For everyone who helps save lives at sea

# theLifeboat

Winter 2002/03

# **Flying start**

The first RNLI hovercraft goes on station at Morecambe

# The visitor experience

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A sneak preview

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## Winter 2002/03







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the Lifeboat is published by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Printed by The Polestar Group Limited, Colchester.

**Boat Show cover:** 



The magazine of the **Royal National Lifeboat Institution** 

West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ Tel: 01202 663000 www.lifeboats.org.uk Email: info@rnli.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 209603

### Issue 562

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the Lifeboat is published four times a year and is sent free to RNU members and governors. The next issue will be Spring 2003 and will appear in April 2003.

News items should be received by 16 February, but earlier if possible. All material submitted for possible publication should be addressed to: The Editor, the Lifeboat, RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ.

Photographs intended for return should be accompanied by a stamped, addressed envelope. Contributions may be held for subsequent issues and, to reduce costs receipt will not usually be acknowledged inless requested

For further information on how to join the RNLI s a member or governor contact. Membership, RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Doraet BH15 1HZ, Tel: 0800 543210.

#### Front cover:

Hartlepool's Arun class, Keith Anderson, and Atlantic 75, BBC Radio Cleveland, are put through their paces. Picture: Peter Bentley

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# News

# A new boat on the coast



Pictured: IB1 preproduction boat D-601 on trial at Bude, North Cornwall

Photos: Tim Martindale

A new lifeboat will enter the RNLI's fleet of lifeboats in 2003. The untrained eye may not be able to spot any difference between the new boat and the one it will replace, but the changes that have been made will represent several years of hard work by a team of designers, engineers, boat builders and RNLI operational staff and crew members.

The new boat is a development of the muchloved D class inshore lifeboat, which has been helping to rescue people at sea with the RNLI for 40 years. Specially designed for rescues in shallow waters and close to rocky shorelines, the D class lifeboat has been involved in literally thousands of rescues in that time.

Although the new boat, known during the project as Inshore Boat 1 (IB1), looks very similar to the current D class – it is the same shape, size, weight and colour – underneath, it is a very different craft. Built of an entirely new material and featuring a more powerful outboard engine, IB1 will be faster and stronger than the current boat. The equipment, including flares and first aid kit, will be stored in a newly designed equipment pod and the global satellite positioning (GPS) technology used on the Atlantic lifeboats will also be a feature.

The design of the D class was last changed in the mid-1980s so, with all the advances in technology since then, it was time to assess whether it was still the best boat for the job. To do this properly the RNLI had to involve lifeboat crews from some of the 100 or more lifeboat stations that currently use D class lifeboats to get their opinions on what they liked and disliked about this and other commercial boats of a similar size. Many of these thoughts were then fed into the design of IB1.



Firstly, one boat was built as a prototype to be tested by the project team at the RNLI's Inshore Lifeboat Centre on the Isle of Wight. Suggestions from these trials were then fed into the design of the next version of IB1, the preproduction boat.

There is a big difference in sea conditions between some of the RNLI's D class lifeboat stations, from the sheltered but fast flowing waters of the River Thames to the heavy surf found at Bude in North Cornwall. The D class is expected to operate well in each of these conditions. So it was decided to build four pre-production boats, for trials around the coast, to see if the new boat was up to the job.

The four pre-production boats were built and equipped as if they were operational lifeboats and trialled at a total of 20 stations during a four-month evaluation period. As well as being used for exercises they were also involved in real life rescues, from helping people cut off by the tide to searching for swimming dogs.

All in all, the feedback received from the 230 plus crew members involved was extremely positive. It will now be used by the project team to build the version that will be seen around the coast in 2003, coping better than ever with the incredibly diverse range of tasks that the D class inshore lifeboat is expected to perform.

	Current boat	IB1	Benefit		
Speed (knots)	18-20	25	Faster response		
Manoeuvring		Better acceleration and response	Faster and safer progress in a range of conditions		
Structure	Marine plywood	Fibre reinforced composite	Greater strength and lower maintenance		
Boat fabric	Hypalon coated nylon	Hypalon coated polyester	Holds shape better, giving a more consistent boat shape and better performance		
Navigation	Chart, compass and hand-held GPS	Fixed installation chart plotter/GPS	Better navigation		
Anchor system		Ready rigged	Easier deployment		
Equipment stowage Distributed around boat		Dedicated stowage area	Keeps equipment dry and frees space elsewhere		
Engine start/restart	Manual	Electric with manual backup	Faster restart following capsize		

# **Stop Press!**

# National National National National

David Manners, Lyme Regis station secretary, has been elected to the Council of the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN) only eight years after being accepted as a member. He was elected an Associate Fellow earlier this year.



The Council is the decision-making committee of the RIN, which is concerned with all aspects of navigation ranging from bird navigation to satellite navigation systems. It plays a pivotal role in research and frequently hosts international conferences on the latest navigational developments and learned historical writings.

David, who is a maths teacher by day, is currently investigating how shore-based radar may assist in search and rescue operations with lifeboats and helicopters. 'The RIN is internationally recognised as being at the forefront of all navigational issues,' he said. 'To be elected as a representative of such a worthy body is one of the greatest honours ever bestowed upon me.'

When he was appointed station secretary at Lyme Regis in 2000, David was one of the youngest people ever to have been given the role. Prior to that he was deputy launching authority from 1994.

## Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Awards

The RNLI's AGM and awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, 22 May 2003. The AGM will start at 11.30am, with the awards ceremony at 2.30pm. Both events will be held at the Barbican Hall in London. RNLI Governors should have received an application form with this issue of *the Lifeboat*. Any queries should be addressed to Shelley Tilley, the public exhibitions manager, on 01202 663043 or email stilley@rnli.org.uk.

## The Lifeboat on audio tape

The Lifeboat is also available on audio tape, in conjunction with Talking Newspapers Ltd. The audio tape version is free, although recipients may wish to make a small donation to cover the additional costs involved.

To receive the Lifeboat on a C90 audio tape please write to:

The Editor, the Lifeboat, RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ

Email: thelifeboat@rnli.org.uk

# **Rewarding bravery**

RNLI lifeboatmen and lifeguards have been recognised in several major awards in recent months.

Helmsman Nick Beale has been awarded the Lady Swaythling Trophy by the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society for an outstanding feat of seamanship. The Society chose Nick, from Porthcawl lifeboat station, for 'outstanding seamanship when rescuing a fisherman washed off the pier on 2 February 2002, during a violent storm. Conditions were well in excess of the normal operational limits of the Atlantic 75 lifeboat.' He was awarded the RNLI Bronze medal for the rescue (see *the Lifeboat*, Summer 2002, page 18 for a full account of the rescue).

Nick has been a crew member since 1990. He is a carpenter by trade, although he was formerly a professional fisherman, and owns a fish and chip shop. He received his award in October at a ceremony chaired by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Julian Oswald GCB GBE, President of the Society.

Mark Johnston, of Newquay, became the first RNLI lifeguard to receive national recognition when he was honoured at the Vodaphone Life Savers Awards in November for his part in saving a man from drowning. Mark received his award at a gala luncheon at the Savoy Hotel where he was brought together on stage with Neil Parsley, the man whose life he saved, but had not seen since the rescue, for an emotional reunion. Earlier both paid a visit to Downing Street where Prime Minister Tony Blair welcomed them and paid tribute to Mark's courage.

For this rescue, Mark became the first RNLI lifeguard to receive a Thanks on Vellum from the Institution (see *the Lifeboat*, Spring 2002, page 14 for a full account of the rescue). Nick Beale, winner of the Lady Swaythling Trophy, was a runner-up in these awards.

Filey coxswain Malcolm Johnson and crew member Neil Cammish were awarded the Servicemark Yorkshire and Humber 2002 award for the Emergency Services for the rescue of a lone sailor (see *the Lifeboat*, Spring 2002, page 20 for a full account of the rescue). The awards, supported by Yorkshire Forward, aim to recognise good customer service and people who go that 'extra mile' in their job. The Emergency Services award is open to those working in the police, fire, lifeboat and ambulance services and to people working in the security services.



l-r Mark Johnston, Gavin Darby - Chief Executive UK Vodafone

# News

# **Aberdeen celebrates bicentenary**



Lord Provost Margaret Smith accepts a painting of Aberdeen's all-weather lifeboat from Maitland Miller, Aberdeen station secretary

Photo: Aberdeen City Council



A highly successful series of special events in August marked Aberdeen lifeboat station's bicentenary. The station first opened in 1802, although it did not become part of the RNLI until 1925. Festivities started with a formal civic reception and dinner followed the next evening by entertainments for those involved in the programme. The annual crew ceilidh was held on 24 August. The celebrations culminated on Sunday 25 August with a quayside service, attended by a large crowd, and the station's open day.

# Watermark's the best

Watermark, the RNLI's gift catalogue, has been named the best charity catalogue available. It scooped top prize at a gala awards evening in London during November. The ECMOD (European Catalogue and Mail Order) Industry Awards honour achievement and excellence in the catalogue and home shopping sector. Comedian Barry Cryer hosted the awards evening at Wembley in London as well as presenting the awards.

There were more than 180 entries in the ECMOD 2002 Awards and they were fiercely contested. Judges included independent experts from the UK and USA. Jayne George, managing director (sales), and Amanda Mitchell, customer services and marketing manager, collected the prestigious award on behalf of the RNLI Sales Company, which runs the successful Watermark catalogue. All profits from the sales of gifts in the catalogue are donated to the RNLI annually.

The latest edition of the catalogue is enclosed in this copy of the Lifeboat or alternatively, to request another copy, call 0870 600 1824 or visit the website **www.rnlishop.org.uk** (see story below).

# Water shopping online

RNLI shopping is just a few mouse clicks away. Watermark, the RNLI's online shop, has launched a new and improved website. The redesigned shopping site is packed with an exciting range of specially selected, high-quality gifts and is more user-friendly than ever before – making it a breeze for shoppers to search and buy gifts and presents from the comfort of their own homes.

Products are arranged in easy-to-navigate categories and include fun and handy items for the home and garden, RNLI branded

clothing and many gifts with a nautical flavour. Shoppers can be assured that all transactions are on a secure site and profits go directly to the vital lifesaving work of the volunteer lifeboat crews. Get shopping online now by visiting www.rnlishop.org.uk



Millvina Dean on her visit to Broughty station

# Rhyl's 150th anniversary

Rhyl lifeboat station celebrated its 150th anniversary in some style, as it was also the handing over and official opening of the new lifeboat station. HRH The Duke of Kent, RNLI President, attended the festivities, along with Chairman Peter Nicholson, The Duke presented the station with an anniversary vellum, performed the official opening of the new boathouse and also presented a bar to gold badge award to Beryl Dean, the guild secretary. This was followed by a ceremony conducted by The Right Reverend John Davies, Bishop of St Asaph, assisted by the lifeboat chaplain and Vicar of Rhyl, Canon John Glover. The Duke then enjoyed a conducted tour of the station, followed by lunch with the crew and their families.

# Titanic visit

The youngest survivor of the Titanic disaster dropped in to see the crew at Broughty Ferry in August. Millvina Dean lost her father in the famous disaster, when the liner struck an iceberg and sank in April 1912. Millvina handed over a wreath in the form of a White Star Line flag to Coxswain Jim Hughan and Station Honorary Secretary Calum Begg. She then went aboard the Trent class lifeboat Elizabeth of Glamis and the wreath was dropped at sea in memory of all those who died with the doomed ship 90 years ago.

Now a sprightly 91, and the youngest of the three *Titanic* survivors still alive, Millvina was in Dundee as guest of honour at the Titanic Expo 2002. The largest *Titanic* exhibition mounted outside the United States, the event attracted more than 23,000 visitors.

# Making a clean start

The RNLI Lifeboat College took a step closer to reality in October, when the Environment Agency declared the site clean. Development had been put on hold awaiting the agency's approval of the cleanup operation for the contaminated site. The approval meant that the RNLI could complete its purchase of the land and get started on construction. Work on the site is due to start in early January.

Work on the proposed site of the new RNLI Lifeboat Support Centre had been delayed by the

# **Saving Grace**

The Grace Darling Museum, in Bamburgh, Northumberland, is hoping for a cash boost from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to provide a fitting environment for its impressive displays. The museum celebrates the life of one of Britain's most famous maritime heroes.

The existing museum was built in 1938 and houses the original coble used by Grace and her father for the famous rescue of the crew from the *Forfarshire* in 1838. It also has a large collection of the original artefacts of the Darling family and the *Forfarshire*. The RNLI, together with the local Grace Darling Museum Committee, plans to replace the current single-storey building with a two-storey version by 2004. The museum would include a new space for education and enhanced displays.

Volunteer curator Christine Bell said: 'The museum is a tremendous local asset but the current building is not up to modern day standards for a collection of this importance. These plans will allow both adults and children to get a much improved appreciation of Grace's life and heroism, and make the most of her story within the national curriculum.'

The Armstrong Estate, which owns Bamburgh Castle and the land around the site, is helping with the scheme. The RNLI will make a formal application for HLF funding early in 2003, once planning and the remaining funding have been settled.



discovery of a 250-year-old burial ground. Records

show that a Baptist church and burial ground were

on the land between 1735 and 1800 and a team of

local archaeologists has been researching the site.

delving into local council archives to get further

and buried at another site.

The team from Wessex Archaeology have also been

details and now has many of the records relating to

the burials. The RNLI is applying for a Home Office

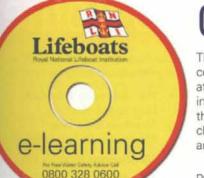
licence, which will allow the bodies to be exhumed



# STOP PRESS

### latest news

The RNLI completed the site purchase on 21 November 2002. Tenders for construction of the Lifeboat College were received in November and a contract has been placed with Dean and Dyball. Work on the site started before Christmas.



# CD safety

Painting: Henry Perlee Parker

The RNLI's Water Safety team have put together an interactive CD-ROM containing lots of excellent water safety advice. The CD is aimed mainly at people who go to sea on sailing or powered craft. Topics covered include: buoys and marks; navigation lights; shapes and lights; rules of the road; emergencies and first aid; weather and tides; and engine checks. It also gives access to the latest inshore and shipping forecasts and live weather reports.

This invaluable tool is now available at a cost of £5, including postage and VAT. To order your copy, telephone 01202 663174, or visit the website at **www.lifeboats.org.uk/training** for a sneak preview.

# News

## **RNLI** appoints new director

The RNLI has appointed David Brann as its new director of fundraising and communications.

David has been with the RNLI for eight years. He started as corporate fundraising manager before being promoted to marketing manager after three months. He became the fundraising and marketing director in May 2001. This new post follows the amalgamation of the fundraising and public relations departments and takes effect from January 2003.

Before joining the RNLI, David was self employed, owning a restaurant and wine bar, and running a management consultancy business for five years. He is married with two daughters and lives in Poole, Dorset.

Speaking of his new appointment David said: 'I am delighted to be able to serve the RNLI in a wider capacity. The merging of two successful communication departments into one that is even better is an inspiring challenge. The fall in the RNLI's legacy income, due mainly to the decline in value of the stock market, means we will need to step up our fundraising efforts and my goal for our new department is to double membership over the next five years.'



# The Seaworthy **Yacht**

As part of the RNLI Advanced Technology Partnership established with the University of Southampton, Sir Robin Knox-Johnston CBE RD presented the second RNLI Public Lecture, entitled 'The Seaworthy Yacht', in December, in the Turner Sims Hall at the University of Southampton.

Sir Robin was the first person to sail single-handed around the world non-stop. In 1994 he also set the record for the fastest circumnavigation of the globe, in 74 days and 22 hours, as coskipper of *ENZA*. He has won numerous awards during his glittering career and was voted Yachtsman of the Year on two occasions in 1969 and 1994. Sir Robin is a member of the RNLI *Council*.

The Annual RNLI Public Lecture is part of the RNLI's Advanced Technology Partnership with the University of Southampton. The partnership, which was established in 2001, allows the RNLI's research and development into lifeboat design and construction to benefit from the expertise and resources at one of the leading universities involved in engineering, and marine and naval architecture.

# Celebrations to come

The following stations celebrate significant anniversaries in 2003

- 200: Arbroath, Exmouth, Hartlepool, Hoylake, Newhaven, Penlee, Plymouth, St Peter Port.
- 150: Sennen Cove
- 100: Abersoch

Beach Rescue on Bournemouth beach Photo: Dave Mallett



# RNLI beaches not just safe, but clean too

Bathing water at every RNLI patrolled beach has been declared top quality in a recent European report. The European Bathing Water Directive judges beaches by measuring the presence of contamination from sewage and other sources. From 20 samples taken at each beach over the bathing season, 19 must pass strict tests set out in the directive. UK Water Minister Elliot Morley announced the findings in November 2002. 'We now have bathing water quality to match the best that Europe has to offer,' he said.

An RNLI spokesman commented: 'We are delighted that all RNLI beaches have such clear bathing water. Families can enjoy a day out at one of our beaches safe in the knowledge that the water is uncontaminated and RNLI beach lifeguards are patrolling the area.'

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#### Day I + Friday - Fly to Stockholm

Fly by British Airways London to Stockholm for two nights close to the city centre and Old Town.

#### Day 2 + Sightseeing in Stockholm

Morning sightseeing of Sweden's capital. Afternoon free, perhaps visit the *Wasa*, a royal flagship which sank in the harbour on her maiden voyage in 1628.

