



LIVERPOOL
Shipwreck & Humane Society

BEYOND BRAVERY

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Awarding Bravery

The Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society (LS&HS) meets every quarter to review the nominations received by the Society and agree on the appropriate award for each submission.

An astounding 20 awards were granted at our last committee meeting, including 11 individual letters of commendation and a group certificate.

11 Individual Letters of Commendation

1 Group Life Saving Certificate

6 Resuscitation Certificates

2 Parchments

Liverpool is blessed to be a city filled with incredible people, and our Awards Committee have the honour of hearing the stories of the city's everyday heroes who go over and above to help others in need.

Well done and thank you to all of those involved in these life saving events.





Isle of Man Ship Registry Honoured with MV Derbyshire Award for Maritime Safety Excellence

The Isle of Man Ship Registry has been awarded the prestigious MV Derbyshire Award by the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society, recognising four decades of outstanding commitment to maritime safety, innovation, and seafarer welfare.

The MV Derbyshire Award, named in memory of the largest British ship ever lost at sea and its 44 crew members during Typhoon Orchid in 1980, celebrates individuals and organisations who exemplify the highest standards in maritime safety, research, and advocacy. The award transforms tragedy into purpose, honouring those who refuse to accept "good enough" when lives depend on excellence.

"This award is a profound honour that recognises not just our achievements, but the dedication of our entire team to the safety and welfare of seafarers worldwide," said Cameron Mitchell, Director of the Isle of Man Ship Registry. "As a former seafarer myself, I understand the challenges faced by those at sea. This recognition reinforces our commitment to ensuring that every person who serves on an Isle of Man-flagged vessel returns home safely."





Four Decades of Maritime Leadership

Since its establishment in 1984, the Isle of Man Ship Registry has evolved into one of the world's most respected flag States, representing more than a third of tonnage under the Red Ensign. As a Category 1 member of the Red Ensign Group, the Registry has consistently demonstrated leadership through ground-breaking safety initiatives:

Pioneering Seafarer Welfare: In 2021, the Registry became the first flag State globally to launch a dedicated seafarer welfare app, "Crew Matters," providing structured support to approximately 10,000 seafarers across more than 400 vessels. The app includes mental health resources, fitness programmes, and a critical SOS function for immediate assistance.

Environmental Safety Leadership: The Registry became the first flag State to join the Getting to Zero Coalition and introduced the innovative Green Fee scheme, offering 15% reduced registration fees for vessels deploying green technologies—demonstrating that environmental sustainability and maritime safety are inseparable.

International Recognition: The Registry's commitment to excellence has earned it recognition as Best Global Ship Registry in 2019 and 2020, placement on the Paris MoU white list, and ISO 14001 certification.



A Living Legacy

"The Isle of Man Ship Registry exemplifies everything the MV Derbyshire Award was created to recognise," said Chris Riley, Chairman, the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society. "Their unwavering commitment to safety, pioneering approach to seafarer welfare, and innovative leadership in environmental sustainability demonstrate that they truly understand what it means to protect lives at sea."

Looking Forward

As the Registry celebrates this recognition alongside its 40th anniversary milestone, it remains focused on its mission to drive continuous improvement in maritime safety standards.

"This award belongs to every seafarer who trusts the Red Ensign, every ship owner who chooses quality over convenience, and every member of our team who works tirelessly to maintain the highest standards," added Mitchell. "The memory of the MV Derbyshire and all those lost at sea reminds us why our work matters. We accept this honour with humility and renewed determination."



Meet the Trustee

Sue Henney

The second board member in our Meet the Trustee series, is Vice-Chair of the Liverpool Shipwreck & Humane Society, Sue Henney. Sue brings more than 25 years of experience in maritime marketing to the role and is passionate about making conditions better for those working at sea and driving change for safety at ports, waterways and beaches.



Why did you become a Trustee?

I've spent my entire career in the maritime industry, and becoming a trustee felt like a natural and meaningful way to give something back to the maritime and local community. When I was invited to join the board, I was already familiar with the Society's longstanding reputation for recognising bravery and selflessness and I was honoured to play a role in sustaining and modernising that legacy.

