

THE MAGAZINE FOR MSSC SUPPORTERS

SEAFARER^{NEWS}

Summer 2023

ms-sc.org

HIGH AND RISING

Learn how weather and sea conditions are created and forecast with our new meteorology course

FUTURE READY

Our new strategy will steer how we support seafarers and young people

A ROYAL VISIT

Our new National Support Centre has been officially opened

WELCOME & CONTENTS

Welcome to your summer issue of *Seafarer News*. At the time of writing we're enjoying fine weather, but at sea it's vital to know how to avoid a gathering storm, so we've added a course on meteorology to our offering. Meanwhile, we have launched a new strategy that will help us to be 'future ready', and sea cadets have celebrated The King's Coronation by showcasing the benefits of volunteering. As always, please share your feedback: seafarernews@ms-sc.org

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Coming Ashore becomes a podcast, and we round up what financial support we offer seafarers through our bursary schemes.

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Our young people have been championing the merits of volunteering for The Big Help Out, and we reveal the winners of the Peregrine Trophy.

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We have added a new course to our Learn@Sea suite, offering aspiring, current or former seafarers knowledge and qualifications in meteorology.

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CEO Martin Coles CBE explains how our new five-year strategy will help prepare our charity, seafarers and sea cadets for whatever the future holds.

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A seafarer and a sea cadet reflect on the importance of teamwork at sea, where working together is crucial.



MSSC

MARINE SOCIETY & SEA CADETS

Published by MSSC

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ms-sc.org
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Marine Society and Sea Cadets
is a registered charity:
England and Wales 313013
Scotland SCO37808

Seafarer News is edited and
designed by Our Media



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MSSC NEWS

Celebrating our new National Support Centre



There was cause for celebration and a special appearance at the official opening of our National Support Centre in April. As well as providing a base for our employees to raise the funds and develop the programmes that support seafarers and young people, our centre offers space for training and development activities. The NSC opened for employees in September 2021, but Covid-19 regulations made it impossible to hold an official opening ceremony.

We were honoured that HRH The Princess Royal performed the ceremonial duties in her capacity as Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps, meeting with MSSC Chair Jeremy Penn and Captain Sea Cadets, Captain Neil Downing, before being given a tour of the building by CEO Martin Coles CBE. Her Royal Highness later took part in a London Area Cadet Voice forum of 12 cadets aged 10 to 17, who were delighted by the encouragement their ideas received from their Admiral.

After unveiling a commemorative plaque, and displaying some fine swordswomanship to cut the ceremonial cake, The Princess Royal joined cadets outside for a piping demonstration.

MARINE SOCIETY NEWS



Coming Ashore welcomes new mentor

To help those planning to come ashore, as well as maritime employers, learn more about our Coming Ashore programme, we launched a podcast about it in 2021. The latest episode focuses on the most recent addition to the mentoring team, Donal Keaney.

Donal had to use a trial-and-error approach to explore a new career, due to a lack of guidance. "I went to sea at 18 and got a cadetship with Maersk," says Donal. "After seven years I left them as a Second Officer, after sailing on gas carriers and container ships," he says. He went on to work for several ferry companies and make many more career changes.

Now an experienced shoreside professional, Donal is the ideal case study for why the mentoring scheme is such a great initiative, as he had nowhere to turn for advice. "Seafarers are quite far removed from the shoreside sector and, unless you live in one of the main shipping hubs, it can be quite difficult," he explains. With a career spanning decades, and multiple sectors at sea and on shore, Donal feels he has a lot to offer in his new role as a Coming Ashore mentor. "I can offer my experience. I can point people in the right direction and make them aware of potentially wrong directions in terms of their careers," he says.

To listen to the Coming Ashore podcast, go to Spotify, Apple Podcasts or Google Podcasts to see all the available episodes.

What our bursaries offer seafarers

Marine Society is now a multi-faceted source for seafarers seeking specialist careers guidance, financial assistance and educational resources.

