

# LIFEBOAT



THE RNLI IS THE  
CHARITY THAT  
SAVES LIVES AT SEA

ISSUE 620 | SUMMER 2017

## BACK FROM THE BRINK

The dynamic young journalist who  
rescued the RNLI

## SQUAD GOALS

A new match for safer  
communities in Ireland



**'THANK YOU FOR  
RESCUING US!'**

Saving lives at home and abroad

# Welcome

When it comes to making our waters safer, everyone can play their part

Watching the Cox's Bazar lifeguards receive their awards in December (see Rescue, p16), it struck me that this could have been any lifeguard club back home – give or take the odd rickshaw zipping past. The boards hanging on the walls, the surf competition photos, letters of thanks – here's one more group of people making every life count in their community.

Around the UK, Ireland and beyond, people are coming together to save more lives. Rescues from Lerwick, Trearddur Bay and Galway show the value of volunteer crews' local expertise. We look at an exciting

new partnership with the Gaelic Athletic Association that will reinforce our Respect the Water campaign in Irish communities (p24). And there's a new feature on p29 that celebrates the unsung heroes in our fundraising teams.

As I edit *Lifeboat* for the first time, it's also heartening to read about Richard Lewis (p30), who not only turned the RNLI around in the 1850s, but also founded the magazine that you're reading today.

Thank you for everything you do to help save lives at sea. Enjoy your magazine, and have a wonderful and safe summer.

Philly Byrde  
@ByrdeSong



PHILLY BYRDE  
LIFEBOAT EDITOR

## RNLI.ORG/PEOPLE

How do our volunteers achieve the extraordinary? Head to this brand new section of our website, which features regular updates from new crew members as they train with the RNLI.

## LOOKING FOR LAUNCHES?

As we move to a new system that runs everything from ordering parts to logging shouts, we're sorry we can't compile the data to share Launches with you this edition. We're bringing you extended Rescue and RNLI Family sections, and Launches will return in the autumn. You can find other ways to follow launches at [RNLI.org/sms](http://RNLI.org/sms).

## SUMMER 2017 ISSUE 620

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The RNLI was founded in 1824. Today it provides a 24-hour search and rescue service out to 100 nautical miles from the coast of the UK, Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands; on the tidal reaches of the River Thames; and on selected inland waterways. It also provides a seasonal lifeguard service on appropriate beaches in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Channel Islands; and flood rescue. The RNLI is independent from Government and relies on voluntary contributions and gifts in Wills for its income. It is a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland.



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# News

Your guide to what's been going on in the world of the RNLI

## NEW LIFEGUARD AND SWIM SAFE LOCATIONS FOR A SAFER SUMMER

RNLI lifeguards will patrol eight new beaches this summer, including Camber Sands. The beach made headlines in 2016 after the tragic deaths of six people in July and August. After Rother District Council reviewed local lifeguard provision, Camber Sands East, West and Bexhill will have RNLI patrols to help keep beachgoers safe.

RNLI lifeguards are also new to Runswick Bay (Scarborough), Leasowe Bay (Wirral) and Pelham East, Pelham West and Marina St Leonards (Hastings). There are now more than 240 RNLI lifeguarded beaches in the UK and Channel Islands. Find one near you at [RNLI.org/beaches](http://RNLI.org/beaches).

Swim Safe – free open water swimming and safety sessions for children aged 7–14 – is also back and bigger than ever this summer. In partnership with Swim England, we'll be expanding to several new sites, both coastal and inland. See the full list of locations and book your child's place at [SwimSafe.org.uk](http://SwimSafe.org.uk).



Photo: RNLI/Matthew Williams



Photo: RNLI/Simon Ling

## HELLENIC HANDOVER

Last year, we reported on our training and mentorship of the Hellenic Rescue Team (HRT) on Lesbos, Greece. Overwhelmed by the refugee crisis in the Aegean, the volunteers desperately needed better training and equipment.

On 25 February, our Chief Executive Paul Boissier officially handed over two Atlantic 75 lifeboats to the HRT, who were then declared fully operational

to the Hellenic Coast Guard. The team are now ready to rescue anyone who needs their help – whether that's local fishermen, tourists or refugees.

'I was incredibly proud of what they've achieved in such a short space of time,' says RNLI Trainer Alex Evans. 'The whole community turned out to celebrate, from heads of the Hellenic Coast Guard to the British Ambassador.'

## Our thoughts are with the Irish Coast Guard



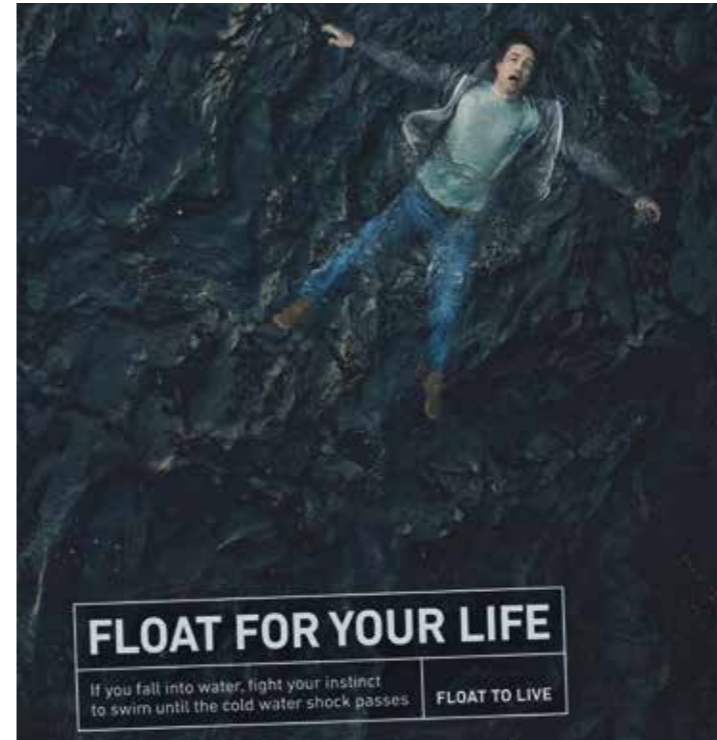
Photo: RNLI/Ingeel Millard

On 14 March, the search and rescue community was rocked when Irish Coast Guard helicopter *Rescue 116* came down off the Mayo coast. Captains Dara Fitzpatrick and Mark Duffy were heading to refuel with Winchmen Paul Ormsby and Ciarán Smith, when radio contact was lost. Lifeboat stations across the RNLI lowered their flags as a mark of respect.

Dara and Mark have now been laid to rest, while lifeboat crews from

Ballyglass, Achill, Sligo Bay, Bundoran and Arranmore have given hours to search for Paul and Ciarán, including a major effort on 8 April aided by 110 fishing boats. Sadly at the time of going to print, they are still missing.

'The thoughts of everyone in the RNLI are with our colleagues in the Irish Coast Guard and in particular with the colleagues, family and friends of the crew of *Rescue 116*,' says Gareth Morrison, RNLI Lifesaving Manager.



**FLOAT FOR YOUR LIFE**

If you fall into water, fight your instinct to swim until the cold water shock passes. **FLOAT TO LIVE**

## FIGHT YOUR INSTINCTS, NOT THE WATER

As temperatures soared on 25 May, we re-launched our safety campaign Respect the Water, now in its fourth year. Around 190 people accidentally die at the British and Irish coasts every year. About half of them never planned to enter the water in the first place.

So this summer we're encouraging everyone to fight their instinct to swim instantly if they fall in. Instead, remember one core survival skill – floating, until the effects of cold water shock pass and you can catch your breath, before then trying to swim to safety or call for help.

Discover more, including vital safety skills, at [RespectTheWater.com](http://RespectTheWater.com).



Photo: Ben Lister

From West End STOMPers (pictured) to Edinburgh pipers, RNLI supporters have been doing their bit to fund our kit. However you got involved – thank you. We'll update you with our Mayday fundraising total in the next edition.

## DUNKIRK

This summer the film *Dunkirk* remembers one of the most courageous rescues of the Second World War.

It tells the story of Operation Dynamo, a daring plan to rescue 300,000 Allied troops who faced obliteration by German forces.

Among the armada of little ships sent to help were 19 RNLI lifeboats. Only Ramsgate and Margate lifeboats were manned by RNLI crews – together they saved 3,400 lives.

We'll be exploring their stories ahead of the film's release on 21 July. Find out more at [RNLI.org/dunkirk](http://RNLI.org/dunkirk).



SCOTLAND

Words: Anna Burn

COMMUNITY NEWS



Photo: RNLI/Mark Gray

Welcome to your selection of community news for Scotland. For all the latest rescue and fundraising stories from where you are, head to [RNLI.org/news](http://RNLI.org/news)

Aberdeen

RALLY RAFFLE

Local businessmen, Ian Garden of RigDeluge and William Bird of Fennel Media, are driving forward a vital campaign to bring a new inshore lifeboat to Aberdeen Lifeboat Station.

The duo launched an online raffle with an incredible prize. Four winners experienced riding alongside rally ace Quintin Milne in the RigDeluge-sponsored team car on the VIP Test Day of Speyside Rally.

'Not only are the RNLI team members totally professional,'

Quintin says, 'they're all volunteers. The local community must get behind them to ensure they have the optimum vessel and equipment to undertake the lifesaving work they do.'

Of the prize, Quintin adds: 'High speed, lots of noise, lots of "opposite lock" sideways cornering on gravel ... This was a chance for four lucky winners to experience a real slice of rallying, on a real forest stage, in an iconic, professionally prepared and professionally driven Ford Escort Mk II rally car.'

We're thrilled to tell you that the campaign has raised £6,445.



Photo: RNLI/Aberdeen

Launching the appeal for a new inshore lifeboat at RNLI Aberdeen

Macduff

SQUAREMEN SUPPORT

Ye Corporation O' Squaremen are supporting 17 local causes this year, and the volunteers at Macduff Lifeboat Station are delighted to be one of those causes. A cheque for £200 was presented by Calum Mackinnon, who lost two brothers in an accident at sea in 1985.

Calum, whose family are fishermen from Elgol on Skye, says: 'The lifeboat at Mallaig pulled out all the stops to locate the bodies and return them to the family. Since then, the village of Elgol and my family have been raising funds for the RNLI in recognition of the hard and fearless work they do in all weathers 365 days a year, often at the drop of a hat, when the pagers go off.'

Chassey Findlay, Macduff's grateful coxswain, says: 'We have recently enrolled some new trainee crew members and this donation will be used to help fund their training over the next 12 months.'



Photo: RNLI/Mike Rawlins

Calum Mackinnon with the crew at Macduff Lifeboat Station

Peterhead



Photo: RNLI/David Anderson

Fundraiser Paula Geary presents the prizes

SOS SUCCESS

Peterhead fundraisers had a successful SOS pub quiz night at the Harbour Lights pub earlier in the year, raising £360 for local lifesavers.

Quiz master Ian Brownlee put together six rounds of questions to terrify even the most hardened pub quiz pro. Two teams rapidly rose to the top – the Quizzards and All at C – with the Quizzards winning a tense tie breaker. Each team member won a bottle of bubbly and a cash prize, which all generously donated to Peterhead RNLI.

