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working together for UK maritime skills development

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Maritime Skills Alliance Newsletter

July 2017

Greetings!

There's no shortage of young people who want a career in the maritime sector, and we start this month in Stornoway, where the islands' Council is pioneering a new qualification which will give schoolchildren a good start in the sector while still at school.

And south of the Border, apprenticeship work has taken a new turn, with a project led by Liverpool John Moores University to explore the scope for higher and degree-level apprenticeships.

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COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Creating a new maritime qualification for schools in Scotland

The Scottish Qualifications Authority has approved an application by Western Isles Council (formally Comhairle nan Eilean Siar) to create a new maritime qualification for schools.

The Council knows that there are many young people in the islands, and beyond, who want to go into the maritime sector, and the qualification will enable them to get a headstart while still at

International Jack Up
Barge Operators'
Association

International Association of
Maritime Institutions

Maritime and Coastguard
Agency

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Yachting Association

National Workboat
Association

Port Skills and Safety

Royal National Lifeboat
Institution

Royal Navy

Royal Yachting
Association

Seafarers UK

Sea Fish Industry
Authority

Thames Skills Academy

school.

The working group - chaired by MSA Secretary, Iain Mackinnon, and including local ferry company Caledonian MacBrayne, Scottish Salmon Fisheries, and sea fishing interests, as well as local schools and colleges from across the highlands and islands - has created a first draft of the shape of the qualification. If agreed, it will include:

- the 4 basic safety certificates
- the MSA's 'Maritime Sector Overview' unit
- the MSA's "Vessel Rope Work, Anchoring, and Mooring Activities" Unit
- RYA Powerboat 2
- a VHF certificate

In other words, a good range of practical boat-handling skills, plus basic safety, and other valuable foundation knowledge.

The qualification would be at Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework Level 5, and be available across Scotland. It should be available for first teaching from August 2018.



New project to create higher level apprenticeships

Liverpool John Moores University has won some project funding from the European Social Fund to create new Higher, and Degree-level, Apprenticeships for the maritime sector.

The Maritime SuperSkills Project, as it's called, builds on the major investment going into the sector across the Liverpool City Region - though any new apprenticeships created will obviously be designed as *national* standards, and be available across the country.

Initial research by Mersey Maritime for LJMU suggest that the first projects should be for Marine Technical Superintendents and Ship Operations Managers.

For more information, click [here](#).



Industry News

Happy Birthday to **Seafarers UK**, established as King George's Fund for Sailors 100 years ago this month. A century of fine achievements, with much more to come.

Happy Birthday, too, to the John William Slater Memorial Fund, established 40 years ago in memory of former MNAOA General Secretary, John Slater. **The Slater Fund**

gives substantial grants to ratings who wish to retrain as officers, with coverage now including superyachts, fishing, and workboats as well as the Merchant Navy. More details [here](#).

What makes a good apprenticeship experience?

Investors in People has been trying to identify what makes a good apprenticeship experience, and they've published their initial findings

- an ongoing commitment to apprentices' training and development
- a diverse approach towards apprenticeships, from recruitment through to payment policies
- consistent and dedicated support for apprentices
- clear progression routes in place for their apprentices at the start, and are transparent about them
- a good and/or well established working relationship with their training provider, where constructive communication and troubleshooting can take place throughout the apprenticeship
- a strong motivation to take on apprentices for the benefit of both the organisation's and apprentice's growth.

More [here](#).

Seafarers UK and Cornwall Rural Community Charity are jointly sponsoring a national (ie UK-wide) **Fishing Communities Survey**. Though many fishermen continue to make a very good living, decades of change have made a big difference to many fishing communities, and the purpose of the survey is to get a much better idea about what's what. More from fishing@cornwallrcc.org.uk or 01872 243559.

To keep up-to-date with what we're doing, please sign up for our newsletter - and please mail this on to others who might be interested.

Iain Mackinnon

Secretary