However, seafarers are sometimes unsure what best suits their needs and what support they are eligible for. The charity has four scholarships and bursaries that accept applications all year round. Each has a differing purpose and criteria, to best support seafarers' varying needs. This enables us to help the widest cross section of seafarers at whatever stage in their career they find themselves needing assistance.



Green Skills Bursary

Supports seafarers to gain qualifications for the offshore and renewables sector. We offer up to £500 per recipient to help them move into or remain within this sector. Recipient Jarrod Welton said: "The bursary helped me get my foot in the door and now I will be able to gain valuable experience and further opportunities."

The John William Slater Scholarship

Funded by Nautilus International, this aims to help ratings to study for their first Officer of the Watch (deck or engine) certificate of competency, and can also help Electro-Technical Officers, yacht, workboat and tug crew gain STCW certification, with a maximum of £18,500 available.

The Hanway Scholarship

To help seafarers with the cost of funding essential STCW qualifications, enabling them to continue to work at sea where there is no support from an employer, or to contribute towards continuing professional development. Marine Society offers a maximum award of £500 per recipient.

The Worcester Scholarship

Aimed at officers and maritime professionals who wish to take academic qualifications, such as a bachelor's or master's degree, or for advanced professional qualifications, where the recipient is overqualified for a Slater Scholarship. A maximum of £750 is available, depending on the qualification.

SEA CADETS NEWS

Cadets break a world record!



Cadets in Greenwich

The launch of The Big Help Out on 8 May proved to be a fantastic way for Sea Cadets to encourage volunteering. As the royal family's chosen theme for the special bank holiday, this was also the perfect opportunity to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III.

Sea Cadets kicked things off with a national challenge, for cadets across the country to play 'Call The Hands' on the boatswain's call at exactly the same time. In Greenwich, more than 300 cadets and volunteers assembled on the lawns of the National Maritime Museum to take part, setting a new world record.

Other cadets around the UK also got involved, as the call to action was simultaneously replicated by hundreds more cadets at dozens of units. They also kicked off a number of initiatives to promote volunteering by organising litter picks, open days and activity demonstrations that will continue through the summer and show the public what volunteering for Sea Cadets is all about.

Thanks to The Big Help Out, and the enthusiasm of so many units across the country, Sea Cadets has become a brilliant new volunteering option for hundreds of people.



Fraserburgh Sea Cadets

Capturing the Sea Cadets Experience

The winners have been announced for Royal Navy's annual photographic competition, the Peregrine Trophy. The winner of the Sea Cadet Amateur Photographer of the Year, under 18, is Ordinary Cadet Lydia of Torpoint Unit, while the winner of the Sea Cadet Amateur Photographer of the Year, over 18, is David Pickles, Chair of the Unit Management Team at Rushden Unit.

We received over 80 submissions across the two SCC categories. An awards ceremony will be held at the Royal Navy Museum in Portsmouth during the summer, with the winners invited to attend with their CO.

