

# SCOTLAND COMMUNITY NEWS

Words: Anna Burn. Photos: Graham Renfrew, RNLI/(Jamie Marshall, Becs Miller, Craig Turner)

## Dunbar

### MAKING WAVES IN DUNBAR

In January, a group of young surfers from the Wave Project – an organisation that helps young people reduce anxiety and increase confidence through its award-winning surf courses – paid a visit to Dunbar Lifeboat Station – and the crew made a lasting impression.

Layla (19) says: 'It was amazing to learn how volunteers have to have all the equipment on within a minute. It's a lot to get on and it's pretty heavy! All the volunteers are so brave.'

Wave Project Coordinator Jamie Marshall says: 'The opportunity to not only learn more about ocean safety, but to meet the volunteer heroes who make the sea a safer place around the UK, was fantastic. I think the seeds for some future RNLI crew may have been planted!'

Find out more about the Wave Project, which has branches throughout the UK, at [waveproject.co.uk](http://waveproject.co.uk).



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

## WATER SAFETY SCOTLAND LAUNCHES

Water Safety Scotland, a new drowning prevention initiative, aims to tackle accidental deaths by drowning and reduce water-related suicide. An average of 50 people drown in Scotland every year as the result of an accident and a further 29 lose their lives to suicide in and near water.

The RNLI is part of this initiative, along with the Royal Life Saving Society UK, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, and community representatives. We are working together to deliver an engaging education programme to secondary school pupils, teaching

them how to make dynamic risk assessments when in, on and near the water. Some of these students are also being trained as water safety ambassadors to visit local primary schools.

Gillian Barclay, mother of Cameron Lancaster who lost his life in Fife Quarry in 2014, says: 'The loss of Cameron is the saddest and most difficult challenge I have ever faced. I'm very grateful to Water Safety Scotland for allowing me to get involved from the perspective of someone who has lost a child in a drowning accident.'



Water Safety Scotland is teaching young people how to be safer in and near the water

## Loch Ness



## NEW LIFEBOAT FOR LOCH NESS

The team from Loch Ness Lifeboat Station took proud delivery of their new Atlantic 85 lifeboat in January.

Spirits were high as the *Sheila & Dennis Tongue IV* arrived at Loch Ness after its long journey from RNLI Headquarters in Poole, Dorset. The inshore lifeboat was lifted into Urquhart Harbour before being put on a carriage and winched into the new boathouse for the very first time.

The new vessel completes the story of Loch Ness Lifeboat Station's long-awaited new boathouse and volunteers are thrilled to finally be up and running with both.

## Trossachs

### BOWLING CLUB SCORES BIG

Causewayhead Bowling Club were recently presented with a Framed Certificate of Thanks for their continued fundraising. Since 2011, their annual lifeboat days in support of the Trossachs Branch have delivered an excellent £5,000 to help save lives at sea.



Gordon Williamson, Angie Doyle and Club President Craik Taylor with their certificate

## 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).

### MULL MUSIC FESTIVAL

19–23 April

Tobermory, Mull

A vibrant weekend of Scottish music, featuring folk-rock, fiddle, accordion and ceilidh bands.

### MAYDAY FAMILY FUN DAY

6 May, 12–4pm

Deeside Activity Park, Dess by Aboyne

Rescue demonstrations, safety information and children's activities. Meet crew and other emergency lifesavers including the Coastguard and Mountain Rescue. For more information contact Anne Scott on [anne\\_scott@rnli.org.uk](mailto:anne_scott@rnli.org.uk).

### 30TH BURNMOUTH BRAE RACE

6 May, from midday

Burnmouth Brae, Ayton

Take on the notoriously steep Brae by foot or on bike for the RNLI. Multiple distances available, open to adults and children alike. Visit [rnli-burnmouth-brae-race.weebly.com](http://rnli-burnmouth-brae-race.weebly.com) or [burnmouthbraeraces@gmail.com](mailto:burnmouthbraeraces@gmail.com).

