

Source 15: National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck is officially formed

A second meeting of campaigners for the foundation of Hillary's National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck was advertised in *The Morning Chronicle* on 23 February 1824. The newspaper notice encourages people to attend the General Meeting on 4 March 1824.

The notice also summarises their first meeting at the City of London Tavern, which took place on 12 February 1824, showing that several MPs, clergy, noblemen and gentlemen formed a committee to make sure their effort was properly organised. The City of London Tavern would have been familiar to such gentlemen as a regular venue for meetings of the many charities and benevolent societies of the early 19th century.

Few surviving records have emerged showing the kind of campaign activity that Sir William Hillary, George Hibbert (Chairman of the West Indies Merchants Company) and Thomas Wilson (MP for London) carried out to encourage wealthy and influential people of the time to support their cause, which suggests they did this mainly through conversation. Finding partners and building relationships to spread the word of their campaign message was a key method. However they achieved it, this campaigning trio had much success in persuading noblemen and gentlemen to attend their first public meeting to discuss the practicalities of forming Hillary's institution.

AT a PRELIMINARY MEETING of NOBLE-MEN and GENTLEMEN, held at the City of London Tavern, on Thursday, the 12th of February, 1824, THOMAS WILSON, Esq. M.P. in the Chair:

Resolved unanimously, That this Meeting, taking into consideration the frequent loss of human life by shipwreck, and believing, that by the preconcerted exertions of practical men, and the adoption of practicable means, such calamities might often be averted, are of opinion that a NATIONAL INSTITUTION should be formed (to be supported by voluntary donations and subscriptions), for the preservation of life in cases of SHIPWRECK on the COASTS of the UNITED KINGDOM; for affording such immediate assistance to the persons rescued as their necessities may require; for conferring rewards on those who preserve their fellow-creatures from destruction; and for granting relief to the destitute families of any who may unfortunately perish in attempts to save the lives of others.

Resolved unanimously, That with a view to the formation of such an Institution, a General Meeting of the Nobility, Gentry, Merchants, Traders, and others, be convened for Thursday, the 4th March, at the City of London Tavern, at Twelve for One o'Clock precisely, or such other day as may be found more convenient.

Resolved unanimously, That the following be a Provisional Committee in the interim, with power to add to their number:—

Henry Baring, Esq. M.P.	John Clark Powell, Esq.
Lord Amelius Beauclerk	Joseph Pulley, Esq.
Henry Blanchard, Esq.	John V. Purrier, Esq.
John William Buckle, Esq.	Lord Suffield
Captain Deans Dundas, R.N.	Benjamin Shaw, Esq.
Samuel Gurney, Esq.	Christopher Tennant, Esq.
George Hibbert, Esq.	Joshua Walker, Esq. M.P.
Samuel Hoare, Esq.	Joshua Watson, Esq.
George Lyall, Esq.	Thomas Wilson, Esq. M.P.
Rev. H. H. Norris	

