

Archive Trinity House News: 2011

New helicopter contract for Trinity House

In a ceremony this afternoon (Wednesday 5 January) the new Trinity House contract helicopter was officially named *Satellite*.

Onboard *THV Galatea* in Harwich members of the helicopter operator Police Aviation Services and senior members of the Trinity House operations team met to celebrate the start of the new helicopter contract between the two organisations.

The new contract will bring economic and service efficiencies and will better reflect the modern maintenance and operational requirements of the Service.

Speaking after the ceremony Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy de Halpert, Executive Chairman of Trinity House, commented, 'It was important to us to be able to mark the start of the new helicopter contract as it forms such a vital part of our day to day maintenance and operation. We took the opportunity of having the helicopter in Harwich undertaking flight training and crew familiarisation to do this.'

Earlier in the day Harwich-based Trinity House staff had the opportunity to view the helicopter up close, for many the only time they will ever get to see her as she will usually be based in the South West in order to service the many offshore lighthouses in that area.

Police Aviation Services secured the contract for the provision of helicopter operations for Trinity House following a competitive tender.

05/01/2011

Notes To Editors

1. Trinity House

Trinity House is the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) for England and Wales, with responsibility for nearly 600 Aids to Navigation, from traditional aids such as lighthouses, buoys and beacons to the latest satellite navigation technology. In addition it inspects over 10,000 local Aids to Navigation provided by port and harbour authorities, and those positioned on offshore structures.

Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1514, the Corporation is also a major maritime charity, wholly funded by its endowments. The Corporation spends around £3m each year on its charitable activities

including welfare of mariners, education and training, the promotion of safety at sea, and its role as a Deep Sea Pilotage Authority.

More information can be found at www.trinityhouse.co.uk

2. Police Aviation Services

Police Aviation Services Ltd is part of the Gloucestershire based Specialist Aviation Services Group.

The company has been providing aircraft, pilots, maintenance services as well as special training for public service and other specialist flying operations for over 25 years.

The Group currently supports a fleet of over thirty police helicopters and air ambulances both in the UK and elsewhere around the world.

For more information visit www.specialist-aviation.com

Captain McNaught appointed as new Deputy Master of Trinity House

Captain Ian McNaught has been appointed Deputy Master of the Corporation of Trinity House and Executive Chairman of the Lighthouse Authority. He succeeds Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy de Halpert who will stand down towards the end of 2011.

Captain McNaught has 40 years maritime experience and is presently serving as Master with Seabourn Cruises. He has been an employee of Cunard, owner of some of the most famous cruise liners in the world, since 1987 when he joined the QE2 as a Second Officer. He rapidly rose through the ranks and was Master of the luxury cruise ship Sea Goddess 1, and more recently held Command of the QE2 until the vessel was paid off in November 2008.

Commenting on his appointment, Captain McNaught said, "having spent nearly 40 years at sea, my selection as Deputy Master of Trinity House is the pinnacle of a successful career as a Master Mariner. It provides me with an opportunity to lead the principal maritime fraternity and institution in the country for the benefit of Maritime Britain, the shipping industry, and all the seagoing community. There is, I believe, no greater opportunity than this, to use all my maritime experience and expertise gathered during my career at sea".

In the position of Executive Chairman of Trinity House, Captain McNaught will lead the General Lighthouse Authority responsible for the safe navigation of some of the world's busiest shipping lanes and pioneers of research in to new technologies to improve the effectiveness and efficiencies of the aids to navigation it provides. As Deputy Master of the Corporation of Trinity House he will be responsible for the activities of the UK's largest endowed maritime charity.

Captain McNaught will join Trinity House in September 2011.

17/01/2011

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HRH The Princess Royal nominated as Master of the Corporation of Trinity House

The Princess Royal has been nominated for election as the Master of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Since becoming an Elder Brother in 2004 the Princess Royal has taken a very keen interest in the activities of Trinity House attending many events including presiding over the opening of the Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre. She is also Patron of the Northern Lighthouse Board and Patron of Happisburgh lighthouse.

The Princess Royal's election to the position of Master of the Corporation of Trinity House will take place at the Annual Meeting of The Court in May.

She will succeed her father, the Duke of Edinburgh, who was elected an Elder Brother in 1952 and is the Corporation's longest serving Master having been elected in 1969.

Also at January's Court meeting Captain Ian McNaught was sworn in as an Elder Brother. He will join Trinity House in September in preparation for taking up the position of Deputy Master of the Corporation and Executive Chairman of the Lighthouse Authority in November.