### MAYDAY COASTAL CHALLENGE

12 May, 10.15am

Light Tower, Town Pier, North Queensferry

Choose your distance and join in a treasure hunt along the coast or a welly throwing competition at Silver Sands. Ends at Kinghorn Lifeboat Station with a tour and refreshments. Email [fundraisers@kinghorn.org.uk](mailto:fundraisers@kinghorn.org.uk) for details.

### RNLI SCOTTISH AGM

6 June

Perth Concert Hall

The Scottish Annual General Meeting will take place in Perth. Contact 0300 300 9995 or email [events@rnli.org.uk](mailto:events@rnli.org.uk) if you would like to attend.

Send details of your events for the summer issue (mid-July onwards) to [CommunitySupportTeam@rnli.org.uk](mailto:CommunitySupportTeam@rnli.org.uk).



# WALES COMMUNITY NEWS

Words: Anna Burn. Photos: Nicholas Leach, RNLI/(Chris Cousens, Steve Lowe), Rydal Penrhos School

## Tenby



James and his family are reunited with the RNLI lifeguards who saved him

## RESCUEE RETURNS WITH THANKS

James Probert says he 'simply would not be here' if not for the quick and professional response of his rescuers. The 58-year-old father of four collapsed in a car park in June after suffering a major cardiac arrest. Alerted to the situation by a member of the public, RNLI lifeguards found James face down, unconscious and not breathing.

Lifeguards George Stottor, Angus Wyatt, Katie Sutton and Kirk Lester immediately began CPR, but it would be 10–15 minutes before James's heart restarted and he began breathing again.

James and his family met with his rescuers in November to thank them and deliver a kind donation of £258 from family and friends. 'Without them I would be dead,' he says. 'I want to thank every one of the team who helped me – it shows just how valuable the RNLI lifeguards are.'

Daughter Louise says: 'You normally think of lifeguards rescuing people out of the sea or caring for people on beaches, but these lifeguards actually raced from the beach in the opposite direction to save my dad. We owe them everything and we cannot thank them enough.'

Welcome to your community news for Wales. For all the latest from where you are, head to [RNLI.org/news](http://RNLI.org/news)

## ALL CHANGE AT LLANDUDNO

Llandudno crew have moved into a new boathouse and welcomed a Shannon class lifeboat, *William F Yates*. A month after arriving on station, she completed her first rescue mission.

But, unusually for a brand new lifeboat, this wasn't her first ever rescue. She'd already completed three rescues in the south of England and while off the Anglesey coastline on her passage to the station. The *William F Yates* is the first Shannon to go on service in Wales.

The Mersey class *Andy Pearce* now serves in the RNLI relief fleet.

## Llandudno



## Barmouth



The children get a tour of the inshore lifeboat

## TEACHER GETS A HOSE DOWN!

In November, children from Short Wood Primary School, Shropshire, paid a visit to Barmouth Lifeboat Station, where they delivered a cheque for £80, raised through a bake sale. The children were given a tour of the lifeboats, then tried on the kit before hosing down their kitted-up teacher on the slip outside with the help of the crew.

We're not sure who had more fun: crew or kids!

## Colwyn Bay

## SUPERMARKET SWEEP

In January generous pupils at Rydal Penrhos School took part in a special fundraising initiative in aid of the RNLI.

Volunteers from the school participated in their annual bag packing fundraising drive at Morrisons, Colwyn Bay. Staff and pupils took separate shifts during the day-long event, where they helped customers with their groceries in exchange for a small donation to help save lives at sea.

Thanks to their great work, a total of £820.28 was raised. Deputy Head Tim Cashell says: 'We are very proud of our association with the RNLI, who provide a superb and critical service along our coastlines. I would like to thank all those who donated to



our fundraising drive, which was once again a huge success and something those involved can be very proud of.'

## WHAT'S ON

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### SOS RADIO WEEK

1–31 May

An opportunity to raise money and celebrate the work of the RNLI. Open to any licensed amateur radio operator or club based in the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Find out more or register your callsign at [sosradioweek.org.uk](http://sosradioweek.org.uk).

### FISHGUARD FOLK FESTIVAL

Friday 25–Monday 28 May

Fishguard, Pembrokeshire

Four days of concerts, ceilidhs, workshops, singarounds, family events and more in an historical and picturesque town on the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast.