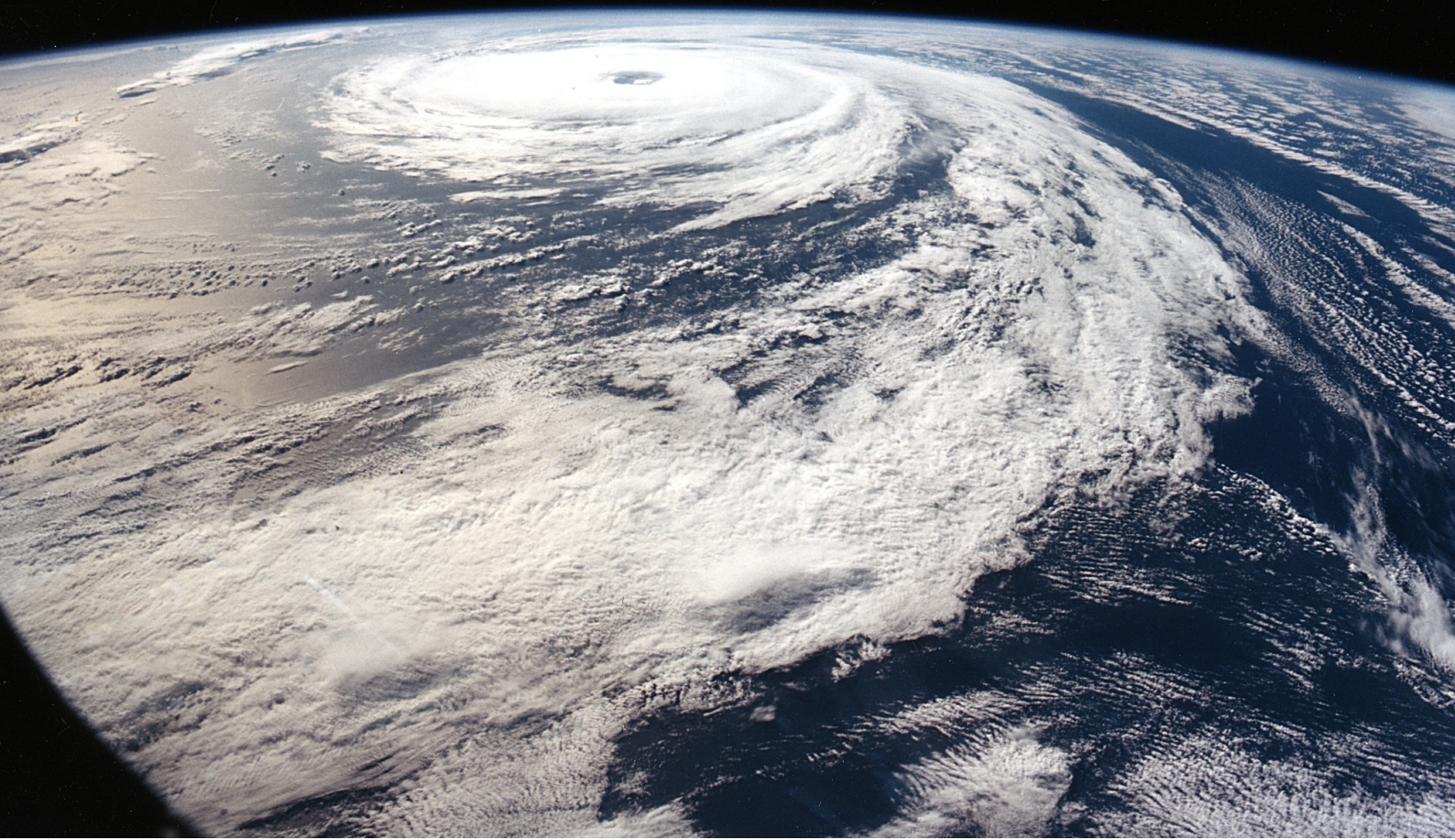
Lydia says: "I took this photo at the Trafalgar Day Parade 2022 of the PT squad getting ready for the parade. The bandies have put their instruments down for a break."



David says: "A photograph of me seal launching into the River Nene in a kayak in June 2022, during a river journey with Rushden Sea Cadets. It was taken using a camera mounted on the bow of my kayak as it entered the water."

WEATHER DEPENDENT

Vessels at sea are entirely at the mercy of the elements. With our new meteorology course, seafarers can gain valuable knowledge to help prepare for the most treacherous of conditions while on board



As we come into the summer with thoughts of regattas, boat races and other outdoor events, there is one thing we can be sure of and that is how unpredictable the British weather can be. While a rained-off regatta or soggy barbecue is a disappointment, the consequences of being unprepared for bad weather at sea can be much more severe.

Therefore, being able to understand weather forecasts and weather patterns is vital, both

for safety at sea and being able to plan for the enjoyment of activities out on the water.

Our new course, Meteorology@Sea, is designed for professional mariners, to help candidates meet the level of meteorological knowledge required when sitting their UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency oral exam at various levels.

It is also suitable for young, aspiring seafarers and anyone who simply wants to learn more about the weather and how it works. Those taking the course can choose to focus on the basic principles

of weather, or opt to delve deeper into a more detailed, scientific explanation for a particular aspect of meteorology, such as atmospheric lapse rates.