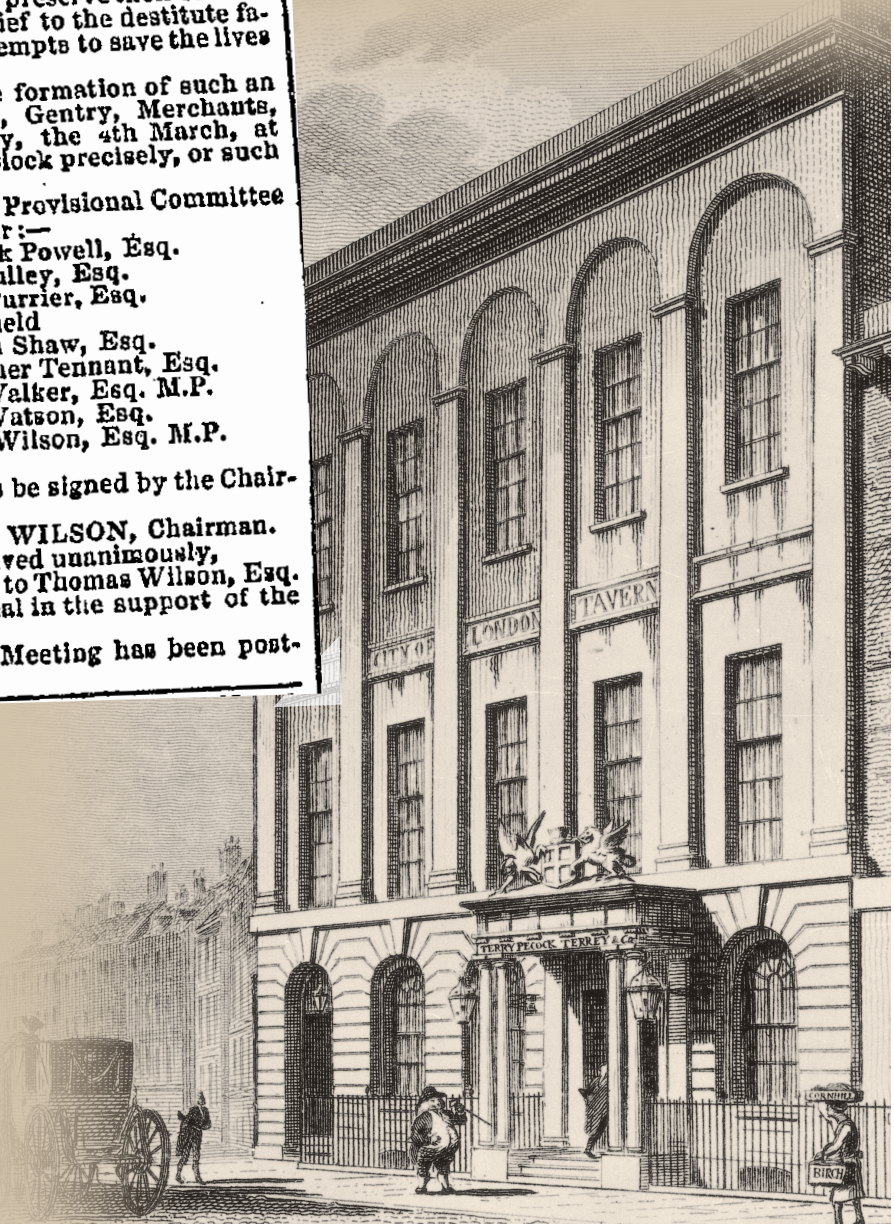
Resolved unanimously, That these Resolutions be signed by the Chairman, and advertised in the London Papers.

THOMAS WILSON, Chairman.
Mr. Wilson having left the Chair, it was Resolved unanimously, That the best Thanks of this Meeting be given to Thomas Wilson, Esq. for his able conduct in the Chair, and for his zeal in the support of the objects in contemplation.

N.B. The Public will observe that the above Meeting has been postponed from the 25th instant to the 4th March.

The City of London Tavern in Bishopsgate, London, where the RNLI was formed
Courtesy: RNLI

The Morning Chronicle, 23 February 1823 – advertisements and notices
© The British Library Board, All rights reserved



Source 15: National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck is officially formed (continued – page 2)

An article in the *Rising Sun* on 16 March 1824 reports on the campaigners' second London meeting at which the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck was officially formed on 4 March 1824.

They had managed to summon strong support from the movers and shakers of the time such as William Wilberforce MP and

Dr Charles Manners-Sutton, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The King himself attended and agreed to be Patron of the institution. The newspaper article also shows how crucial it was to the campaign to gain support from other maritime organisations like the Admiralty, Lloyd's and Trinity House, and financial backing through charitable pledges and subscriptions, to be able to put its plans into action.

NATIONAL INSTITUTION, For the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck.

We are truly happy in being able to lay before our readers the following account of the First Meeting of the above INSTITUTION, held in London on the 4th inst.; adopted on the principles suggested by SIR WILLIAM HILLARY, Bart., in his admirable pamphlet, which he kindly permitted us to insert in this paper in January last. At that time we gave a very unreserved opinion of the advantages that must eventually result from the adoption of Sir William's intelligent, humane, and praiseworthy sentiments; and expecting that our excellent Monarch, the Royal Family, the Nobility and Gentry of England, would come forward in a cause so dear to every Christian virtue, we are not surprised, though highly gratified, to find that the exertions of Sir William, aided by Thos. Wilson, Esq., M.P. for the City of London, and other beneficent characters, are crowned with complete success, by HIS MAJESTY having graciously condescended to become THE PATRON of the

VICE PATRONS,

His Royal Highness the Duke of YORK.

His Royal Highness the Duke of CLARENCE.

His Royal Highness the Duke of SUSSEX.

His Royal Highness the Duke of GLOUCESTER.

