



140

THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

140 YEARS SERVING FISHERMEN & THEIR FAMILIES

Summer 2021

network

The Newsletter of the Fishermen's Mission



**Risking
their lives**
Bringing
home the
catch

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

You put a smile on my face

“Things just spiralled really quickly from working and doing well to lockdown and Brexit putting a stop to everything. We had no one to support us except for the Fishermen’s Mission. They helped me get back on my feet and to crack on with fishing and the future. I’m smiling now – I wasn’t smiling a few months ago!” Marc, a fisherman from Bangor, North Wales.

Fishermen’s Mission Port Officer for North Wales, Jane Devereux, explains how Marc was supported: “The fishermen here have had such a hard season. For many it has been a case of just trying to survive. Marc was facing eviction due to rent arrears but with help from SAIL (Seafarers Advice and Information Line) and our maritime partner charities we were able to stop that happening and begin to help Marc manage his finances. During the pandemic we also sourced laptops for his three children and a Christmas Hamper.”

Covering 18 harbours and 100 fishing vessels in North Wales, Jane has seen her caseload increase over the last two years. Jane comments:

“There has been a sharp rise in fishing families contacting us recently. Many of the fishermen have debt problems. Working with SAIL we find that getting fishermen to put their finances down on paper and work through them is a relief. Though it is a daunting process, one fisherman told me he would now be able to sleep after simply writing down his debts.”



The masts and trawlers at Port Penrhyn Dock, Bangor



Jane Devereux, Fishermen’s Mission Port Officer for North Wales

Sometimes it is the women of the family who seek help. Dawn is the partner of a fisherman who contacted Jane recently. Dawn says:

“I met Jane when things looked

hopeless, but we were helped and cared for when it felt like no one else did! I’ll be forever grateful. We had help with the bankruptcy payments and funding for food, heating and electric over Christmas – a real Christmas miracle! The children have been helped and I’ve received constant support through text, emails, visits and phone calls. Jane also helped by signposting me to a counselling service and even provided recipes to help with my diabetes! The Fishermen’s Mission has been so reassuring and caring. Thank you so much for everything – God bless you!”

For Jane Devereux, the Fishermen’s Mission’s work in North Wales is about taking fishermen in need from despair to hope. That was the case with both Marc and Dawn and their families, who send their heartfelt thanks to you for your support.



Jane meets Marc for a socially distanced welfare call



Bangor fisherman Marc

Unfailing compassion and care

“An emergency call from the Shetland Coastguard Helicopter informed us of a fisherman from South East Asia requiring urgent medical care. Liaising with the Stromness Lifeboat crew we provided comfort and support to a very ill and anxious fisherman, who didn’t even know which country he was in.”

These are the words of David Sinclair, Fishermen’s Mission Area Officer for Orkney who continued to care for the stricken fisherman with hospital visits, arranging contact with family overseas and translation services to ensure good communication. As David says:

“This was a time for unfailing compassion for a fisherman far away from home.”

As the Fishermen’s Mission man in Orkney, David engages with fishermen from all over the world who arrive from the Atlantic or North Sea waters surrounding the islands. Lying about 10 miles north of the Scottish mainland, Orkney comprises of 70 islands, of which 20 are inhabited.

The remote geography of Orkney often means early starts and late nights as David travels on both land and sea, visiting the outer islands. Many shellfish fishermen work here, making up the fleet of approximately 150 creel boats found in Orkney today. This includes hand scallop divers who fish the clear waters around the islands.



