

ISSUE 586  
WINTER 2008-9



# the lifeboat

**RNLI** SOS  
fundraising day

THE RNLI IS THE CHARITY THAT SAVES LIVES AT SEA



**PLUS:**

A LIFESAVING  
VISION - PAGE 6

MISSING THE CUP  
FINAL - PAGE 22

POWER OF NATURE  
PAGE 34

A DYING WISH  
PAGE 49

INF001-586





**Absolutely No Surcharges!**

## Worldwide Rail Holidays from London

### USA Coast to Coast

NEW YORK TO THE GRAND CANYON AND CALIFORNIA

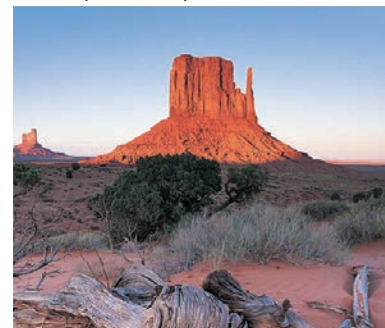
Travel with the UK's leading specialist in holidays by rail on this once-in-a-lifetime 21-day tour across the USA. A friendly and professional Tour Manager accompanies all departures so sit back, relax and enjoy some of the most spectacular scenery this vast and diverse country has to offer.

**Days 1-3 ♦ Sightseeing in New York**

We depart London for New York and tour the 'Big Apple', including Central Park and Fifth Avenue, before a harbour cruise around Manhattan. With your free time, perhaps visit poignant 'Ground Zero', or see a show on Broadway.

**Days 4-7 ♦ Washington to the Mid-West**

We travel to Washington for two nights at the Phoenix Park Hotel. Our tour of this elegant city features the White House and Capitol Hill. On Day 6 we leave Washington on the *Capitol Limited* for the journey over the Allegheny Mountains to Chicago. On Day 7 our city tour revisits the site of the St Valentine's Day Massacre and Al Capone's headquarters.



**Days 8-11 ♦ Denver and the Rockies**

Day 8 sees us boarding the *California Zephyr* for a journey across the plains of Iowa and Nebraska and on Day 9 we arrive in Denver. On Day 10 we explore the Rocky Mountain National Park, Big Thompson Canyon and Estes Park. We travel along the *Denver and Rio Grande Railroad* and into the Rocky Mountains to Grand Junction on Day 11.

**Days 12-16 ♦ Route 66 & Grand Canyon**

On Day 12 we board the *Durango and Silverton Railroad* for a breathtaking journey to Durango. We drive to Flagstaff through Navajo country and the rugged landscape of Utah's Monument Valley on Day 13. On Day 14 we head along the legendary *Route 66* to Williams, joining the *Grand Canyon Railway* to the Grand Canyon. We drive through the mountains to Sedona to Jerome, returning to Flagstaff to board the *Southwest Chief* to LA on Day 15. We tour the main attractions of Hollywood on Day 16 before boarding *RMS Queen Mary* for one night.

**Days 17-21 ♦ San Francisco, Alcatraz**

On Day 17 we board Amtrak's *Coast Starlight* to San Francisco. We visit the inspiring Golden Gate Bridge and the island of Alcatraz on Day 18. On Day 19 you are free to explore Chinatown or spend a day in Sausalito. We transfer to our flight on Day 20, arriving in London on Day 21.

### The benefits of travelling with Great Rail Journeys include

- ♦ Scheduled return flights
- ♦ Adventure & discovery – in style & comfort
- ♦ Fully escorted from start to finish
- ♦ No Hidden Extras – so much is included
- ♦ Safe, secure and sociable group travel
- ♦ Tried and trusted – over 25 years of experience
- ♦ No Surcharges guaranteed



**EUROPE** including over 70 escorted tours  
**WORLDWIDE** including over 30 escorted tours  
**WINTER & SPRING** including over 50 escorted tours

To order your brochure call **01904 734051** or visit: **www.GreatRail.com**

**BOOK WITH 100% CONFIDENCE**



**FULLY BONDED, FULLY PROTECTED**

37 departures between 1 Apr 09 and 21 Oct 09 Prices from £2,690 to £3,035

Dates and prices are subject to availability. Prices are Per Person. Conditions apply.

**THE RNLI**

A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution was founded in 1824 as the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck. Today, it provides the 24-hour on-call search and rescue service out to 100 nautical miles from the coast of the UK and RoI; on the tidal reaches of the River Thames; and on selected inland waterways plus a seasonal lifeguard service on appropriate beaches in England and Wales. The RNLI is independent from Government and continues to rely on voluntary contributions and legacies for its income. **Chairman:** Admiral the Lord Boyce CBE DBE DL **Chief Executive:** Andrew Freemantle CBE

**SUPPORTING THE RNLI**

You can help save lives from the beach to the open sea by becoming a regular supporter of the RNLI. Find out more from the Supporter Care team.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

- RNLI Headquarters: telephone 0845 122 6999, email [info@rnli.org.uk](mailto:info@rnli.org.uk) or write to RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ
- Supporter Care team, for membership, donations, Lifeboat Lottery enquiries: telephone 0845 121 4999, email [supporter\\_care@rnli.org.uk](mailto:supporter_care@rnli.org.uk) or write c/o Headquarters address above
- Legacies team, for finding out about gifts in Wills: telephone 01202 663032, email [jmarshall@rnli.org.uk](mailto:jmarshall@rnli.org.uk) or write to John Marshall c/o Headquarters address
- Family association, for retired staff and operational volunteers: telephone 01202 662222
- Lifeboat Enthusiasts' Society: email [john\\_francis@rnli.org.uk](mailto:john_francis@rnli.org.uk)
- The Editor: telephone 01202 662254, email [thelifeboat@rnli.org.uk](mailto:thelifeboat@rnli.org.uk) or write c/o Headquarters address above
- Advertising in *the Lifeboat*: Landmark Publishing Services, telephone 020 7692 9292, email [landmark@lps.co.uk](mailto:landmark@lps.co.uk)

## Dear Reader

Welcome to a new issue of *the Lifeboat*, and a new year of challenges for us all – starting with RNLI SOS day on 30 January (see page 13).

Lifeboat crews and lifeguards and the specialists who work in the background supporting them all know the power of the sea to both delight and destroy. This is seen most strongly in our feature on coastal erosion (page 34) but also in this quarter's Voices (46–51) and the news of so many prestigious awards for RNLI people (10–12).

Former Chairman Admiral Sir Jock Slater is no stranger to the sea or the RNLI. We wish the charity's outgoing Chairman bon voyage and look forward to meeting his successor, Admiral the Lord Boyce, in a future issue. I leave you with Sir Jock's farewell message.

**Liz Cook, Editor**



*In November, I stood down as Chairman of the RNLI after 9 years as a Trustee and over 4 in the Chair. During this time, the Trustees oversaw and the Chief Executive and his team planned and implemented major change – a new generation of lifeboats, the introduction of hovercraft, upgraded and rebuilt lifeboat stations, the establishment of the Lifeboat College, Survival Centre and Lifeboat Support Centre, the introduction of lifeguarding, the advancement of our*

*Sea Safety and Education programmes, the colocation of divisional bases and fundraising areas, operations on the Thames and inland waterways and much else besides.*

*At the same time, the RNLI achieved record fundraising thanks to its extremely generous supporters; modernised its HR organisation, business and financial planning, IT, corporate governance and external communications; and established the RNLI Heritage Trust.*

*I have visited 160 lifeboat stations (participating in three shouts!) and a number of beaches, meeting many volunteers – lifeboat men and women, lifeguards, those in frontline support and those who raise the funds. I have also regularly met at work the permanent staff who do so much to keep the show on the road.*

*I never cease to be hugely impressed – indeed humbled – by what is achieved and I pay tribute to all those who work so tirelessly to ensure that the RNLI achieves its aim to be recognised as the most effective, innovative and dependable lifeboat and lifeguard service in the world. The UK and RoI are extremely fortunate to have such an Institution.*

*I look back on the past decade with the happiest of memories and with great pride at having been the RNLI's Chairman. I look forward to keeping in close touch with the RNLI in the years ahead.*

*Jock Slater*



Photo: Lincolnshire Police

**Friends of the RNLI**  
Some special offers that can benefit you and the RNLI

**Amazon**  
At least 5% of your order value is donated to the RNLI [www.rnli.org.uk/amazon](http://www.rnli.org.uk/amazon)

**Bishop Skinner Marine**  
You get discounted insurance and the RNLI receives 2.5% of sales and renewals [www.bishopskinner.com](http://www.bishopskinner.com) 0800 783 8057

**Lifeboat Tea**  
4p is paid to the RNLI for every pack sold, or all proceeds if bought at an RNLI shop [www.williamsontea.com](http://www.williamsontea.com) 01582 813810

**Loch Fyne**  
Various promotions in all Loch Fyne restaurants, see [www.lochfyne.com/lifeboatappeal](http://www.lochfyne.com/lifeboatappeal)

**Marinecall weather forecasts**  
60% of profits on 10-day sailing forecasts goes to the RNLI. Call 0871 200 3985.

**Netstationers**  
5% of order value is donated to the RNLI. [www.rnli.netstationers.co.uk](http://www.rnli.netstationers.co.uk)

**NEW! The Recycling Factory**  
Recycle your old toner and inkjet cartridges. To find out more or request envelopes contact [rnli@trf-uk.com](mailto:rnli@trf-uk.com) or freephone 0800 091 0696

**ShP for charity**  
Recycle your old mobile phones with ShP and raise money for yourself and the RNLI. Call 01524 580911 or visit [www.shpforcharity.co.uk](http://www.shpforcharity.co.uk) to find out more.

**NEW! Switch with Which?**  
You save money on your fuel bills and the RNLI receives £10–£20. Visit [switchwithwhich.co.uk/rnli](http://switchwithwhich.co.uk/rnli) or call 0800 533 011 quoting RNLI (see page 33)

**Volvo**  
You get a discount on a new car, the RNLI receives £500. [www.rnli.org.uk/volvo](http://www.rnli.org.uk/volvo)

**Wedding List Giving**  
Set up a charity donation wedding list [www.weddinglistgiving.com](http://www.weddinglistgiving.com)

**Talisker**  
Talisker and the RNLI are encouraging supporters to host Burns night events between 25 and 30 January to support RNLI SOS day. A joint Burns-themed pack designed to help your evening run smoothly includes poetry, music, recipes and ideas to raise lots of money for SOS day. To receive a Talisker–RNLI Burns pack please call 0845 121 4999.



[rnli.org.uk](http://rnli.org.uk)



The RNLI's biggest fundraising day is the last Friday of January each year. See page 13 and your copy of *Compass* for last-minute ideas. Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard





# the Lifeboat

WINTER 2008–9 ISSUE 586  
*The Lifeboat* is published quarterly by the RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ. © RNLI 2009. All rights reserved. Reproduction is permitted with the prior consent of the RNLI. Opinions expressed by authors are not necessarily those of the publishers. Care is taken to ensure that editorial information is correct at the time of going to press but is subject to change.

Any products or services advertised in *the Lifeboat* by third parties are not in any way endorsed by the RNLI and the RNLI shall not be responsible for the accuracy of any information contained in such advertisements nor has it investigated or verified any of the information.

Blind and partially sighted readers can choose to receive an audio tape version as well as the magazine – this is a free service.

All recipients of *the Lifeboat* also receive *RNLI Compass* for their region. News in other regions can be viewed at [rnli.org.uk](http://rnli.org.uk). Offshore members, and those Governors who opt to, receive *Offshore* too. Members of the children's club Storm Force receive *Storm Force News*. Occasional donors receive *Lifeline*.

**Publications and Design Manager:** Mark Dunne;  
**Editor:** Liz Cook; **Researchers/Writers/Assistant Editors:** Mairéad Dwane, Valerie French, Jon Jones, Anne Millman, Rory Stamp, Claire Vandvik, Carol Waterkeyn; **Proofreader:** Anne Millman;  
**Designers:** Stephen Berriman, Jonathon Lotriet, Laura Wiltshire;  
**Publications Assistant:** Tracy Carey;  
**Print Manager:** Sonia Harris;  
**Printer:** Pindar plc, Scarborough.

**50% recycled**  
 This magazine is printed on 50% recycled paper



## NEWS including

- 10 Two Silver Medals
- 12 Pride all round
- 15 Daniel Craig gives star support

## FEATURES

- 6 **SPIRIT**  
**Daring innovation**  
 The drive for crew safety
- 16 **CLOSE UP**  
**Going postal**  
 The value of 'junk' mail
- 34 **COASTAL LIFE**  
**Living on the edge**  
 Getting to grips with erosion

## RESCUE

- 22 **REACHING THE LIMITS**  
 Lucky 13
- 26 **COMMUNITY ACTION**  
 How do you make a lifeboat station?
- 29 **IN DEEP WATER**  
 Lifeboats in your living room

## VOICES

- 46 **SANDI'S SHORES**  
 Piloting a wardrobe
- 49 **A LEGACY OF TRUST**  
 An ambassador tells her tale
- 51 **YOUR SHOUT**  
 Readers' letters and emails

## REGULARS

- 31 **REVIEW**  
 The archive of *the Lifeboat*
- 38 **LOTTERY**  
 Lucky winners and future prizes
- 40 **LAUNCHES**  
 Summer lifeboating activity at a glance
- 52 **THEN AND NOW**  
 Please look after this boat



Photo: Eleanor Driscoll



# Insight

### 3 ANCIENT AND MODERN

Whitstable's B class lifeboat *Oxford Town & Gown* helped save the 1901-built wooden sailing barge *Marjorie*, which was holed in a collision during a barge race on 9 August. When the lifeboat arrived on scene, *Marjorie* had already been beached on a sandbank to prevent sinking, but needed the lifeboat crew's help to pump out the water and repair the 1m-plus gash in her port side. *Marjorie* was able to make her own way to safety under engine power once she was towed off the sandbank.

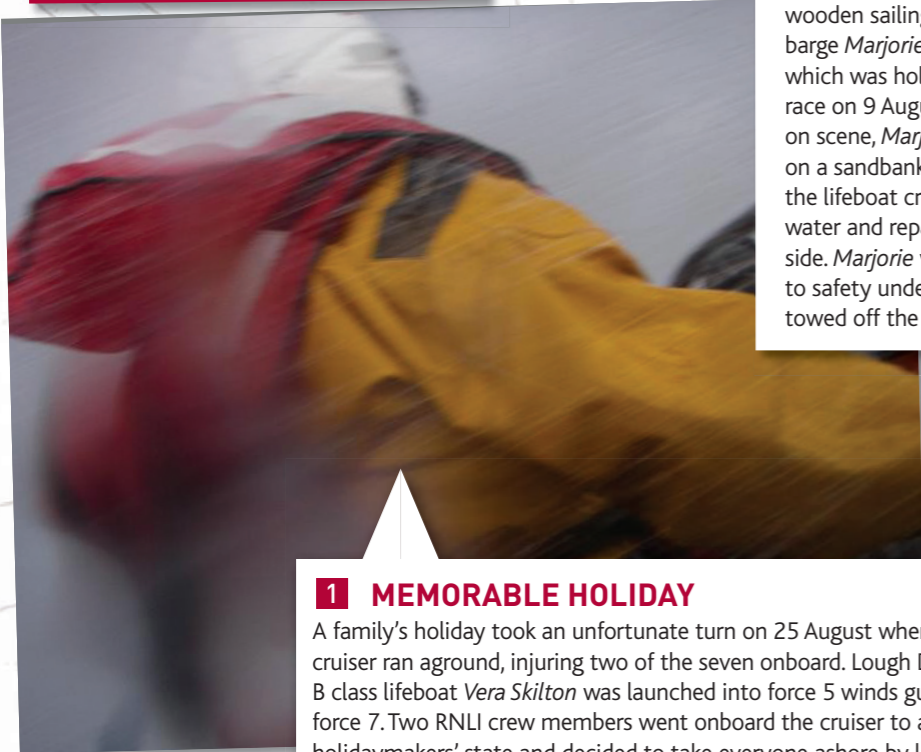


### 5 GALE-FORCE TEAMWORK

New Quay and Pwllheli's all-weather lifeboats worked together to rescue the crew of the *Galasma* on 6 September. The yacht, with five people onboard, was having trouble in a force 8 northerly wind. Rough seas meant she wasn't making much headway under engine power, and she was low on fuel. New Quay's lifeboat was launched just after midday, with Pwllheli's (pictured) taking over the tow at about 4pm and bringing the casualty home just before 10pm.

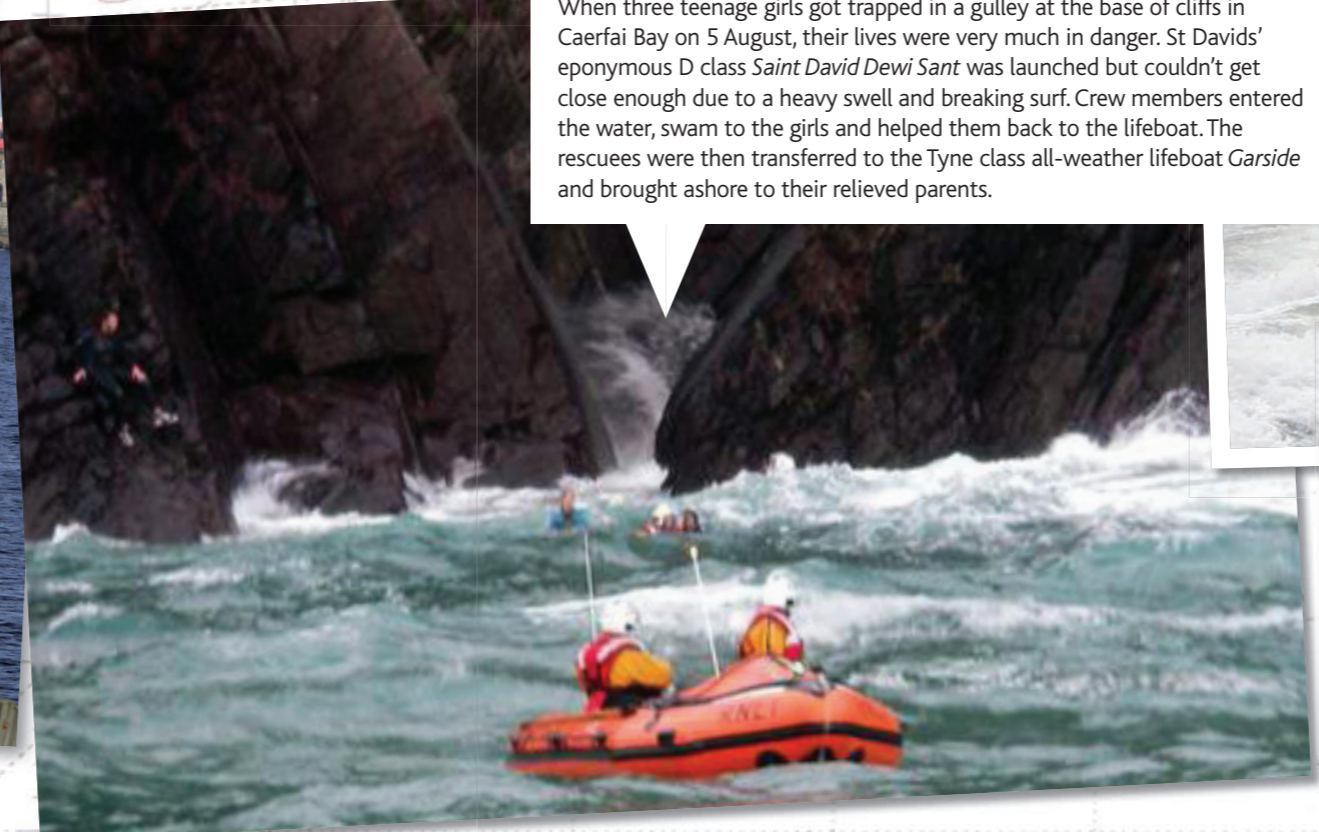
### 1 MEMORABLE HOLIDAY

A family's holiday took an unfortunate turn on 25 August when their cruiser ran aground, injuring two of the seven onboard. Lough Derg's B class lifeboat *Vera Skilton* was launched into force 5 winds gusting to force 7. Two RNLI crew members went onboard the cruiser to assess the holidaymakers' state and decided to take everyone ashore by lifeboat. The injured people were transferred to hospital, while a local man took the others to his house to warm up.



### 4 INTO THE SURF

When three teenage girls got trapped in a gully at the base of cliffs in Caerfai Bay on 5 August, their lives were very much in danger. St David's eponymous D class *Saint David Dewi Sant* was launched but couldn't get close enough due to a heavy swell and breaking surf. Crew members entered the water, swam to the girls and helped them back to the lifeboat. The rescues were then transferred to the Tyne class all-weather lifeboat *Garside* and brought ashore to their relieved parents.



### 6 SEASIDE RESCUE

A beach goer raised the alarm at Blackpool on 13 September, when he spotted that his partner was having trouble in the water. Two of the three station lifeboats were launched immediately and the woman, who had gone for a swim, was found unconscious just beneath the surface. The volunteers successfully revived her and brought her ashore to a waiting ambulance.

