



Year 26  
Issue 3  
September  
2020

# The Maritime Volunteer

The Journal of the Maritime Volunteer Service



[www.mvs.org.uk](http://www.mvs.org.uk)

Registered Charity in England & Wales No. 1048454 and in Scotland SC 039269

## Chairman's Address



Well, we're at the end of this year's summer boating season. The autumn gales decided to start in August, shortening what in any case been a very limited window of activity. Now we are in September, albeit with a bit of an Indian Summer emerging.

Of course everything changed back in March. For several months Units were unable to undertake any outside activities at all.

When lockdown was put in place Council realised that communication with the membership would be key to keeping the charity going. Along with the quarterly **Maritime Volunteer** publication a decision was taken to produce a weekly members newsletter. This has been a vital part of the communication

strategy and from feedback received it is clear that this initiative has helped inform the membership, provide access to Les Quilty's excellent training courses and maintain a sense of cohesion within the charity.

Putting together a weekly newsletter is a big task and our sincere thanks must go to the editor Elaine Bowdery for her hard work over the past five months. However it was always intended that this would be a temporary initiative. It has been decided to move from weekly to monthly issues. Elaine has kindly offered to continue to be editor. The monthly newsletter will continue to provide a way of sharing ideas and reinforcing the message that the MVS is one single national charity and the more we work together the stronger we will be.

As time has gone by, Units have been developing their own strategies, which have included limited Covid-secure use of craft and outside gatherings. Several Units have been remarkably active afloat in the few available weeks during our shortened summer season and have engaged in high profile safety and environmental protection work. Units have been gradually getting back to a new normal. With ingenuity and great care we can ensure that the MVS delivers on its charitable objectives.

Indoor meetings are now being allowed, under strict conditions and subject to any local restrictions that authorities may have to impose. Training meetings are covered by an exemption to the government's Rule of Six but we must ensure they are Covid secure at all times.

As the relevant MVS Bulletin 2020-13 stresses, there must be no pressure at all on Units to hold physical meetings nor on individual members to attend them. We must act quickly as inevitably rules will change, be flexible and adaptable but always err on the side of caution.

Please remember that the **new normal** is not really normal at all and Covid-19 is still very much around us.

Stay alert and stay safe.

David Hughes  
National Chairman of the Maritime Volunteer Service.

## A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the September 2020 edition of the Newsletter. Units are still limited as to what they can undertake but it's good to see that some afloat activities have resumed and documented in this Edition. We have featured Hartlepool and its maritime history in this edition along with the usual Unit based submissions. Members are most welcome to submit articles for inclusion in the next edition of the Maritime Volunteer which will be released at the end of December. A short piece of text and a few high resolution pictures would be ideal.

Stay safe.

The Editor - Dave Spencer-Barnes



## AGM 2020

With the ongoing restrictions imposed by COVID-19 the MVS is unable to hold a tradition AGM this year.

The AGM is an important part of our calendar enabling us to fulfil our legal responsibilities as a charity and providing an opportunity to bring us all together at the end of the season.

Council is looking to hold the event virtually via the Zoom programme which many units have been using to hold meetings since the start of lockdown in March.

Details of the meeting and how you can take part will be communicated to HoU's and RVO's as soon as possible.



## A Helping Hand on the Bristol Channel



Severn Unit member and Regional Head of Seamanship, Tim Huckvale, was returning from a family holiday on the Bristol Channel when he came across a yacht in trouble.

Tim heard a yacht call the coastguard saying he had engine failure and was drifting in a dredged shipping channel with a large dredger bearing down.

After assessing the oncoming commercial craft Tim decided that he had time to take "Alize" in tow.

The craft was later made secure at Cardiff. In the same week, the Unit was called into action when Tewkesbury Marina had an emergency call from one of the berthholders who had broken down up river on the Avon.

MVS Minerva, which has returned to limited operations, responded and towed her safely back to the marina.

## Welcome Aboard Skipper

Two members of the Northumbria Unit have gained their Day Skipper qualifications during lockdown.

Head of Unit Angela Carrington and Malcolm Stephenson studied hard to get the award which is recognised by the Royal Yachting Association. During lockdown the unit has regularly met via Zoom to carry out theory training and it is hoped that their two vessels will be back on the water soon. Deputy Head of Unit Jen Mitchelson said: "Angela and Malcolm have worked hard to get this qualification and we are all very proud of their efforts and look forward to them sharing their knowledge to us all."



## MVS helps rid beauty spot of harmful plastic

A major milestone has been passed in an ambitious project to clear plastic debris from underneath the famous cliffs stretching between Eastbourne and Seaford and to stop it breaking down into small particles and polluting the sea.