### DUCK LIFEBOAT RACE

Monday 28 May, from 12 noon

Dyserth Waterfalls, North Wales

A family event for the spring bank holiday at the beautiful Dyserth Waterfalls. Join in the fun as the duck lifeboats take to the rapids in a race to the finish! Find out more from [facebook.com/rnliduckboatrace](http://facebook.com/rnliduckboatrace).

### CARDIFF SAIL DAY

Friday 22 June

Breakfast in Cardiff Bay, followed by a sail along the Bristol Channel and a buffet, auction and prizes in Cardiff Bay Yacht Club on return to dry land. Ideal for a day out with friends and colleagues of all sailing levels. Find out more and book your place by emailing [philip@phlventures.com](mailto:philip@phlventures.com).

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# IRELAND

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Words: Anna Burn. Photos: Jen Hurley, Robbie Marsh, Hazel Nolan, RNLI/(Martin Fish, Union Hall), Stephen Sherwin

## Arklow

## LAP OF THE MAP

2018 marks Mary Hickey's 50th year in athletics and she continues to go from strength to strength. On New Year's Day she set off from Arklow, Co Wicklow, heading north on the roads closest to the coast, with the aim of raising money for the RNLI by lapping the map in an anti-clockwise direction.

The journey will take many months. As *Lifeboat* went to print, Mary had fought through some horrendous weather conditions and made it to the Burren, with a fundraising total of more than €15,000. Joined by runners and cheering supporters along the way, this superhero has, so far, needed just 3 rest days. Mary says: 'I'm inspired by the work of the RNLI and wanted to support them by raising money. The more people that know about the RNLI, the greater impact the charity can have, so please also spread the word.'

You can follow her progress on Twitter @RNLIlapOfTheMap, or sponsor her at [give.everydayhero.com/ie/rnli-lap-of-the-map](http://give.everydayhero.com/ie/rnli-lap-of-the-map).

Run, Mary, run!

Welcome to your community news for Ireland. For all the latest from where you are, head to [RNLI.org/news](http://RNLI.org/news)



## Skerries



The team prepare to set off from Skerries

## WHAT'S SUP?

Four adventurers were the first to attempt an unusual crossing of the Irish Sea – by stand-up paddleboard (SUP). Organiser Peter Carroll's uncle, Liam MacMahon, became the first person to complete the route windsurfing, in 1983. Last year, Peter was inspired to follow in his footsteps, albeit by a different mode of transport!

After 11 months of SUP training in all conditions, the four-strong team set off on a 63-mile route from Skerries to Holyhead that would test both sea legs and endurance to the max. In the end, two of the four made history by successfully reaching Holyhead 20 hours after setting off – and more than €13,600 was raised to help save lives at sea. An incredible effort!

## Dublin



## STORMY JOINS DUBLIN PARADE

Each year, taxi drivers from across Dublin decorate their vehicles for a parade through O'Connell Street. This colourful cab fayre honours the many children and adults in Dublin who live with disabilities – hundreds of whom join the cabbies for a unique tour of the capital, and a party at Leopardstown Racecourse.

Stormy Stan and local volunteers were invited to join the most recent parade. The children were delighted to see the RNLI mascot aboard the launching

tractor and D class lifeboat – and were wowed by his dance moves at the after party!

RNLI flags, colouring books and goodies were handed out, and the taxi drivers were equipped with specially designed Respect the Water receipt cards to give to their passengers. The drivers have also stepped up to deliver the Float to Live message to future clients. RNLI volunteers report feeling proud and humbled to be a part of such a wonderful day.

## Union Hall

## QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER

Union Hall Lifeboat Press Officer Pamela Deasy began a new initiative last year when she noticed a course on suicide awareness being advertised by charity Lisheens House.

Every year our crews go to the rescue of 965 people in distress on our coasts. And research shows that 90% of people who are approached by another in their time of need do not go on to make a second attempt. The Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) course by Lisheens House teaches three steps that anyone can take to help prevent suicide. Pamela explains: 'We have call outs to people who seem about to jump, or who have jumped. What better way for our crew to deal with these situations than to know what to ask or – as the situation deems – not to ask the individual.'