Girvan

FOLK FEST

Sold out long before the event, Girvan's folk fundraiser was a night to remember. Produced by JP Gourlay, a fourth-year commercial music student, the festival was a tribute to local music legend Bobby Robb, founder of Girvan Folk Club. With a full house of music lovers, bands, and musicians from far and wide, it's clear his legacy lives on.

The folk festival was even live-streamed online and £600 was raised on the night. This was shared between Cancer Research UK and Girvan RNLI.



Photo: RNLI/Girvan

HONOURS FOR ISLAY

In March, Islay Coxswain David MacLellan was awarded an RNLI Bronze Medal for Gallantry – one of the charity's highest accolades – for his display of great skill and seamanship in a testing 18-hour rescue last February.

His four crew members, Mechanic David McArthur, Navigator Thomas Coope, and Crew Members Duncan MacGillivray and Peter Thomson – along with Captain Martin Porter of the *Deep Energy* pipelay vessel – received Framed Letters of Thanks from the Chairman.



WHAT'S ON

Details might have changed since going to print, so please check in advance to avoid disappointment. To find out what else is on near you, see [RNLI.org/events](http://RNLI.org/events).

LIFEBOAT DAYS

Get up close to the action this summer, with lifeboat days at stations all around the region. Check with your local station for details.

SEA FEST

5–6 August

Arbroath, Angus

The annual celebration of Arbroath's maritime heritage returns for its 20th anniversary, with stalls, cooking demonstrations, live music and street theatre. There will be lifeboat demonstrations, souvenirs and refreshments. Visit [arbroathseafest.co.uk](http://arbroathseafest.co.uk).

GLENURQUHART HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday 26 August

Blairbeg Park, near Loch Ness, Inverness

Enjoy traditional heavyweight games like hammer throwing and caber tossing, along with highland dancing, bagpipes, a hill race and more. Meet RNLI crew and fundraisers from Loch Ness and learn about inland lifesaving. Visit [glenurquhart-highland-games.co.uk](http://glenurquhart-highland-games.co.uk).

Want to share your RNLI news and events with *Lifeboat* readers? Email [supportercare@rnli.org.uk](mailto:supportercare@rnli.org.uk).

# RESCUE

Our lifeboat crews and lifeguards carry out thousands of rescues every year. Here are just some of those caught on camera, and see the list below for more reports:

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- 9 GALWAY** | PAGE 18

You can also watch and read the latest rescues online at [RNLI.org/news](http://RNLI.org/news).



Photo: Henry Kirkwood

## 1 HUMPBACK WHALE FREED DART/SALCOMBE | 22 MARCH

RNLI crew never quite know what to expect when they're called out – this time it was an 8m humpback whale trapped in fishing gear. The lifeboats helped members from the British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR) get to the whale and untangle her, much to the relief of the fishing boat skipper and everyone else. Pictured here is the moment they freed her, with BDMLR's David McDonald balanced off the side, held on by RNLI crew and other medics.



Photo: RNLI/Tower

## 2 PULLED FROM ICY WATERS TOWER | 9 MARCH

A holidaymaker was taking photographs of the *Cutty Sark* at night, when he leaned against railings and fell into the dark, icy waters of the Thames. The Tower crew got the call at 10.24pm and launched within 60 seconds. The crew found him cold, in shock and clinging to a ledge at Deptford Creek. They pulled him aboard quickly, to the joy of all his family and friends at the scene.



Photo: RNLI/Tynemouth

## 3 MERCHANT SEAMAN EVACUATED TYNEMOUTH | 13 JANUARY

The chief engineer of a 160m cargo ship had suffered a suspected heart attack, 4 miles east of Sunderland. In strong winds and big swell, the Tynemouth coxswain skilfully manoeuvred close to the ship, and two lifeboat crew climbed aboard to give first aid. As sea conditions worsened, evacuation by sea was too dangerous. Both the casualty and the two lifeboat crew were winched to safety by the crew of the Coastguard helicopter.



Photo: RNLI/Porthcawl

## 4 SEA MIST RIDER PORTHCAWL | 15 MARCH

In a remote part of Kenfig Sands, swathed in sea mist, lifeboat volunteers at Porthcawl helped an injured horse rider. The crew of the D class and Atlantic 85 lifeboats worked together to help the rider with suspected pelvic injuries. As smoothly as possible, they transported the casualty plus a paramedic back to a waiting ambulance at Porthcawl Lifeboat Station.



Photo: RNLI/Fethard

## 5 RODEO RESCUE FETHARD | 24 FEBRUARY

Fethard volunteer lifeboat crew went to the aid of two bulls that had fallen from cliffs in the Broomhill area. One bull was stranded in a gully with an incoming tide. Crew Member Eoin Bird swam 50m in 'lively' conditions to place a halter round its neck. The lifeboat then towed the animal 1 mile to shore, with a crew member holding its head clear of the water. Then they returned to the scene for the second bull.



# 'SHE WENT QUICK'

With a trawler in trouble off a remote archipelago in Shetland, Lerwick lifeboat crew would need to pull on insider knowledge and all their experience if they were to get the five fishermen to safety

Coxswain Alan Tarby's pager went off just before 7am. 'I was awake, drinking my tea,' he remembers. 'I didn't know what the shout was but Malcolm, our Lifeboat Operations Manager, filled me in on the way to the station.'

The Lerwick-registered fishing trawler *Ocean Way* was taking on water 10 miles east of Out Skerries – a small cluster of islands 23 miles off Lerwick. The Norwegian fish carrier *Gerda Saele* was already there lending a hand. Her crew had transferred a salvage pump

but it was becoming clear that one wasn't going to be enough.

'I know the trawler,' says Alan. 'And I know her owner, he's helped us before and he's a really nice man. Darren Harcus, one of our crew volunteers, works on *Ocean Way* too. I thought he was aboard so I was pleased to see him arrive at the station. He knows the boat and crew really well.'

There was a breeze running, with a bit of swell, but it was a clear morning and the fishing boat was still making

around 9 knots towards harbour. At 7.15am Lerwick lifeboat crew launched their Severn class lifeboat *Michael and Jane Vernon* to meet her, with a salvage pump tested, packed and ready to go. When the lifeboat arrived just after 8am the Coastguard helicopter *Rescue 900* was on scene too.

'The trawler didn't seem too low in the water,' says Alan. 'That was a good sign that she wasn't too heavily laden. We transferred Darren and our Mechanic John Best with the pump. Darren, of course, knew the boat and crew. He's a steady sort of fellow, does

**'I've never seen a boat sink that quickly. It went from a manageable situation to a disaster in seconds'**

Alan Tarby

things calmly. John's good with the pump, which can be tricky to start if you don't know it.'

But it wasn't long before they realised that two pumps weren't going to do the job either. Water was coming in fast.

Another pump was needed quickly so Alan pulled the lifeboat away from

the trawler to safely receive a third from the helicopter. 'We were about to get it onboard when the fishing crew announced they were preparing to abandon ship,' says Alan. 'Then their radio cut out – water must have got in below and blown everything. We didn't have time to tell them what to do.'

The lifeboat swiftly returned alongside to get the fishermen and RNLI crew off. But suddenly, *Ocean Way* started to go down. 'I've never seen a boat sink that quickly,' says Alan. 'One minute she looked fine but, as soon as they stopped her, she went quick. The

water must have surged forward – that can do a lot of damage. It went from a manageable situation to a disaster in seconds.'

Alan gave the fishermen room to jump into the water. All five dispersed quickly. One had to swim clear to avoid being drawn down by the trawler, one drifted to the bow of the lifeboat, another was dangerously close to her propellers. The lifeboat coxswain didn't dare move his craft. 'I had to wait,' he says.



**DARREN HARCUS**  
CREW MEMBER | LERWICK

**'We all have each other's backs'**

'I was on the lifeboat that day and transferred to the trawler to help because I know the boat so well. I've worked on *Ocean Way* for 5 years and it's a family business. It's a small community and we all have each other's backs.

'The bottom of the trawler had snagged on something and, before long, water was coming in the scuppers. We thought it a good idea to abandon ship. The skipper

took a bit of persuading but once he realised water was coming in over the rails he knew we all had to get off sharpish.

'We planned to step off onto the lifeboat but there wasn't time to get everyone off like that. So we jumped – starboard side. As the trawler crew, we had already talked about what we'd do in this sort of situation but never really thought it would happen to us.'

'That was hard. A couple of them were not such good swimmers and I could see the man behind us being dragged away.'

By now RNLI Crew Members Darren and John were in the water, gathering everyone together. Their crewmates on the lifeboat made fast work of hauling people onboard using the A-frame and strop. Darren and John were the last two to be recovered and *Ocean Way* sank soon after.

'It was about 6°C in that water,' says Alan. 'Luckily they were hardy, fit people – tough fishermen. A couple of them were very quiet though, they must have been in shock. We checked

them over and gave them dry clothes and warm drinks.'

The lifeboat, her crew and all the fishermen arrived safely in Lerwick harbour at 9.45am and were met by local paramedics. Once the survivors had been given the all-clear, a band of RNLI volunteers refuelled the lifeboat and made her ready for service again.

'The lifeboat crew performed very well,' says Alan, 'especially Darren and John who were in the water with those men. They're trained and just do it automatically. The fishermen had done safety training too and were all wearing the correct safety equipment. That made getting them home so much easier.'



## COLD REALITY

Lifeboat crews will always be ready to rescue when the call for help comes in. But with commercial fishing one of the most dangerous peacetime occupations, how can the RNLI help our fishermen to improve their chances before help arrives?

In January, a group of fishermen got a taste of the debilitating effects that cold water can bring when they took part in series of exercises in the RNLI's sea survival pool.

The RNLI's Fishing Safety Team created real-life sea conditions to ensure the fishermen were fully aware of the dangers and challenges of man overboard situations. The pool – which is used to train our volunteer lifeboat crew – features realistic seawater temperatures and can replicate artificial waves, as well as simulating rain and wind.

The 2-day event put the fishermen through a variety of realistic scenarios, helping them improve their survival and recovery techniques in a safe and controlled environment. Participants compared being in the water with and without flotation devices. They also practised recovering a man overboard and learned about cold water shock with experts from the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the University of Portsmouth.

Frankie Horne, RNLI Fishing Safety Manager, says: 'Most training is done in warm water pools but these

fishermen experienced the same water temperatures they would face in real life. They all walked away having done something positive. For some it was finding an easier way to get off their boats, for others it was about wearing lifejackets and encouraging others to do as well.'

Words: Jon Jones, Bethany Hope  
Photos: *Shetland News*/Chris Cope, RNLI/(Lerwick, Nathan Williams)



**STUART CALEY**  
CRAB AND LOBSTER  
FISHERMAN | ISLE OF MAN

'Without a lifejacket, I'd have only had a couple of minutes'

'When I first started on the boats, we did man overboard and liferaft training – but not practical exercises like this. I felt much more relaxed with the lifejacket on, knowing it would keep me afloat. I also felt warmer once I'd relaxed a bit – not so tense and shivery. I could have stayed in there longer with the lifejacket and not been in too much trouble. I mean, it was still cold but I wasn't so worried. It was a big weight off my mind.'

