

LIFEBOAT



THE RNLI IS THE
CHARITY THAT
SAVES LIVES AT SEA

ISSUE 622 | WINTER 2017-18



BRINGING THEM HOME

What really happens in a long tow?

PLUS:

RESCUE

Kayaker in the water

**WINTER
WONDERS**

Get to know the night sky

Welcome

It's always difficult to choose which rescues to feature in *Lifeboat* magazine. With an average of 23 people rescued a day, there's a lot of courage and determination to choose from

A person in the water. Fishermen in a liferaft, having watched their trawler sink. We all know what makes a good headline. But there's one kind of call out that all too often gets skipped over – the humble tow.

On page 24, we look into the seamanship skills and quick decision making needed to tow someone home. And it's a lot more complicated than our volunteers make it look. Especially in high winter seas, strong winds and darkness.

These dark January nights are perfect for getting to know the stars – a useful means of navigation at sea in times gone by, and a source of awe for

today's nature lovers and science fans. Get inspired on page 22.

Speaking of which, Graham Campbell, Second Mechanic at Kirkwall, was doing some relief cover in Aith, Shetland, our most northerly station, when the aurora borealis put on a show (pictured).

Just another reminder this winter of the phenomenal power of nature, which our lifesavers take on every day – thanks in no small part to your support.

M Dwane

Mairéad Dwane
@mazzadi

Photo: RNLI/Graham Campbell

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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 the 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.



Lifeboats

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News

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



INTERNATIONAL HEROES

The RNLI's Future Leaders in Lifesaving programme has picked up a prestigious HERO Award from the International Maritime Rescue Federation (IMRF).

Future Leaders in Lifesaving is the only course of its kind. It is designed and delivered by the RNLI in order to train and develop lifesavers in countries where drowning is a major cause of death.

The course equips participants with skills to take back to their home countries – everything from hands-on rescue techniques to planning training programmes, from media skills to strategies for building sustainable lifesaving services.

RNLI International Programmes Manager Darren Williams says: 'Our 2016 course was tailored specifically for new and developing SAR organisations. Candidates came together to develop their skills and knowledge, and most importantly

share their experiences with each other. It is this sharing of knowledge that makes this course so special, and I would like to thank all the delegates who truly make this event so valuable.'

Find out more about how we're working with partners around the world at RNLI.org/international.



20 years since Gold Medal service



November 2017 marked the 20-year anniversary of a remarkable rescue, which resulted in the most recent Gold Medal to be awarded to an RNLI crew member.

The story is one of heroism and tragedy. On 19 November 1997, Lerwick lifeboat crew were called to help the crew of the 3,000-tonne cargo vessel *Green Lily* off the Shetland coast. In force 11 winds and 13m waves, Coxswain Hewitt Clark steered the lifeboat perilously alongside.

RNLI volunteers saved 5 lives that day, while coastguard helicopter *Lima Charlie* rescued *Green Lily's* remaining 10 crew. But Coastguard Winchman Bill Deacon was washed overboard and lost before the ship broke apart on the rocky coastline.

Winchman Deacon's sacrifice was honoured with a posthumous Thanks on Vellum, also awarded jointly to the coastguard crew. The Lerwick lifeboat crew received Bronze Medals for Gallantry, with Coxswain Clark receiving the Gold Medal.

AGM: Resolution passed

The RNLI AGM 2017 was held on Wednesday 13 September at the All-weather Lifeboat Centre in Poole, Dorset.

A special resolution to amend our charity's bye-laws was passed. The main changes were:

- to reduce the number of governors required for a valid vote from 100 to 50, in line with other charities of a similar size
- to formalise the holding of satellite meetings in other locations, to give more governors a chance to be involved in important RNLI decisions.

If you were not able to attend, you can see a video of the meeting at RNLI.org/AGM2017.

Words: Mairéad Dwane, Mark Scott

Photos: Pierre Maelzer Photography, Suzanne Nichol, RNLI/(Nigel Millard, Nathan Williams), Sportsfile

Thanking our volunteers

More than 250 RNLI volunteers have been honoured in four local ceremonies – for Excellence in Volunteering and for Long Service.

The ceremonies took place in Belfast, Leeds, London and Wicklow.

Excellence in Volunteering is a new category of RNLI award, designed to recognise those who go above and beyond in their roles, whether as outstanding ambassadors or as unsung heroes quietly doing what needs to be done to help save lives at sea.

We also recognised long-serving operational volunteers for their loyalty, dedication and service – in some cases for 50 years.

RNLI Chair Stuart Popham told the volunteers and their families in Leeds: 'When you're asked: "Who saves lives at the RNLI?" you can say: "We all do."

'Everyone in the RNLI family knows that – together – we can continue to make a difference to the lives and livelihoods of thousands of others. And with the combined impact of our rescue and prevention work, we will save *more* lives.

'I find it truly humbling to think of the collective years' experience and care that are in this room right now. To every one of you – whether your service has been at sea or ashore – thank you.'



EUROPEAN CREW EXCHANGE

For the fifth year running, RNLI volunteers have taken part in an exchange programme with other members of the International Maritime Rescue Federation.

In September, volunteers from Castletownbere, Clifden, Dover, Larne, Morecambe, Walmer and Weymouth flew out to France, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Norway and Sweden.

Meanwhile, we hosted visiting lifeboat crews from the first five of those countries, alongside teams from Denmark and Estonia.

Across 6 days, our visitors were immersed in RNLI training and culture. Their experiences included capsizing training at the RNLI College, an afloat exercise near the Isle of Wight, and a visit to London's Chiswick Lifeboat Station.

'Thank you to the whole team at the RNLI for the fantastic work you do,' said one visiting crew member. 'I've learned so much on how other search and rescue agencies work. I can't wait to take home new ideas that can help us save more lives on the water.'



Respect the Water in Croke Park

The RNLI's Respect the Water safety campaign reached a whole new audience in Ireland last year, thanks to our partnership with the GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association).

The GAA is Ireland's biggest sporting body and governs traditional Irish sports such as Gaelic football, hurling and camogie.

Well-known players, and grassroots clubs, supported the campaign – culminating in the unfurling of a giant Respect the Water flag on the Croke Park pitch on Sunday 20 August. Almost 70,000 fans were there to witness the All-Ireland football semi-final between Kerry and Mayo.

They also received our main safety message of 2017: Float to Live. The advice here is not to panic if you fall into cold water, but to focus on floating first in order to combat the effects of cold water shock.

Respect the Water will be back this year – and we're looking forward to working with the GAA again to bring vital messages like this one to communities all around Ireland.





Photo: RNLI/Angeal Millard

CHOOSE IT WEAR IT

Welcome to your community news for Scotland. For all the latest rescue and fundraising stories from where you are, head to RNLI.org/NewsCentre



Photo: RNLI/Martin McManera

Anstruther

The Pittenweem Fishermen's Mutual Association receive their new lifejackets

Anstruther Lifeboat Station has supported the Pittenweem Fishermen's Mutual Association in securing funding towards new lifejackets for local fishermen.

A grant from the European Maritime Fisheries Fund provided more than 60% of the costs of lifejackets with integrated personal locator beacons, which can be activated in case of man overboard. The beacon alerts the Coastguard to the incident and its location.

For Anstruther Coxswain Michael Bruce, the cause is close to his heart: 'I was a fisherman for 23 years and have been a lifeboat volunteer for 24 years, so to bring together both in this way and help put in place such high-tech equipment for friends and former colleagues is a huge honour.'



Photo: RNLI/Troon

Troon

Troon fundraisers cheer on drivers in the 2017 Thistle Run

Thistle Run

Every year, the Mini Clan car club organises a Thistle Run to raise money for charity, splitting donations between the lifeboat station at that year's finish line and a charity nominated by one of the members.

The 2017 run went from Calderglen Country Park to Troon and raised an impressive £6,500, to be shared between the RNLI and Macmillan.

Mini Clan members visited Troon Lifeboat Station in September to meet the crew and present the cheque. Troon Lifeboat Operations Manager Dave Shaw says: 'From everyone at Troon Lifeboat Station we would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed so generously to the event.'

FLANNAN ISLES MYSTERY

In the far reaches of the Outer Hebrides, ocean swimmers Ed Smith, Stuart Baird and Colin Macleod undertook a 21-mile open water relay to raise money for the RNLI.

Their journey from the steps of the Flannan Lighthouse to Ardroil Sands in Uig honoured three lighthouse keepers who mysteriously went missing in 1900 – and whose disappearance has never been explained. The swimmers' incredible effort raised £4,019.



Festival fundraising

The annual Stranraer Park Fest is now in its eighth year. Festival goers enjoyed everything from bagpipes and fiddles to electric guitars and mix decks – with both local talent and bands from further afield rocking up to bring the house down.

On the Friday night, Stranraer Crew Member Kyle Anderson's rock, pop and bagpipe band Saltire took to the stage. And, on the Saturday night, chart-topping headline act Toploader went down a storm.

This year, the festival raised a fantastic £6,000. Organiser Mandy Green says: 'We love our little festival. It brings the community together and puts the lifeboat, station and crew right on the map in south west Scotland!'



Stranraer

Photo: Pete Robinson

Paddle power

Tobermory

Intrepid adventurer and RNLI volunteer Nick Ray from Tobermory battled strong winds, heavy rain and difficult sea conditions to complete a 180-mile solo kayak from Oban to Troon last year. Along the way, Nick climbed the island peaks of Ben More on Mull, the Paps on the Isle of Jura and Goat Fell on Arran.

Nick is also a Tobermory RNLI deputy launching authority so he knows all too well how difficult things can get on the water. Upon reaching West Loch Tarbert, conditions around the Mull of Kintyre were too dangerous, so he carried both kayak and camping gear – on foot – for the 19 miles to Loch Fyne.

He has raised more than £2,000 to support Tobermory Lifeboat Station training. Lifeboat Operations Manager Sam Jones says: 'To complete this challenge in relentless rain, strong winds and difficult seas is a real tribute to Nick's commitment, tenacity and sheer grit. We are all hugely grateful for Nick's efforts to support casualty care training for our volunteer crew.'



Photos: Nick Ray



PERFECT PATCHWORK



Photo: Inga Hourston

Papa Westray

Fundraisers in Papa Westray, Orkney, were thrilled with the response to a patchwork quilt featuring marine life and coastal treasures. Made by Papa Westray crafters, the striking quilt fetched an impressive £1,268 from the sale of raffle tickets, which will go towards saving lives at sea.

RESCUE

Our lifeboat crews and lifeguards carry out thousands of rescues every year (see launches on page 34). Here are just some of those caught on camera, and see the list below for more reports:

6 CROYDE | PAGE 10

7 YOUGHAL | PAGE 14

8 DART | PAGE 16

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

Words: Jon Jones

Photos: RNLI/(Nathan Wilmer, Jamie Tyrrell, Dan Holland, Mick Howes, Redcar)



1 A RACE AGAINST TIME **CAMBER SANDS** **3 AUGUST**

Two teenage lifeguards joined the RNLI team patrolling Camber Sands for the first time this year. And when an injured kitesurfer was at the mercy of the fast incoming tide, they called on their casualty care training to save him. The man's kite had spiralled out of control, slamming him into the ground repeatedly and breaking his pelvis. With the tide almost upon him, the lifeguards swiftly evacuated the casualty on a spinal board and worked with paramedics to get him to hospital.



2 STUCK FAST

BARMOUTH | 21 AUGUST

Both lifeboat crews were paged when a yacht broke its moorings and got caught up in Barmouth Bridge. With the vessel wedged fast on the incoming tide, the lifeboat volunteers and Barmouth Coastguard Rescue Team stood by until low water before working to untangle it. The yacht's mast broke around 10pm, which finally released it from the bridge and meant that the inshore RNLI crew could guide it to safety, preventing further damage and potential hazard.



3 THROWN OVERBOARD

KESSECK | 7 JUNE

Kessock lifeboat volunteers joined forces with a Coastguard helicopter when two sailors were thrown from their wooden dinghy in choppy seas. The men had been struggling in the cold water for more than 30 minutes before someone raised the alarm and the lifeboat crew were able to pluck them out. RNLI Helm Stan MacRae says: 'It was obvious they needed further medical attention so we got them winched up to the helicopter and away to hospital as fast as possible.'



4 LATE LEAK

LOWESTOFT | 24 SEPTEMBER

The master of a windfarm crew carrier called for help in the small hours when he noticed water rushing into one of his vessel's engine compartments. When Lowestoft lifeboat crew reached the scene, a volunteer went aboard with a salvage pump and managed to expel most of the water. With one engine still running, the casualty vessel and her five-man crew could limp into Lowestoft under the watchful eye of the RNLI crew. They all safely reached port at 3.30am.