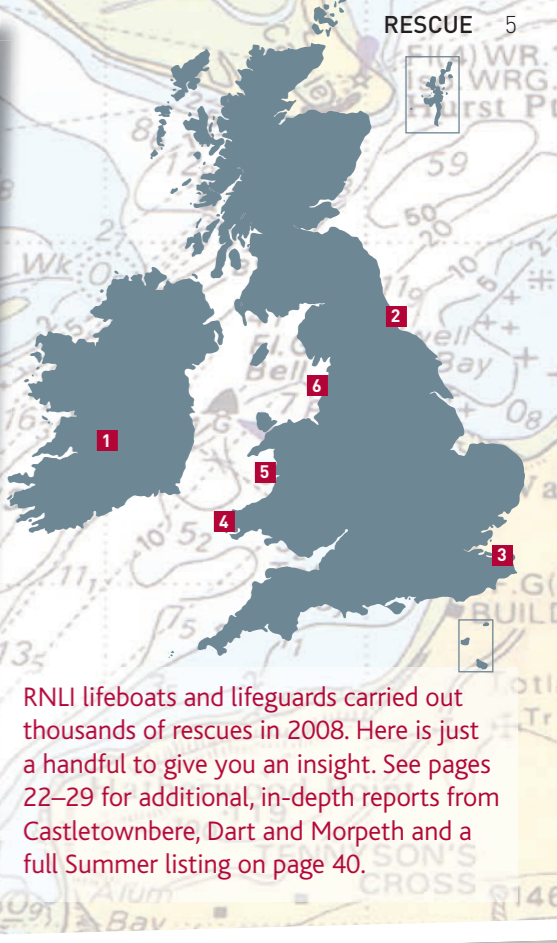


### 2 SAFELY HOME

Tynemouth's Severn class all-weather lifeboat *Spirit of Northumberland* is pictured towing a disabled fishing boat to her home port of North Shields on 11 August. *Trudie May's* skipper made an emergency call after his salmon nets got caught in his vessel's propeller.



RNLI lifeboats and lifeguards carried out thousands of rescues in 2008. Here is just a handful to give you an insight. See pages 22–29 for additional, in-depth reports from Castletownbere, Dart and Morpeth and a full Summer listing on page 40.







# Daring innovation

Carol Waterkeyn finds out how and why one special man fought the cause of radical new lifeboat designs for the RNLI

Left: A capsizing drill builds trust in a lifesaving boat design

Right: Innovator David Stogdon MBE, 1919–2008

Photo: Eastern Daily Press

To his friends and colleagues, David Stogdon appeared to live entirely without fear yet he was a survivor of at least two near-death experiences. In 1940, during the Second World War, the destroyer *Brazen* sank underneath the young naval Lieutenant as he continued to fire his anti-aircraft gun at enemy fighters. Twenty-four years later, he suffered lasting injuries through a serious road accident that seemed only to refocus his energies. The RNLI's Operations Director Michael Vlasto remembers: 'He treated the accident as just one more challenge to overcome.'

David joined the RNLI in 1952 as Divisional Inspector for Scotland, responsible for the lifeboats, crews and lifeboat stations there. He was to stay with the charity for over 30 years but he was no office-bound bureaucrat. 'He hated paperwork,' smiles Michael. 'He was on the train one day. He was looking at papers, then scrunched them up and threw them out of the window. He didn't realise that members of the Committee of Management were also in the compartment, watching him!'

The lifeboats of the time were designed and built primarily for strength to endure the rigours of the sea, a quality that then excluded the ability to self right. This flaw was soon to bring tragic consequences – but also the opportunity for David to demonstrate his innate skill of practical yet lateral thinking, driven by a passion to save lives.

#### Never again ...

In February 1953, the Watson class lifeboat *John and Charles Kennedy* from Fraserburgh, Grampian, capsized on service in a heavy swell. Horrifyingly, five of her crew were trapped under the lifeboat's canopy and drowned, while the Coxswain died after being struck by debris. Only the Second Coxswain survived.

This was on David's patch so it was he who visited the grieving lifeboat families. The experience left him determined to prevent a similar disaster happening again and, drawing on his own sailing experience, David instigated extra training for lifeboat crews in boathandling.

Fate had other ideas, though, and just 8 months later Arbroath's Liverpool class lifeboat, the *Robert Lindsay*, was to capsize too, with six more volunteers lost to the sea. Adamant that there should be no more lifeboat widows and that something good would come from this awful loss of life, David changed his attention to the lifeboats themselves. He saw the need for a new design that would both perform better than contemporary ones and ensure a higher degree of safety for crew.

#### Foreign forebears

David had no background in engineering but, rather than handing over the problem to the RNLI's naval architects, he threw himself into

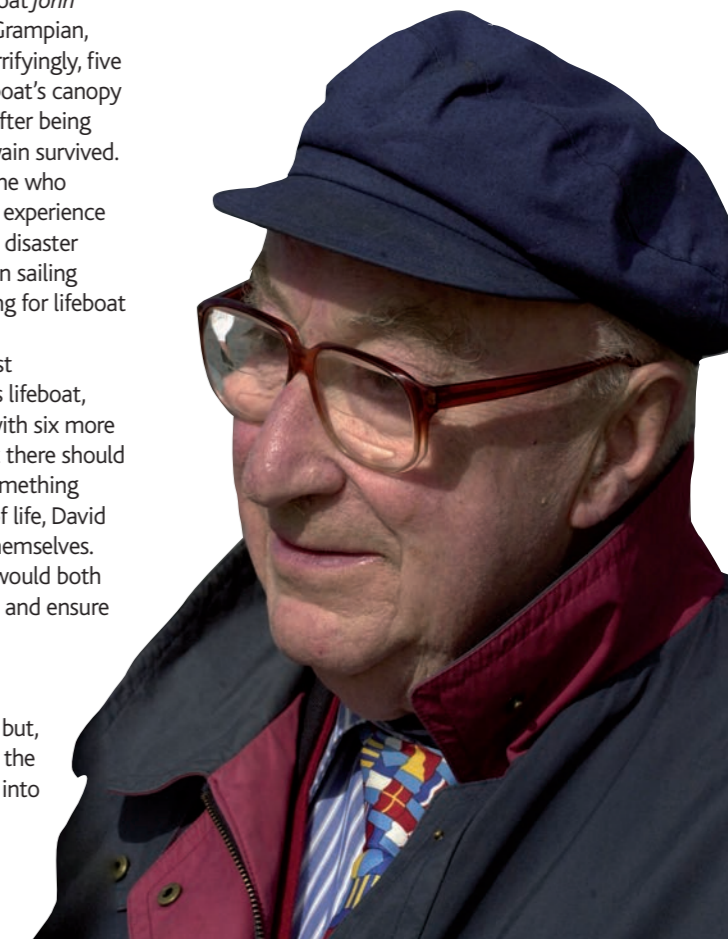
the project. He was neither too proud to learn from others nor afraid of literally getting his hands dirty. Michael Vlasto says of his friend: 'I had a huge respect for David. He led from the front. He wouldn't ask someone to do something he wouldn't do himself. He also believed in having a good work-life balance and encouraged young inspectors to get a lot of shooting and fishing in, otherwise they weren't doing the job properly!'

But David took trouble over his work: 'He continually refined design until the best result was achieved.' This was at a time when there was less theoretical and more practical research and before computers were commonplace.

It was the French lifeboat service's small inflatable craft and the prototype rigid inflatables (RIBs) developed by Admiral Hoare at Atlantic college in the Vale of Glamorgan that were to eventually catch David's eye. Their flimsy construction and propulsion by unreliable outboard engines should have ruled them out but David could see their potential to meet both his criteria of performance and safety.

#### All-weather and inshore

The first RNLI inflatable lifeboat, the D class, came into service in 1963 and its direct descendents are still in operation today. For the first time, a distinction was to be made between rescue craft designed for fast, agile work close to shore and those designed to survive all weathers far out at sea. →







# THE LIFEBOAT COLLEGE



## Valentine's weekend 13–14 February 2009

Celebrate in the very special surroundings of the Lifeboat College, with 2 nights' bed and breakfast, plus gala dinner on Saturday evening.  
£235 double occupancy, £175 single occupancy.

With stunning views of Poole harbour from every bedroom and fine food and drink, the Lifeboat College is the perfect place for a break at any time of year.

For details of all our special breaks and offers throughout the year visit:

Web: [rnli.org.uk/tlc\\_offers](http://rnli.org.uk/tlc_offers)

Tel: 0870 833 2000

Email: [tlc\\_reception@rnli.org.uk](mailto:tlc_reception@rnli.org.uk)

Take a virtual tour at [rnli.org.uk/thelifeboatcollege](http://rnli.org.uk/thelifeboatcollege)



Remember! Every £1 you spend at the Lifeboat College helps the RNLI save lives at sea

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ

Registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland

→ After his car accident in 1964, David moved temporarily to the position of Superintendent at the RNLI's depot, then in Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, before becoming Superintendent of Cowes base (now the Inshore Lifeboat Centre) on the Isle of Wight.

Here, his Deputy Mike Brinton and the Deputy Chief Inspector Tony Wicksteed assisted David in his quest for the perfect design and helped to convince the then Search and Rescue Committee that inflatables should be taken seriously.

In November 1970, the RNLI received a request for assistance from the British Red Cross following a tidal wave sweeping through the Bay of Bengal. True to form, less than 36 hours later, David Stogdon led the RNLI's first flood relief team to East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). For a week they used their inflatable lifeboats to deliver food, clothing and medical help to people in desperate need. David and his crew flew out of the area just as the country was erupting into civil war.

On his return, David worked with Desmond Hoare to adapt his prototype RIB into a rescue boat for the RNLI and the first B class Atlantic 21 went into service in 1972, to be followed by the Atlantic 75s and 85s in later decades.

### Bigger and better?

David Stogdon now made perhaps the biggest leap of his imagination. He became convinced that a much larger RIB could perform just as well as an all-weather lifeboat. Over several years, he and his colleagues developed the 10.7m Medina that featured a protective wheelhouse and inboard engines – and waterjets instead of propellers.

The prototype was named *Mountbatten of Burma* and was shown at the London Boat Show of 1980, attracting huge attention. But the charity's senior staff and trustees had reached their limit – they could not be convinced of the resilience of such craft in extreme conditions and they decided not to take it to production.

This wasn't to be the end of the matter. When he retired from the RNLI in 1981, David was contacted by the Dutch lifeboat service, the KNRM. They were keen to develop his ideas further and appointed him as a designer and consultant. The Medina concept was well suited to the shallow waters around the Netherlands and, after improvements to the engines, waterjets and more, the first of the KNRM's Valentine RIBs went into production. Queen Beatrix named the *Konigin Beatrix* in 1984 – a dream come true for David.

### Living on

Others saw the merits of the Medina-type boats: in 2004 the independent lifeboat station at Caister in Norfolk put into service one of the Dutch-built RIBs, while the RNLI's *Mountbatten of Burma*, later found underwater in New Brighton, was rebuilt by Amble Boatyard and is on service with the Maritime Rescue Institute at Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire.

Meanwhile, the RNLI's engineers have chosen a different but related course. The inshore and all-weather divide continues but is narrowing. Inshore lifeboats have grown much in size and power (the Atlantic 85 is just 2m shorter than the Medina and far exceeds its speed) and the next class of all-weather lifeboat, the FCB2, is planned to be waterjet-powered and capable of being beached for rapid transfer of casualties.

David Stogdon was certainly ahead of his time. Following the boom in watersports of the last 20 years, 60% of the RNLI's lifeboat rescues are now carried out by inshore craft. The RNLI has embraced the worth of these vessels and may one day find a way to incorporate other ideas of David's in a way that satisfies all of the charity's strict operational requirements. Meanwhile, thousands of rescues and rescuers alike, and their families, can be forever grateful to 'the father of the inshore lifeboat' for bringing them home safely.



This training at the Lifeboat College would have been close to David Stogdon's heart

Photo: Derek King



### B CLASS RIB ATLANTIC 21, 75 AND 85

Introduced: 1972, 1993 and 2005  
Length: 6.4–8.5m  
Max speed: 29–35 knots  
Crew: 3–4  
Engines: twin 50–115hp outboard



### C CLASS INFLATABLE

(no longer in service)  
Introduced: 1979  
Length: 5.33m  
Max speed: 27 knots  
Crew: 3  
Engines: twin 40hp outboards



### D CLASS INFLATABLE

Introduced: 1963, latest update 2004  
Length: 4.9m  
Max speed: 25 knots  
Crew: 2–3  
Engines: 50hp outboard



### MEDINA CLASS RIB

Trialled: 1979  
Length: 10.7m  
Max speed: 26 knots  
Crew: 4  
Engines: twin 212hp inboard



### VALENTINE CLASS RIB

Introduced in the Netherlands: 1984  
Length: 10.7m  
Speed: 37 knots  
Crew: 4  
Engines: twin 430hp inboard





Photo: Nigel Millard

## Double award

Two RNLI lifeguards are both to receive the Institution's Silver Medal for Gallantry for saving a man's life last Summer. This is the first such award to a lifeguard and the first double award to anyone since 1993.

John Dugard (pictured left) and Chris Boundy risked their own lives by jumping into churning waters at Trebarwith Strand, Cornwall, to rescue an unconscious angler. Despite being thrown against rocks and entangled in fishing line, the two got the man ashore and worked for 20 minutes to resuscitate him before he was airlifted to hospital. See *the Lifeboat* Autumn 2008 for the full story.



# WATCHFUL WINTER

The traditional lifeguard season drew to a close at the end of September but RNLI patrols were extended on six beaches in the south west of England.

Lifeguard Inspector Matt Horton explains: 'A growing number of people are learning new watersports during the "shoulder" months. With the availability of cheap wetsuits and improvements in equipment, the sea is more accessible than ever and users can stay in the

water for longer. We have to respond to this increasing demand.'

Lifeguards kept a watchful eye at Croyde, Bantham, Woolacombe, Perranporth, Praa Sands and Porthmeor beaches on October weekends and in the school half-term week, thanks to funding provided by local authorities and beach owners. Boscombe East patrols are continuing right through the Winter to the start of this year's season.

## RNLI in a box

An exciting new way for adults and children to interact with the RNLI has successfully completed trials at selected lifeboat stations and museums. *RNLI in a box* comes stuffed full of 'handling' objects that help illustrate the work of the RNLI by engaging the senses.

Brainchild of the RNLI's Display and Interpretation team, the box includes a ship in a bottle, pieces of lifeboat and lifejacket material, a rainmaker instrument and a replica of an historical coxswain's hat.

Ron Nuttall of Barrow lifeboat station says: 'The local schoolchildren were all into it immediately – one lad wore the hat throughout his visit. The primary school handed us a cheque for £50 the following day.'

If funding is secured, 27 more locations will have their own *RNLI in a box* available this Summer.



## Trial and guide

The RNLI launched its *Guide to slipway safety signs and symbols* in October as part of the charity's commitment to sea safety education.

Small, powered craft that launch from slipways accounted for almost a third of RNLI rescues in 2007. Research over 2 years showed that slipway users are bombarded with different types of signs, and the variety of messages, materials, colours and sizes can lead to confusion.

The RNLI teamed up with the UK Harbour Masters Association, port authorities and local councils

to design and trial standard signage across Devon, Dorset, Hampshire and London. The trial identified three main kinds of signs suitable for display on public slipways: access, reminder and daily conditions.

The resultant guide helps slipway owners and operators decide their signage requirements: which type of sign is needed, how many, and where to locate them. It also contains details on the new and unique slipway location code scheme, which helps emergency services, including the RNLI, to find casualties quicker.

## MICROSOFT MILLIONS

Computing giant Microsoft is to donate software worth £5M to the RNLI over the next 3 years. The charity's Chief Executive Andrew Freemantle (pictured below left) literally winched in to thank Microsoft Marketing Business Officer Matthew Bishop (below right) as his team took part in a team-building experience at the Lifeboat College.

Andrew said: 'It gives me great pleasure to personally extend the thanks of the RNLI to Microsoft, which is not only giving a donation, but is more fully immersing itself in the work of our volunteers by putting its staff through sea survival training techniques. It is these that help keep our crews safe should the worst happen.'

'In the current difficult economic climate, Microsoft's generosity will help us to weather the financial storm that we, along with many other charities, are facing. Indeed, we are bracing ourselves for the impact of reduced share and house prices on the value of legacy gifts, upon which we are so dependent.'

The donation will help the RNLI to simplify and reduce the cost of its computing centres, improving IT services for the staff and thousands of volunteers who rely on them.



Photo: Peter Booton

Photo: Rouland Berriman







Photo: Paul Savage

## FIRST CLASS FIRST AID

RNLI Sea Survival Trainer Paul Savage has received The Marine Society's Thomas Gray silver medal for creating a new concept in first aid.

Paul, a chartered physiotherapist, former paramedic and lifeboat crew member worked on this project entirely from his own passion for the subject and mostly in his own time. Using data from thousands of RNLI rescues, he turned traditional methods on their head. The new approach is symptom rather than diagnosis based, allowing crew members to quickly prioritise casualties in the 'heat of the moment' and take the necessary action. This has led to the RNLI modernising certain of its first aid equipment and other rescue organisations are showing an interest too.

Swanage lifeboat Crew Member John Gilmour describes himself as one of the first 'guinea pigs' to be trained and says: 'Without doubt it was the most interesting and knowledge-enriching course I have ever undertaken. Paul has thrown out the old textbook stuff and boiled it down to first principles.'

See a future issue of *the Lifeboat* for a feature on the new first aid course for lifeboat crew.

## RNLI training recognised

The RNLI's Sea Survival course has won a prestigious UK National training award. Former Olympic athlete Colin Jackson (centre) presented the award to Technical and Sea Survival Training Manager Tom Templeton (right) and Operations Training Manager John Allen (left) in October.

The course follows International

Maritime Organization guidelines for survival and firefighting. More than 1,000 crew members have taken the course since 2005. Tom says: 'The course is, for many volunteers, an introduction to the RNLI. It equips them with essential skills, conferring poise and self-confidence to save lives in the most perilous seas.'



## PRIDE OF BRITAIN



Torbay lifeboat crew won the Pride of Britain award 2008 in the emergency services category. They were nominated for their part in the rescue of the crew of the *Ice Prince* last January, as detailed in the Summer 2008 edition of *the Lifeboat*. Coxswain Mark Criddle was awarded the RNLI's Silver Medal for Gallantry at last year's annual meeting but said on GMTV (pictured): 'It was a real team effort and all of the crew feel honoured.'

# RNLI SOS

Join our biggest fundraising day



It's not too late to join the thousands of people throughout the UK and ROI who've already pledged their support for RNLI SOS day!

The events shown on the map represent a small number of the many fantastic fundraising activities taking place for SOS day all over the UK and ROI.



Visit [rnli.org.uk/sos](http://rnli.org.uk/sos) or call 0845 121 4999 to find out about SOS events in your area or to request your free fundraising pack.



## CRAFTED CREW

Collectors will love the Fabulous Baker Boys' lifeboat crew figurines. Renowned wargaming model maker Robi Baker and his brothers plan to follow the development of lifejackets through the decades with a range of figures cast from his handiwork. The Yorkshire-based family company is well connected to the RNLI – Marketing Director Paul Baker is Deputy Launching Authority and a former crew member at Withernsea lifeboat station. Find out more by emailing [info@thefabulousbakerboys.co.uk](mailto:info@thefabulousbakerboys.co.uk) or by phoning 07964 181315.



## Technology corner

The RNLI has a new range of free applications for your computer or satnav to keep you up to date, help you show your support and perhaps even raise a few pounds to help save lives at sea.

If you'd like to support the RNLI every time you search for something online, visit [everyclick.com/rnli](http://everyclick.com/rnli). Every search you make on **Everyclick** will raise money, at no cost to you or the RNLI, and every penny counts!

If you do a lot of driving around the UK and RoI, why not download the 'points of interest' file and all 235 lifeboat stations will be on your satnav's radar. (Not all stations are open to visitors, so if you're planning a special trip it's best to check the website or call ahead.)

You can find out what's happening at your favourite station, without even leaving home, using the RNLI **desktop pager**. A version is now available for Windows Vista so, if you're using Microsoft's latest operating system, you too can use the virtual pager.

Next time you're on **Facebook**, check out the RNLI Rescue Team application. Invite your friends to join your rescue team and compete against other virtual crews to win points.

Meanwhile, **iGoogle** lets you keep all your favourite feeds (such as news and blogs) and features (such as local weather or calculator) in one personalised place. You can now decorate your iGoogle page with a selection of stunning RNLI photos.

Finally, don't forget to have a look at the RNLI's official **YouTube** channel, packed with operational and fundraising videos.

Visit [rnli.org.uk/extras](http://rnli.org.uk/extras) to find out more, to download these features, and to keep an eye on the RNLI's latest web developments.



## A TOP CUPPA

Lifeboat Tea has won a Great taste award from the Guild of Fine Foods. Williamson Teas, a leading tea producer since 1869, produces a lifeboat-branded range of regular and decaffeinated Fairtrade teabags, which raises money for the RNLI. Four pence from each sale is donated directly to the RNLI and so far has brought in over £100,000.

The tea is grown pesticide-free on Williamson's world-famous tea farms in Kenya, renowned for the care and education facilities that they provide for workers and their families.

Malcolm Ferris-Lay of Williamson Teas says: 'We are delighted to be able to help the RNLI with sales of these products. We think people will enjoy these teas even more by knowing that they are supporting the important lifesaving work of the RNLI.'

Lifeboat Tea is available from selected retailers, RNLI shops and online at [williamsonstea.com](http://williamsonstea.com).



Photo: Eleanor Driscoll

## Service not strikes

Following widespread reports of strikes by HM Coastguard officers around the UK last year, rest assured that the strikes had a minimal effect on the RNLI's service.

The RNLI works closely with HM Coastguard and the Irish Coast Guard, but is independent of both – and lifeboat crews were not on strike. The industrial action affected the UK Coastguard's maritime and rescue coordination centres, whose main role is to receive distress calls and coordinate the necessary search and rescue responses.

Coastguard managers and non-striking staff provided skeleton cover during the strikes and kept the RNLI fully informed. Lifeboat stations cooperated by minimising exercises on strike days and accepting that information on casualties might reach them through different channels.

RNLI Head of Fleet Operations Hugh Fogarty says: 'The professionalism and dedication of our lifeboat station personnel has meant that the RNLI has continued to provide a fast and efficient service.'