#### Day 3 . North by sleeper train

Travel by overnight sleeper to Kiruna in 2-berth sleepers. Watch out for wildlife as the train heads north through the remote wilderness of Northern Sweden's lakes and forests.

#### Day 4 . Sightseeing in Lapland

Arrive in Kiruna, visit the Lapp village of Jukkasjarvi and also take an exciting ride down the largest iron ore mine in the world. Continue on the Ofoten railway, one of the most northerly and wild rail routes in Europe, to Narvik for two nights.

#### Day 5 + Free in Narvik

An opportunity to visit the wartime resistance museum or take a cable car ride.

Day 6 + South to Trondheim

Travel south by coach and train, crossing the Arctic Circle again before arriving in Trondheim for two nights.

#### Day 7 + Sightseeing in Trondheim

Sightseeing to include the Nidaros cathedral and fascinating music museum at Ringve.

#### Day 8 . Into Fjord country

The journey south from Trondheim is by train to Dombås then by coach for a tour of some of Norway's most spectacular fjord scenery. Stay two nights in Geiranger at the head of the fjord.

Day 9 + Cruising the narrow Geiranger Fjord

One of the most spectacular fjords in Norway with almost vertical sides and huge waterfalls.

Day 10 + By coach through Fjord country

Leave Geiranger and continue to Flåm, at the head of the Sognefjord and terminus of the Flåm Railway. Stay two nights in Flåm.

#### Day 11 + Flåm Railway excursion

Leaving from the fjord side, the Flåm railway is considered to be one of Europe's most spectacular railway lines, winding its way up the mountains past thundering waterfalls.

#### Day 12 . Over the mountains to Voss

The journey from Flam is via Stalheim and over the mountains to the resort of Voss for two nights.

#### Day 13 + At Voss on the lakeside

A free day in this attractive town.

#### Day 14 + Thursday - The Bergen Railway

Leave Voss by train and travel on one of Norway's new **Signatur** trains for the spectacular journey over the Bergen Railway to Oslo. Continue by high-speed rail link to the airport for the flight to London, arriving early evening.



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# Letters



**Henry Shrimp Davies** 

## Filey floods

Many times during my days as a keen sea angler I have witnessed the bravery and promptness of the local RNLI volunteers based here at Filey but never in my wildest dreams did I ever contemplate being rescued by them from my front garden!

The floods in this part of the country recently were the worst on record. It was obvious that the local fire brigade and police would take a long time to get to us, so imagine our surprise and amazement when the local inshore rescue boat, complete with crew and head launcher, sailed down our street and up our drive.

Each house was visited in turn and those requiring emergency accommodation were carried to the rescue boat and transported to local council offices. Without them we would have had to suffer hanging about our flooded homes with no power from early morning 'til late that night. I know for a fact that the crew were on duty all day from early morning 'til late evening.

We shall always be grateful for their efficient and well-practised rescue on that awful day. Thank you.

> Joe Scales Filey



Lifeboatmen help out in floods

#### Photo: Tony Bartholomew

### **Bravery endures**

Thank you for the autumn issue of the magazine.

The article on Henry Shrimp Davies was of great interest to me: my brother was a crew member of the SS *English Trader* on that fateful night and at the age of 17 years the youngest. 'Bookie' by name and, as it turned out, bookie and baker by trade in the Merchant Navy. A very traumatic experience for a young lad at war, but thanks to the RNLI and the bravery of its crew, the Davies family, and Henry Blogg in particular, is still alive (but not kicking) today.

These men and their families are never forgotten.

LR Reeve Lancs

# **Chasing the Chavasses**

I would like to thank the members of the family who wrote to me respecting the boathouse at Church Cove, the Lizard. It seems that the family had no connection with Cornwall, but the two cousins, who were *Midlands-based benefactors of* the RNLI, decided to commemorate their respective parents in this useful way. I understand there is good support for the RNLI in that area. This is the wording on the stone: 'This Boathouse was erected and presented to the RNLI by two cousins partly at their own cost and with some help from friends in loving memory of their parents Thomas Chavasse Esq. FRCs and Miriam Sarah his wife, and the Revd. Horace Chavasse MA and Margaret Colquhoun his wife. 1887.'

> Ruth Lambert West Sussex



# Name the artist

Could you help me? I am looking for the artist who painted the picture I have sent you. It is the former Dover lifeboat Lewis Morice, from 1888–1901.

Here is some information about Lewis Morice:

The *Lewis Morice* was sent to Dover in 1888 and was a 37ftx8ft 12-oared self righting lifeboat costing £556. It was launched 18 times and saved 31 lives. I sent the photographs to the lifeboat enthusiasts' society, the Dover museum who are still researching and the National Maritime Museum who were unable to help.

**Robert Strange** Nottingham

If you know anything about the above painting, please write to us at the Lifeboat and we will forward the information to Mr Strange.

## **From Findochty** to Hong Kong

I read, with particular interest, the article in the Lifeboat Autumn 2002 entitled 'View from the cockpit' after recognising the photograph showing a helicopter hovering above a grassy promontory that looked familiar. It was near my home village of Findochty, near Buckie in North Scotland. The locals pronounce this 'Finichty'. I noted however that the photograph caption misspelled the village name as 'Findochy'. This is in fact what happened when the sign writer made the sign for the original village which was a forced settlement from an area in Caithness I believe. What the real name of the village was supposed to be is anybody's quess!

I have been working in Hong Kong for over 20 years and was pleasantly surprised to be reminded of my birthplace in your magazine. Thank you. Even in Hong Kong support for the RNLI is evident by car stickers and occasional jumpers in pubs. Your efforts are indeed spread worldwide.

> John Sinclair Hong Kong



## Letter of the quarter

As a new member (welcome pack received only vesterday!), I felt I should write and tell you how impressed I was when I read of the extent of your activities.

I have sailed for some 10 years but only now could be said to be taking it seriously - I am currently taking exams for my first skippers' ticket.

As are most people who sail, I was very aware of the value of the service, although I have been fortunate enough not to be the subject of a rescue. What I was not aware of was the level of activity that is undertaken by the numerous support groups around the country. Although the imagination is captured by the exploits of the service, it does seem incredible to me that such vital a service does not attract some form of centralised support from the government. Sailing is a pastime enjoyed by thousands and if you include commercial maritime activities, it is more than surprising that you have to rely on public subscription.

All of this makes the service you provide the more valuable and one that I am now proud to support regularly.

The quality of the material included in the welcome pack was excellent and the range of support you receive is a real credit to those who give up their own time to raise the much needed funds to provide the equipment and resource.

Many thanks to all concerned - I just hope that I never need to call on vou!

**Steve Dennis** 

# 'Stroma at last

I thought you might be interested to read this account about the Queen Mother who on her frequent holidays to her home, the Castle May in Thurso, had looked across the Pentland Firth to the Isle service at Thurso around the time of Stroma many times with great longing to visit the island. One day she decided to ask the skipper of the fishing vessel Primula at Scrabster harbour if he would take her across. His name was Angus McIntosh and she had met him

during her visit for Thurso's lifeboat week in August 1962. He was coxswain of the HCJ from 1937 'til he was called up for service with the Royal Navy Reserve. He returned from a in the course of which he had been awarded the French Crois de Guerre along with the

Distinguished Service Medal, and took up as coxswain again in 1945 until he retired in 1967, but spent many more years as skipper of Primula. The Three Sisters was in the Queen Mother crossed to Stroma. I have a photograph of her and the crew (my husband's cousin was one of them). When she stepped ashore she said 'Stroma at last' and spent a few hours enjoying a picnic with her companions before sailing back. Angus McIntosh was a great character and, having met him many times when on holiday with my husband whose grandparents lived and brought up their family in Thurso, I shall never forget his twinkling eyes and sense of humour and his bravery. We meritorious war service, always enjoyed the parcel of delicious fresh fish he gave to us when he landed his catch.

**Audrey Brims** Lancs

# Win a bottle

Inver House Distillers, the Pulteney whisky, have kindly agreed to give away a bottle of the genuine maritime of the quarter'. So if you've got any. burning issues to get off your chest about lifeboats or a related subject, put your pen to paper and send your letter to:

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The Queen Mother

# Come fly with me

The RNLI reached an important milestone in December when its

west coast. The Lifeboat takes an in-depth look at this exciting

first rescue hovercraft went on station at Morecambe on the north





Morecambe hovercraft crew put *The Hurley Flyer* through her paces during training at Poole in December 2002 *Photos: Jon Jones/RNLI* 

10

'It's a lot less bother than a hover,' so the famous slogan goes but, when it comes to saving lives, hovercraft can offer some real advantages over a boat. There are many areas of difficult terrain around our coasts where the water is too shallow for an inshore lifeboat (ILB), or ground conditions are too soft to support shore-based transport. Until now, helicopters – or arduous treks across soft mud by foot with special equipment – have been the only way of getting to these areas.

new addition to the fleet...

So the RNLI has been developing the inshore rescue hovercraft (IRH) to fill this gap in search and rescue cover. The IRH is aimed at stations where potential hazards include being cut-off by rising tides, or getting stuck in mud and quicksand – the places that conventional ILBs cannot get to quickly.

Preliminary trials took place at Poole with further trials at Hunstanton, Morecambe, Flint and Southend-on-Sea using local lifeboat crews. Tony Stankus, RNLI hovercraft operations manager, was delighted with the trials: 'They proved the hovercraft could withstand damage, was easy to launch and worked well over sand and mud... and the volunteer crews could easily 'fly' the craft.' The trials proved that hovercraft can be deployed operationally and are particularly useful for shoreline searches. The RNLI has also been looking at incident data to see where a hovercraft could have previously been of benefit. A review of station records by crew, with first hand experience, reveal that hovercraft would have been an asset on particular services.

The trials also showed that hovercraft can be deployed using a transporter, to a wide variety of terrains and can be launched in a car park, field or road – provided there is reasonable access. In addition, infra-red imaging devices which currently cannot be used on ILBs may prove suitable for use when searching with hovercraft and are planned for trials in the near future.

As with all good things in life there is one small drawback – the hovercraft's relatively limited sea-keeping capability. It is restricted to a wave height of under 1m and a wind speed of 25 knots – beyond which, handling becomes difficult. However, hovercraft are not intended to replace lifeboats but to enhance search and rescue capability at some existing stations. If it can be done by boat – then use a boat.

The first RNLI rescue hovercraft will operate from Morecambe. The decision to go ahead was made by the RNLI's Trustee Committee following the trials in 2001. Morecambe was chosen as the first location for a number of reasons. Tony Stankus highlighted: 'its extensive mud and sand flats that are uncovered at low tide, plus areas of quicksand that can prove hazardous for the unwary'. It was also considered appropriate for the first hovercraft to be co-located with a lifeboat station so the lifeboat could provide additional support if necessary.

Initially, there will be temporary housing for the hovercraft at Morecambe, using the existing infrastructure. Once the hovercraft has proved itself to be a useful, safe and effective mode of search and rescue, more permanent arrangements will be made.

## Inshore rescue hovercraft – technical details

Since the trials last year, the IRH has been modified for search and rescue from a standard Griffon 450TD in conjunction with the manufacturer Griffon Hovercraft Limited. This has included increasing the length, stability, buoyancy and thrust, and decreasing the noise levels.

#### Handling

There are two main aspects of hovercraft handling: lift and thrust. The build up of air pressure under the craft provides lift. It is supplied by drawing in outside air and pumping it into the area under the craft. This area has a large 'footprint' (surface area) and, therefore, only needs a low pressure to support the craft. To maintain this pressure, an effective seal is needed around the 'skirt' so that air can build and lift.

Thrust is provided by two large fans mounted on the back of the craft that act in the same way as aeroplane propellers. Steering is provided by aerofoil shaped rudders that are placed in the airflow behind the props. These influence the heading of the craft and power must then be applied to alter course. As the lift and thrust fans are linked, by increasing engine speed, lift and thrust fans turn quicker at the same rate.

#### Standby and launching

When the hovercraft is on station, it will always be ready for rapid launch. The side sponsons will be kept inflated and the hovercraft will be kept on the

transporter to keep space requirements to a minimum. The transporter system has been developed for rapid deployment.

As the hovercraft would normally be housed in a boathouse on a transporter, access for the transporter is required to the slipway. At stations where access to the beach is good there are no real changes to be made, the hovercraft can move from boathouse to beach and along the beach or out to sea as required. At slipway launched ILB stations, the slipway may have to be modified or alternative launch sites provided.

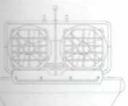
#### Crew

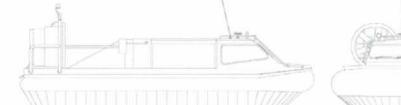
The crewing arrangements will be similar in structure to those for an ILB. The helmsman will be known as the 'commander'. Age limits for crew will be 18 (17 with parental consent) to 55. This extension from normal ILB retirement at 45 is due to the gentler ride provided by the hovercraft.

#### Training

Crew members will need similar training to that of ILB crews. Apart from the obvious handling characteristics, the main differences in the training course will be the the inclusion of mud rescue techniques, navigation (unconstrained by water depth), search patterns and operating parameters. Hovercraft Introductory Training (HIT) lasts one week.

Length:	7.75m	Launch:	Can launch on most smooth surface including roads, car parks and fields		
Weight:	2500kg (fully loaded)				
Crew:	2/3		Transferred by road on specialist tra		
Casualty capacity:	3/4 but can be used as safe refuge under cover for up to 10	Construction:	: The hull of the hovercraft is marine aluminium, while the topsides and ducts are moulded fibre reinforced composites 2 x VW Golf Turbo Diesels of 64kW		
Maximum speed:	30 knots				
Endurance:	3 hours	Powered by:			
Specialist capability: Shallow water, soft mud, sand bars, rapid shoreline search					
Equipment list:	Mud softening lance with water and air, bottles, 2 x stretchers, first aid kit GPS, VHF Radio, liferaft (6 man)				







grade fan

each

"If I thanked the lifeboatmen every day for the rest of my life, it would still not be enough for bringing him back."

> Mrs Rose McRoy, whose husband Jim was rescued by Sunderland inshore lifeboat

### There is a way that says it all.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution depends entirely on voluntary donations and legacies to run the lifeboats that save lives at sea. With more than 220 lifeboat stations around the shores of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, it costs around £274,000 a day to keep the lifeboat service running.

#### Six out of ten lifeboat launches are only possible thanks to legacies.

Volunteer lifeboat crews give their time to save others in danger. They ask for no reward other than the satisfaction of a 'good job well done'. They deserve the best boats, equipment and training. You can help make sure they continue to receive them, with a legacy gift in your Will.

Although this is a gummine rescue, substitutes have been used in the photograph to protect confidentiality.

If you would like to remember the lifeboat crews in your Will, please send for our legacy information pack today. You'll receive useful and practical advice about making or updating your Will.

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# **The Hurley Flyer**

I-r: John Allen – Inshore lifeboat and hovercraft training, Mrs Hurley and Tony Stankus Photo: RNLI

## The story of Kay Hurley

No article about the hovercraft project would be complete without mentioning the generosity and support of Mrs Kay Hurley MBE. Mrs Hurley, of Oxfordshire, is funding the first hovercraft and got involved in the early stages of the development programme back in March 2002. 'For years I had known about the lifeboats and always spared a thought for the crews when I heard bad weather reports on the radio,' she remembers. 'But, until recently, I never fully realised just how much money was needed to keep the service going.'

Kay decided that she wanted to make a generous donation and spoke to her friend who was a north east fundraising organiser for the RNLI some years ago. 'She told me to ring the headquarters in Poole and there I was put in touch with Ann Wilkins, the RNLI's personal donations manager.'

Ann offered to visit Kay at home where they discussed how the money could be put to best use. 'At that time I wasn't sure where my money would be going as the Thames lifeboats were in the news a lot but they had already been funded,' said Kay. 'Ann told me about the hovercraft project and suggested that it would be an exciting project to be involved in.'

Kay was very interested and wanted to know more so Ann arranged for her meet up with Tony Stankus, the hovercraft operations manager. Tony's 'buoyant enthusiasm' for the project soon rubbed off so a second visit was arranged. Kay said: 'I was taken out for a ride in the original trial hovercraft and actually had a go at flying her – Tony said that I was the first woman ever to pilot her. I was then invited to go and see the hovercraft being modified for the RNLI at the Griffon boatyard in Southampton. As we inspected the fitting out I decided to make a commitment and fund the craft for the Morecambe station.'



The cost of the hovercraft was around £120,000 and Kay made a very generous donation through the Gift Aid scheme. This is a great way to donate as it allows the RNLI to claim back the tax from the government – enough to completely fund the new hovercraft.

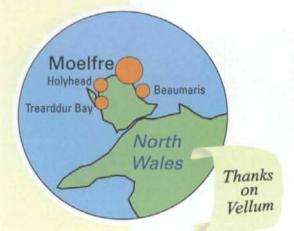
As with donors who fund lifeboats, Kay was given the honour of choosing a name for the craft. 'A friend suggested *The Hurley Flyer* as she will be the first RNLI vessel to fly' said Kay.