# 'THANK YOU FOR RESCUING US!'



When sisters Emily and Lydia visited Newborough Beach in north Wales on a blustery February day, they had no idea they'd end their trip on Trearddur Bay's lifeboat

Getting cut off by the tide is an incredibly easy mistake to make, and it happens to a lot of people around our coasts every year. The UK and Ireland have some of the biggest tidal ranges in the world; changes in depth between high and low water can be as much as 10m. On this particular day, 13 people were caught out at a place where the high tide creates an island.

Lydia, 9, describes the end of a lovely day on the Llanddwyn Island,

playing tag and looking for shark eggcases: 'We went up the red and white lighthouse and found these little wooden houses, and had dinner in the little porch. Then some people said: "We can't get out" and when we looked there were no stepping stones. Big black clouds were coming so Daddy said we should stay on the island in the shelter to keep dry. Mummy was a bit worried and Emily was a little bit panicking that we wouldn't get across.'

Helm Daf Griffiths (left) and Crew Member Sion Owen (right)



While they were waiting on the shore, keeping the girls occupied with games, three people on the mainland had noticed the group's predicament and called the Coastguard.

The girls' mum Anna recalls: 'We knew we had to wait for the tide to drop so we were all together in the shelter but I was concerned about how to judge when it was safe to go. When the Coastguard arrived on the other side and the lifeboat came around the headland we thought it was a training exercise! We joked that we'd get to watch the lifeboat while we waited –

we didn't realise they would come out for us.'

For Anna, getting stranded came as a shock: 'All of a sudden I was stranded in this situation with my children. I felt extremely grateful but also irresponsible for creating this emergency situation – although I did feel a little better when I learned that one of the people rescued with us was a former lifeboat crew member!'

Crew Member Sion Owen recalls how the group hadn't wanted to bother them: 'They thought the tide would turn in an hour and that they could

wade across then. I had to tell them it would be late and that it would be dangerous to cross in the dark because the sand there is soft and – in 3 feet of water – you'd be gone.'

Helm Daf Griffiths recalls a challenging shout: 'The minute it gets dark it's a treacherous bit of coast to be crossing back, so we needed to get them off quickly. Where it shallows out around the island, the waves build up and break so it's hard to get in there, but I was more concerned about getting out. You've got to thread through the rocks while hugging the corner and a spring tide hides hazards.'

According to Daf, the family did the right thing, staying where they were: 'They were already wet and in for a 4-hour wait. Once it starts to get cold and dark, kids can get upset and, in the stress, poor decisions can be made. If they'd tried to cross the channel, they could have been swept out.'

To thank the crew for rescuing them, Emily sent a special drawing (below). 'We don't often hear back from rescues,' smiles Daf, 'so Emily's letter and picture were a lovely surprise.'

Words and photos: RNLI/Anna Burn



## Emily | 7

'The RNLI boat came zooming around the corner and the man got off the boat and said: "We're here to rescue you." I felt a bit scared because I didn't know how we were going to get to the boat. But he said: "I'll give you a piggy back."

'I wanted to watch Mummy and Lydia go first. When it was my turn I felt a little bit scared going into the sea. We got wet trousers sitting on the boat and I got carried like a baby by a coastguard on the other side.'





# LIFEGUARDS IN THE FLOOD



When a quarter of the country is submerged every monsoon season, flooding in Bangladesh is almost routine. But in July 2015, a flooded inland village called eight beach lifeguards far beyond their ordinary duties. SeaSafe Senior Lifeguard Kamrul Hasan shares his memories of an extraordinary rescue

That morning I was working on Shugunda Beach in Cox's Bazar, and it was raining very hard. A man came up to us and said he needed help in Ramu – his family's home was under the floodwater and they'd been trapped for 2 days.

I called our supervisor Rashed, and eight of us lifeguards decided to take a rescue board and two inflatable boats, to see if we could rescue them.

## A long, uncertain wait

We got to Ramu and families sheltering in the cyclone centre told us where to find the people who'd been stuck for days without food.

I remember from the road to the houses was quite far, and there was so much fast-flowing water in between. First I went with my rescue board to check the homes and ask people if they wanted to come with me. Families were sitting on their rooftops asking for help. I felt confident that we could rescue them and they wanted to reach shelter, but they were afraid to leave the house.

## The training kicks in

We knew that if we took an inflatable boat, the current between the road and the houses would carry it away. So we

found some rope to run from one tree on the road to a tree near the houses – this gave us something to hold so we could rescue people safely by boat.

Not long ago two RNLI flood rescue trainers, Dave and Bernie, had shown us how to use the rope in this way, to communicate with people during floods and carry them safely by boat. So we just had the knowledge by training, and that gave us the idea.

## '... she lets go of her hand and she's pulled away by the water'

We should have been tired because it was Ramadan, so two other lifeguards and I were fasting. But there is a moment's change when you're helping people, you don't feel it until afterwards.

## Fast reactions and lives saved

I remember a woman who was heavily pregnant and afraid to go outside. The boat couldn't reach the house because of the trees.

I took the rescue board, paddled into the house and brought her out to the boat. Lying down, she couldn't see



what was happening. I reassured her: 'You're in a boat now, you can go to the cyclone centre.'

And I still see one family in my mind – a grandma, mother, father and two sons who are walking on the road. The water is up to their chests, very deep. The water is so strong-moving, and they are walking against the current. There's nothing for them to hold except a wall and each other's hands.

We are at another house when we see them, so we call to them to stay there, we're coming. One woman is very tired and she lets go of her hand and she's pulled away by the water. Thankfully, Lifeguard Abdulla quickly paddles the board, catches her and takes her to shallow water.

## Time to reflect

If we had not rescued them, there may have been accidents. People would have tried to go out to buy food and got caught in the current.

I feel very proud that we could help, but I was also sad to see them like that. I came back home and went to bed early, and I was dreaming about all this,

that I was still helping them. I couldn't sleep well, thinking about it and what we have done for them.

We feel grateful and proud that this rescue received an award, because it's the first RNLI award for us and in Bangladesh as well. It shows everyone what we can do – we can rescue anywhere.

**Kamrul, Sefat, Sukkur, Osman, Siru, Kamal, Rashed and Abdulla saved more than 100 people. In December**

**2016, the SeaSafe team received a certificate of thanks from the RNLI for their bravery – the first such award for one of our international partners. Watch the video of this incredible rescue at [RNLI.org/RamuRescue](http://RNLI.org/RamuRescue).**

Words: Kamrul Hasan, Philly Byrde

Interview: Darren Williams

Photos: CIPRB/SeaSafe, RNLI/Harrison Bates



## The RNLI and SeaSafe

Cox's Bazar has benefited from a lifeguard service since 2012, thanks to a partnership between the RNLI and the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh. Since then we've been supporting the team with advice, training and developing low-cost rescue equipment. Already they've saved hundreds of lives. Ultimately, we're sharing skills that will help them become a self-sustaining rescue service.



# EVER READY

Out for an evening walk with his children on 13 March, training, experience and teamwork helped an off-duty lifeboat helm save a life

Brian Niland had had a busy day. After finishing work as a medical rep, he'd picked his children Sorcha (7) and Eoin (5) up from the childminder, and headed for Galway Marina to help a friend out with his boat. Job done, he took the children for a walk in the spring sunshine. Sorcha wanted to explore a



**'We were working on him for what felt like an age; it had to be close to 10 minutes'**

grassy area near Mud Dock. And that's where they found a woman shouting for help – and pointing at a man floating face-down in the water.

An experienced helm with Galway lifeboat crew, Brian knew just what to do: grab his phone from his nearby car, call 999 and ask for the Coast Guard. But as he gave the operator the details he thought he spotted bubbles rising near the man's face. Could he still be alive?

'That's when it changed for me,' Brian recalls. 'I shouted to a local I knew, Padraic Murphy, to take my phone and give the details. Using his phone, I called the Lifeboat Operations Manager, Mike Swan, who I knew was working nearby. I told Mike that there

was a person in the water, that I'd called the emergency services, and that I was going to enter the water. He said he was on his way.'

With the children safe in the car, Brian removed his work suit and grabbed a nearby lifering. He gave instructions to a pair of bystanders to pull him back in as soon as he had hold of the floating man.

'I went down the steps and swam to the casualty. I got one arm around his neck to lift his head out of the water, and my other arm through the lifering. They pulled us back in very quickly and helped me get him up onto the dock.'

As Mike arrived with local fisherman Aidan Deegan, the man was no longer breathing, and had no pulse.

'Brian had the gentleman out of the water and he was just starting to do compressions on him,' Mike recalls. 'I asked Aidan: "Have you done this before?" and he said he hadn't, but he'd done a basic first aid course.'

As Mike and Aidan took over compressions, Brian dashed to the car to grab a pocket mask, used to safely give breaths during CPR. If the children were surprised to see a soaked-through daddy rushing around in just his underpants and a T-shirt, they didn't show it.

Just across the water, Galway lifeboat crew had been paged and were preparing to launch. The Coast Guard

were phoning Lifeboat Operations Manager Mike to make arrangements – while he worked on the very casualty they were calling about. Mike asked Padraic to answer the phone.

'They could hear me shouting 1, 2, 3, in the background and said: "Oh you must have him ashore so," and they stood the lifeboat down,' he says. 'We got a rhythm going: Aidan would give 30 compressions and I'd give 30 compressions, and Brian would give him 2 inflations in-between. We were working on him for what felt like an age; it had to be close to 10 minutes.'

The fire brigade were the first service to arrive, and just as they were setting up their defibrillator, the man took a breath. The ambulance followed soon after. Thanks to Brian, Mike and Aidan's efforts – as well as the help of Padraic and the other bystanders – the man was handed over to the paramedics in good condition. He was to make a full recovery.

'It's great to know that you've got somebody back,' Brian says, 'and to know that your training does count. He was lucky too though. Lucky I'd gone for a walk that evening. Lucky Sorcha had asked to go into the area where he was in trouble. Lucky I had a phone on me.'

Both Brian and Mike credit Olivia Byrne, a public health nurse who's been on the lifeboat crew for 15 years, for the high standard of first aid and CPR

## Know what to do

Brian is an experienced and highly trained lifeboat crew member and a strong swimmer, but even he was reluctant to enter the water. He only did so after he had called the emergency services, knew Mike was on the way, and had ensured that, with bystanders' help, he was using public rescue equipment in the safest way possible.

If you see someone in the water, dial 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard. If you have access to a lifering or something that floats, throw it to them. Please do not enter the water yourself. Too many people drown trying to save others.



**BRIAN NILAND**  
HELM | GALWAY

training at Galway Lifeboat Station. It was Olivia who advised Brian to keep that pocket mask in his car. She says: 'I do put them through their paces and remind them that, on the lifeboat, you never know when you'll need to do it. I was thrilled to hear that the training had helped the guys save a life that day.'