5 NOTORIOUS TRAP

REDCAR | 21 AUGUST

When two siblings got stranded at the base of Huntcliff, a notorious spot for tidal cut off, it didn't take Redcar lifeboat crew long to arrive. A crew member waded ashore and guided the man and woman over rocks to the lifeboat. 'The lady was upset and needed reassurance,' says Lifeboat Operations Manager Dave Cocks. 'All too often, once someone finds themselves cut off ahead, the sea has risen behind them as well so there's nowhere to go.'

LIVES RISKED IN THE RIP

Constantly reading the conditions in sea and sky, lifeguards can prevent many incidents before they even begin. But when a rip current pulled a bodyboarder out to sea, one Devon team proved they were ready to give their all





Low tide, Croyde Beach. 4pm. As the sea retreated, a messy 2m surf was pounding onto the sandbar. Familiar rips had developed at both ends of the beach and were keeping Senior Lifeguard Freddie Hedger and his team busy, patrolling the water and shepherding learner surfers back between the flags.

Noticing a bodyboard float back to shore without its owner, Freddie looked

'The rescue was unorthodox and took a lot of improvisation, using our skills from training'

further out to sea and spotted a surfer and a bodyboarder in serious trouble.

He signalled to Lifeguard Sean Deasy, who made his way to the pair using the rescue watercraft (RWC), closely followed by Freddie on a rescue board.

As Sean arrived, the surfer, who had initially stopped to help the bodyboarder, was clearly struggling and frightened. The bodyboarder – 26-year-old Mary Harkin – was barely conscious. Sean tried to grab her, but on the RWC he couldn't get through the large surf, which was now dumping heavily onto the nearby sandbar.

Freddie arrived soon after and decided to ditch his rescue board to try to get through the surf and get to Mary. By now, she was face down and unconscious. He fought through and got hold of her, lifting her airway clear of the water, and working hard to protect her from the onslaught of waves that were overpowering them both.

Surfer Fraser Gibb, who got himself to shore, reflects: 'It's hard to describe just how grateful I am that he managed to get out there. I was in awe of his swimming ability as the conditions had changed quickly and it was extremely difficult to control myself, let alone keep someone else afloat. If Freddie hadn't swum out there like he did, not giving up until he had her, it would have been a very different story.'

'I was in awe of his swimming ability; the conditions had changed so quickly'

Sean tried three times to pick the pair up, but the driving surf made it very difficult to get them safely onto the RWC's sled. Eventually, Freddie managed to grab a handle, using his other hand to hold Mary's head, and Sean dragged them 10m to slightly

calmer waters until Freddie couldn't hold on any more.

While Sean fought the surf, the pair in the water were dragged under by a wave and disappeared. Sean could only watch, waiting anxiously for them to surface as they were washed around in the turbulent water.

At last Freddie appeared, gasping for air. He dragged Mary up, forcing himself back under the water. Sean brought the RWC round a final time – Freddie managed to get Mary slightly further aboard this time but was so tired he couldn't hold them both on the sled. As they slipped back into the water he signalled to Sean to return to the beach and ready the casualty care kit. He would have to swim Mary to safety.

He started to make headway and got one foot on the sand, where he could at last slowly push for shore. As he finally got to the beach, Sean and fellow Lifeguard Jack Middleton rushed in to help look after Mary.



MARY HARKIN
BODYBOARDER

'They put their lives on the line for me'

'I knew I was in trouble when I spotted a surfer nearby and realised just how far out from the shore I'd been carried out. I can't put into words how much the RNLI mean to me. The team at Croyde are selfless, incredibly brave and highly skilled. Last summer, they put their lives on the line for me and if it wasn't for them I wouldn't be here today. My friends Ingrid, Lisa and I decided to fundraise for the team, cycling over 250 miles to Devon from our homes in London.'

Mary and her friends have raised over £4,000 to show their gratitude. See mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/MaryIngridLisa.



One year on, Freddie Hedger (left) has received the Alison Saunders Lifeguarding Award for the most meritorious rescue by RNLI lifeguards in 2016.

Freddie insisted that Sean receive the award with him, and wanted to acknowledge the teamwork behind him all the way: 'I feel very privileged to be recognised and given the award, but I don't think I'd have been able to do it without the rest of the team there on the day.'

'It was only with Sean's perseverance and assistance with the RWC that I was able to reach the safety of the shore.'

Sean said: 'The rescue was very unorthodox so took a lot of improvisation using the skills we'd gained through our RNLI training. I think I was fortunate to have Freddie with me as he has incredible water skills and was able to think on his feet to save Mary's life.'

Freddie added: 'We know from other rescues that it doesn't always go to plan so the ability to adapt and persevere in the face of danger is vital. Since it happened we have questioned if we could have done anything differently and reflected on what lessons it has taught us, so this year we have adapted our training techniques for certain conditions as necessary.'

To everyone's relief she was breathing, but she was clearly in a bad way. The lifeguards began casualty care and carried Mary to the top of the beach, where paramedics were waiting to give further treatment.

After a night in hospital, Mary was well enough to come back to the beach and thank the people who had saved her life.

A nurse based in London, she was on holiday with her friends and co-workers Ingrid and Lisa in north Devon – a free holiday they had won in a surfing competition.

RNLI Area Lifesaving Manager Phil Hill says: 'The lifeguard team were happy to see Mary and her friends go home safe and well. As nurses, they do an incredible job helping people in their own lives and we have a lot of respect for them.'

Words: Philly Byrde, Phil Hill

Photos: RNLI/(Jade Dyer, Nathan Williams)



BEATING THE ODDS

Reaching for his mobile phone, a kayaker went overboard. Cold and tired, he couldn't get back onboard – or call for help

Lifeboat Helm Patsy O'Mahony was relaxing at home on a Sunday afternoon in February when his phone rang. It was his friend Olan. A man was in the sea with a kayak, struggling to swim back to shore. Patsy immediately alerted the lifeboat operations manager at Youghal Lifeboat Station.

Responding to their pagers, lifeboat volunteers John Griffin, Eddie Hennessy and Martin Morris dropped everything and rushed to the lifeboat station. With Patsy at the helm, they were with the kayaker 4 minutes after launching.

Drifting offshore

'It was only when we got there that I realised how serious things were,' Patsy recalls. 'I estimate he'd fallen in near the harbour entrance and drifted about a mile offshore. He'd been in the water for up to 45 minutes.'

It was a minor miracle the man was still alive. The sea temperature off the Irish coast at this time of year is 9°C – enough for cold water shock to steal

the air from your lungs and leave you helpless. 'I'm a kayaker myself and I know these waters well,' reflects Patsy. 'Without a wetsuit in winter you're unlikely to survive more than a few minutes.'

With the casualty safely onboard, the crew were able to do a proper assessment. 'He wasn't in great shape,' admits Patsy. 'He was showing signs of hypothermia. Our priority was to get him on oxygen and back to the station where we could warm him up.'

'We began first aid, reassured him and made him as comfortable as we could. We hugged him and put a neoprene hood over his head to keep him warm.'

Deteriorating quickly

Other volunteers were getting ready with blankets and a stretcher to carry the casualty 150m from the beach to the boathouse.

Patsy explains: 'Putting the lifeboat back onto the trolley would have tied



The kayaker had b



The c



With the man safely aboard, it's t



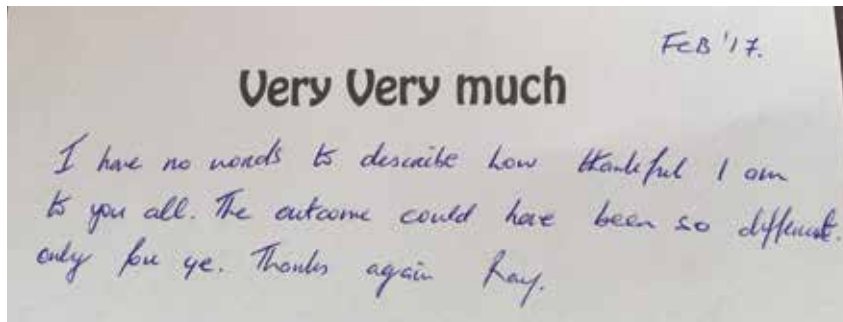
een in the water for 45 minutes



crew haul the kayaker aboard



time to start casualty care



FEB '17.

Very Very much

I have no words to describe how thankful I am to you all. The outcome could have been so different. Only for ye. Thanks again Patsy.

up the shore crew and wasted valuable time. We beached her instead, got her right in, gently, touching her on the stones.

'We stripped the casualty of his clothes, wrapped him in blankets and got him on oxygen. His condition had

Unable to open the hatch because his fingers were so cold, the man had spent the first 15 minutes crying out for help. 'He was quite calm when we got to him,' says Patsy. 'He'd gone into a calm place, given up, accepted his fate.

It took the kayaker – who had been

'I have no words to describe how thankful I am'

deteriorated. He was conscious but he was shaking violently. He seemed to be giving up, you know? He was so relieved to be out of the water, the fight was out of him.'

Although the kayaker had a means of calling for help, it wasn't easy for him to get at it. 'It was a sit-on kayak and he had a mobile phone in one of the hatches,' says Crew Member Eddie Hennessy. 'He reached for it and lost his balance, ending up in the water. He just wasn't able to get himself back on.'

on holiday with his wife – 3 days in hospital to recover. The following week he returned to Youghal to thank his rescuers personally and give them a card (pictured, above).

Words: Robin Westcott | Photos: RNLI/Youghal

Know what to do

Always carry a means of calling for help, and keep it within reach. For more advice, see RNLI.org/kayaking



PATSY O'MAHONY
HELM | YOUGHAL

'In training we try to make our scenarios as realistic as possible. But things are different when you have an actual casualty in the water. You need a level head. You've got to stay calm.

'But the casualty care was where the real lifesaving was done on this rescue. It was a team effort – the whole team was outstanding. When someone comes back alive you realise the importance of what you're doing as a volunteer.'



IN GOOD HANDS

When an experienced boater fell into the River Dart after an evening cruise with his wife and young son, it quickly dawned on him he was in grave danger

For Simon Burton, a leisurely family cruise on 24 June turned into a life-threatening situation in a matter of seconds.

'It was quite windy and the tide was strong,' he recalls. 'We were tying the boat onto the pontoon when the wind blew the boat away. I was holding onto the pontoon and my legs were in the boat. The next minute, I'd dropped into the water.'

His 11-year-old son Finn remembers his dad hitting the water: 'At first we all started laughing and then we realised it was quite serious.'

Moored in an isolated area and unable to pull himself out of the water, it was apparent Simon needed help fast.

His wife called 999 asking for the Coastguard, while their son ran a quarter of a mile to raise the alarm with a passer-by.

On impact, Simon's lifejacket had auto-inflated, but his core temperature was falling and he was in shock.

'You start to think: "Is something going to happen to my heart?" and that is pretty scary,' he says. 'I had been doing some RYA training that morning so I knew physiologically what was



happening to me, but that didn't make it any less scary.'

Finn arrived with help, but one man was not enough to help Simon's wife pull him to safety. It was only when another boater arrived that together they managed to drag him onto the pontoon.

'By that time I had lost complete use and feeling in my arms and legs,' Simon recalls. 'I remember lying on the pontoon shivering uncontrollably, but I was just grateful I was out of the water at that point.'

Meanwhile, Crispin Brabner was enjoying a walk with his dog when his pager sounded. He was first to arrive at Dart Lifeboat Station, with Chris

Rampling leaving his dinner to arrive shortly afterwards, followed by Helm Buster Hart. It was 7.22pm.

'We were told he had been in the water for 15 minutes,' says Buster. As they launched the D class lifeboat, thoughts of cold water shock and hypothermia were at the forefront of their minds. They raced to Blackness Marine on the River Dart, much to Simon's relief.

'I have never been so pleased to see anybody in my whole life,' Simon says. 'To see the guys arrive and put me under their care immediately was such a tremendous relief. And the fact that they arrived in such quick time was just amazing, absolutely amazing.'



SIMON BURTON
BOAT OWNER | DEVON

'I have never been so pleased to see anybody'

'You fall into the river in June and people say: "What do you mean you were cold?" People don't realise how cold UK waters are, even in the summer. I really didn't know what was going to happen to me. I could tell my body temperature had reduced quite considerably. You hear about hypothermia and that it can be extremely dangerous.