The Hurley Flyer went on station at Morecambe in December and Kay went along to the press day to see the hovercraft being put though its paces. 'I am proud to be a member of the lifeboat family,' she said, 'and very proud to be involved in this project

the second secon

Morecambe hovercraft crew with *The Hurley Flyer* I-r: Steven Hemingway, Michael Dixon and Harry Roberts – Commander *Photo: Derek King/RNLI* 

# Lifeboats in





**Rod Pace and Anthony Barclay** 

In storm force winds and darkness, the yacht Annarchy had engine problems and was steering an erratic course. The Moelfre crew had to manoeuvre the lifeboat close enough to the yacht for Rod Pace to jump aboard and regain control of the Annarchy

#### THE LIFEBOAT

Tyne class lifeboat ON-1116 Robert and Violet Funding: Anonymous gift

#### THE CREW

Coxswain Anthony Barclay Crew members Dave Jones Dave Jones (Jor) Vincent Jones Rod Pace **Gary Roberts** David Williams

#### MOELFRE LIFEBOAT STATION Established: 1830 Previous RNLI medals:

4 Gold, 7 Silver and 26 Bronze

THE CASUALTY Crew of two on the Annarchy, a 12m sail yacht with auxiliary engine

#### THE CONDITIONS

Weather: Squally Asibility: Poor, at night Wind: SW storm force 10 Sea state: Rough

# aming the Annarchy

The yacht Annarchy, with a crew of two, was motor sailing from Liverpool to Caernarfon when she developed engine problems. Soon after midnight on 17 June 2002, the Moelfre Tyne class lifeboat Robert and Violet launched, with Anthony Barclay in command.

On the way to the casualty, the lifeboat crew felt the storm building behind them and knew that it was going to be a challenging service. Despite poor visability from heavy rain and darkness, the crew located the Annarchy quickly by radio. They spotted the lights on the yacht 11 miles northeast of Moelfre and arrived on the scene half an hour after the lifeboat launched.

On the radio, the yachtsman told the lifeboatmen that his companion was lying down below and could not help. He asked whether a crew member could come aboard to secure a tow.

Second Coxswain Rod Pace was acutely aware of the risks involved in this dangerous transfer. In similarly rough conditions Rod had broken his leg in two places while trying to board the catamaran Alicat in July 1995. But Coxswain Anthony Barclay knew it would not be fair to ask someone less experienced to jump across and get the yacht under control. Rod was the man for the job, with sailing knowledge, experience and maturity. Preparing for the leap, Rod shouted back to Anthony: 'Don't break my leg!'

The job of getting close enough to the yacht for Rod to jump was complicated as the yacht was steering an erratic course with the mainsail swinging out of control. In waves of 4m and storm force 10 winds, Anthony attempted the manoeuvre five times and had to take evasive action several times to avoid a major collision. The waves in the Irish Sea can be notoriously short and steep, and Anthony described the yacht as being 'all over the place', with darkness and the weather making it all 'doubly confusing' for the crew. At one point Dave Jones, who was below deck, saw the yacht high above, looking like it was going to land on the bow, but the lifeboat pulled away just in time.

Anthony was thankful for the lifeboat's D-DEC engine control system that made the Tyne instantly responsive, giving it power and manoeuvrability. He had to use all his experience to judge the distance to the yacht and without the benefit of being able to see the bow of the lifeboat from the Tyne helm. Teamwork was vital.



Moelfre lifeboat Robert and Violet

14

On the sixth attempt, the two boats came close enough for Rod to try his jump across. Taking his chance, Rod leapt across to the yacht. Anthony saw Rod jump off the lifeboat and immediately took the lifeboat full astern to prevent a crash. He lost sight of Rod and was unaware whether he had reached the *Annarchy* safely for what he said was 'probably a few seconds, but it seemed like hours'. Once clear, Anthony looked back and to his great relief he saw Rod had made it. He later said that he had been involved in lots of rescues in the same kind of weather, but that Rod's jump was 'the bravest thing I've seen anywhere'.

At first, as the yacht pitched and rolled, Rod clung on to the cabin roof. The crew later described the yacht as a wild horse, resisting its rider. Rod held on tight and then managed to move below deck to check the man's partner did not require assistance. He then fought to get the yacht under control, helping the yachtsman. Rod tightened the sheets in to secure the loose sails and pulled in the jib, which helped the yachtsman steer a straighter course into the waves at about 4–5 knots. The tow line was passed to Rod at the starboard bow. He was on his hands and knees gathering it in when the yacht suddenly sheered off to port. With lightening reflexes Rod managed to secure the tow line on the cleats before the line caught him.

Meanwhile, back on the lifeboat the crew were hit by a huge wave. Brothers Vince and Dave were thrown against the side of the boat, but found their feet quickly.

Rod made the tow line fast, and pulled the rest of the sails down which made the towing easier. The vacht was finally under control. Rod took over the steering of the vacht and the lifeboat towed Annarchy safely back to Moelfre. The couple on the yacht were hugely relieved and the yachtsman said his wife knew what Christmas cards she was going to buy this year. Divisional Inspector (west division) Andy Clift said that Rod: 'displayed tremendous courage in transferring to the yacht and subsequently displayed good seamanship in bringing the yacht under control before he could receive the tow line'. Rod Pace received the Thanks of the Institution on Vellum and Anthony Barclay received a letter of thanks from the RNLI's chairman. Rod stressed that lifeboatmen don't do it for the award, but was: 'very pleased with Moelfre station being recognised and that we'd done a good job'.



Rod Pace aboard the Robert and Violet



Pictured: Back I-r: Paul Spratt, Matthew Crow and Stewart Olley, the crew of the Vic and Billie Whiffen. Front I-r: Launcher Matthew Fosset with the crew of the Ethel Royal, Michael Whistler and Tony Bonham

# **Pushed to the limit**

Two inshore lifeboats were tested to their limits on 9 March 2002, when an angling vessel with a crew of three was in difficulty 1.5 miles from Southend-on-Sea. The weather was fair and dry, but there were winds of force 9–10 and rough seas.

The lifeboats launched at 2.20pm and, despite waves of 3.5m breaking from the starboard quarter, they reached the scene 5 minutes later. As agreed before launching, the Atlantic held back while the D class entered the gutway (a channel of deeper water between sandbanks) to reach the casualty. Helmsman Michael Whistler had to take great care to avoid capsizing and the crew later praised the lifeboat: 'The D class performed to its limits and was outstanding.'

Once alongside, Crew Member Anthony Bonham climbed aboard the *Badger* and established a tow. However, on leaving the gutway, the lifeboat could not make headway and was being swept towards the shallows by the wind and waves. The *Badger* was in danger of capsizing. Stewart Olley, helmsman on the Atlantic lifeboat, reacted quickly and steered alongside the vessel to pass a tow line. The Atlantic took over from the D class and all three boats moved away from the danger of the shallows.

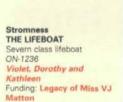
The D class stood down when they reached Southend pier and the two lifeboats went separate ways. Michael had the unenviable task of taking the *Ethel Royal* back to the station single handed in terrible conditions. The Atlantic ploughed through steep breaking seas towing the *Badger* towards Two Tree Island. At one point, a squall nearly blew a crew member of the Atlantic off his feet.

The *Badger* was safely moored at 3.41pm and the Atlantic was reunited with the D class back at the station at 4.10pm. The crew were delighted with the Atlantic lifeboat *Vic and Billie Whiffen*, which only came to Southend in December 2001: 'It was the first severe weather call in our new Atlantic 75 and its performance was exceptional.'

The outstanding performance of the Southend lifeboatmen has also been recognised. Stewart Olley and Michael Whistler received a letter of appreciation from the RNLI chairman, Peter Nicholson, who thanked them for their 'determination and skilful seamanship'. The remaining crew members received a letter of thanks from Operations Director Michael Vlasto. After the rescue Stewart Olley said: 'It gave us a great sense of achievement to have saved three lives and the vessel,' and put it down to the crews working together as a team.

# Lifeboats in action

# In for the long haul



Scotland

Longhope

Thurso

Stromness

Scrabster

GOA

THE CREW Cosswein John Banks Crew members Fred Breck Calium MacIver Neil McGibbon Colin Mowat Alan MacLeod David Sutherland Stewart Taylor David Wishart

LIFEBOAT STATION

Established: 1867 Previous medals: 2 Silver, 2 Bronze

#### Thurso

THE LIFEBOAT Arun class lifeboat ON-1149 The Ousen Mother Funding: Legacy of Miss SS Gray and RNLI funds

#### THE CREW

Coxswain William Munro Crew members Duncan Munro Gordon Munro William Miller James Brims John Webster Scott Youngson

LIFEBOAT STATION Established: 1860 Previous medals: 7 silver, 3 bronze

THE CASUALTY

Crew of five on the Faith Ann, a 17m commercial fishing vessel

THE CONDITIONS

Weather: Rain Visibility: Poor Wind: NW force 9~10 Sea state: Very rough

6



Disabled and drifting with a fouled propeller, the fishing boat Faith Ann was in trouble in storm force winds, 50 miles off Orkney. Soon after midday on 26 April the Shetland Coastguard requested the launch of the Stromness lifeboat on a demanding service that was to last until the following day

As soon as the lifeboat *Violet, Dorothy and Kathleen* cleared Stromness harbour and entered Hoy Sound, she hit rough and confused seas. Once clear of the west coast of Orkney the swell was up to 12m. Stuart Taylor, the mechanic, said afterwards that it was the worst conditions he had experienced in his 33 years of serving on lifeboats. Coxswain John Banks recalls 'looking up at green water,' leaving Hoy Sound.

The lifeboatmen were thankful that the Faith Ann was not in immediate danger. They knew it would be hours before they reached the casualty as the lifeboat could only manage 12 knots in the rough sea. Afterwards, John commented: 'The crew performed as a team, and stood up marvellously well under the conditions and length of service'.

Four hours after leaving Stromness, the lifeboat reached the fishing vessel and her crew of five. Because of the angle of the fishing vessel in the sea, John realised that he would have to adopt an unorthodox approach to pass a tow. In a difficult manoeuvre, the lifeboat was run down sea towards the bow of the *Faith Ann*. It worked at the first attempt. The lifeboatmen were able to pass the tow line and the fishermen secured it.

John decided to take the Faith Ann towards Scrabster, to avoid the sea conditions in Hoy Sound. The weather was deteriorating and there was little difference in distance between the two harbours: both were around 50 miles away. The gruelling tow commenced.

After only 20 minutes the tow parted when the tyre it was attached to ripped in half, despite the slow speed of 6 knots. Any slower and the Severn class lifeboat would have been impossible to control in the sea conditions. Over the next 5 hours the tow kept parting and had to be reconnected six times, testing the lifeboatmen's patience and endurance. One of the most dangerous moments of the rescue came while reconnecting the tow one time, when a particularly large wave almost landed the fishing boat on the deck of the lifeboat. Disaster was prevented by excellent boat handling by John and the skill and seamanship of his crew. Each time the tow was reconnected swiftly and safely.

Nine hours after launching, John realised that the tow line length was getting dangerously short and requested the launch of the Thurso lifeboat. The Arun class lifeboat *The Queen Mother* launched from Thurso with Coxswain William Munro in command. It battled through 10-12m seas to reach the Stromness lifeboat soon after 11pm, 9 miles west of Scrabster. The Thurso lifeboat took over the tow and was able to reduce the towing speed to under 4 knots, while maintaining control, with less pressure on the tow line. John later praised the actions of the Thurso lifeboat crew: 'They did their duty in a very professional and seamanlike manner.'

The Stromness lifeboat assisted with a safe entry into Scrabster harbour by attaching a stern rope. By 3am, after a 14-hour marathon service, *Faith Ann* was safely moored and crews of both lifeboats took a well deserved rest.

In recognition of his seamanship skills and determination, John Banks received the RNLI's Thanks of the Institution on Vellum. In response, John said he felt: 'honoured, not only for myself but for the crew and station, and the guild which works tirelessly on our behalf'. John Caldwell, the divisional inspector of lifeboats, Scotland, praised the 'exemplary' efforts of all the lifeboatmen involved in the combined rescue: 'Both crews are to be commended for their determination and endurance.' The Stromness crew received Vellum Service Certificates and the Thurso crew received letters of appreciation from Andrew Freemantle, the RNLI's Chief Executive.



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# Lifeboats in action



#### THE LIFEBOAT

D class D-543 Saint David-Dewi Sant Funding: From members of Rotary International District 1070

THE CREW Helmsman Neil Thomas Mechanic Michael Phillips

ST DAVIDS LIFEBOAT STATION Established: 1869 Previous medals: 7 silver and 9 bronze

THE CASUALTY

THE CONDITIONS Weather: Partly cloudy Visibility: Good Wind: WSW Force 5 Sea State: Moderate/choppy

# **Split-second timing**

When the St Davids D class lifeboat launched in the afternoon of 21 March 2002, the crew of two knew the race was on to reach the surfers in trouble at Newgale beach. With 9 miles to travel, the crew had to take the quickest route possible as the surfers couldn't hold on forever

Initially Mechanic Michael Phillips took the helm with Neil Thomas as crew on the *Saint David-Dewi Sant*. They predicted that the 9 miles would take at least 25 minutes. They knew seconds could mean the difference between life and death for the two surfers at Newgale beach, and there were also reports of *another missing surfer*. The lifeboatmen chose the shortest, fastest route, which made for an extremely uncomfortable ride as there was a large choppy swell, with waves of up to 2.5m.

Despite launching a few minutes after the Tyne lifeboat *Garside*, the D class soon overtook the larger vessel. After 25 minutes, they spotted Newgale beach. Here Neil took the helm because of his experience of working in surf as a qualified lifeguard.

The two surfers were soon located and Neil made one pass through the surf to assess the situation. The man and woman were clinging to a surf board, trapped in a back eddy 100m from the beach in 2m surf. They were unable to reach the beach and the woman was slipping in and out of consciousness.



Michael Phillips (left) and Neil Thomas alongside the Saint David-Dewi Sant Garside reached the scene soon after the D class lifeboat, but the crew of the all-weather lifeboat could only observe, as the waters were too shallow for them to help directly.

With a real danger of capsizing in the surf, Neil judged that it would take too long to pick up both casualties together. Timing was crucial. Neil

waited for a brief lull in the waves, ran in from the northwest and Michael quickly recovered the semiconscious woman. Meanwhile a large set of waves was building. Before the three of them were engulfed by waves, the lifeboatmen reached the beach, where the casualty was passed on to awaiting paramedics and Broad Haven Coastguard team. Afterwards, Neil commented: 'The relief of getting the young lady aboard before the surf swallowed us up was enormous.' During the rescue of the woman, a second man paddled out from the beach on his board to assist the other surfer, but he too got into trouble. The lifeboat relaunched to rescue the second and third casualties, but was filling with water from the surf. Michael and Neil recovered both the original casualty and the second man and his board. The D class held up well with a full quota of people and a great deal of water and it reached the beach safely. The surfers were taken to hospital, but all made a full recovery.

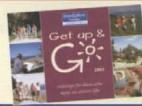
Within 10 minutes of arriving on the scene, the lifeboatmen had saved three surfers. The crew were relieved to find out that the initial report of another missing surfer was incorrect and the search for the lost board was abandoned due to surf conditions. The two St Davids lifeboats returned to the station together, arriving at 6.05pm after a rather more comfortable journey home.

In recognition of his actions on this service, Michael Phillips received a letter from Operations Director Michael Vlasto, who pointed out that the mechanic was officially on leave at the time, which made his actions: 'all the more noteworthy'. Peter Nicholson, the RNLI chairman, thanked Neil Thomas in a letter for his 'fine assessment of the situation' and his 'skilful boat handling in the surf'.



Michael Phillips (left) and Neil Thomas

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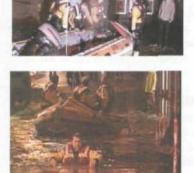
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Flash floods hit St Ives in mid-November when the Stennack River burst its banks in heavy rain. Six St Ives lifeboatmen were asked by police to search buildings for stranded occupants in the middle of the night. The inshore lifeboat launched in the High Street and met a torrent of water and bits of floating debris.

Wading up to their necks in water, pulling the boat along, the crew rescued people from the first floor windows of a bakery and from a local pub. An off duty crew member listening to the radio overheard the lifeboat tell the Coastguard its position: 'Just pulling alongside the Three Ferrets,' – a 'shout' he was sorry to have missed.





Pictured: St lves lifeboatmen with D class lifeboat The Craft Club during the flash floods

#### Stripped search

Walmer lifeboats took part in a search for a drunken skinny dipper in the summer when a pile of clothing was found on the beach. Meanwhile, the nude swimmer was safely tucked up in bed. After taking a dip he had been unable to find his clothes, so had crept back to his B&B naked. When woken, the man was suitably embarrassed and apologetic.

#### Seasick baby

Daraghadee lifeboat's open day was interrupted this summer by an unusual energency. The lifeboat took a paramedic and a doctor to assist a baby who was suffering from severe seasickness. The mother and baby were taken back to shore and the baby made a full recovery.

### Poop deck

Rocky, a nine-year-old Labrador cross, was swept out to sea after racing into the sea to chase seagulls at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland. Half a mile from shore, Rocky soon tired of doing doggy-paddle and was relieved to be saved by the Newbiggin lifeboat. A lifeboat spokesman said: 'In gratitude, he pooped on the deck!'