Such an unusual evening calls for one thing: a cup of tea at the lifeboat station. When Mike and Brian arrived, the crew had restocked all their kit and were sitting together with a brew, wondering what had become of that person in the water they'd been paged for. Our two first-aiders had a story to tell.

Words: Mairéad Dwane  
Photos: RNLI/Galway

# GIVE IT A GO: BEACHCOMBING

Mermaid's purses, pelican feet, hag stones – would you recognise these on the beach? Beachcomber and RNLI volunteering champion Debbie Corke gives us her tips for coastal finds

'I like nothing better than spending hours on the beach hunting for treasures'



This summer, you'll probably be spending some time by the sea. But sometimes the water's a bit nippy or just not that inviting. Why not give beachcombing a try?

You might be surprised at what you can find when you take a closer look at the beach around you. RNLI Volunteering Development Coordinator Debbie Corke is a keen beachcomber, who turns some of her discoveries into pieces of art. She shares her tips on making the most out of a trip to the seaside.

### How did you get into beachcombing?

I have always lived by the sea and family holidays were spent camping near the beach in Devon, Cornwall and Wales. I like nothing better than spending hours on the beach hunting for treasures, particularly when the waves are high and the beaches are deserted.

### What should you be looking out for?

Anything that catches your eye. I look for shells, particularly cowries, ever since my mum taught us how precious they were. Pelican feet shells are also very special. And look out for shark eggcases, often known as mermaid's purses – you can help conservation researchers by identifying and logging your finds with the Shark Trust's Great Eggcase Hunt (see [sharktrust.org](http://sharktrust.org)).

Stones with holes have always been considered lucky in our family and around the country there are various stories about them – in some areas they are called hag stones. They make great wind chimes strung up in the trees in the garden. I also collect string, rope, discarded pieces of fishing net – anything that can be woven into a tapestry. It's also a good way to

give something back, cleaning up the beach and protecting wildlife!

### Where are the best places to beachcomb?

There are treasures to be found everywhere. Each beach is different and if you visit at different times of the year, you will find different things. It's a great way to get the family out and about in the fresh air and enjoy the scenery.

There are some fabulous groups on Facebook where you can photograph and post your finds – particularly great if you're not sure what your treasure actually is! I meet many people on the beach who stop and want to chat about beachcombing, so it's a very sociable hobby.

### What safety advice do you have?

Make sure that you check the tides of the beaches you are exploring – it's easy to walk further than you first thought and get cut off by the tide, when your gaze is pinned on the ground. Also check local signage on the beach, which will show any hazards or danger areas.

### Preserving our sealife

Our beaches and rock pools are home to a variety of interesting wildlife, so I'm careful not to disturb or remove any living creatures. Only take home open shells like limpets or razor clams where you can see from the outside that someone's not at home! Be sensible about the finds you keep, and always respect the wishes of the beach owner. See [mcsuk.org](http://mcsuk.org) for more advice.

Words: James Dwyer

Photos: Shutterstock, Anna Burn

## THREE THINGS TO SPOT ON THE BEACH

- 1 Mermaid's purses – these peculiar, beautiful little capsules are the eggcases for several species of shark.
- 2 Cowrie shells – once found on the back of sea snails, cowrie shells come in a variety of shapes and designs.
- 3 Cuttlefish bones – often spotted in budgie cages, these internal shells are used to help cuttlefish stay buoyant.



# Friends of the RNLI

These corporate partners offer discounts to you and fundraising benefits for our charity



## Amazon

The RNLI receives at least 5% of your order value only via [RNLI.org/amazon](http://RNLI.org/amazon).

## Furness Building Society

This mutual has launched an affinity savings account with the RNLI. Please go to [furnessbs.co.uk/community/affinity-accounts](http://furnessbs.co.uk/community/affinity-accounts).



## Coastal Spring

Look out for the Coastal Spring range of Cornish bottled water in your local shops, bars and restaurants. 1p per bottle will go to the RNLI.



## Giveacar

Giveacar is a not-for-profit social enterprise that can turn your old car into cash for the RNLI. They will arrange free collection, then either sell your car at auction or scrap it with 70% of all recycling or auction revenue being paid in support of the RNLI. To find out more call 020 7736 4242 or email [support@giveacar.co.uk](mailto:support@giveacar.co.uk).

## Puzzle time

### Quick Wordsearch:

Can you find all the items lifeguards use to keep you – and themselves – safe at the beach?

W E G R N T G V O D N F S S E	BINOCULARS
D I A Y C N A Y O U B I R A C	BUOYANCY AID
T E Y A F E Z V F C Q R A W I	FIRST AID KIT
W P X B D D L B J B K S L L V	FLAGS
R E S C U E B O A R D T U Y Z	HELMET
E E T F H U M M K S Y A C S Z	QUAD BIKE
O B T S T Q F I E N N I O J G	RADIO
Q R U U U L U S X O F D N I C	RESCUE BOARD
H S U T A I S S V E Z K I V O	RESCUE TUBE
E F J G E A T K Z O J I B H R	SUNGLASSES
L O S R L U O I D A R T W S O	WETSUIT
M P M G X X C Q U A D B I K E	
E U N O F V D S Q A Q B S G M	
T U Y B K V V X E S R H S W T	
S U N V Y A O X I R O G Z U A	



## Word Ladder

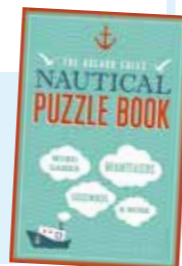
A long day's sailing – get from dawn to dusk by changing only one letter at a time.

DAWN \_\_\_\_\_ DUSK



*Dawn, Dark, Bark, Dark, Dunk*

From *The Adlard Coles Nautical Puzzle Book* published by Bloomsbury and reproduced with their kind permission.



# REMEMBERED ALWAYS



Grief can affect us all in different ways. One way people find comfort is by creating an online space to honour their loved one's life.

A Forever by the Sea tribute fund allows you to collect and share treasured memories, stories and photographs. You can share it with friends and family and mark special days by lighting a virtual candle. And you can also use it to raise money for our lifesaving work through donations or fundraising events.

When 15 year-old Nick Stamp tragically lost his life in 2003 his family and friends chose to remember him this way. Since 2013 Nick's friends have run the Reading Half Marathon every year for Nick's tribute fund, choosing a different theme each time. They've raced as the Cool Runnings Jamaican Bobsled team, Lego men and this year as Mario Kart characters.

So far, an incredible £8,803 has been raised – a lasting tribute to a friend they'll remember fondly as: 'inspirational, caring and kind-hearted'.

[RNLI.org/ForeverByTheSea](http://RNLI.org/ForeverByTheSea) or call us on +44 (0)1202 336421.

# SQUAD GOALS



This summer, the RNLI has made a perfect match with the GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) – Ireland's biggest sporting body. Both organisations rely on the commitment and dedication of community volunteers, and there are plenty of local links already, as we found out in one parish in west Cork

'Communication is huge ... Supporting each other ... Working together ... Training and practising.' Donal, Billy, Conor, Ciarán and Evin are not just discussing what helps them save lives as part of Courtmacsherry Harbour lifeboat crew. These are also the things that help them win matches with Barryroe GAA Club.

The lifeboat station and the GAA club are central to life in this coastal community – and in towns and villages all around Ireland. And now the relationship between the RNLI and the GAA has been made official, with the sporting organisation getting behind the Respect the Water campaign. People are excited about this partnership, both on the big stage (see page 34) and at a local level.

'It's a brilliant idea,' says Billy O'Donovan, chartered accountant, Barryroe goalkeeper and former lifeboat crew member. 'When you think about it, there's such a connection. And if you want to get any message across in Ireland, the GAA is a great place to start.'



## Highs and lows

Lifeboat Press Officer Vincent O'Donovan is Billy's dad. He was on the crew himself for more than 27 years, while playing and coaching with Barryroe.

'About 14 years ago we pulled a single sailor off his yacht in the worst weather I've ever seen. We got the greatest pasting we ever had in our life, and we only had one chance to lift him off. So to know we saved his life, that was a highlight of my time on the crew.'

'But we don't just think of the high points. We think of the low ones. There have been a few terrible nights that stick in our minds, that we'll never forget.'

## 'It's about more than boats and sports'

Brian O'Dwyer, Lifeboat Operations Manager

'I have no doubt that campaigns like Respect the Water can prevent some of these tragedies. It's the absolute priority that people know more about the dangers of water, and that they get that knowledge at a younger age.'

## Spreading the word

Angela Veldman, the station's education presenter, takes that mission to schools and youth clubs around the area, and is excited about reaching more young people through the GAA.

'We'll be getting to older children, and we'll be going inland as well, which is brilliant. A lot of children by the coast know about the sea, but rivers are deadly dangerous and we really need to get that message across.'

Crew Member and Marine Engineering Student Evin O'Sullivan, also a club player, agrees: 'Every kid here grows up hearing the warnings, but some inland don't. And the GAA is in every nook and cranny on the island of Ireland. You won't find a patch that's not associated with some club.'

## The lifeboat comes first

Lifeboat Operations Manager Brian O'Dwyer sums it up: 'You can get involved with boats without being part of the community, and you can get involved in sport without being part of the community. But both the GAA and the RNLI are more about community than specifically sports and boats.'

Above (left to right): Courtmacsherry Harbour Lifeboat Operations Manager Brian O'Dwyer, Education Presenter Angela Veldman and Press Officer Vincent O'Donovan

Opposite (left to right): Crew Members and Club Players Ciarán Hurley and Conor Tyndall



The next generation: RNLI volunteers' children and grandchildren are ready to take the field (and probably join the lifeboat crew when they're old enough)

So are there any downsides to the two organisations being so closely linked?

'It was always expected that once you were on the lifeboat crew you could vanish any time,' Vincent says. 'And for the coach the biggest problem was: "Will there be a bloody lifeboat call now before the big match?" Because the lads would be gone. The lifeboat always came first.

And the young fellas today are the exact same.'

Speaking of young fellas, Conor Tyndall, at 18, is Courtmacsherry's youngest crew member, and a Barryroe club star in the making.

'My first call was late at night so I got the next morning off school, and I did get out of doing my homework! It was to a trawler with dirty diesel and we escorted it in to Kinsale.



## PAT LAWTON

**ASSISTANT MECHANIC** | COURTMACSHERRY HARBOUR  
**REFEREE** | BARRYROE GAA

'It was 24 May 2007. I was refereeing a match and I had my pager in my pocket. I informed the mentors from the two clubs that if my pager went off I would have to leave. And three-quarters of the way through, it did. When I got to the pier I was running to the lifeboat in my referee's uniform. Dan had my lifejacket and my wellies and all my RNLI gear on the boat. The call was to two divers who hadn't surfaced off the Old Head of Kinsale but they were okay and we were stood down after about 45 minutes. It was the day of the general election so when we got to the pier to refuel, rather than taking off my lifeboat gear and my referee gear, I took off to the polling booth. They were surprised to see me. I gave my vote with 5 minutes to spare.'