'The volunteer crew all have day jobs. Their professionalism and dedication is something I will always admire and be eternally grateful for.'

Chris checked Simon over and warmed him up to protect his body from losing any more heat.

Simon says: 'They immediately put me into a vehicle and dressed me in a thermal suit and rubber helmet. They were checking my vital signs and were incredibly reassuring. Once I was in that position I knew I was in good hands and that I was out of any danger.'

'If he hadn't had a lifejacket on, it could have been very different'

Buster reflects: 'He was pretty lucky. If he had been in the water any longer it could have been a different case. If he hadn't had a lifejacket on, if he hadn't had a phone to call 999, it could have been a very different outcome.'

Simon's experience that day has only deepened his respect for the water.

'I have always been very safety conscious and careful, but the fact is that these sorts of incidents can happen so quickly and unexpectedly. "Be prepared" is my message. Wear a lifejacket, carry the right safety kit and just be totally conscious of how dangerous water can be, even when you are close to the shore.'

Words: Carrie Garrad

Photos: RNLI/Carrie Garrad

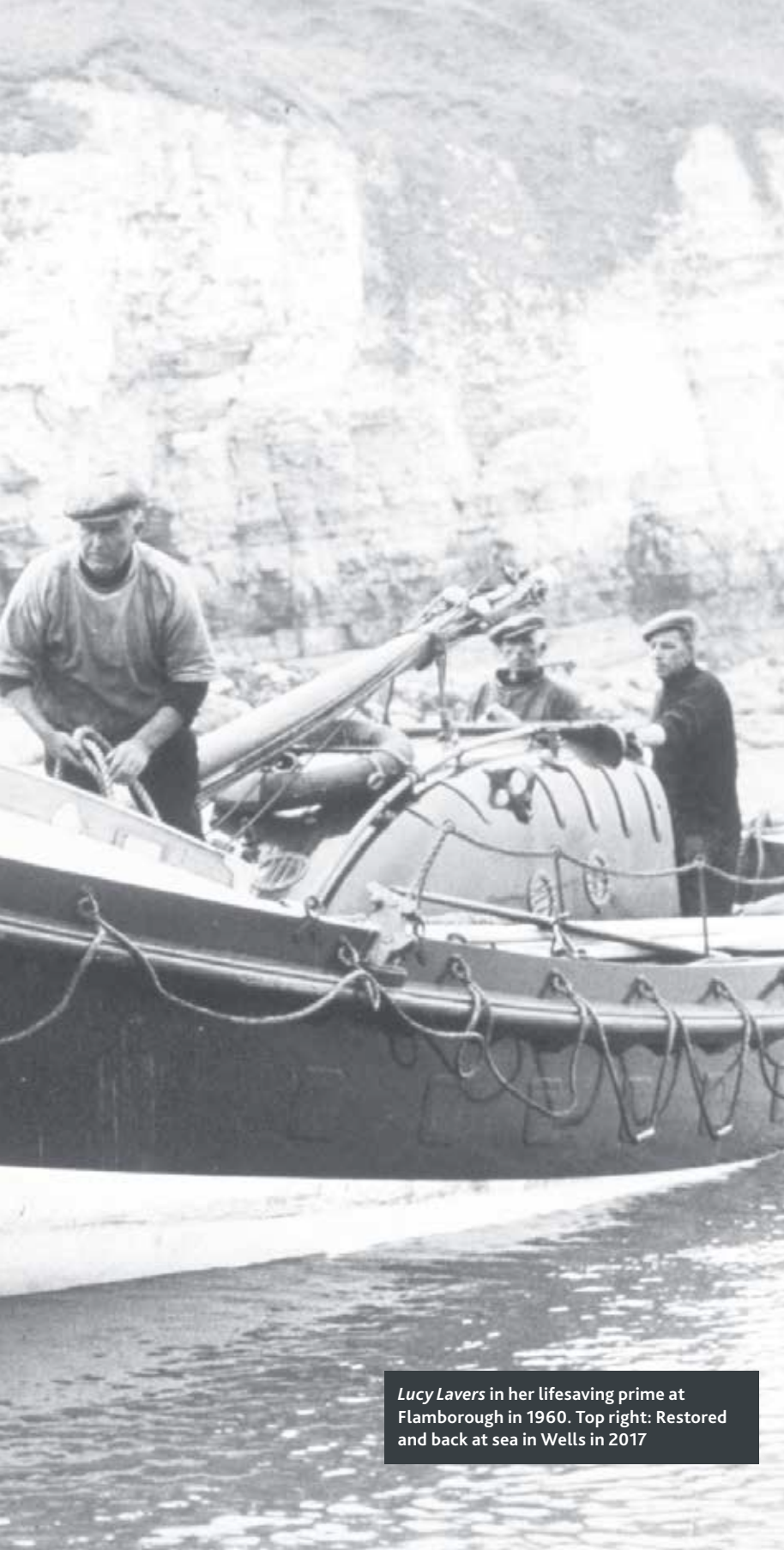
Know what to do

Always wear a lifejacket, even when simply stepping on and off your boat. Simon's lifejacket kept him afloat while help arrived – without it, this could have been a very different story. Find out more: [RNLI.org/boating](https://www.rnli.org/boating).

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

'They were crying out to be saved.' It's the kind of phrase you'll hear from our lifeboat crews after a rescue. But there is another group who share this noble narrative – the lifeboat restorers





Lucy Lavers in her lifesaving prime at Flamborough in 1960. Top right: Restored and back at sea in Wells in 2017



'They're depending on you, they're crying out for your help,' says craftsman David Hewitt, echoing the sentiment of our brave volunteers.

Across the UK and Ireland, people like David and his brother George are putting their hearts and souls into preserving our seafaring history; painstakingly sawing, sanding, polishing and painting until their hands are aching and their eyes are sore. For the lifeboats, it's a salt-tinged breath of new life. For the restorers, it's a ritual of respect.

A hero's journey

The *Lucy Lavers's* introduction to saving lives at sea was about as epic as they come. One of 19 lifeboats that joined the flotilla of Little Ships sent to rescue soldiers from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940, she left Suffolk a greenhorn and returned a hero.

For 28 years she proudly served the communities of Aldeburgh, Bridlington, Hastings, Flamborough, Wells and Rhyl. She saved 44 lives before retiring from duty – becoming a pilot boat and subsequently a dive boat in the Channel Islands. Her incredible history, along with her paintwork, faded through the years. By 1997 she was stripped out, abandoned, and left to be burned, with only a handful of enthusiasts recalling her remarkable story.



'She was always very lucky: it's amazing she survived.'

George Hewitt, Rescue Wooden Boats

That might have been the end of the *Lucy Lavers* if it weren't for the Dunkirk Little Ship Restoration Trust, who saved her from the flames, and David and George Hewitt who had spent years searching for the heroic Liverpool class lifeboat they remembered from childhood.

'She was always very pretty,' David says wistfully. 'And lucky,' adds George. 'It's amazing she survived.'

When Graeme Peart bought the threadbare craft from the Trust for £1 in 2010, he joined forces with the Hewitt Brothers and Wendy Pritchard to form the charity Rescue Wooden Boats. They promised to have *Lucy Lavers* ready to join the next commemorative crossing to Dunkirk in 2015. Restoring the battered little boat would truly be a labour of love; it took more than 3 years to restore her. 'You can spend a couple of days just getting a bolt out!' David says.

True to their word, in 2015 the *Lucy Lavers* made the crossing for the 75th anniversary of Operation Dynamo – looking more beautiful than ever.

The *Lucy Lavers* is a testament to the enduring courage of our volunteer crews. Visit rescuewoodenboats.com to find out more about her heroic journey.

Yesterday's hero

Nestled in a tranquil sea of trees and grass on the shore of Cuan Sound in Argyll, the 115-year-old *Alexandra* has undergone a very different transformation.

A lifetime away from her lifesaving adventures in Hope Cove and Cromer,

June 2010

Lucy Lavers is delivered to the Hewitts' boatyard in Stiffkey

January 2012

Exploratory work begins – corroded centreboard case and rotted bulkheads removed

November 2012

Rescue Wooden Boats is awarded a £99,300 Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the restoration

November 2013

Work begins on the hull, removing rotten planks and steaming new ones into place, bilge keels are repaired, oak stringers and fenders are remade and fitted

February 2014

New galvanised centreboard box and bulkhead frame are fitted

July 2014

A second-hand engine arrives for stripping down and rebuilding, sails are commissioned



Left-Right: The lifeboat *Alexandra* now welcomes guests as a B&B; Work inderway on the *Manchester and Salford* restoration; the *Manchester and Salford's* naming ceremony in 1924

she has been lovingly converted by the Fothergill family into a cosy six-berth B&B. Today, she sits snugly in a little cove, enjoying picturesque views of Luing Island while awaiting her guests.

The *Alexandra's* most notable shout was to the *Sepoy* in 1933. A daring rescue, Cromer's courageous crew, under the command of legendary Coxswain Henry Blogg, drove the lifeboat onto the deck of the stricken vessel, saving the lives of two crew clinging to the mast.

'I grew up with her,' says Michael Fothergill, whose family has owned the boat for over 40 years. 'She's been with us so long, it's hard to imagine her battling wild seas! She's well anchored on dry land now, but on stormy nights,' he says, 'I think she remembers.'

Book a stay on the *Alexandra* at airbnb.co.uk.

My dear Watson

'She was a basket case,' says Mark Raynes of the *Manchester and Salford*, built in 1924. 'She didn't float, she had no engine, the decks, superstructure

and beams had all rotted – an absolute shipwreck.'

In 2000, when Mark found the once proud boat languishing in Deganwy, Wales, friends and family called him a dreamer. And they were right. 'As a teenager, I dreamed of owning a Watson class. It was a fatal attraction from first sight,' he laughs.

Mark's passion was infectious. The family sold their yacht to keep the project afloat and were joined by an army of volunteers from universities and colleges. 'They've volunteered their time and we've taught them valuable – and often dying – skills,' explains Mark.

Once complete, the *Manchester and Salford* will launch her new life by attending events and rallies to raise money for the RNLI. 'We're particularly excited about going to the one in Douglas, as that's where she started.'

Follow her journey at: ex-rnli-lifeboat-ms.weebly.com.

Words: Anna Burn | Photos: *Bridlington Free Press*, Michael Fothergill, RNLI/Jack Lowe

LIFEBOAT SPOTTING

Here are just a few places to find historic lifeboats – some still have working vessels.

The Historic Dockyard, Chatham
thedockyard.co.uk

Longhope Lifeboat Museum, South Walls
longhopelifeboat.org.uk

National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Dun Laoghaire
mariner.ie

East Durham Heritage and Lifeboat Centre, Seaham
eastdurhamheritagegroup.co.uk

National Waterfront Museum, Swansea
museum.wales/swansea

Rescue Wooden Boats Maritime Heritage Centre, Stiffkey
rescuewoodenboats.com

The Hampshire Rose, Ilfracombe
lifeboattrips.co.uk

October 2014
Lucy Lavers gets some blue and red undercoat

December 2014
Work on the new engine canopy begins, final two deck panels are refitted, bronze work is cleaned, additional parts are cast

February 2015
Work on the canopy continues, refitted fuel system is connected and bled out, the wheel is refitted and polished

May 2015
The *Lucy Lavers* is relaunched at East Quay, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk

May 2015
Lucy Lavers returns to Dunkirk for the first time in 75 years

Now
Fully restored, *Lucy Lavers* lives by the quay at Wells-next-the-Sea, giving pre-booked trips



GIVE IT A GO: STARGAZING

When's the last time you looked up at the night sky? RNLI fundraiser and amateur astronomer Simon Perks tells us how we can all wonder at the stars above

View from Charmouth, Dorset, of the Milky Way, rising in the south east



Simon Perks's dad had a cool job at sea. As a boy, Simon was inspired by his father's tales of astro-navigating round the world with the Merchant Navy.

These days, GPS and satellites are the popular choice of navigators, but Simon's dad's stories got him addicted to stargazing. In his spare time, when he's not promoting the RNLi with his Lego lifeboat crew (Twitter: @thelifeboatcrew) or fundraising at Portishead Lifeboat Station, Simon can often be found looking up at the night sky.

He explains the appeal of astronomy: 'It sounds clichéd but it is genuinely wonder. And I love learning about different things, like physics. There's lots we know and lots we don't – that's what fascinates me.'

'It's a very easy hobby to get involved in. You don't need anything to get started.'