The course uses clear text divided into a sequence of steps to help the reader understand what they are learning, supported with clear images and terminology, comprehensively explained. It will teach the science behind how our weather forms, the concept of cloud projection and how air rises through heat.

People have so many questions when it comes to the weather and its unpredictable nature. Why is the weather sometimes completely different from the forecast? How can we predict the timing and type of rain shower we are likely to get? Where should we get information about the weather, and what do the forecasters mean? How big are the waves when the sea state is described as 'slight'?

The course will help to answer questions like this and much more. We still can't guarantee what the weather is going to do, though – best to take a sou'wester, just in case.

If you are interested in purchasing the course or finding out more about the whole Learn@Sea suite, please go to marine-society.org/learnatsea.

Meteorology@Sea focuses on eight key areas that will help participants obtain a well-rounded knowledge of the weather:

- 1 How and why air moves in the atmosphere and how this causes cloud formation and precipitation.
- 2 How the circulation of air on a variety of scales causes local, regional and global weather patterns.
- 3 How pressure systems in temperate regions are formed and what weather they bring.
- 4 The formation of tropical storms and how they can be detected and avoided at sea.
- 5 The various weather forecasts available to seafarers.
- 6 The care and use of meteorological instruments often carried onboard.
- 7 Causes of the various types of fog and how it can be predicted.
- 8 How ice accretion forms and the impact this has on vessels.

Sea breezes

Often referred to as 'onshore breezes', sea breezes are common in many parts of the world, especially in summer. As the sun rises it begins heating up both the land and the sea, but the land warms much more quickly than the sea does.

The air just above is heated from below and expands. It therefore becomes lighter than the surrounding air and rises, creating an area of low pressure over the land.

This area of low pressure draws in air between land and sea, and

this movement creates the sea breeze.

Sea breezes often get stronger throughout the day until the warmest time, when land reaches its maximum temperature, before fading away towards the evening when the sun sets.



MAKING OUR CHARITY 'FUTURE READY'



Following April's launch of MSSC's ambitious Future Ready Strategic Plan, CEO **Martin Coles CBE** tells us how it will support the organisation's growth and ensure its long-term relevance

Charting our course to 2028, the Future Ready strategy is about equipping our young people and seafarers for a world of rapid change. It builds on the past two years by developing the Regeneration strategy's blended approach of in-person and online education – allowing us to provide the flexibility of learning, training and support that is so vital to our future success.

The strategy focuses on three key themes that will guide our progress. Firstly, we're looking to enhance **Our Offer**, for our existing beneficiaries and for the thousands who aspire to become the sea cadets and maritime professionals of the future.



Helping seafarers

For seafarers, this means increasing the take-up of our expanded apprenticeships programme (pictured above), while broadening our curriculum with courses on the most relevant new areas. Maritime professionals will have a wider choice of virtual learning options, and access to tailored careers advice and information through an improved website.

Meanwhile, our maritime partnerships will help us recruit more mentors and develop additional

opportunities for industry placements, including for our Coming Ashore programme.

Supporting young people

Our offer to sea cadets means more engaging training and activities; more accessible support on mental health and wellbeing; and more power to shape their own experience. We will also go further to promote maritime careers – a subject addressed by Petty Officer Cadet Joseph in his speech to the House of Lords at the strategy launch.

"It's great to know that Marine Society will be developing a Sea Cadets careers portal," said Joseph. "The strategy also delivers careers webinars and maritime careers fairs for cadets, and I'm pleased to see the expansion of the maritime and naval acquaintances courses." We will also modernise training to further reflect today's Royal Navy, with more opportunities to experience life in the service.

The second strategic theme, **Our People**, sets out how our volunteers and employees will be helped to support our beneficiaries, through investment in training and mentoring, as well as continuing to develop a welcoming culture. The latter point is at the heart of the third strategic theme, **Inclusion & Growth**, which will see equity, diversity and inclusion training embedded across the organisation. We will create new sections and units to tackle Sea Cadets waiting lists, while growing our outreach programmes to engage hard-to-reach groups.