26/01/2011

Notes To Editors

The Corporation of Trinity House

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GLAs support RAE's findings on dangers of heavy dependency on GPS

The General Lighthouse Authorities of the UK and Ireland (GLAs) fully support the findings of the Royal Academy of Engineering's paper on the dangers of heavy dependency on GPS, discussed today (10 March) by Professor Martyn Thomas at the 2011 GNSS Interference, Detection and Monitoring Conference.

Over the last few years, the GLAs have conducted two GPS jamming trials to investigate and demonstrate the effects of GPS failure on the maritime industry, which has an enormous reliance on GPS for positioning, navigation and timing information. The trials demonstrated that by jamming the GPS signal these units don't simply stop providing information, but they provide erroneous data, some of which can be hazardously misleading. During both the GLAs jamming trials the vessel was reported to be travelling at unbelievable speeds and the reported position was many kilometres from the true position.

To mitigate this over-reliance on GPS, there is a need for resilient positioning, navigation and timing information and the GLAs have been working on a solution for almost a decade: the development of Enhanced Loran (eLoran).

eLoran is a complementary system to GPS, providing positioning, navigation and timing information that would enable ship systems to seamlessly continue their operation should GPS be affected.

eLoran is a low frequency (100 kHz) radio-navigation system using high-power, long-range transmitters. The pulsed signals provide accurate horizontal positioning for all modes of transport as well as timing for communications and other systems. Because of its properties, eLoran is an ideal complement to GPS and Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS) in general. eLoran uses high-powered radio stations on earth, transmitting at low frequencies, to complement satellite navigation's low-powered stations in space transmitting at high frequencies. One such radio station covers the UK and Ireland, part of a North West European system also involving France and Norway, a trial that we – the GLAs - are leading.

Two such different, complementary systems promise to maintain the highly-robust position, navigation and timing information we now rely on. The combination is stronger than the sum of its parts. Integration of eLoran into GNSS receivers can mitigate the vulnerability to jamming at minimal cost to the user. Industry is already producing integrated receivers.

Resolution of the major problem highlighted by Professor Martyn Thomas is close at hand, with the navigation authorities of UK and Ireland leading the world in this technology.

10/03/2011

Notes To Editors

GPS Vulnerability

GPS signals are particularly weak and are susceptible to interference. These weak satellite signals can be swamped by radio noise caused by solar storms, unintended man-made radio interference and even intentional jamming. Regardless of the cause, the implications of losing GPS information can be dramatic and potentially severe.

Modern vessels generally have several GPS receivers, providing navigation and timing information. Increasingly these are integrated into equipment, meaning that should GPS fail, many of the vessel's electronic systems are affected and cease to be available; all failing at once.

The General Lighthouse Authorities

The General Lighthouse Authorities (GLAs) of the United Kingdom and Ireland are Trinity House, the Northern Lighthouse Board and the Commissioners of Irish Lights. Together, they have the statutory responsibility for the provision of marine aids to navigation (AtoNs) around the British Isles. The GLAs' joint mission is the delivery of a reliable, efficient and cost effective AtoN service for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

For more information please contact Vikki Gilson, Public Relations Manager for Trinity House, on 020 7481 6960 or email her at vikki.gilson@thls.org

'Lighthouse at the bottom of the road' exhibition on now in Lizard

The Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre welcomes a new voice which is set to capture the imagination of visitors young and old alike. As part of a new exhibit at the UK's most southerly visitor attraction the state of the art Lighthouse Keeper Talking Portrait will regale his audience with stories of what it was like to live and work in a lighthouse. The Talking Portrait complements the new display unveiled for 2011 which focuses on the role of the lighthouse in the community.

This exhibit forms part of the bigger attraction in the former fog signal engine room at the Lizard Lighthouse which demonstrates the role lighthouses have performed over the years. It also shows their ongoing importance in the 21st century alongside modern satellite and radio navigation systems which allow Trinity House, operator of the lighthouse, to provide a robust aids to navigation service for the safety of shipping negotiating our dangerous coastline. In addition it showcases the equipment that powered the old fog horns.

The Talking Portrait is a "living" contribution to a fascinating story that has particular connotations for Cornwall with its rugged coast and myriad offshore rocks and hazards. There are also vivid images of how lighthouse keepers and their families lived at some very remote locations and opportunities for some "hands-on" experiences. Very young visitors can even build their own lighthouse. There is something for all ages to appreciate as well as the opportunity to climb the lighthouse tower to see how the light powers its beam more than 20 miles out to sea and enjoy the fantastic views.

The Lighthouse and Heritage Centre are open throughout the year. More information including details of opening hours and entrance costs can be found at www.trinityhouse.co.uk. School, educational and other groups can be entertained and special rates may apply.