If astrophysics and Brian Cox aren't your thing, you can still get a lot out of stargazing. Simon enthuses: 'It's a very easy hobby to get involved in. You don't need anything to get started. The best way to look at a lot of things in the night sky, such as constellations or meteor showers, is with the naked eye.'

Like his dad before him, Simon sometimes uses the stars to navigate, something humans have been doing for thousands of years: 'When out hiking, I use the sky to orient myself – from the Pole Star and various constellations.'

TIPS TO GET STARTED

BE COMFORTABLE: You can get surprisingly cold keeping still for an hour or 2, so wear warm clothes. Use a chair or a sun lounger to keep your neck from hurting. Take a flask and some biscuits.

STAY SAFE: Be careful in the dark! If you're on your own, don't go anywhere too remote. Take friends or join your local astronomical society.

GET THE BEST VIEW: Go somewhere away from light pollution. The coast or a national park are ideal and your local park or the garden will do. Out on the water is a super place to stargaze with the naked eye, but not so good for keeping your binoculars or telescope steady!

TAKE YOUR TIME: Wait for at least an hour after sunset. Give your eyes time to adjust – this can take up to 40 minutes.

HELP IS AT HAND: There are loads of resources and websites to help you get started. Simon recommends *Astronomy Now* or *BBC Sky at Night* magazines, skymaps.com, popastro.com, stellarium.org.

FOR THE GADGET LOVER: You can pick up binoculars for around £50 (go for a pair of 10x50s if you can). A reasonable-sized telescope can cost around £150–200. Get some advice before you buy – members of your local astronomical society will help.

Words: Bethany Hope

YOUR CHALLENGE

This January, on a clear night, why not give stargazing a go? Follow Simon's tips above. How many of these can you spot?

- the constellation Orion
- Sirius, the brightest star in our sky
- a blue moon (on 31 January)
- the constellation Ursa Major, the Great Bear
- the constellations Pegasus and Andromeda – you'll see the Andromeda Galaxy as it was when the light left it 2.5 million years ago
- Polaris, the Pole Star or North Star.

BRINGING THEM HOME

Towing a stricken boat to the safety of port might seem routine but, in often gruelling conditions, it takes great skill and smart decision making. So what's involved in a tow?

First, the crew must decide whether or not they need to tow. They assess the weather, sea state and water depth. They consider the size and condition of the casualty boat and find out how many people are onboard.

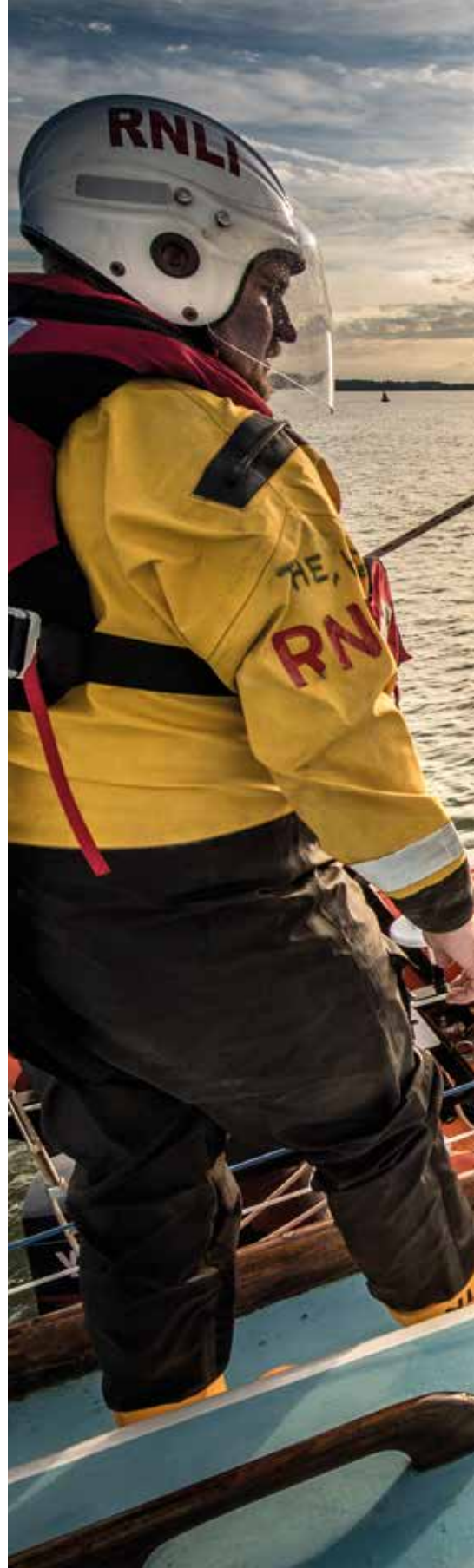
'The easiest way to bring people back to safety is usually on their own boat,' says Swanage Coxswain Dave Turnbull. 'As long as the boat is in good condition – not on fire or sinking – we'll take it in tow to a place of safety. The last thing you'd want to do is tie yourself to a boat that's sinking.'

Setting up the tow

In some cases, the lifeboat can be manoeuvred alongside the casualty boat, so the crew can hand the tow to the people onboard. Otherwise, the tow rope is thrown. Tow ropes are heavy, so a heaving line is often used to help throw the tow rope across. Sometimes, a lifeboat crew member might go onboard the casualty vessel to help.

When the tow rope is secured on the casualty boat, it gets let out to the right length – long enough to allow a dip in the rope. Making sure the length of tow is correct will reduce chafe, snatching and stress on the rope.

Towing can also place a lot of stress on the boat, so the crew need to make sure the deck fittings can take the loads placed on them. If needed, they can use other strong points such as masts and winches.







'In an ideal world, the boat would have something nice and low you could attach to,' says Dave. 'If you're pulling from up on deck it pulls the bow of the boat down. If you imagine towing a car, it'd be like towing from the roof!'

'As long as the boat is in good condition – not on fire or sinking – we'll take it in tow to a place of safety. The last thing you'd want to do is tie yourself to a boat that's sinking.'

In rough weather, the crew will try to tow in step. This is where both boats position themselves on similar parts of different waves, minimising the strain on the tow rope.

Once the tow is underway, the lifeboat crew regularly check the casualty boat for position and signals from the people onboard, and the tow rope for chafing. They may need to adjust so that a fresh part of line comes into contact with the fairlead (a hook to tie the tow rope around). This is called freshening the nip and prevents chafing and breaking.

The tow rope breaking or parting under load isn't just inconvenient – it's dangerous. Recoil could cause serious injury and damage.

Are there different types of tow?

Vessels are usually towed astern of the lifeboat. But sometimes, like when approaching a harbour,

it may be necessary to bring the other boat alongside. Sometimes this can be done in one move but, in difficult conditions, it's usually done in several quick attempts. The crew need to reduce their speed gradually, and take great care not to foul propellers with the tow rope.

A challenging tow

In March last year, Penlee and Sennen Cove lifeboat crews joined forces to assist a 3,600-tonne coaster, *Lady Alida*, in an 11-hour rescue.

The 88m cargo ship had suffered engine failure at 3am. With a strong south-westerly wind blowing, the ship started to drift towards shore with seven crew members onboard.

In darkness and a force 6 wind, Penlee's Severn class lifeboat *Ivan Ellen* and Sennen Cove's Tamar class lifeboat *City of London III* towed the coaster 2 miles out into deeper, safer water. The *Lady Alida* dropped anchor and both lifeboats headed back to Newlyn at 6.20am.

Five minutes later, both crews were having a warming cup of tea in Penlee's boathouse, when they were interrupted by a call from Falmouth Coastguard requesting the relaunch of both lifeboats. The *Lady Alida* was dragging its anchor and drifting towards the shore.

Just after 7am, the lifeboats arrived on scene. The plan was to standby until a tug arrived from Brixham but, 1½ hours later, there was no sign

of the tug. The *Lady Alida* was only 2½ miles from shore and still drifting. So, once again, the Sennen Cove and Penlee lifeboats attached tow ropes and slowly headed seaward for safer waters.

The salvage tug was still struggling in poor weather, so a larger tug was tasked to help. By the time it arrived, the lifeboats had towed the *Lady Alida* over 4 miles. The volunteers were

'In an ideal world, the boat would have something nice and low you could attach to. If you imagine towing a car, it'd be like towing from the roof!'

finally able to stand down – 11 hours after their first launch.

Patch Harvey, Coxswain of the *Ivan Ellen*, says: 'It was an extremely long job, not made easy by the conditions. A fantastic team effort from both of the volunteer lifeboat crews from Penlee and Sennen Cove.'

Words: Nikki McMullen

Photos: RNLI/(Dennis Eddie, Paddy Lee, Nigel Millard), Stephen Duncombe





WHO IS NADIA SAWALHA?

Actor, writer and two-time marathon runner, Nadia Sawalha has appeared in films including *Slave of Dreams* and *Clockwise*, and is a regular face on TV. She is perhaps best known for her roles in soaps such as *Casualty* and *Eastenders*, and on *Loose Women*. She survived several weeks in the *Big Brother* house and is a previous winner of *Celebrity Masterchef*.

'I quickly learned what a remarkable organisation the RNLI is'

The RNLI and me:

Nadia Sawalha

Home cook, columnist and vlogger Nadia Sawalha tells us how seeing a rescue inspired her and Kaye Adams to broadcast live to the nation in support of RNLI Fish Supper

How did you get into cooking?

When I was growing up, my family would eat together around the kitchen table. My dad is Jordanian and he is an amazing storyteller. He would entertain us with stories of his life as a Bedouin. It's how I learned to communicate and it's also how I learned to cook.

Through my dad I have a real love of middle-eastern food – Lebanese mezze especially, and syrupy pastries. With a good mezze – with all the roasted meats, garlic sauces and salads – you can eat for hours!

You served up a delicious spicy seafood tagliatelle for Fish Supper. Where did the idea for the dish come from?

It actually belongs to my sister Dina who, as well as being well travelled, is a fantastic cook – much better than me. She brought the recipe back from Naples, where the custom is to splash vodka into the tomato sauce.

Why did you decide to get behind this year's campaign?

The RNLI had always been there so I'd never really thought about it in any detail. Then, one day, I was approached by two RNLI volunteers on the seafront. They told me all about the RNLI and how they had family on the crew. They were such fabulous young people. I thought: 'Crikey, what a remarkable organisation this is!'

The next day there was a commotion on the quay. People were running, screaming and shouting. A Labrador had gone into the sea after a ball and got caught in the strong current. There was panic. It looked like the dog was going

to die. One guy was taking his top off to jump in. Then the RNLI turned up and said: 'Listen, if you jump in you're going to die.' The crew went in and saved the dog's life, and afterwards everyone started applauding. These people are incredible, risking their lives time after time.

I was really pleased when the RNLI asked me to get involved. I loved the idea of using a dinner party. Volunteers get called out in the middle of dinner, not knowing where they're going or what they'll be faced with.

What dish would you recommend for lifeboat crews?

It would have to be something that would heat up well. I'd recommend a really nice casserole cooked in a slow cooker, or stew and dumplings with potatoes.

What can you tell us about your new book?

The book's called *Disaster Chef* and is due out in the spring. Basically, it's for anyone who can't cook. We all buy beautiful cookbooks, which we rarely use to cook with. People increasingly just want to be able to get meals on the table.

How would you feel if your daughters decided to sign up as crew?

I'd feel enormously proud, but at the same time I'd be petrified. I'd hope I'd be brave enough to accept Maddie and Kiki joining the crew. But I'm ashamed to say that I might try to talk them out of it!

Interview: Robin Westcott

Photo: Mark Adderley

MY FAVOURITE ...

Thing to eat?

Bread. Every single type of bread known to man. For my last supper put me in a room full of bread with a kilo of butter, and I'll be happy.

Coastal spot?

I adore Cornwall. Of all the places I've travelled in the world, Cornwall is my favourite place to be. My mum's family were Cornish and I've always felt a connection with the place. The sea there is so beautiful.

Way to relax?

Without doubt, walking by the sea, around Mudeford in Dorset – the four of us, with our two cockapoos Toffee and Cheeky. I have to force the children to go out, but within 10 minutes they're loving it.

Friends of the RNLI



Central Edinburgh Hotels is offering RNLI members a 15% discount – and a free bottle of prosecco on arrival.

Each of the group's five city-centre hotels has its own design and atmosphere, from the crisp, modern Inn on the Mile to the iconic Scotsman Hotel.