'The GAA keeps you fit, and you'd want to be fit to be on the crew. And all the lads help the young crew out when we're learning.'

Lifeboat Press Officer and former Crew Member Vincent agrees: 'You do have to be pretty fit. But what the lads also learn at the club is discipline, being a team player, not getting too excited. And respect for the referee, the captain and the coach, which is much like respect for the coxswain, who's the boss at sea.'

### Adrenaline and pride

'The proudest memories you can have,' says Billy, 'are winning matches with your friends, and saving lives with your friends. It's a similar feeling, but there's more adrenaline when you're called out with the lifeboat, and that's as it should be when someone might be in danger.'

His clubmate and crewmate Donal O'Dwyer (Dan's son) adds: 'There's more of a sense of urgency. For Billy anyway because he's especially lazy on the field, so the fastest you'll ever see him run is when the pager goes off!'

With that, the crewmates and clubmates are off to their Thursday training session at Barryroe pitch. There's a big championship match on Sunday. And the coaches are hoping for a quiet Saturday night off the coast of west Cork.

Words: Mairéad Dwane

Photos: RNLI/Nathan Williams



**DAN O'DWYER**  
**FORMER COXSUAIN** |  
**COURTMACSHERRY HARBOUR**  
**COACH** | BARRYROE GAA

Former Teacher Dan O'Dwyer was involved with the lifeboat station for 31 years, including 9 years as coxswain and, according to Vincent, 'probably the best hurler Barryroe ever had'. He has several GAA medals, including an All-Ireland with Cork minor hurlers from 1971. In 1998 he earned the RNLI's Bronze Medal for Gallantry for his part in rescuing three people from the ketch *Supertaff*. 'It was in the middle of the night, in bad weather with 70mph winds. And we felt it all right, that we had done well that night. You'd be proud of your achievements on the field as well, but in a different way.'

**See how *Lifeboat* magazine reported the rescue at RNLI.org/CourtmacMedal.**

### About the GAA

The Gaelic Athletic Association (Cumann Lúthchleas Gael) was founded in 1884 to revive and promote traditional Irish sports and pastimes, such as Gaelic football and hurling. Today, there are more than 2,200 local clubs across both the Republic and Northern Ireland, promoting these sports, Irish culture, and health and wellbeing in our communities.

Even at the highest level, the players are still amateurs. The biggest matches of the year, the All-Ireland football and hurling finals, sell out the 82,000-seater Croke Park in Dublin as skilled players fight for the pride of their counties.

The current All-Ireland champions are Dublin (football), Tipperary (hurling), Cork (ladies' football) and Kilkenny (camogie, which is women's hurling).

# SAVING LIVES AT TEA FISH SUPPER 2017

FUNDRAISING SUPPERS THIS AUTUMN

13-15 OCTOBER

Last October, thousands of RNLI supporters shared hearty meals to honour the brave crew who miss dinners and special moments with loved ones to save lives at sea. People like Trearddur Bay Plumber and volunteer Helm Daf Griffiths, who was called away from carving the family turkey one Christmas to rescue a fisherman.

This October, more RNLI supporters will answer our rescue call by hosting a fundraising Fish Supper.

We've seen everything from gourmet dinner parties to fun family picnics, fish fingers to foraged seaweeds and even veggie options. Whatever the flavour, foodie fundraisers make Fish Supper their own.

Every penny raised will help us protect our courageous crew and the families who love them.

To be one of the first to hear more about Fish Supper 2017, register your interest at [RNLI.org/FishSupper2017](http://RNLI.org/FishSupper2017)



THE RNLI  
FISH SUPPER



## Unsung heroes Peter Baker

A Brixham RNLI Shop volunteer tells us what it's like to be a part of the RNLI family

### How are you involved with the RNLI?

I volunteer here in the Brixham RNLI Shop 3 hours a week.

### How did you first come to know about the RNLI?

I used to go fishing out of Minehead and some of the crew there fished as well – they're not always out saving lives. I'm also crew on the *Vigilance*, a heritage sailing ketch. We have done several exciting rescue exercises with the lifeboat.

### How is it, living somewhere the RNLI is so prominent?

It's rewarding. I've lived in different places and I can't imagine how coastal communities in other parts of the world get by without the RNLI. I do miss the maroon rockets though, which used to tell us all when the crew were going out.

### What piece of safety advice stands out to you?

Always use a lifejacket and clip on with the lifeline. You really never know when you might end up overboard. These things happen quickly and, even a mile offshore, how will you survive and how will they find you?

### What's it like volunteering in the shop?

You have to keep a sense of humour and leave people with a laugh. We have all kinds of funny requests. One man came in and asked if we sold crabs. I said that actually we did. I took a toy crab from the shelf, wound it up and set it scuttling across the shop floor!

### What does volunteering for the RNLI mean to you?

It means the world to give back. Once when we were out on a crabber picking up pots that had been left out in bad weather, the tangled line got caught in the propeller. The local lifeboat was there in a matter of minutes.

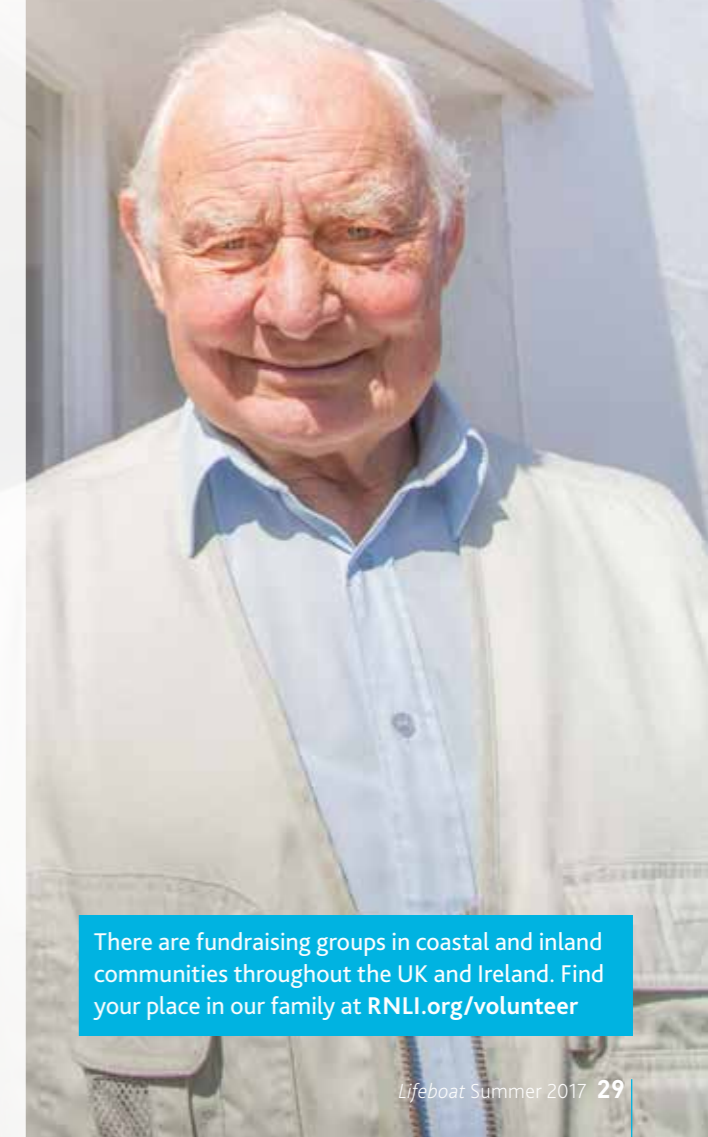
### What are the most popular items in the shop?

The lapel badges. And the puzzles – when the fishermen can't go out in the winter they sit in the pub and play them!

### And finally: what's your favourite sea creature?

Seals, they are so agile. I wish I could swim like them.

Interview and photo: Anna Burn



There are fundraising groups in coastal and inland communities throughout the UK and Ireland. Find your place in our family at [RNLI.org/volunteer](http://RNLI.org/volunteer)

# BACK FROM THE BRINK

In 1850, a dynamic new secretary arrived at the RNLI who, with the help of his colleagues, took a floundering, failing organisation to the thriving and innovative RNLI we know today. Meet Richard Lewis – an unsung hero

The year is 1849. Just a quarter of a century after its founding by Sir William Hillary, the RNLI (then the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck) is on the brink of collapse.

It has made no public appeal since 1841 and its finances have declined alarmingly. Its lifeboats are literally rotting away with only around a dozen deemed to be seaworthy. Yet the loss of life from shipwreck is rising at a terrifying rate. As if things can't get any worse, in December the South Shields lifeboat capsizes while going to the aid of a stricken ship, with the loss of 20 men.

The institution's ageing leadership seems to be unable to summon the energy and vision to turn the organisation around.

## A fresh approach

All this was to change, however, with the arrival of a dynamic new secretary in 1850, a 28-year-old Welshman named Richard Lewis. Together with a new President, the Duke of Northumberland, a new Committee of Management and a new Inspector of Lifeboats, Captain (later Vice Admiral) John Ross Ward RN, Lewis orchestrated an almost unbelievable

transformation in the RNLI's fortunes over the next 3 decades.

They pursued a three-pronged strategy that resonates with the modern-day RNLI's priorities:

- Firstly, they focused on building the lifeboat fleet, expanding the rescue service around the coast and making the safety of its volunteer crews a top priority.
- Secondly, they realised that rescue efforts alone would not stem the loss of life around the coast and that prevention and education could play a vital role.
- Thirdly, they recognised the role that publicity could play. They used publicity not only to spread safety education and drowning prevention messages but also to raise awareness of the RNLI's lifesaving work. This would raise funds and grow its supporter base, which in turn would sustain its rescue and prevention work for generations to come.

## Building a world-class rescue service

With the loss of 20 men from the 24-strong crew of the South Shields lifeboat when it capsized in December 1849, the safety of volunteers was uppermost in the minds of the new leadership of the RNLI.