### Knife to see you?

Reple in trouble are usually pleased to see a lifeboat, but not so for a man tying to evade the police in Herne Bay in August. Holding a knife, he cycled, anto the sea and swam out. The man, who was not training for a triathalon, efused help from the Whitstable lifeboat, despite being 400m from the thore. After nearly half an hour the man agreed to come on board, after being assured by the crew that they were not there to take him into custody.

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16th February \*RNLI Goodwood Gallop (10m) Goodwood Motor Circuit

6th April \*RNLI Hatfield House 10k Run Hatfield

6th April \*RNLI Lymington 10k Lymington

13th April Flora London Marathon London

2nd June Evening Herald Women's Mini Marathon Dublin \*6 exclusive RNLI races

15th June Edinburgh Marathon Edinburgh

22nd June \*Leg it for the Lifeboats (10k) Wimbledon Common

23rd June \*RNLI Summer Solstice Run (10k) Burford

3rd August London Triathlon Royal Victoria Docks

27th October Dublin City Marathon Dublin





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# Lifeboats in action

# Alertness and teamwork Saves lives



Senior Helmsman Gary Barlow was carrying out routine maintenance at the Cleethorpes lifeboat station when he spotted a small fishing vessel to the north side of the Humber. On 6 February the fishing boat Hueee was heading into heavy weather and Gary was concerned for her safety. He drove to the north end of Cleethorpes for a better view, in a move that probably saved the fishermen's lives. Gary had the presence of mind to take binoculars and a VHF radio with him. He was right to be worried: Hueee had suffered engine failure and the two fishermen radioed the Coastguard requesting immediate assistance. The fishermen themselves were unsure of their position, but Gary soon informed the Coastguard that he knew where they were.

The inshore lifeboat Blue Peter VI launched at 9.55am, 5 minutes after the crew of four were paged. With Gary Barlow at the helm knowing where Hueee was, the lifeboat reached the casualty only 15 minutes after launching. Later, Operations Director Michael Vlasto commented: 'Had the launch not happened as quickly as it did, it is most probable that the men would have ended up in the sea, with possible fatal consequences.'

Finding the fishing vessel was only the start of a difficult rescue. With westerly winds of force 8 against the fast flowing tide, the rough seas had a swell height of 2m and the drifting Hueee was being battered by the waves. Despite the demanding conditions, after 11 years operating a D class Gary had: 'every confidence in the boat and its equipment'. The lifeboat ran in and the crew established a tow.

They then started the tricky journey home, negotiating the shipping lanes. This was the most dangerous point in the rescue as Gary said: 'The seas were breaking over the starboard side of both the casualty vessel and the lifeboat, which could induce a capsize'. Gary steered into the weather, close to the navigation buoys while an inward bound ferry and an outward bound coaster passed.

Once it was clear to cross the shipping lanes, the lifeboat headed towards Cleethorpes with the weather on the starboard side. In these conditions the lifeboat itself was in danger of tipping over, so the crew — Helmsman Shaun Sonley, and Ian Sanderson and Ashley Roe-Gammon — had to balance on the starboard edge of the boat to act as ballast.

Meanwhile the lifeboatmen kept a close eye on the Hueee, which Gary described as: 'being thrown around like a fairground ride'. They feared a man overboard and were relieved when, one hour after launching, Hueee was out of danger and landed at Wonderland beach into the care of the local Coastguard.

In a letter of appreciation, Michael Vlasto praised the crew: 'Gary Barlow's alertness and initiative, the prompt launching of the lifeboat and the excellent teamwork displayed by the whole crew of the D class in the prevailing weather conditions resulted in the saving of the two men's lives.' Receiving the award, Gary said he was: 'very proud of the crew for their courageous performance,' and stressed that rescues like these were only made possible by all the different groups of people involved: the crew and their families, fundraisers, RNLI professional staff and the generosity of the public.



On tow the fishing vessel Hueee

'Having the vessel in tow in those conditions was difficult enough, but with no option but to navigate across the busy shipping channel and without putting the casualty in further danger, made it far more difficult and much more to consider than many shouts I had ever been on.' Gary Barlow, senior helmsman

From I-r : Gary Barlo Ian Sanderso Station Honorary Secreta Jack Barlow, Shaun Sonlo Ashley Roe-Gamm

Photo: courtesy of Grimsby Telegra

# Enjoy the experience

ileiacket

Graphics supplied by Land Design Studio Ltd



Moelfre Tyne class lifeboat

An organisation funded totally by voluntary donations has a very special relationship with its friends. Finding supporters, expanding and staying in touch with the supporter community is vital to the RNLI's future - as important as designing new lifeboats or training for crews. At regional and local level, RNLI supporters are amazingly active. Besides the main lifeboat days, tens of thousands of meetings and events take place every year across the UK to raise money and awareness. Shops and open lifeboat stations help to give a local presence, while national coverage in the media plays its part in keeping the RNLI in the public eye. For supporters, this magazine is one of the main ways to stay in touch and keep you informed. Online, the website hosts a fast growing e-community with up to 25,000 users per month and exciting plans for a new, improved service coming soon.

But nothing can beat the personal touch. Have

you ever felt that you'd like to visit the RNLI itself and meet the crews face to face? Maybe bring your family and friends along so they can see why you're proud to be an RNLI supporter and inspire them to do the same? From 2006 that's just what you'll be able to do in the new, all-action Visitor Experience at RNLI headquarters in Poole, Dorset. This will be a chance see the RNLI in operation and visit the nerve centre of the nation's real fourth emergency service.

'It will be a real life encounter with what we are and what we do,' explains James Vaughan, public presentation manager. 'It's about the philosophy and the qualities that make the RNLI unique.' James believes that the humanity and drama of saving lives at sea are themes with universal appeal across generations. 'Everyone can admire the heroism and dedication of our crews and the spirit of volunteering that motivates them,' he says. 'It's the basis for an outstanding attraction.'

But it won't all be wild seas and heroic rescues. The Visitor Experience will also tell the behind-thescenes story of the RNLI and what it takes to be on watch and ready for action, 365 days a year. This huge resource of expertise and professionalism is a great untold story of 'everyday heroes' according to James. 'People don't realise that we lead the world in designing our own lifeboats and equipment. We safety test every single lifejacket that our crews go out in. Our logistics team can get a propeller from Poole to Skve in 12 hours. We run 400 training courses each year. A huge team effort lies behind every boat launch.' Key to that team's success is the unselfish contribution of fundraisers, legators and the public in making all this happen without a penny of public money being spent.

Is a visitor attraction right for the RNLI? Is it really in the entertainment business or should it be leaving that to Disney? What contribution will this make to the RNLI's core mission of saving lives? Certainly it's the right time to be looking at new ways to use the Poole headquarters site. Plans are already well advanced to build a Lifeboat College with stateof-the-art facilities. There will be new workshops, stores and a wave tank, so there are big savings to be made in creating the new Visitor Experience as part of this building programme.

Poole is also well placed to host a new leisure and learning attraction. Market research shows that over 8m people live within a two-hour drive time of the site. Over 5m visitors come to the Poole/ Bournemouth area each year, many with young families looking for fun and worthwhile things to do. The commercial case looks good. Most importantly, a visitor attraction is a great way to reach new audiences with the RNLI message. The charity needs new supporters, young and old. Younger people, and those with families, are proven to respond positively to the hands-on involvement that the Visitor Experience can give. And everyone, whatever their age, will be drawn into the excitement, humanity and drama of the story. James Vaughan has no doubts. 'Our values and our message don't change,' he says, 'but we must adapt the way we talk about them. The Visitor Experience will get people exploring and involved in the RNLI story. There's no better way to gain their commitment to what we are and what we stand for.'

So what will visitors be able to do? The RNLI has been developing a range of visitor experiences with the leading attractions development team, Land Design Studio and TGA Ltd.

#### Ready for the lightning tour...

Imagine standing on the bridge of an all-weather lifeboat, steering a search pattern to find a single victim in the water. Other members of your crew scan the waves, looking for the smallest sign. Suddenly there is a shout as one of the watchers spots the orange of a lifejacket. Now your task as coxswain becomes even more crucial as you follow their directions to steer close enough to the sailor to haul him out. There are tense moments as you edge alongside and then a cry of triumph as the rescuers catch hold.

Using the latest computer-based training software, this experience will be available to visitors, working together in a full-scale version of the lifeboat bridge with images on screens to provide a vivid sense of being there. Nearby, visitors find themselves facing a full sized, transparent human figure.



Photo: Royal Bank of Scotland / Rick Tomlinson





It has the familiar red, yellow and green pattern of an infrared image showing the heat of a body under normal conditions. Visitors are invited to reach forward and grasp a metal rail below the figure. It is cold.

Photo by Carl Wilson BNLI RNL

They now hear a clear, simple explanation of what happens in the sea as your body temperature drops. To begin with you have the strength to turn away from the waves. As you become weaker the waves hit you face on. You could now have less than 30 minutes to live. At the same time, the infrared pattern on the transparent body is changing to colder blues and whites. The visitors' hands are chilling on the metal rail where cold air has now started to blow. It takes just three minutes to show visitors, in a way that they'll never forget, just why every RNLI lifeboat needs to get to its rescue site as fast as possible.

Another, growing aspect of the RNLI's work features in the Beach Safety experience. Here visitors are asked to keep watch on a stretch of beach (projected on a wide cyclorama screen) and spot any dangers. There are plenty of people about and, as in real life, the situation is constantly changing. An airbed that was close to shore a moment ago is drifting out to sea. The family out on the rock pools haven't noticed the rising tide that may cut them off. The jet ski rider is coming much too close to the bathers. It takes sharp eyes to see the dangers (children may well be better at this than their parents) and good training to spot beach dangers in advance. Visitors leave with a sense of achievement at their own success and a new respect for the RNLI lifeguards who do this job every day.

The Visitor Experience will also house the RNLI's own rigging workshop, where ropes, scramble nets and other vital equipment are made for the lifeboats. It's also where lifejackets come in from around the UK for their regular safety check. This is a real working environment, where visitors can see the skill and dedication of RNLI staff. You can even have a go at splicing a line yourself, under the guidance of a trained expert. The care that is given to checking every lifejacket for tears, leaks and buoyancy tells its own story – a clear reminder of the volunteer crews who risk their lives every day to save others. Each lifejacket could mean the difference between life and death. At the RNLI, no job is too small or too repetitive.

Meanwhile back at the operations room exhibit, other visitors are feeling the pressure. A huge map of the UK and Ireland shows the position of every lifeboat station as a light along the coast. When the light flashes it means that the station has sent a request to the operations room at Poole. They may need a new D Class in a hurry, a set of charts or a prop shaft. There may be crew booking into a training course, an all-weather lifeboat due in for service, a county show that needs an exhibition stand or a local TV programme asking to interview a female crew member. By touching one of several computer screens beneath the map, visitors can join the operations room team to deal with a request. They have just a few seconds to choose the right spare part, book the train tickets or search the crew lists for a woman's name. If they get it right, the station light stops flashing. But there is always another one, and another, in a job that goes on 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

There's plenty more for visitors of all ages to do, including a dramatic 3D film show that tells the story of a rescue from the viewpoint of the crew and the sinking yacht waiting for them to arrive. Children can have fun dressing up in helmets and lifejackets to play in their own scaled-down D Class inflatable. For those with a scientific interest, there are explanations of just how the RNLI designs and tests its lifeboats and equipment.

The high point of the Visitor Experience comes as visitors exit on a raised walkway. To each side of them they see the faces of RNLI members – crew, engineers, fundraisers, donors, shore crews and medics. Each in turn animates to explain what the RNLI means to them and why they give their time and money. It's a story of ordinary people's dedication, volunteer spirit, professional skill and heroism. This is the RNLI, an organisation dedicated to saving lives and deserving of your support.

What will the new Visitor Experience do for the RNLI? At its simplest, it will make money as a well run, well marketed leisure and learning destination with an entry charge, shop and café. It will attract new supporters to the RNLI with a form of communication that has broad appeal. This is vital to keep the lifeboat service moving forward and adapting to changing conditions and demands. Finally, and just as importantly, it will recognise the pride and commitment of existing RNLI supporters. For James Vaughan it's a key priority. 'The people who are friends of the RNLI already are vital to our future,' he says. 'The new Visitor Experience will give them the chance to meet us, talk with us and find out what we are really about.

'That way we'll stay friends for life.'

# Listings

# Naming ceremonies

#### Ernest and Mable at Weymouth

The £1.8m Severn class lifeboat has been named after the parents of the main donor, Miss Beryl Taylor of Surrey. Additional funding has been provided by a bequest from Eileen Cressy, a gift in memory of Chester Balch from his widow and other gifts.

Beryl Taylor, representing the donors, handed

the lifeboat over to the RNLI. Weymouth's honorary secretary Derek Sargent accepted the lifeboat on the station's behalf and Miss Taylor named the vessel. 14/09/02



### Seahorse III at Cromer

The naming ceremony for the new D class lifeboat was held outside the inshore boathouse despite overcast conditions and the forecast of heavy rain. The chairman introduced John Gamble, representing the sponsors of the lifeboat, who said: 'The sponsors are delighted that *Seahorse III* is being stationed at Cromer and thank the crew and station personnel for such a warm welcome.' Mr Gamble handed over the lifeboat to James Woodhouse of the RNLI, who thanked the sponsors for their hard work in providing four inshore lifeboats in all to be used by the Institution.

A service of dedication was also conducted by Peter Paine, Port chaplain of Great Yarmouth, and Mrs Barbara New named the lifeboat. 20/10/02



### Leicester Challenge II at Redcar

This lifeboat is the second Atlantic 75 funded by the Leicester branch to be stationed at Redcar, who celebrated their 200th anniversary in 2002. Mrs Caroline Corley, station honorary secretary, handed over the boat to the RNLI.

The boat was then passed into the safekeeping of Redcar station and accepted by the honorary secretary, Ian Readman. There followed a service of dedication conducted by the lifeboat chaplain and former Vicar of St Peters Church, Reverend Stephen Fisher. The boat was then named by the Leicester RNLI branch chairman, Derrick Young. 27/07/02

### Roger and Joy Freeman for the relief fleet

A substantial part of the funding for this new Severn class lifeboat has come from the legacy of Hilda Freeman, of Solihull. Mrs Freeman had requested that her legacy be used to purchase three inshore lifeboats, but in view of the substantial sum received, it was agreed with her family that the money would be used towards the cost of an all-weather lifeboat.

The boat is named after Mrs Freeman, known as Joy, and her husband. Additional funding has come from the legacies of Ivy Carr, Ivy Craton, Arthur Leggett and Louisa Stocker. Jackie Vill, a friend of the late Mrs Freeman, named the lifeboat. 01/10/02

### Roy Barker III at Howth

This is the third all-weather lifeboat to be funded by the legacy of the late Mr Roy Barker.

400 guests attending the naming ceremony were treated to a short dedication service involving local clergy and singers from local choirs. Rupert Jeferas, Howth honorary secretary, accepted the new Trent class boat on behalf of the RNLI and Geraldine Coulter then named the boat *Roy Barker III.* 24/08/02

Pictured (I-r): Mrs Maureen McLoughlin, President of Howth Ladies Guild; Mrs Jane Spears who delivered the lifeboat to the RNLI on behalf of the late Mr Roy Barker; and Mrs Geraldine Coulter





# *Joan Mary* at Mablethorpe

Mablethorpe has received a new Atlantic 75 provided for by the legacy of the late Miss Evelyn Selina Wallace, of Newton Abbot, Devon. Miss Wallace funded the new lifeboat and provided a substantial amount towards the cost of the new station. Miss Wallace's nephew John Wallace handed the boat over to the RNLI. HRH The Duke of Kent named her Joan Mary in commemoration of Miss Wallace's late sister and unveiled a commemorative plaque. Mr Wallace's wife, Margaret, cut the ribbon to open the new lifeboat station. 22/04/02

### Seahorse IV at Great Yarmouth and Gorleston

The Surrey Seahorse Ball and the Bisley clay pigeon shooting challenge organised by Simon Crane, chairman of the ball committee, provided funding for a new Atlantic 75 at Great Yarmouth and Gorleston station.