David Sinclair (right) with Aubrey Jamieson from Shetland Fishermen’s Mission

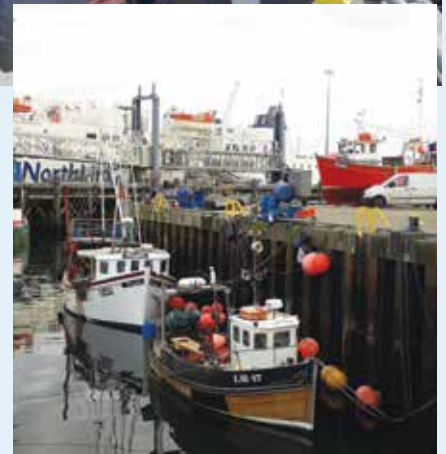


David Sinclair receives the belongings of a sick visiting fisherman from the Stromness lifeboat crew

In recent times David has provided financial and social support to active and retired fishermen and their families, making many calls supporting their mental health. David relates how the Fishermen’s Mission has made a difference across Orkney:

“Every day we listen to the unique needs of our clients and then act on their behalf. Our help can be simple but profoundly life changing. We provided a suitable chair for a retired fisherman, alleviating his ongoing discomfort and health problems. Harsh winter weather can prevent smaller boats from fishing meaning we are called upon to provide support for fishing families struggling with no income. We’ve also been able to source laptops during the pandemic, ensuring fishermen’s children can continue their education.”

David’s faith, his short time at sea, and experience as a trained nurse,



Fishing boats laying up at Stromness Harbour

led him to work for the Fishermen’s Mission. He comments:

“I feel privileged to be part of a very worthwhile charity in one of life’s toughest industries, meeting and helping people from all over the world and enabling me to be of direct benefit to the community.”

Please donate today to make possible our work of unfailing compassion and care to fishing communities in Orkney and throughout the UK. Thank you.

Roub's new **adventure**

Roub Morgan is the owner and skipper of the fishing vessel Makfort FR170. Normally upbeat and positive, Roub has been a fisherman for many years, fishing off Fraserburgh in North East Scotland. As Roub explains, a full year of coronavirus and then Brexit, poor catch prices and a lack of fish has meant the last year has been tough:

“There’s no doubt about it, 2021 has been the poorest start to a year I have ever had. Last March I was in a good place; the fishing was going well, and I was looking forward to another decent year. Then the Covid-19 pandemic struck. Fish markets in Europe and around the world closed. The hospitality sector at home shut its doors and we were immediately struggling. No one was buying the beautiful crab and lobster I catch off the east coast of Scotland. For most creel fishermen like me, going to sea was costing more than we were getting for our catch. Little has changed since then. Despite the relaxing of rules in the summer, the markets still didn’t pick up. As winter drew in and Christmas approached, a second lockdown closed our creel fishing at its most lucrative point, and it hasn’t really started again since.”

Throughout the year Roub and his fellow fishermen have been supported by Miriam Kemp from the Fraserburgh Fishermen’s Mission. Roub says it’s so reassuring to



Miriam Kemp, Fishermen’s Mission Area Officer at Fraserburgh

know they have someone to turn to when life gets really tough. Miriam comments:

“Fishermen like Roub have learnt to be resilient. They have to be when you consider all they battle against

just to make a living. Today I watched Roub clean the grime and crud off his lobster pots, turning them from grey looking to black with bright coloured tied edges.”

Roub is preparing for a new adventure, as he explains here:

“My plan is to set off with me in the boat and my wife and our dogs in a motorhome, heading towards the more touristy areas of Scotland and praying hard that we don’t face another lockdown. It will mean a summer living like a nomad, travelling to find the opening markets, selling crabs and lobsters to restaurants and hotels and to anyone who wants them. We’ll spend the summer evenings prepping the boat for the next day, all in the effort to make at least something out of what has been a miserable year.”



Adventurous Roub gets prepared



The Makfort – spruced up and ready to go!

The **pain** in my eyes...

Asking for help is never easy – nobody wants to feel they must rely on someone else just to get by. Throughout our 140-year history and especially over the past year, our constant message to our fishermen and their families is simple - the Fishermen's Mission is here to help you through the storms of life.

