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The Maritime Volunteer

The Journal of the Maritime Volunteer Service



Game Changing Sponsorship for MVS

www.mvs.org.uk

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

Chairman's Address



Dear MVS Volunteers

The Caledonia Investments Charitable Foundation's sponsorship of the MVS for the next three years is a huge vote of confidence in our charity. It will help us greatly in expanding our capabilities as both a training and community support organisation.

In the coming year part of the money being made available will be used to ensure MVS Units around the UK are able to recover financially from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

However we will also get to work on building for the future. Initially this means supporting members obtaining basic qualifications starting to build an in-house RYA power boat training capability and maintaining the charity's larger national training vessels. Over the next three years we want to build up a pool of instructors who can deliver the wide range of courses needed to obtain the qualifications required to operate our craft. Examples include VHF operator's certificate and sea survival.

In addition a programme will be established to instruct MVS volunteers in basic flood response skills. In subsequent years this will be expanded to give the MVS a significant flood response capability.

While a funding commitment of £75,000 a year for three years is itself very significant, the Caledonia Foundation is also keen that its sponsorship should in part be used to attract other sponsors and sources of funds for the MVS. To this end Caledonia Investments has offered to make its central London office available for hosting events, such as receptions and presentations. They have also kindly agreed to host this year's MVS AGM on Saturday 4th December, which will be a hybrid in-person and online event.



This sponsorship should be a game changer for the MVS. Council has been working for some time on a business plan which will see the charity expand and build its capabilities. Caledonia Trust's funding will enable us to put this plan into action.

Council has formed a number of working groups, covering areas including training and Unit finances, to take forward the business plan. There will be a Council meeting on September 18th and shortly after that a meeting with a representative from Caledonia. This means it should be possible to give more details on exactly what the money will be used for by mid-October.

This sponsorship is a massive boost for the charity but it does not mean that we can ease up on fundraising at either national or local levels. In actual fact we must redouble our efforts to ensure that the charity is sustainable in the long term. And it must be emphasised that, while HQ will now have some ability to assist in areas such as partially funding the costs of obtaining PB2 and VHF certificates etc. Units will still be expected to raise money to mainly cover their own operating costs and, when necessary, acquire additional or replacement craft. In the long term craft insurance is expected once again to largely be a Unit responsibility.

So we need to build up other sources of income, including from other sponsors – local and national. We will also look at any opportunities that may arise for selling donated goods, possibly initially at car boot sales. All ideas will be welcome. Again Council is looking carefully at how we achieve this and there will be more details in due course.

To sum up, we can now look forward to using the significant additional funds that will be available to Council in a targetted and measured way to build a stronger and more effective MVS.

David Hughes
Chair of MVS Council

From the Director of Communications



As the world slowly starts to return to normal, we are seeing more stories being submitted from around the MVS. This is to be welcomed since there has been a distinct lack of news to report from around the service since the start of the pandemic.

I thought it would be useful to offer a brief guide to submission in order to make the most of your stories. Please remember that we use submitted stories on the website, on social media and in this journal.

Please make sure you submit a high resolution picture with your story at least 4000 x 3000 pixels. This enables the images to be edited and still be large enough to use online. Make time to take a good picture and try to be creative and avoid an image of a group of people simply facing the camera. We cannot use a story without an image to go with it.

Aim for around three paragraphs for the story as people tend not to read longer items. Tell us what is happening, who is involved and what the result has been. Have a look at some stories on the website or in this journal to give you inspiration.

Whenever possible look to make the story about people and not about boats or kit. Stories about people get by far the most hits online and tend to be more widely shared. If you are a Facebook or Twitter user please share our content as it is critical in exposing us to many more people.

I look forward to hearing from you.

John Spencer-Barnes,
MVS Director of Communications

Major Charitable Trust Sponsors MVS

We have some major news on the future of the MVS.

We are happy to announce a significant sponsorship deal which will be a real game-changer for the service.

The Maritime Volunteer Service is delighted that the Caledonia Investments Charitable Foundation has agreed to sponsor the MVS for the next three years.

The Caledonia Foundation is providing £75,000 a year to enable the MVS to significantly expand and improve its capabilities as both a training and community support organisation.

In the first year there will be an emphasis on assisting MVS Units around the UK to recover financially from the effects of the coronavirus pandemic as well as developing an in-house RYA power boat training capability and maintaining the charity's larger national training vessels. A programme will also be established to instruct MVS volunteers in basic flood response skills.



In the following two years there will be a focus on expanding a pool of instructors in the wide range of skills the charity requires and supporting members to acquire the skills they need to carry out their operations.

Caledonia Investments plc is a self-managed investment trust listed on the London Stock Exchange. The Caledonia Foundation is Caledonia's source of charitable giving, and is funded by Caledonia Investments, together with other contributions, including those from its largest shareholder the Cayzer Trust Company, which is connected to the Cayzer family.

The Cayzers were formerly prominent shipowners and remain proud of their maritime heritage and are particularly attracted to the work of the MVS because of its maritime focus.

Caledonia Investments has also offered to make its central London office available for hosting events, including this year's MVS AGM.



The chairman of the Caledonia Foundation, Jamie Cayzer-Colvin said: "The Maritime Volunteer Service is one of those nationwide charities that touch so many people in so many ways but often without them being aware.

