



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

network

The Newsletter of The Fishermen's Mission

Spring 2017

Battling the waves



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Baulk Auction
March 18th 2017**

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

THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES

The gentle rocking sway as the swell buffers the boat. The all-pervading aroma of sea air, diesel and baited pots. The ropes hissing and smacking as they spool across the deck releasing the creels to the deep. The seagulls bobbing and weaving above as the sun glistens across the inky sea.

No alarms and no surprises, routine stuff, a day at the fishing.

But then...

A momentary lapse, a misplaced boot, an unexpected slip and an untimely glance ashore mean the innocent creel rope has become a deadly noose.

Already it's too late.

Already the battle for survival has begun.

A contorting limb, a shooting pain, a bump, a crack, a bounce and the icy waves engulf. No longer calm and glassy but turbulent and violent.



Hands and fingers grab and clutch feverishly at boots and oilskins in a tussle of saltwater and foam as the rope tangles and tightens.

Weighed down by seawater, swallowing and gasping and spitting, somehow the boot

becomes free and the cruel creel noose slips off. But the frigid sea remains. Stinging, intense cold pierces the skin, heart rate and blood pressure surge, uncontrollable hyperventilation kicks in.

The vision blurs, the muscles scream in pain and then fade, fatigue intensifies, coordination falters, natural buoyancy vanishes and cries for help are reduced to faint whispers.

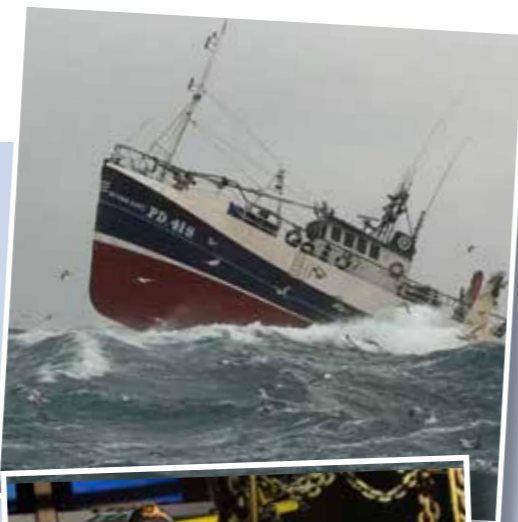
The image of the still moving boat recedes silently away. Empty. No alarm raised, no flare sent up, no distress call made.

Dark, cold, terror, exhaustion, nothing.

The stuff of nightmares.

And it happens regularly on UK fishing boats.

■ Based on an article originally written by Mike Warner www.eastcoastavocet.com



Your donations will help our fishermen to come home safely.

*Average of official figures from the M.A.I.B. Department of Transport, covering 11 years from 2005-2015.

Routine peril

- One fisherman killed every six weeks
- A fishing vessel lost every twenty days
- One fisherman injured every seven days
- Five accidents every week

The harsh reality of life aboard a UK fishing vessel. A fisherman's normal day at work will mean danger as the above figures from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch show.*

But it's more than just statistics. We know that behind every number there are real people. Fishing families live daily with worry and anxiety as their loved ones earn a living in the UK's most dangerous peacetime occupation.

Working alongside other maritime agencies the Fishermen's Mission are committed to reducing the injury and fatality rate in the UK fishing fleet.



A night never forgotten, a fisherman forever remembered



Lee Renney

A split second was all it took. Skipper Michael Renney couldn't believe his eyes. His brother Lee had been routinely shooting lobster pots off their boat, the Pauline Mary. Now he was thrashing around in the water. One of those harmless pots had snared Lee's foot and catapulted him into the North Sea. Michael instinctively dived into the icy waters to rescue his brother. Bravely he hoisted Lee back aboard and began frantic CPR. Michael desperately gave his all to save his brother. The alarm was raised and the Hartlepool Lifeboat swiftly arrived. But it was too late. Lee Renney, aged 22, son, fiancé, father, brother, fisherman had died.

They say fishing is in the blood. That was certainly true of Hartlepool born Lee. His dad Mick was a fisherman from Hartlepool Quay and family photos show Lee with rod in hand from his early days. There was only ever going to be one career path for Lee to follow, one which on, September 2nd 2016, ultimately cost Lee his life.

Lee was engaged to Gemma and they have two lovely children, Millie Grace aged 7 and Jayden Lee aged 2. The devastating effect of such loss on this young family can never be underestimated.

"The pain runs deep" says Peter Dade, Fishermen's Mission Superintendent in North Shields.



family man Lee

"There is no quick fix, there are no easy answers. We continue to support Gemma and the children financially but most importantly we are always there for them. A shoulder to cry on, someone to talk to, a trusted friend they can always turn to for help."

Lee's funeral service was held at St.Hilda's Parish Church where Superintendent Peter Dade was joined by many local fishermen from the Hartlepool Fish Quay and further afield to give their support to the family. Mick Renney, father of Lee is hoping to do a sponsored Coast to Coast Cycle ride for the North Shields Fishermen's Mission this summer. This will be a very fitting tribute to Lee Renney. Forever remembered.