Neil Duffield, lifeboat operations manager at the station, accepted the lifeboat and handed it into the care of the branch. Mrs Pamela Crane named the lifeboat *Seahorse IV* after a service of dedication. *Seahorse IV* replaces the Atlantic 21 *Joseph B Press* which has served at the station since 1988. 12/09/02

## For everyone who helps save lives at sea

# Listings

### Lifeboat launches for June to August 2002

Aberdeen 0N-1248(17-24): Jun 30, Jul 13, D-536 Jun 3, Jun 16, Jun 7(x2), Jul 15

Aberdovev 8-758: Jun 4

Abersoch B-582: Jun 1(x2), Jun 4, Jul 26

Aberystwyth B-704: Jun 20, Jun 23, Jun 25, Jul 15, Jul 17

Achill Island ON-1240(14-28): Jun 6

Aith ON-1257(1730): Jun 21

Aldeburgh 0N-1193(12-34): Jul 12, Jul 15, D-520: Jun 22, Jun 23

Alderney ON-1199(14-04): Jun 7, Jun 11, Jun 28, Jul 6, Jul 21 D-551: Jul 21

Amble 0N-1184(12-25): Jun 14, Jun 23, Jun 30 D-498: Jun 14, Jul 6

Angle 0N-1114(47-011): Jun 23, Jun 25, Jul 9, Jul 23 **D-493:** Jun 2(x2), Jun 23, Jun 28

Anstruther ON-1174(12-17): Jun 15, Jun 22,

Appledore 0N-1140(47-027): Jun 3, Jun 18, Jun 25, Jul 2, Jul 5 B-742: Jun 28, Jul 4

Aran Islands ON-1217(17-06): Jun 7, Jun 8, Jun 17, Jun 20, Jun 29(x2), Jul 1, Jul 5, Jun 21(x2), Jul 25, Jul 28

Arbroath ON-1194(12-35): Jun 8(x2), Jun 23, Jul 18, Jul 21, Jul 22(x2) D-455: Jun 8, Jul 18, Jul 21, Jul 28

Arklow ON-1223(14-19): Jun 3, Jun 21, Jun 26, Jul 2, Jul 10, Jul 21, Jul 22

Arran (Lamlash) B-770: Jun 14, Jun 17, Jul 1, Jul 4, Jul 6

Arranmore ON-1244(17-22): Jun 7, Jun 9, Jun 16(x2), Jul 5, Jul 23, Jul 24, Jul 25(x2)

Atlantic College B-763: Jul 21

Ballycotton ON-1233(14-25): Jun 10, Jun 13, Jun 19, Jun 25, Jun 27, Jul 14

Bangor 8-584; Jun 21(x2), Jun 23(x2), Jul 14

Barmouth **ON-1185(12-26)**: Jul 6 **D-524**: Jul 9, Jul 14, Jul 17(x2), Jul 20, Jul 28(x2), Jul 29(x2)

**Barra Island** ON-1230(17-12): Jun 17, Jul 4

Barrow D-567: Jun 29(x2)

Barry Dock ON-1078(52-21): Jun 2(x2), Jun 18 ON-1082(52-23): Jun 23, Jul 17, Jul 21 Beaumaris B-768: Jun 1, Jun 2, Jun 8(x2), Jun 15(x2), Jun 30, Jul 6, Jul 8, Jul 13, Jul 16(x2), Jul 17, Jul 20, Jul 21

Bembridge 0N-1126(47-018): Jun 1(x2) D-503: Jun 2, Jun 3(x2), Jun 7, Jun 19, Jul 4, Jul 22

Berwick-Upon-Tweed 0N-1191(12-32): Jun 23 D-494: Jun 5

Blackpool B-748: Jun 1, Jun 8, Jun 9, Jun 11, Jun 17, Jun 24, Jun 29 D-449: Jun 1, Jun 8, Jun 11, Jun 12,

D-566: Jun 1, Jun 11, Jun 17, Jun 24, Jun 29 Jul 16 Blyth

ON-1204(14-06): Jun 10, Jun 22(x2) D-464: Jun 22 Borth

D-479: Jun 4, Jun 9 Bridlington

ON-1169(12-12): Jun 4, Jun 29(x2), D-557: Jun 16, Jun 29(x2), Jul 2.

Brighton B-737: Jun 1, Jun 3, Jun 7, Jun 18(x2), Jun 26, Jun 30, Jul 4, Jul 5, Jul 13(x2)

**Broughty Ferry** ON-1252(14-31): Jun 22 D-539: Jun 22(x2), Jun 23

Buckie ON-1093(52-27): Jun 21, Jul 4. Jul 10, Jul 17

Bundoran **B-711:** Jun 17, Jun 28 **B-718:** Jul 13, Jul 14, Jul 15, Jul 18, Jul 21(x2), Jul 24, Jul 28

Burnham-on-Crouch B-774: Jun 1 D-519: Jun 30(x2)

**Burry Port** D-472: Jun 27, Jun 30, Jul 14, Jul 21(x3), Jul 26(x2)

Calshot **ON-1108(52-34):** Jun 3, Jun 9, Jun 13, Jun 16, Jun 22, Jun 28 (x2), Jun 30

Campbeltown ON-1241(17-19): 03/07/2002(x2). Jul 5, Jul 16, Jul 30

Cardigan B-773: Jun 2, Jun 8 D-547: Jun 2

Castletownbere ON-1118(52-36): Jun 13, Jun 29, Jul 3, Jul 17, Jul 20

Chiswick E-003: Jun 8, Jul 6 E-004: Jul 17 E-006: Jun 1, Jun 4, Jun 6, Jun 10, E-006: Jun 1, Jun 4, Jun 6, Jun 10, Jun 14, Jun 16, Jun 17(x2), Jun 21, Jun 22, Jun 26, Jun 27, Jun 29, Jul 2, Jul 8, Jul 9(x4), Jul 14(x2), Jul 15, Jul 20, Jul 21, Jul 23, Jul 24, Jul 25, Jul 28(x2), Jul 27(x 2), Jul 30, Jul 31

Clacton-on-Sea B-755: Jun 26, Jun 28, Jun 30, Jul 19, Jul 20(x2) D-421: Jul 5, Jul 13 D-483: Jun 27 D-559: Jul 14, Jul 15

Cleethorpes D-444: Jun 3, Jun 9(x2), Jun 13, Jun 25, Jun 29 D-454: Jul 13, Jul 21(x2), Jul 22

Conwy D-482: Jun 22(x2), Jul 3(x4), Jul 17

**Courtmacsherry Harbour** ON-1205(14-07): Jun 15, Jul 18,

Courtown D-548: Jun 5, Jul 7, Jul 27, Jul 30

Cowes B-722 Jul 10 Craster

D-411: Jun 4, Jun 23, Jun 25 Criccieth

B-707: Jul 6, Jul 28 Cromer

ON-1097(47-006): Jul 16 ON-1138(47-025): Jun 20(x2) D-465: Jul 10, Jul 17, Jul 21, Jul 27

Crosshaven B-718: Jun 1, Jun 18, Jun 19, Jun 27 B-782: Jun 29, Jul 6, Jul 9, Jul 14, Jul 18

Cullercoats 8-591: Jun 22(x3), Jun 23, Jun 29, Jul 7, Jul 12, Jul 14, Jul 22, Jul 25

Donaghadee ON-1107: Jun 3, Jun 22, Jul 16, Jul 27, Jul 28

Dover ON-1086: Jun 17, Jun 20 ON-1220: Jun 12(x2)

**Dun Laoghaire** ON-1228: Jun 1, Jun 2, Jun 4, Jun 8, Jun 22(x2), Jul 3, Jul 16 D-565: Jun 4, Jun 8, Jun 22(x2), Jul 2, Jul 14, Jul 20

Dunbar ON-1207(14-09): Jun 1, Jun 11(x2), Jun 14, Jun 23, Jun 30, Jul 7, Jul 20. Jul 28(x2) D-544: Jun 29, Jun 30, Jul 13, Jul 18, Jul 20, Jul 28

Dungeness ON-1148(12-11): Jun 2(x2) ON-1186(12-27): Jun 13, Jun 30

**Dunmore East** ON-1215(14-17): Jun 24, Jun 30, 15(x2), Jul 21

Eastbourne D-570: Jul 11, Jul 18, Jul 19, Jul 28 ON-1195(12-36): Jul 11, Jul 13, Jul 18, Jul 28, Jul 30, ON-1195(12-36): Jun 3, Jun 14. Jun 23, Jun 24, Jun 25, Jul 10 D-419: Jun 3, Jun 13, Jun 22, Jun 23, Jun 24, Jun 29 D-570: Jul 19, Jul 21, Jul 29(x2) ON-1195(12-36): Jul 19(x3)

Enniskillen B-525: Jun 5(x2), Jun 22, Jul 7, Jul 8. 8-549: Jun 25 8-580: Jun 1, Jun 2, Jun 7

Exmouth ON-1210(14-12): Jun 3, Jun 26(x2). Jun 30, Jul 7 D-516: Jun 3, Jun 7, Jun 10, Jun 19, Jun 20, Jul 7, Jul 10

Evemouth ON-1095(47-004): Jul 1, Jul 7, Jul 17, ON-1209(14-11): Jun 2, Jun 6(x2), Jun 19, Jun 22, Jun 23

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Falmouth ON-1256(17-29): Jun 29, B-564: Jun 12, Jun 28, Jun 30(x2),

Fenit ON-1253(14-32): Jun 1, Jun 2, Jun 3, Jun 8, Jun 22, Jun 25, Jul 10(x2) D-459: Jul 21, D-561: Jun 1, Jun 22

Fethard D-434: Jul 28, Jul 29

Filey ON-1170(12-13): Jul 9, Jul 24 ON-1178(12-21): Jun 3(x2), Jun 5, D-563: Jun 26 Jul 19

Fishguard ON-1198(14-03): Jul 5(x2) D-505: Jun 15, Jul 21

Flamborough B-703: Jun 23, Jun 24, Jun 27, Jun 28, Jul 7

Fleetwood ON-1156(47-038): Jul 9 D-488: Jun 5, Jul 9(x2)

Flint D-510: Jun 9, Jul 28

Fowey D-526: Jun 6, Jul 1, Jul 13, Jul 16.

Fraserburgh ON-1259(14-34): Jun 16

Galway B-738: Jun 6, Jun 22, Jun 25(x2), Jul 3

Girvan ON-1196(12-37): Jun 8, Jul 27(x2)

Gravesend B-734: Jun 22, Jul 17 E-003: Jun 23, Jul 26(x3), Jul 28(x2),

E-004: Jun 1(x3), Jun 3(x4), Jun 12, Jun 13, Jun 25, Jun 30(x3), Jul 1, Jul 4, Jul 7(x2), Jul 8, Jul 9, Jul 11(x2), Jul 12 Jul 13 Jul 21

Happisburgh D-439: Jun 9, Jun 18, Jun 25

Hartlepool ON-1077(52-20): Jul 6. B-736: Jul 25, Jul 28

Harwich ON-1202(17-03): Jun 7, Jun 23,

Jun 30(x2), Jul 8 B-571: Jun 7(x2), Jun 8, Jun 11, Jun 20(x2), Jun 21, Jun 22(x2), Jun 28, Jun 30, Jul 4, Jul 5, Jul 8(x2), Jul 11, Jul 13, Jul 15, Jul 22(x2), Jul 24, Jul 26(x2)

Hastings 0N-1125(12-002): Jun 9. D-431: Jun 1, Jun 23, Jun 30 D-540: Jul 15, Jul 19

Hayling Island B-712: Jun 4, Jun 5(x2), Jun 9(x2), Jun 23(x2), Jun 30, Jul 7 B-713: Jul 14(x2), Jul 17(x2), Jul 29 D-496: Jun 5, Jun 9, Jun 23, Jul 17

Helensburgh 8-581: Jun 3(x2), Jun 22, Jun 26(x2), Jun 29, Jul 3, Jul 4, Jul 7

**Helvick Head** B-760: Jun 24, Jul 4, Jul 12, Jul 19, . bil 28

Holyhead ON-1123(52-37): Jul 20(x2), Jul 27. D-507: Jun 15 D-601: Jul 27

Horton & Port Eynon D-531: Jul 7, Jul 14, Jul 27

Howth ON-1258(14-33): Jun 8, Jun 17. n 20. Jul 2. Jul 20 D-530: Jul 6

Hoylake ON-1148(12-11): Jul 18

Humber **ON-1216(17-05):** Jun 2, Jun 6, Jun 9(x2), Jun 16, Jun 28, Jun 30(x2), Jul 15, Jul 29(x2)

Hunstanton B-749: Jul 11, Jul 21, Jul 27, Jul 28(x2)

llfracombe ON-1162(12-004): Jun 17 D-423: Jul 2, D-555: Jun 1, Jun 3, Jun 4, Jun 5,

Islay ON-1219(17-08): Jul 16, Jul 23(x2), ON-1254(17-27) Jun 11

Kessock 8-771: Jun 8 Jun 9 Jun 11 Jun 13. Jun 17(x3), Jun 21, Jun 26(x3), Jun 28, Jul 13, Jul 30

Kilkeel B-593: Jun 2, Jun 9, Jul 18, Jul 22,

**Kilmore Quay** ON-1187(12-28): Jun 9, Jun 28, Jul 6, Jul 13, Jul 28, Jul 29

**B-720:** Jun 23(x2); Jun 29, Jul 4, Jul 7(x2), Jul 10, Jul 13, Jul 14, Jul 23, Jul 27

Kilrush B-729: Jun 3, Jul 6, Jul 13 Kinghorn

Kippford

Kirkwall.

Jul 29

Largs

Larne

Jul 22

Lerwick

D-553: Jul 17

Kirkcudbright

ON-1231(17-13): Jun 4

Kyle of Lochalsh

B-585: Jun 6, Jul 20(x2), Jul 21

B-740: Jun 1, Jun 13, Jun 14, Jun 17,

B-739: Jun 3, Jun 6(x4), Jun 16, Jun

21(x2), Jun 23, Jun 24, Jun 29, Jul 5, Jul 7(x2), Jul 20, Jul 29

ON-1246(14-30): Jun 3, Jun 16, Jul 2,

D-499: Jun 1, Jun 9, Jun 28(x2), Jul 2,

ON-1221(17-10): Jun 4, Jun 10

D-484: Jun 1(x2), Jun 7, Jun 25

**B-586:** Jun 16, Jun 17, **B-779:** Jun 28, Jun 29(x2), Jun 30(x3), Jul 19, Jul 20, Jul 21, Jul 27, Jul 28

ON-1164(12-006): Jul 6, Jul 8 D-508: Jun 11, Jun 12, Jun 16, Jun 26, Jul 6, Jul 14, Jul 20, Jul 27, Jul 28

ON-1144(52-42): Jun 4, Jun 6, Jul 5,

Little & Broad Haven

Littlehampton

Littlestone-on-Sea

Llandudno

Lochinver

B-785: Jul 28(x2), Jul 29(x2)

### Identifying lifeboat classes

Lifeboat identifying numbers can be used to determine the class of lifeboat

#### Inshore lifeboats

B-741: Jun 1, Jun 15, Jun 24, Jun 29(x2), Jun 30, Jul 1, Jul 4, Jul 8,

B-566: Jun 8, Jun 17, Jun 22, Jul 14

ON-1189(12-30): Jun 9 D-509: Jun 9, Jun 13, Jun 20, Jul 14

ON-1250(17-26): Jun 3, Jun 7,

ON-1177(12-20): Jun 14, Jun 28, Jul 1

D-486: Jun 2, Jun 9, Jun 24, Jun 29,

B-708: Jun 3, Jun 23, Jun 25, Jul 4,

Jul 7, Jul 10, Jul 21, Jul 29, Jul 30 D-549: Jul 28, Jul 29

ON-1116(47-013): Jun 1, Jun 17,

Jun 24, Jul 1, Jul 15, Jul 25 D-457: Jul 28(x3), D-532: Jun 21, Jul 21, Jul 25

ON-1109(47-007): Jul 22

ON-1152(47-034): Jul 4

D-481: Jul 4, Jul 14, Jul 21

**B-583:** Jun 3(x2), Jun 6(x2), Jun 17, Jun 19, Jun 22, Jun 28, Jul 6(x2), Jul 7, Jul 14(x2), Jul 15, Jul 21, Jul 25.

B-721: Jun 6(x2), Jul 13, Jul 14, Jul 20(x2), Jul 28(x2)

New Quay (Cardiganshire)

ON-1188(12-29): Jun 5, Jul 2, Jul 22,

D-478: Jun 5, Jun 21, Jun 26, Jul 2,

ON-1160(52-46): Jul 4(x2), Jul 9 ON-1243(17-21): Jun 15, Jun 27(x2),

B-715: Jun 5, Jun 10, Jun 15, Jun 20 D-497: Jun 1, Jun 5(x2), Jun 19

D-442: Jun 11 D-500: Jun 23(x3), Jun 27, Jun 30(x2),

ON-1067(52-15): Jun 1(x2), Jun 5.