## Who was Richard Lewis?

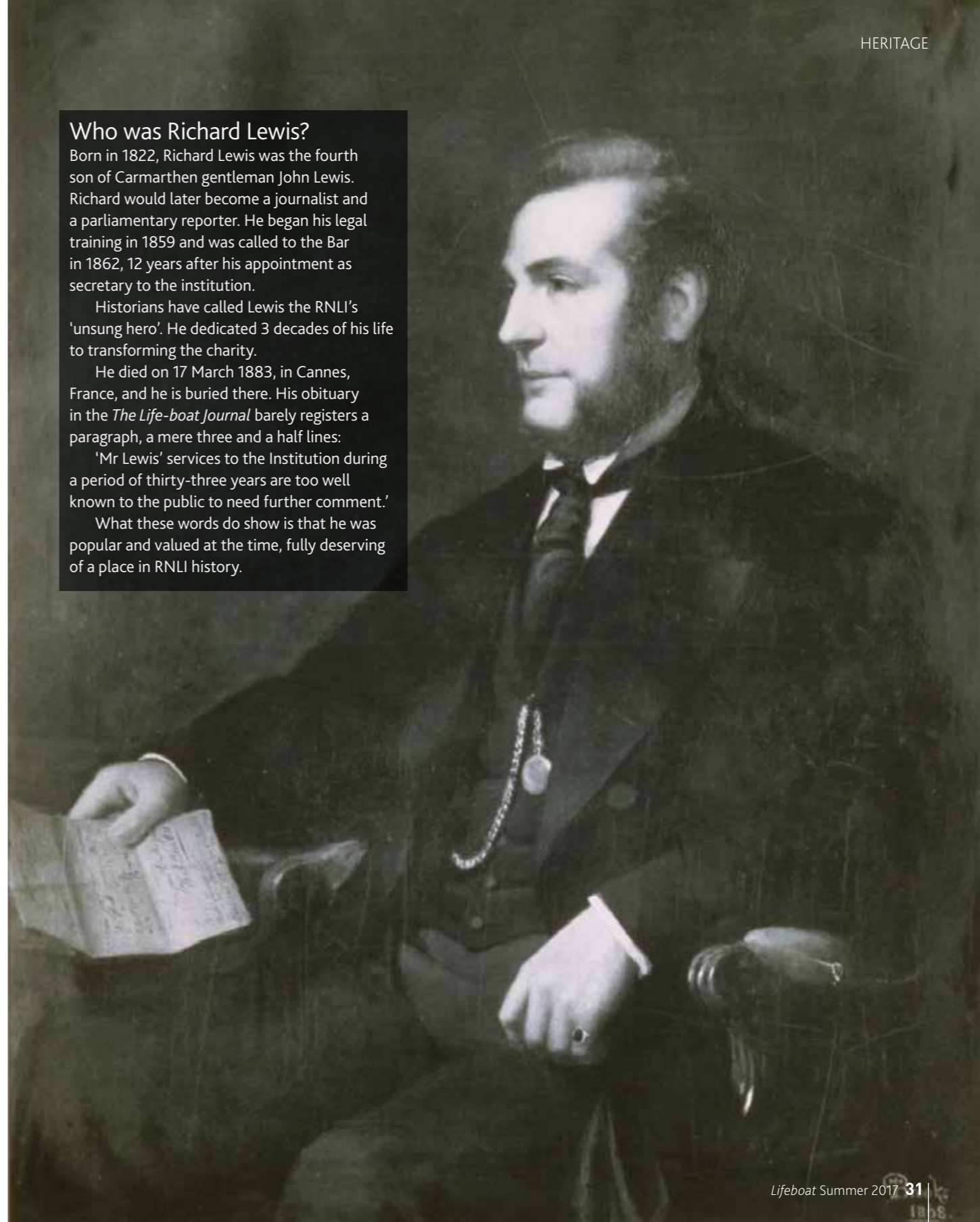
Born in 1822, Richard Lewis was the fourth son of Carmarthen gentleman John Lewis. Richard would later become a journalist and a parliamentary reporter. He began his legal training in 1859 and was called to the Bar in 1862, 12 years after his appointment as secretary to the institution.

Historians have called Lewis the RNLI's 'unsung hero'. He dedicated 3 decades of his life to transforming the charity.

He died on 17 March 1883, in Cannes, France, and he is buried there. His obituary in the *The Life-boat Journal* barely registers a paragraph, a mere three and a half lines:

'Mr Lewis' services to the Institution during a period of thirty-three years are too well known to the public to need further comment.'

What these words do show is that he was popular and valued at the time, fully deserving of a place in RNLI history.







Boathandling exercises in rough weather: St Ives crew in 1886 and Lowestoft crew in 2017



While they had ambitions to extend the ring of safety around our coasts with a massive increase in the number of lifeboat stations, they knew that they had a moral duty to ensure the safety of their volunteer crews.

The introduction of cork lifejackets designed by the innovative Captain Ward for volunteer crews is well known, as is the development of the self-righting lifeboat in the 1850s.

Other changes are less well known but have played a part in laying the foundations of the modern RNLI and ensuring the capability of its volunteers and lifeboats to save lives. Lewis and his colleagues started paying a retainer to coxswains and introduced a regime of regular inspections of lifeboats to help ensure that lifeboats were kept in good repair and ready for launch. They also required station volunteers to exercise each quarter, preferably in rough seas.

#### Saving more lives through prevention and education

We tend to think that the RNLI's focus on the role of education through campaigns such as

Respect the Water is a recent development. But Lewis and his colleagues also recognised that lives could be saved by preventing ships and their crews getting into trouble in the first place:

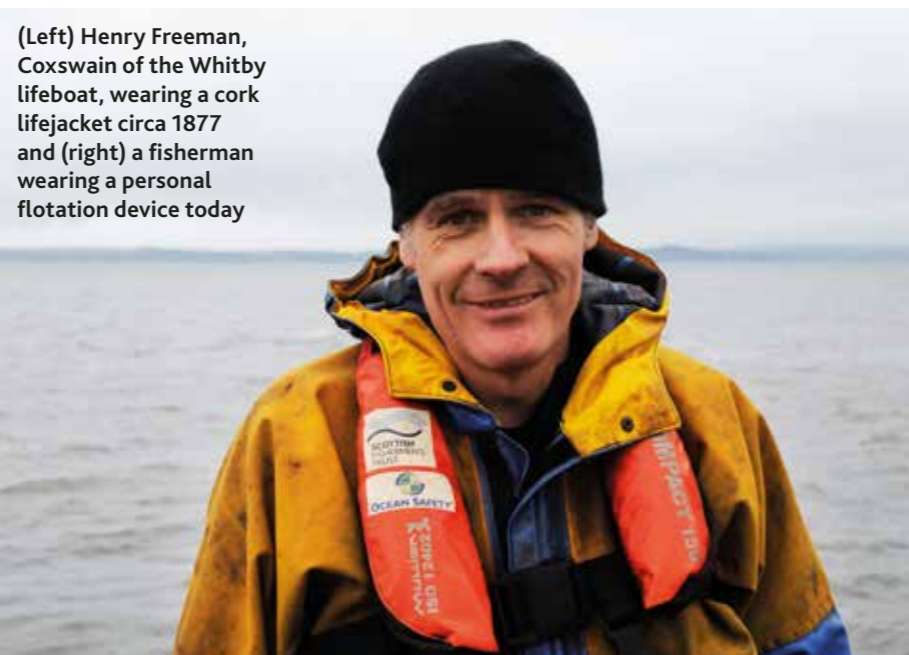
**Barometers:** The institution promoted the use of barometers to monitor air pressure and forecast the possibility of storms. Barometers displayed at lifeboat stations fostered, in Lewis's words, 'a more prudent spirit' among boatmen and fishermen.

**Lifejackets for all:** Following the success of Captain Ward's cork lifejacket for lifeboat crews, most notably in saving the life of Henry Freeman when the Whitby lifeboat capsized in 1861, the RNLI made available a version at a low price for merchant ships. The recent initiative between the RNLI and fishing industry partners to distribute personal flotation devices to fishermen echoes this earlier scheme.

**First aid:** In 1863–4, the RNLI tasked leading medical and science experts to identify how



(Left) Henry Freeman, Coxswain of the Whitby lifeboat, wearing a cork lifejacket circa 1877 and (right) a fisherman wearing a personal flotation device today



best to deal with casualties who had been pulled from the water. These instructions subsequently became known as the *Restoration of the apparently drowned*, and were given to coxswains. While a parallel may be drawn with the casualty care cards issued to modern-day lifeboat crews, it is fair to say that the approach to resuscitation has changed somewhat.

#### Raising awareness, raising funds

As a former journalist and parliamentary reporter, Richard Lewis was well aware of the power of publicity. In the preface to his book on the history of the RNLI, Lewis noted that:

'It is difficult to over-estimate the immense assistance rendered to this Institution by the press during the last twenty-five years. Some most thrilling and instructive articles have appeared in all classes of publications and newspapers on its great work, which threw a sunlight on its renewed labours, and which attracted the attention of the public, although at first slowly, yet surely.'

Lewis was a regular correspondent to newspapers, from the *Cork Examiner* to the

*London Daily News*. He made appeals for funds, announced the deployment of new lifeboats and promoted the work of the institution and acts of gallantry.

*The Life-boat Journal*, today's *Lifeboat* magazine, was launched in 1852 and Richard Lewis quickly became its editor, with Captain Ward providing technical expertise and insights.

The journal had diverse content, ranging from accounts of rescues and gallantry around the coast to articles on nautical matters and meteorology by renowned experts such as Vice Admiral Robert Fitzroy. Occasionally it even contained poems and songs on a lifeboat theme.

This is the 620th issue of the *Lifeboat* magazine and while the format has changed, the courage of our crews and the vision of people like Richard Lewis remain.

Words: Sam Jones

Photos: Stephen Duncombe, Frank Meadow Sutcliffe, RNLI/Nigel Millard

Painting: Thomas Brooks (1868)

## LEWIS'S LEGACY

Richard Lewis and his colleagues not only succeeded in turning around the fortunes of the RNLI, but they shaped it into the amazing organisation we know today.

The figures tell the story of this transformation over 3 decades between 1850 and 1883:



In 1849–50, the RNLI's income was just over £354. By 1883, it had risen to over £40,000.



In 1850, there were 96 lifeboats under the institution's management but barely a dozen were serviceable. At the time of Richard Lewis's death, there were 274 lifeboats in service, ready to be launched at a moment's notice with trained crews.



Despite its challenges, the RNLI still managed to save 470 lives in 1850. This had risen to 955 souls by 1883.

# The RNLI and me: Lyndsey Davey

Dublin footballer and three times All-Star Lyndsey Davey explains why our Respect the Water drowning prevention campaign is so important to her



## WHO IS LYNDSEY DAVEY?

Lyndsey Davey is one of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association's leading players. She's a forward for the Dublin Senior Ladies Team and winner of three prestigious All-Star awards. When she's not playing football, she's a firefighter with the Dublin Airport Fire and Rescue Service.

## How did you get into Gaelic football?

I joined a nursery camp at my local GAA club, Skerries Harps, when I was around 4 or 5. I just kept going up through the groups and progressed enough to make the Senior Team when I was 14. I play for Dublin in the annual All-Ireland Senior Football Championship – it's the biggest competition in the sport. We train an awful lot but it's a privilege to play for your county, which makes it easier to make the commitment.

## What do you love about your sport?

The communities it creates. I've made so many good friends over the years. I think the friendship and the bonds created between people are very special and something that will always be there.

## You've been an All-Star three times – congratulations! What does that title mean?

At the end of the year there's an All-Star awards ceremony. The judges nominate three of the best players in each of the 15 positions and on the night one player from each position wins an All-Star, making an All-Star team of the year. It's a real honour to win one.

## What advice would you give to young women interested in following a similar sport or career?

Just go for it. Don't let anyone hold you back or try to change your mind. If you have a passion that you want to pursue, just go for it. Otherwise later in life you could regret it.

## The GAA are supporting the RNLI's Respect the Water campaign this year (see p24).

### What do you think of the partnership?

I think it's going to be a brilliant partnership. It's one volunteer group working with another. With clubs all over Ireland, the GAA has a ready-made network of communities, which makes spreading the word about water safety and sea survival techniques so much easier. Even if we help save one life, it will have been worthwhile.

