

News

SOS call goes out for those isolated at sea

SEAFARERS' CHARITY CALLS FOR DONATIONS

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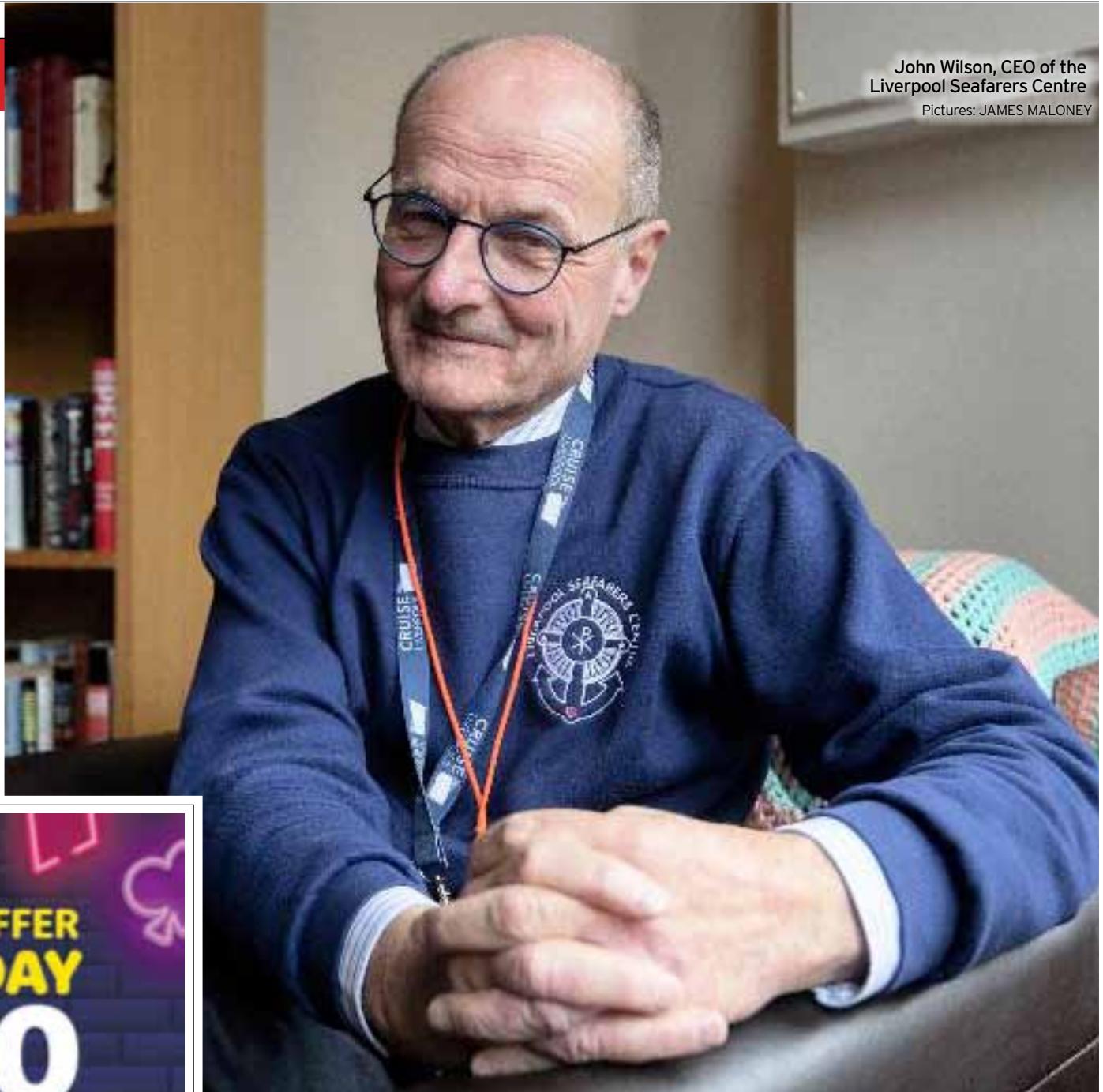
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By CHERYL MULLIN

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A LIVERPOOL seafarers charity is appealing for donations of food and clothes for sailors stuck on ships due to coronavirus.

Liverpool Seafarers Centre (LSC) hopes to increase visits to vessel-bound seafarers after temporarily closing its centres in Crosby and Eastham to crew and visitors, in a bid to stem the spread of the virus.

The charity's CEO, John Wilson, said the LSC's team of outreach workers will continue to provide a lifeline to seafarers who now cannot leave their vessels.

He said: "LSC's work is now

more important than ever for seafarers.

"We will be providing practical support, such as undertaking shopping, on our ship visits and also offering important pastoral care monitoring their mental health and helping them with personal matters."

The charity has appealed for donations of toiletries, confectionery, puzzles and games, warm clothing, fresh fruit, CDs and recently-released DVDs. He said donated goods can be left in the porch of LSC's headquarters on Crosby Road South, Crosby, and the LSC team will then take them to the ships.

The charity also backed calls for all International Maritime Organisation member states and port

states to adopt a pragmatic approach and remove unnecessary barriers to seafarers leaving or joining ships.

The global pandemic has seen crew changes suspended by most shipping firms.

John continued: "Seafarers are critical to our country's ability to survive the crisis and must not be forgotten.

"We rely on them for 95% of everything we import and export, including our food and medicines. Seafarers are in very uncertain times and many are unclear how and when they will be able to return home. In the meantime, they must keep working far from family and loved ones."

Liverpool Seafarers Centre, which won the Positive Impact Award at the Mersey Maritime Industry Awards 2020 this month, helps 50,000 seafarers each year visiting Merseyside ports. It is a partnership between Apostleship of the Sea (Liverpool) and The Mersey Mission to Seafarers.

John continued: "Without efficient crew changes, the supply chain would break down, leading to basic product shortages and greater hardships for people around the world."

"It is paramount to consider the mental state of seafarers, who look forward to reuniting with their families after serving 4-9 months on board a ship."



Inside the Liverpool Seafarers Centre, in Crosby

John Wilson, CEO of the Liverpool Seafarers Centre
Pictures: JAMES MALONEY