## LIFESAVING OVERSEAS

Two members of the RNLI's Lifeguard team visited Kenya recently to train a group of locals in lifesaving. Lifeguard Inspector John Broad and Divisional Lifeguard Manager Barry Heathfield travelled over 4,000 miles to spend 2 weeks in Mombasa at the Jomo Kenyatta beach, which is notorious for its high rate of drowning incidents.

Kenyan lifeguarding often relies on some creative improvisation – old windsurfing equipment becomes rescue boards, palm trees are used as flagpoles and lifeguards have to wave down cars

or use public transport to get serious casualties to hospital.

Barry said: 'We couldn't speak Swahili and not everyone there spoke English but it didn't affect the training as the group learnt very quickly by copying what we showed them. By the end of the 2 weeks they were developing into a professional lifesaving team.'

The number of fatal incidents at the beach has already fallen since John and Barry's visit. Locals celebrated August 2008 as their first August free of drownings in many years.

## Star support for Hoylake

Actor Daniel Craig is supporting the RNLI's Hoylake appeal, which aims to raise £2M towards a new lifeboat and station for the merseyside town. Daniel lived in Hoylake as a boy, spending much of his spare time at the lifeboat station. Now he has written the foreword to the appeal's publicity brochure, explaining his connection and inviting donations. So far, £900,000 has been raised to help fund the station, which was officially opened on 1 November.



Photo: Greg Williams





# Going postal

You don't ask, you don't get. Mairéad Dwane delves into the RNLI's outgoing mail, and asks: 'Why so many letters?'

We've all had to sort through junk mail – a lot of it goes straight in the recycling and some is put aside for that lazy afternoon when we might want to order pizza, a taxi or a window cleaner. Charities send unsolicited mail too but, for the RNLI, this is not junk mail, it is simply the most cost-effective way to find new supporters and talk to existing ones.

Money is a personal and sensitive topic to mention but the simple fact is that the RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea, and the lifeboat crews and lifeguards cannot do the saving without *your* charity.

Many people who receive unsolicited

mail from charities worry that the charity is using money on self-promotion that could otherwise be used on its mission. But raising awareness of the RNLI is a happy by-product of mailings. Their main purpose is to raise money – and make money they do. As an example, every £1 spent on the RNLI's stations and slipways appeal last Summer brought in an astonishing £8.

## The journey begins ...

It might be hard to believe, but some people are unaware of quite what the RNLI does or how it is funded. They might never have contributed to the charity themselves or only

with the occasional bit of cash in a collection box. The RNLI's Supporter Acquisition team's role is to make contact with them and begin their 'supporter journey'.

Adverts and inserts in newspapers and magazines bring in many donations, but sending mailings through the post has proved to be the most cost-effective way of recruiting new supporters.

These mailings can be sorted into two categories: door drops and cold mailings.

## To the occupier,

If you've received a letter that is not addressed personally to you, you've been

included in a door drop. Door drops are the cheapest way to reach new people, but also the least controllable. The RNLI's Marketing Manager – Acquisition, Geraldine Cetin explains: 'Unfortunately it is not possible for us to stop existing supporters of the RNLI receiving this form of letter. This is why we always put a PS with our apologies, asking supporters to pass on the letter to a friend. We are looking at including an explanation on the outside of the envelope too.'

In 2007, door drops alone recruited more than 30,000 new supporters for the RNLI. At the time of writing, the 2008 figure was closer to 43,000. These new supporters,

whether they donate a small amount from time to time, sign up for regular giving, or decide to leave a gift in their Will, are the RNLI's future.

The Royal Mail (UK) and An Post (RoI) have strict guidelines on how many charity mailings can hit a single household in a year so the RNLI must book its slots well in advance. Geraldine's team targets areas whose residents are thought to fit the profile of those most likely to give to the RNLI. Often the marketing message is regionalised. Mail packs are written and designed by a specialist agency, printed on sustainably sourced paper, and despatched using discounted

bulk mailing methods. The more the RNLI sends out at a time, the cheaper delivery is per pack: the average cost of production and delivery is just 12p each.

## Dear Mr Smith,

If you've received a letter from a charity or company that is addressed to you, but you don't recall giving the organisation your name and address, you're probably on a cold mailing list.

To do a cold mailing, the RNLI 'rents' a list of names and addresses from another organisation. A name is not added to the RNLI's own supporter database until the







You're probably an RNLI member or other regular supporter already. If so, you're providing a valuable income that can be relied on. Thank you!



person has made a donation. Lists the RNLI has rented include *National Geographic* magazine subscribers and people who have signed up for offers from *The Daily Telegraph*. However the RNLI never passes details of its supporters to other organisations.

The RNLI goes through new lists, removing any known existing supporters, so if you're already signed up you should not receive any recruitment cold mailings. However, they do sometimes get through. This can happen if a supporter's name or address is spelled slightly differently, or if they have only very recently signed up. Also, people who support the RNLI through their local fundraising branch, rather than sending donations to Headquarters, might not be on the central database. This is very rare, and the team do everything they can to avoid it.

So which is more effective, a door drop or a cold mailing? Well, in 2008, both activities brought in around 40,000 new supporters each, but there were twice as many door drops sent out. So the more targeted approach of cold mailings means that they perform better, but renting the lists makes them more expensive to produce! The RNLI will continue to use both methods.

#### Keeping in touch

You're probably an RNLI member or other regular supporter already. If so, you're providing a valuable income that can be relied on. Thank you! But you will still get direct mail from the RNLI. In fact, the magazine you're reading right now is direct mail.

The in-house RNLI Publications and Design team produces *the Lifeboat* and *Compass* as a way to keep supporters up to date with what the RNLI is doing with their hard-earned donation. The team is busy all year producing hundreds of other publications to promote and support everything RNLI, from Sea Safety to the Lifeboat College, so cost effectiveness is assured.

Mailings to supporters are managed by the RNLI's Supporter Communications team. Other mailings that might make it through your mailbox include:

- Lifeboat Lottery tickets – the Lifeboat Lottery is one of the most productive fundraising techniques the RNLI has, raising £5M in 2008 alone. (Find out more on page 38)
- Christmas appeals – traditionally a time for giving, it's worth asking for an extra donation
- administrative letters, such as membership renewal requests

- letters asking supporters who make cash cheque donations to sign up for direct debit instead – predictable regular giving helps the RNLI plan and saves administration costs
- letters asking supporters who qualify for Gift Aid but haven't signed up for it yet to do so – Gift Aid adds 28% to the value of UK donations
- thank you letters – the RNLI acknowledges one-off gifts with thank you letters. If these are not sent out, people start to worry that their donations have not been received. Also, they are not at all expensive to produce, it's nice to be polite, and every donation is truly appreciated.

Of course, some people will have good reasons not to renew their membership or sign up for Gift Aid, and that's perfectly understandable, but it makes financial sense to try. As Marketing Campaign Manager John Turner says: 'We can't expect everyone to give all the time, but we shouldn't miss a suitable opportunity to ask.'

#### Legacies

Six out of every 10 lifeboat launches are made possible by gifts left in Wills. House prices and share prices fell in 2008, so the average value of a legacy gift is forecast to fall this year, so it's more important than ever to promote legacy giving.

The RNLI's Legacy Marketing team writes to both existing and prospective supporters asking them to consider remembering the RNLI in their Wills. Despite the sensitivity of the subject, these mailings are very successful.

It's difficult to put a precise figure on how much these letters generate because of the extremely delicate and unpredictable nature of this form of fundraising. It's estimated that every year around 650 people decide to leave a gift in their Will and tell their charity of their intention. The size of pledges varies considerably but every penny or cent counts.

#### Check your inbox

As more and more RNLI supporters are going online, email marketing is a growing opportunity. The RNLI does not send unsolicited emails, as the smart surfer does not open, read or respond to emails from unrecognised addresses! Instead, the RNLI's Emedia team sends emails to supporters who have provided their email address, including those who sign up to receive newsletters online at [rnli.org.uk](http://rnli.org.uk). They include:

- *RNLI news* – a quarterly newsletter that rounds up some of the biggest stories from around the RNLI and the subscriber's region
- *RNLI extra* – created to be sent at short notice when an important story breaks
- *RNLI on tv* – alerts supporters when the RNLI is going to be featured on an upcoming programme
- virtual gifts mailings – to remind supporters of the RNLI's range of lifesaving virtual gifts to celebrate special times of year
- events emails – to encourage supporters to take part in big fundraising events, such as the London Marathon, and to thank them afterwards.

#### Yours sincerely,

It costs an average of £339,000 or €488,000 every day to run the RNLI. Finding this money is a massive job, and the work described here is only part of a complex picture that also includes working with local branches and guilds, schools, companies and charitable trusts and running campaigns like SOS day (see page 13).

Sorting through unsolicited mail can be a chore but it only takes a minute or two. No one knows better than the RNLI's crews and lifeguards what difference a minute or two can make. So-called 'junk mail' gives people the chance to help save lives, wherever they are.



So-called 'junk mail' gives people the chance to help save lives, wherever they are.

For more detailed figures on RNLI income and expenditure, see the charity's *Annual Report and Accounts 2007* at [rnli.org.uk/annualreport](http://rnli.org.uk/annualreport) (to be updated in May – see centre insert) and if you have any concerns about an RNLI mailing you have received, contact Supporter Care on 0845 121 4999.

Every £1 spent on the RNLI's Summer appeal brought in £8



# Shop smarter – buy direct at a fraction of high street prices

Because our supplements are only available direct, we cut out the cost of the middleman. That means no retail overheads, no price mark-ups, no hidden extras. That's why we can afford to use only the very best ingredients and offer them to you at a fraction of high street prices.

All Healthspan products are made to strict pharmaceutical-grade standards (known as GMP). With freephone or web ordering, tax-free prices and FREE P&P on every UK order, as well as a 'no quibble' refund policy, why not shop 'smarter' for your supplements today?

**Holland & Barrett**  
Glucosamine 1,000mg  
Sale Price: 240 @ £22.49  
**9.4p per tablet\***

**Healthspan**  
Glucosamine 1,000mg  
Everyday Low Price: 360 @ £10.95  
**3p per tablet**

## Everyday Low Prices



**Garlic**  
1,200mg  
odour controlled  
**360 tablets**  
**£9.95**



**Calcium & Vitamin D**  
essential bone nutrients  
**240 tablets**  
**£7.95**



**Omega 3**  
1,000mg  
one-a-day  
**180 capsules**  
**£8.95**



**Glucosamine HCl**  
1,000mg  
one-a-day  
**360 tablets**  
**£10.95**

Three easy ways to order, Post, Website or Freephone ordering – all with **TAX FREE PRICES** and **FREE UK P&P**

Name (Mr, Mrs, Ms): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Post code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please debit my Mastercard / Visa / Switch Security (CV2) Code\*: \_\_\_\_\_  
Issue No/Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card No: \_\_\_\_\_

**Post to:** Healthspan Ltd, PO Box 64, Guernsey GY1 3BT. Please make cheques/PO payable to 'Healthspan'

Offer code may only be used once and not in conjunction with any other offer. Freephone orderline open 7 days a week, 9am-6pm. Free P&P applies to UK delivery only. Allow up to 10 days for UK delivery. Your call may be recorded for training purposes. Our Customer Charter provides a no-quibble refund on products and guarantees that your personal data will not be passed on to third parties. If you do not wish to receive future product updates, tick box:   
\*Last 3 digits on the back of your card.

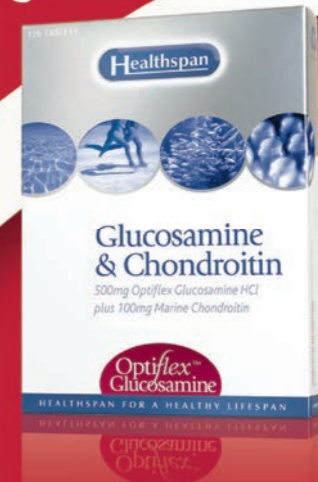
quote code: **RNLI-BJA**

Product	Price	Qty	Total (€)
<b>Glucosamine &amp; Chondroitin</b> 500mg & 100mg	120 tabs <b>£3.95</b>		
<b>Devil's Claw</b> 6mg of harpagosides	120 tabs <b>£3.95</b>		
<b>Cod Liver Oil</b> 1,000mg	180 caps <b>£5.95</b>		
<b>Evening Primrose Oil</b> 1,000mg	180 caps <b>£7.45</b>		
<b>Ginkgo Biloba</b> standardised extract 120mg	360 tabs <b>£8.95</b>		
<b>Milk Thistle</b> 88mg of silymarin	120 tabs <b>£2.95</b>		
<b>Opti-Omega 3</b> premium high DHA form	120 caps <b>£8.95</b>		
<b>Bromelain</b> 300mg	90 tabs <b>£3.45</b>		
<b>MultiVitamins &amp; Minerals</b> gold standard	180 tabs <b>£6.95</b>		
<b>Garlic Tablets</b> 1,200mg odour controlled	360 tabs <b>£9.95</b>		
<b>Calcium &amp; Vitamin D</b> 400mg & 2.5mcg	240 tabs <b>£7.95</b>		
<b>Omega 3</b> 1,000mg one-a-day	180 caps <b>£8.95</b>		
<b>Glucosamine HCl</b> 1,000mg high strength	360 tabs <b>£10.95</b>		
<b>MY ORDER IS OVER £15 – PLEASE DEDUCT £2</b>			<b>-£2</b>
<b>FREE POST &amp; PACKAGING to UK WORTH £1.95</b>			<b>FREE</b>
<b>Total €</b>			

# Healthspan

**FREE  
P&P**

# Half Price SALE



**Glucosamine HCl & Marine Chondroitin**  
500mg & 100mg  
**120 tablets**  
**HALF PRICE**  
**£3.95**

See over 35 products in our sale with many **HALF PRICE** at:

[www.healthspan.co.uk](http://www.healthspan.co.uk)



**Devil's Claw**  
440mg  
6mg of harpagosides  
**120 tablets**  
**HALF PRICE**  
**£3.95**



**Cod Liver Oil**  
1,000mg pure  
Icelandic oil  
**180 capsules**  
**NOW**  
**£5.95**



**Evening Primrose Oil**  
1,000mg  
**180 capsules**  
**NOW**  
**£7.45**



**Ginkgo Biloba**  
120mg standardised  
extract  
**360 tablets**  
**NOW**  
**£8.95**



**Milk Thistle**  
88mg standardised  
silymarin extract  
**120 tablets**  
**HALF PRICE**  
**£2.95**



**Opti-Omega 3**  
premium – 150mg  
DHA & 110mg EPA  
**120 capsules**  
**NOW**  
**£6.95**



**Bromelain**  
300mg standardised  
extract  
**90 tablets**  
**HALF PRICE**  
**£3.45**



**MultiVitamins & Minerals**  
gold standard  
**180 tablets**  
**NOW**  
**£6.95**

**£2** WHEN YOU  
SPEND **£15**  
**OFF**

Prices and offer valid until 28.02.09

[www.healthspan.co.uk](http://www.healthspan.co.uk)

Freephone 0800 73 123 77



# Reaching the limits

When a lone skipper fell and fractured his ribs some 90 miles off the south west tip of Ireland, only the RNLI could help him.

Rory Stamp reports

It was the morning of Saturday 24 May 2008 and the sailor, en route from the Azores to Ireland, was in considerable pain. He struggled to control his yacht in the rough seas that would inevitably worsen – gales were expected for the evening. There was no choice but to radio for assistance.

Communication was difficult and the Coast Guard couldn't make out the size of the yacht: was it just 4m? One thing that was heard loud and clear, though, was that the skipper would not leave his boat, which had been his only home for 7 years. That ruled out a helicopter airlift, and the nearest naval vessel was 16 hours from the scene. The only hope of rescuing the injured man lay with the Castletownbere lifeboat crew in County Cork.

Coxswain Brian O'Driscoll and his crew were paged at around 10am. Brian realised the lifeboat would be at the limits of her fuel reserves: 'It takes a lot of fuel to tow a boat, especially if it's only small and you're heading into a gale,' he explains. 'If you go too quickly, it could get swamped, or the person aboard could be injured. It looked like it would take 4 hours to get out there and possibly four times that to get back.'

Brian knew the casualty's fate could not be left to chance and, if he closely monitored the lifeboat's fuel on the passage out, there should be enough to complete a tow. As he mustered the crew for launch, he made it clear to each volunteer that they could be at sea for as long as 14 hours. 'It's a long time to be away. Every volunteer had the option to say "no" but they were all willing.'

Extra provisions were hastily gathered to keep the crew's energy up before the Severn class lifeboat *Annette Hutton* slipped her moorings at 10.30am. Aboard with Brian were Mechanic Martin Cronin and Crew Members John O'Leary, Sean O'Sullivan, Cian Murphy and Michael Murphy. As they headed out, the calm of the harbour gave way to rough seas and a fresh breeze, but the all-weather lifeboat made short work of the swells. Meanwhile, an aircraft updated the lifeboat crew on the yacht's position – and size. It turned out she was actually a more substantial 11m.

## On side

At about 2.20pm, *Annette Hutton* arrived on scene. The sailor was standing in his cockpit and began to gingerly lower the mainsail as the lifeboat neared. Brian was keen to transfer a crew member to the

yacht, to check on the casualty and establish a tow. But the seas were too rough to bring the 17m lifeboat alongside without a risk of collision. So Brian asked Sean and Michael – both fishermen by trade – to launch the lifeboat's small inflatable daughter vessel, the Y boat.

'The conditions were a force 5–6 at this stage, so the Y boat was operating at its limits,' says Brian. 'But Michael did well at the helm and there wasn't far to go between the lifeboat and the yacht.'

Michael safely brought the Y boat to the yacht and Sean climbed aboard to assess the casualty. There is little medical assistance possible for broken ribs so Sean simply advised the man to transfer with him to the lifeboat where it would be more comfortable. But still he would not leave.

Sean rigged up a tow bridle, securing a rope to the yacht's port and starboard capstans, doubling it over, just to be sure. 'It's not an easy thing to do in those conditions,' says Brian, 'but Sean and Michael have experience of that kind of work and I bore that in mind when I selected them.' The lifeboat's tow rope was skilfully thrown across to Sean, who attached it to the bridle and bade the casualty farewell, promising to radio every 15 minutes to check he was still safe during the tow. 'He was grateful but adamant that he wouldn't leave his yacht,' adds Brian.

With Sean and Michael back aboard, the lifeboat crew set off for Castletownbere at about 3.30pm, a long, gruelling journey ahead of them. In the now force 7–8 conditions and 4m swells, the men had little time for rest – Brian rotated the duties of helming, navigating, watching the tow and operating the radio. 'It's very draining, because you're physically steadying yourself against the sea, and mentally keeping an eye on the tow and the lifeboat,' reflects Brian.

## A tricky pass

In the meantime, the Irish naval 65m offshore patrol vessel *Aisling* had launched to assist. Around 30 miles from Castletownbere, *Annette Hutton* and *Aisling* were in sight of each other and it was agreed that the latter would take over the tow. But this was easier said than done.

First, the naval vessel did not have a suitable tow rope and asked if it could use the lifeboat's and return it the next day. Further, transferring the tow involved

## THE DETAIL

### THE LIFEBOAT

All-weather Severn class lifeboat  
ON-1277 (17-44) *Annette Hutton*  
On station at Castletownbere 2 August 2004  
Funded by legacy of Annette Hutton with other gift and legacies

### THE CREW

Full-time Coxswain Brian O'Driscoll (39)  
Second Mechanic Martin Cronin (44, Fisherman)  
John O'Leary (27, Electrician)  
Sean O'Sullivan (31, Fisherman)  
Cian Murphy (18, Student)  
Michael Murphy (39, Chandler)





Photo: RNLI/Brendan Gonnely

the lifeboat and *Aisling* travelling side by side, with the risk of the two vessels colliding. A thinner heaving line attached to the tow rope then had to be thrown to the naval vessel and secured while the lifeboat crew slackened their rope. 'There was a danger that the rope could have fouled our propellers too,' adds Brian.

The tricky manoeuvre was completed without trouble, however, and the lifeboat crew powered back to Castletownbere. 'In some ways we would have liked to see the whole job through to the finish,' says Brian, 'but it did get the crew home sooner and we had a chance to discuss the rescue on the way back. We had a sense of a job well done

because we had got the man out of trouble and it was a relief to him.'

**Extra time**

After more than 13 hours at sea, the lifeboat returned to her mooring at 11.45pm. The rugby cup match that the crew members had all hoped to watch on television, featuring local club Munster, had long since finished. And, 12 hours later, some of the crew were needed again.

The casualty had spent the night with the Navy but now needed to go ashore for further medical treatment. The Navy's RIB was unusable in the now severe gale force 9, so

the lifeboat towed the yacht and her skipper to Castletownbere: another 1¼ hours' service.

'They gave up their whole weekend,' says Brian of the crew, who received a Letter of Appreciation from the RNLI's Operations Director Michael Vlasto. 'It was the furthest we've been on a shout, but we were the only asset at the time that could have done it. Without us he could have been caught injured in the middle of a storm. So our first instinct was to launch first and ask questions later – I'm glad we did. And Munster won their match!'

**'It's very draining, because you're physically steadying yourself against the sea, and mentally keeping an eye on the tow and the lifeboat.'**

Castletownbere Coxswain Brian O'Driscoll



Photo: Peter McDauid

# With *Forever by the Sea* funds a treasured life is never forgotten



Photo: Chris Walker

When a family member or close friend dies, it can be terribly hard to come to terms with what's happened. The fact is, our loved ones mean the world to us – and it's devastating to lose them.

An RNLI *Forever by the Sea* fund is one way of finding comfort in this difficult time.

It works like this; you ask us to set up a fund in the name of someone who's passed away and invite relatives, friends and colleagues to join in this tribute. They can make contributions themselves or raise funds through events or on special anniversaries to make the fund grow. We'll take care of all the paperwork and put regular updates online and in the post to show how it's growing.