Simply visit centraledinburghhotels.co.uk and enter the promotional code **CE4** when booking to receive your discount (and fizz)!

Terms and conditions: Subject to availability. Promotional code must be entered in the box at time of booking at centraledinburghhotels.co.uk or individual hotels' websites for discount to be applied. This offer cannot be redeemed at check in without prior booking. This code is not valid on third-party websites. Minimum nights' stay restrictions apply.

Photo: Shutterstock

Puzzle time

Quick Wordsearch:

Can you find the following 12 constellations traditionally used for navigation in the northern hemisphere?

G R X U O G C S I R Q E Z A S
 U A G I R U A C L N B R L S E
 V R O R I O N O Y O I I D L T
 D I S K O C Q R R C U M E D O
 V M R A U S F P A Q B O E A O
 J M V G M H D I A U H T V G B
 U F K T O I R U U A C E Y X
 O V F Q B I N S Y U C Z F R W
 E J H F T D W O R C P I K N O
 Y A B Q P M U U R O T N G L O
 C W W T H K S F W S A B T H B
 Z D Z C A N I S M A J O R P P
 S C Y V I M M L H J Q S H C M
 O F I Y S J M Z H X I K O Q T
 J X W F W G R T P H H Y Z M X

- Aquila
- Auriga
- Bootes
- Canis Major
- Gemini
- Leo
- Lyra
- Orion
- Scorpius
- Taurus
- Ursa Minor
- Virgo

NAUTICAL PUZZLES

Word ladder

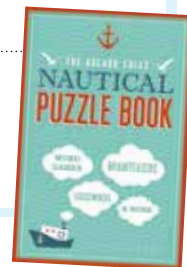
Neither of these should go into the wind – get from boom to spit by changing only one letter at a time.

BOOM _ _ _ SPIT



Answers on page 36

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



MAYDAY 2018



Photo: Mark Bickerdike

DO YOUR BIT

FUND OUR KIT

This May will see the return of Mayday, our big yellow welly-themed fundraising event

An annual celebration of brave lifesavers around our coasts, Mayday brings together supporters across the UK and Ireland to raise money for crew kit. To Adam Whyte, Crew Member at Troon Lifeboat Station, it means a lot: 'I trust the kit I wear with my life. I know I can rely on it should the worst happen.'

Last year, yellow-wellied cycle teams, pipe bands and dance troupes spread the Mayday message far and wide, raising an astounding £607,316 to ensure our volunteers have the kit they need to battle the elements, save lives, and return home safely.

**MAYDAY
1-31 MAY**



**FUNDRAISE
LIFESAVE**

This year our fundraisers have an ambitious £750,000 target. And we hope you can get your yellow on to help them reach it. Whether with a yellow yarn-bombing on the high street, a lemon tart bake-off with friends, or a yellow-themed dress-down day in the office or at school, the rallying cry is to paint the town yellow!

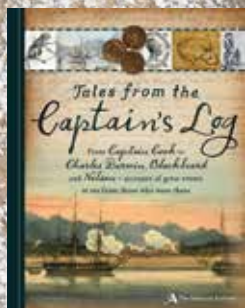
We'll be telling you more about the campaign as it draws closer but for now, get your (yellow) thinking cap on and head over to RNLI.org/mayday to register your interest.

RNLI.org/mayday



NEW YEAR, NEW BOOKS

Gripping tales, hilarious guides and informative histories – start 2018 with a good book



For the historian

Tales from the Captain's Log

By The National Archives

This collection of diary entries, logs and letters from the National Archives paints a vivid picture of life at sea. This book is a treasure trove, providing an enthralling glimpse into some of the greatest events at sea.

There are Captain Cook's notes on the South Pacific and Australia, and logs of naval battles such as Waterloo and Trafalgar. We learn about the ships that thwarted pirates in the Caribbean and the thoughts of naturalists who documented exotic creatures in unknown lands.

Featuring rich illustrations, detailed maps and intricate drawings, this is one of the most fascinating books you'll delve into this year.

Published by Bloomsbury
ISBN 9781472948663
Price (hardback): £25



For the escapist

A Wild Call

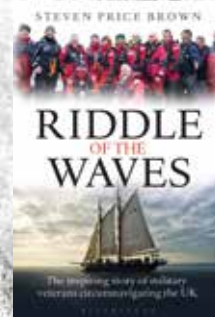
By Martyn Murray

Martyn Murray found modern life suffocating. After years of soul searching, his father's death inspired him to retrace the sailing trips they'd taken together in his youth. He restored an old ketch, dusted off the old logbooks and set off from the coast of Cork.

His goal was to reach St Kilda, 40 miles from the Outer Hebrides. Along the way, he encountered a numbers of new places, interesting characters and testing challenges.

Peppered with photographs from Martyn's adventures, this story of one man's voyage in pursuit of freedom may well leave you planning a similar challenge.

Published by Fernhurst Books
ISBN 9781912177028
Price: £11.99



For those seeking inspiration

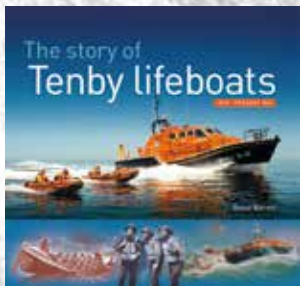
Riddle of the Waves

By Steven Price Brown

In 2016, the *Spirit of Falmouth* took a voyage around the UK. But this was no ordinary journey. The crew was made up of military veterans with one common goal: to move on with their lives. They had all experienced unimaginable trauma while serving their country, but each had found solace and purpose in sailing.

The account of their journey, told by one of the soldiers, is interspersed with the moving stories of the crew members onboard. It's near-impossible to finish this story of pilgrimage and friendship without feeling entirely uplifted.

Published by Bloomsbury
ISBN 9781472945761
Price (hardback): £16.99



For the lifeboat enthusiast

The Story of Tenby Lifeboats

By Trevor Barrett

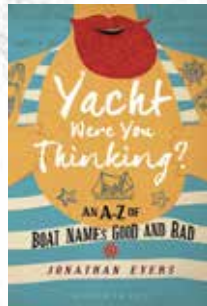
Lifeboat crews have been saving lives in Tenby since 1852, a remarkable history that is lovingly captured in this book. It's a tribute to the volunteers who have served the station and saved more than 900 lives.

Filled with beautiful photographs, fantastic innovations, courageous rescues, well-deserved awards, and quirky stories like the mystery of Gustav the cat, this is one for the lifeboat history fans.

Available from local outlets, including Tenby Lifeboat Station.

Published by the RNLI

Price: £5.95



For the wishful skipper

Yacht Were You Thinking?

By Jonathan Evers

If you're buying a boat, or just dreaming of one, this is an essential read. It makes an attractive addition to your coffee table too!

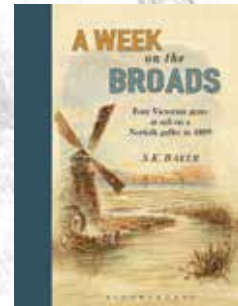
The author takes us through an A to Z of boat names, from truly grimace-inspiring puns like *Seas the Day*, to famous names like *Black Pearl*, to ideas that, frankly, need to be avoided at all costs.

With plenty of psychology, history and humour, this is a truly brilliant guide for those facing the pressure of boat naming.

Published by Bloomsbury

ISBN 9781472944375

Price (hardback): £9.99



For the jolly boater

A Week on the Broads

By SK Baker

We travel back in time to the late 1880s, where four friends have just graduated from university and are spending a week sailing a gaffer on the Norfolk Broads. One of the four, SK Baker, is a keen artist and diarist, who records the gang's adventures in two small, leather-bound books.

Now, over a century later, we take a glimpse into their holiday, through Baker's beautiful watercolour illustrations and charming anecdotes. It's a heart-warming and humorous account that captures the freedom of youth and the beauty of the Broads.

Published by Bloomsbury

ISBN 9781472945136

Price (hardback): £10

Buy these books online via 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.

Words: Nikki McMullen | Photo: Simon Moss Photography

2,906 RNLI RESCUE CRAFT LAUNCHES 1 July–30 September 2017

The launches listed here are those for which returns had been received at RNLI Headquarters and processed by 1 October 2017

Behind every launch, new lifeboat and naming ceremony listed in this section is a community of volunteers, fundraisers and supporters. Whatever you do to keep our crews ready to rescue, **thank you.**



ABERDEEN

ON1248(17-24):Jul16,29,30,31,Aug2,18,Sep13,27

D-694:Jul16,28,30,31,Aug18,Sep14,27

ABERDOVEY

B-896:Jul8,18(x2),27,Aug2,5,11,15,22,27

ABERSOCH

B-886:Jul5,25,26,Aug4,10,19(x2),23,30,Sep1,19

ABERYSTWYTH

B-822:Jul8,9,14,25,29,Aug2,16,21,24,31,Sep17,19,22,25,27

A-78:Jul9,12,14,29,Aug24,Sep19,22

ACHILL ISLAND

ON1240(14-28):Jul4,12,18,19,23,30,Aug15,18,26,Sep10,19,24

ON1204(14-06):Sep19

AITH

ON1260(17-31):Jul21,29,Sep10,26

ALDEBURGH

ON1193(12-34):Jul26,Aug3,5,Sep4,10

ALDERNEY

ON1228(14-24):Jul31,Aug13

ON1199(14-04):Jul12,16,23,Aug4,19,22,Sep2,5

AMBLE

ON1323(13-16):Jul12,13,29,Aug7,20,28

D-736:Jul13,Aug10,19,28,31

ANGLE

ON1291(16-11):Jul5,9,13,24(x2),28,Aug7(x2),9(x2),17,18,21,26,Sep1(x2),13,19,26

D-776:Jul9,16

D-705:Jul25,Aug7

ANSTRUTHER

ON1174(12-17):Jul24,29,Aug10,21,Sep2,8,16,17,28

D-802:Jul27,29,Sep8,16,17,28

APPLEDORE

ON1296(16-16):Aug20,21(x2),23,Sep3,4

D-650:Jul3,4,9,Aug25,Sep16,20

B-889:Jul24,Aug5,15,17,21(x2),28,Sep3,20,23

B-861:Jul3,9,Sep8

ARAN ISLANDS

ON1217(17-06):Jul7,8(x2),16,25,29(x2),Aug6,Sep29

ARBROATH

ON1194(12-35):Jul1,16(x2),Aug8,12,13,15,17,Sep16,30

D-759:Jul1,16(x2),18,Aug8,12,13,15,17,Sep16

ARKLOW

ON1223(14-19):Jul23,Aug5,11,13,17

ARRANMORE

ON1278(17-45):Jul30,Aug7

ON1244(17-22):Jul8,9,13,20,22(x2),Aug15(x2),18,22,31,Sep19

BB-015:Jul8

BALLYCOTTON

ON1233(14-25):Jul22(x2),26,Aug5,9,17

BALLYGLASS

ON1235(17-15):Sep25

BALTIMORE

ON1302(16-22):Jul5,7

ON1280(16-01):Jul25,28(x2),Aug3(x2),6,8,9,15,17,Sep2

B-780:Jul9,12,14,23,30,Aug14

BANGOR

B-805:Jul15,18,22,23,24,27,Aug3,11,28,Sep14,16,17,22,27

BARMOUTH

ON1185(12-26):Aug21

D-678:Jul1,9,13,Aug21,23

BARRA ISLAND

ON1230(17-12):Jul5,14,29

BB-553:Jul29

BARROW

ON1288(16-08):Jul7,Aug9,Sep16

D-733:Jul23,Aug9,12

BARRY DOCK

ON1245(14-29):Jul5(x2),6,7,16,17

ON1226(14-22):Jul24,28,Aug1,5,6,16(x2),23,25(x2),27(x2),28,Sep9

D-638:Jul7,17,28,Aug6,23,27

BEAUMARIS

B-838:Jul2(x2),5,6,9,23,26,Aug2,5(x2),6(x3),22,25,28,Sep2,7,22,23(x2)

BEMBRIDGE

ON1297(16-17):Sep8,11,30

ON1286(16-06):Jul1(x2),5,14,15(x2),17,23,Aug19(x2),23,26(x3)

D-778:Jul1,7,13,28,Aug26,27,Sep2

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED

ON1191(12-32):Jul22,Aug10,18

BLACKPOOL

D-732:Aug5,22,24,26,28,Sep3

D-729:Jul5,15,18,19,Aug5,22,24,26,28,Sep3

B-867:Jul15,19,Aug5

BLYTH

D-809:Sep18

B-776:Jul19,21,Sep10,18

BORTH

D-760:Jul19,22,25,Aug11,22(x3)

