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The Maritime Volunteer

The Journal of the Maritime Volunteer Service

The Maritime Volunteer Service
offers congratulations to
Her Majesty The Queen
on reaching her Platinum Jubilee.

www.mvs.org.uk

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

A Message from the Chair



In common with the entire country MVS Units are getting ready to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and, on the 4th June, our first national MVS Day.

The way they are doing that, I know, varies from place to place. Humber and Fleetwood Units are providing essential safety support to a major event on the Humber.

On the Tyne our Unit has been instrumental in organising what promises to be a spectacular parade of vessels on the river.

Off Eastbourne our National training vessel East Sussex 1 is scheduled to support the RNLI lifeboat by providing safety cover for a sail past by large number of small craft of all types (weather permitting - fingers crossed).

Elsewhere Units are taking part in many different events, all responding to local needs which is a hallmark of our charity.

This weekend pretty much kicks off our first post-covid boating season. I know all of our Units have ambitious plans for this summer. I wish everybody happy and safe sailing.

David Hughes

MVS Chair

Tewkesbury Big Weekend

For the first time in four years the Tewkesbury Big Weekend took place and many people thronged the town and the riverside.

It was a very popular Community event which was also part of the Jubilee Celebrations.

The Severn Unit primarily had responsibility for safety on the river during the weekend and this year was called into action five times to give assistance to boats.

The Unit also had to rescue a crew of five from a sinking Katakana which started to take on water as it passed the finishing line after coming first in the racing.

All crew members were safely taken off the craft into the MVS Rigiflex safety boat which was on hand and then towed the stricken boat to the quay. HOU Nic Price said, "Everyone played their part to the full, from manning the comms, the first aid post, maintaining safety patrols, leading the procession of boats, running our recruitment stand and the duck race.

It was all carried out with the professionalism that we train regularly to achieve. I consider this to be Severn Unit's most successful deployment to date."



Northumbria Unit has welcomed a new Head of Unit onboard

The Northumbria Unit has welcomed a new Head of Unit onboard.



Accountant Jennifer Mitchelson is taking over the helm from Angela Carrington who has built up the unit's good reputation within the maritime community during the last seven years.

Jennifer originally volunteered her services to the unit helping to keep their financial accounts in order but very soon, she decided to don her lifejacket and learn the ropes as an active operational member of the team.

In her day job, Jennifer is the Interim Head of Finance with NCG-London, one of the largest national training and college groups in the UK, of which Newcastle College is a part.

"The whole unit are very grateful to Newcastle College as they not only let us use their teaching facilities, but they have kindly let us store one of our small vessels over the winter in their facilities at Wallsend," she said. "We'd particularly like to thank Principal Scott Bullock for the help he has given to the Unit and the support he has given to me".

As a thank you for her sterling service to the unit, outgoing Head of Unit was presented with a brass ship's clock and barometer by the members.

Sea Survival Training for East Sussex Unit

Members of the East Sussex Unit have successfully taken a sea survival course involving classroom and practical training.

Senior Unit member, and Royal Yachting Association instructor, Les Quilty, supported by three other experienced members, ran the course for eight candidates, some as a refresher but most for the first time.

Elaine Bowdery described the practical session in Eastbourne's Sovereign Leisure Centre Pool as really thought provoking and physically demanding.

"Hopefully we won't ever have to use the skills we learnt during the two sessions, but it's a comfort to think that we'll know what to do and won't panic should we ever have to abandon ship."

The head of the unit, Greg Darby, said: "It's important that our crew members are proficient in sea survival skills.

We are fortunate in having such an expert instructor as Les in the unit."



Fundraising in Fleetwood and Putney

The Fleetwood Unit has been raising funds at the Affinity Outlet Shopping Centre which is close to the harbour in the Lancashire town.

The shopping centre made the unit welcome and supported them through the day.

Despite the cold and drizzly weather, the day was very busy with many shoppers asking about the MVS while they donated.

As it was close to Christmas members of the unit shared their home baked mince pies whilst talking to shoppers as well as offering a lucky dip for children.

Tom Hale, the unit's RHIB proved a popular attraction with both adults and children and many youngsters were thrilled to sit inside.



A significant proportion of the money raised will be used to maintain the vessel.

MVS Putney has raised over £500 after putting on a display outside St Mary's Church which is sited next to Putney Bridge.



The event was planned to coincide with the Fulham vs Blackpool football match which took place nearby at Craven Cottage.

The day enabled the team to meet the public and to talk about the work of the MVS.

Many donations were made from fans attending the game and other local people.

Duncan Thomsen, George Mellett, Phil Morgan-Anstee and Michelle Akintoye represented the MVS.