In this way, a *Forever by the Sea* fund becomes a wonderful way of helping save lives at sea while paying tribute to a very special person and ensuring their memory never fades.

If you'd like to learn more about *Forever by the Sea* funds, or setting one up, please don't hesitate to call Karen Wills, Tribute Fund Coordinator, on 01202 663331 or complete the coupon below.



**Lifeboats**

The RNLI is a charity that saves lives at sea



Please complete and return this form to: Karen Wills, Tribute Fund Coordinator, RNLI, FREEPOST BH173, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1XF

Your Title Forename Surname

Address Postcode

Please send me a *Forever by the Sea* fund information pack.



# Community action

It took many industrious months of fundraising, construction and volunteer recruitment to open one of the RNLI's newest and more unusual lifeboat stations.

Twenty shouts on, Claire Vandvik gets a taste of life and lifesaving at Dartmouth

Clinging to the Devonshire coastal rock, Dartmouth is both a fishing and naval port. Its waters also teem with leisure craft, jostling for the town's 3,000-plus berths. More than 2M people find themselves on the River Dart each year and the RNLI was keen to provide safety cover for all – but there were practical limitations.

The area was reliant on the all-weather lifeboats stationed at Torbay and Salcombe, 10 miles and 13 miles away respectively. Despite their renowned power, they could take 30 minutes to reach the river, where entry was difficult. The solution was to station an inshore lifeboat within the mouth of the river – a vision that became a living reality on 7 November 2007.

## Feats of fundraising

With the river so much at the heart of their daily lives and livelihoods, the local community rose impressively to the financial challenge of a new lifeboat station. Appeal Manager David Hannah explains how they brought the station into being: 'It all kicked off with a mailing to 17,500 local residents and supporters in Devon and some well-chosen phone calls.

'Street collections across Totnes and Dartmouth and a host of other local

events provided the backbone of the support and the enthusiasm: everything from mud wrestling to regattas. After 20 months, with David Dimbleby as our patron, we managed to exceed our target of £259,000 and raise £301,000. This secured the cost of training our marvellous volunteers too.'

Crew members, shore helpers and other station volunteers were not hard to find and, before the station came into being formally,

they trialled a lifeboat from the relief fleet (pictured). 'Meanwhile,' David explains: 'we were delighted when local family-run company Caterfood wanted to sponsor our very own new lifeboat. At their suggestion, ideas for her name came from a competition among local schoolchildren, which was a really nice touch.'

Other station essentials have their own unique funding story: 'The launching tractor, now called *Thomas*, was paid for by a donor with a connection to Rev. Awdry, the creator of *Thomas the tank engine*. The Hadley Trust funded the crew's kit, while their meeting table and chairs were sponsored by an "in memoriam" gift: a supporter wrote to her friends asking for gifts to the appeal in memory of her late husband.'

## An operational success

Today, the D class inflatable *Spirit of the Dart* can launch to casualties up to 8 miles upriver and shouts have included attending a man in the river at Totnes, an engine fire at Berry Head and a broken down vessel at Start Point. Even in the midst of her naming ceremony celebrations on 2 August 2008, the pagers went off and the crew forewent their cream teas to search the shoreline for a missing person.

Haydn Glanvill describes his time so far on the fledgling crew: 'As people who work or play on the water, we are all bound to the sea, so it was only natural for us to move into the RNLI. We make an incredibly strong team with a great social side too. Because we're volunteers, the camaraderie is even higher than in my work as a paramedic.

'We all bring extra skills to the crew and station. I can provide extra first aid training and take my specialist kit, including morphine, onboard. This was very useful for the casualty in the shout that put us most to the test: our first night-time rescue. Out at 2am in the

pitch black, it was quite a learning curve. The first few minutes saw a bit of fumbling with the radio and the lights but once we got to the location we were a complete team ready and able to do our bit.

'It was August and six young lads had decided to have a party on an isolated beach, accessible only by a very difficult path. As night fell they moved into a cave and lit a fire to sit around. The heat dried the slate roof of the cave until, with a loud crack, a large rock fell onto the legs of one of the boys. It took all the strength of his friends to roll it off. Lucky for him, he was in deep, soft sand so his legs were saved. Lucky for all of them, it wasn't anyone's head.'

And what of the future for 'team RNLI' at Dart? 'Our station is really alive. It's not a cold place: it has a heart. There's a constant flow of comings and goings of people of all ages and our dedicated and enthusiastic Lifeboat Operations Manager Rob Clements might as well move his bed in, he's there so often! And now I've got the visiting bug: when I was in London, I popped into Tower lifeboat station to say hello, and into Moelfre when I was on Anglesey. We all had a good chat about things. I know it's said a lot, but the RNLI really is one big family.'

Schoolboy competition winner William Smith witnesses donor Barbara Felton of Caterfood dub the new lifeboat *Spirit of the Dart*, shortly before the second emergency call out of the day Photo: Nigel Millard



## THE DETAIL

Dart volunteers 2008 include: Ben Board, 39, Yachtmaster instructor and examiner; Andy Carter, 40, photographer; Ed Carter, 35, RIB tube manufacturer and repairer; Tony Chapman, 42, yacht rigger; Lee Darch, 19, outdoor pursuits instructor; Al Duffy, 37, gardener and former riverboat skipper; Haydn Glanvill, 43, paramedic; Buster Hart, 42, demolition worker; Squiff Howitt, 34, plasterer; Kevin John, 42, magazine publisher; Wes Jones, 38, unemployed; Yorkie Lomas, 40, labourer; Jamie Mathys, 34, marine engineer; Kevin Murphy, 42, property developer; Andy Pomeroy, 34, boat builder; Chris Rampling, 20, student; Matt Studd, 25, tree surgeon; Chris Tracey, 27, yacht skipper; Lloyd Turner, 36, ferry skipper and former fisherman; Chris Wallace, 36, boat skipper.





# JANUARY SALE BEST SELLER GIVEAWAY

UP TO A MASSIVE 15% OFF OUR BEST SELLING SUPPLEMENTS

Customer Voted  
**BEST VALUE**  
2008

QUALITY ASSURED  
**GMP**  
APPROVED

## Cod Liver Oil 1000mg

Help maintain general health

Cod liver oil contains essential fatty acids EPA and DHA, which are vital for good health. These Essential Fatty Acids can help to maintain cardiovascular health, promote joint health and may help improve concentration.

## Omega 3 Fish Oil 1000mg

Boost cardiovascular health

Our super strength Omega 3 has an unprecedented 330mg of EPA and 220mg of DHA. This powerful Omega 3 product is great for those who want that extra high amount of essential fatty acids.

## Glucosamine 2KCl 1000mg

Promote Healthy Joint Function

Glucosamine Sulphate is now one of the most popular products for joint health in the UK. It plays a key role in the smooth working of joints and helps maintain connective tissues.

## Glucosamine 2KCl v HCl

Numerous studies have proven that over 90% of Glucosamine Sulphate 2KCl is actively absorbed, while the ONLY absorption study using Glucosamine Hydrochloride (HCl) shows that only 12% is found in the blood when taken in high levels.

## FREE GIFT

### Glucosamine Joint Gel

Order our Glucosamine 1000mg and we will send you Glucosamine Gel (50ml) RRP £9.99 for FREE!



## Ginkgo Biloba

Super Strength 6000mg

Ginkgo Biloba can help to improve short term memory and circulation to the brain, heart, limbs and eyes.

WAS £9.69  
**NOW £8.72**  
360 Tablets

## Glucosamine 500mg & Chondroitin 400mg

Pharmaceutical grade combination

Using pharmaceutical grade Glucosamine 2KCl and Marine Chondroitin Sulphate (20%).

WAS £16.99  
**NOW £15.29**  
240 Tablets

## Selenium + A, C & E

200mcg Strength (100% RDA)

Selenium is an essential trace element and a powerful antioxidant which is important for good health.

WAS £7.95  
**NOW £7.15**  
360 Tablets



Order now on our Freephone Orderline - Please Quote LB33

**0800 988 0292**

**SimplySupplements**  
High Quality Vitamins & Minerals

Same Day Despatch & The Lowest Prices in the UK Guaranteed!



Lines open 8am-6pm (Mon-Sat)  
Customer Service Line: 0845 863 0622

Name (Mr/Mrs/Ms) .....  
Address ..... Post Code .....  
Telephone .....  
Email .....  
Please complete and return to: (no stamp needed)  
Simply Supplements, FREEPOST GU 253, Guernsey, GY1 5SS  
I wish to pay by cheque/PO made payable to: Simply Supplements  
Paid by:  Mastercard  Visa  Switch  Solo  Maestro   
Valid from ..... Expiry Date ..... Issue No. ....

\*You will receive 2 pots of 180 (total 360) for the prices above & 2 pots of 120 (total 240) for Glucosamine & Chondroitin.

Code	Product	Size	Price	Qty	Total (£)
S143	Cod Liver Oil 1000mg	360 Tabs	£8.47		
S400	Omega 3 Fish Oil 1000mg	360 Tabs	£8.39		
S130	Glucosamine Sulphate 1000mg	360 Tabs	£7.15		
FG400	Glucosamine Joint Gel - FREE	50ml	FREE		FREE
Additional Products					
S404	Ginkgo Biloba 6000mg	360 Tabs	£8.72		
S700	Glucos. 500mg/Chond. 400mg	240 Tabs	£15.29		
S210	Selenium 200mcg + ACE	360 Tabs	£7.15		
S343	Glucosamine Sulphate 1500mg	360 Tabs	£12.59		
S145	Multivitamins (100% RDA)	360 Tabs	£6.49		

Add £1.99 (P&P) on orders under £17

**LB33** Deduct discount on Bulk Buy (See Coupon)  
www.simplysupplements.co.uk Total £

simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements

**Discount Voucher**

**£2 off**

Spend over £20 and save £2 off the cost of your order

All offers & prices featured are only applicable to this advert & are valid until 31st May, 2009. PLEASE QUOTE **LB33**

simplysupplements simplysupplements simplysupplements

# IN DEEP WATER

For many in north east England, last year's already wet Summer culminated in a frightening deluge. Carol Waterkeyn looks into the latest activity of the Flood Rescue team and why its specialist skills were needed

Few people living inland would expect to rely on the RNLI to keep safe in their own communities but this was the reality for many driven from their homes by flooding in September 2008. The town of Morpeth, Northumberland, was worst hit when the River Wansbeck burst its banks.

Twenty one lifeboat crew volunteers from Blyth, Newbiggin, Amble, Sunderland and Redcar were deployed to help, with members of the RNLI's Flood Rescue team. This specially trained and equipped group comprises RNLI volunteers and staff from across the service, available at 24 hours' notice to respond to flooding emergencies at home or abroad. Meanwhile, it was business as usual at the charity's 235 stations.

On 6 September, the Morpeth contingent worked solidly for 15 hours overnight, finally standing down at 10am, tired, dirty and hungry. Waveney Crookes, the RNLI's Training Inspector for the north of England,

was leading the operation and describes the scene: 'The water came up to our chests inside people's houses. Furniture and fridges were just floating around. Some of the residents were very distressed but generally they seemed amazingly stoical. My heart goes out to them. I can't imagine what life is going to be like for them now.'

The crews rescued at least 24 people from their homes, including one elderly woman whose head injury needed urgent medical attention. Their work also included transporting engineers to the sites of gas leaks and power cuts, and doctors, medicines, food and water to the stranded. Waveney describes the conditions as 'atrocious' - and there were real dangers for the volunteers:

'Inland flooding offers very different challenges to our crews from those they normally face at sea. In particular, the hazards are often hidden. The water will be polluted with sewage and chemicals, electrocution

is a threat and heavy debris is speeding by. Wading through a flooded street, you could fall into a manhole whose cover has lifted; helping an inflatable rescue boat, you could hit barbed wire.'

Even the behaviour of the water itself is different, with swift and unpredictable currents that are hard to manage. This is why it is essential to have a core of specially trained individuals present, ensuring the safety of other crew.

Waveney comments: 'Our crews were fantastic, supplementing the work of all the emergency services, the RSPCA and others who were helping. As time goes on, we'll be training more and more volunteers in swift-water rescue techniques, to be ready for what looks like an increasing need.'

## RNLI flood rescue incidents

1970	East Pakistan (see page 9)
1988	Bangladesh
2000	Mozambique
2000	Sussex and North Yorkshire, England
2004	Cornwall, England
2005	Guyana, South America and Cumbria, England
2006	Herefordshire, England
2007	Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, England
2007	Hereford, Worcester and Gloucestershire, England
2008	Northumberland and North Yorkshire, England



Photo: John Giles / Press Association



# Computing for Seniors – it's never too late to start!

*(no experience necessary – it's a piece of cake!)*

Are you petrified by computers? Does the sight of a keyboard make you tremble? Does computer jargon seem like gobbeldy-gook? Have you tried to crack computers – only to give up in despair?

Now there's good news! Computer expert Jeff Clarke has written a book that targets seniors – and all those who suffer from 'computer anxiety'!

**All your questions answered – no jargon, just plain English!**

Jeff's new book is titled 'Master Your Computer in Just 2 Hours!' – and that's exactly what it helps you to do! The book is written in good old-fashioned English – no baffling jargon! You'll get step-by-step instructions that begin

*"This is the best book on computing I've ever come across – and I've read a few! Now I'm getting the most out of my computer!"*

G Edwards, London

*"I keep your book right on my desk. Because whenever I've got a problem with using my computer – I know it will give me the solution."*

B Nelson, Yorkshire

*"My grandchildren are amazed that I am using my computer with as much confidence as they have!"*

T Patterson, London

*"I finally get it, after struggling with my computer company's instruction manual... I have finally found a book that tells me exactly how to do the things I need to do"*

R Brown, London



- Learn about the parts of your computer – their function and how they work
- Discover how to contact friends or associates anywhere in the world – FREE!
- Make your computer 'double' as a fax machine
- Send precious family photos – FREE!

Master Your Computer in Just 2 Hours! is very easy to use. So whether you're a complete beginner – or someone who has tried and then given up on computers – Master Your Computer in Just 2 Hours! is the perfect book for you!

**FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

If after trying the course you are not completely satisfied, you may return it anytime within THREE MONTHS for a full refund. You don't need to give any reason, just send it back and you will be fully refunded.

at the very beginning; setting up your computer! In just two hours, you'll master dozens of computer skills including surfing the Net, sending emails, downloading photos, creating documents and more!

The book is organised in easy-to-follow lessons that will build your skills – and turn you into a computer whiz! You'll follow the lessons at your own pace... and move onto the next level only when you feel ready. What's more, the book features big type – for easy reading.

### A wealth of skills – clear instructions

Here's just a sample of the valuable computing skills you'll master...

- How to choose the right computer and set it up
- Navigate the latest Windows software, including VISTA
- Master the art of desktop publishing

- Create personalised stationery, greeting cards and posters!
- Manage your home finances
- Find out where to obtain new software FREE!
- Explore the worldwide web – get to know your way around the Internet

Lines Open  
8am to 9pm Mon-Fri  
9am to 8pm Sat-Sun

**CALL NOW 0871 224 0777**  
AND ASK FOR DEPT 222C

Send to: Computers Made Easy, Dept 222C, Emery House, Greatbridge Road, Romsey, Hants. SO51 0AD

**YES** Please send me the following copies of 'Master Your Computer in Just 2 Hours' on a 3 months trial. I may return it any time within 3 months for a full refund.

One copy for £9.95 + £2.95 insured p&p.

**SAVE £4.90 – two copies for just £17.95** + £2.95 insured p&p

I enclose a cheque/PO for £\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Computers Made Easy

Please charge my VISA/MASTER/SWITCH/DELTA/MAESTRO card:

\_\_\_\_\_

START EXP ISSUE NO SIGNATURE

TITLE NAME D.O.B.

CAPITAL LETTERS PLEASE ADDRESS

POST CODE TEL

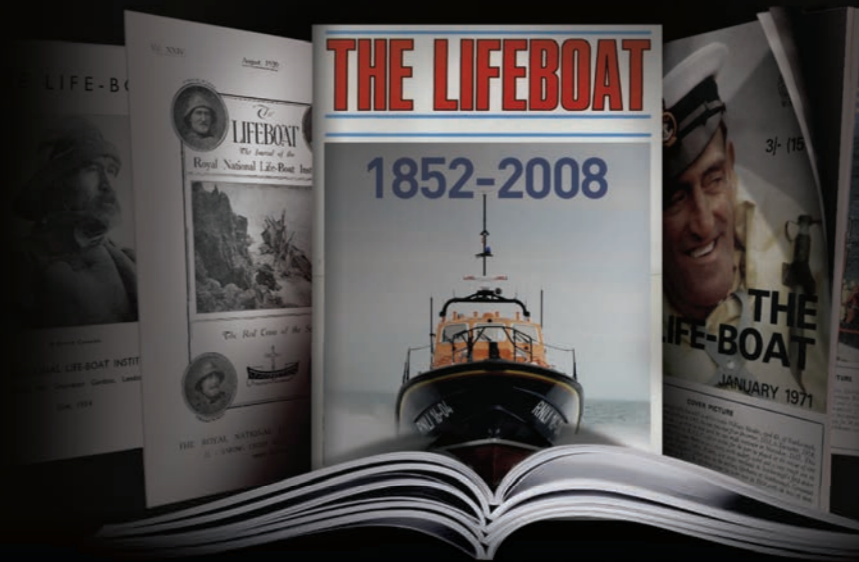
EMAIL

Delivery normally within one week but please allow up to 28 days. If you do not wish to receive other interesting offers from reputable companies, please tick this box

**visit [www.windsorproducts.com/222C](http://www.windsorproducts.com/222C)**

# REVIEW

This issue: 150-plus years of lifeboat publishing, the dream and reality of onboard living, and a revolutionary adventure



## The Lifeboat – a complete historical archive 1852–2008

**Review by John Francis, Lifeboat Enthusiasts' Society Honorary Secretary**

I have had the privilege of evaluating the DVD version of this archive of 580 issues of *the Lifeboat* and found it very easy to use. There are instructions on the box and a telephone number for technical support. I also printed the 'Help' screens.

Depending on the age and version of your operating system, installation takes 15–30 minutes if you include the pdf facsimiles with the programme and database.

Once I accessed the archive itself I soon became familiar with the various search commands. You can view pages in their original format or as plain text.

However, if it wasn't printed in *the Lifeboat*, you won't find what you are looking for! Don't try to find a particular lifeboat by official or operational number as they are seldom quoted; use the name instead. Lastly, the pages have been scanned and optical character recognition applied to create the searchable database so there can be errors in spelling.

To sum up, this is a wonderful tool for those interested in the RNLI and is excellent value for money.

**Review by Dick Robinson, Co. Clare Fundraiser and former Valentia Crew Member**

This publication is superb. It is a gold mine of information and the system is easy to install and simple to operate. The search options: by issue; by year; by station; by service and a straightforward text search let the operator go to whatever interests them immediately. As a research tool and as a history record this archive can only be spoken of in superlatives.

Not only can you keep pace with the service side of the RNLI but you can also follow the growth of the organisation and meet the great people who served the Institution. It is a social history of the changing demography of the coast and how the RNLI changed with it.

I have been collecting lifeboat and maritime material since 1957. This archive is the finest I have seen and I recommend it to anybody with even a smidgen of salt in their veins or regard for the spirit of volunteering.

Eight CD-ROMs or two DVDs for computer. Published by and only available from the RNLI. Price £100 including postage, all proceeds to the RNLI. Write to the Editor at RNLI Headquarters, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ, phone 01202 662254 or email [thelifeboat@rnli.org.uk](mailto:thelifeboat@rnli.org.uk) for more details.

**Review by Jane Weller, RNLI member**

The archive of *the Lifeboat* is an amazing insight into the lives of people from all walks of life from 1852–2008.

Searching the database is straightforward and each volume can be looked at in detail. As someone who enjoys family history, I compared the archive with the 1861 census but could not find anyone of the time recorded as donating from my village.

As I read, questions arose ... What made Miss Elizabeth Lee (aged 85) from Beverley, Yorkshire, decide to give £2 in 1862?

Would decrepit ships still be sailing around our coasts at risk of sinking if *the Lifeboat* had not lobbied the Government of the day to bring in legislation to control their seaworthiness?

What will the lifeboats of tomorrow look like? What has the RNLI been doing since its inception? The answer is definitely: search the archive! From browsers to historians, I feel there is something here for everybody.





→ **A home afloat**  
by Gary Cookson  
Review by Carol Waterkeyn

'Gorgeous' is the only word for this book! Gary Cookson looks through the porthole into life afloat and shows us some wonderful examples. From traditional narrowboats to the largest barges, yachts and houseboats: if you hanker after life on the water, here are some wonderful examples to tempt you.

Gary explains some of the practicalities but this is not a 'how to' manual. Rather, using beautiful interior and exterior photography throughout, it promotes a way of life to aspire to.

If you are a restless soul who likes to move on, a maritime or river home will come with you. If you can't envisage everyday life on the water, boats can make excellent holiday homes. Finally, those keen on DIY might like to borrow some of the wonderful space-saving ideas for their homes on terra firma.

Hardback book  
Published by Adlard Coles Nautical  
ISBN 9780713688771  
Price £19.99

**The May Flower – a barging childhood**  
by Nick Ardley  
Review by Carol Waterkeyn

First the dream – now the reality!

Nick Ardley's childhood was spent living on a converted barge. Nick's parents purchased the former trading barge in 1950 during their engagement and, after conversion, it became the Ardleys' home for the next 28 years.

His account shows us that life was enjoyable but hard work as there was constant maintenance to be done and all the children were expected to help. While much of the book is charming, particularly the accounts of family life, outings and barge racing, some of the detail about upkeep of the vessel is best suited to those who know something of the subject themselves – it may inspire, it may put you off!