Jun 8, Jun 10, Jun 22 ON-1227(14-23): Jul 4, Jul 13,

Jul 17(x2), Jul 29, Jul 30

ON-1106(52-32): Jul 17 ON-1245(14-29): Jul 18

**On-passage** 

Jun 17, Jun 22, Jun 23, Jul 8

Looe

D-574: Jun 30

Lyme Regis

Jul 13, Jul 20

Lymington

Mablethorpe

D-506: Jun 6

B-578: Jun 1

B-592: Jul 29

Macduff

Mallaig

Margate

Minehead

Moelfre

Montrose

Morecambe

D-564: Jul 21

Mudeford

Jul 28 Jul 30

D-476: Jun

Newbiggin

Newcastle

Newhaven,

Jul 14, Jul 17, Jul 18 ON-1243(17-21) Jul 13

North Berwick,

Jul 20, Jul 22, Jul 28

Oban

Newquay (Cornwall)

B-745: Jun 22 Jun 23

**New Brighton** 

Jul 28

Lytham St Annes

B-778: Jun 3(x2), Jul 28

B-### Atlantic 21 or Atlantic 75 lifeboat D-### D class lifeboat E-### E class lifeboats

XP-### X class small inflatable lifeboat

Padstow ON-1094(47-003): Jun 2, Jun 11, Jul 10, Jul 11, Jul 26

Peel ON-1181(12-22): Jun 12

Penarth B-725: Jun 2, Jun 9, Jun 23, Jul 17(x3), D-440: Jun 23(x2) D-534: Jun 8

Plymouth ON-1136(52-40): Jun 1(x3), Jun 9(x3) Poole ON-1131(47-023): Jun 1, Jun 12(x2),

ON-1131(47-023); Jun 1, Jun 12(x2), Jun 15, Jun 18, Jun 22, Jun 24, Jul 1(x2), Jul 9, Jul 15, Jul 16, Jul 20, Jul 21 B-756; Jun 1, Jun 4, Jun 9, Jun 10(x2), Jun 12, Jun 18, Jun 19, Jun 22, Jun 23(x2), Jun 26(x2), Jun 29(x2), Jun 30(x2), Jul 16, Jul 19, Jul 19, Jul 11, Jul 16(x5), Jul 16(x3), Jul 19, Jul 20, Jul 21(x2)

Port St Mary 0N-1234(14-26): Jun 20, Jun 22, Jun 28, Jul 6, Jul 8

Port Tot D-550; Jun 1, Jul 15

Portaferry, B-706: Jun 22(x3), Jul 10(x2) Porthcawl

B-726: Jun 5, Jun 9, Jun 29, Jul 19, Jul 20

Porthdinllaen ON-1120(47-015): Jun 14, Jun 16

Portpatrick 0N-1151(47-033): Jun 27(x2) Portree

ON-1214(14-16): Jun 29, Jul 13 Portrush

ON-1247(17-23); Jun 9, Jun 22, Jul 2, Jul 8(x2), Jul 16(x2) D-572; Jun 22, Jul 5, Jul 16

Portsmouth B-730: Jun 2, Jun 18(x2), Jun 30(x2), Jul 7, Jul 11, Jul 19 D-428: Jun 12

Pwilheli ON-1168(12-010): Jun 1, Jun 30, D-522: Jun 5, Jul 20, Jul 21

Queensferry B-735: Jun 3, Jun 6, Jun 11, Jun 12, Jun 28(x2), Jun 29, Jul 4, Jul 8, Jul 13, Jul 14(x2), Jul 15, Jul 18, Jul 21(x2)

Ramsgate ON-1197(14-02): Jun 12, Jun 15, Jun 16, Jun 24, Jun 26, Jul 17, Jul 20, Jul 21

301 21 B-765: Jun 11, Jun 15(x2), Jun 16(x2), Jun 19, Jun 22, Jun 24, Jun 30, Jul 21

Red Bay B-728: Jun 1, Jun 6, Jun 17, Jul 20 Redcar

8-777: Jun 2, Jun 4, Jun 12, Jun 18, Jun 23, Jun 27, Jul 3, Jul 11, Jul 12, Jul 26, Jul 28 D-407: Jul 26, Jul 28 D-523: Jun 4, Jun 18, Jun 27, Jul 12,

Jul 17 Rhyl D-485: Jun 1(x3), Jun 3, Jun 8, Jun 9,

Jun 10 Rock, D-489: Jun 3, Jun 22, Jun 28, Jul 20

er: Jun 3, Jun 22, Jun 28, Jul 29

Rosslare Harbour ON-1159(52-45); Jun 3, Jun 9, Jun 19, Jun 22(x2), Jul 8, Jul 13, Jul 21, Jul 25

All-weather lifeboats

Rye Harbour B-727: Jul 10, Jul 16(x2), Jul 27

Salcombe 0N-1130(47-022); Jun 5, Jun 11, Jun 25, Jun 30, Jul 23, Jul 27 Scarborough 0N-1175(12-18): Jun 18, Jun 20, D-560: Jun 24, Jul 14, Jul 20, Jul 29,

Seahouses ON-1173(12-16): Jun 1, Jun 3, Jul 1 D-529: Jun 1, Jun 7, Jul 18, Jul 23, Jul 29

Selsey ON-1074(47-001): Jun 3, Jul 13 D-533: Jun 1, Jun 18, Jun 26, Jul 20

Sennen Cove ON-1121(47-016): Jul 6, Jul 24 ON-1122(47-017): Jun 8 D-490: Jul 13

Sheerness ON-1211(14-13): Jun 2, Jun 7 D-474: Jun 10(x2), Jun 17, Jun 23,

Sheringham B-702: Jun 18(x2), Jun 26, Jul 26, Jul 27

Shoreham Harbour ON-1158(47-040): Jun 12, Jun 28, Jun 30, Jul 13, D-501: Jun 1(x2), Jun 2(x2), Jun 22(x2), Jun 25, Jul 7, Jul 13(x2), Jul 19

Silloth B-714: Jun 29(x2)

Skegness ON-1166(12-008): Jun 5, Jun 7, Jun 9, Jul 28(x4), D-425: Jun 3(x3), Jun 4, Jun 5, Jun 7, Jun 18, Jun 20, Jun 21, Jun 2(x2), Jul 5, Jul 7 D-573: Jul 18, Jul 21, Jul 24, Jul 26(x8), Jul 28 (12), Jul 29(x2)

Skerries B-747: Jun 6, Jul 20

Sligo Bay B-781: Jun 12, Jun 19

South Broads

D-438: Jun 23, Jun 29 Southwold

8-750: Jun 2, Jul 19, Jul 26 St Abbs

B-579: Jun 19, Jun 20, Jul 7, Jul 17 St Agnes

D-453: Jul 20, Jul 22, Jul 30 St Bees

B-719: Jun 8, Jun 23, Jul 5, Jul 14

St Catherine B-772: Jul 11

St Davids ON-1139(47-026): Jun 1, Jun 23, Jun 27

St Ives ON-1167(12-009): Jun 1 D-515: Jun 3, Jun 16, Jun 27, Jul 21(x2)

St Mary's ON-1229(17-11): Jun 4, Jun 30

St Peter Port ON-1203(17-04): Jun 2, Jun 4, Jun 18, Jun 22, Jul 5, Jul 26 Staithes, Runswick B-570: Jun 30, Jul 6

Stornoway 0N-1238(17-18): Jun 5, Jun 17, Jul 10, Jul 19, Jul 20

Stranraer D-467: Jun 20, Jul 14

The first part of the second number identifies class: ON-1182 (12-23)

Arun

47-### Tyne

52-##

Stromness ON-1236(17-16): Jun 21, Jul 7

Sunderland ON-1225(14-21): Jun 7, Jul 6(x2), Jul 10

ON-1226(14-22): Jun 21(x2) D-470: Jun 4, Jun 18, Jun 24, Jul 14, Jul 20, Jul 25, Jul 27

Swanage ON-1182(12-23): Jun 9, Jun 23, Jun 25, Jun 29, Jun 30, Jul 6, Jul 14(x2), Jul 28 D-475: Jun 22, Jun 29(x2), Jun 30(x2), Jul 14(x3), Jul 24

Teddington D-477: Jun 1, Jun 5, Jun 7, Jun 16, Jun 18, Jun 20, Jun 22 D-576: Jul 9, Jul 10, Jul 13, Jul 14, Jul 18, Jul 22, Jul 24

Teesmouth 0N-1110(47-008): Jun 1, Jun 4, Jun 5, Jun 18, Jul 2, Jul 6

Teignmouth B-588: Jun 1, Jun 3, Jun 30, Jul 9, Jul 13, Jul 17, Jul 23, Jul 27, Jul 28(x2)

Tenby ON-1112(47-010): Jun 10, Jun 26, Jun 30

D-562: Jun 1, Jun 3, Jun 4, Jun 30 The Lizard

ON-1122(47-017): Jun 24

The Mumbles 0N-1095(47-005): Jun 1, Jun 5, Jun 20, Jul 21(x2) D-491: Jun 1, Jun 13, Jun 23, Jun 27, Jul 2, Jul 6, Jul 13, Jul 16, Jul 21

Thurso ON-1149(52-43): Jun 27

Tighnabruaich B-757: Jun 4, Jun 9(x2), Jul 23, Jul 27

Tobermory 0N-1143(52-41): Jun 2, Jun 17(x2), Jun 21, Jun 27, Jul 5, Jul 15

Torbay D-602: Jul 29 D-602: Jul 29 D-802: Jul 21 ON-1225(14-21): Jun 29 ON-1255(17-28): Jun 17, Jun 20, Jun 28, Jul 2, Jul 18, Jul 20 D-437: Jul 14, Jul 17, Jul 18, Jul 20, Jul 29

D-480: Jun 2, Jun 10, Jun 12, Jun 28, Jul 6(x2), Jul 13 Tower

E-003: Jun 14, Jun 21(x2), Jul 20, Jul 21, Jul 24(x4) E-004: Jun 5 E-005: Jun 1, Jun 2(x2), Jun 3, Jun 4, Jun 5, Jun 6(x2), Jun 7, Jun 8(x2), Jun 19, Jun 21, Jun 27(x2), Jun 28(x2), Jun 24, Jun 27(x2), Jun 28(x2), Jun 29(x2), Jul 1, Jul 5(x2), Jul 7(x5), Jul 9, Jul 10, Jul 12, Jul 13, Jul 14, Jul 15(x2), Jul 16(x2), Jul 7, Jul 18(x2), Jul 19(x3), Jul 27(x2), Jul 28(x3), Jul 28(x3), Jul 30(x2), Jul 31(x2)

Trearddur Bay B-731: Jun 1, Jun 3(x3), Jun 26, Jun 7(x2) B-773: Jul 20(x2), Jul 26, Jul 27(x2)

**B-773:** Jul 20(x2), Jul 26, Jul 27(x2) **D-441:** Jun 3(x2), Jun 26(x2), Jul 20(x2), Jul 27 Troon ON-1078(52-21): Jun 30, Jul 1, Jul 6, Jul 21, Jul 27(x2) ON-1134(52-38): Jun 3, Jun 12

Tynemouth ON-1242(17-20): Jun 1, Jun 4, Jun 9, Jun 16, Jun 23, Jun 29(x2), Jul 14, Jul 18 D-535: Jun 15, Jun 28, Jul 28, Jul 29

Valentia ON-1218(17-07): Jul 12

Walmer B-589: Jun 15(x2), Jun 30, Jul 10, Jul 24, Jul 29 D-514: Jun 15, Jul 10

Walton & Frinton ON-1154(47-036): Jun 1, Jun 21, Jul 8

Wells ON-1161(12-003): Jun 4, Jun 8, Jun 9, Jul 1

West Kirby D-473: Jul 28

West Mersea B-761: Jun 8, Jun 30, Jul 16

Weston-Super-Mare B-769: Jun 2, Jun 12, Jul 12, Jul 20, Jul 21, Jul 28 D-537: Jun 2, Jun 12, Jun 14, Jun 15, Jun 23, Jul 12, Jul 20, Jul 28

Wexford D-469: Jun 9(x2)

Weymouth 0N-1070(52-16): Jun 16, Jun 17, Jul 4, Jul 6.

0N-1073(52-18); Jun 1(x3), Jun 9 B-700; Jun 1(x2), Jun 2(x2), Jun 8, Jun 9, Jun 17, Jun 23, Jun 29(x4), Jul 6, Jun 13(x2), Jul 20

Whitby ON-1212(14-14): Jun 12, Jun 15, Jun 24

ON-1225(14-21); Jun 21 D-447: Jun 7, Jun 18

Whitstable

**B-764:** Jun 2, Jun 3(x2), Jun 9, Jun 16, Jun 30, Jul 1, Jul 2, Jun 3(x2), Jul 7, Jul 11, Jul 13, Jul 16, Jul 21(x2), Jul 27, Jul 29, Jul 30(x2), Jul 31

Wick 0N-1224(14-20): Jun 20,

Wicklow ON-1153(47-035): Jun 4(x3), Jul 21 D-518: Jun 9, Jul 9

Withernsea

D-541: Jun 16, Jun 18, Jul 13, Jul 26 Yarmouth

ON-1113(52-35): Jul 19, Jul 21, Jul 24 ON-1249(17-25): Jun 6, Jun 15,

Jun 16, Jun 22, Jun 29, Jul 6 Youghal

B-590: Jun 13, Jun 28, Jul 6, Jul 20, Jul 21(x2)

The services listed here are those for which returns had been received at HQ by November 2002. There may be other services for which returns had not been received.

### For everyone who helps save lives at sea

12-## Mersey 14-## Trent at 17-## Severn

# Listings

## New lifeboat house at Bangor

Bangor station's new lifeboat house was opened and dedicated on 11 May 2002 in bright sunshine. Mrs Elizabeth Tetley, wife of Air Vice-Marshall John Tetley, deputy chairman of the RNLI, performed the opening ceremony. Local clergy, Reverend Willis Cordner, Father Henry McCann and Mr Colin Duncan, a former District Controller of the Belfast Coastguard, led the service of dedication.

Particular thanks go to North Down Borough Council Crest Nicholson Marinas Limited for the loan of equipment and sponsorship of the day.

## New divisional base - Ipswich

Work on a new building began in January 2001 and took nine months to complete. The new base accommodates a larger working area for the administrative and engineering staff and provides a training/meeting venue and an improved stores facility.



## ALL-WEATHER

Relief Fleet
 ON-1260 Roger and Joy Freeman on 10 September 2002
 ON-1263 Osier on 11 October 2002
 ON-1266 John Neville Taylor on 19 November 2002

### **INSHORE**

#### Harwich

B-789 Sure and Steadfast on 15 October 2002 B-571 was withdrawn from service

- Staithes and Runswick
   B-788 Pride of Leicester 16 October 2002
   B-576 was withdrawn from service
- Penlee

B-787 Paul Alexander on 12 September 2002 B-753 was withdrawn from service to the ILC

- St Abbs
   B-783 Dorothy & Katherine Barr II on 2 October 2002

   B-568(R) has been withdrawn from service
- Abersoch
   B-790 Margaret Bench

B-790 Margaret Bench of Solihull on 20 November 2002 B-582 was withdrawn from service to the ILC



### Appointments

The following new appointments have been made

Murdo Campbell Stornoway station coxswain

Steven Caroll Deputy 2nd coxswain/mechanic

Vincent Jones Moelfre mechanic

Mike Judge Whitstable station honorary secretary

Maitland Miller Aberdeen honorary secretary

#### Retirements

The following people have retired from duty

DA Lamberton Whitstable station honorary secretary

Ian Johnson Troon coxswain

Photo: Roger Oram

Francis George Fishguard coxswain

Paul Leleu Mumbles coxswain

AJ Butcher Bude deputy launching authority G Booth Aberdeen honorary secretary

Michael Currie Mallaig coxswain

### Deaths

It is with regret that we report the following deaths

John Mathieson Girvan HMA and chairman

Peggy Atkinson Llandudno ladies guild vice chairman

Denis Vinehill Littlehampton crew member

Bob Turnbull Medway vice chairman

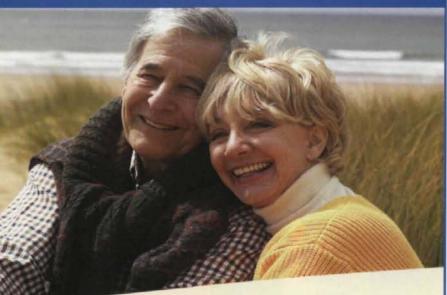
Stella Dumsday-Putland Medway box secretary

Gerald McGrattan Portaferry crew member

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Date of Birth	Partner's Date of Birth						

# Beach Rescue Coming of age

Photos: RNLI Beach Rescue lifeguards training for a real rescue The RNLI has been saving lives at sea for 178 years. Beach Rescue has only been a part of this for two years, but it has come a long way since its formation as a trial project in early 2001

The RNLI became involved in Beach Rescue as a natural expansion to its role of saving lives at sea. In the past two years the Institution has achieved a lot towards its aim of providing a seamless, coordinated rescue service from the beach through to the open sea.

IIIA OI

Originally operating as a trial project in five local authority areas, covering 26 beaches and coordinated by only three full-time staff, Beach Rescue is now a fully established section within the operations department of the RNLI. It now covers 43 beaches, both local authority and privately owned, from within seven areas of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. There are 16 full-time members of staff dedicated to Beach Rescue, seven technicians, 220 seasonal lifeguards, and support from countless others within the RNLI. The integration with the operations department has gone smoothly, with the transfer of management responsibility from the Beach Rescue manager to the divisional inspector (South) well under way. This enables staff officer operations (Beach Rescue) to concentrate on establishing a closer working relationship with life saving clubs and their respective governing bodies.

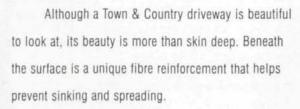
**Beach**Resci

The 2002 season ended on 30 September. While the primary aim of the lifeguard service is prevention, the total number of people directly aided was still quite sizeable: 6,971 people from 6,528 incidents. Most were minor first aid (5,586) but there were some notable rescues (109), assists (472) and major first aid cases (230).

Incident	<b>Beach Rescue</b>	area						Total
type	Bournemouth	Poole	Weymouth	South Hams	Caradon	Carrick	Restormel	
Rescue	11	4	6	28	4	46	10	109
Assistance	21	69	86	67	18	150	61	472
First aid	1,167	789	572	320	111	1,961	896	5,816
Other	9	3	29	14	8	64	4	131
Total no. of incidents	1,208	865	693	429	141	2,221	971	6,528
Total no. of people aided	1,217	884	716	467	182	2,414	1,091	6,971

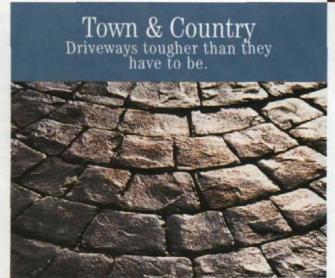
#### Incident table for 2002

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#### Incidents

On the afternoon of 11 August at Chapel Porth beach near St Agnes, a large 1.5–2m swell combined with sunny weather led to a busy afternoon for the lifeguards. In the one and a half hour spell between 2.45pm and 4.15pm, 30 people were assisted from rip currents dragging them out to sea. They were helped by lifeguards either on rescue boards or swimming and towing with a rescue tube.