What does Liverpool Shipwreck & Humane Society mean to you?

LS&HS is a unique institution, deeply rooted in Liverpool's heritage, but still absolutely relevant today. For me, it represents the best of our community: courage, community spirit, and quiet acts of heroism. It's also a testament to how we, as a city and a region, continue to honour and remember those who go out of their way to help others.

What are you responsible for as a trustee?

I serve as the Vice Chair of the Society, and I see my role as offering both strategic direction and a sounding board for new ideas. I also try to bring a marketing perspective to our work, thinking about how we present ourselves to the public and how we can raise awareness of what we do to ensure our work continues for the next generation.

Do you have a specific area of interest/expertise?

I think my strengths lie in communications, organising, networking, and strategic development. While I am involved in the broad breadth of decisions and general trustee matters, I'm particularly focused on how we can grow our profile, tell our story more effectively, and build stronger connections with other networks in Merseyside and beyond.

Is there an act of bravery that particularly stands out for you in the history of LS&HS?

There are so many powerful stories, but I tend to get drawn into the quieter, unsung acts, like ordinary people diving into the Mersey to rescue someone in trouble, often without a second thought for their own safety. There are also several fascinating award citations from the Victorian age, which really highlight how people lived back then, e.g. we distributed several awards in that period for people saving others from runaway horse and carts!

What do you think is an important focus for the future of LSHS?

Our 200th anniversary is on the horizon (relatively), which is both a huge milestone and an opportunity. We need to ensure the Society is not only preserved but renewed, growing awareness, increasing award nominations, attracting new supporters, and making our awards more visible to the public. We want people across the city and maritime world to know who we are and why we matter.

What is your role outside of LSHS?

I work for a ship inspection and intelligence business as marketing director, and have held various senior marketing roles within maritime, particularly at the intersection of shipping, safety, and digital transformation. My work has always centred on making maritime services more understandable, accessible, and valued.

Anything else you wish to share?

I feel incredibly proud to be part of this Society. It's a small charity, but the impact is real and heartfelt. It's a privilege to be able to help tell those stories and keep that tradition alive.



Get to know more of our Trustees on our website:
liverpoolshipwreckandhumanesoc.org.uk/news-page

Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society is now on Facebook!



**JOIN OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE**

facebook.com/LiverpoolShipwreckandHumaneSociety



From the Archives

Each month, Trustee Tony Jones, explores our archives to share the rescue stories of the courageous men and women who have selflessly stepped in to assist somebody in need since the formation of the society in 1839. We've shared a selection below but you can read all about our brave awards recipients on our website

1875 - Fire Rescue

Awarded to Charles Baird, compositor, for having courageously gone into a house on fire in Birchfield Street, on the night of the 18th September 1875, and, at considerable peril, having rescued a woman and one of her two children who were almost suffocated.

2008 - Marine Rescue

A Silver Marine Medal and Parchment was awarded to Michael Hammond, for his attempt to rescue a man and woman from being swept away and drowned in Blackpool. On the evening of 24th August, without regard for his own safety, Michael jumped into a very rough sea with high, powerful waves when he saw two people in trouble in the water.



2004 - Marine Rescue

Two Merseyside Police Officers received awards for having, in the full belief that persons were trapped, risked their lives attempting a rescue from a car submerged in cold and difficult seas at the tidal barrier in Leasowe, Wirral on 25th November 2004.

1895 - General Rescue

A Silver Medal to Police Constable 272 A, John McMillan, for having, at great personal risk, succeeded in stopping a pony which, attached to a trap containing a little girl, was galloping furiously down Oxford Street on the 17th of September 1895.



Support the Society

The mission of Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society - to honour bravery and encourage lifesaving - hasn't changed since the Society's formation in 1839, but we'd like more people to know about it.

We want to raise awareness of the Society and open it up to people who might be able to help take it forward.



Collaborate

We'd love to connect with people who have connections and skills they'd be willing to share. That might be helping us tell more people about what we do, supporting our work in schools and the community, helping with admin, or even just spreading the word.



Nominate

We rely on nominations, and we know there are still so many acts of bravery that go unnoticed and maritime safety innovations that should be recognised. We'd love to hear from anyone who knows of someone deserving of an award - get in touch or [complete the nomination form on our website](#).