Paperback book  
Published by Tempus  
ISBN 9780752442259  
Price £16.99

**The time of terror**  
by Seth Hunter  
Review by Derek King FWTMT

Attention to detail, depth of knowledge and descriptive expertise are all requisites for a good book, whether fact or fiction. Seth Hunter's *The time of terror* certainly has all three qualities, but sometimes the detail is so intricate as to slow the plot and the display of knowledge seems almost self indulgent. Readers may wonder whether they have a textbook on maritime warfare, a potted history of the French Revolution, or a novel about one man caught up in those events.

Mr Hunter treats his hero, Nathan, quite cruelly, having him set upon or beaten around the head so many times to move the plot from one location to another that it is a wonder Nathan makes it to the end of the book!

All in all this is a readable book but, to maintain an interest in the remainder of the trilogy, readers may want a little more flesh on the bones of Nathan, the ubiquitous Tully and his mysterious lady friend.

Hardback book  
Published by Headline  
ISBN 9780755343058  
Price £19.99

Unless other ordering details are stated, all books reviewed in *the Lifeboat* are available from good bookshops and online from Amazon via the RNLI website at [rnli.org.uk/amazon](http://rnli.org.uk/amazon). Amazon will donate a minimum of 5% of the value of all such orders to the RNLI (but you must access Amazon via the RNLI website and not go direct). Offshore members can find further book reviews in their supplement.



**Save money on gas and electricity this winter**

Use our independent energy switching service to change your gas or electricity supply and we'll donate £10 to the RNLI, £20 if you switch both. So switch today and you'll save money\* as well as lives.

[www.switchwithwhich.co.uk/rnli](http://www.switchwithwhich.co.uk/rnli)  
All you need is a couple of recent energy bills to hand.

**or call 01992 678282 quoting 'RNLI'**  
(Monday-Friday 8.30am-6pm, Saturday 9am-1pm)

\*£233 average annual saving per household that switched via our Switch with Which? service between 1st October 2007 and 31st March 2008.



# LIVING ON THE EDGE

Some of  
Happisburgh's  
defences are no  
match for the sea  
Photo: Nigel Millard

Fifteen million people in the British Isles have the sea as a permanent backdrop to their lives. Anne Millman explores how coastal life is literally shaped by the power of the sea

Our coastlines may appear as firm lines on a map but they are constantly changing. A European Commission report in 2004 stated that over 17% of the UK and nearly 20% of the RoI coastline is eroding, challenging the very existence of some ports and harbours, associated industries, heritage sites and wildlife havens. Several communities are facing a stark and cruel choice: is it worth defending homes and livelihoods or should expensive defences be abandoned and the crumbling land be evacuated?

#### Erosion and accretion

Coastal erosion can be promoted through human activity but it is ultimately caused by the action of water: rain, frost and, most of all, wave and tide. By definition, just 1m<sup>3</sup> of water has a mass of 1 tonne so the forces involved are huge.

Destructive waves erode by:

- **pounding** – the sheer force of hitting the rock
- **pneumatic action** – compressing the air in cracks in the rock
- **abrasion** – hurling rock fragments that scrape away at the rock
- **attrition** – smashing fragments together, wearing down to sand and silt
- **scour** – breaking and swirling around at the base of a structure, removing loose material
- **solution or corrosion** – salt water dissolving chemicals in the rock.

The naturally sculpted caves, arches and stacks at Flamborough, Yorkshire, provide spectacular examples of erosion. However, the material lost in one location may build up elsewhere, forming beaches, bars, dunes or spits. South of Flamborough is Spurn Point, a crooked finger of land stretching 3 miles into the Humber estuary and a prime example of such accretion.

Around 3% of the material eroded from the intervening Holderness coast is deposited at Spurn, but this home to Humber lifeboat station is itself far from stable. There have been occasional partial breaches of the spit but a complete breach could force the station to be moved, losing a 20–25-minute advantage in response times. Meanwhile, the RNLI has invested in power generators, water storage and contingencies to retain access.

#### Rock and resistance

Different rocks offer hugely varying resistance to erosion. Rates of loss can be less than 1mm a year with igneous rock to more than 4m a year with sand. It is usually only where coastlines are comprised of mud, sand, shingle or glacial deposits that erosion progresses sufficiently rapidly to be of concern.

Erosion is greater where the ...

- **rock** – is poorly resistant
- **wave** – is steep; has a long fetch, gaining energy from the wind; hits at its point of collapse; hits a cliff at its base
- **beach** – is steeply shelving, which creates steeper waves; is narrow, which focuses the wave energy; provides abrasive material to be carried in the waves
- **weather** – includes ground frost, which expands in cracks in the rock
- **marine environment** – includes bioeroders, which are organisms that 'eat' rock
- **humans allow inappropriate** – drainage, access by pedestrians and vehicles, grazing and 'protective' works.

However, at the same time, our islands are literally on the rebound from the weight of the ice sheets that once almost covered them. The effect is uneven so east England is sinking into the sea while north Scotland is rising.

The Holderness coast is one of Europe's fastest eroding, shrinking by around 2m each year. Yet Dumfries and Galloway, Shetland and the Western Isles have suffered from erosion too. An astounding 20m of Western Highlands coastline was washed away in 2005 and stretches of Fife, Aberdeen and Kirkcaldy are now of concern.

Huge stretches of the Welsh coast are also threatened, from the Gower peninsula in the south to Porthdinllaen on the Llyn peninsula, and the north west coast of the Isle of Man has seen the sandy shore retreat. In Ireland, most erosion is along the east and south east coasts, with the largest ongoing coastal protection scheme at Rosslare Port, but the far western Aran Islands are not immune.





Photo: Anne Millman

**Soft defences:**

- dune recontouring – modification of a dune to stabilise it
- grass planting – stabilising a bare dune and trapping wind-blown sand
- wave barrier fencing – fences on the upper foreshore to reduce wave scour and promote sand deposition
- sand fencing – fences that trap wind-blown sand.

**Hard defences:**

- sea wall – facing the existing rock with concrete
- armouring – facing the existing rock with huge boulders
- revetment – a sloping ramp of concrete or rock
- gabions – wire baskets filled with stone and stacked to form a wall, steps or ‘mattress’
- groynes – walls of timber, concrete or boulders, perpendicular to the coast.

**Centuries of destruction**

History demonstrates that the problem of retreating coastlines is far from new. Dunwich, Suffolk, was the capital of the English wool trade but, during the 14th century, churches, shops, windmills and 400 houses were lost to the sea. Three centuries later, the people of Findhorn, Morayshire, moved their entire village a mile to the south east as the underlying sand bar suffered erosion.

In 1917, the Devon village of Hallsands collapsed into the sea. This was 16 years after 660,000 tonnes of sand and gravel had been dredged from the bay to extend the naval dockyard at Plymouth. A protective ridge had been lost in the process and the assumption that this would be naturally replaced proved ill founded.

**Holding the line**

Nowadays, human approaches to erosion range from attempting to prevent it, to replacing eroded material, to allowing the coastline to reach equilibrium.

Hard engineering to resist wave action will always appear stark and obtrusive in an environment usually enjoyed for its wild openness. Soft engineering options are designed more to work *with* Nature and to appear less artificial. (See box.)

Such defences offer security in the short term but they require regular maintenance. For example, a concrete seawall and timber groynes have afforded protection to Hornsea, Yorkshire, since the early 1900s thanks to an ongoing refurbishment programme. However, in the long term, defences may fail as softer materials around or below them are washed out.

Winston Churchill’s response to the disastrous East Anglian floods of 1953, when 307 people died, was to build miles of hard defences. But at Happisburgh, Norfolk, these have crumbled away, and houses that were 500m from the sea in 1987 are now just 65m away. Erosion is happening so fast that crops planted in Autumn 2007 were lost to the sea before they could be harvested.

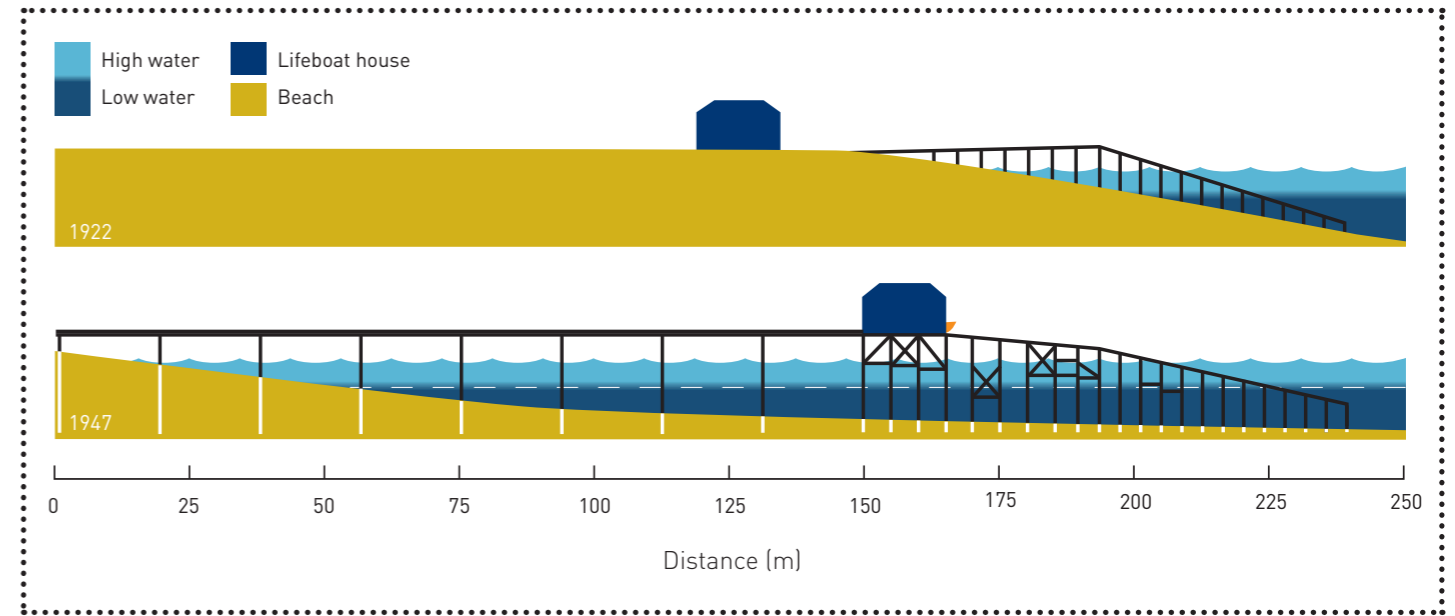
Further, the protection of one stretch of coast can intensify the pressure on land to either side. The nearly £2M spent in 1991 on two rock groynes and a rock revetment to protect Mappleton, Holderness, successfully halted erosion and resulted in a substantial beach accumulating between the groynes. However, south of the town, erosion has since increased significantly.

The monitoring and, if necessary, modification of schemes is crucial to their success. Responsibility for overall policy is held at the highest level: in England by the Government’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), in Wales by the Welsh Assembly, in Scotland and Northern Ireland by the respective Executives and in the Republic of Ireland by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. But responsibility for day-to-day management of erosion rests with the landowner, whether local authority, individual, or charity – including the RNLI.

The most controversial approaches to erosion are roll back, managed retreat and set back – all a form of abandonment of land.

Roll back follows Findhorn’s 17th century example, moving businesses and dwellings to safety inland. Managed retreat is the relocation or removal of embankments from reclaimed land to encourage restoration of salt marsh, which then acts as a natural defence for areas inland. (Notable examples are Frieston Shore, Lincolnshire, and Nigg Bay, Highland.) Set back is the deliberate lack of maintenance or removal of coastal defences to permit the natural evolution of a shoreline – however dramatic that might be.

Less than a decade ago, a half-mile stretch of beach south of Happisburgh was allowed to disappear completely. In 2003, one resident with a road and six bungalows between their home and the sea went on holiday for 2 weeks. On returning, the bungalows were gone. Today, the sea has blasted a new bay out of farmland and marched several 100m inland.



**Vulnerable or valuable?**

The UK Government’s spending on flood and coastal erosion risk management was an estimated £600M in 2007–8 and its planned investment for the next 3 years is £2.15B. This is despite a decision *not* to defend every bit of coast.

Meanwhile, property values plummet in threatened areas and insurance companies apply the ‘act of God’ clause, so home and business owners are unprotected financially too. Would Government-backed compensation, as for compulsory purchase for motorways or airports, be cheaper than constant maintenance of defences? But isn’t it discriminatory to protect some people from rising waters, with for example the Thames Barrier for London, and not others?

The effects of coastal erosion cannot be measured in monetary terms alone. The real value of the loss of communities, industrial areas, agricultural land, rare natural habitats, even recreational space is incalculable. And, in Scotland alone, more than 10,000 of the country’s most important ancient and historical sites could be lost forever. Meanwhile, the stress for residents of waiting for their land to succumb is a constant strain on health and wellbeing.

**Lifesaving costs**

Coastal ebb and flow are facts of life for the RNLI too. Station slipways must withstand the loadings of a lifeboat (up to 30 tonnes) *and* the sea. At Porthdinllaen, the RNLI maintains its longest slipway. An underwater inspection in 2006 showed some scouring of the seabed, leading to remedial works pending a complete

rebuild for a Tamar class lifeboat. Even where harbour facilities exist there is often a need for pontoon berths and additional protection in the form of wave screens or breakwaters, such as at Walton and Frinton in Essex.

Boathouses have been entirely lost to erosion, such as at Formby, Lancashire, while a launching ramp at Happisburgh collapsed in December 2002. The charity worked closely with North Norfolk District Council to open a fully operational station within 3 months, a mile away. There are even unexpected benefits: more communities are now within the catchment area for crew, and the original station is used for souvenir sales.

**‘Coastal ebb and flow are facts of life for the RNLI ... station slipways must withstand the loadings of a lifeboat and the sea.’**

At Wells-next-the-Sea, also in Norfolk, groynes protect the boathouse following the loss of the protective dunes, while at Aldeburgh, Suffolk, expensive defences are built into the foundations in recognition of the susceptibility of the beach to both erosion and accretion. Kent’s Dungeness boathouse has been moved *towards* the sea in response to the accretion of shingle, while Exmouth’s in Devon has been moved to the seaward side of a sandbar that was inhibiting launches at low tide.

Selsey lifeboat station, West Sussex, saw decades of work to combat the effects of erosion until the land stabilised of its own accord. In 1925, a new boathouse was built but, after 12 years of the beach rapidly shrinking, a gangway had to be built for access – only to

be extended seven times. As erosion continued, the underlying piles were increasingly exposed, having to be extended too (pictured above and opposite). Eventually the beach stabilised and a new slipway was built.

**Foresight and vision**

There is growing recognition that the coastline should be managed in a strategic and coordinated way instead of ‘fixing’ problems as they occur. This must balance national interests with local needs and be sustainable for decades to come.

In the UK, the Government’s Foresight Flood and Coastal Defence project is attempting to

identify which areas will be most threatened over the next 100 years and has so far looked at over 3,700 miles of coast. Independent and complementary research includes that by a team of scientists from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. It has begun compiling the first 3D map of Britain’s coastal erosion processes using microflight aircraft photography and satellite technology.

For the RNLI, the sea’s relentless power leads inevitably to constant repairs, improvements and even rebuilds of stations and slipways – and, increasingly, lifeguard facilities. The RNLI will continue to use its engineering and operational ingenuity to keep pace but it too must find a balance of practicalities and cost in trying to manage this power of Nature.



Above and top right: Selsey’s boathouse became increasingly exposed  
Photo: RNLI/John Periam



# YOUR CHANCE TO WIN AND HELP SAVE LIVES



## SPRING 2009 PRIZES

First prize in the next Lifeboat Lottery is a car: the Toyota Aygo 1.0 3-door HB WT-i.

Second prize is a 14-day cruise to the Baltic Capitals onboard MV *Discovery* departing Harwich on 13 August 2009. The cruise visits Kiel, Warnemunde, Helsinki, St Petersburg, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Oslo, returning to Harwich 26 August 2009. The prize includes accommodation in an outside twin-bed cabin for two with ensuite facilities, all meals and entertainment onboard, and port taxes. Free parking at Harwich or free return coach transfers from central London, Stansted and Luton.

Please note it does not include travel insurance, excursions, gratuities, or any other expenses of a personal nature. The cruise must be taken on the date specified and cannot be exchanged for cash or transferred to another person.

For your chance to win either of these stunning prizes while supporting the RNLI too, Lifeboat Lottery tickets are available to supporters from 26 January and earlier to fundraising branches. If you don't usually receive tickets and would like to, please call 0845 121 4999 or email [lottery@rnli.org.uk](mailto:lottery@rnli.org.uk). (Please note that due to differing tax and gaming laws, tickets are not available in the RoI or Northern Ireland.)



L-R: Murray Lamont, Chairman of Wick fundraising branch, hands the car keys over to Doctors Carol and Joost Leeuwenberg, while looking on are Coxswain Ian Cormack, Mechanic John Martin and Lifeboat Operations Manager Bruce Tait

## AUTUMN 2008 WINNERS

- 1st prize: Peugeot 107 Urban Move Hatchback, Dr J Leeuwenberg, Caithness
- 2nd prize: 7-night cruise to France and the Iberian Peninsula, Mr G Spring, Hertfordshire
- 3rd prize: £500, Mrs PE Terry, London
- 4th prize: £250, Mrs H Lawson, Glasgow
- 5th prizes: £100 each, Mrs B Thomas, Mid Glamorgan; Mrs W Harding, Dorset; Mr AR Atherton, London; Mr H Grimstone, Lancashire; Mr I Toscani, Hertfordshire



**ONCE IN A LIFETIME AUSTRALIA**

**BOOKING NOW 2009-10**

**36-day 'Once in a Lifetime' tour:**

- 2nts Singapore
- 3nts Perth
- 2nts Indian Pacific Train
- 3nts Kangaroo Island
- 4nts Melbourne/Yarra Valley
- 3nts Cradle Mountain
- 4nts Sydney
- 4nts Cairns
- 3nts Darwin
- 2nts Alice Springs
- 2nts Uluru/Ayers Rock
- 1nt Perth

**A once-in-a-lifetime luxury escorted tour revealing the essence of Australia.**

Our exclusive 36-day itinerary leaves the typical tourist trails to explore the real Australia through its history, culture, landscape and wildlife – all at a leisurely pace and in first class luxury.

We use our extensive knowledge to show you the very best of this diverse country, from its vibrant cities to the contrasting Outback, the nature paradise of Kangaroo Island, the acclaimed gardens of Melbourne and the unspoilt wilderness of Tasmania. We also include a journey on the legendary Indian Pacific Train across Australia's majestic heartland and luxury cruises on Sydney Harbour and the Great Barrier Reef.

To complete your luxury tour experience, we have hand-picked 4 & 5 star hotels that offer the very best in location and facilities, and reserved only deluxe suites or superior rooms.

- Small group (24 people)
- Full programme of included excursions
- Aboriginal cultural experiences

- Plenty of free time to relax or explore
- Leisurely itinerary (2-4 nights each location)
- Expert Tour Manager and local guides

To find out more, call us for a brochure or visit our website.

**FREE 08080 555 666**  
**www.grustravel.co.uk**

## SAFELY NEGOTIATING THE BEST PRICES

As an RNLI member and supporter you can receive significant discount on your brand new Volvo, through our unique affinity scheme. A £500 royalty donation will be paid to the RNLI when you buy a new car. Whether travelling on land or sea you're in safe hands with Volvo and RNLI.

**THE NEW DRIVE RANGE FROM VOLVO**

The new DRiVe - 1.6 diesel engine with emissions of 118 grams per kilometre or less and up to 64 miles per gallon.