## Why did you want to get involved?

My great uncle Michael Hayes was the skipper of the fishing trawler *Tit Bonhomme* that sank off Glandore Harbour in 2012. Five of the six crew members lost their lives, and Michael was one of them.

The search and rescue efforts were relentless – no one gave up. The local community pulled together too. In such tragic circumstances, to have closure and funerals for loved ones was a massive thing. It's something that the families will be eternally grateful for.

Two local fishermen, Ronan and David, also lost their lives in Skerries in 2011 when their boat capsized. So to have such a tragedy locally in my community and then in my family, these are the two major reasons why I wanted to get involved. I want to give something back and raise awareness of the dangers of the sea. In doing so I hope we can save any family the pain of losing a loved one through drowning.

Interview: Vicki Lovegrove-Fray  
Photo: RNLI/Nathan Williams

## MY FAVOURITE ...

### GAA spectator sport?

I love watching hurling. It's such a skilful, fast-paced game. It's amazing to watch.

### Coastal area?

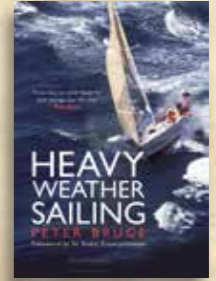
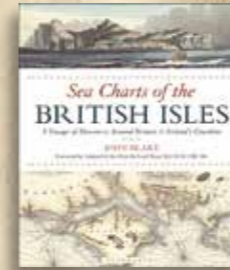
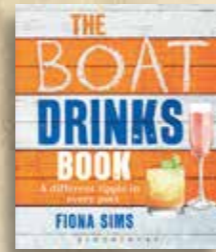
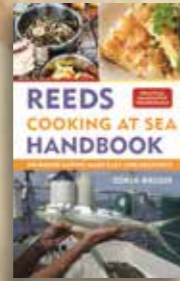
I live in Skerries so am right beside the sea. In the summer I spend a lot of time either kayaking or swimming. After a tough training session the Dublin team heads to the Forty Foot at Dun Laoghaire (a popular swimming spot) for a bit of recovery.

### Way to relax?

If I'm not swimming in the sea I'm probably taking my dog, Holly, for a walk. We've a few really nice beaches in Skerries.

# Something to read onboard

Books for a summer's day on deck



## For the young explorer

***Seashore* (part of the *Nature Explorers* series)**

A lovely book for readers aged from about 6 to 8 years, who will find answers to pressing questions like 'what causes tides?' and 'what are those little hopping things in the sand?' It teaches responsible exploration of the seashore with lots of beautiful illustrations and easy-to-understand language. It's ideal for families planning a summer holiday by the beach.

Published by Dorling Kindersley  
ISBN 9780241282533  
Price (hardback): £6.99

## For the chef

***Reeds Cooking at Sea Handbook***  
by Sonja Brodie

A handy little companion to your boat's kitchen, containing such titbits as how to kill and gut a fish, what vegetables keep well on long trips, and the art of storing salt without it clumping. It's a mix of sensible, general catering advice and rather more specific tips for the longer-term sea voyager ('flying fish are fresh food that delivers itself to your deck ... treat them like winged sardines'). There are even a few recipes in there. Thoughtfully, it's a very small, lightweight volume, leaving room for other galley essentials.

Published by Bloomsbury  
ISBN 9781472927798  
Price: £8.99

## For the quaffer

***The Boat Drinks Book – A Different Tipple in Every Port***  
by Fiona Sims

As well as suggesting fabulous port-side bars and pubs worldwide, this unusual drinking companion gets in on the making too. Local tipples and produce inspired by each region provide some excellent treats for the end of a hard day at sea. This writer's personal highlight probably has to be the Mexican Paloma (tequila, pink grapefruit, lime and happiness), but there's plenty for the discerning connoisseur to choose from, including alcohol-free cocktails.

Of course, we don't recommend drinking alcohol when in charge of any vessel.

Published by Bloomsbury  
ISBN 9781472930651  
Price: £16.99

## For the traveller

***Sea Charts of the British Isles – A Voyage of Discovery Around Britain & Ireland's Coastline***

by John Blake  
With a foreword by Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce

Travelling the ports, harbours, dockyards, naval bases and beaches that fringe these isles, this hardback shows off a beautiful collection of charts. It also contains interesting details on maritime history, and the story of charting and surveying. The great names in British chart-making are all included – people like Captain Greenville Collins, Professor Murdoch Mackenzie, Graeme Spence and William Bligh – and it contains previously unseen resources from such archives as the National Maritime Museum and the UK Hydrographic Office.

Published by Adlard Coles Nautical  
ISBN 9781472944900  
Price: £18.99

## For the lifeboat historian

***Lyme Regis, The Mumbles, and Penlee Lifeboat Station history books***

by Richard Horobin, Kate Jones, and Rachael Campey

The last three in our series of lifeboat station history books, all are authored by volunteers – experts in the history of their local RNLI, with their own interests and writing styles.

Richard Horobin is Lyme Regis RNLI's press officer, and a former newspaper journalist. At The Mumbles, former teacher, librarian and local government officer Kate volunteers in many different roles for her station. Penlee author Rachael has a background in regional and national newspapers, and currently works as a freelance writer in York.

At the time of press, the Penlee book is due to be published on 21 July, while the remaining books are already available from local retailers. Please call the local RNLI shops directly for their opening hours and stock availability (Lyme Regis 01297 445426; The Mumbles 01792 362228; Penlee 01736 351695).

## For the seafarer

***Heavy Weather Sailing***  
– 7th edition

by Peter Bruce  
Reviewed by RNLI Chief Executive Paul Boissier

I first encountered this book as a university undergraduate who dreamed of going to sea. Now on its 7th edition, it has lost none of its magic. Nor has it lost its authority.

With sections on every aspect of heavy weather seamanship from boat design to voyage preparations, from anchoring in a heavy blow to helming techniques, it is an absolute must for anyone contemplating a serious sea voyage. As someone who has weathered a few unforgiving storms myself, I found the section of personal experiences to be especially interesting.

This is a book written by experts and edited well. I would strongly recommend it to anyone who finds themselves irresistibly drawn, as I was, towards the sea, and it should be on every offshore yacht sailor's list of must-read books.

Published by Bloomsbury  
ISBN 9781472923196  
Price (hardback): £35

Buy these books online via [RNLI.org/amazon](http://RNLI.org/amazon) and Amazon will donate a minimum of 5% of the value to the RNLI.

Recommended retail prices may vary from the time of writing. Post and packaging costs may apply to books ordered online.

# SPECIAL DELIVERY

Some heartwarming feedback on the last issue, plus top photos from supporters in the RNLI's first photo challenge, #RNLI MyCoast ...

## THE RAPID RESPONSE

Story of the Staithes volunteer crew rescuing two teenagers struck a chord with supporters

Great work – I lost a couple of friends in the Penlee disaster several years ago so always admire and support the fabulous work done by the RNLI crews and supporters.

**Bill Warren**

Proud to support you guys. Always respect the water ...

**Marco Raimondo**

I served in R.N. [Royal Navy] and have first class memories of how cruel the sea can be. You must respect the sea and its dangers. I hold the RNLI in my highest regards. Good luck to you all.

**Mike Corrigan**



## ALDEBURGH ACORNS

Our writer uncovers new information on an old story:

Supporter Pam Young wrote in after reading the moving account of the seven Aldeburgh volunteers who lost their lives responding to distress signals off the coast. Pam wanted to know if any casualties had survived from the stricken ship. Writer Vicki Lovegrove-Fray responds:

I've discovered that the crew of the ship that ran aground on Shipwash Sands on 7 December 1899 were indeed rescued by the crew of the Harwich steam lifeboat. An entry in *The Life-boat Journal* notes that Harwich rescued eight men and a dog from a sunk light vessel. Tragically, as observed in a Board of Trade report on the disaster, the Aldeburgh crew would never have launched if they'd known Harwich were on their way.



## MY COAST WINNERS

Here are the six winning images from more than 1,200 entries for our Instagram challenge. Thank you to everyone who joined in – see more photos by searching #RNLI MyCoast online.



Play: @mrs\_ktip with her daughter playing on a Devon beach



Food and drink: @walsh\_mairead snapped tasty mussels



Animals: @nuvisionsphotography with his flying dog



Friends and family: @monkeynuts5 splashed at Wells-next-the-Sea



Sea and sky: @JakeGiffordPhoto at Hemmick Beach, Cornwall.



Black and white: timeless Whitstable by @glassonion68

## Write to us

Were you moved by a rescue story? Do you want to know more about something you've read? We love hearing your thoughts and ideas. Get in touch using the contact details at the bottom of page 2

Share your stories at [twitter.com/RNLI](https://twitter.com/RNLI)



Connect with us on [facebook.com/RNLI](https://facebook.com/RNLI)



# RNLI FAMILY: THE LIFE OF THE CHARITY

Celebrating the RNLI family, past and present

## Tenth anniversary couple return to where it all started – the RNLI college



Lifeboat couple Wil and Sian Stockford are celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary by returning to the RNLI College – the place they first met, while they were on a crew training course together.

A decade after marrying, the couple have two children (both Storm Force members). Wil still volunteers as crew for Aberdovey station, where he's also the mechanic, and Sian, although not crew any more, still supports in many ways.

Wil remembers: 'On the training course, we were split into teams of three and Sian and I were in the same group. I remember Sian was competent and confident with the boat. We supported each other on the course and found we made a good team and complemented each other well. Although we did get a bit competitive with the exams at the end: Sian got 100% and I got 98% – I've never lived it down!'

Lifeboat volunteering runs in both families. Sian and her mum were the first mother and daughter crew on an inshore lifeboat and, in 1971, Wil's father John was the first inshore lifeboat crew member to receive an RNLI Silver Medal for Gallantry.

## Memorial boat hall officially named

Family, friends and members of the Portishead lifeboat community have gathered to honour the late Barbara (Babs) Palmer, who passed away at the age of 92 in January 2016, by naming the new lifeboat station boat hall in her memory.

Barbara was one of the biggest local supporters of the station (adopted by the RNLI in 2015), donating funds to help buy a lifeboat in 2003 and leaving more to the station in her Will. The new Barbara Palmer Boat Hall features a commemorative plaque to thank her.

Chairman Mike Roberts says of the new hall: 'It looks out across the sea that she loved so much.'



Barbara with Portishead volunteers at the retirement of the lifeboat she donated

Words: Laura Rainbow and Philly Byrde. Photos: RNLI/(Jennifer Clough, Helen Lazenby, Rhyl)

## Obituaries – celebrating life and remembering our friends

### Three stalwarts remembered at Rhyl The Rhyl RNLI family bade sad farewells to three longstanding volunteers earlier this year

**Ray Coltman** passed away in January. He had served as mechanic on the lifeboat at Rhyl since 1977, and became lifeboat operations manager when he retired from the crew in 2003. At 70 he reached the retirement age for station managers, but continued as boathouse manager, a role he would maintain for the rest of his life.