BRIDLINGTON

ON1169(12-12):Jul20,Sep20

D-721:Jul2(x3),5,Aug5,Sep8,20

BRIGHTON

B-852:Jul1,2,4,6,11,15,17,24,26,Aug3(x2),4,5(x2),11,25,26,28,29,Sep2,11,24,25,30

BROUGHTY FERRY

ON1252(14-31):Jul5,15,16,17,Aug3,17,19,28,Sep5,22,23

D-740:Jul5,24,Aug3,12,13,17,19,20,28,Sep5(x2)

D-698:Jul15,16,17,Sep19,22,23,26

BUCKIE

ON1268(17-37):Jul31,Aug2,3,8,30,Sep23

BUDE

D-756:Jul25,29,Aug4,8,12,16,21,Sep22

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

B-849:Jul13,18,Aug15,20

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

D-801:Jul9,Aug2,27

B-795:Jul9,24,Aug2,16(x2),27

BURRY PORT

D-749:Jul5,7,14,18,23,24,Aug15,20,22,25,Sep6,17

B-777:Jul14,24,29,Aug29,Sep6,17

CALSHOT

D-748:Jul1(x2),3,5,8(x2),22,23,30(x2),Aug7,8,13,14,17,22,30

B-860:Jul1(x3),3,4,5,16,18,22,23,24,25,28,30(x5),Aug4,6,14,16,18,22(x2),24,26(x2),27,Sep8,11,15

CAMPBELTOWN

ON1241(17-19):Jul7,13,18,24,Aug9,20,Sep20

D-737:Sep17,20

CARDIGAN

D-709:Aug23,24

B-870:Aug13,24

CASTLETOWNBERE

ON1277(17-44):Jul30

CHISWICK

E-09:Jul22(x2),26(x3),Aug10,11,12(x2),13,14,18(x2),22,Sep8,9(x2),10

E-08:Jul4,7,8,11,12(x2),13(x3),14,18,19,30,31(x2),Aug3,4,25,26,28,30,Sep2(x2),13,14,16,22,28

CLACTON-ON-SEA

D-723:Jul4,5,Aug27,31,Sep19

B-863:Jul19,Aug5,19,24,31,Sep5

CLEETHORPES

D-757:Aug28

CLIFDEN

ON1192(12-33):Jul1,21,Aug12,Sep9

D-679:Jul1,13,Aug12

B-869:Jul13,21,25,Aug10,31

CLOGHER HEAD

ON1190(12-31):Aug7,9,23

CONWY

D-765:Jul9(x2),18,19,Aug9,15,17,21,23,Sep25,27

COURTMACSHERRY

HARBOUR

ON1205(14-07):Jul2,30(x2),Aug1,9(x2),Sep10

COURTOWN

D-711:Jul6,Aug11

COWES

B-859:Jul1,23,25,26,30(x4),Aug1,3,6,11(x2),24

CRASTER

D-703:Jul10,28,Aug1,18,20(x2)

CRICCIETH

B-823:Jul13,Aug7,12,25,Sep7

A-73:Jul8,13,Aug12,25

CROMER

ON1287(16-07):Jul6,Aug8,Sep19,22

D-734:Jul14,Aug18

CROSSHAVEN

B-892:Jul9(x2),10(x2),24,28,29(x2),31,Aug2,3,7(x2),9,15,20,Sep5

CULLERCOATS

B-811:Jul12,Aug12,21,27,Sep3(x2),30

DART

D-702:Jul9,14,25,28,Aug1,5,10,13,15,19,21,25(x2),28,Sep1,3,5,10

DONAGHADEE

ON1267(14-36):Jul2,8,12,19,24,Aug3,4,6,17,23,26,31
ON1204(14-06):Sep18

DOUGLAS

ON1147(47-032):Jul24, Sep5(x2)

DOVER

ON1220(17-09):Jul1,4,30(x2),Aug11,17,23,28, Sep21

DUN LAOGHAIRE

ON1200(14-05):Jul15,19,25,Aug20,Sep14,18,26,28
D-690:Jul2,12,22,Aug2

DUNBAR

ON1266(14-35):Jul1,4,8,14,18(x2),24,Aug21

D-708:Jul1,8,9,14,18,24,31, Aug17,Sep20

DUNGENESS

ON1309(13-02):Jul19, Aug10,Sep5

DUNMORE EAST

ON1215(14-17):Jul2,31, Aug7,Sep5

EASTBOURNE

ON1303(16-23):Jul4,8(x2),14,15(x2),23,26(x3),27, Aug1(x3),17,20(x3),Sep5,12(x2),16,22

D-774:Jul8,9,16,23

D-744:Jul10,Aug20,26,31, Sep2(x2),4,5,17,22,23

ENNISKILLEN

RWC-052:Jul26,Aug20, Sep16

B-792:Jul7(x2),23,26, Aug20,25,Sep2,16

RWC-054:Jul20,23,25,26(x3),26(x3),26(x3),31, Aug8,9,23,25,Sep2,4

B-773:Jul13,17,19,20,23,25,26(x3),31,Aug9(x2),23, Sep4

RWC-053:Jul13,17,19,20

EXMOUTH

ON1310(13-03):Jul5,18, Aug6,9

D-805:Jul2(x3),6,23,31, Aug5,9,10,13(x2),19,20

D-720:Sep2,3,8,22,23

EYEMOUTH

ON1209(14-11):Jul2,6,25, Aug5(x2),19,25,Sep1,7,23

D-745:Jul2,25,Aug5(x2),20,25,Sep1,7,23

FALMOUTH

ON1256(17-29):Jul25,Aug2,3,9(x2),18,28,Sep12,28

B-756:Jul4,6,23,25,27,31, Aug3(x2),9(x3),12,14,18,19,22,27,28,Sep18,20,28

FENIT

ON1239(14-27):Jul10

D-726:Jul17,Aug4,10

FETHARD

D-683:Jul6,31,Aug10,25, Sep30

FILEY

ON1170(12-13):Aug21,Sep2
D-728:Jul26,Aug2,9,28, Sep9,20

FISHGUARD

ON1198(14-03):Jul6,30, Aug10,15,16,21,Sep26

D-789:Jul20,Aug7,10,28, Sep15,20,26

FLAMBOROUGH

B-820:Jul1,11,17,Aug6,7,13,28,30,Sep10,30

FLEETWOOD

ON1321(13-14):Aug11,12,20,22,Sep2,9,17,30

D-719:Aug7,12,20,22,29, Sep24

FLINT

D-795:Sep3,9

FOWEY

ON1253(14-32):Jul14,22,23,31,Aug17,24,27,28,30

D-681:Jul18,23,24,Aug4,5,12,22

FRASERBURGH

ON1259(14-34):Jul19,25,30,Aug9,28,Sep1,11,28,29(x2)

GALWAY

B-853:Jul5,16,Sep13

GIRVAN

ON1196(12-37):Jul3,23, Aug5,20,Sep12

GRAVESEND

B-870:Sep25,29

B-827:Jul9,12,15,16,17,20,28,30,Aug3,7,8,9,11,14(x2),16,19,26,27,28(x2),Sep4,5(x2),6(x2),7

GREAT YARMOUTH AND GORLESTON

ON1208(14-10):Aug2,17,24, Sep5,10,15,20

B-786:Jul18,19

B-759:Aug8,12,17,19,29, Sep5,24,25

A-77:Sep24

HAPPISBURGH

D-607:Aug13,Sep12

B-899:Jul2,19,Aug1, Sep12,20

HARTLEPOOL

ON1274(14-37):Jul1,9,30, Aug2(x2),7,27,30,Sep2

B-881:Aug12,16,27(x2), Sep4,18

HARWICH

ON1202(17-03):Jul13,18,23,24,Aug2,13,18,Sep3

B-789:Jul13,16,22,24,30, Aug3(x2),5,6(x2),9,12(x2),18,23,25,28,31,Sep5,10(x2),16,17,19,24

HASTINGS

ON1125(12-002):Jul4,18, Aug6,Sep2

D-699:Jul8,13,15,18,20,23, Aug6,7,18,Sep9,16

HAYLING ISLAND

D-779:Aug6,8,10,16,23, Sep24

B-829:Jul7(x2),9,12,15,18,30,Aug6,8,19(x2),27(x2), Sep3(x2),10,11,16,24,29,30

HEADQUARTERS

ON1325(13-18):Aug23

ON1180(14-01):Aug8

B-855:Aug8

HELENSBURGH

B-791:Jul10,12,20,21,23, Aug10,13,18,20,27,30, Sep17(x2),23,24,25

HOLYHEAD

ON1272(17-41):Jul16,28, Aug13,Sep9

D-791:Jul7,Aug21,Sep3,24

HORTON AND PORT EYNON

D-688:Jul2,8,9(x3),14,22(x2),Aug6,10,12,19,26, Sep17,23

HOWTH

ON1258(14-33):Jul12,22,23,26,Sep3,18,25

ON1204(14-06):Aug19

D-796:Jul1,25

HOYLAKE

ON1313(13-06):Jul16,26

H-005:Jul2,12(x2),20,30, Sep12

HUMBER

ON1269(17-38):Jul5,8,9,31, Aug4,5,19,26,27(x2),28(x2), Sep1,2,12

HUNSTANTON

H-003:Jul8(x2),15,Aug20

H-001:Aug8,10(x2)

B-848:Jul2,7,Sep6

ILFRACOMBE

ON1316(13-09):Jul12,15,18,23,28,Aug8,13,27

D-717:Jul4,5,9,12,23,28,31, Aug6,8,19

INVERGORDON

ON1206(14-08):Jul11,22, Aug29

ISLAY

ON1219(17-08):Jul3,5,15,22

KESSOCK

B-873:Jul2,19,23(x2), Aug13,18,Sep10

KILKEEL

B-812:Aug2,9,15,Sep24

KILMORE QUAY

ON1298(16-18):Jul1,11,15,24,Aug3,4(x2),7,9,12,Sep1,2,5,9

KILRUSH

B-844:Jul31,Sep23

KINGHORN

B-836:Jul6,12,15,16,18(x2),20,21(x2),Aug1,3(x2),5,7(x2),9,15,20,23,30,Sep2,9,19,22,24(x3)



ON-####(17-##)
 Severn class
 last built: 2004



ON-####(16-##)
 Tamar class
 last built: 2013



ON-####(47-###)
 Tyne class
 last built: 1990



ON-####(14-##)
 Trent class
 last built: 2003



ON-####(13-##)
 Shannon class
 introduced 2014
 new cost: £2.2M



ON-####(12-##)
 Mersey class
 last built: 1993



E-##
 E class (MK1 or 2)
 new cost: £560,000



B-###
 B class (Atlantic 75 or 85)
 new cost: £214,000



D-###
 D class
 new cost: £52,000



H-###
 Inshore rescue hovercraft
 new cost: £450,000



A-##
 Inshore rescue boat
 new cost: £13,000



RWC-###
 Rescue watercraft
 new cost: £10,000

Additional rescue craft:
 BB-### Boarding boat
 Y-### Y boat
 X-### X boat
 XP-### XP boat
 FR-### and
 RR-### Flood Rescue Team boat

LAUNCHES

KINSALE

B-796: Jul2(x3), Aug5,7,9,12

KIPPFORD

D-718: Aug6, Sep9

KIRKCUDBRIGHT

B-814: Jul10,12,18, Aug2,

Sep26

KIRKWALL

ON1231(17-13): Jul7,17,

Aug24,30, Sep4

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

B-856: Jul24,27,30, Aug24,

Sep23

LARGS

B-854: Jul11,14(x2),19,27,

Aug2(x2),5,7,15,18,26,

Sep1,3,9

LARNE

ON1246(14-30): Jul5,8(x2),

16,21, Aug22,24, Sep21

D-783: Jul5,8(x2),10,16,20,

Aug22,23, Sep21,24

LERWICK

ON1221(17-10): Jul1, Aug8,

12,16, Sep4

LEVERBURGH

ON1195(12-36): Aug23(x2)

LITTLE AND BROAD HAVEN

D-766: Jul6,13, Aug9,19,

20,28

LITTLESTONE-ON-SEA

B-785: Jul13,19, Aug9,20,

27(x3), Sep13

LLANDUDNO

ON1325(13-18): Aug23,

Sep23

ON1164(12-006): Jul18,

Aug17

D-793: Jul2,20,26, Aug4,

7(x2),10,17

LOCH NESS

B-763: Jul4,8,26(x2), Aug1,

15,24,26,28, Sep1,17,19

LONGHOPE

ON1284(16-05): Jul4,28,

Sep13

LOOE

D-741: Aug5(x2),6,12,18,

22(x4)