The Lighthouse at the Bottom of the Road exhibition will continue throughout 2011.

28/03/2011

Notes To Editors

Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre

Since completion of the lighthouse automation programme in 1998 Trinity House has been seeking to create a lasting testimonial to the critical contribution that both lighthouses and lighthouse keepers have made to the safety of navigation and of mariners through the ages. A number of Trinity House operational lighthouses are open to the public providing opportunities for the public to see how they work but generally space restrictions mean that the focus is usually on what is happening today. Our island country with its proud tradition of trading across and with the world owes a great debt to lighthouse keepers and even today lighthouses continue to perform a safety critical role. The stories

surrounding lighthouses and the men who in previous times looked after them needed to be preserved and demonstrated.

The now redundant former fog signal engine room at the Lizard provided the opportunity to house this story. However, the monies available to Trinity House through the collection of Light Dues are for the provision and maintenance of current aids to navigation. Trinity House made a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a grant to create what has become the Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre. The HLF grant provided the bulk of the necessary funding but the Trinity House charity also provided grant money. The Trinity House monies were directed towards the educational elements of the project.

Following the approval of the HLF, an in-house team was formed to oversee the development. Using, as far as possible, local suppliers work started on site in September 2008 and continued throughout the autumn and winter with completion on time and on budget by the end of March 2009.

The Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre opened its doors on 6 April 2009 and was officially opened by HRH The Princess Royal on 13 July 2009.

Aside from the Heritage Centre, there are six holiday cottages on site. For more information about these please visit www.cornishcottagesonline.com.

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Trinity House elects new Master

At today's Annual Meeting of The Court HRH The Princess Royal was elected Master of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Since becoming an Elder Brother in 2004 the Princess Royal has taken a very keen interest in the activities of Trinity House, attending many events including presiding over the opening of the Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre. She is also Patron of the Northern Lighthouse Board and Happisburgh lighthouse.

The Princess Royal succeeds her father, the Duke of Edinburgh, who was elected an Elder Brother in 1952 and is the Corporation's longest serving Master having been elected in 1969.

During his 42 years as Master of the Corporation of Trinity House, The Duke of Edinburgh has witnessed many changes in the way the organisation operates. In particular it has been a time of great technological advances and improved efficiency with the automation of the lighthouses and lightships and the solarisation of the rock stations. There has been the development of GPS, AIS, electronic charting and e-Loran; all of which have been assimilated or enhanced by Trinity House to provide a greater service to the mariner.

On the charity side the Corporation has become the largest endowed maritime charity in the UK, regularly dispersing over £3m per annum amongst the UK's frontline maritime charities.

The Duke of Edinburgh will continue to be involved with Trinity House in his role as an Elder Brother.

11/05/2011

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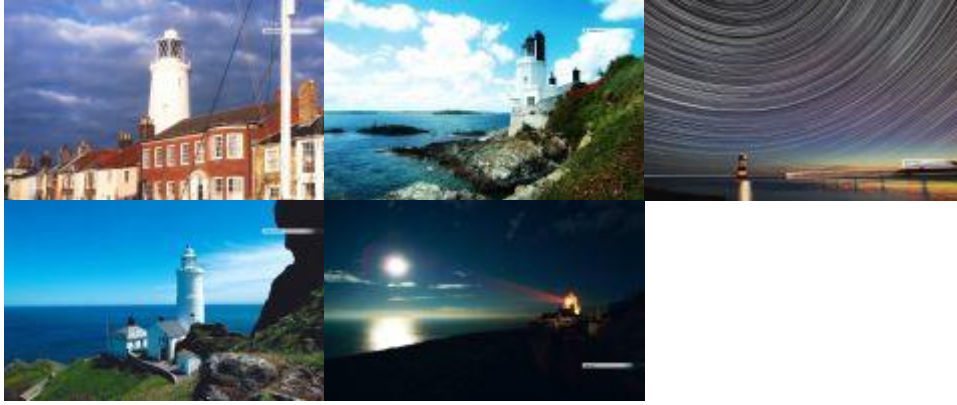
Seafarers Awareness Week 6 - 12 June 2011

Now in its third year, Seafarers Awareness Week provides a great focus for Seafarers UK and beneficiary charities to raise funds to support seafarers and their families.

Widespread publicity via broadcast, social and print media will help to overcome 'sea blindness', the term used to describe how people overlook the vital role played by seafarers as they toil to deliver food, fuel and goods to our island nation.

95% of imports are sea borne and three quarters of our exports leave the UK by ship.





