

## How you can help?

The Mission is trying to raise the profile in this region and we do need your support!

We are always looking for willing volunteers! *Could you help with organising some fundraising events like holding a coffee morning or an afternoon tea?*

Are you in a church? Then perhaps you could be our Parish Church link! This position would not be strenuous! It would involve passing on the newsletter to interested people. Perhaps getting people together for a coffee morning. Collecting some knitted hats and passing them on to the Chaplain.

Each year we need to raise around £30,000 to keep the work of the Mission in this region going! We are a global but local organisation whatever we raise locally goes to support the seafarers in this region!

If you like this newsletter or would like to make a contribution to the ongoing work of the Mission then please send us a cheque to 'The Mission to Seafarers' and send it to The Chaplain. The Mission to Seafarers, 12/14 Queens Terrace. Southampton. SO14 3BP.

Alternatively you could pay something into our bank account "The Mission to Seafarers" Sort code 20-79-25 and account number 40639117

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# The Mission to Seafarers

Caring for seafarers around the world

March 2015

**Welcome** to our second edition of the Mission to Seafarers Newsletter for the South Coast region ... This newsletter will hopefully give you an insight of what we do and how we do it.... it will also tell some stories of the people we have involved locally, whether that is committee members, volunteers, ship visitors and other people in the maritime community! We hope you enjoy this newsletter and the news and information that is in it...



### Support when support is needed!

Only a few weeks ago I visited a ship called the M/V Socratis. She was loading scrap metal to be taken to Turkey. When I visited the crew on Sunday afternoon I got the feeling that they were not so happy. I decided to stay on board a while and see what would happen. It did not take long before some of the crew members complained of not having any money. They said the Captain is refusing to hand over their hard earned salary! I decided to speak with the Greek Captain. It was a very loud and animated conversation from his side! But I explained to him that it was the crews right to be given cash advances if they have earned it!

Two hours later the crew called me to say that the Captain had given all of the crew their money and they were very happy indeed! The following day the centre manager and I took the crew out on a shopping trip and to the seafarers centre! They all enjoyed their time in Southampton with thanks to the Mission!



## Hoegh Osaka

In our first edition of the newsletter we told you about the work that the Mission had done with the crew from the Hoegh Osaka.

Over the following days and weeks I went to see the crew members every day while in the Hotel. It was a very busy time for all the crew members as the Maritime Investigation Bureau were questioning all of the crew members. There were company representatives, lawyers, salvage experts and insurance officials all wanting answers and information. However all of these people agreed that the Mission did need to be there in the middle of it all.

We arranged some time out for the crew. We even arranged a curry night at the Seafarer's centre where they could play pool and just relax. One of the most interesting things I arranged was to take two of the seafarers to the Hillier Gardens. They said that it was a wonderful day out and thanked me for getting them out of the hotel for the day.

After one week, half of the crew returned home, but the other half of the crew stayed in the hotel until the ship was 'righted' They went back on board to get the ship ready to be sailed back into the port whereby the cargo could be taken off the ship and repairs could begin.



The crew of the Hoegh Osaka pictured with John Attenborough before they half of them went home.

## Thank you!

It does not take much to make seafarers happy! A smile, a newspaper and an internet connection to name a few things! Being in contact with home can make all the difference! There are of course some ships that do offer the crew free internet access but these ships are not so common and just recently I have visited ships that used to offer the crew free Internet access but they have recently withdrawn it due to escalating costs! The seafarers, like ourselves, need contact with their families and that is where the Mission can make a positive difference! We can provide low cost and free internet access in most cases!



## Mr Hoegh of Hoegh Autoliners says Thank you!

The Head of Hoegh Autoliners who chartered the Hoegh Osaka came to Southampton. Mr. Hoegh wanted to say Thank You for all the hard work and effort the Mission put in with the crew after the ship ran aground! It was wonderful to spend these moments with him!

Pictured from left to right: Roger Stone (AoS) Steven Hulbert (Centre Manager), Mr. Hoegh and John Attenborough (The Mission to Seafarers)



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