B-894: Jul8, Aug12,28,

Sep26

LOUGH DERG

B-781: Jul15,22(x2),23,28,

Aug4,6,21

LOUGH REE

B-772: Jul2(x4),6,7,15,16,

18,21,22,25(x3), Aug7,

11(x3),12(x2),13,14,26,

Sep4,9,14,18

LOUGH SWILLY

ON1315(13-08): Jul5,12,22

B-819: Jul12

LOWESTOFT

ON1314(13-07): Jul28,

Aug1,3,4,5,6,7,20,21(x2),

22,23,27,28

ON1312(13-05): Sep5,10,24

LYME REGIS

B-857: Jul15,25, Aug5(x2),

10, Sep7,27

LYMINGTON

B-882: Jul1(x2),8,9(x2),

12(x2),15,25(x3),28, Aug4,

6(x3),18,19,20(x2),24,

25(x3), Sep2,30

LYTHAM ST ANNES

ON1189(12-30): Jul27,28(x2)

D-800: Jul27,28, Aug8,

Sep3

MABLETHORPE

D-790: Aug1

B-887: Jul22, Aug20,25,27,

28, Sep6

MACDUFF

B-804: Jul11, Aug3, Sep13

MALLAIG

ON1250(17-26): Jul3,12,

15(x2),23, Aug4,9,14(x2),

Sep1,4,21,27

MARGATE

ON1178(12-21): Aug7,11

ON1177(12-20): Sep23

D-706: Jul5,8,18,19,21,25,

Aug5,12,15, Sep3,4,22

MINEHEAD

D-780: Sep10

D-720: Aug20,22

D-712: Jul6,13,30, Aug27

B-824: Jul6,7,30, Aug4,20,

22(x2),27, Sep7

MOELFRE

ON1305(16-25): Sep26

ON1290(16-10): Jul29,

Aug1,6,24(x2)

D-689: Jul11,18,20, Aug18,

26,28

MONTROSE

ON1317(13-10): Jul17,20,

Aug10,24

D-764: Jul17, Aug10, Sep7

MORECAMBE

H-002: Jul9,12(x3), Aug8,13,

19, Sep2

D-722: Jul12, Aug6, Sep6

MUDEFORD

B-806: Jul7,16,18,23(x2),

30, Aug7,14,22,27, Sep3,

10(x2),17

NEW BRIGHTON

B-883: Jul13,20(x2),30,

Aug3,30, Sep28

NEW QUAY

ON1172(12-15): Jul29,30,

Aug27(x2),30, Sep19,26

D-754: Jul2,8,26,28,29,

Aug15,16,21,27(x2),

Sep1,3,23

NEWBIGGIN

B-864: Jul2,15, Aug15,20

NEWCASTLE

ON1188(12-29): Jul13,26,

Aug1, Sep22

D-775: Jul9,17, Aug12,24,

Sep3

NEWHAVEN

ON1243(17-21): Jul2,

Aug29, Sep24

NEWQUAY

D-773: Jul4,8,9,20,29(x2),

31, Aug1,15,21,28,29,

Sep1(x2),5,7,8,22

B-821: Jul2,4,8,9,10,16,20,

29(x2), Aug7,15,20,21,28,

29, Sep1(x2),4,5,8,22

NORTH BERWICK

D-758: Jul29, Aug3(x2),9,

10,25

OBAN

ON1227(14-23): Jul4,5(x2),

8(x2),10,15,16,18(x2),19,22,

24,28,29, Aug6,8,9,10,

13(x2),15,19,20,25,27, Sep5,

10,16,20,23

Padstow

ON1283(16-04): Jul2,9,15,

Aug8,12, Sep4,5(x3),15,

27,28

PENARTH

D-692: Jul3,8,16,24,29,

Aug6,14,22

B-839: Jul24,28, Aug11,21

PENLEE

ON1265(17-36): Jul6,18,

30(x2), Aug16(x2),20

B-893: Jul3,6,9,25,28,30,

Aug16,22

PETERHEAD

ON1282(16-03): Jul27,

Aug9,11,19,23,30, Sep19,

20,23

PLYMOUTH

ON1264(17-35): Jul7,8,11,

15,16,28, Aug7,11,20,22,28,

Sep7,10,14,15

ON1263(17-34): Sep16,26

B-775: Jul2(x2),5,8,11,15,

16(x2),17,18,20,24, Aug3,

6(x2),7,18,22(x2),24,26,28,

Sep1,10,15,28

A-31: Aug3,6,22

POOLE

D-804: Jul6,23, Aug13,24,

31, Sep2(x2)

D-798: Jul14

B-826: Jul5,6,8,14(x2),

18(x2),19,24,30, Aug4,26,

31, Sep26

PORT ERIN

B-813: Aug23

PORT ISAAC

D-707: Jul2,9,10,15,28,

Aug2,3,18,22

PORT TALBOT

D-750: Jul11

D-713: Aug10,13,27(x2),

Sep4,10

D-695: Jul18,25,31, Aug5,9

PORTAFERRY

B-833: Jul1,3,8,21, Aug1,19,

20,26, Sep9,10,22

PORTHCAWL

D-714: Jul8,15, Aug8

B-832: Aug8

PORTRHDINLLAEN

ON1304(16-24): Jul2

PORTRISHEAD

B-884: Jul2,5,6(x2),16,19,

24,25,30, Aug6(x2),14,17,

26, Sep7,8,11,17

PORTPATRICK

ON1301(16-21): Jul15,16,17,

26(x2),28, Aug5,7,9(x3),14,

Sep18,26

ON1280(16-01): Jul27

BB-564: Sep11

PORTRIE

ON1214(14-16): Jul23,24,

30, Aug2,7,20(x2)

PORTRUSH

ON1257(17-30): Jul12,17,19,

22,26, Aug2,4,13, Sep3

D-738: Jul12,22,24,26,

Aug2,10,27,31, Sep3,28

D-695: Jul6,8

PORTSMOUTH

D-716: Jul8,16, Aug23,26,

Sep8

B-846: Jul3,6,8(x2),16,26,

Aug4,5(x2),16,19, Sep20

PWLLHELI

ON1168(12-010): Aug13,

Sep17

D-811: Jul30, Aug11

BB-676: Jul13

QUEENSFERRY

B-851: Jul1,6,7,12,14(x2),15,

24(x2),25(x2),26,29, Aug5,

11,12,13,14,18,19,20,23,24,

28, Sep6,9,10,20,23,24

RAMSEY

ON1171(12-14): Aug10,13,

Sep6,16,28

RAMSGATE

XP-28: Jul8

ON1210(14-12): Aug20,26,

Sep1,13

ON1197(14-02): Jul1,4,10,

SLIGO BAY

B-888: Jul 7, 8, 12, 16, 18(x2), 24, Aug 5, 6(x2), 24, 27

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

H-006: Aug 5, 27

H-004: Jul 2, 8, 13, Aug 12, 13

D-771: Jul 10, Aug 12, Sep 18

D-682: Jul 17, 22, Aug 11, 20, Sep 1

B-885: Jul 9, 19(x2), 22(x2), 27, Aug 5, 12, 13, 18, 20, 26, Sep 9, 10(x2), 22(x2)

SOUTHWOLD

B-868: Jul 9, Aug 17, 28, Sep 18

ST AGNES

D-787: Jul 1, 7

ST BEES

B-831: Jul 3, 18, 23, 26, Sep 6, 16

ST CATHERINE

B-835: Jul 18, Aug 22, 24, 28

ST DAVIDS

ON1306(16-26): Jul 20, Aug 1(x2), 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, Sep 2

D-704: Jul 2, 20, 21, 28, Aug 1, 9, 15, 22, 24, 26, 27

ST HELIER

ON1292(16-12): Jul 1, 7, 15(x2), 23, Aug 1, 7, 8, 9(x2), 10, 16, 20, 22(x2), 25, Sep 10(x2), 19

B-816: Jul 20, 30, Aug 7(x2), Sep 10, 19

ST IVES

ON1318(13-11): Jul 3, 7, 25, 27

D-803: Aug 15, 17, 23, Sep 23

D-780: Jul 25(x2), 27

ST MARY'S

Y-169: Sep 23

ON1229(17-11): Jul 19, 26, Aug 9, 10, 31, Sep 25

STAITHES AND RUNSWICK

B-897: Jul 7, Aug 5, 6, 13, 18, 19, Sep 5

STONEHAVEN

B-762: Jul 20, Aug 1, 7, 11, 17, 19

STORNOWAY

ON1238(17-18): Jul 13, Aug 5, 9, 10, 28, Sep 14

STRANRAER

D-697: Jul 17, Aug 20

STROMNESS

ON1236(17-16): Jul 4, 15(x3), Aug 3, Sep 2, 3

SUNDERLAND

D-747: Jul 8, 18, 22, 23, 29, Aug 13, 27, 29, 31, Sep 7, 23

B-817: Jul 8, 16, 23, 29,

Aug 15, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, Sep 6, 23

SWANAGE

ON1320(13-13): Jul 2(x2), 4, 9, 11(x3), 14(x2), 23(x2), 27, 29, 30, Aug 1, 30, Sep 2, 3, 5(x3), 19

D-752: Jul 3(x2), 9, 14, 18, 27, 30, 31, Aug 27, Sep 19

TEDDINGTON

D-785: Jul 2, Aug 5, 13, 26

D-743: Jul 8, 14, 18

TEIGNMOUTH

B-809: Jul 1(x2), 2, 13, 15, 23, 27, Aug 5, 7, 10, 19, 20, 27, 28(x3), 29, 31, Sep 3, 10, 17, 18, 23

A-67: Aug 27

TENBY

ON1281(16-02): Jul 26, Aug 9, 16(x2), 25, 26, 27, Sep 23

D-727: Jul 21, 24, 25(x3), Aug 2, 7(x2), 9(x2), 12, 25, 28, Sep 23

THE LIZARD

ON1300(16-20): Jul 20, 23, Aug 5, 9, 19, Sep 15, 17, 19, 25(x2)

THE MUMBLES

ON1307(16-27): Jul 8, 11, 12, 14, 19, Aug 3, 5, 9, 13, 17, 25, 26, Sep 6(x2), 25

D-761: Jul 5, 7, 8, 10(x2), 14, 18(x3), 19, 20, 25, Aug 5, 7(x2), 9, 10(x2), 13, 14, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27(x2), Sep 6, 18, 19, 23, 24

THURSO

ON1273(17-42): Aug 18, 25, Sep 3, 4, 5

TIGHNABRUACH

B-862: Jul 3, 7, 27

B-830: Aug 21, 26

TOBERMORY

ON1270(17-39): Jul 15, 19, 22, 26, Aug 11, 21, 22, 24, Sep 5, 19, 20, 22

TORBAY

ON1255(17-28): Jul 14, 23, Aug 1, 3, 17, 19, Sep 3(x2), 5, 16

D-788: Jul 2, 3, 19, 24, 29, 31, Aug 1, 3, 9, 17, 18(x2), 23, 24, 30, Sep 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 16, 25

TOWER

E-09: Jul 31, Aug 1, Sep 25, 27, 28

E-07: Jul 1, 2, 5, 6(x2), 7(x2), 8(x2), 9, 10(x2), 11(x2), 12(x2), 13(x3), 15, 16(x5), 17(x2), 18(x4), 19(x3), 20, 21(x3), 22,

23(x5), 24(x2), 25, 26, 27, 30(x2), 31, Aug 1, 3(x3), 4(x4), 5(x2), 6, 11(x2), 12(x9), 13(x3), 14, 15, 16(x3), 17(x3), 18(x2), 19(x4), 20(x3), 21(x3), 23,

24(x3), 25(x3), 26(x2), 27, 28(x2), 29, Sep 1(x3), 3(x2), 5, 8(x4), 9(x7), 10(x4), 11, 12,

16(x4), 18(x2), 20(x2), 21(x2), 22, 23(x2), 24(x2), 29, 30

E-006: Sep 25(x2)

TREARDUR BAY

D-753: Jul 1, Aug 25

B-847: Jul 1, 15, 16, Aug 9,

10(x2), 21, 25, 26, Sep 6, 9

TROON

ON1275(14-38): Jul 8, 13, 18, 23, 24, 25, Aug 6, 10, 16, 24, 29, Sep 1, 14, 16, 27(x2)