Seafarers UK is the leading charity for our maritime community, giving grants totalling £2.5M annually to 70+ frontline charities.

Formed in 1917 as King George's Fund for Sailors, Seafarers UK is unique in providing funds to support UK and Commonwealth seafarers in greatest need, whether they are from the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Merchant Navy or fishing fleets.

18/05/2011

Notes To Editors

You can visit the Seafarers Awareness Week website by clicking [here](#).

Lighthouse Photographic Competition Winners Honoured

The winners of the 2011 Lighthouse Photography Competition were honoured at a presentation at the London Headquarters of Trinity House on Monday.

The television personality Rory McGrath, who chaired the judging panel, attended the event where the photographers were presented with framed copies of the shots they submitted (and which will make up the 2012 'Lighthouses' calendar).

Rory McGrath is no stranger to Trinity House. He filmed part of the BBC television series '*Three Men in More Than One Boat*' aboard THV Galatea and at Bishop Rock lighthouse.

The standard of photographs was exceptionally high and the resulting calendar is outstanding.

Entries for the 2012 Photography Competition are now being accepted. The competition closes on 29 February 2012.

You can discover more about the competition by clicking [here](#).

20/06/2011

Notes To Editors

The 'Lighthouses' calendar will be available to purchase via the Trinity House website later in the year.

GLAs launch '2025 & Beyond' strategy

The General Lighthouse Authorities for the UK & Ireland's strategy document '2025 & Beyond' has been launched today by the Shipping Minister, Mike Penning.

The document clearly outlines how Trinity House, the Northern Lighthouse Board and the Commissioners of Irish Lights will fulfil their shared mission of 'delivering a reliable, efficient and cost effective aids to navigation service for the benefit and safety of all mariners'.

Through the publication of this document the GLAs have committed to continue to provide a service that is robust, efficient and economic with the appropriate mix of physical and electronic aids to navigation.

Since the publication of the GLA's last strategy document '2020 The Vision' in 2004, the global maritime risk to life, property and the marine environment has continued to increase. The GLA's core aim is to ensure safety of navigation by continuing to provide a balanced mix of physical and radio aids to navigation. Technology has improved the level of service we can provide. For example Automated Identification System (AIS) provides a very important tool to assess future navigation needs around our coasts. Improved Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) and solar panels, coupled with longer life batteries, have also allowed significant improvements.

The GLAs are at the forefront of these advances and fully support the International Maritime Organisation's objective to provide eNavigation and related services – the future of coastal navigation.

When delivered, this strategy will continue to mitigate risk; it will provide for safety of navigation, and the protection of life, property and the vulnerable marine environment.

The full document can be downloaded [here](#) (PDF will open in a new window).

The launch took place at Trinity House's offices on Tower Hill, London.

18/07/2011

Notes To Editors

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Celebrity Head Judge Announced for 2012 Lighthouse Calendar Competition

Television personality Martin Clunes will chair the judge's panel for the Lighthouse Calendar Photography Competition. The panel will decide which 12 lighthouse photographs best represent Trinity House for its 2013 calendar.



Also on the judging panel for the first time will be the new Deputy Master of Trinity House, Captain Ian McNaught, along with established panel member Charles Salmon, Managing Director of J Salmon Calendars.

Martin Clunes has worked with Trinity House in the past – filming at Bishop Rock lighthouse as part of the ITV series 'Islands of Britain'.

Trinity House operates some of the most famous lighthouses in the world. Renowned for their beauty, history and architectural merit, many of the lighthouses are listed buildings situated in spectacular locations and lend themselves to creative images.

Previous Head Judges for the competition have included Griff Rhys Jones, Rory McGrath and Dan Snow.

The 2012 lighthouse calendar will be available to purchase direct from the Trinity House website. [Click here to visit our gift shop.](#)

Entries for the competition should be submitted by 28 February 2012. [Find out more about the competition here \(opens in new window\)](#)

08/08/2011

Notes To Editors

1. Martin Clunes

Martin Clunes is an English actor and comedian. Clunes is perhaps best known for his roles as Gary Strang in *Men Behaving Badly*, Doctor Martin Ellingham in *Doc Martin* and the title character in *Reggie Perrin*.

2. Trinity House

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'Taster Voyage' aboard THV Patricia

Have you ever wondered:

- how buoys are deployed out at sea and what would happen if it moves off its designated station?
- what happens if the light is fails on a lighthouse?

Take a 'Taster Voyage' on board Trinity House's Flag Ship THV Patricia from Sunday 4th – Wednesday 7th September to find out the answers and observe the crew carrying out its essential maintenance work lifting, cleaning and re-deploying buoys.