Crew Member Matthew Limrick says: 'After taking the course, I feel I'm able to ask: "Are you feeling OK?" and help people in the right direction.'

More volunteers are planning to attend the course later this year.



## WHAT'S ON

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### A NIGHT TO REMEMBER Saturday 14 April, 8.30pm

Titanic Belfast

Relive the story of RMS *Titanic* on the anniversary of her sinking. The evening will close with a candle-lit ceremony on the slipways, marking the exact moment the *Titanic* struck the iceberg. Tickets £6 from [titanicbelfast.com](http://titanicbelfast.com).

### CORK HARBOUR FESTIVAL Saturday 2–Sunday 10 June

A 9-day celebration of Cork's maritime culture with 60 events in Cork City, and local harbour towns and villages. Come for a kayak, explore Cork's many heritage sites, brave a guided ghostly trail, sail in the harbour and experience the spectacular fleet of boats taking part in Ocean to City (An Rás Mór).

### WILD ATLANTIC SHANTY FESTIVAL Friday 15–Sunday 17 June

Rosses Point, Co Sligo

Local and international shanty groups take to the stage in this beautiful setting. Come prepared to join one of the many boat, swimming, rowing, running or duck races, and don't miss Dress Like a Pirate Day on the Sunday, when crew will also be holding an open day. Visit [wildatlanticshanty.ie](http://wildatlanticshanty.ie).

### SEAFEST

### Friday 29 June–Sunday 1 July

Galway Docks, Co Galway

A weekend of family-friendly maritime festivities. Discover our oceans and the creatures in it. Learn about ocean exploration and the boats that transport us. Take part in activities, watch demonstrations and hear astonishing tales from the deep. Visit [seafest.ie](http://seafest.ie) for bookings and full details.

Send details of your events for the summer issue (mid-July onwards) to [CommunitySupportTeam@rnli.org.uk](mailto:CommunitySupportTeam@rnli.org.uk).



# NORTH OF ENGLAND AND ISLE OF MAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Words: Anna Burn. Photos: Tom Collins, Kumon Y'all, RNLI/(Martin Fish, Huddersfield, Whaley Bridge)

## Dewsbury



Kumon Y'all RNLI education volunteers deliver their first presentation

## YOUTH DIVE IN TO DROWNING PREVENTION

In 2017, Kumon Y'all, an organisation mobilising young Muslim people to give back to the community, approached the RNLI to seek safety advice for an upcoming canoe expedition in Scotland.

After a water and canoe safety talk by our Education Team, the group were inspired to get involved. Education volunteers and members of the Dewsbury RNLI Branch were invited to Kumon Y'all's annual community event, which raised £2,000 for the RNLI.

Since then, four young people have been trained to deliver drowning prevention presentations encompassing water safety and our Respect the Water campaign. The new volunteers have set themselves the task of speaking with more than 1,000 young people in schools and mosques in the area, helping us reach the group most at risk of drowning in the UK: young men.

These ambassadors are not only learning excellent life skills, but are also setting an example of how to look after your community. You can find out more about the work of Kumon Y'all at [kumonyall.co.uk](http://kumonyall.co.uk).

Welcome to your community news for the north of England and the Isle of Man. For all the latest from where you are, head to [RNLI.org/news](http://RNLI.org/news)

## THE BEST MEDICINE

They may not wear yellow wellies but medical students and pharmacy staff in Hartlepool know a thing or two about lifesaving.

The students, from the University Hospital of North Tees in Stockton, have joined crew to share their skills on a training exercise. And staff at Seaton Pharmacy in Seaton Carew raised an impressive £529.19 with the now legendary Betty's 5p Pots as part of their ongoing support for the RNLI.

Hartlepool RNLI Enterprise Branch Chair Beryl Sherry says: 'We are delighted with this donation and the support from the pharmacy staff and customers. Their generous effort will help our volunteer crew members save lives at sea.'