Members have transported a large quantity of waste from an inaccessible beach near Beachy Head to Sovereign Harbour for proper disposal.



The MVS responded to a request for help from Norm Penney the founder of environmental group Beachy Head and Seven Sisters Extreme Plastic Objects Removal.

Over the past few months Mr Penney and a small team of volunteer helpers have worked hard to collect and bag plastic waste washed up under the cliffs.

Much of it had weathered and started to break down into small particles which would have gone back into and polluted the sea.

The group had collected in excess of 300 bin bags of plastic at one site but found the only way to get it out and to a proper disposal facility was by sea.

East Sussex 1 sailed to the location just west of the Beachy Head lighthouse with a crew of eight on board.

A crew member then took one of ES1's small dinghies to the beach, towing a long line that was then used to pull batches of the large builders bags to the anchored launch.

Once safely on board the bags were secured and covered in nets for the short trip to Sovereign Harbour where they were removed to a disposal facility.

## More Funds for Putney

MVS Putney were at St. Mary's Church next to the River Thames at Putney Bridge to raise funds for a new engine.

The unit met Putney MP Fleur Anderson who tweeted her support for the MVS.

The unit wants to thank local residents who helped raise almost £400 for the project.

Attending were: Duncan Thomsen HoU, George Mellett CPO, Frank Wells, Niki Bayard and the latest recruit Cassie Anum.





## Support from Warrington Shoppers

Following the easing of social distancing, Curlew, our northern training vessel has finally got a boost for the project funds when the Morrisons Store in Warrington hosted a two-day collection stand in store.



The MVS provided a full Covid compliant risk assessment and the stand was arranged with the instore team.

Once the stand was set up, Jenny Bloor the local Morrisons Community Champion came along to check our compliance and was happy to give us a thumbs up.

Picture: Project Manager Chris Todd with Jenny Bloor.

## Net Walking on Tyneside

Businesses and volunteers socially distanced themselves and "net walked" along the North Tyneside coastline to raise much needed funds for the MVS.

Members of the Northumbria Unit took part in their annual sponsored "Pier to Pier" walk which this year went from St Mary's Lighthouse to the Tyne's North Pier, a distance of around five miles.

They were joined on the hike by members of North Tyneside Business Forum and more than £700 was raised.

Head of Unit, Angela Carrington said: "Covid-19 has had a catastrophic effect on our fundraising efforts this year.

We are very grateful to everyone who took part in the walk and to those who helped us raise more than £700 on the day".



## Maritime Day Out in Hartlepool

If you go to Hartlepool don't ask who killed the monkey.

Legend has it that during the Napoleonic Wars a shipwrecked monkey was hanged by the people of the town, believing him to be a French spy!

To this day, people from Hartlepool are affectionately known as 'monkey hangers'.

A French ship was spotted floundering and sinking off the Hartlepool coast. Suspicious of enemy ships and nervous of possible invasion, the good folk of Hartlepool rushed down to the beach, where amongst the wreckage of the ship they found the only survivor, the ship's monkey which was apparently dressed in a miniature military-style uniform.

Today you can see a monkey wishing well hidden away at the towns marina.

The towns maritime tradition is highlighted at the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

The attraction is based around the re-creation of an 18th-century seaport, in the time of Lord Nelson.





The attraction is based around the re-creation of an 18th-century seaport, in the time of Lord Nelson.

HMS Trincomalee, a Royal Navy frigate and Britain's oldest warship afloat is at the centre of the quay.



The site was built by the Teeside Development Corporation as part of the economic regeneration of old industrial sites on the derelict docks.

In June 2016 operation of the site was taken over from the local council by the National Museum of the Royal Navy and was rebranded as NMRN Hartlepool.

The PS Wingfield Castle, preserved at the neighbouring Museum of Hartlepool is a floating exhibit and café.

The ship is a former Humber ferry and was built by William Gray & Company in the town and was launched in 1934.



There are hundreds of other exhibits in the museum charting the history of the town from prehistoric times right up to the present day.

Nearby is Hartlepool Marina and Navigation Point where there are many restaurants and bars to end your day out.