Embarkation and disembarkation are currently planned to be in Harwich, Essex. Prices start from £710.00. For further information about Patricia Voyages, [visit our Patricia Voyages pages](#) or tel: 01255 245156.

12/08/2011

Hartland Point Lighthouse for sale

A rare opportunity to own a Grade II listed lighthouse has presented itself with the arrival of Hartland Point lighthouse, near Bideford, North Devon, on to the property market. The 136 year old lighthouse is being offered for sale for a guide price of £500,000.

The property consists of the former lighthouse, three bedroom living accommodation over two storeys, various stores, a helipad and access via a surfaced road that leads up the cliff to the gated entrance. The site in total amounts to about 16 acres of cliff and coastline.

Hartland Point lighthouse will be decommissioned following the installation of a more efficient solar powered LED beacon which will continue to ensure that this area of the coastline is adequately marked.

Anyone interested in acquiring the lighthouse is asked to contact the agents, Smiths Gore, via 01872 274646 or e-mail neil.sargent@smithsgore.co.uk

More information about the property is available [here](#) (opens in new window).

[Read more about Hartland Point lighthouse.](#)

26/09/2011

Notes To Editors

Anyone interested in acquiring the lighthouse is asked to contact the agents, Smiths Gore, via 01872 274646 or e-mail neil.sargent@smithsgore.co.uk

New Deputy Master & Executive Chairman for Trinity House



Captain Ian McNaught (pictured right) was sworn in as Deputy Master of the Corporation of Trinity House and Executive Chairman of the Lighthouse Authority at today's Court meeting. The meeting was chaired by HRH The Princess Royal, Master of the Corporation of Trinity House.

Captain McNaught succeeds Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy de Halpert who has stood down after almost ten years service.

Captain McNaught has 40 years maritime experience, most recently serving as Master with Seabourn Cruises. He has been an employee of Cunard, owner of some of the most famous cruise liners in the world, since 1987 when he joined the QE2 as a Second Officer. He rapidly rose through the ranks and was Master of the luxury cruise ship Sea Goddess 1, and more recently held Command of the QE2 until the vessel was paid off in November 2008.

As Executive Chairman of the Lighthouse Authority, Captain McNaught will lead an organisation responsible for the safe navigation of some of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Trinity House is also a pioneer of research into new technologies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the aids to navigation it provides. As Deputy Master of the Corporation of Trinity House he will be responsible for the activities of the UK's largest endowed maritime charity.

Commenting on his appointment, Captain McNaught said, "having spent nearly 40 years at sea, my election as Deputy Master of Trinity House is the pinnacle of a successful career as a Master Mariner. It provides me with an opportunity to lead the principle maritime fraternity and institution in the country for the benefit of Maritime Britain, the shipping industry, and all the seagoing community. There is, I believe, no greater opportunity than this, to use all my maritime experience and expertise gathered during my career at sea".

22/11/2011

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Deputy Master's Review of 2011

2011 has been a year of change for Trinity House, with the appointment of HRH The Princess Royal as Master in May and my appointment to the position of Deputy Master last month.

This year's success stories appear as a long list. To name but a few; Out of Hours monitoring for all three General Lighthouse Authorities is now up and running in Harwich; we have gained continued government support for eloran, and we have completed an extensive review of our Buoy Yards. Both vessels have received upgrades and the new helicopter contract introduced at the beginning of this year continues to deliver cost and efficiency savings. On the Engineering and Operations front, we are half way through a two year project to modernise Casquets lighthouse which will see this station become entirely powered by renewable energy sources, enabling us to achieve considerable cost savings. The technology to allow us to do this was developed by the R&RNav team, and will be rolled out to other offshore stations in due course.

I can report that the Corporation's spend on charitable matters topped £4.1m in 2010/11 and is set to exceed £4m again this year. Our Merchant Navy Scholarship Scheme is now in its 22nd year, and has recruited an additional 31 Deck, Engineer and Electro Technical cadets during the year.

Following the launch of the tri-GLA strategy document '2025 & Beyond' at Tower Hill in May, we can all expect to continue to work closely with NLB and CIL over the coming years, to deliver a cost effective and efficient service.

Keeping our focus on the future, we have much to look forward to. In 2012 we are participating in the Thames Flotilla celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and shortly after we celebrate our own great milestone, our 500th anniversary in 2014. More information about how we plan to celebrate this will be released next year.

I am proud to be at the helm of this historic yet innovative organisation with these significant milestones ahead, but for now it just remains for me to wish you all a very happy and healthy Christmas, and all the best for the New Year.

Captain Ian McNaught

Executive Chairman

23/12/2011