Lesley Hammond and Ingrid Perry are the Fishermen's Mission Area Officers in Northern Ireland. Working out of Kilkeel, Ardglass and Portavogie, Lesley and Ingrid support over 140 clients with a wide range of needs, as Lesley explains:



Lesley Hammond making connections

"We have active and retired fishermen and their families alongside a good number of migrant fishermen who mostly come to us from the Philippines, Ghana and Sri Lanka. Our work ranges from our weekly 'catch-ups' for retired fishermen, to providing good communication links that allow our



The bustling harbour at Kilkeel

migrant fishermen to contact loved ones at home. We are also engaged with an increasing number of fishing families struggling financially over the past year as the pandemic has hit. Many were at their wits end with worry when the fishing stopped."



Ingrid Perry checking in

Being at the heart of their fishing communities allows Lesley and Ingrid to build solid relationships and to offer a listening ear, giving practical and pastoral care where it is needed the most. Even so, it is not always easy to get fishermen to ask for help. Lesley comments:

"Often fishermen are naturally self-reliant and proud people who are used to battling adversity. But when times are hard, and we can step in to help, the results are life changing. This is a handwritten note I was given at the harbour by a fisherman earlier this year:"

When times are hard even the toughest fishermen struggle and need our support. Please donate today to ensure we can always be that caring presence in UK fishing ports and harbours.

'This is nothing fancy, just a simple note to the Fishermen's Mission to thank them for the help and support they have given me over the past six months. Without the mission my family would have been cold and hungry. They got us oil, food, toys and financial assistance which totally saved our Christmas. I'll be forever grateful for the mission and especially the person in charge of the mission at the harbour. She saw the pain in my eyes as we spoke one day and pushed me to let the mission help.'

Many hands make **light** work

Our fishermen give the best years of their lives to the sea, working in the most dangerous environment possible. Once their seagoing days are done, they can rely upon the Fishermen's Mission to be there for them. Often it's the simple things that mean the most.

Retired Newlyn fisherman, Dave, has only really known a life at sea. Fishing from the age of six and then full time from leaving school, Dave has spent almost 50 years on a fishing boat.

Ill health forced Dave to hang up his nets: multiple heart attacks, arthritis, diabetes and COPD have meant life has been a struggle for years. One thing that gave Dave great joy was his tiny Cornish fisherman's cottage. He'd never really known what it was to have his own place and his one desire was to make it as homely as possible.

However, Dave had a problem. His tiny cottage was stuffed to the gills with all sorts of equipment and tools. A shed was purchased but due to Dave's ill health it remained unopened, awaiting construction. Following an Occupational Therapist's visit a referral was made

to Mike Dale, Fishermen's Mission Area Officer for Newlyn. Mike comments:

"Dave was desperate to get his house sorted, it was his pride and joy. Having the shed built would be a big step forward so I asked around for some volunteer help."



Mike Dale at Newlyn Harbour



That volunteer help came in the shape of a team from Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose, led by Jay King – husband of our Helston Charity shop manager, Mel King. Jay's team set to work and soon had the shed completed. They even found time to build a BBQ and clear a spot in Dave's front garden so he could sit and enjoy the sunshine.

As Dave tells us, this simple help meant everything:

"This is the first home I have ever really had. It was hard to accept help, but this will really make a difference to getting it how I want it."

Fishermen's Mission volunteers play a huge role in helping us deliver our services. Mike Dale comments:

"It's great to help Dave get settled and content in his own home. This has improved Dave's life considerably so a huge thank you to our brilliant Fishermen's Mission volunteers."

Can you volunteer for the Fishermen's Mission? We'd love to hear from you! Please call us on 0800 6341020 or email enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk



Dave with his dog Sam, the volunteer team and a new shed!

Your letter to the **future**

Everyone should make a Will. It's the only way to ensure your family and friends are provided for in the way you wish after you're gone. Your Will is more than just a legal document, it's your letter to the future, and your way to help make the world a better place even when you're no longer around.