For further information on this fantastic scheme call 0845 680 1305 or visit [www.rnli.org.uk/volvo](http://www.rnli.org.uk/volvo)

**SAVE:**

UP TO **£3000** ON THE V50 **DRIVE RANGE**

UP TO **£3000** ON THE S40 **DRIVE RANGE**

UP TO **£2150** ON THE C30 **DRIVE RANGE**

0845 680 1305  
[rnli@thecarcompanyuk.com](mailto:rnli@thecarcompanyuk.com)

**CAMBRIDGE GARAGE**  
Portsmouth



# LAUNCHES 3,489 LIFEBOAT AND HOVERCRAFT LAUNCHES

## JULY-SEPTEMBER 2008

### ABERDEEN

ON-1248(17-24): Aug16,17,19,24,Sep1,7  
D-694:Aug16,19,24,Sep1,7  
**ABERDOVEY**  
B-758:Jul4,8(x2),24,26,27,28(x3),Aug6,7,18,20,Sep20  
**ABERSOCH**  
B-790:Jul8,15,19,26,27,31, Aug1,2,3,5(x2),16,17,18,19,22,23,Sep23

**ABERYSTWYTH**  
B-822:Jul1,28,Aug1,6,10,30, Sep12,20  
**ACHILL ISLAND**  
ON-1213(14-15): Aug12,16,22

**AITH**  
ON-1232(17-14): Jul12,Sep14,17  
**ALDEBURGH**  
ON-1193(12-34): Jul27,Aug10,14  
D-673:Jul10,11,Aug10(x2),15,17(x2),25,Sep13(x2),26

**ALDERNEY**  
ON-1199(14-04):Jul1,3,13, Aug2,20,30,Sep4  
**AMBLE**  
ON-1187(12-28): Jul25,26(x2),30,Aug7,10,31  
D-531:Aug19,31,Sep6(x2)  
D-569:Jul23,25,26(x2),30, Aug10

**ANGLE**  
ON-1112(47-010):Jul25,14, Aug8,28,30,Sep2  
D-638:Jul24,Aug9,19, Sep22

**ANSTRUTHER**  
ON-1174(12-17): Jul20,22,31,Aug9(x2),10, Sep16  
D-604:Jul31,Aug9,10,16  
D-667:Jul3,18,20,22(x2)

**APPLEDORE**  
ON-1140(47-027): Jul6,19,24,25,30, Aug3,17,Sep22,27,28  
B-742:Jul13,19,20(x2),30, Aug1,3,8,17,18(x2),22, Sep6,11,18,19,23,27

**BB-060:** Jul19,Aug3,Sep4,28  
**ARAN ISLANDS**  
ON-1217(17-06):Sep26  
ON-1262(17-33): Jul4,25,Aug2,17,Sep11,23

**ARBROATH**  
ON-1194(12-35):Jul13,16, 20,24(x2),Aug7,9,10  
D-621:Jul13,16,20(x2),24, Aug7,9,10,19,21,Sep18

**ARKLOW**  
ON-1223(14-19): Jul3,6,Sep1,7,29  
**ARRAN (LAMLAISH)**  
B-770:Jul6(x2),31, Aug5,27,28,29,31

**ARRANMORE**  
ON-1237(17-17):Aug14(x2), 23(x2),24,27,Sep15,22  
ON-1244(17-22):Jul4,27, Aug4(x2)

### ATLANTIC COLLEGE

B-774:Aug31  
**BALLYCOTTON**  
ON-1233(14-25): Jul11,12,28,Aug31  
**BALLYGLASS**  
ON-1235(17-15): Jul4,Aug14  
**BALTIMORE**  
ON-1137(47-024):Jul4, Aug10,16,29,Sep2,3

**B-708:** Jul6,13,19,23,24, Aug16,22,Sep3,14  
**BANGOR**  
B-805:Jul5,17,18,23(x2), 29,30,Aug1,4(x2),27,28,30, Sep7,9,29

**BARMOUTH**  
D-678:Jul2,28,31, Aug1,2,8,9,12,Sep19  
**BARRA ISLAND**  
ON-1230(17-12):Jul7

**BARROW**  
ON-1138(47-025):Sep7  
ON-1286(16-06):Jul30, Sep14  
D-527:Sep15  
D-567:Jul26,Aug1

**BARRY DOCK**  
ON-1124(12-001): Sep7(x2),30  
ON-1245(14-29):Jul4,12, 20(x2),26,Aug4(x3),6(x2)  
BB-447:Aug6

**BEAUMARIS**  
B-757:Jul7,10,13,19(x2), 20(x2),26,29,30,Aug1,5,8(x2), 14,15(x2),23,24,25,29, Sep9,10,19,20,21(x2),27,28  
B-768:Jul1

**BEMBRIDGE**  
ON-1126(47-018):Jul6,13, Aug1,9,12,24,27,30, Sep2(x2),20,21  
D-649:Jul15,24,28, Aug4(x2),9,20,24,25

**BERWICK-UPON-TWEED**  
ON-1191(12-32):Jul11,21, Sep8,22  
D-639:Jul11,Aug10,11, Sep8,14

**BLACKPOOL**  
B-748:Jul15,28,Aug22,26  
D-558:Jul5,15,26,27,30, Aug24,Sep13  
D-566:Jul5,15,27,30, Aug24,Sep13

**BLYTH**  
D-606:Jul2,27,29, Aug4,Sep1  
**BORTH**  
D-622:Jul19,26(x2),29, Aug6(x2),23,24,25,Sep13,20

**BRIDLINGTON**  
ON-1169(12-12):Jul3,15,20, Aug9,13,16,31,Sep10  
D-557:Jul2,3,5,7,11,12, 16,18,20,25,29,30, Aug3(x2),5,7,10,13,17  
**BRIGHTON**  
B-737:Jul1,2,6,8,11(x2),17, 19,20(x2),21(x2),25(x2), 27(x2),29(x2),Aug2(x2),4(x2), 9,15,19(x2),22,Sep2

**BROUGHTY FERRY**  
ON-1252(14-31):Jul2,7, 14,15,Aug2,4,10(x2),14, Sep17,28  
D-539:Jul5,7,14,15  
D-698:Jul30,31,Aug1,2,4, 10(x2),14,23,Sep17,27,30

**BUCKIE**  
ON-1268(17-37): Jul4,5,8,10,15,30, Aug2,4,Sep5(x2),13,20  
**BUDE**  
D-617:Jul27(x2),Aug7,17,26

**BUNDARON**  
B-711:Jul3,12,26,Aug20,24  
**BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH**  
B-733:Jul12,16,Aug14, 24(x3),25,26,30  
D-672:Jul16,Aug24

**BURNHAM-ON-SEA**  
B-795:Jul3,12(x2), Aug1,22(x2),23  
D-603:Jul3,12(x2), D-664:Aug22(x2)

**BURRY PORT**  
D-611:Jul15,17,19(x2), 24(x2),28(x2),Aug2  
D-660:Aug26(x2),27,30, Sep21,23

**CALSHOT**  
ON-1155(47-037):Jul4,5, 6(x2),15,17,20,27(x5),28(x2), Aug1,2,4(x2),8,10(x3),15, 18(x2),23,25(x2),26,31(x2), Sep1,14,28(x2)  
D-609:Jul3,15,19,26,27(x2), Aug2,4,7(x3),19,27,31(x3), Sep3(x2),14,23,28

**CAMPBELTOWN**  
ON-1241(17-19):Jul5, Aug1,2,4,7,14,19,Sep4,21  
D-571:Jul19,Aug1,3  
**CARDIGAN**  
B-752:Jul5,15,19,21,Aug16, 18,19,20,24(x2),Sep17,20  
D-547:Jul2,14,Aug16

**CASTLETONBERE**  
ON-1277(17-44):Jul4  
**CHISWICK**  
E-003:Jul3,12,15,16,19(x2), 20,21(x2),24,25(x3),28, 29(x2),30,31,Aug1,2(x2), 4(x2),22,26(x2),27,Sep3, 9(x2),11,13,14(x2),17,18(x2),2 0(x3),23(x2),25,26,27(x2)  
E-004:Aug10

**E-006:** Jul26(x2),27(x3), Aug8(x2),18,22  
**CLACTON-ON-SEA**  
B-744:Jul3,10,20,24,27,30, Aug4,8,12,17,23(x2),25  
D-559:Jul3,10,13,20, Aug8,17,25

**CLEETHORPES**  
D-618:Jul5,8,9,10,12,19,28, Aug2,7,16,24,30(x2), Sep3,13,28  
**CLIFDEN**  
B-751:Aug1,3,9,12,16(x3), 17(x2)

**D-679:** Aug1,9,17  
**CLOOHER HEAD**  
ON-1190(12-31): Jul23(x2),30, Aug23,Sep14

**CLOVELLY**  
B-759:Sep19  
B-767:Jul4,24  
**CONWY**  
D-627:Jul1,4,6,11,20, Aug3(x2),9,11,23,25,29,30, Sep14

**COURTMACSHERRY HARBOUR**  
BB-059:Jul22  
ON-1205(14-07):Jul22,31

**COURTOWN**  
D-548:Jul22,26  
**COWES**  
B-802:Aug31(x2)  
B-810:Jul6,8,10,13(x2),25, Aug2,3(x3),4(x2),7(x2),22, 24,25

**CRASTER**  
D-542:Jul26,Aug10(x2),30, Sep21  
**CRICCIETH**  
B-823:Jul5,19,20,26,29, Aug2,3,15,24,25,Sep2

**CROMER**  
ON-1287(16-07):Jul11,23,30  
D-568:Jul30(x2),Aug1,24, Sep10  
**CROSSHAVEN**  
B-782:Jul12(x2),17,19,20(x2)

**CULLERCOATS**  
B-811:Jul1,3,5,7,13,29,30, Aug20,Sep13  
**DART**  
D-523:Jul14,23(x2)  
D-702:Aug2(x2),2,15,25, Sep14,21,28

**DONAGHADEE**  
ON-1228(14-24):Jul2(x2),4, 17,Aug4,17,23(x2),Sep1,3,7  
**DOUGLAS**  
ON-1147(47-032): Jul14,25,31, Aug2(x2),3,20,22,24,29, Sep14(x2),22,26

**DOVER**  
ON-1220(17-09):Jul6,7,9,19, 22,24(x2),25,26(x2),27,28, Aug1,7(x2),11,12,18,21,23, 29,Sep5,7,15,16(x2),20,22  
**DUN LAOGHAIRE**  
ON-1200(14-05): Aug19,22,23, Sep8,14

**D-565:** Jul7,23(x2),29, Aug13,14,26  
**DUNBAR**  
ON-1266(14-35):Jul15,18, 20,29,Aug15,19,21,Sep22  
D-544:Jul20,22,29, Aug15(x2),19, Sep8,28

**DUNGENESS**  
ON-1186(12-27): Jul16,Aug16,25,Sep21  
**DUNMORE EAST**  
ON-1215(14-17): Jul4,6,23,29,Aug9,27

**EASTBOURNE**  
ON-1195(12-36):Jul6,9,17, 20,24(x2),25,27(x2),30, Aug7,8,14,23,25,Sep14  
D-605:Jul12,13,17,20,24(x3) 26,27,28,Aug4,6,14,23, 25(x2),29,Sep1,14(x2)

**ENNISKILLEN**  
B-702:Aug2(x2),5,Sep8,27  
B-703:Jul7,10,21,Aug5,27

**EXMOUTH**  
ON-1178(12-21):Jul4(x4),7, 15,20,25,Aug14,18,21,23(x3), 24,25,30,Sep1,5(x3)  
D-615:Jul4,5,7  
D-669:Jul20(x3),24(x3),25, 27(x2),Aug14,21,25,30, Sep1,5(x3),19(x3),27(x2)

**EYEMOUTH**  
ON-1209(14-11): Sep4,5(x2),22  
ON-1253(14-32): Jul4,8,10,19(x2),Aug1

**FALMOUTH**  
ON-1269(17-38):Jul5(x2), Aug4(x2),8,22,31,Sep3,8  
B-756:Jul5(x2),10(x2),13,17, 25,30(x2),31,Aug4(x2),8(x2), 9(x4),13,15,22(x2),24,25,26, 28,31,Sep2(x2),3(x2),5,8

**FENIT**  
ON-1239(14-27):Jul10,17, 25,26,Aug13,Sep5,27  
D-513:Jul4,17  
D-561:Jul22,Aug13(x2)

**FETHARD**  
D-683:Jul12,13,Sep29  
**FILEY**  
ON-1170(12-13):Jul27(x3), Aug16,Sep9,20

**D-518:** Jul17,27(x3),29  
D-563:Aug15(x3),16,19,23, Sep9(x2),20  
**FISHGUARD**  
ON-1198(14-03):Jul5,10, Aug17,19

**D-1226(14-22):** Sep17  
D-652:Jul10,Aug19,25, Sep17  
**FLAMBOROUGH**  
B-820:Jul5,6,9,13,16,20, 26(x2),27,Aug3,8,17,20(x3), Sep10

**FLEETWOOD**  
ON-1156(47-038):Jul5, 13(x3),28,29,Aug2,5,8, Sep27,30  
D-556:Jul4,5,13(x4),17, 20(x4),27(x2),28(x2), Aug2(x3),8,11,16,18,24(x2), 26,30,Sep2,16,20,27, 28(x3),30

**FLINT**  
D-658:Jul9,10,11(x2),23, 28(x3),Aug26,Sep1  
**FOWEY**  
ON-1222(14-18):Jul19,23, 25,Aug3,8,10,12,14(x2), 20,23,30,31

**D-681:** Jul23,25,Aug12, 14(x2),19,30,31  
**FRASERBURGH**  
ON-1259(14-34):Jul7,21(x2) 22,Aug1(x2),3,Sep5,13

**GALWAY**  
B-738:Aug2(x2),10  
**GIRVAN**  
ON-1196(12-37):Jul7,19,29

**GRAVESEND**  
B-715:Jul1(x2),2  
B-734:Aug28  
E-002:Jul1,2(x3),5,8(x2),12, 27,28,Aug3(x3),11,12,20(x2), 23,25,27,28,31,Sep2,3,9(x2), 19,21

**GREAT YARMOUTH AND GORLESTON**  
ON-1208(14-10): Jul18,26,27,Aug3,18,Sep21  
B-786:Jul2,3,15,27,30, Aug3(x3),3,4,10,12,13,20,26, Sep15,20,21(x3),25

**HAPPISBURGH**  
D-607:Sep1  
**HARTLEPOOL**  
ON-1274(14-37):Jul20,21, 22,27,Aug9,16,23

**B-766:** Jul2(x2),8,20,21, 22(x2),27,Aug9,16(x2),Sep3  
**HARWICH**  
ON-1202(17-03):Jul19, Aug18,25,31

**B-789:** Jul6,17,19,22(x2),27, 28,29,Aug2,7,8,14,16(x2),24,2 7,30,Sep1,6(x3),12,14,22,26  
**HASTINGS**  
ON-1125(12-002):Jul2,19  
D-699:Aug6,22

**HAYLING ISLAND**  
B-712:Jul1,3,5,13(x3),19, 24,27(x2),Aug1,6(x2),17(x3), 23(x2),30(x2),31,Sep19  
D-642:Jul1,19,24,27(x5),28, Aug6(x2),17,23,30(x2),31, Sep28

**HELENSBURGH**  
B-791:Jul7,20,28,Aug12,23, 27,29,Sep20,25  
**HELWICK HEAD**  
B-754:Jul4

**HOLYHEAD**  
ON-1272(17-41):Jul3,18,26, Aug4,8,16,Sep8,12,29  
D-654:Jul9,12,23,24,27, Aug25,Sep12,20(x2)

**HORTON AND PORT EYNON**  
D-688:Jul8,14,15(x2),20(x3), Aug2,10(x2),11,17,22,24,29, Sep18,20(x2)

**HOWTH**  
ON-1258(14-33):Jul10,12, 15,23,26,Aug5,25,29,30(x2), Sep5,26  
D-659:Jul11,27,29, Aug29,31,Sep28

**HOYLAKE**  
ON-1163(12-005):Jul30, Sep12  
**HUMBER**  
ON-1216(17-05):Jul15,20, 22,26,27,31,Aug3,5(x2),16, 21,22(x2),25,30,Sep3,14,26, 27,28(x2)

**HUNSTANTON**  
B-749:Jul3,15,31(x3), Aug1,7,9,10,18,Sep1,2  
H-003:Jul15,26,31(x2), Aug16,20,30,31

**ILFRACOMBE**  
ON-1165(12-007):Jul9,20, 24,Aug3,6(x2),17,28,31,Sep6  
D-525:Jul4,13,24(x2),27(x2), Aug1,7,8,14(x2),15,21,30  
**INVERGORDON**  
ON-1206(14-08): Jul20,22,31,Aug21

**ISLAY**  
ON-1254(17-27):Jul19,24

**KESSOCK**  
B-717:Sep18,24  
B-771:Jul3,20,21,24, Aug7(x2),11,Sep8

**KILKEEL**  
B-713:Jul8,13,15,26,30, Aug7,15,16,18,Sep12  
**KILMORE QUAY**  
ON-1133(47-021):Jul3,7,23, Aug15,29,30,Sep3(x2),5

**KILRUSH**  
B-729:Aug13  
**KINGHORN**  
B-720:Jul1,11,13,22, Aug9,10(x2),12,16,20,24, 25,26,Sep2,3,6,8,22,26

**KINSALE**  
B-796:Aug6,Sep23  
**KIPPFORD**  
D-553:Jul27,Aug13

**KIRKCUDBRIGHT**  
B-814:Jul6(x2),12,24,27, Aug3,23,30  
**KIRKWALL**  
ON-1231(17-13):Jul18,26, Aug20,21,Sep14

**KYLE OF LOCHALSH**  
B-740:Aug7,11  
**LARGS**  
B-739:Jul6,13,20,22,28, Aug2,3,5,23,24,Sep7,8,13

**LARNE**  
ON-1246(14-30):Aug23,28  
D-646:Aug12,17,23,24,27,28, Sep7,12,21  
D-549:Jul23,27,30,Aug24

**MOELFER**  
ON-1116(47-013):Jul6, Aug2(x2),9,Sep10,21,24  
D-665:Aug22,31  
D-689:Jul19,31(x2), Aug3,4,10,11

**LITTLEHAMPTON**  
B-773:Jul24,26,31, Aug1,3(x2),7(x2),12,17(x4), 31(x2),Sep21  
D-631:Jul26,31, Aug3,12,Sep21

**LITTLESTONE-ON-SEA**  
B-785:Jul14,16,27(x2),28, Aug15,18,26  
**LLANDUDNO**  
ON-1164(12-006):Jul10,25, Aug2

**D-656:** Jul4,6,7,16,27  
**LOCH NESS**  
B-707:Aug20,Sep14,28

**LOCHINVER**  
ON-1271(17-40):Jul15,25, Aug6,11,12,25,Sep10,14  
**LONGHOPE**  
ON-1149(52-43):Aug1,18, Sep10

**LOOE**  
B-793:Jul17,21, Aug4,13,15,19  
D-574:Jul13,Aug17

**LOUGH DERG**  
B-705:Jul4,Aug9,16,23,24, 25,29,Sep23  
**LOUGH SWILLY**  
ON-1138(47-025):Aug19  
B-819:Jul23,26(x4),30, Aug21,22

**LOWESTOFT**  
ON-1132(47-020):Jul1,6,13, 14,18,27,31,Aug4(x2),10,13, 16(x2),19,24,Sep5,23  
**LYME REGIS**  
B-741:Jul24,25,26,27, Aug4,7(x3),12,13,23,24,25, Sep28

**LYMINGTON**  
B-784:Jul3(x2),5,6,8(x2),12, 15,17,19,22,26,27(x2), Aug2(x2),10,16,25,28, Sep6,14,17(x2)

**LYTHAM ST ANNES**  
ON-1189(12-30):Aug22,25  
D-657:Jul21,Aug22,23(x2), 25,28,Sep2(x2),3  
**MABLETHORPE**  
B-778:Jul23,28,29,30,Aug7

**D-653:** Jul20,23,26,27, 29(x2),30  
**MACDUFF**  
B-804:Jul3,4,22

**MALLAIG**  
ON-1250(17-26):Jul7,16,23, 25,29,Aug16,Sep2,7,11  
**MARGATE**  
ON-1177(12-20):Jul9,12, Aug12,24

**D-545:** Jul10,12,15,24,25(x2) 26,28,Aug11,12(x2),17,21, Sep3,15  
**MINEHEAD**  
B-824:Jul30,Aug15, Sep7,12,21  
D-549:Jul23,27,30,Aug24

**MOELFER**  
ON-1116(47-013):Jul6, Aug2(x2),9,Sep10,21,24  
D-665:Aug22,31  
D-689:Jul19,31(x2), Aug3,4,10,11

**MONTROSE**  
D-601:Jul5  
**MORECAMBE**  
D-564:Jul2,19,24, Aug2,11,14,Sep2,11  
H-002:Jul2,4,23,Aug11,19, Sep2,20

**MUDEFORD**  
B-803:Aug7,9,10,15(x2),17, 22,30(x3),31,Sep4,7(x2),10, 16,20(x2),21,26,28,29  
D-675:Jul30  
**PORT ERIN**  
B-813:Aug1,10,11,24, Sep1,9,12,22,28

**PORT ISAAC**  
D-546:Jul5,23,29  
**PORT ST MARY**  
ON-1234(14-26):Jul8,18,21, Aug



**TOWER**  
E-001: Jul1(x2), 2, 5, 6(x2), 10, 11(x2), 12(x3), 13(x2), 14, 15 (x3), 16(x2), 17(x3), 18, 19(x4), 20, 23(x2), 24(x2), 25(x2), 26(x3), 27(x3), 29, Aug1(x2), 2(x2), 3(x3), 4(x5), 7(x4), 8(x2), 9(x2), 10(x2), 11(x2), 15, 17(x2), 18, 19(x4), 21, 22(x3), 24, 28, 29, 30(x2), 31(x4), Sep1(x3), 8, 9  
E-004: Jul30(x3), 31(x2), Sep2, 5, 6, 7(x4), 10(x2), 11(x2), 12, 13(x3)  
E-005: Jul10, 22(x3), Aug13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25, 27(x3), 28, Sep16(x2), 17(x2), 18(x2), 25 (x2), 26(x2), 27(x3), 28, 29(x4) E-006: Aug3, Sep19, 21(x3), 23(x4)

**TRAMORE**  
D-516: Aug5, 18  
D-643: Jul30  
**TREARDUR BAY**  
B-731: Jul3, 5, 13, Aug4(x2), 8, 11, 18, Sep9  
D-610: Aug18  
**TROON**  
ON-1275(14-38): Jul15, 18, 21(x2), 26, 28, Aug4, 11, Sep2, 3, 6  
D-684: Jul15, 18, 21(x2), 26, Aug29  
**TYNEMOUTH**  
ON-1242(17-20): Jul4, 26, 27, Aug4, 11, Sep2, 3, 6  
D-693: Jul7(x2), 27, Aug29, Sep6(x2), 7

**VALENTIA**  
ON-1218(17-07): Jul14, Aug7, 16, 18  
**WALMER**  
B-808: Aug9, Sep20, 21, 27(x8)  
D-663: Jul7, 24, 26, 27, Aug17  
D-675: Sep9(x2), 10, 20  
**WALTON AND FRINTON**  
ON-1154(47-036): Jul23, Aug2, 15, 23, Sep3, 13(x2), 16, 25  
Y-131: Aug27  
**WELLS**  
ON-1161(12-003): Jul3, Aug23  
D-661: Jul23, 24, 30(x4), Aug1, 16, 22(x2), 23, 25(x2), 29

