Merchant Navy Day – 3rd September 2017

Town Mayor – Cllr Gillian Geer – and David Barlow retired Merchant Navy Radio Officer and co-founder of the Radio Officer’s Association raised the Red Ensign to celebrate Merchant Navy Day on 3rd September 2017.

In her address the Mayor read the following message from HRH The Earl of Wessex KG, GCVO

‘On this Merchant Navy Day, I very much hope you will support this campaign by Seafarers UK to remember the sacrifices, salute the courage and support the future of the often unsung personnel of our Merchant Navy. Too often they are the forgotten or invisible service, by raising the Red Ensign you will ensure that at least on this day they are remembered. Your act will mean so much to their families and to the retired, but most especially to those at sea.’
The Red Ensign, or ‘Red Duster’ as it is affectionately known, has been the recognised flag of the British Merchant Navy since 1854 and will be flown from over 600 locations across the country.

David Barlow said....

‘It is a pleasure to raise this Red Ensign from the Guildhall in Helston as in the 12th Century Helston was a port and the King had the right to use it for his merchant ships. In the 13th Century the Helston Borough Council approached Gweek to use it as the port for Helston because the forming of Loe Bar prevented use of its own.’