## Patron

HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO KStJ

## MVS Council

David Hughes: Chair of Council

Martyn Sharp: Vice Chair

Les Miller  
John Spencer-Barnes

Graham Hedle  
Liz Glare

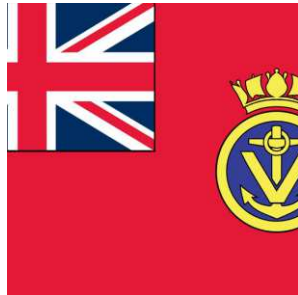
David Dobson  
Mark Dustin

Angela Carrington  
Nick Spencer

## National Officers



**Chair of Council**  
David Hughes



**Vice Chair of Council**  
Martyn Sharp



**Chief Volunteer Officer**  
Nicholas Spencer



**Director of Finance**  
Les Miller



**National MVS Secretary**  
Mark Dustin



**Director of Communications**  
John Spencer-Barnes



**Director of Training**  
Liz Glare



**Director of Resilience**  
David Dobson



**National Admin Officer / Newsletter Editor**  
Dave Spencer-Barnes



**National MVS PR Officer**  
Keith Newman

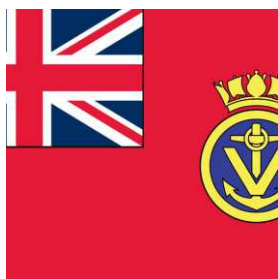


**National MVS Marketing Manager**  
Angela Carrington



**National MVS Website Editor**  
Adam Swires





**MVS Membership Secretary**

David Scotford



**National Health & Safety Advisor**

Kevin Gray



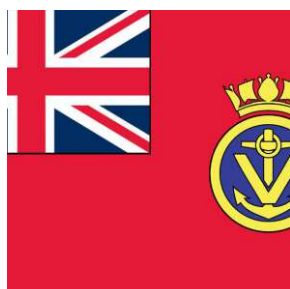
**MVS Headquarters Manager**

Chris Todd



**National MVS Fleet Manager**

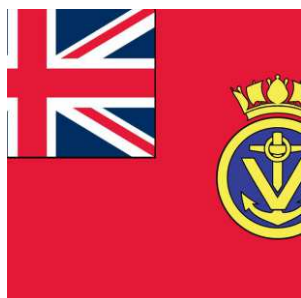
Oliver Chasteauneuf



**Medical Officer**

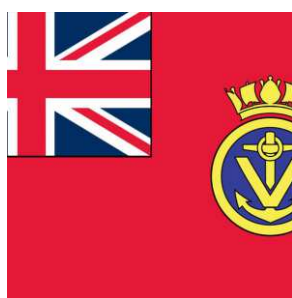
Dt. Nigel Garbut

**Regional Volunteer Officers**



**RVO South (E)**

Richard Mercer



**RVO South (W)**

Frank Revill



**RVO Thames**

Paul Marlow



**RVO (Bristol Channel)**

Gordon McDonald



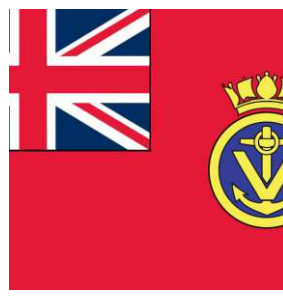
**RVO NW England & N Wales**

Giles Pepperell



**RVO Central England**

Andrew Smith



**RVO Scotland & Northern Ireland**

Vacant

## Facebook and Twitter

The MVS has an official Facebook page. Search for 'Maritime Volunteer Service Official' when you are logged in to find the group. You simply have to 'like' it to be kept up to date with the latest MVS news.

You can also get all the latest feeds by following us on Twitter [@MVSHQ](#)

## MVS Contacts

Chairman	David Hughes	david.hughes@mvs.org.uk
Chief Volunteer Officer	Nick Spencer	nicholas.spencer@mvs.org.uk
National Secretary	Mark Dustin	secretary@mvs.org.uk
National Treasurer	Les Miller	treasurer@mvs.org.uk
Director of Resilience	David Dobson	david.dobson@mvs.org.uk
Director of Training	Liz Glare	liz.glare@mvs.org.uk
Director of Communications	John Spencer-Barnes	communications@mvs.org.uk
National PR Officer	Keith Newman	keith@highlightspr.co.uk
National Webmaster	David Hall	webmaster@mvs.org.uk
MVS Medical Officer	Dr. Nigel Garbutt	Tel: 01452 750128 / 07860716997 tudor_cottage@btinternet.com

The Maritime Volunteer  
The Journal of the Maritime Volunteer Service  
Newsletter Editor: Dave Spencer-Barnes - dave.spencer-barnes@mvs.org.uk

www.mvs.org.uk  
Patron: H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent GCVO KStJ  
The Maritime Volunteer Service  
A Company limited by Guarantee No. 3003565.  
A Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1048454 and in Scotland SC 039269