



## The Flag of HMS *Captain*

### Background:

[We have already committed](#) to getting the lost flag of HMS *Captain* fully restored and to put it on national display (for the first time in British history): All Saints in Sutton and the Church of England Diocese have formally allowed this.

Before us, the flag was in tatters, rolled up, and in deep storage. The Church did not have the funds to restore it, so the likelihood was that it would have remained out of sight and forgotten indefinitely...

The CHR, FABSS (Small-Grant scheme), and the [Find the Captain Project](#) (public donations, external funding) have each contributed the necessary funds to have the remains of the flag transported to a [certified historical textile conservationist](#) in Bristol for restoration.

This is now complete, and the flag is waiting for its protective display case-frame.

The frame will have a brass inscription plaque beneath it that states the flag has been restored courtesy of 'The University of Wolverhampton, 2025'.

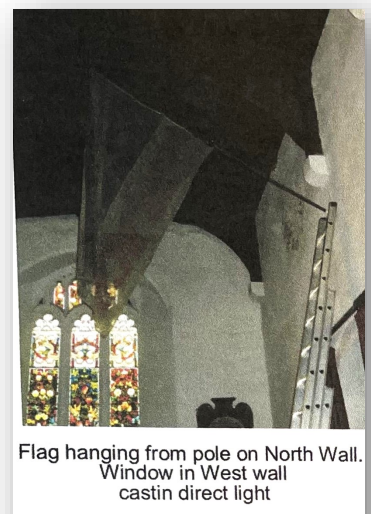
The flag with its inscription will then be *filmed* in upcoming BBC and British press coverage, in a planned Netflix docudrama, and beyond. See the recent [YouTube video](#) about this (mark 24:01), currently with 134,000+ views over its first three weeks.

So the history of Britain's most famous navy shipwreck of the nineteenth century will forever be linked directly to the University of Wolverhampton.

The University has never been a part of the 'rescue' and conservation of a priceless historical artefact like this before. Few universities have. This is to our inestimable credit, especially at a time when the UK Higher Education sector is reeling from poor student recruitment and budget cuts including research.

### Costings

The original estimates for a professional display case that will protect the delicate remains of the restored flag from exposure, humidity, damaging UV light, etc., ranged from £4,000 to over £10,000:



I asked the CHR and FABSS Small Grant scheme in January to split the costs of a '£4,530' display case (i.e., the least expensive option available to us).

This included the cost of collecting the flag from Bristol via specialist courier, [framing it in Ironbridge](#), and then couriering the finished case (in a specially built box frame) to London, ready for display.

Currently the CHR has agreed to fund £1,000.

Since then, I have asked the framer if they could reduce their costings further—without risking the integrity of the restored flag itself—as well as consider offsetting the costs with a donation on their part to the University of Wolverhampton's Find the Captain Project:

They have agreed on both counts. This includes more cost-effective moulding, while the acrylic glazing is now reduced from 5mm to 3mm thickness.

They have also donated £583.33, making the total projected cost for the display case + transport, etc., '£3,190' (from £4,530 before). That means we still require £2,190.

### Timing

I note 'this summer' because as it turns out we might be on the verge of finally identifying the wreck of HMS *Captain*:

[Ocean Infinity](#), the marine survey corporation that sponsored the discovery of Shackleton's *Endurance* (now the subject of a [major docudrama on Disney+, which was also released cinematically in the UK in 2024](#)), have committed to examining the wrecksite we located in August 2022; that expedition itself was partially paid for by the CHR.

At some point this summer (2025) they will deploy not just a ROV down to the wrecksite but fully laser-scan and digitise with hundreds of thousands of 360-degree high-res photos the wreck—in the same way, using the same technology, that Magellan [is now in the news for](#), when [they scanned the wreck of RMS Titanic in 2023](#).

If this does not turn out to be that of HMS *Captain*, they are also willing to explore via multibeam and side-scan other coordinates which my research has identified as the most likely positions where HMS *Captain* foundered on 7 September 1870.

*They are willing to do all of this pro bono.*

If the wreck is indeed found within the next few months, then the new media blitz which Dan Snow and others are planning for this will hit within a month of that—and we need to be able to publicly add that the *University of Wolverhampton* has also found and restored the *Captain's* lost flag.

Likewise, Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles (the great grandson of the *Captain's* doomed designer) is hosting a fundraising dinner-gala at the Royal Geographical Society, on 23 September—five months from now. Proceeds from this will go towards the National Maritime Museum (Greenwich) and hopefully also the Find the Captain Project.

Confirmed attendees now include the First Sea Lord (Admiral Sir Ben Key), Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence and HRH Princess Anne. Sherard noted in an email two months ago, 'As it happens, HM The King is the Royal Patron of the NMM' and Sherard has already been in contact with King Charles III about this event.

I will be a featured Guest Speaker, on our efforts to find the wreck of HMS *Captain* (hopefully found by then).

The event will be covered by the BBC and UK media.

But a key component of this event will be the public unveiling at the Royal Geographical Society of not just the spectacular new painting by Geoff Hunt ([which we commissioned](#)), but the restored flag of HMS *Captain*—again, courtesy of 'The University of Wolverhampton'.

**We are now approximately £2,190 short of making this happen.**

## Summary:

We earnestly need to complete what we've started, without recourse to external agencies, to claim full (historical) credit for restoring this artefact.

We need to do this soon, to coincide with the likely discovery of the wreck (which will be international headline news this summer), followed by a highly publicised event at the RGS.

The costs invested in this already, as well as the final £2,190 remaining, should be more than amply compensated over time; via the CHR's Find the Captain Impact Case Study (REF2029), a major AHRC Grant application (once the wreck is found), and continuing public and private contributions and sponsorships, not to mention positive and widespread public exposure for the University generally.

Presently I am contracting with Seaforth Publishing (Pen & Sword) for *Finding the Captain*, a gorgeous, coffee table book rich in photographs but also detailing how this Project has evolved, and the support it has received—because we are still writing the history of this ship.

– Dr. Howard Fuller, Find the Captain Project Manager