D-684: Jul 8, 13, 18, 23, 24, 25, Aug 6, 10, 24, 29, Sep 2(x2), 14, 27

TYNEMOUTH

ON1242(17-20): Jul 29, 31,

Aug 7, 11(x2), 22, Sep 10

D-693: Jul 8, 9, 30, 31, Aug 7,

22, 25, 30, Sep 7, 20, 25

UNION HALL

B-790: Jul 13, 22, Aug 11, 14, 29, Sep 10

VALENTIA

ON1218(17-07): Jul 25, Aug 12, 27, 28, Sep 3, 7, 16

WALMER

D-794: Jul 8, 11

B-808: Aug 27

B-801: Jul 11, 28, 30(x2), Aug 12, 13

WALTON AND FRINTON

ON1299(16-19): Jul 1, 9, 13, 22, 27, Aug 1, 2, 19, 24, 25, 27, 31, Sep 20

WELLS

ON1161(12-003): Jul 20(x3)

D-797: Jul 6, 7(x2), 8, 11, 30,

Aug 19

WEST KIRBY

D-751: Jul 16, 29, Aug 24,

Sep 11

WEST MERSEA

B-879: Jul 8, 22, 25, Aug 1, 24,

27, 28, Sep 16, 23, 24

WESTON-SUPER-MARE

D-705: Jul 8

D-696: Jul 24, Aug 6, 16, 20,

22, 27(x4), 28, Sep 11

B-769: Jul 8, 27, Aug 20, 22,

27(x5), Sep 11

WEXFORD

D-782: Jul 6, 18, Aug 4, 7, 12

WEYMOUTH

ON1261(17-32): Jul 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, Aug 5(x2), 6, 12, 14, 20, 22(x2), 23, 27, 31,

Sep 4, 10, 16

BB-053: Aug 16

B-774: Jul 9(x3), 11(x2), 12, Aug 3, 4, 5, 11, 13, 15(x2), 16, 17(x2), 18(x2), 19, 22(x2), 23,

25, Sep 10

WHITBY

ON1212(14-14): Jul 3, 15, 30(x2), Aug 6, 10, 22, 28,

Sep 24, 27

D-810: Jul 8, 18, 24, 30(x2), 31, Aug 22, 27, Sep 27

WHITSTABLE

B-877: Jul 2(x2), 15, 16, 20, 23, 30, Aug 4, 12, 18, 19, 20(x2), 26, 27, Sep 10, 28

WICK

ON1224(14-20): Jul 3(x2), 4(x2), Aug 16, 26, 29

WICKLOW

ON1153(47-035): Jul 21, Aug 7, 13, 28, Sep 9, 24

D-806: Jul 9, 29, Aug 13, 20, Sep 24

D-768: Jul 21

WITHERNSEA

D-701: Jul 5, 9(x2), 22,

Aug 13, 25, Sep 23

WORKINGTON

ON1326(13-19): Aug 2, 14, 22, Sep 6, 16

YARMOUTH

ON1249(17-25): Jul 23,

Aug 12, 27, Sep 6, 23

YOUGHAL

B-890: Jul 1, 14, 17(x2), 22, 30, Aug 10, 12

ON STATION

D-810, *Warter Priory*, Whitby, 5 July

ON1327 (13-20), *Denise and Eric*, Selsey, 10 July

D-812, *Elaine McLeod Scott*, relief fleet, 16 August

NAMING CEREMONIES

D-809, *Eric Howland*, relief fleet, 8 July

D-810, *Warter Priory*, Whitby, 8 July

B-893, *Mollie and Ivor Dent*, Penlee, 26 August

D-811, *Robert J Wright*, Pwllheli, 2 September

D-812, *Elaine McLeod Scott*, relief fleet, 7 September

B-901, *Enid Foster MBE*, relief fleet, 7 September

ON1328 (13-21), *Brianne Aldington*, relief fleet, 8 September

ON1327 (13-20), *Denise and Eric*, Selsey, 21 September

B-896, *Hugh Miles*, Aberdovey, 30 September

LAUNCH ALERTS ON YOUR MOBILE

Follow the action wherever you are by signing up for our lifeboat launch SMS alerts. You choose which stations to follow, the charge for each message and your maximum weekly spend. You'll be one of the first to know when our volunteers have launched and you'll be supporting them at the same time!

RNLI.org/sms

Unsung Heroes

Mary Jacinta Casey

Union Hall Lifeboat Station in Co Cork was opened in 2014. Fundraiser Mary Jacinta Casey, a dental nurse, has been onboard since day one

How did you first get involved with the RNLI?

When I was growing up, we always had a collection box in our pub, and I used to help count the money!

What does being an RNLI volunteer mean to you?

My maternal grandfather and all my grand uncles were in the Royal Navy, my brother was a deck officer with Irish Shipping, and my husband and I sail a squib. While we have never had to avail of the rescue service, it is nice to know that it is there for all those who use the sea.

What's the coast like around Union Hall?

Glandore Harbour and the rugged beauty of the West Cork coastline are so inviting. There has been a huge increase in aquatic pursuits for leisure. And this, coupled with the busy fishing fleet, has ensured that the lifeboat is very active.

Do you have a good connection with the crew?

Yes, the crew are all local and their presence in their kit at fundraising events really helps to raise the profile and fill the collection boxes. They are so modest and unassuming, yet so selfless when faced with a shout.

And what about the other fundraising volunteers?

They are fantastic! They are up for anything, from face painting to making cups of tea for Reindeer Run participants. If it helps to raise a few bob they will do it.

There's a huge range of volunteer roles in coastal and inland communities throughout Ireland and the UK. Find your place in our family at [RNLI.org/volunteer](https://www.rnli.org/volunteer).

Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard



SPECIAL DELIVERY



A LIMITED EDITION

I was interested to read in the autumn issue about the *City of Sheffield's* return to the city that funded her.

I was involved in raising an amount towards that boat when I was an honorary organiser in West Yorkshire, and I went to the naming ceremony.

Also, I raised the money to commission this painting of the boat by professional artist Edna Lumb, whom I knew. A limited-edition print was produced and sold.

Stephen J Wood MBE



Photo: Jim Hurley

RE: HAPPY MEMORIES

In the autumn issue of *Special Delivery* you featured the former Ballycotton lifeboat *Ethel Mary*.

In 1959, I was detailed by the RNLI to report to Cowes to join this boat for her trip to Bremen for the International Lifeboat Conference. The coxswain was Middleton. Of the two reserve mechanics, Andy Mitchell was First Mechanic/Cook, and I was Second Mechanic/Radio Operator.

We first called into Ramsgate for fuel, thence on to Den Helder in Holland, where we were well fêted. Next stop was Borkum in the Frisian Islands. From there, we were escorted

by the Borkum lifeboat to Bremerhaven. I met many crews, who remained friends until their demise. Alas, now Andy too has gone down the slip for the last time.

Years later, as a fleet staff coxswain mechanic, I was involved with the trials of the new Ballycotton Arun class lifeboat.

I now live in Latvia, still surrounded by memorabilia of my days in the service. So you see, your letters do stir up the grey cells of oldies like me!

Billy Dent

Word ladder solution (page 30): BOOM, BOOT, SOOT, SPOT, SPIT

RNLI FAMILY: THE LIFE OF THE CHARITY

Celebrating the RNLI family, past and present

Tying the knot



Congratulations to Bundoran Crew Members Laura McNulty and Richard Gillespie, who got married in July.

Lifeboating must be in their blood, because both Laura and Richard have family on the crew. Laura's dad, Joe, was a founding member of Bundoran Inshore Rescue Service (the predecessor of Bundoran RNLI). Her brother Kealan and Richard's brother Brian are both helms on the lifeboat.

Laura says: 'We thought it would be special to get a photo with the lifeboat on our big day. It was a challenge getting onto the boat in my massive dress but I stuck on a pair of yellow wellies and up I went!'

Photo: Ghorm Photography

Like father, like son

Martyn 'Mini' Fry has been a lifeguard for 35 years – and his son, 19-year-old Tremayne, joined him 2 years ago. Mini works the season at Summerleaze Beach in Cornwall, while Tremayne is stationed at neighbouring Crooklets.

Last summer, father and son joined forces to rescue a group cut off by the tide. With the help of Bude's inshore lifeboat, they brought three people and two dogs to safety.

'I'm very proud,' Mini says of his son. 'They grow up quick. I remember the day he was born, I was working on the beach. And now he's just 150m away, working on another beach. I think he'll be around for a while, doing the same thing as his dad.'

Photo: RNLI/Jim Scowen



Words: Nikki McMullen

Whitby coxswain hangs up wellies

After 30 years of loyal service, Whitby Coxswain Mike Russell has retired from the crew.

Mike says: 'I've been on the lifeboat crew since before my two sons were born; they've never known any different. I'm looking forward to being able to give them more of my time, especially my two grandchildren, Storm and Henry.'

'The crew have been my family for the last 30 years too. I've seen them grow up and flourish and I will enjoy watching them take over the reins.'

Despite retiring from the crew, Mike will still be around at the station – he's got a new volunteer role as chairman to get stuck into!



Photo: RNLI/Ceri Oakes

Baby onboard

Tynemouth lifeboat crew are celebrating something special: the christening of baby Frankie. Frankie's dad, Andrew, is a crew member at Tynemouth and the christening took place onboard the station's Severn class lifeboat, *Spirit of Northumberland*.

The traditional christening font was replaced with an upturned ship's bell from the lifeboat, held by Second Coxswain Ian Black.

We wonder if baby Frankie will follow in his father's footsteps?



Photo: RNLI/Adrian Don

Celebrating life

Join us in remembering our RNLI Family members who have recently passed away.

Danny Hayes – October 2017

Lifelong supporter at Sligo Bay Lifeboat Station

Nigel Honan – May 2017

Chairman for Basingstoke Branch

Brian Jeffrey – October 2017

Volunteer at the Mumbles Lifeboat Station

Sheila Lord – September 2017

Treasurer for Newquay Branch

Don Luff – November 2017

Founder and former Treasurer of St Germans Branch

Terry Musselwhite – September 2017

Former Senior Foreman at Poole Depot

Janet Rowlinson – October 2017

Treasurer at Wem Branch

Ian Shorter – February 2017

Treasurer for Pangbourne Branch

Vic Stimson – May 2017

President and former Deputy Launching Authority at Plymouth Lifeboat Station

Margaret Tillotson – October 2017

Volunteer at the Port of Liverpool Branch and the Mirfield Branch

Richard Turner Jones – September 2017

Secretary at Church Stretton Branch



Stornoway



Tower



Orkney

EXTREME COASTAL WALKING

One fundraiser's epic trek

After 3 years, 9,500 miles and 7 pairs of boots, fundraiser Alex-Ellis Roswell has completed his walk around the coasts of Britain and Ireland – calling in at every lifeboat station along the way. He crossed the finish line at Minnis Bay in Kent on 11 November.

'I've met thousands of volunteers and it's been incredible to do that in a unique way,' Alex says. 'It's a real family. Everyone's doing something different but for the same purpose. Everyone from the volunteer crews to the people in the shops to the press officers and the fundraisers. It's really nice to see that common goal in very different parts of the coast.'

Alex tweeted all through his adventure, and pictured here is a selection of some of those RNLI Family moments. Visit BT.com/DonateToLifeboats.



Liss Ard



Trearddur Bay



Sheringham

LIFEBOAT LOTTERY

AUTUMN 2017 RESULTS

Congratulations to Mr M Ferguson from Buckinghamshire who won our first prize of £5,000 cash.

OUR OTHER WINNERS WERE:

2ND PRIZE: £2,000

Ms V Storey, South Yorkshire

3RD PRIZE: £500

Mrs P Acton, Kent

4TH PRIZE: £250

Mrs B Fox, Berkshire

AND 5 PRIZES of £100 EACH

Mrs M Kuipers, Shropshire

Mr HR McColm, Kent

Mr S Heel, Leicestershire

Mrs F Girdwood, Lanarkshire

Mr DS Bright, Devon

We'll report the winners of the winter Lifeboat Lottery in our spring 2018 issue. The spring Lifeboat Lottery will mail on 19 January 2018. The closing date is 16 March 2018 and the draw date is 29 March 2018.

To take part, please call **0300 300 9990** or email your details to **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. Entrants must be aged 16 or over. For full details (including terms and conditions), please go to RNLI.org/lottery or see your lottery letter.





Photo: RNLI/Matthias Williams

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