Your Will is also an opportunity to leave money or property to causes you care deeply about. Of all the gifts you could leave in your Will, the gift of supporting someone or a family on the brink of a crisis should be cherished.

Imagine being able to prevent a whole family from homelessness because their fisherman father is injured and hasn't been able to work and pay the rent? Or supporting a fisherman's widow with a grant so she isn't forced to make a choice of eating or heating her home in the winter?



Gifts in Wills, no matter how small, collectively make up a significant part of our charitable income each year.



They help ensure we are there to respond to the family in crisis and the widow struggling to make ends meet. It is no exaggeration to say that a gift in your Will could help change someone's life.

Please contact Sophie Davies, in the strictest confidence, at SophieDavies@fishermensmission.org.uk or by telephone on 07901 673148 if you would like a free copy of our legacy booklet or just have a chat about donating in this special way.

Fish Mish **Sushi**

An eight-week partnership was launched in March between the Fishermen's Mission and the popular sushi chain, Sushi Gourmet. The company designed a bespoke box of delicious sushi dedicated to the charity with a percentage from each sale going to support our work. This initiative was launched in 140 superstores nationwide and raised almost £3,500.

Sushi Gourmet Managing Director, Jason Danciger said:

"We are simply thrilled to be supporting the Fishermen's Mission. The campaign has boosted awareness to over 100,000 customers each week and raised valuable funds. We know it has strengthened relationships with our customers, who believe the welfare of fishermen is as important as the sustainability of fish. It has also given our teams a brilliant feel-good factor."

Fishermen's Mission Corporate Partnerships Manager, Dean Lawrence agreed saying:

"Now that's a partnership worth celebrating!"



What a partnership! Dean Lawrence with the Fishermen's Mission Sushi Gourmet box



FISHERMEN'S MISSION 2020 AWARD WINNERS

We cherish every one of our supporters, and all play a part in supporting our work. Every year at our AGM we salute those who have gone the extra mile...

Special Supporters Award

Ladies' Luncheon Club, North Shields

Social Media Award

Jude Kereama, Chef and Owner of Kota Restaurant and Kota Kai in Porthleven



Christian Fellowship Award

St John's Church, West Bay, Dorset

Fundraiser of the Year Award

Darren Passmore

Fundraising Event of the Year

Jack Gatacre for kayaking around Scotland

Volunteer of the Year Award

Jannette Boyd, Isle of Barra

Welcome to the Family Award

Sea Food and Eat It

Fish and Chip Shop of the Year Award

Kingfisher Fish and Chips, Plymouth

Media Champion of the Year Award

John Periam, Fishing News

Partnership Award

Pesky Fish

Chef of the Year Award

Ellis Barrie, The Marram Grass, Anglesey

Friendship Award

Pete Slinn, Bradfords Building Supply, Helston, Cornwall

Fundraising Team of the Year Award

Joe McComb and Bobby Campbell, the Kilkeel Golf Tournament.

Outstanding Contribution Award

Caroline Cleave, Cornish artist

The Stanley Pritchard Award

Given by Council to a person who has made an extraordinary contribution to the Fishermen's Mission within the year.

Jason King, Helston, Cornwall



Why not visit

www.fishermensmission.org.uk/about-us/annual-reviews/ to click on our Impact Report 2019/20 to see how your generosity is put to work around our coastline

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:

Telephone us: 01489 566910

Freephone: 0800 6341020

Email us: enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk

Write to us:

The Fishermen's Mission, Mather House, 4400 Parkway, Solent Business Park, Whiteley, Hampshire. PO15 7FJ



Visit our website www.fishermensmission.org.uk



Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/fishermensmission or Twitter [@thefishmish](https://twitter.com/thefishmish) [@thefishmish](https://www.instagram.com/thefishmish)

Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. A charity founded in 1881. We receive no Government or Lottery funding. Registered Charity England & Wales No. 232822. Registered Charity Scotland No. SC039088. Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England No. 24477.

