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The Resolute Desk, the most famous desk in the world

created from the timbers of Arctic exploration ship HMS Resolute. The desk was a gift from Queen Victoria to America as thanks for returning the ship after it was lost in the ice. HMS Resolute was originally a merchant ship, *Ptarmigan*, built in Newcastle.

[Lloyd's Register Foundation has the full story.](#)



Maritime Skills Alliance Newsletter - September 2020



Careers will be a central feature of Maritime UK Week next month

Maritime UK Week has been organised as an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the UK's maritime sector, its role and future, and careers will feature strongly. Activities will include:

- Virtual tours of ports and ships
- A virtual career fair
- Live Q&A sessions maritime people
- 'Maritime in the 21st century' at maritime museums

The public engagement activity is being led by Lorna Wagner, Programme Manager at Maritime UK. You'll find full details [here](#).

The next **Maritime Careers Taskforce** meeting will be on 17 September. Lorna, again, is the contact.



At its second meeting on 2 September, the Maritime Skills Commission agreed the shape of its work programme, which will include:

- (at the specific request of the Minister) a review of the Cadet training programme, including the flow

of former cadets into other roles at sea and ashore

- an employer survey, picking-up the Commission's objectives to ensure that the sector has the people it needs, and the tools it needs to develop them (qualifications, apprenticeships, etc)
- a review of lessons learned during the lockdown on the use of technology in learning
- a meeting to look into the creation of a network of those who exporting the UK's maritime training expertise. MSC Commissioner and MSA Secretary [Iain Mackinnon](#) is leading that work; please make contact if he does not already know of your interest.

You can see profiles of the Commissioners, and a range of other information, on the [Commission's web page](#).



In England there are new **financial incentives for employers who hire apprentices** before 31 January 2021: for apprentices aged 16 to 24 they'll get £2,000, for those 25 or over, £1,500. Details [here](#). There's a [webinar for interested employers](#) on 14 September.

The Department for Education has revised its [guidance for apprenticeship providers on Covid-19](#) (this is now version 8), with a particular focus on re-starting after a break, with continuing promises of flexibility. They certainly mean that, so if you have problems not covered contact them and make your case.

The National Apprenticeship Service has published [advice for employers on re-starting programmes after a break](#) over the summer for Covid-19. Providers lobby group AELP (Association of Employment and Learning Providers) is asking the Government to help fund apprentices now 'out of time' on their apprenticeships because of delays to their learning resulting from the pandemic; details [here](#).

There is a new [Redundancy Support Service for Apprentices](#). So far - touch wood - we know of no maritime apprentices who have lost their jobs, but if it came to that we're confident that there would also be a lot of help on offer within the sector. Other workers have, sadly, been made redundant and there is work in hand to design appropriate re-training schemes for them. If your organisation is not involved and would like to be, please [get in touch](#).

The **Institute for Apprenticeships** has revised its proposals for how funding rates are agreed, and it is [consulting on the revised proposals](#). The MSA Board will be considering the proposals at our meeting on 22 September; on a first reading they look to be better, and acceptable.

The [National Apprenticeship Awards](#) are open for entries. Closing date 25th September.

In other news ...

The Chancellor announced a large [Plan for Jobs](#), which includes further funds for the [Traineeship Programme](#) - shorter, more informally-structured and more flexible programmes than apprenticeships. The maritime sector hasn't used it before, but we know of three parts of the sector exploring the opportunity. The Government's plans also include a new [Kickstart Programme](#), which is a programme of short work-placement activity for unemployed young people. We know of no interest so far from the maritime sector, but would be interested to hear from anyone who sees a possibility here.

Congratulations to **Princess Yachts** on winning one of this year's prestigious [Princess Royal Training Awards](#) (managed by City and Guilds): "This organisation, which builds luxury yachts, has invested in its apprenticeship programme to ensure that it has a strong talent pipeline in place. Apprenticeships are open to employees of any age. 10% of managers are former apprentices and getting an apprenticeship with Princess Yachts is viewed as an attractive career opportunity in the region".

The **MNTB and OPITO** have launched [a new standard to support the transition of marine personnel into the oil and gas industry](#). It "recognises similarities between the BOSIET training requirements for workers travelling to offshore installations and the maritime industry's STCW95/2010 certification, which offers similar instruction on basic safety and emergency response for marine personnel".

Maritime UK is lobbying hard for major investment in the sector in the Government's **Comprehensive Spending Review**, with the main focus a £1bn programme to support decarbonisation of the industry. There are full details [here](#), including campaign materials, and a request to employers and others to support the bid through their own lobbying.

[Maritime UK has compiled a list of the maritime-related projects](#) supported through Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Government's funding of "**shovel-ready**" projects, eg development of Northumberland Energy Park in Blyth, and a water sports centre in Ilfracombe.

Future dates for networks within **Maritime UK's Diversity programme**:

- [Mental Health in Maritime Network](#) - 7 September, 10.00
- [Ethnicity in Maritime](#) - 29 September 2020, 10:00
- [Pride in Maritime](#) - 30 September 2020, 14:00
- [Women in Maritime](#) - 8 October 2020, 13:00

The **Scottish Government's Workplace Equality Fund** is running a [Learning Festival](#) on 22/23 September.

WISTA International would like all active female seafarers to complete this [Gender Diversity Survey](#), the latest in WISTA's collaboration with Anglo-Eastern supported by the International Chamber of Shipping and ISWAN. The organisers intend to present the results to the IMO by the end of the year.

[Fathom Podcast No 22 features plans for a new fishing apprenticeship in England](#); Podcast 23 features [women in fishing](#). Fathom Podcasts are produced by the [Cornish Fish Producers Organisation](#) and funded by Seafarers UK.



We work with SQA, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, for all our qualifications *throughout the UK*. You can find comprehensive information on [SQA's maritime pages](#).

The MSA has 18 members:

Border Force • British Marine • British Tugowners Association • Company of Watermen and Lightermen • International Jack Up Barge Operators' Association • International Association of Maritime Institutions • Maritime and Coastguard Agency • Marine Society and Sea Cadets • Merchant Navy Training Board • MYBA The Worldwide Yachting Association • Port Skills and Safety • Royal National Lifeboat Institution • Royal Navy • Royal Yachting Association • Seafarers UK • Sea Fish Industry Authority • Thames Skills Academy • Workboat Association

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