Alcohol was to blame when a man in his mid-20s got into difficulty after jumping from Bournemouth Pier. The lifeguard used a rescue tube to tow the casualty, who was weak and vomiting, to the beach. His condition was described as drunk and violent. He refused any further treatment and was taken away by friends.

Lifeguards at St Agnes had to call upon their first aid knowledge on the 28 July when a five-year-old girl collapsed with signs of anaphylactic shock after being stung in the water. She was initially treated by lifeguards while an ambulance was called.





#### Lifeguard exchange programme

During the winter of 2002/03, 10 Beach Rescue lifeguards will be representing the RNLI in six locations worldwide, taking part in an official overseas exchange programme. The scheme allows lifeguards to continue lifeguarding through the winter months, and also provides them with new experiences and techniques that they are able to the share with their colleagues in the UK.

The candidates were selected due to their commitment throughout the 2002 season and on their ability to represent the RNLI while overseas. During the summer of 2003, the RNLI will receive 10 lifeguards from our partner organisations under the exchange agreement. The partner organisations are: Surf Life Saving New South Wales (Australia), Surf Life Saving Queensland (Australia), Surf Life Saving Western Australia, New Zealand Lifeguard Services and Lifeguards Africa.

#### Rescue watercraft (RWC)

Rescue watercraft (jet skis) were on trial in 2002 at Watergate Bay near Newquay and proved to be very effective.

The RWC was used to rescue people in a variet of situations, including the rescue of people cut off b the tide and on one occasion, the rescue of a dog. Also, bathers and surfers were assisted back to safe water when caught in rip currents and a kite surfer was assisted when he was in difficulty offshore.

The general feedback on RWCs was very positive and Mark Oliver who was one of the main operators commented: 'The great thing about using an RWC is the fact you can do numerous rescues in one go, such as the occasion when six people stuck in a rip current were rescued by one single lifeguard.

#### **Fundraising on beaches**

Exposure of the RNLI to a different 'target audience' through Beach Rescue presents an exciting opportunity for the new fundraising and communications department. A national beach education programme presents equally exciting challenges that will require coordination and close inter-departmental liaison to ensure an effective delivery.

In 2002, for the first time, the fundraising department worked closely with Beach Rescue lifeguards on the beach to put on the first ever Surf r Turf — a five aside beach football tournament on Bournemouth beach. For the less energetic as the sun went down there was a party on the pier. While enjoying the day, they all raised money to help the RNLI. After this successful start, the fundraising and communications department will continue to work closely with Beach Rescue this year, developing opportunities on the beach, especially with younger people.

BeachRescue Royal National Lifeboat Institutor

Beach Rescue lifeguard patrolling Bournemouth beach *Photo: Dave Mallett* 

#### Future plans

A huge amount has been achieved in a very short period of time. This has led to the need for 2003 to be a year of consolidation. There are no plans for further roll out this year. Instead Beach Rescue will concentrate on providing the highest possible standards of service provision at all times. To ensure consistency of service quality, it is essential that any roll out is planned at least 18 months in advance, a luxury that has not been afforded in previous years.

The introduction of two new areas covering some 13 beaches stretched both the operational management and support structure in what was only the second year. The hiatus in roll out during 2003 will be a welcome opportunity for consolidation and the development of core operational procedures and processes on which to base future controlled and well supported roll out.

Planning is still under way for a limited roll out in 2004 to North Cornwall, although a final decision is not required until May 2003 to allow for adequate lead in time. It is envisaged that should the Trustees agree, the consolidation period in 2003 and the sound financial agreements in place with the local authorities should allow a limited expansion to take place in 2004.

#### Club and volunteer development

The RNLI remains committed to ensuring the continued development of the voluntary lifesaving club structure. The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) and Surf Life Saving Association (SLSA) have been providing voluntary lifesaving cover on beaches around

the coast for up to 50 years. While many clubs' traditional patrolling activities have decreased in recent times, there are still lots of clubs providing essential cover at weekends and other busy periods throughout the summer months as well as safety cover at many water-based events. The majority of paid beach lifeguards have learnt their trade through the clubs in a system which develops skills in children as young as eight years old. The future of lifeguarding depends on the infrastructure of voluntary lifesaving clubs.

With 2003 as a year of consolidation, this will provide the RNLI, in cooperation with the RLSS and SLSA, the opportunity of implementing its volunteer development strategy. The aim of this is to enable local voluntary lifesaving clubs to assist with the operation of their beach lifeguard service, whether it be in the form of voluntary patrols at weekends or other busy periods or through assistance with lifesaving skills training.

The RNLI places great importance on being able to provide the highest possible quality of service and if this is not possible, it is better to delay any service launch until such a time as this can be assured. The RNLI's corporate services director, lan Ventham, summed up the situation: 'The RNLI remains committed to developing its Beach Rescue lifeguarding service which it has run successfully in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset over the past two years. It has already been decided not to expand the service in 2003 to allow time for the service to bed-in, and for proper systems and processes to be developed.'

# **A hazardous industry**

Although fishing vessels only make up some 14 per cent of RNLI call outs, more fishermen die at sea than any other group of sea user. It is widely recognised that fishing is the most dangerous industry in the world

Below: Barometers like this were supplied to the poorest fishing villages in the 1800s

LONDON FALL FOR SWLT WET DR MORE WIND EXCEPT WETFROM NEO PIRST HISE AFTER LOW FORETELLS STROBOER IL OV ED FLET ABOVE THE SEA 0 0

It was in 1994 that the RNLI formed the Sea Safety team, but the lifeboat service has been committed to accident prevention for over 140 years. In 1860 the RNLI provided barometers to fishermen on the coast and *the Lifeboat* reported: 'A good barometer in a public situation would warn them in time what to expect, and they could thus be frequently able to avoid the terrible consequences of storms, so often at present fatal to them.'

Sea Safety has come a long way since the 19th century, but the death rate is still high for commercial fishermen. Recent research suggests that British fishermen are 50 times more likely to have a fatal accident than the average worker (data collected by Stephen Roberts, department of public health, Oxford University).

In 2001, the RNLI distributed hundreds of questionnaires to ask fishermen themselves what they thought. They were asked:

- In order of priority, list your top five concerns about the fishing industry today
- 2. What would you like the RNLI's priorities to be in helping the fishing industry?

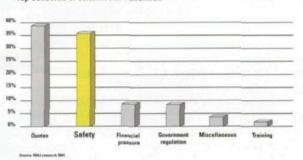
Safety was second only to quotas in the list of their concerns. With just over 35 per cent, safety is clearly a key concern for the industry. In response to the question about where the RNLI can help, the most

common answer was with training and education. The RNLI is taking these messages on board with the fishing safety initiative.

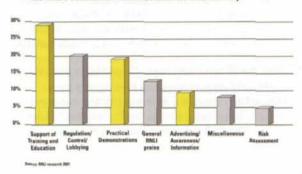
Building on the successes of the RNLI's accident prevention campaigns over the last eight years, the RNLI plans to do all it can to help reduce the number of deaths and serious accidents in the fishing industry. By increasing levels of safety awareness through training and education, the RNLI hopes to prevent accidents happening in the first place. As nearly 80 per cent of incidents where lives were lost were caused by capsize, swamping or man overboard, the RNLI will also try to minimise the effects of accidents by encouraging effective use of lifejackets and liferafts.

Commenting on the new service, lan Benham, the RNLI's water safety manager, says: 'Bearing in mind our very long historical relationship with the fishing industry, it's a natural progression for the RNLI to do all we can to help improve safety in an industry that operates in such a hostile environment. As a lifesaving organisation, we have only one interest – the saving of lives – and the fact that we have no hidden agenda is recognised by fishermen. We offer the arm of assistance in the provision of safety advice just the same as we offer the arm of assistance in a rescue situation.'











#### Skippers Mate Diary 2003

### Safety on the road

The RNLI already provides practical demonstrations of key safety equipment and procedures including the use of distress flares, and an introduction to liferafts and hydrostatic release units. To reach a wider audience, a 6m roadshow unit is touring major fishing ports throughout 2002 and 2003. The new unit can also double as a venue for the free safety training courses currently being offered by Seafish. From Padstow and Plymouth to Cardiff and Killybegs, in 2002 the unit visited many towns and villages and attended many of the country's major maritime festivals. According to Cliff Downing, who has taken the unit on the road, the initiative has been very well received by fishermen. Cliff explained: 'On our travels this year we have met a good number of fishermen

... Outside the fish market in Plymouth, interest in the roadshow started very slowly *until* it was realised that we were not there to show the fishermen how to fish.'

Such occasions have proved successful both for the water safety teams and in fundraising terms.

### Lifejackets and liferafts

One of the main practical issues affecting safety is the reluctance of many fishermen to wear lifejackets at all times when on deck. Lifejackets have saved the lives of many fishermen over the years, and there are now a number of working suits that have built in lifejackets and buoyancy aids. While the lifejackets increase safety in the water, with some types of fishing the various attachments can be dangerous on deck, for example when shooting nets or lines.

The RNLI is familiar with such problems, as lifeboat crew were not initially keen to wear lifejackets at all times on deck. The Institution is discussing with Seafish and the industry to see if a suitably cost-effective lifejacket/buoyancy aid for fishermen that will not get in the way of fishing can be developed.

In any event, the RNLI recommends that lifejackets should be regularly maintained and always accessible. The same maintenance procedures apply to liferafts and Hydrostatic Release Units. If the worst comes to the worst, liferafts could be the last hope of staying alive while waiting for help. 'They should be checked regularly to make sure that they are in date for servicing, replaced when dates are expired and stowed correctly,' recommends lan Benham.

### **Deck safety**

With so much hazardous activity on deck, shooting gear and hauling the catch, the slightest lapse in concentration can result in serious injury. In the RNLI safety advice, fishermen are therefore reminded to be aware of the dangers of deck machinery such as winches, power blocks and drums and ensure that the crew work safely and wear suitable protective and lifesaving clothing.

### **Fishing alone**

The risks of working single-handed are obvious. The RNLI warns fishermen that if adequate precautions are not taken, a minor incident can easily and quickly develop into a tragedy when there is nobody around to help. When working alone, personal safety measures are particularly important. It is also essential to remember to take emergency equipment such as a first aid kit, warm clothing, communications equipment, EPIRBS and flares, and water.

### **Confidential position reporting**

A shocking 8 per cent of fishing fatalities are only signalled when boats are reported overdue, so plans are under way to investigate the development of a satellite-based confidential position reporting system. In the strict interest of reducing such incidents and to be able to respond quickly to other life-threatening scenarios, the system will enable the RNLI to monitor regular location signals transmitted from beacons fitted to fishing vessels. Whilst a technical trial and the financial implications of such a system are being considered, it is being stressed that the position of fishing boats and information on their movements will only be shared with other emergency services if a life is at risk.

### Training

The RNLI is working closely with Seafish. This organisation provides sea survival, first aid at sea and fire fighting and prevention certificated courses at which attendance is a mandatory requirement for any fisherman going to sea. For new entrants there is a basic health and safety course and for the experienced fishermen a safety awareness course incorporating risk assessment. Ian Benham was a member of the working group that developed these courses and he commented: 'Safety training is vital in an industry that operates in an environment where one mistake can prove fatal. The RNLI is pleased to be working with our partners in the industry to help improve the quality and effectiveness of this training.'

Working with Seafish and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the RNLI is producing quality safety training videos and publications. Ian adds: 'In the past, some fishing safety training course videos have been over 20/25 years old and were designed for a merchant shipping audience. We are helping to produce a new video that presents critical safety messages in a fishing environment so that the impact of the video is maximised. In addition, we are helping to produce quality safety publications and booklets that can help to make the safety messages gained in these courses 'stick' in the mind of the fishermen.'



For 2003, we are delighted to offer you a choice of three carefully planned ocean cruises, departing directly from the UK! Join our Norwegian Fjords Apple Blossom Cruise and admire this delightful country in stunning springtime bloom. Or why not escape to the sun with our ever-popular Summer Sunshine Cruise and enjoy a varied selection of sun-kissed ports of call. Finally, for those who wish to 'top up the tan' our Madeira and Canary Islands Sunshine Cruise offers the perfect opportunity to enjoy a pre-winter tonic! For 2004 why not escape the bleak British weather and post-Christmas lull with our unique thirty-day Caribbean Winter Sunshine Cruise - you'll enjoy eight Caribbean ports of call, as well as the best of the Azores, from just £999 per person.

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- ✓ Entertainment each evening
- ✓ Complimentary coaching from selected areas
- Convenient cruising from Falmouth and return
- ✓ Exciting range of optional shore excursions available
- ✓ All Port Taxes included
- and return coursions available

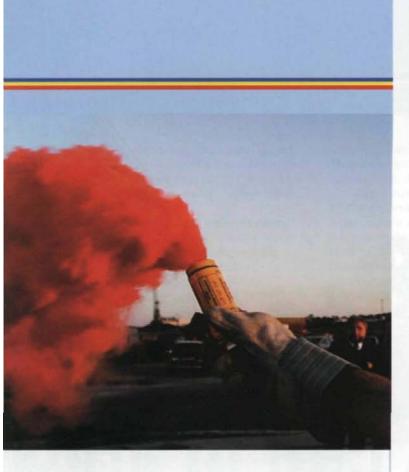
### **Summer Sunshine Cruise**

- 9 Days July, August & September 2003
- Extensive cruising itinerary including five ports of call; Gibraltar, Tangier, Malaga, Cadiz and Oporto
- ✓ Full board on the Van Gogh
- All cabins with full private facilities including air conditioning
- ✓ Entertainment each evening
- ✓ Complimentary coaching from selected areas
- ✓ Convenient cruising from Falmouth and return
- ✓ Exciting range of optional shore excursions available
- ✓ All Port Taxes included

### Caribbean Winter Sunshine Cruise 2004 30 Days - January 2004

- Extensive cruising itinerary including twelve ports of call; Oporto, Azores, Antigua, St. Kitts, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Bequia, Grenada, Barbados, Madeira and Vigo
- Full board on the Van Gogh
- ✓ Live entertainment each evening
- All cabins with full private facilities with air conditioning
- Complimentary coaching from selected areas
- Convenient cruising from Falmouth and return
   Exciting range of optional shore excursions available





The RNLI is a member of the Fishing Safety Promotions Group, which has produced a leaflet for the industry on how to save money on surveys, a pocket-sized *Safe Fishing Guide*, a free pocket diary and is currently working on a revised version of a fishermen and safety booklet.

#### **Fishing safety coordinators**

In order to bring the above initiatives to fruition, the RNLI is appointing two fishing safety coordinators (one in Scotland; one in the South West) to provide regular safety seminars and practical demonstrations at fishing ports and most importantly to develop the RNLI's relationship with fishermen.

#### Government and industry liaison

The RNLI is committed to doing everything it can in partnership with key organisations, agencies, and associations/federations to help drive down the number of deaths and serious accidents in the industry. As a member of the Fishing Safety Promotions Group, the RNLI advises the Fishing Industry Safety Group, which includes members of NFFO, SFF and NIFF, as well as DEFRA, MCA, MAIB, Seafish, Marconi and the Department for Transport. It is important for all to recognise that commercial pressures are ever present, but often some inexpensive measures such as safety checks can help. Fishermen themselves are best placed to look after safety and the industry wants to give them its full support.

One fishing death is one too many, Fishing will always be one of the most hazardous industries, but the RNLI hopes that by increasing levels of safety awareness among fishermen, it will prevent more lives being lost.

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# Fundraising

# A call to arms

None of this would be possible without your support -Calshot's Arun class lifeboat, Margaret Russell Fraser, goes to the rescue of stricken vacht Fat Diva in November 2002. The yacht sustained damage to her port side and started taking water. Calshot lifeboat transfer crew and pumping equipment to the casualty.

Photo: Eddie Mays

Over the last few years the lifeboat service has been in a strong financial position. It has been able to plan for the future and expand its lifesaving activities, thanks to the generosity and support of the public. However the continued weakness of the stock market, a downturn in legacies and a significant drop in membership suggests leaner times ahead. *The Lifeboat* looks at what plans are in place to maintain a secure future

The lifeboat service is unique. It is a modern and efficient emergency service, yet it is a well established and respected charity. It is made all the more unusual by the fact that it is a charity with a finite financial need. It takes a certain amount of money to run the service and, with careful business planning, RNLI trustees know what that amount will be year on year. In contrast, a third world development charity, for example, has an endless need for funding as it is almost impossible to know how much money is needed to wipe out world famine and tackle other humanitarian disasters.

During the last few years lifeboat supporters have been so generous, especially with legacies, that the RNLI had enough money to run a state-of-the-art lifeboat service and, therefore, didn't need to be particularly assertive with its fundraising campaigns. It was open about its sound financial reserves and the public have always been kept informed. 'I think it is very important that we are honest with our supporters, which is why we fully adopted the Donor's Charter,' says Fundraising and Communications Director David Brann. 'So we've never asked our supporters to give us something that we didn't need.' This 'reactive' fundraising kept membership numbers fairly constant, until the last three years when that figure dropped by some 20,000. Now it seems that after many years of financial growth, times are changing.