Follow and Share

[Join us on LinkedIn](#) and follow on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news, award announcements and maritime safety updates. Share our posts with colleagues and friends and [sign up to our newsletter](#).

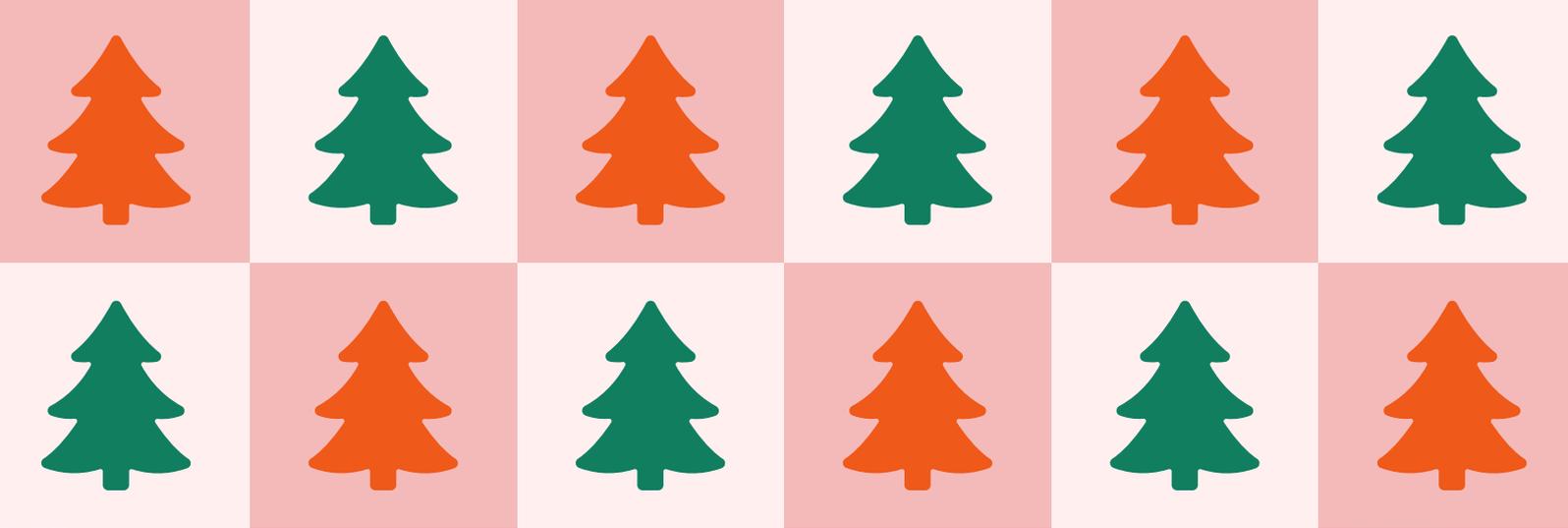
If you'd like to chat about how you could help, or have a story you think we should hear, we'd really love to hear from you.

Email: secretary@liverpoolshipwreckandhumanesoc.org

Visit our website: liverpoolshipwreckandhumanesoc.org.uk

[Subscribe to our Newsletter](#)





*From everyone at
Liverpool Shipwreck & Humane Society*

Merry Christmas & Best Wishes for 2026

Thank You for your support

STAY SAFE THIS FESTIVE SEASON



#BEAMATE DON'T DRINK AND DROWN

Encourage family and friends to look out for each other and avoid dangerous routes by water on the way home.

Check out the Royal Life Saving Society UK Don't Drink and Drown campaign



DON'T LET FIRE RUIN THE CHRISTMAS CHEER

Fairy lights, candles and decorations means it is also a time to take extra care to keep our loved ones safe from fire.

Check your smoke alarms before the festive fun begins



TAKE CARE ON THE COAST THIS CHRISTMAS

If you are enjoying a festive walk at one of our regions beautiful beaches and you do get caught in the mud, or spot somebody in trouble.

Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

WWW.LIVERPOOLSHIPWRECKANDHUMANESOC.ORG.UK