Thank you that your donations enabled the Fishermen's Mission to offer emergency support in the agonising hours following this tragedy, and to care long term for the family and friends left behind.



Superintendent Peter Dade and Gemma Sleeman return to Hartlepool Quay for the first time since that tragic September day

Right: Lee loved his life at sea

Below: Michael Renney, Lee's brother



From Destruction to Beauty

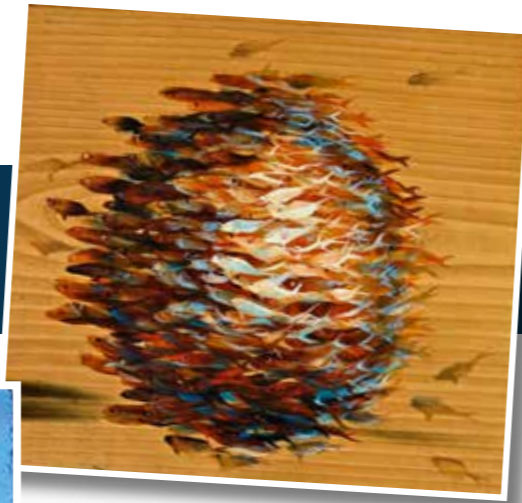
The story of Porthleven's Great Baulk Auction
Saturday 18th March 2017 4:00pm at Porthleven Harbour
Head, Cornwall and online at www.davidlay.co.uk

They were meant to be defenders of the colourful fishing boats tied up in the harbour. But when the great storm of February 5th 2014 hit Porthleven in Cornwall, the harbour baulks broke free. They immediately became two tonne tools of destruction. 10 out of 40 fishing boats were reduced to battered wrecks and livelihoods were devastated.

Three years later the baulks have been reclaimed from the sea and turned into stunning, unique pieces of art. Fishermen's Mission Fundraising manager for Cornwall, Julian Waring, takes up the story,



"The first task was to cut the wooden baulks into manageable sizes. Then artists, carpenters, sculptors and other creative people were asked to take a piece of baulk and turn it into something wonderful."



The project gathered pace and now Dame Judi Dench, Dame Carol Ann Duffy, Nathan Outlaw, Caroline Quentin and a whole host of local artists have provided or commissioned nearly 200 beautiful one-off works of art.

So what's next for the baulks? Julian Waring explains,

"The transformed baulks will be auctioned in aid of the Fishermen's Mission on Saturday 18th March at 4:00pm. Anyone can take part in the auction and grab a special piece of art by going to www.davidlay.co.uk This is a never to be repeated chance to own a piece of exclusive social history and support the Fishermen's Mission."

From destruction to beauty, the tale of the Porthleven Baulks is coming to a close. Fishermen who suffered such a heavy blow through the Winter storms of 2014 have offered their thanks for our support.

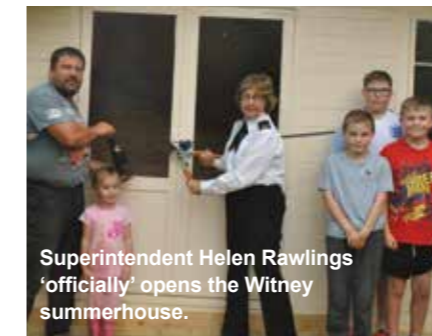


A SUMMERHOUSE FOR SCOTT

"We need a summerhouse!"

Welfare requests to our superintendents come in all shapes and sizes but this one really was unique.

Neil Witney a Seaford fisherman for over 30 years made it clear to Helen Rawlings, Fishermen's Mission



Superintendent Helen Rawlings 'officially' opens the Witney summerhouse.

Superintendent at Shoreham that providing a summerhouse would be life changing for the family.

The reason for this unique request turned out to be so much more than just somewhere for a tired fisherman to chill out on a summers evening. Neil and his wife Emma have six children. Two of their boys, Scott aged 14 and William aged 10 have been diagnosed with Autism and find it difficult to share a room together. Local health services advised the family to provide a separate space for Scott. Unable to extend their rented home the idea for a summerhouse was born.

Helen Rawlings continues the story, "Additional funding from The



Emma and Scott Witney with Superintendent Helen Rawlings.

Seaman's Hospital Society, The Royal Merchant Navy Education Foundation and the Ogilvy Trust provided and furnished a basic structure. Some expert D.I.Y. from fisherman dad Neil followed and Scott now has a warm & secure 'bedroom' for himself."

Thank you that with your help the care provided by the Fishermen's Mission extends from the harbour to the home.

Terrific Tartan

What's the connection between a bespoke tartan and a fishing net?

The answer is found in a mix of the deep rooted traditional skills of tartan weaving and fishing net making. So when an ex-fisherman designs a tartan to be sold for the Fishermen's Mission you can guarantee the results are spectacular!