The continued weakness of stock markets in the UK and overseas, especially since the events of 11 September, has led to an uncertain financial climate and has had a significant impact on the RNLI. The value of many charitable legacies is dependent on shares that are now worth less. As a result, the value of the RNLI's invested reserves – which fell by £36m in 2001 – was further reduced in 2002. 'For the first time in many years we need to dramatically increase our fundraising,' says David. 'Our reserves are at the lowest levels agreed by our trustees, which is a real concern.'

Not only this, there is real concern among many UK charities about the possible downturn in legacies to the sector as a whole. In response to this, nearly 90 charities, including the RNLI, got together to form the Legacy Promotion Campaign (LPC). The LPC was launched in October 2001 and is working to encourage people to leave something in their will to their favourite causes. The campaign is being widely promoted under the headlines 'Good will' or 'Remember a charity'. David says: 'Our legacy income was £78m in 2001, £68m in 2002 and we believe it is going to be £61m in 2003. It's a massive drop but that's the sort of figure we have to try and make up through other kinds of fundraising.'

Thanks to the RNLI's prudent reserves policy, which received criticism from some newspapers at the time, there has been no impact on lifesaving activity, but the trustees have agreed some precautionary measures to protect the RNLI's financial position should the stock market continue to decline. 'The main thrust will be to double our membership over the next five years,' says David. 'There will also be renewed vigour in our fundraising activity. We will be launching local appeals, planning some major ones, and we will be asking companies and grant making trusts to help us more. We believe that RNLI Beach Rescue and our lifeboats on the Thames provide excellent opportunities for corporate sponsorship, if we can find the right partner.'

RNLI trustees have also agreed to smooth out capital expenditure to make it more 'digestible', which means new boat development programmes and the modernisation of shoreworks will continue, but at a slightly slower rate or build. The roll out of Beach Rescue will also be restrained until the situation improves. In addition there will be a renewed drive to ensure the RNLI is getting the best value in all its activities and staff have been set clear performance targets, which will help monitor effectiveness and efficiency. All of this will help to create a period of lower capital spending and, together with the public's help, will mean a stronger cash flow and a rise in free reserves.

### How you can help

#### Thinking of a legacy?

Legacies are vital to keep the lifeboats afloat. Around 68% of our income is reliant on legacies – six out of 10 lifeboats launches are only possible thanks to this funding. When you do make a will, please remember the RNLI. For further information visit www.rememberacharity.org.uk or call the RNLI's

helpdesk on 01202 663234.

### Helping the fundraisers

Fundraising is a vital element of the activities that support the lifeboat service. By joining one of our 1,500 volunteer branches you will be able to meet like-minded people while having fun for a good cause. If you don't fancy joining a branch, why not organise your own fundraising event? For further information call the RNLI's helpdesk.

#### Join an event

Fancy taking part in a fun, action–packed event? How about white water rafting, It's a Knockout or joining the RNLI team as a London marathon runner? These are just a few of the fantastic events we are involved in throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland. For further information contact Philippa Thompson on 01202 663441 or email adventure@rnli.org.uk

### Help us through your company

Support from companies can be very useful to the RNLI. Often, fundraising events can only get off the ground if the basic startup costs or prizes are funded by company sponsorship. However, it's not all one sided as companies can benefit from the profile and exposure created by supporting the lifeboats. For further information contact Jane Matthews on 01202 663215.

### Join up

Become a member or encourage your friends and family to join up. There are various levels of membership providing informative and exciting magazines, competitions and other member benefits. Call the RNLI helpdesk for further information.

### **Buy RNLI gifts**

We have an extensive range of high quality gifts and souvenirs that are sold through our volunteers at fundraising events, lifeboat shops and our award

fundraising events, lifeboat shops winning *Watermark* gift catalogue, which is also available on the web. Phone 01202 663333 or visit www.rnlishop.org.uk/shop/.

### Make a special gift

Generous donations fund a significant proportion of lifeboats entering service each year and may give high-level donors the opportunity to name a lifeboat. Call the RNLI helpdesk for further information. vard charity

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# We ask the questions

The media team

Television, radio and newspapers allow the RNLI to speak to the public and this can enhance public perception, attract new supporters and reinforce current support. The RNLI employs a small team who regularly communicate with the media – *the Lifeboat* speaks to media relations manager, Frances Aldridge, and press officer Julia Fish to find out how it's done

### Why does the RNLI need people specifically to deal with the media?

Frances: A dedicated media team knows what makes a good story. We understand that journalists have tight deadlines and that they usually need an answer yesterday. We can often spot a hidden agenda behind a simple question too.

### How do you give stories to the media?

F: Mostly through carefully targeted news releases. We also talk directly to our contacts to encourage interest and offer them a unique and interesting perspective. We also arrange press days and media facilities so journalists can meet the crews, see the boats and learn more.

### What about incoming enquiries?

Julia: Every year we get over 2,000 enquiries from reporters and researchers with questions that usually need immediate answers. Our press officers have excellent RNLI knowledge so we usually provide the answers and, if necessary, a quote. When it comes to broadcasting we give or arrange radio and TV interviews, often in our studio.

### Do you ever get asked difficult questions?

J: Yes. Sometimes this is a case of not having enough technical knowledge in a particular field. Occasionally, though, we are asked difficult questions of a controversial nature. This is when we do our best to put our viewpoint across and uphold the RNLI's reputation.

### Can you tell us about any particular problems?

J: We've had to deal with crew disputes, love triangles and planning applications but if you haven't read or heard about them then we must be doing it right! However, the one we really dread is that call in the middle of the night when we may have to face a lifeboat disaster.

### So press officers are on duty 24/7?

F: Yes, we have to be prepared to deal with enquiries during the night, at weekends and public holidays. Sometimes our honorary press officers contact us for advice too. Colleagues have been woken at 5am, others have had to send guests packing from dinner parties, and we've even been caught out in changing rooms and in the theatre.

### Who are station honorary press officers?

F: They are volunteer press officers based at lifeboat stations. They ensure that news about their station is quickly fed to their local media and the media team if necessary. We offer them professional training so that they can deal with the media and know what to do in a crisis.

### What changes have you noticed in the media over the last few years?

J: News travels faster than ever thanks to the latest technologies. We are constantly reviewing our equipment and methods – the latest service being the introduction of an internet press release service.

### What other new ideas or strategies do you have?

F: In 2003 we will concentrate on making the RNLI **the** voice on water safety matters. We seek a high profile in all media and will promote all the different areas of the RNLI's work. Much is going on and we aim to be upfront and increase awareness and support.

Frances, Julia and the rest of the media team can be reached on 01202 663323 or by email: faldridge@rnli.org.uk

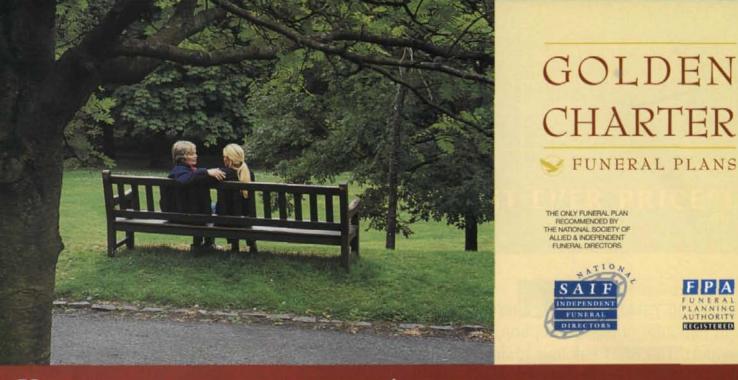
#### Frances Aldridge Photo: Derek King/RNLI

'In 2003 we will concentrate on making the RNLI **the** voice on water safety matters. We seek a high profile in all media and will promote all the different areas of the RNLI's work.'



#### Julia Fish Photo: Derek King/RNLI

'News travels faster than ever thanks to the latest technologies. We are constantly reviewing our equipment and methods...'



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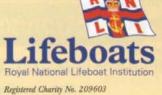
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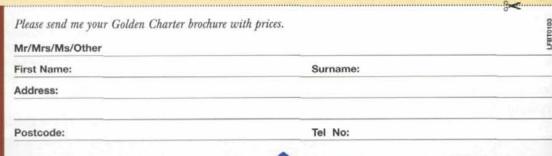
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# Winning fundraising friends

An excellent way for branches and guilds to raise money within their community is to ask groups, clubs, businesses and individuals to do a fundraising event for their branch or guild. Here are just two examples of how this is working

### **Pottery partners**

Totnes branch recently teamed up with local pottery, China Blue, to run a novel fundraising event with children in mind.

The week-long competition was for the best 'seaside ceramic' piece of pottery and children were able to choose, paint, fire and take home their work. There was a good selection – a mermaid, lighthouse, starfish, boat and a model of Torbay's new Severn class lifeboat, produced specially by China Blue to commemorate the arrival of the first 'Severn in



Devon'. The competition was in three age groups and prizes included Stormforce memberships and RNLI souvenirs, which were presented by Coxswain David Hurford of Torbay lifeboat. The star prize, a tour of the new lifeboat, was won by seven-year-old Cody Bond and her family.

The event, which is planned to be repeated, raised almost £700, which is enough to kit out a crew member in protective gear and buy a first aid kit backpack for an all-weather lifeboat. Cody Bond and her sunfish (left) with some of the other prizewinners

### Eastbourne takes the milky way

Eastbourne and district branch struck up a rather unusual fundraising friendship with local milk delivery man Peter Lushington. Peter, a franchise holder with Dairy Crest (Unigate), promised that during his next special customer promotion he will give 10% of the takings to Eastbourne branch and Diary Crest would contribute a further 10%.

Peter figured that when his customers saw the RNLI offer they would buy more generously, thus making up any loss in profit by the contribution to the lifeboat service.

Eastbourne branch are very enthusiastic about the scheme and can see great potential, not only locally, but throughout the whole of the national Dairy Crest distribution area. Perhaps other branches could milk this further?

Milkman Peter Lushington is thanked for his efforts by Ray Isaac, Eastbourne branch chairman





LET NOT

THE DEEP

# Lifeboat related reading

### Let not the deep and other stories

by Bill Hawkins Price: £5.95 A collection of yarns from the sea. Available from all good bookshops. Published by Serendipity (ISBN 1 84394 025 6).

### The Main Cages

by Philip Marsden Price: £12.99

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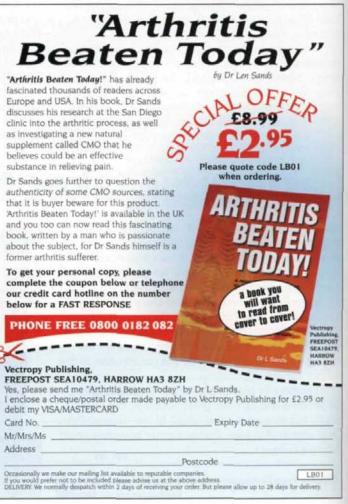


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### West End star supports the lifeboats

Jeff Leyton, star of *Les Miserables*, sang for the lifeboats at Ulster Hall concert, Belfast, on 25 October. The musical evening was hosted by local band, Festival Brass, and saw Jeff performing hits from some well known and loved musicals. Singer Michelle Baird and Regent House senior choir, conducted by Colin McQueen, also took part in the event and compere for the evening was BBC's Linda Wray.

Promoter Alan Corry decided to donate the proceeds from the evening to the RNLI and said: 'This concert will help provide the most up-to-date equipment to save even more lives at sea.' Money is still coming in but the concert has already raised over £1,000 – enough to buy VHF radios for two Atlantic 75 lifeboats.

### **Anniversary race**

The 2001 Henley on Thames half marathon proved to be a great success in its 20th anniversary year, attracting over 700 entrants and raising over £5,000 for the lifeboats.

The annual event, organised by the Henley on Thames branch, was supported by national pub chain JD Wetherspoon, Henley Standard newspapers and the local rugby club.

The event is though to have raised close to £100,000 since its inception in 1983 – more than enough to fund an Atlantic 75 and a D class lifeboat.

# Recycling saves lives

The RNLI is working with Accutecc (UK) Limited to help supporters be environmentally friendly by recycling their used printer and fax cartridges and raising funds for the lifeboats at the same time.

Accutecc is part of Kores Nordic (GB) Ltd, who are one of the major remanufacturers of printer cartridges in Europe. The company specialise in recycling printer and fax cartridges and can accept a wide range of products including Canon, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Lexmark and Tektronix.

The scheme is simple and works well for individuals and companies. Just collect 10 or more cartridges and contact Accutecc by telephone 01279 401404 or fax 01279 435397 / 437638 quoting RNLI and giving your full address and number of boxes to be collected. They will then arrange collection free of charge. Collections will be made within 2-3 working days. The value of the cartridges will then be paid direct to the RNLI.

If you have a computer at home and only use the occasional cartridge, you can still recycle them for the RNLI. Just telephone Tizzy Perkins at the RNLI on 01202 663295 or write to her at Corporate Relations, RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, BH15 1HZ for more information.

The RNLI hopes to raise £25,000 during 2003 by recycling cartridges – so please give it your support.

# **Busy at Newbiggin**

Despite the occasional poor weather, fundraisers at Newbiggin can be very proud of their efforts during summer 2002. A full programme of events was well supported, finishing up with a town pageant which saw many crew and branch members dressing up in period costume and having to learn lines.

The open day on 7 July allowed watch displays and the public to take a closer look at thanks to Newbiggi lifeboats and a Sea launch. The ladies guild decked out from RAF Boulmer.

the boathouse with tables and chairs and did a roaring trade serving refreshments and selling souvenirs from the lifeboat shop. Newbiggin lifeboat day saw hundreds of visitors lending their support and over £3,000 was raised. Children and adults alike enjoyed a line-up of stalls, games, fairground rides and were able to watch displays and exercises thanks to Newbiggin and Blyth lifeboats and a Sea King helicopter from RAF Boulmer.

The ladies guild also took full advantage of the town fair and served refreshments in the boathouse, raising almost £1,000.

The final summer event for Newbiggin was the St Bartholemews Fair and a pageant saw a re-enactment of the royal proclamation for a fair at Newbiggin by King John. The show was enjoyed by hundreds of spectators and the ladies guild was in action once again and had a successful afternoon of fundraising.



Photo: GB Wade photography

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Representatives of Castletownbere lifeboat receive the generous cheque from Mr Ross' family

### Family show their thanks

Castletownbere lifeboat station recently received an enormous boost to its fundraising efforts when the family of a man lost at sea presented a cheque for €8,000 (£5,090).

Mr Aidan Ross, of Rossmore, Clonakilty, was fishing off rocks in October 2001 when he tragically lost his life. Castletownbere lifeboat recovered Mr Ross, and his family organised a number of fundraising ventures as a token of their gratitude.

The main fundraiser was the launch of a CD entitled *Our heroes*, to coincide with last summer's world cup. Aidan's brother-in-law Charlie McCarthy and friends played gigs in a number of venues throughout West Cork and sold many copies of the CD.

In making the presentation to the lifeboat station, Charlie said: 'The cheque is but a small token of thanks to the lifeboat.' He also complimented the coxswain and crew on their work and said that the family would never forget them.

The money raised is enough to buy a state-of-the-art electronic chart system for an all-weather lifeboat.



Branch and guild members from all over the country diligently rattled collection boxes outside their local Tesco stores in June as part of a national drive to collect cash for the lifeboats. The event proved to be a resounding success, raising a staggering £278,000.

Thanks must go to all those who collected on the day – your sterling efforts speak for themselves.

# A big drop for the lifeboats

He hates heights, but he loves the water – just two reasons why Alan Malcolm chose to abseil down a 60m crane to raise money for the lifeboats. Alan, from Glasgow, is a vertigo sufferer but has been a keen sailor for a number of years – therefore the RNLI is a cause very close to his heart.

Alan was among 15 fundraisers who abseiled down one of Glasgow's most striking industrial landmarks, the Finnieston Crane, on the banks of the River Clyde. Most people have heard about abseiling down the face of buildings, but descending in mid air from the top of a crane can be particularly daunting. 'It was pretty nerve-wracking,' said Alan. 'It seemed to take a lifetime to get down, but it probably took about two minutes.'

Following his successful descent, the RNLI is now £2,230 better off and Alan has a certificate to prove it wasn't just a bad dream. He is keen to take part in another event for the RNLI, but he doubts it will involve abseiling:

'Perhaps parachuting would be more of a challenge'.

Alan's brave efforts raised enough money to send four crew members on an inshore lifeboat introductory training course.

Alan Malcolm prepares for his 60m abseil for the lifeboats



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### **Co-op collections**

Staff from Co-op stores also raised cash for the lifeboats during the summer. Raffles, tombolas and collections were held in five stores and staff turned up in seaside fancy dress. Co-op's headquarters kicked off the event with a £500 donation and a total of £1,260 was raised.

The fundraising 'bathing belles' from the Co-op with representatives of Bridlington lifeboat station Photo: Prospect photographic agency



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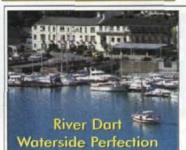
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