welcome Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall to Porthleven on a recent visit to the west country. Julian Waring, our local Fundraising Manager, informed the Prince and the Duchess about the work of the Fishermen's Mission with

a focus on the aftermath of the 2014 storms. The Royal couple learnt about the success of the recent Porthleven Great Baulk Art Auction and viewed several of the auction pieces. Julian Waring commented, "Meeting the Prince and Duchess was



An art show fit for a (future) King



A Baulk Art sculpture on display

a real honour and cements once again the relationship between the Royal Family and the Fishermen's Mission. It was great to talk with the Royal couple about our work and for them to meet some of the volunteers involved in the Baulk Art project, a real recognition of all their hard work".

Gifts that come from the heart

Today, all kinds of people, from all kinds of backgrounds, leave gifts in their Wills to a variety of charities across a huge range of causes. The latest estimated worth of all this collective generosity is close to £2.5 billion, a staggering amount which enables charities to achieve some truly remarkable things.

In the next edition of Network, we will be sharing a personal story of determination and courage with you to demonstrate how important legacies are to the Fishermen's Mission, but in the meantime, here are a couple of facts you may find surprising!

- Any gift in a Will to a UK registered charity is exempt from Inheritance Tax, meaning your family can save on their tax bill while you make a contribution to a worthwhile cause.
- In 2016 The Fishermen's Mission received over £950,000 from legacies, nearly 50% of the total amount it spent that year on supporting the active and retired fishing community!

If you would like our Legacy Information leaflet or would like



to speak to someone in complete confidence about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact Sophie on 01489 566922 or email her at SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk.

Remembering VC Joe



Fishermen's Mission Fraserburgh Superintendent Miriam Kemp was privileged to officiate in a Commemoration Service in honour of WW1 hero, Skipper Joe Watt VC.

Born in Gardenstown, Joe Watt became the first fisherman to be awarded the Victoria Cross for 'most conspicuous gallantry' as Skipper of the Gowanlea. Whilst peacefully patrolling the Otranto straits with the allied drifter line on the morning of 15th May 1917 the Gowanlea was confronted by a fleet of Austrian light cruisers. When in range, the enemy demanded Skipper Watt abandon



ship. Skipper Watt's response was to order 'full speed ahead', calling his crew to give three cheers and fight to the finish. The Gowanlea was hit by four enemy shells, wounding crew members. Under heavy enemy fire Skipper Watt lead the fleet in fighting back before retreating to rescue survivors of the battle.

100 years on we also remember and salute Skipper Joe Watt VC.

Awesome Fish Friday

"Just brilliant"

The reaction of one Tesco customer on learning that money raised from Fish Friday fresh fish sales at their Tesco store was to be donated to the Fishermen's Mission. Once again Tesco sponsored our National Fundraising Day, Fish Friday. To date this partnership has raised over £100,000. Tesco staff are also big Fish Friday fans, wearing fishy fancy



Ellie & Imogen's Fish Friday Bake Off!



Fish Friday fun at your local Tesco!

dress and decorating their fish counters. Thank you to Tesco for your continued support.

Special thanks also to the nations wonderful fishmongers who once again went the extra nautical mile in supporting Fish Friday 2017.

The Fish Friday fun didn't stop there...here are Ellie and Imogen with their wonderful Fishermen's Mission cake, made for the annual Fish Friday supper in Bury St Edmunds. Fish and chips with cake, what a tasty combination!

Albert Feeds the City!

Friday 2nd June was National Fish & Chip Day 2017. Fish & Chip shops around the UK celebrated all that is great about our favourite supper. The Fishermen's Mission are proud to be the chosen charity for the event. Trinity House in London hosted one of the highlights of the day. Fish and chip shop of the year 2017 winners Kingfishers of Plymouth gave away free fish and chips in return for donations. Hundreds of people from early morning builders, city workers and tourists joined in the fun and kept our mascot Albert very busy! Special thanks to Kingfishers, NEODA (National Edible Oils Association) and Trinity House for an amazing event.



Fish & Chip fun at Trinity House

2018 Fishermen's Mission Prayer Calendar

*A message from
Fishermen's
Mission Pastor
George Ayoma*



Prayers is the heartbeat of the Fishermen's Mission. As a Mission family, we regularly join together in prayer. We pray for our fishermen, our beneficiaries, and our supporters. We give thanks to God and ask for his help and guidance in our work.

You can join us in praying for the Fishermen's Mission by receiving our free 2018 Prayer Calendar. To receive your free calendar simply tick the box on the enclosed donation slip and return to us at the address shown or visit: fishermensmission.org.uk/prayercalendar and sign up there. Thank you for your prayers, they are so important.

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 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

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

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Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen

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