**WEST KIRBY**  
D-612: Jul4, 5, 23(x2), Aug3, Sep21, 25  
**WEST MERSEA**  
B-761: Jul1, 2, 6(x2), 11, 12, 19(x2), 21, 25, 27, 29, 30(x2), Aug4, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, 26, Sep1(x2), 3, 14, 21, 25, 26  
**WESTON-SUPER-MARE**  
B-736: Jul13, 18, 24, 27, 28  
B-769: Aug8, 13, 17, 28, 31, Sep1  
D-696: Jul18, 24, 27, 28, Aug8, 13, 17, 28, 31, Sep1  
**WEXFORD**  
D-644: Jul12, Aug29, 30, Sep21

**WEYMOUTH**  
ON-1261(17-32): Jul11, 22, Aug2, 9, 14(x2), 17(x2), 20(x2), 21, 24, Sep2, 9, 16, 19, 29  
B-746: Jul3, 18, 19, 22, 24(x2), Aug1(x2), 2, 9, 11, 17(x2), 20, 24, Sep2, 13, 16, 19  
**WHITBY**  
ON-1212(14-14): Jul20, 21, Aug4, 17, 22, 23  
D-674: Jul8, 16, 22, 28, Aug3, 4, 10, 15, 20, 23, 29, 30  
**WHITSTABLE**  
B-762: Sep11  
B-764: Jul1(x2), 5, 11(x2), 13, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25(x2), 27, 28, 31, Aug1, 2(x2), 3, 7, 9(x2), 10, 13, 14, 20, 22, 24, 25(x2), 26, 30, 31, Sep1, 3, 8

**WICK**  
ON-1224(14-20): Sep23, 24  
ON-1225(14-21): Jul3, 4, 5, 14, Sep19  
**WICKLOW**  
ON-1153(47-035): Aug17  
D-671: Aug7  
**WITHERNSEA**  
D-541: Aug8, 28, Sep27, 28  
**WORKINGTON**  
ON-1141(47-028): Jul14, Aug12  
D-629: Jul27, Sep20  
**YARMOUTH**  
ON-1249(17-25): Jul1, 5, 8, 11, 16, 18(x2), 21, Aug2, 3, 4, 10, 14, 18(x2), 19, 23, 26, 27, 28, Sep6(x2), 7  
**YOUGHAL**  
B-780: Jul20, Aug20

ON STATION

ON-1290(16-10), **Edward & Barbara Prigmore**, relief fleet, 6 August 2008  
D-702, **Spirit of the Dart**, Dart, 25 July 2008 (see page 26)  
[D-523 has been withdrawn to relief fleet]

NAMING CEREMONIES

D-688, **Albert Wordley**, Horton and Port Eynon, 17 May 2008  
D-696, **Anna Stock II**, Weston-super-Mare, 7 September 2008  
D-691, **Betty and Thomas Moore**, Selsey, 11 October 2008  
D-692, **Connie Dains**, Penarth, 6 September 2008  
D-699, **Daphne May**, Hastings, 5 April 2008  
D-694, **James Bissett Simpson**, Aberdeen, 20 September 2008  
ON-1287(16-07), **Lester**, Cromer, 8 September 2008  
D-693, **Mark Noble**, Tynemouth, 28 September 2008  
B-825, **Norma Ethel Vinall**, relief fleet, 2 September 2008  
D-686, **Peter Downes**, Seahouses, 12 July 2008



Andrew and Paulette Robinson celebrate the **Norma Ethel Vinall** naming  
Photo: RNLI/Derek King

D-678, **Rotarian Clive Tanner**, Barmouth, 6 October 2008  
D-702, **Spirit of the Dart**, Dart, 2 August 2008  
D-684, **Telford Shopping Centre**, Troon, 5 April 2008  
ON-1289(16-09), **The Baltic Exchange III**, Salcombe, 17 May 2008  
D-682, **The Essex Freemason**, Southend-on-Sea, 7 June 2008  
D-695, **The Pat**, relief fleet, 2 September 2008  
D-685, **Winifred**, relief fleet, 2 September 2008

If you enjoy this section of *the Lifeboat* and would like to know more detail about lifeboat movements, ex-lifeboats, model making and the like, you might like to join the Lifeboat Enthusiasts' Society. Contact John Francis at john\_franis@rnli.org.uk or write to 13 West Way, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent, BR5 1LN.

# Classified

## Health

**Back Pain? Coccyx Pain? Just want to sit better? ✓**

See how our cushions could help you!  
Call us FREEPHONE:-  
**0800 328 9673**  
for a Colour Brochure and Money Back Guarantee Detail (No salesmen will call)

**Your Satisfaction - our Success**  
Posture Products - PO Box 31 Exmouth EX8 2YT

## Gifts

**Tidemaster Tactical**  
with Tidal Monitoring Bezel  
3 Time Zones - 3 Alarms - Count-Down  
Chronograph - Indiglo

Highly luminised hands  
Lightweight, self coloured resin case with nickel free stainless steel back

**£84.95**  
Economy straps  
**£89.95**  
PU web. strap  
**£94.95**  
Leather strap  
**£99.95**  
Stainless steel or Sharkskin

YACHTING INSTRUMENTS LIMITED  
BOATING DEPARTMENT, MAPPOWDER,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
DORSET DT10 2EH  
Tel: 01258 817662 e: office@tidemaster.co.uk  
www.tidemaster.co.uk

To advertise on these pages please contact  
**Sharon Davies** at

**Landmark Publishing Services**  
2 Windmill Street  
London W1T 2HX  
t: 020 7692 9292  
f: 020 7692 9393  
e: advertising@lps.co.uk

## Weather Monitoring

**WEATHER INFORMATION IN YOUR HAND**

**NEW MODELS NOW AVAILABLE**

Altitude  
Pressure  
Wind Speed  
Wind Chill  
Temperature  
Humidity  
Dew Point  
Heat Index  
Time & Date

Up to 2000 measurements  
Replaceable impeller  
Graph & recall trends  
Large backlit LCD  
Easy to use  
Accurate

Buy on-line  
**www.r-p-r.co.uk**  
richard paul russell ltd  
tel: 01590 679755 fax: 688577  
email: sales@r-p-r.co.uk

**Barometers & Barographs**  
New items & restoration by experienced craftsmen  
Russell Scientific Instruments Ltd, Rash's Green, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1JG  
Tel: (01362) 693481  
sales@russell-scientific.co.uk  
www.russell-scientific.co.uk

## Optical Accessories

**Monk Optics**  
Marine Binocular Specialists

**Keeping a Watchful Eye**

This unique 90mm or 110mm scope with twin eyepieces is a major breakthrough in high powered observation. It is now possible to observe distant objects with two eyes for fatigue free viewing and higher resolution and yet still retain the relative compactness, lighter weight, and lower prices which have traditionally favoured spotting scopes over observation binoculars.

Visit us or send for details of our full range of observation binoculars.

Wye Valley Observatory  
The Old School, Brockweir  
Chepstow NP16 7NW  
Tel: (01291) 689858  
Fax: (01291) 689834  
Email: msales@monkoptics.co.uk  
Web: www.monkoptics.co.uk

## Shopping

However Faded or Torn,  
Your old Eiderdown can be re-made as new

**EIDERDOWNS RE-COVERED**  
Also DUVETS RECOVERED

and NEW FEATHER EIDERDOWNS  
Please send stamp for patterns.  
Keys of Clacton Ltd. Dept RC876  
Stephenson Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex  
CO15 4XA TEL: 01255 432518  
Website: www.englishneiderdown.co.uk

**Hard-to-Get Sizes BEDLINEN**

2'6" 3ft 3'6" 4ft 4'6" 5ft 6ft 7ft

**ANY SIZE CAN BE MADE**

- Sheets
- Valances
- Quilts
- Pillows
- Duvet Covers

**Special Sizes Catalogue**  
TEL: 01255 432518

Keys Ltd, Dept SS825, Stephenson Rd,  
Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 4XA  
Website: www.anysizebedlinen.co.uk

## TURN YOUR SHARES INTO LIFE SAVINGS

It's easy to donate shares to the RNLI  
To find out more call 01202 663285



# BUY ONE GET ONE FREE\*!!

- OPTION 1** BUY ONE RISE & RECLINER CHAIR GET ANOTHER ONE FREE!!
- OPTION 2** BUY ONE RISE & RECLINER CHAIR GET AN ADJUSTABLE BED FREE!!
- OPTION 3** BUY ONE ADJUSTABLE BED GET ANOTHER ONE FREE!!

**48 HR**  
Nationwide  
Delivery on  
Selected  
Items

- Pressure relief, reflex foam, pocket sprung or cool plus mattress
- Choice of sizes including 18, 25, 35, and 50 stone models
- We can take away your existing bed
- Manufactured in the UK
- Massage systems available

- ANY width, ANY depth, ANY seat height
- Matching settees and chairs available
- Chairs available for 18, 25, 35 and 50 stone weight
- 400 fabrics including leather
- Manufactured in the UK
- Massage/heat system available



**INTEREST FREE 0% APR\***  
**PAY HALF NOW**  
pay the balance INTEREST FREE in 12 months

Call for our **NEW FREE 84 page colour all products** brochure or to arrange for a **FREE home demonstration.**  
**Don't buy anywhere else until you have spoken to us.**

Call FREE anytime

**0800 980 0965**

Great British  
**Mobility**

LB08

\*on all our premier ranges †Terms and conditions apply, subject to status.



# Classified

## Devon & Cornwall

**Cornish Quay Holidays**  
Charming waterside cottages in Fowey & Polruan.  
Superb views, dinghies available, pets welcome.  
Tel: 01579 344667 www.cornquay.com

**Dart Valley Cottages.** Pretty cottages on/around River Dart. Glorious views, award winning beaches, wonderful walks.  
www.dartvalleycottages.co.uk 01803 833707

**Restronguet Nr. Falmouth**  
Peaceful, picturesque, waterside hamlet.  
Boating facilities. Own quay, slip, beach. Pub.  
Houses sleeping 2/4, 6/8. Gardens, dogs welcome.  
Friday booking all year. Letting over 50 years!  
Peter Watson 01326 372722  
www.creksideholidayhouses.co.uk

**CADGWITH COVE, CORNWALL**  
Selected cottages around unspoiled fishing village. Complete peace and quiet.  
Pets welcome. **Brochure: 01326 290764**  
www.cadgwithcovecottages.com

**PORTLOE, CORNWALL**  
Choice of 2 renovated former fishermen's cottages both just yards from the harbour in this beautiful unspoilt Roseland Peninsula fishing village. Sleep 4 & 6 respectively.  
Phone 0208 541 5919 for details & a brochure

**SALCOMBE & DARTMOUTH HOLIDAY HOMES**  
QUALITY SELF-CATERING COTTAGES IN SOUTH DEVON

SALCOMBE • 01548 843485  
WWW.SALCOMBE.COM  
DARTMOUTH • 01803 833082  
WWW.DARTMOUTHUK.COM

For all advertising please contact  
**Sharon Davies at Landmark**  
t: 020 7692 9292

## West Country

**FOWEY - The Old Lifeboat Station.**  
Waterfront apartment. Stunning Views. Town centre, but quiet. Sleeps 2. (02392) 632807 for brochure.  
www.oldlifeboatstation.co.uk

**POLRUAN-BY-FOWEY**  
Old fisherman's cottage, a few paces from the quay. Sleeps 2/4. Woodburning stove. Sailing, fishing, walking or just watching! Pubs and shops. People say "Good Morning!".  
**BROCHURE & BOOKINGS**  
01726 870582  
www.polruancottages.co.uk

## Overseas

Hand-crafted Arctic & Antarctic Holidays

029 20 704 987  
www.thepolarpeople.co.uk  
sailing northern lights dog-sledging wildlife walking skiing



## Ireland

**Kenmare, South West Ireland**  
A quality home by the waters edge.  
For a brochure,  
tel +353(0)23 8855102

## Scotland

**NORTH WEST OF SCOTLAND**  
Achmelvich Beach, near Lochinver  
Modern Self Catering Caravans  
6 Berth, fully serviced.  
Beautiful beach.  
Tel/Fax 01571 844454  
www.lochinverholidays.co.uk

## Dorset

Beamy Cottages near  
*spectacular* Dorset Coast  
Call Free 0800 980 4070  
www.dorsetcoastcottages.com

## Sussex

**EASTBOURNE**  
family run hotel, own car park, AA3\*\*\*  
Guest Accommodation. Traditional English cooking. Close Lifeboat Museum.  
01323 724120  
www.thesheldon.co.uk

## East of England

**WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA, NORFOLK**  
A clean cosy cottage (no stairs) overlooking delightful green on the unspoilt North Norfolk Coast. Sleeps 4, c.h., no pets. Tel: 01328 711220

## Cumbria

Family run cosy barns and cottages in Hawkshead/Sawrey area. Free fishing with most. Pets welcome. Great walks/views. Tel: 015394 42435 www.lakeland-hideaways.co.uk

## Wales

### CARLTON HOTEL MUMBLES

Family run, 20 en-suite rooms many with panoramic views over Swansea Bay. On level opposite Mumbles promenade, just minutes from the Pier and lifeboat station. Beautiful local walks and restaurant.  
**Ground Floor Rooms.**  
B&B from 30pppn. DB&B available.  
Call for special offer for Lifeboat readers.



mail@carltonmumbles.co.uk  
www.carltonmumbles.co.uk

Tel: 01792 360450

**HONEY COTTAGE IN PEMBROKESHIRE**  
www.honey-cottage.co.uk Sleeps 5. Pembroke castle 15 min walk. Tenby & Angle RNLI boats 10 miles  
01646 681437 / 07790 310830 (Daphne)

**Fisherman's Cottage, West Wales**  
- beachside location, sleeps 4. Excellent sailing, walking and dolphin watching. Weeks or weekend lets. Tel 01275 845258

## UK Holidays

Book a Warner Leisure Hotels break and Save up to 25%\*



To book call our friendly Privilege Holiday Club Team on 0800 1 388 399 quoting code HC862.  
www.warnerleisurehotels.co.uk/phc

\* Terms and conditions apply as stated in the current Warner Leisure Hotels 2009 brochure. Offers are subject to availability and apply to new bookings only. Exclusions & supplements apply, please ask at time of booking. Bourne Leisure Limited (trading as Warner Leisure Hotels) is a company registered in England and Wales with company no.01854900 whose registered office is 1 Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 4YL.

### GREAT SAVINGS ON COUNTRYSIDE BREAKS WITH OLD ENGLISH INNS



Only £24.50 per person per night B&B

Take a well-deserved break without leaving the country - and you can look forward to surprises round every corner. There are so many places to discover in England, no matter how well you think you know it. And what better way to discover them than staying for a couple of days in an inn or hotel just as fascinating as its location? We have linked up with Old English Inns to offer you the best of England. Choose from over 50 inns and hotels, many steeped in history and all oozing tradition, situated in picturesque locations: in the countryside, in small market towns, or even by the sea.

call FREE 0800 917 3085 quoting RNLI

Book on line at www.oldenglish.co.uk or email: central.reservations@oldenglish.co.uk  
Terms & Conditions - All prices are per person, per night based on two people sharing a twin or double standard room for two nights. Rates include full English Breakfast. Single supplements apply. Offer subject to availability. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Applies to new bookings only. Offer valid until 30th August 2009. Excludes Xmas/New 2008 and Valentines/Easter Holidays 2009. Calls are recorded for training purposes. OEI reserve the right to remove/change the properties during the promotion and to withdraw the promotion at any time.

# Classified

## Overseas

**BARBADOS WEST COAST APARTMENT.**  
www.barbadosdreamholiday.com  
01425 610781.

**CAPE WINELANDS.** Escape Northern winter. Spend month or more in historic farm setting. Variety newly renovated self catering accommodation. Close proximity airport, golf, sea and fine restaurants, Email: rplum@mweb.co.za

For all advertising please contact  
**Sharon Davies at Landmark**  
t: 020 7692 9292  
e: advertising@lps.co.uk

**LA GOMERA, PLAYA DE SANTIAGO.**  
Beautiful, well appointed and quiet waterfront one bedroom apartment with large sun terrace and swimming pool.  
Tel: 01424 446986  
Email: lasvistas@hotmail.com  
Website: www.la-gomera.co.uk

**MENORCA.** Villas and apartments available in most resorts. For brochure: 0870 240 2669 www.menorcavillaholidays.co.uk

**SPAIN, NERJA, UNSPOILT COSTA DEL SOL.**  
Pretty 1 bedroom and spacious 2 bedroom apartment. Close to pools, beach and typical Spanish town. Tel 01483 576747  
www.nerjavillas.org.uk

## Cruises & Boating

### Enjoy a Unique Travel Experience

Imagine sailing worldwide aboard a passenger carrying cargo ship, or maybe taking a voyage on a working vessel around the coasts of England and Wales. See our interactive website:

www.strandtravel.co.uk  
or call for our brochure:  
020 7010 9290

357 Strand, London WC2R 0HS  
Fax: 020 7010 9292 | Email: voyages@strandtravel.co.uk  
ABTA 94506 ACE 1679 IATA 91-2 2491 0



**STRAND VOYAGES**

For all advertising please contact  
**Sharon Davies at Landmark**  
t: 020 7692 9292

**CARGO SHIP VOYAGES LTD**  
World wide travel as passengers on cargo ships. Tel: 01473 736265

### Tranquil Rose

A holiday aboard our floating hotel 'Tranquil Rose' offers you fully serviced accommodation, with good food freshly prepared aboard each day by our creative and imaginative chefs. With the added bonus of cruising the Royal River Thames, Grand Union Canal and adjoining waterways accompanied by your hosts Steve and Steph.

Tourist Board "Operator of the Year" Silver Award Winner  
\*\*\* HEART OF ENGLAND TOURIST BOARD  
A totally relaxing and carefree holiday  
For a copy of our colour brochure, call 07966 248079 or write to  
Thames & Chilterns Holiday Cruises,  
Pine Cottage, Canalside,  
Abbey Road, Llangollen LL20 8SW  
e-mail: steve@tranquilrose.co.uk  
www.tranquilrose.co.uk

## Devon & Cornwall

**PORTSCATHO, ROSELAND PENINSULAR.**  
Stylish, warm, comfortable house just off village square with shops, pub, coast path. Bird-watching, walking, sailing.  
Tel: 020 8788 1243

## Personal

**CREWSEEKERS** sailing opportunities available now for cruising, racing, deliveries, seamiles and professional sailing worldwide. All experience levels welcome. Free registration for yacht owners. Join online today! www.crewseekers.net

## Services

**BRITANNIA SHIPPING FOR BURIAL AT SEA Specialist FUNERAL DIRECTORS**  
Speak to John Lister  
01395 568652  
www.burialatsea.co.uk  
email@burialatsea.co.uk

As an RNLI supporter you receive a special 50% discount on lineage advertising. By advertising within *Lifeboat* you will be reaching over a quarter of a million fellow supporters. For more information please contact **Sharon Davies** at **Landmark Publishing Services**

**HOLIDAY HOME INSURANCE NOW AVAILABLE**

**Age 50 to 85's Travel Insurance**

**POLICIES from £2.99**

Cover 99% of medical conditions.  
**250+ FOR FREE**  
Applicable up to age 80

**5% DISCOUNT**  
Quote code LBM9.

staysure.co.uk  
over 50's travel & insurance you can be sure of  
CALL 0870 046 4550

ABTA travel industry partners. Staysure.co.uk Ltd is authorised & regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

**Sound and Vision Storage**

Tidy away CDs, DVDs and Videos into one of our hand crafted cabinets. We offer a wide choice of wood finishes and sizes in traditional and contemporary styles.

For a brochure (24 hours):  
Telephone: 01295 760017  
email: info@john-austin-furniture.co.uk  
John Austin Furniture Ltd  
Greatworth Park, Banbury, OX17 2HB  
www.john-austin-furniture.co.uk

**IBI PROPERTY SERVICES LTD**  
ELECTRICAL · PLUMBING · TILING

**KITCHEN & BATHROOM INSTALLATION**  
from Conception to Completion.

**WATER REGULATIONS APPROVED CONTRACTOR**

North London & Worcestershire  
Tel: 01905 339 359  
M: 07973 668 712  
E: pm@ibiproperty.co.uk  
www.ibiproperty.co.uk

FULL PORTFOLIO AVAILABLE.

10% off total price!



# Sandi's shores

Rory Stamp discovers how diving, sailing, and piloting a wardrobe hovercraft have led Sandi Toksvig to love the RNLI

One of the first questions to spring to mind meeting comedian, TV and radio presenter, actor, adventurer, author, playwright and journalist Sandi Toksvig is whether there's anything she's *not* good at. 'Oh, I'm rubbish at so many things – anything physical. I can't do a forward roll,' says Sandi. 'I can do a Swiss roll, though, which is much better.'

It's a characteristically modest yet hilarious statement from the Stonewall Broadcaster of the Year, who is sipping a lime and soda in the Pit bar of London's Old Vic theatre. It's early evening and she's been working solidly for 12 hours – writing a magazine

column at 6am, preparing a speech, then working on her play at the National Theatre studio. When we part company, she will be heading straight to the British Library to compère an awards ceremony. 'This is a typical day for me,' she shrugs.

Despite her self-deprecating comments, she is no stranger to feats of physical endurance. Her exploits have included canoeing the Zambezi, sailing around Britain and – as presenter of the 1980s ITV children's show *Number 73* – tackling a variety of wacky stunts. It was one such that led to Sandi's first brush with the RNLI.

When onscreen inventor Tony English turned a ceiling tile into a hovercraft, Sandi challenged him



John McCarthy and Sandi Toksvig are pictured with the Weymouth lifeboat crew in 1994 after drawing the Lifeboat Lottery

to make something bigger that she could sit in, so he adapted a wardrobe. Her attempt to fly the resulting contraption to the Isle of Wight ended in near disaster. 'It wasn't his fault it blew up – it seems Victorian wardrobes aren't as seaworthy as you might think,' chuckles Sandi, who was fished out of the sea by a lifeboat crew. 'I must say, though, that Tony English is a genius,' she quickly adds, 'and if you ever want a wardrobe hovercraft, he's your man.'

