



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

SPRING 2019

network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission

'Sea, Salt and Solitude'

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

BRIAN'S LEGACY LIFELINE

Last year, gifts in Wills helped the Fishermen's Mission provide nearly 200 people with emergency grants so they could put food on the table for their struggling families.

Brian is 27 and lives alone in Troon, South West Scotland. He is a commercial fisherman, going to sea on local prawn boats. He works long, unsociable hours, often in dangerous conditions. If the weather is particularly bad, the boat won't go out and he will earn nothing. Brian doesn't own a vessel and sometimes struggles to manage his erratic income.

When things became particularly difficult, the Troon Fishermen's Mission team stepped in to help Brian.



A helping hand from Clyde Fishermen's Mission Superintendent Karen Burston

Karen (pictured) expertly supported him, addressing his rent arrears by

facilitating a grant which prevented him from becoming homeless. She also provided food vouchers and emotional support as Brian did his best to cope. Today Brian is getting back on track and is feeling a lot less vulnerable. He told us:

"It's no exaggeration to say that the Fishermen's Mission picked me up at the lowest point of my life. They were a lifeline to me when I had nowhere else to turn."

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will, or to order your FREE legacy booklet, please call Sophie, in complete confidence, on 01489 566922 or email SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk.

Lost in the flames

A devastating fire has ripped through the heart of the fishing community of Cove Bay, Aberdeen. Fishing boats, storage sheds and fishing gear were reduced to ashes



Devastated fishermen salvage what they can

in a disastrous blaze that broke out overnight in early January. The cause of the blaze remains suspicious. What is not in question is the effect it's having on the lives of the Cove Bay fishermen. One estimated the damage to cost tens of thousands of pounds.

Fishermen's Mission Aberdeen Superintendent Kenny Brandie was quickly on the scene,

"I spoke to a number of the fishermen



Aberdeen Superintendent Kenny Brandie

and they were visibly upset. For these guys fishing is in their blood, it's more than just a job. Losing possessions in such a blaze is bad enough but this feels so much worse."

Kenny continues to give the Cove Bay fishermen all the support he can and sees some hope for the future, "We are offering to help the fishermen secure metal cargo containers as sheds which will be a huge blessing for them and hopefully prevent something similar happening again."

It is only through your donations that Kenny can be there to offer hope for our fishermen when the unexpected in life happens.



The charred remains

Finding **luxury** in the ordinary

For many of us the simple act of hanging up a shirt or putting a pair of jeans away in a drawer is taken for granted, but for those who have worked on the deck of a trawler their whole life it can be a luxury.

Hauling nets against a backdrop of harsh winter storms as icy waves crashed all around was normality for George, a Brixham fisherman. Now retired and living alone, life for George was increasingly tough. Brixham Superintendent Matt Skinner takes up the story,

“George was barely existing on a very low income and needed items for his unfurnished flat. I arranged the purchase and delivery of a chest of drawers and a wardrobe from a local second-hand furniture store. Now George can move his clothes out of suitcases and feel settled in his new surroundings. It’s a simple thing but for George it meant the world.”



Networking Brixham style



Superintendent Matt Skinner knows his ropes!

Matt and his team cover the coastlines of Devon, Dorset and Somerset, supporting many active and retired fishermen and their families. His daily routine sees him dealing with everything from practical help concerning budgeting, healthcare and child support to giving emotional help to those confronting loss and loneliness.

However, like all his Fishermen’s Mission colleagues, the routine can be broken at any time with an emergency. Matt recalls one such moment,



Matt and retired fisherman John Friend catch up on some quality reading!

“I received a call one Saturday evening from a local hospital. A rather perplexed Doctor had just discharged an injured French fisherman and was at a loss as to how to get him home. After contacting the French Consulate for advice, I set out for the hospital. On the way the consulate called me saying they had booked a berth on a France bound ferry, but it was leaving within the hour! Sticking to the speed limits along the highways and byways of Devon in my trusty Fishermen’s Mission car, I arrived at the hospital. Cries of ‘allez’ and ‘vite’ followed but we managed to get the injured fisherman across town in time to catch the ferry home.”

Matt is also involved in fundraising, the Brixham Fishstock Festival being one of the highlights. Matt comments, “It’s exciting seeing the journey from the money being raised to then using that money to help fishermen and their families who are in need.”