Magnus Houston, founder of Fishbox, recalls the time his single-handed creel boat was caught in the Moray Firth during a force-nine gale,

"I'll never forget that feeling of helplessness and being at the mercy of the sea. When things go wrong for fishermen and they feel helpless, it's crucial that there is someone to turn to in the shape of the Fishermen's Mission. They're like a guardian and an extended family."



Net mending



A tartan clad Fishermen's Mission Peterhead Superintendent Stephen Murray with Darcie Stephen.

A collaboration with the design house Prickly Thistle, the Fishbox Tartan represents the many generations of Scottish fishermen and their coastal communities.

Why not visit the tartan shop at www.fishbox.co.uk and treat yourself to a gift from the bespoke Fishbox Tartan range and support the Fishermen's Mission.

Things have been getting very knotty in Hull. A combination of retired fishermen and school children are to blame! As part of the celebrations for Hull UK City of Culture 2017 a number of large community fishing nets are being made.



NET-WORKING ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Net braiding is the art of knotting together a fishing net. It's a skill that has been passed down through the centuries in generations of fishing families. Now those skills are being passed on once more at a series of net braiding workshops across the city. Volunteers from all walks of life, and particularly Hull's retired fishermen, are showing off their nimble fingered knotting skills to create the community

fishing nets. The nets will then be displayed at the Fishermen's Mission exhibitions later this summer. There have also been net braiding sessions at local schools which have been a real success.

Hull Fishermen's Mission Superintendent Tracey Stephens commented, "It's just thrilling to see these veteran fishermen displaying their life long skills and talking to the children about their days at sea."

Old hands and nimble fingers joining together, Net-working across the generations.

Left: Joseph Faulder with retired Skipper Ron Wilkinson. Joseph's Grandad, Great-Great Grandad, Great Uncle & Great-Great Uncle were all Hull fishermen!

Below: Getting knotty in Hull



The Fishermen's Mission exhibitions will be an integral part of the Hull City of Culture 2017 programme. Why not take a trip to Hull and visit the Fishermen's Mission exhibitions as we....

- Experience what life was like in the fishing community
- Hear the real-life stories of Hull fishermen
- Remember trawler losses and tragedy at sea
- Celebrate the women who fought for safety at sea
- Present the Fishermen's Mission and their work
- Display contributions from local school children and the local community.

The exhibitions timetable is as follows.

Streetlife Museum of Transport:
1st May – 30th June 2017

Holy Trinity Church (Hull Minster):
1st July – 31st August 2017

And don't miss out on seeing the results of the net-braiding workshops as the Hull Fishermen's Mission community nets are displayed!



ALBERT LOVES FISH FRIDAY!

Attention all Fishmongers, supporters, clubs and churches. Albert the fisherman wants a word in your ear!

Alberts says "Want to have loads of fishy fun? Join me in raising funds for the Fishermen's Mission on Fish Friday 2017"

This year's event takes place on Friday 7th July 2017. For more information, visit our website.



Calling all Chippy's...

National Fish & Chip Day 2017 is on Friday 2nd June. It's a great way to champion the nation's favourite dish. The Fishermen's Mission are the official charity partner for this fish & chip celebration. If you are a fish & chip shop owner visit www.neoda.org.uk/fishandchipday for more information and to register. Promote your shop, the best food in the world & support the Fishermen's Mission!



Beautiful bags! Creative celebrities! Sensational Seasalt!

You can never have too many bags, which is great news for Seasalt and the Fishermen's Mission. Once again Seasalt have harnessed the artistic juices of five well-known faces to produce a stunning new range of jute shoppers. Alison Steadman, Helen Glover, Nathan Outlaw, Sarah Bailey and Jo Whiley have each designed a bag and the results are amazing!

We are so thankful for this wonderful partnership with Seasalt. The 2016

celebrity bags raised an incredible £25,000 and this year's must-have accessory will be much in demand. Which is absolutely fabulous as 50p from each bag sold will go to the Fishermen's Mission!

So, want to get your hands on one? Visit www.seasalt.co.uk or look out for them in your nearest Seasalt store and together let's raise bags of cash for the Fishermen's Mission.



Alison Steadman



Sarah Bailey



Nathan Outlaw



Jo Whiley



Helen Glover

2016 AT THE FISHERMEN'S MISSION: Christian outreach in numbers

- 9,658** Welfare calls made by our Port staff
 - 194** Fishermen assisted following emergencies at sea
 - 3,335** Active fishermen visited
 - 4,507** Fishing boats visited
 - 157** Children of fishermen helped
 - 216** Funerals conducted
 - 2,574** Beneficiaries in receipt of welfare grants totalling £975,784
 - 103,044** Miles covered delivering our services
- For every **£1** generated we spend **88p** on providing our services

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. 88p of every £1 generated is spent on providing 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: legacy@fishermensmission.org.uk

How to contact us:

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Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen

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