Her quick wit and quirky humour led to more television work, including improvisational comedy series *Whose line is it anyway?*, team captaining on *Call my bluff*, and the more personal *Island race*. That 1995 series saw Sandi team up with friend and former Beirut hostage John McCarthy for a 3-month voyage around the coast of Britain aboard a 1911 pilot cutter. While held captive, John had dreamed of taking to the open sea but the reality wasn't all plain sailing: 'I really developed a sense of how dreadful the sea can be. John and I went through some pretty hair-raising conditions,' recalls Sandi.

The two novices were nearing the end of their exhausting, eye-opening journey when they paused to draw the Lifeboat Lottery winner aboard Weymouth lifeboat. Ready to transfer back to their own craft, John and Sandi found themselves speeding in the wrong direction when a call came from the Coastguard and the lifeboat diverted to a drifting dinghy. Fortunately, it proved to be a false alarm but the experience left an impression on Sandi. 'I thought it was breathtakingly technical. That lifeboat was an amazing piece of kit, and the professionalism of the volunteer crew really impressed me. I've been a big fan of the RNLI ever since.'

The thought of people volunteering to save lives at sea comes as no surprise to Sandi: 'I've travelled the length and breadth of these islands and it's a nicer, kinder, gentler race of people than you might read about in the news.' The Danish-born 50-year-old counts the RNLI among Britain's unique institutions but knows that the charity's voluntary spirit is not exclusive to UK (or indeed Irish) shores. Her family moved from Denmark to the US while she was a child. 'Every small town had a voluntary fire brigade and that's still the case today,' explains Sandi. 'I think those fire crews are similar to lifeboat crews in a way – it's giving something to your community.'

A keen advocate of all forms of volunteering, Sandi makes time to support several charities despite no let up in her schedule. Tomorrow she will record travel show *Excess baggage* for Radio 4, do some more work on her play and spend the evening at a corporate event. At the weekend she'll take her eldest daughter to university for the first time, before preparing to host a new series of Radio 4's *News quiz* and launching her 13th book, *Girls are best*, a guide to women who changed the world but were overlooked by the history books.

When it comes to unwinding, Sandi still enjoys exploring the ocean, although the mysteries of the seabed intrigue her more than the mastering of sailing techniques.

'I dive a lot. I've dived shipwrecks and it's very eerie. It's not a mythical thing – it's a horrible reality that you wouldn't want to be part of. So I have such respect for anyone who helps ensure they don't happen. The idea that there are these well-trained and competent lifeboat crews out there makes me think: "Wow, how lucky for the rest of us."'



Photo: BBC

'The professionalism of the volunteers really impressed me. I've been a big fan ever since'





# 4★ MALTA



## A MONTH ON HALF BOARD

from just **£399\*** pp

Malta sits in the heart of the Mediterranean and is blessed with blue seas, warm sunshine, modern amenities and the added benefit of friendly English speaking locals. Visit this charming island and see for yourself by taking advantage of our superb offer staying for a month on Half Board from just £399\*pp.

### Bella Vista Hotel ★★★★★

Ideally situated on the outskirts of Qawra, the 4-star Bella Vista Hotel is within walking distance of the Qawra promenade. Only a short distance away is the centre of Bugibba, where guests can experience the pleasures of the many shops, bars, restaurants and the sand and rocky beach. This hotel provides comfort and service in peaceful surroundings. Guest facilities include a restaurant with International cuisine and an outdoor and indoor pool.

#### ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:

- ✓ Return flights from Gatwick. A supplement may be payable if travelling from the following airports: Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Newcastle, Norwich, Exeter, Luton, East Midlands, Glasgow and Cardiff.
- ✓ 4 weeks on Half Board at the 4★ Bella Vista Hotel, which is ideally situated on the outskirts of Qawra, within walking distance of the promenade.
- ✓ Modern rooms are air-conditioned/heated with a balcony and en suite bathroom. They are furnished with hairdryer, radio/satellite TV, direct dial telephone and ceiling fan.
- ✓ All UK and Malta airport taxes and passenger taxes.
- ✓ All airport security fees.
- ✓ Services of a Mercury Direct Representative in Malta.
- ✓ Return airport transfers in Malta.
- ✓ Full ATOL protection of your holiday.

#### PLUS:

- ✓ No supplement for single travellers on selected dates.
- ✓ A week on Half Board from just £199\*pp.
- ✓ 2 weeks on Half Board from just £299\*pp.
- ✓ 3 weeks on Half Board from just £349\*pp.
- ✓ Upgrade to All-Inclusive from just £9pp per day.

#### DEPARTURES:

January 2009 - October 2009

DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES					
Half Board		7 nights	14 nights	21 nights	28 nights
January 2009	from	£199	£299	£349	£399
February 2009	from	£219	£299	£365	£409
March 2009	from	£265	£359	£485	£589
April 2009	from	£365	£469	£575	£699
May 2009	from	£359	£449	£539	£639
June 2009	from	£379	£479	£569	£669
July 2009	from	£419	£565	£685	£819
August 2009	from	£449	£589	£699	£849
September 2009	from	£399	£499	£589	£689
October 2009	from	£369	£445	£499	£549

Prices are per person and based on 2 adults sharing on Half Board.

**MercuryDirect** →

Open 7 days a week

BOOKING HOTLINE:

**0844 482 6568**

BROCHURE HOTLINE:

**0844 482 6569**

QUOTE REFERENCE: **GVBV1M9**

All offers are subject to availability and can be withdrawn without notice. Prices apply to new bookings only. Fuel surcharges and flight supplements may apply. \*From prices apply to departures 06/01/09-22/01/09.

# A legacy of trust



Thirty years ago a remarkable event in Diana Alcaraz's life made her more determined than ever to support the RNLI. She explains all to Valerie French



the sea. 'His great passion was sailing. He adored it. After travelling so much on business, he loved the freedom and the challenge.'

But in 1975 Paul was diagnosed with lung cancer. During the last year of his life, as he tried to accept the constraints of his illness, Paul sold his beloved boat. Yet, after only 3 weeks, he began to search for a replacement. Eventually he bought a junk-rigged sloop which he named *Djong*. Its self-steering vane meant he could manage the boat from the cockpit with no need to climb on deck to manoeuvre heavy sails.

Diana took Paul to collect the boat in Poole, expecting to meet the crew who would sail with him back to Bembridge. 'Of course there was no crew. He was about to cast off alone.' Diana panicked and rang Mike Attrill at the destination boatyard.

'Mike rang the Coastguard, who rang the RNLI, explaining that Paul was dying of cancer and was never going to make the trip. He just wasn't. The RNLI said: "Don't worry. We'll shadow him all the way. We won't interfere unless we see there's a real problem." So, Poole lifeboat launched, handing over at Hurst to Lymington lifeboat. And Paul nearly made it. He got as far as Ryde marina and collapsed.'

One of Mike's team brought Paul home to Bembridge where Diana met him. She wrote to the two crews thanking them. 'What really hit me was that not one of those men said: "Oh, for goodness sake, stupid idiot, blithering fool, what's he doing? He's mad!" They understood what he was doing and why. I just thought that was brilliant.'

At the time Diana wanted to do more than thank the crews but her priority was to care for her family. Now, 30 years after Paul's death, and their children grown up, she is able at last to celebrate Paul's life, and the RNLI's good deed, by making a small 'in memoriam' donation and pledging a legacy of £10,000 in her Will.

When asked how she would like the legacy spent, she is emphatic: 'I respect and trust the RNLI implicitly. I know that whether it buys welly boots or flares or crew training – great! It costs about £1,200 to train one crew member so how many lives are going to be saved because of that?'

Diana has a sense of humour. As we pull onto her drive she's standing on the threshold of her Hampshire home laughing at our attempts to park. 'Mind my rockery,' she jokes, indicating she doesn't give two hoots about her rockery.

Her involvement with the RNLI spans more than 40 years. At 74, she is a committee member at Portsmouth lifeboat station but it was in 1978 that she came face to face with what the charity is prepared to do for a beloved but terminally ill spouse.

Diana met her husband Paul in 1960 while performing in amateur theatre. She was told that, being Spanish, he probably didn't have much English: could she look after him? 'I made a complete idiot of myself, speaking to him with incredibly accurate diction: he was too embarrassed to tell me his English was perfect!' laughs Diana.

Within 6 months they were married, went on to have four children and made their home at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. Paul's 'other love', as Diana chuckles, was

Top: Diana Alcaraz is an ambassador for the RNLI, encouraging others to join her in pledging a legacy to the charity

Above: Paul Alcaraz on the morning of his last solo trip, with youngest son James  
Photos: Alcaraz family album



# Pure Cotton Tattersall Shirt

Special Offer **£12** each when you buy three

Why pay £25 plus for shirts of this quality? Buy three or more of the Peter Christian Tattersall Check Shirts for only £12 each to match your wardrobe! The Tattersall shirt is a timeless classic made in 100% brushed cotton.

The perfect everyday shirt, casual with cords or smart with formal trousers. Cut with a generous roomy fit and long back length to keep you warm and comfortable. These easy to wear shirts look great with a tie or comfortably casual without.



Brown



Tie not included

Blue

Brown

Green

- 100% cotton • Twin stitch finish • Long back length • Generous cut
- Two buttoned breast pockets • Neat lie to collar • Blue, Brown or Green

Free return service and money back guaranteed if not delighted

## Peter Christian

**Order Now 01273 493 393**  
 open 8am-8pm 7 days a week  
[www.peterchristian.co.uk](http://www.peterchristian.co.uk)

Winner of best 'Men's Apparel & Accessories' catalogue at the ECMOD 2006 & 2007 Awards

Order by phone **quoting 23/T/02** or please send your coupon & payment to:  
**Peter Christian, 25 Mackley Estate, Henfield Road, Small Dole, West Sussex, BN5 9XR**

Please send me	Code	Colour	Collar	Qty	Total
Tattersall Shirt	MS10				
Tattersall Shirt	MS10				
Tattersall Shirt	MS10				
<b>Colours:</b> Blue, Brown, Green					<b>p&amp;p £4.00</b>
<b>Collar:</b> S(14/14.5), M(15/15.5), L(16/16.5), XL(17/17.5), 2XL(18/18.5), 3XL(19/19.5), 4XL(20/20.5)					
					<b>Total</b>

Please send me  1 shirt for £15 + £4 p&p = £19  
 2 for £30 + £4 p&p = £34  3 for £36 + £4 p&p = £40

I enclose a cheque made out to Peter Christian for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Card No \_\_\_\_\_ Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Valid From \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Maestro Issue No \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Digit Security No \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow up to 14 days for delivery. If you do not wish us to pass your details on to other companies please tick the opt out box  A Division of Hills of Bramley Ltd Co Reg No 0476802

# your shout

Dear Editor

In the 70s, I was on holiday in St Ives with my then girlfriend when, late one night, the maroons went up and we watched intently as the lifeboat trundled along the quayside behind the tractor and down the slipway. We stood in awe and appreciation at the selflessness of the crew and, when we returned home, we joined the RNLI and have been supporters ever since.

Fast forward over 30 years. We have a caravan on the Llyn peninsula that looks across the bay to Porthdinllaen lifeboat station. I woke in the early hours of 10 October, gazed out to sea, and my attention was caught by blue flashing lights in the distance. I woke my now wife and we watched as a stream of headlights followed and the massive lights on the boathouse lit up the slipway. It was very windy (I later found it was storm force 10 at sea) as the lifeboat headed out and faded into the blackness.

It was a stark reminder of why we had joined the RNLI all those years ago and why it is still so important to support these brave men and women today. On the next stormy night, just remember what they volunteer to do!

Phil Pownall  
 Macclesfield, Cheshire

Dear Editor

The cover of your Autumn magazine [showing Henry Freeman in his cork lifejacket] recalled some long-forgotten memories.

When I first went to sea in 1952 as an apprentice with the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, cork lifejackets had largely been superseded by the new kapok-filled-pouch type. However a large wooden chest on deck held some of the cork variety and I was shown how to use them.

The main advice was that if you had to jump overboard wearing one, the upper edge should be pulled downwards as hard as possible to counter its violent push upwards into the chin. It was recounted that the strength of this force could cause a knock-out blow or even a broken neck ...

I really delight in seeing your pictures of heavy weather, particularly when I'm at home, warm and dry and partaking of my nightly medicine. But I have too much imagination based on experience to enjoy seeing the pictures of your volunteer crews going out in the same foul conditions. It is my opinion that, to a man and woman, they are all barmy.

Best regards  
 Malcolm Clarke  
 Brentwood, Essex



### Corrections

- In the Autumn 2008 issue, we:
- omitted to credit Chris Walker for his photograph top right of page 12
  - miss-spelt the name of Gravesend's E class lifeboat on page 5. It is *Olive Laura Deare* not *Deane*
  - said that the survivors in the first MOB Guardian-prompted rescue were handed over to the Mission to Seafarers (page 22) when this was the Fishermen's Mission representative on the Channel Islands, who also arranged their repatriation.

- In the Summer 2008 issue, we:
- declared Dungeness lifeboat station to be the nearest to Virginia Water, Surrey (page 49), when we should have said it was the nearest that needed funding for a new lifeboat.

Apologies to all concerned.

To add *your shout*, write to the Editor at [thelifeboat@rnli.org.uk](mailto:thelifeboat@rnli.org.uk) or RNLI Headquarters, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

Dear Editor

I was most interested in the piece on page 10 of the Autumn 2008 issue concerning the experimental FCB2 lifeboat. It proves the length that the organisation goes to, to provide the volunteers with the best kit that is humanly possible, a philosophy further proved by the feature *Top gear*. Returning to page 10, the tractor-trailer looks a fascinating piece of equipment that could well be used for a moon landing! Can you tell us more?

Thank you  
 Keith Kettell, by email

[Keith was not alone in noticing this extraordinary item – more details will follow as the lifeboat and its kit develops. Ed.]



# Bless this boat

Naming of the *City of Nottingham* at Hythe in Kent on 21 May 1930  
Photo: Photopress Ltd

## As Crew Member Paul Watling watched HRH The Duke of Kent KG name Cromer's newest lifeboat on 8 September last year, he felt an enormous sense of pride

'The Cromer lifeboat station has such a great history and we are proud to be carrying it on,' Paul said afterwards.

'Although the *Lester* has been in use for several months and we all know the name, the naming ceremony is very moving and brings home to you the personal contribution of people like Derek Lethern.' The Tamar class lifeboat was funded by Derek Lethern, with other legacies and gifts, and named *Lester* after him and his good friend William Foster.

One of the first RNLI lifeboats to be christened was the *Harriett* at Southwold in 1852. Prior to that, local people fundraised to buy their lifeboats, which were not given a name; they were identified only by the station to which they were attached. The ceremony, which includes a Christian blessing, an official handing over of the boat to the RNLI by the donor or their representative, and the spilling of something alcoholic on the craft, has changed very little since.

Given the power and unpredictability of the sea, it isn't surprising that, from the

beginning of recorded history, sea goers have needed some way of invoking protection.

This Babylonian narrative from the third millennium BC indicates that early sailors took no chances, using both practical and spiritual measures to ensure their safety at sea:

'Openings to the water I stopped; I searched for cracks and the wanting parts I fixed; Three sari of bitumen I poured over the outside; To the gods I caused oxen to be sacrificed.'

In Viking times, the spilling of human blood and incantations by high priests to appease the gods were the norm. The ancient Greeks and Romans, however, favoured water to bless their ships, calling upon Poseidon and Neptune respectively to protect their seamen. Shrines were carried on the quarterdeck, an area still holding ceremonial significance today.

In Tudor England, a King's lieutenant would wish the crew and craft good luck, drinking a red wine toast from a goblet of precious metal that he would then toss overboard.

Needless to say, spectators rushed into the

sea to salvage the 'standing cup'.

Over the years, this scramble became both inconvenient and expensive. A net was adopted to catch the cup to be used again until, in 1690, a bottle containing wine became a cheaper option, to be replaced later with the more prestigious champagne.

One of the traditions followed at Cromer in the 21st century was the involvement of a male member of the Royal Family. This is the second Cromer lifeboat that the Duke, who is President of the RNLI, has named. At the 2008 ceremony he said:

'I am delighted to be back here naming the new lifeboat, which plays such an important role in the community. Cromer has always held a special place in my heart because of all the lifeboating heritage including the most famous lifeboatman of all, Henry Blogg.'

Nobody knows how naming ceremonies might evolve in the future but such occasions will surely remain an important milestone in the life of every lifeboat and its community.

  
GREAT RAIL  
JOURNEYS



## European Rail Holidays from London

### Classic Glacier Express

10 DAY HOLIDAY BY TRAIN FROM LONDON

*Travel with the UK's leading specialist in holidays by rail on this sensational 10-day holiday to Switzerland. A friendly and professional Tour Manager accompanies all departures so sit back and relax as you travel through some of the most magnificent scenery in Europe.*

#### Days 1-2 ♦ London to Switzerland

We depart St Pancras International by Eurostar for Paris in Leisure Select Class and travel to Dijon for an overnight stay. Our journey continues the next day by TGV to Switzerland. We transfer onto the efficient Swiss rail network which takes us to Brig at the foot of the Simplon Pass - our base for the next four nights.

#### Day 3 ♦ Journey to Zermatt

Enjoy the dramatic Swiss scenery as we travel to Zermatt, a picturesque resort overlooked by the Matterhorn. Take a refreshing walk into the mountains or, if you have a head for heights, make the exciting train journey up to Gornergrat, situated at over 10,000ft (3,048m).



31 departures between 31 Mar 09 and 27 Oct 09 Prices from £1,375 to £1,453

Dates and prices are subject to availability. Prices are Per Person. Conditions apply.

#### Days 4-5 ♦ The Bernese Oberland

On Day 4 we travel to Interlaken; perhaps enjoy a lake cruise, or undertake the ultimate excursion to the highest railway station in Europe, Jungfrauoch. You are free on Day 5 to explore this beautiful region. Perhaps make the wonderful journey on the Centovalli Railway across 'a hundred valleys' to Locarno.

#### Day 6 ♦ The Glacier Express

We leave Brig on the Glacier Express in First Class. The train climbs up the Rhône Valley to Andermatt and then snakes and spirals its way towards the Oberalp Pass, the highest point of the route, before descending to Chur, a historic town in southeast Switzerland. We spend three nights here in the heart of the Old Town.

#### Days 7-8 ♦ Over the Bernina Pass & Chur

The narrow-gauge Bernina Express takes us from Chur; past waterfalls and deep ravines into the Engadine Valley and over the Bernina Pass. Enjoy the breathtaking views as we travel to Poschiavo. On Day 8 you are free to explore Chur; perhaps visit the mountain resort of Arosa.

#### Days 9-10 ♦ Via Germany & Brussels

We leave Chur on the EuroCity train via Zürich and Basel into Germany. Our journey takes us along the scenic Rhine Gorge to Cologne. After an overnight stay in Cologne we depart for Brussels and connect with Eurostar to London.

The benefits of travelling with Great Rail Journeys include

- ♦ No Fly Holidays – to/from St Pancras
- ♦ Adventure & discovery – in style & comfort
- ♦ Fully escorted from start to finish
- ♦ No Hidden Extras – so much is included
- ♦ Safe, secure and sociable group travel
- ♦ Tried and trusted – over 25 years of experience
- ♦ First Class rail travel throughout



**EUROPE**  
including over  
70 escorted tours

**WORLDWIDE**  
including over  
30 escorted tours

**WINTER & SPRING**  
including over  
50 escorted tours

To order your brochure call  
**01904 734050**  
or visit: [www.GreatRail.com](http://www.GreatRail.com)

BOOK WITH 100% CONFIDENCE



ABTA No. V2170

FULLY BONDED, FULLY PROTECTED





# Make the most of your favourite music Bring Bose into your home

## At a glance

### What it is

A high quality CD and DAB/AM/FM radio system delivering room-filling sound quality from compact dimensions.

### What it offers

- ✓ Exceptional sound through 30 years of BOSE® waveguide research
- ✓ Slot-loading CD player also plays MP3 discs
- ✓ High performance tuner with 6 DAB, 6 AM and 6 FM presets
- ✓ 2 year transferable warranty
- ✓ Easy installation – just plug-in-and-play
- ✓ Handy credit card-style remote controls all functions
- ✓ Comes in three classic colours – Graphite Grey, Platinum White & NEW Titanium Silver
- ✓ WAVE® music system no bigger than a shoebox (10.7cm high x 37cm wide x 22cm deep)

### Is it right for you?

If you want a primary quality DAB music system that fits seamlessly into almost any room of your house then the WAVE® music system - DAB is for you. It brings with it a new standard of performance, simplicity, and elegance.

- ✓ Risk-free 30-day home trial
- ✓ Available DIRECT from Bose
- ✓ Easy interest-free instalment plan\*
- ✓ One deposit, four easy monthly payments

The WAVE® music system - DAB from BOSE®



DAB hideaway module shown in Platinum White

### Critical acclaim

***"The sound is punchy & impressive. As usual, Bose has something different to offer... Its ability to fill an average room is quite astonishing"***

– Gramophone magazine

Call now to ask how you can receive a **FREE portable DVD player** when you order before 15 February 2009

### Key features of the FREE portable DVD player include:

- 18 cm (7") LCD/TFT screen
- Connects to your WAVE® music system - DAB
- DVD, DVD-R, DVD-RW playback
- USB, AV out and headphone jacks
- Includes carry bag, connect cables, charger
- Rechargeable built-in battery
- Multi-function remote control



Available DIRECT from Bose by calling FREE on

 **0800 081 3568**

for further information quoting reference 11484

Opening Times: Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 8.30pm Sat & Sun: 9.00am - 8.00pm

Or  Text 'Bose11484' to 84118  
Visit [www.wave-dab.co.uk](http://www.wave-dab.co.uk)

**BOSE**  
Better sound through research®