Your donations travel the same path, making a real difference to the lives of so many. Thank you.



Bustling Brixham

Providing hope, restoring faith

“We really didn’t know how we would get through the next few days. It was Christmas Eve but thoughts of a ‘Happy Christmas’ were far from our minds. We were cold, we were hungry, and Santa wouldn’t be delivering any presents to our kids this year.”

This was the sad situation for one fishing family in Northern Ireland last Christmas. With three children under 11 to care for and no means of providing even the basics, life was looking very bleak, until they called the Fishermen’s Mission.

Superintendent Lesley Hammond tells us what happened next,

“This family really were at a very low ebb. They needed help immediately. We delivered a box of groceries from the local foodbank including the turkey for their Christmas dinner. The issues with their heating were sorted and we ensured they had all they needed to get them through the festive period. Toys were purchased for the little ones, allowing them to experience the joy of Christmas.

The family were amazed at how quickly we responded and said their prayers were answered.”

Lesley and her colleague Superintendent Ingrid Perry support fishing ports and harbours across Northern Ireland. Fishermen’s Mission Centres at Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie provide facilities used extensively by migrant fishermen and are a much-needed social hub for the retired fishing community. Superintendent Lesley Hammond comments,

“Across Northern Ireland we facilitate medical help for injured fishermen, provide financial advice when times are hard alongside welfare care for many of our retired fishermen who are often dealing with loneliness.”

Recently Ingrid helped a family with two young children who had been struggling for a long time. With the fishing tough, their rent arrears were extensive, and they faced the prospect of eviction. Ingrid applied for grants that were thankfully successful. Using her extensive local contacts Ingrid brought other charitable organisations together, providing hope and restoring faith for this family.



All aboard for a boat visit

Lesley comments,

“It’s important that the fishing communities know that we are here for them. When you see the relief in the faces of the families that struggle it makes everything worthwhile. God is our provider, prayer is important no matter how big or small the problem is.”

Christmas Tree Festival

The 7th Annual Christmas Tree Festival was held in Kilkeel Presbyterian Church and was the biggest yet! A grand total of 86 trees were on display and a magnificent £6,000 was raised for the Fishermen’s Mission.



Christmas cheer 1,000’s of miles from home.



KILI TIP-TOP CHIPPY'S TIP-TOP!

Where's the best place to eat fish and chips? By the seaside on a sunny day? Not many would suggest the summit of Africa's highest mountain, but that was the case for two intrepid Fishermen's Mission supporters from Northern Ireland.

Fish fryers Malachy Mallon and Alan Hanna tackled the eight day, 20,000-foot climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro. With the summit conquered they promptly opened a mountain top chippy!

Malachy Mallon tells us why,

"We wanted to raise big money for the Fishermen's Mission, so we needed a big challenge to gain the sponsorship.



The hard-earned donation is delivered

So, at the top of the world we did what we do best and cooked fish and chips!"

Despite having no running water and only a portable gas stove, the locally bought potatoes produced the tastiest chips ever eaten on the slopes of Kilimanjaro!

The Kili Chippy Challenge managed to raise a wonderful £20,000 for the Fishermen's Mission through sponsorship and fundraising! A further £7,000 was raised for an orphanage in Tanzania. Malachy commented, "We had trained well for the climb and the cooking was great fun, and an amazing adventure. But it's important to remember the real difference we can all make in the lives of those who face daily struggles."



Malachy and Alan on the summit pre-fry-up!

We salute Malachy and Alan for their Kilimanjaro frying exploits, but you don't have to climb mountains to support our work. Anything you can do or any amount you can give is crucial to us. Every single one of our donors means the world to us. Thank you!

Save the dates

NATIONAL FISH AND CHIP DAY 2019

Calling chippies and fish and chip lovers everywhere!

National Fish and Chip Day will be held on Friday 7th June 2019 and once again the Fishermen's Mission are proud to be the chosen charity for this great event. Join in the fun, celebrate the nation's favourite and raise funds for the Fishermen's Mission.

For more information and to sign up please visit www.neoda.org.uk/fishandchipday



Fish Friday 2019

Alerting our great UK Fishmongers, Churches, Clubs and all our wonderful supporters!

Friday 28th June 2019 is Fish Friday! Fish Friday is our national fundraising day and is the perfect opportunity to have a fishy event, a fishy supper, or complete a fishy challenge to raise funds for the Fishermen's Mission!

Visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk/fishfriday or call 0800 6341020 for more information



CATCH OF THE DAY

"The ocean stirs the heart, inspires imagination and brings eternal joy to the soul"

Robert Wyland



Jackie Rennie 'The Escape'

Opportunities like this do not come along very often. A unique piece of art, a thing of beauty and wonder, exquisite and exclusive, can be yours. You can own a wonderful 'Catch of the Day' sculpture and support the Fishermen's Mission.



Rosie Seeley
'The Wreck of the Newcastle Fishermen'

The Fishermen's Mission are proud to unveil our National Fundraising Campaign for 2019 'Catch of the Day.' The story of Catch of the Day began when the brilliant Cornish Sculptor Peter Boex was contacted by Julian Waring, Fishermen's Mission Fundraising Manager for South West England. Peter was asked to conceive a wooden fish sculpture that could be



Gillian Collins 'Fishing Jumper'



Alice Hole 'After the storm comes the calm Porthleven'

made into a mould to produce several ceramic fish. Giving his skills and materials free of charge, Peter created a beautifully graceful piece which was then sent to the Staffordshire potteries to be made into a very limited edition of only 100 ceramic fish.

Over the past few months the Catch of the Day fish have been in the hands of world famous artists, up and coming art students and celebrities. Wonderful artists including Alice Hole, Charles Evans and Graham McKean have been painting and adorning their unique ceramic sculpture.



Graham McKean
'Malcolm the Mackerel'



Libby Purves completes her piece entitled 'Michael the Forecast Fish'

At the same time our team of top celebrities including Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, Alan Titchmarsh, Libby Purves and Alfie Boe have been expressing extraordinary fish-related artistic talents in decorating their own personalised fish. You can see some of the superb finished fish here!

Catch of the Day continues this Spring when our amazing fish will be on display around the UK, giving you the opportunity to get up close to these unique works of art. Such fabulous fish are really worth seeing so visit the Catch of the Day auction website for all the details.



Barbara Hawkins 'Trawling the Net'



Carol Pairaudeau and Paula Gamble – Schwarz 'Sidney Puffer'

And here is the best news of all! Each one of these incredibly rare fish can be yours to keep and enjoy forever.

A Catch of the Day fish is more than just a thing of beauty, it's a way of changing fishing lives for the better. Taking part in the auction and buying a Catch of the Day fish provides the vital funds needed for the Fishermen's Mission to help the most vulnerable, distressed and disadvantaged in our UK fishing communities.

The Catch of the Day auction runs from Thursday 16th May – Sunday 19th May 2019.

To see all 100 fish and bid on them please visit www.fishmishauction.org.uk

Make a bid to make a difference; Catch of the Day!



Jenny Mitchell 'Surfer'

Sea, Salt and Solitude

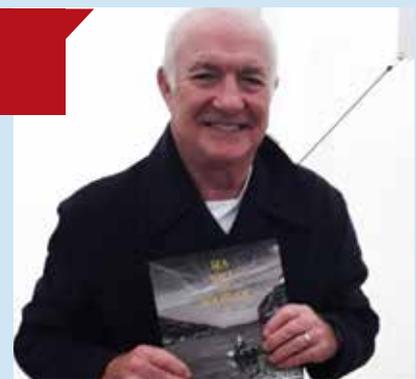
"I love this book in its understated stories of ordinary people who through their lives become extraordinary"

The words of Rick Stein CBE in his foreword to the latest Fishermen's Mission book 'Sea, Salt and Solitude.' With stunning photography (see the front cover of this Network) by Chris Hewitt, and words by Deborah Richards, the book tells the story of the fishing



communities of Newquay, Padstow, Rock and Port Isaac. It is a beautiful collection of wonderful photographic essays,

focussing on remarkable men and women who have a true bond with the sea. This outstanding chronicle of Cornwall can be yours to own for £25 + p&p. All profits from sales of the book will go to the Fishermen's Mission.



Rick Stein CBE finds Sea, Salt and Solitude

To get your copy call 01489 566910

Visit www.fishermensmission.org.uk and click on the 'Sea, Salt & Solitude' tab.

For a copy signed by chef Nathan Outlaw visit <https://nathan-outlaw.com/product/sea-salt-and-solitude/>

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.

How to contact us:

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