The allure of all things nautical is deeply rooted in our history; therefore, as an organisation, whose formative years were closely connected with the maritime industry, the Caledonia Foundation is delighted to be able to support such a well deserving organisation at such a critical time.

MVS chair David Hughes said: "This will be game changing for our charity, enabling us to recover from the coronavirus pandemic and move our operation to a much higher level.

The financial support will be crucial for the implementation of our long-term business plan but the Caledonia Foundation's sponsorship of the MVS is also a clear signal that we have been recognised as a charity that contributes to communities around the UK and that its activities deserve support. We are very grateful for this sponsorship."

Photo: Jamie Cayzer-Colvin and David Hughes

Our Navy Connection

While the MVS has members from all backgrounds and walks of life we're especially proud of our members that have Royal Navy backgrounds.

They bring a wealth of experience to our organisation and make up the rich tapestry of our membership both with a maritime and non-maritime history.

Two of our Northumbria Unit members served in the Royal Navy. John (left) and George (right) both served as radio operators. We salute you both.



Back Afloat in Northumbria

MVS Northumbria have resumed their activities on the region's rivers and are looking for new volunteers to join them.

Head of Unit, Angela Carrington was delighted that the unit was once again physically able to meet for scheduled training for the first time after 14 months of virtual training via Zoom. "It's fantastic to see everyone down at the Marina and we have a lot of plans for the summer season including training exercises and regular patrols on the Tyne. We also have a few of our members about to undergo their powerboat qualifications which will strengthen up our skills base," she said.



The newest member of the team is Chris Bullock from Darlington who is looking to add to his existing nautical qualifications. "The MVS has a structured training programme that will give me a lot of theory and practical experience. It's a great thing to do – volunteering for a good cause and giving me new skills too," he said.

More Waste Recovery for MVS East Sussex

Members of the East Sussex unit of the Maritime Volunteer Service have carried out their first operation of the year to transport 30 large builders' bags full of plastic debris from inaccessible rocks below Beachy Head to Sovereign Harbour for proper disposal. The plastic rubbish was taken aboard East Sussex 1 and after being landed at Sovereign Harbour, was taken away for disposal the next day.



The plastic had been washed up by the sea over the last 40 or more years and built up in layers, despoiling this beautiful stretch of coastline and putting wildlife at risk. In August and September last year East Sussex 1 took some five tons of plastic away for disposal ashore.

The head of unit, Greg Darby, said: "We are very happy to continue to support this very important project.

I am proud of the excellent seamanship skills and teamwork shown by our crew and of the support of the whole unit during the clear-up operation. I'm also happy to say that we're expecting to resume our youth group

programme shortly, both taking youngsters and their leaders out on East Sussex 1 and also providing them with small boat training in the harbour."

New Head of Unit at Portsmouth



Martyn Sharp who has become the Deputy Chief Volunteer Officer of the MVS has handed over the Head of Unit position at Portsmouth to John Moat.

It happened at the Portsmouth 2021 AGM which was held within Covid regulations.

John becomes the new Head of the City of Portsmouth Unit with Paul Marlow (RVO Thames) remaining the Deputy Head.

New Book from MVS Children's Author warns of River Danger

MVS member and children's author, Sarah Ebarhart has launched her new book 'Blue Light' to highlight the dangers of children swimming in the river.

Sarah, who is a member of the Kingston Unit has used her experiences to provide inspiration for the book which is centred on the adventures of the boat 'Blue Light' and its crew.

The book has been launched to coincide with National Drowning Prevention Week and is aimed at children around age 6-7 years old.

Sarah said, "I am keen to get across the message that the volunteers are approachable and aim to keep everyone safe whilst on and around the water."

Steve Collins, Head of Kingston MVS said: "The Kingston Unit is there to provide 'eyes along the river' and to be a calming and visible influence along the Kingston stretch of the River Thames."



As well as selling the books through Amazon, copies are being donated to primary schools in Kingston-upon-Thames to help raise awareness of the potential dangers of the river.

Patron

HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO KStJ

MVS Council

David Hughes: Chair of Council

Martyn Sharp: Vice Chair

Les Miller

John Spencer-Barnes

Jordan Meade

Graham Hedley

Liz Glare

Bob Symons

David Dobson

Mark Dustin

Alex Nunns

Angela Carrington

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National Officers



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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



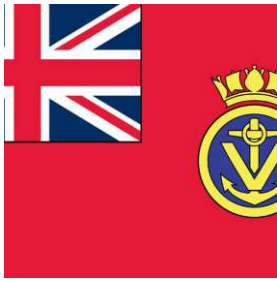
National MVS PR Officer
Keith Newman



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



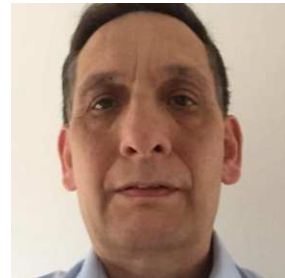
National MVS Fleet Manager

Oliver Chasteauneuf



Medical Officer

Dt. Nigel Garbut



National Specialist Officer - Pollution Control

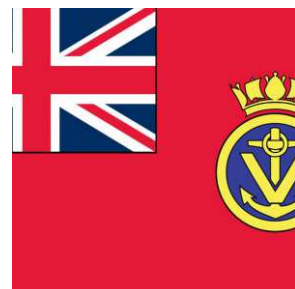
John Allam

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

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