PRESIDENT, The Earl of LIVERPOOL, K. G.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. His Grace the Archbishop of York. His Grace the Duke of St. Albans, the Most Noble the Marquis of Camden, K.G. the Most Noble the Marquis of Hertford, K. G. Vice Admiral of Cornwall, and of the Coast of Suffolk, the Most Noble the Marquis of Lansdown, Earl of Brownlow, Earl of Craven, Earl of Harrowby, Earl of Lonsdale, K.G. Earl of Spencer, K. G. Admiral Lord Viscount Exmouth, Lord Viscount Melville, Admiral Lord Viscount Torrington, Lord Bishop of Chester, Lord Bishop of Durham, Lord Bishop of London, Admiral Lord Amelius Beauclerc, meeting at the request of the Archbishop of Canterbury who took the Chair. His Grace said that the advertisement stated the objects of the meeting, and he hoped the Royal Naval Asylum which they sought to esta-

lish would be worthy of the great country which was pre-eminent over all the nations of the world in maritime enterprise; but that was a pre-eminence carrying with it corresponding duties. That duty was to provide for the perils of shipwreck; and they were bound to hold out the same protection to our bitterest enemies as our best friends.—The purposes of this Institution were as free and unbounded as Charity itself. His Grace moved the first Resolution, establishing the Institution, seconded by Capt. Bowles, R. N. Carried unanimously.

Twelve other Resolutions followed, moved and seconded by the Nobility and Gentry present, in conformity with those already published in Sir William Hillary's pamphlet.

The 8th Resolution, proposing that 40 Gentlemen be

The 14th. That his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury be requested to convey to the King's Most Gracious Majesty the deep and grateful sense which this Meeting entertains of the distinguished honour which His Majesty has conferred upon the Institution in becoming its Patron.

The 15th. Grateful thanks to the Royal Dukes, as Vice Patrons.

The 16th. Thanks to Earl of Liverpool, as President.

The 17th. To the Archbishop of Canterbury and Vice Presidents.

The 18th. That the best Thanks of this Meeting are due to Sir William Hillary, Bart., for his patriotic efforts in bringing this subject before the Public, and for his zealous endeavours to promote the Establishment of the Institution.

The 19th. To send Copies of the Resolutions to the Admiralty, Trinity House, and to Lloyd's.

The 20th. That the warmest Thanks of this Meeting be presented to Thomas Wilson, Esq. M. P. for his humane, zealous, and persevering exertions in the establishment of this Institution.

His Grace the Archbishop having left the Chair, and Thomas Wilson, Esq. called upon to take it—

It was moved by Thos. Wilson, Esq. M.P.; seconded by Sir Charles Flower, Bart. and resolved unanimously,

That the best Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Archbishop of Canterbury, for the important service which

he has rendered the Institution, and particularly for his concession in taking the Chair this day.

In the course of the day the list of the subscriptions and donations was read. Amongst them were 200l. from the Marquis of Hertford, 100l. from the Archbishop of Canterbury, 100l. from the Bishop of London, and 100l. in a letter signed "Mercator;" and in the course of a few hours upwards of £2000 were subscribed, and numerous names given as annual subscribers.

[When it is considered that this glorious—this admirable Institution, took its rise from the Isle of Man, and that it was from the circumstances of danger and destruction witnessed by its Author in the bay of Douglas, that he was induced to set about a work which cannot fail to hand his name down to posterity with all those philanthropic characters whose deeds fill the hearts of future generations with gratitude, it must be highly gratifying to every Manxman of the present day, to reflect upon such a fact.—It is not our wish to use panegyric beyond the claim that merit demands; but we think that futurity will bear us out in the assertion, that the name of Hillary will stand pre-eminent amongst Britons, as the promoter of an object which embraces a wider field of humanity than any previously attempted, and successfully brought forward for practice, by any individual that ever existed. The establishment of the Institution will add a bright ray of glory to the reign of George the Fourth, its humane and august Patron. It will do justice to the feelings of the Princess of the Blood, the

Vice Patrons. It will do honor to the first Minister, the President. It will add to the profound respect due to the head of the Church. As Vice Presidents, it will render the Nobility of those individuals more noble. Lastly, it will confer applause and distinction upon all its supporters.—And these will be held,—not like other honors and distinctions, as national appendages,—but in esteem by all the world.—We sincerely trust that Ministers will not forget to call upon Parliament to reward the Author of so much promised good, which cannot fail to receive the most liberal attention.]—Ed.

Q

1. Why is it important to advertise public meetings for a campaign? Why do you think the type and location of the meeting place chosen in the 1800s would have been important?

2. What impression does *The Morning Chronicle* notice give of the campaign?

3. How does the *Rising Sun* article provide evidence of the reasons why the National Society for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck succeeded in getting set up?

4. Are all campaign activities today recorded/advertised in some way? List the ways that campaign activities might be recorded/advertised.

5. What campaign activities might take place today that are not recorded? Where might these activities take place?