## Hartlepool



Amini Hasim (Seaton Pharmacy), Beryl Sherry (RNLI), Pat Darbey, Martin Linford and Natalie Garthwaite (Seaton Pharmacy) and Ann Wray (RNLI)

## Huddersfield



The Cottage Kitchen hosted a pop-up shop and coffee day in aid of the RNLI

## New Huddersfield Branch

A new inland fundraising branch formed in Huddersfield last September is attracting volunteers of all ages, bringing together people and businesses to help save lives at sea.

A 6-week pop-up shop in Shepley Post Office, and another at the Cottage Kitchen in Kirkburton, each raised close to £200 through the sale of RNLI souvenirs. The local café also served up £150 from a sold-out coffee day.

The young branch looks set to go from strength to strength. St Paul's Church Hall, which hosted

a rock and roll night with the fantastic JB Goode band, is gearing up to host Canadian folk band RBR (formerly Tanglefoot) on their 2018 UK tour in June. Local pub the Spring Grove Tavern is supporting monthly quiz nights.

And Education Volunteer and Branch Secretary Tony Watson is inspiring young supporters with visits to schools. Students from Wilthorne Primary School in Barnsley have already raised £839.74 from a sponsored swim at Barnsley Premier Leisure Swimming Club.

## Whaley Bridge

### LONG SERVICE HONoured

Committee member of Whaley Bridge Branch Diane Hughes was presented with a vase for her long service at the branch's annual dinner last year. She has volunteered for the RNLI for 40 years and her contribution to saving lives at sea, despite living inland, is an incredible success to celebrate.



Diane Hughes with speaker Adam Partridge

## WHAT'S ON

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### LEG IT FOR LYTHAM

Sunday 22 April

Lytham Inshore Boathouse, Central Beach (opposite the Queens Hotel)

A leisurely 3½-mile run (or stroll) taking in views of the estuary and coast between the inshore boathouse on Central Beach, Lytham, and the all-weather boathouse on South Promenade, St Annes.

Visit [lythamlifeboats.co.uk](http://lythamlifeboats.co.uk).

### SOS RADIO WEEK

1–31 May

An opportunity to raise money and celebrate the work of the RNLI. Find out more or register your callsign at [sosradioweek.org.uk](http://sosradioweek.org.uk).

### BUXTON DUCK RACE

Monday 7 May

Pavilion Gardens, Buxton

RNLI fundraisers will be holding a duck race in Pavilion Gardens during the Buxton Spring Fair. Tickets £1, on sale from April. Contact Dianne Travis on [dianne.travis@sky.com](mailto:dianne.travis@sky.com).

### HOYLAKE CAR WASH

Sunday 13 May, 10am–1pm

Hoyle Lake Lifeboat Station

Have your car hand washed by the coxswain and his crew, £5 per car.

### THREE SHIRES CYCLE SPORTIVE

Sunday 20 May, 8am–4pm

Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire

An annual event aimed at cyclists of all ages and abilities. Choose between a 5K family cycle, 35K, 100K, or the Triple Crown of all three (140K). Visit [RNLI.org/ThreeShires](http://RNLI.org/ThreeShires).

Send details of your events for the summer issue (mid-July onwards) to [CommunitySupportTeam@rnli.org.uk](mailto:CommunitySupportTeam@rnli.org.uk).



# SOUTH/MIDLANDS/EAST COMMUNITY NEWS

Words: Anna Burn. Photos: RNLI/(Keith Cima/Portishead/South Bucks and Thames/Teignmouth/Nathan Williams)

## West Bridgford

## YOUNG FUNDRAISER RECOGNISED

Fourteen-year-old Luke Jenkins has been helping to save lives at sea for most of his life. As a baby, his mother Aisling carried him in a sling on an annual house-to-house collection with his father Peter and sister Alicia. And as he got older he stuck with it, collecting more than £1,000 through the years.

Aisling says: 'Each year we went to the same houses, and I think the occupants were genuinely pleased to see us, but particularly Luke.' Luke, who has Downs Syndrome, describes the collection as: 'a good thing as the crew are very brave.'

In December, Luke's commitment to lifesaving was recognised with the presentation of a Framed Certificate of Thanks in front of his community. Chair of South Bucks and Thames Branch Michael Prager says: 'Now that house-to-house collections have been discontinued, it is an appropriate time to recognise an extraordinary service by this young man. He has looked beyond his own challenges and raised funds to help the RNLI continue to save lives at sea. We are all very proud and inspired by Luke.'