All three themes will be underpinned by investment in the enablers needed to deliver them, including new training facilities and equipment. With so much demand for what MSSC provides, the strategy will help to maximise opportunities for all young people and aspiring seafarers – allowing them to reach their potential, whatever the future brings. Find out more at: ms-sc.org/vision-and-strategy.

WORKING TOGETHER

There are few places where teamwork is more crucial than at sea. A seafarer and a cadet reflect on their experiences on board and at a prominent event

THE SEAFARER VIEW: “EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BECAME KEY AS WE SYNCHRONISED OUR ACTIONS”



**Chief Officer/DPO
Spencer Wyles**

In the fast-paced world of the merchant navy, teamwork is the backbone of our operations. As the Chief Officer responsible for training cadets, I have personally witnessed the incredible power that collaboration brings to our work.

One memorable example of this was a drill to rescue someone from an enclosed space, which could quickly become life-threatening.

During the drill, the cadets displayed some crucial skills, such as rescue techniques, communication protocols, and the use of breathing apparatus. They sprang into action, displaying unwavering determination. One cadet stepped up as the leader to rescue our

life-sized and weighted training dummy, setting the stage for a simulated rescue operation. Effective communication became key as we synchronised our actions.

In the face of the challenge, the cadets and Able Bodied Seamen showcased remarkable teamwork, executing the rescue operation with precision and confidence. Their ability to remain calm under pressure and adapt to the situation was truly commendable. We successfully freed the trapped training dummy, achieving success through our collective efforts.

This experience served as a powerful reminder of the essential role teamwork plays in our line of work, in case this drill ever becomes a reality. It's one of countless examples I have encountered during my 15 years at sea, and it is a testament to the remarkable experiences we encounter on each voyage.

THE CADET VIEW: “I COULD SEE THE TEAMWORK REQUIRED TO BE INVOLVED IN A LANDMARK OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS”



**OC Sadie,
Southwark Unit**

Within Sea Cadets I have taken part in many team events such as Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, sailing our flagship TS Royalist, Remembrance Day parades, various competitions and, recently, the King's Coronation.

The place I feel most part of a team is with my fellow cadets, participating in competitions. Working as part of a team at Sea Cadets makes me incredibly proud because I feel

accomplished in the person I have become. Being part of Sea Cadets is like being part of a massive family in which I can connect to the other 14,000 sea cadets in the UK.

Taking part in The King's Coronation was the pinnacle of this for me, as I could personally see all the teamwork required to be involved in a landmark opportunity like this, one which will be remembered for years to come. Sea Cadets has exposed me to the core values I can use in both my cadet career and personal life, which has helped me become a better person, one who is striving to constantly work better with others.



WE NEED YOU TO HELP TRANSFORM YOUNG LIVES!



Thousands of young people are on the waiting list to join Sea Cadets. Many thousands more would benefit enormously from the skills, teamwork and sense of adventure you could help them develop.

- **Become a volunteer:** Ensure young people can receive our support in navigating life's challenges and seizing its opportunities. Use your existing seafarer skills in a flexible volunteering role that can fit around your other commitments.
- **Become an instructor:** You could be providing life-changing learning experiences or hours of fun on the water.
- **Become a local unit trustee:** Even if you have limited time, you can help to raise vital funds and build community partnerships.

We believe that our volunteers are on the same journey of growth and development as our cadets. And you don't need to be an 'expert' or have a military background. With the backing of your local unit and the National Support Centre, you'll be able to access everything you need to thrive in your chosen role – from advice and training to recognised qualifications.

If you want to boost your CV while improving the lives of young people near you, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact your local unit or fill in our online form at sea-cadets.org/volunteer

The best thing about being a Sea Cadets volunteer is...

"Instructing powerboating and participating in events, camps and offshore voyages."
ROSYTH VOLUNTEER

"Supporting young people with different needs and backgrounds."
CROYDON VOLUNTEER

"Meeting new people, being part of a community and having fun. And the sense of pride when you help cadets achieve a challenging goal."
PORTSMOUTH VOLUNTEER