Putney Unit at Twickenham

MVS Putney Unit has been to Twickenham to raise funds at the Army / Navy rugby game.

This was the first match since lockdown, the last being held in 2019.

The unit raised £820 in donations from the crowd which will be used to buy depth gauges and chargeplotters.

In attendance for the MVS were HoU Duncan Thomsen, Phil Morgan Anstee, George Mellett, Chris Dawson and Michelle Akintoye.

The crowd were friendly and the unit enjoyed talking to many current and ex-service personnel from a variety of different regiments and services.



The weather was hot and the army won by one point in the last minute of the game.

Severn Unit play a part in the Tewkesbury "Stitch Story"

Severn Unit is proud to be part of the Tewkesbury "Stitch Story" which is an ambitious new scheme which brought together over 8,000 local residents for a community embroidery project.



Head of Unit Nic Price said, "It was commissioned to give people the opportunity to share their Tewkesbury stories and leave a message in stitches for generations to come.

We were delighted when two local people not associated with the Unit recognised the importance of the MVS to the town and embroidered the National logo and a picture of our training boat Minerva on this tapestry for us."

The finished tapestry which is over eight metres in length will be completed for the

Tewkesbury Big Weekend on 21st and 22nd May and will be available for viewing in the George Watson Memorial Hall.

National MVS Day

What will you and your Unit be doing to support the first National MVS Day?

Since its formation almost three decades ago the MVS has grown and developed into a well-respected charity with a focus on nautical training and community service.

Therefore, to honour Her Majesty the Queen on June 4th this year and thereafter on the first Saturday in June annually, it is proposed that there will be a National MVS Day.

We would like to encourage all units to get involved and help promote the MVS in our local communities by hosting an event, activity or open day which showcases the important work the MVS does.

The Northumbria Unit are organising a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Parade of Sail.

On Saturday 4th June the unit will lead a small procession of vessels along the River Tyne to the Millennium Bridge.

The parade will start at 5pm.

So, what will you do?

The following suggestions might help.

Open Day, to allow public visits to our unit or vessels.

Launch a new project, i.e., environmental, community initiative.

Hold a Parade of Sail on the rivers/waterways in your area.

Demonstrations of nautical skills on the water and/or ashore.

Present long service medals to those qualifying and invite local press along.

Invite TV or radio crew for a voyage down your local river or waterway.

Volunteer to check seaworthiness of lifejackets to local boaters in your area or marina.

Share and celebrate your oldest and youngest members with the media.

Decorate MVS vessels in marinas with bunting/flags.

These types of events can assist us to gain national exposure by simply taking a few good photographs of your event and sending to the National Communication team on the same day, with a short explanation of the activity undertaken for our inaugural MVS day.

This is a national event that we can build upon in years to come with a positive display to our communities of the work we carry out across the UK.

So please have a think about what you could be doing for the first national MVS day.



Patron

HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO KStJ

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Martyn Sharp: Vice Chair

Les Miller

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Graham Hedley

Liz Glare

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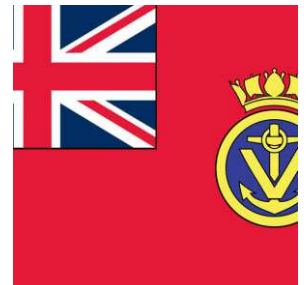
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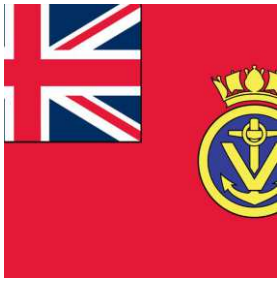
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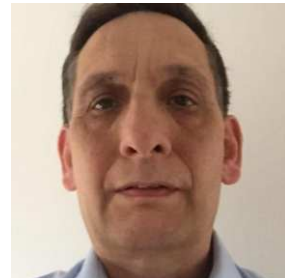
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Oliver Chasteauneuf



Medical Officer

Dt. Nigel Garbut



National Specialist Officer - Pollution Control

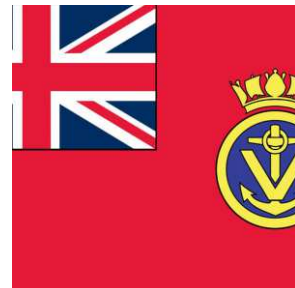
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Regional Volunteer Officers



RVO South (E)

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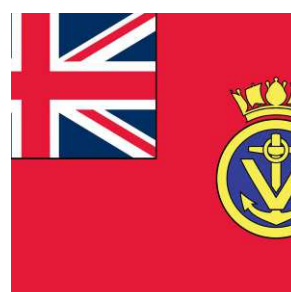
RVO NW England & N Wales

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](#)

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