Rhyl Coxswain/Mechanic Martin Jones says: 'I am forever indebted to Ray for teaching me the ropes and guiding me to eventually take over his role as mechanic on the lifeboat.'



**Gerald Hughes** gave 6 decades of service to the RNLI before he died in February. Gerald had been crew, bowman and second coxswain in his time. He took a great interest in the station and its crew, having been probably the last crew member on station to have served in a pulling and sailing lifeboat.

On top of his work as a fisherman, Gerald had built up a vast store of photos and memorabilia about Rhyl Lifeboat Station.

He could always be seen with his pencil and notebook, either referring to past events or jotting something new down.

**Captain Peter Jackson**, a deputy launching authority (DLA) at the lifeboat station, passed away in April. Peter joined the Merchant Navy as an officer cadet at 16 and continued working and volunteering in the maritime industry for 48 years. He joined the RNLI after retiring, and in this volunteer role he authorised the launch of Rhyl's lifeboats when requested by the Coastguard.

Martin Jones remembers: 'Peter was a font of maritime knowledge and was always happy to share it with the crew. He could usually be found at the station lookout with a cup of tea, sharing stories with his fellow DLAs and retired crew members. He will be sorely missed by everyone at Rhyl RNLI.'



**Diane Lamberton – January 2017**  
Fundraising Chair of RNLI Whitstable

**Dudley Penrose – January 2017**  
Former Head Launcher at Penlee Lifeboat Station

**Binkie Wallen – January 2017**  
Former Box Secretary, former Chair of the Ladies' Guild, shop volunteer and President of the Fundraising Branch at RNLI Penlee

**Valerie Easton – February 2017**  
Chair and former Souvenir Secretary at Sutton-on-Sea and Trusthorpe Lifeboat Guild

**Bryan Ralph – February 2017**  
Former Chair of West Bromwich and Wednesbury Branch

**Cyril Alcock – March 2017**  
Former Mechanic at Plymouth Lifeboat Station

**Ralph Amey – March 2017**  
Former Mechanic at Cromer Lifeboat Station

**David Raggett – March 2017**  
Former Divisional General Manager – North

**Katrina Barry – May 2017**  
Laminating Assistant Team Leader at the All-weather Lifeboat Centre, Poole

**John Stanley Power – May 2017**  
Honorary Life President, former Crew Member and Bowman at Dunmore East Lifeboat Station

**Dara Fitzpatrick – March 2017**  
Captain, Irish Coast Guard

**Mark Duffy – March 2017**  
Captain, Irish Coast Guard

**Paul Ormsby – March 2017**  
Winchman, Irish Coast Guard

**Ciarán Smith – March 2017**  
Winchman, Irish Coast Guard

(At the time of going to press, Paul and Ciarán were sadly still missing – see News p4. However we wish to acknowledge them alongside their colleagues here.)



# IDENTICAL TWINS, DIFFERENT STATIONS

Twins Winni and Daisy Jarvis volunteer as lifeboat crew members on the River Thames in London and in the Cornish town of St Ives

## What inspired you to don a yellow drysuit and hop onboard an RNLI lifeboat?

Winni says: 'Being brought up on the coast of East Sussex, we originally joined the lifeboat crew in our home town of Rye where our Dad, Will, is a crew member at the local lifeboat station. Dad taught us how to sail when we were only 10 years old.'

'We'd hear the loud beep from Dad's pager go off at two or three in the morning. But he'd be gone so quickly out of the door that we wouldn't even get the chance to wish him good luck on the shout he'd be running to.'

Now the twins have their own pagers to respond to, and their own lives to live.

## Twin instinct

Winni and Daisy both left home on the same weekend – Winni for St Ives and Daisy for London. Daisy says: 'Moving from home and away from Winni wasn't easy. But when I walked in to my new lifeboat station at St Ives and met the crew there, I instantly felt at home and had a cup of tea with my new RNLI family.'

'Although we're miles apart, it never feels like we are too far away from each other because we're always chatting on

the phone and are there for each other all the time.'

Winni adds: 'Working on the River Thames, the nature of shouts I now get is varied. One minute you could be dealing with someone having an epileptic fit on a leisure boat, and the next a suicide attempt. It's sad, but it's part of the job and we just get on with it.'

## What's next?

'I will always want to be close enough to a station so that I can continue saving lives,' Winni says. 'My aim is to become a London fire fighter and Daisy is interested in becoming a paramedic. I think it's in our blood to help others and if we can make even just a small difference in the world, then we're happy.'

Words: Sophie Collier-Nielsen

Photos: RNLI/Nathan Williams, Jarvis family



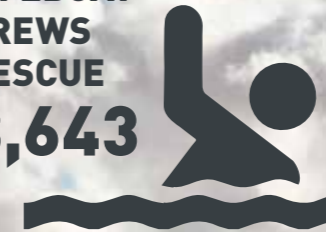
# LIFESAVING BY NUMBERS

Our Lifeboat Lottery is back, powering our lifesavers as it has done for over 40 years



LIVES SAVED

LIFEBOAT CREWS RESCUE 8,643



20,538

AIDED BY LIFEGUARDS



## SPRING 2017 LOTTERY RESULTS

Congratulations to Mrs BO Archbold, who won our first prize of £5,000 cash.

### OUR OTHER WINNERS WERE:

**2ND PRIZE: £2,000**

Mr J Andrew

**3RD PRIZE: £500**

Mrs H Pattington

**4TH PRIZE: £250**

Dr J Secker

**AND 5 PRIZES OF £100 EACH**

Mr M Mills

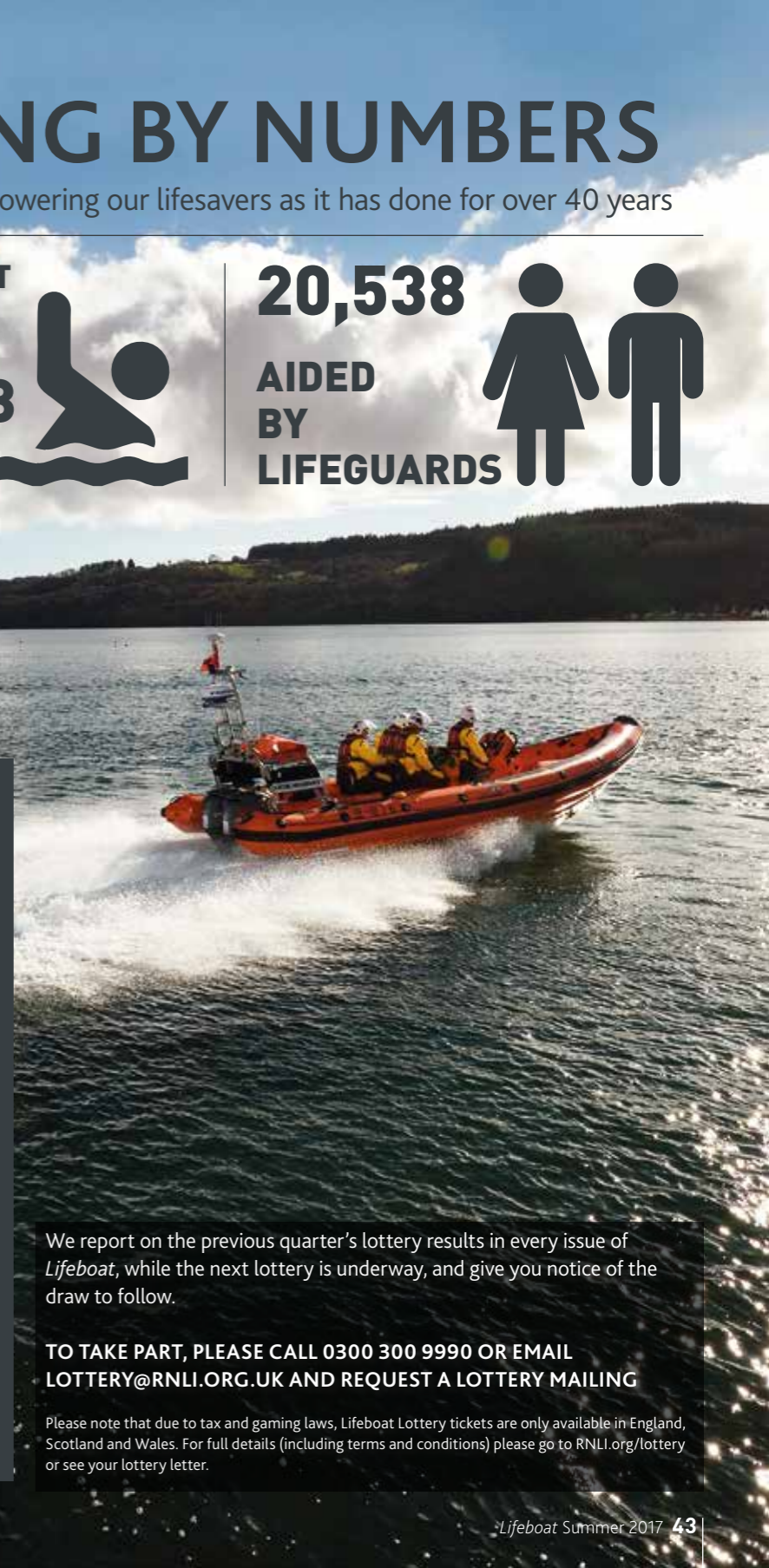
Mrs S Dimmock

Mrs J Wright

Ms BJ Ringrose

Mrs J Bumstead

We'll report the winners of the Summer Lifeboat Lottery in our Autumn 2017 issue. The Autumn Lifeboat Lottery will mail on 21 July 2017. The closing date is 15 September 2017 and the draw date is 29 September 2017.



We report on the previous quarter's lottery results in every issue of *Lifeboat*, while the next lottery is underway, and give you notice of the draw to follow.

**TO TAKE PART, PLEASE CALL 0300 300 9990 OR EMAIL LOTTERY@RNLI.ORG.UK AND REQUEST A LOTTERY MAILING**

Please note that due to tax and gaming laws, Lifeboat Lottery tickets are only available in England, Scotland and Wales. For full details (including terms and conditions) please go to [RNLI.org/lottery](http://RNLI.org/lottery) or see your lottery letter.



# SWIM SAFE IS BACK FOR 2017

**Swimming outdoors is more challenging than swimming in a pool. This summer, in over 20 locations, Swim Safe teaches children how to be safe.**

As the weather hots up and you plan trips to the beach or lake with your family, we want to make sure children know how to keep themselves safer in the water.

This summer, Swim Safe offers free outdoor swimming and water safety sessions for children aged 7-14 at over 20 locations across the UK and Ireland.

Created by the RNLI and Swim England in 2013, the hour-long sessions are run by lifeguards and qualified teachers supported by trained volunteers.

In a fun and safe environment, children will learn how to choose safe places to swim, what effect colder water has on their bodies, and what to do if they get into trouble in the water.

**Find your nearest session and book a place at [SwimSafe.org.uk](http://SwimSafe.org.uk)**