Welcome to your community news for the South, Midlands and East. For the latest from where you are, head to [RNLI.org/news](https://www.rnli.org/news)

## Portishead



## BARNACLE BUOYS RAISE THE ROOF

Portishead Lifeboat Station hosted a night of soulful sea shanties with local performers the Barnacle Buoys, raising more than £800 to help save lives at sea.

Raise the Roof for the RNLI was a free event held inside the boathouse, with the station's inshore lifeboat *My Lady Anne* on display at the top of the launch ramp. The venue was packed to the rafters and more than one passer-by stopped to enjoy the music drifting out through the doors.

Lifeboat Operations Manager Dave Slack says: 'A great night for our community. We cannot thank the Barnacle Buoys enough for their time and valuable support. We look forward to having them back, when they can squeeze us in to their busy schedule!'

## Tower



The lifebuoy that saved a life

## LIFELINES ON THE THAMES

Tower Lifeboat Station volunteer Helm and Community Safety Officer Keith Cima is seeing success from a public rescue project.

Each year, 30–35 people lose their lives to the tidal Thames. The project aims to ensure that public rescue equipment (PRE) is adequate, signage is installed and community responders are trained.

At around 2am on a cold autumn night, Tower lifeboat was requested to launch to a person in the water near Temple Pier. Keith reports: 'We picked up a 19-year-old man clinging to a lifebuoy, distressed and exhausted. The tide was flooding and the lad was nearly going under.'

'The first informant was a homeless man on the embankment. This is where the City of London has installed new lifebuoy boxes signed with the "call 999 and ask for the Coastguard" message. He called 999 and then he threw a lifebuoy. Without this bystander's quick thinking and the available PRE, the young man may have drowned.'

'Progress can be slow, as many local issues compete for focus. But, as a result of this rescue, I requested an additional lifebuoy in a key location and it was installed within a week! What this tells me is that signage works – and we have to persevere.'

## Teignmouth

## CHORDETTES IN CONCERT

Last autumn the Chordettes, a women's barbershop group, and supporting acts put on a show at the Teignmouth Pavilion, Devon. Tickets sold out several weeks before the performance and the pavilion was packed with concertgoers, who enjoyed songs like Eva Cassidy's *Songbird* and



Chair of Teignmouth RNLI Fundraising Team Tom Neville receives the cheques from the Chordettes

West End classic *Do You Hear the People Sing* from *Les Misérables*. With matched funding by Barclays, the event raised more than £1,500.

## WHAT'S ON

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### WINSCOMBE FOLK NIGHT

**Saturday 14 April, 7.30pm**

**St James' Church Hall, Woodborough Road**

Folk music by Scottish artist Ewan McLennan in aid of the RNLI. For more information contact James Barattini on [winscombe.folk@gmail.com](mailto:winscombe.folk@gmail.com).

### COWES YELLOW WELLY DAY

**Saturday 5 May, 11am–4pm**

**Cowes Lifeboat Station, Watchhouse Lane**

Meet lifeboat crew members and other emergency service lifesavers, with a station tour, live music and activities for children. Free entry. More details at [cowes-lifeboat.org.uk](https://www.cowes-lifeboat.org.uk).

### FARNSFIELD MAYDAY

**Monday 7 May, 10am–5pm**

**Old school field, Farnsfield**

Farnsfield Guild are taking part in the village scarecrow display this year for Mayday. Main activity with souvenir stall on the old school field; the guild scarecrow will be displayed from a house on the main road through Farnsfield.

### ST AGNES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**Saturday 23 June, from 7pm**

**Trevaunance Beach, Cornwall**

Celebrate St Agnes's 50th anniversary with music, food and drinks on the beach. Contact Paul on [kimbals1969@hotmail.com](mailto:kimbals1969@hotmail.com).

### LIFEBOAT RALLY

**Saturday 30 June, 11am–4pm**

**Berrills Yard Pontoon, Fowey**

The annual rally of former lifeboats sees around 10 vessels on display, all open to the public.

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