

LIFEBOAT



THE RNLI IS THE
CHARITY THAT
SAVES LIVES AT SEA

ISSUE 624 | SUMMER 2018

'I FLOATED TO LIVE'

Meet the people who saved themselves

PLUS:

RESCUE

Stranded on a car roof

STYLE AND SUBSTANCE

Crew kit through the years

Welcome



Some stories hit you right in the heart

From page 16 of this issue, we tell one of those stories. Stranded in a February sea after their kayak flooded, it was up to 13-year-old Joe to help get his dad to safety.

Thinking quickly, and using a strength he didn't know he had, the boy got them both to an island, where Moelfre lifeboat crew took over. It's an extraordinary story, told in the family's own words, and we're grateful to them for sharing it.

But not everyone has someone like Joe by their side.

That's why, for the second year running, our Respect the Water campaign is urging people to Float to Live. The message is to try not to panic if you find yourself in the water

unexpectedly, but to take a moment to float and regain control of your breathing before trying to swim to safety or call for help.

And that's just what Evan, Enda and our cover star Andrew did after seeing the campaign last year. They lived to tell their heartstopping stories from page 10.

Summer is our lifesavers' busiest season, on the beaches and at stations. We hope you and yours are all set to enjoy your time at the coast – wholeheartedly and safely.

M Dwane

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Photos: RNLI/Angel Millard, Nathan Williams



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The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea. We do so by providing a rescue service, safety education, and supervision on beaches. We also influence other organisations, policy-makers and regulators. Our crews and lifeguards have saved over 142,200 lives since the RNLI was formed in 1824. We want to halve UK and Ireland coastal drowning by 2024 and reduce drowning around the world where it's a major risk. We are independent from government and rely on voluntary contributions and gifts in Wills for income. The RNLI is a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland



Lifeboats

WALES COMMUNITY NEWS

Words: Anna Burn. Photos: Gareth Davies Photography, Ian Finch, Off the Ground TV, Zoe Penfold, RNLI/(Norma Stockford, Andy Green)

Beumaris



Menai boat run sets new record

Now in its 10th year, East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club's Menai Boat Run had a record turnout in March for its weekend of diving and fun – with 278 divers and 35 boats attending.

Clubs from as far afield as Cornwall put their dive boats through their paces for the start of the new season. Highlights included dives at Puffin Island (with seals for company) and the wreck of the *Royal Charter* (which claimed an estimated 450 lives during a storm in 1859), a barbecue, and a picnic by Beumaris Lifeboat Station.

The club has been using the Boat Run to fundraise for the RNLI for the last 3 years, with donations rising from £250 to £1,600 in that time. Tim Bailey, Deputy Launching Authority at Beumaris, says: 'As a charity, the RNLI relies on donations just like this generous one from the East Cheshire Sub-Aqua Club and the other donors. Everyone at the station is hugely appreciative of this gesture.'

Welcome to your community news for Wales. For all the latest from where you are, head to RNLI.org/news

MISSIONS WITH MEANING

Two fundraisers have taken on the challenge of travelling the coast of Wales to raise money for the RNLI – one by foot and the other by paddle!

Zoe Penfold crossed the border into Wales from Chester on 3 April and will be walking the 870-mile Welsh Coastal Path on a budget of £1 per day, with a bivvy to bed down in. She's raising money and awareness for the RNLI and Shelter, and highlighting the growing issue of poverty in the UK. Zoe expects to arrive at the finish line in Chepstow in 60 days, which means she'll be clocking up 14½ miles a day.

Sian Sykes is taking a slightly different route, and circumnavigating

the whole of Wales by stand-up paddleboard. This is the first time it's been done solo and unsupported.

Travelling in the opposite direction to Zoe, Sian left Connah's Quay on the Dee Estuary, working her way to South Wales through canal and river systems before heading out along the rugged coast.

Sian's mission is to raise money for North Wales Wildlife Trust, Surfers Against Sewage and the RNLI.

At the time of writing, Zoe and Sian were passing each other on the Llŷn Peninsula, and they both expect to be finished by the time you read this.



Zoe Penfold



Sian Sykes

Tenby



PAN-FLIPPING-TASTIC

Tenby volunteers brought hilarity to the high street in February, when they put on their eighth annual pancake race to help raise lifesaving funds.

Tudor Square filled up with people as flippers of all ages took up the challenge – with crew competing in their all-weather lifeboat kit!

The festivities were rounded off with a delicious pancake lunch in the Baytree restaurant.

Barmouth



AN EGGCELLENT EVENT

Barmouth Lifeboat Station threw open its doors and welcomed beachgoers for their Easter beachgoers for their Easter tombola event.

An amazing £480.39 was raised through the tombola and a bake sale, with the grand prize in

the tombola – a giant Easter egg – won by Sharon Cooney.

The station's lifeboat *Moira Barrie* sat proudly on display on the beach. Also on hand were community safety volunteers, with a stall offering advice.

WHAT'S ON

Summer is the season for lifeboat open days so be sure to check with your nearest station to find out when theirs is.

HOLYHEAD FESTIVAL

26–29 July

Holyhead, Anglesey

The Holyhead Maritime Leisure and Heritage Festival is back, featuring a carnival parade, maritime demonstrations, Ariana Grande and Beach Boy tribute bands, as well as a wrestling show and an artisans' marquee.

Visit holyheadfestival.com.

CASTLEMARTIN RANGE WALK

19 August, 10am

Newton Tower, St Govan's

Castlemartin Range opens to the public for one day only. Join the Pembroke Ladies' Branch in a walk for the RNLI.

YEAR OF THE SEA EXHIBITION

Until 9 March 2019

National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

An exhibition of photographer Jack Lowe's powerful wet plate collodion images of lifeboat stations and the brave volunteers who serve in them. More information at www.library.wales.

THE MUMBLES RAFT RACE

5 August, 12.30pm

Norton, Swansea

Hundreds of rafts battle it out from Norton to Knab Rock in this annual fundraiser. All welcome to spectate. For raft enquiries, contact the-mumbles@rnli.org.uk.

Send details of your events for the autumn issue (mid-October onwards) to CommunitySupportTeam@rnli.org.uk.

LIFEBOAT LOTTERY

SPRING 2018 RESULTS

Congratulations to Mr WD Wilson from Dorset who won our first prize of £5,000 cash.

OUR OTHER WINNERS WERE:

2ND PRIZE: £2,000

Mrs B Flippence, Essex

3RD PRIZE: £500

Mr B Hepburn, West Lothian

4TH PRIZE: £250

Mrs Duell, Tyne and Wear

AND 5 PRIZES of £100 EACH

Mr HM Ottey, Shropshire

Mrs D Garritt, Lancashire

Mrs EM Moss, Worcestershire

Mr NR Bennett, Worcestershire

Mr PF Fuchter, Buckinghamshire

We'll report the winners of the summer Lifeboat Lottery in our autumn 2018 issue. The autumn Lifeboat Lottery will mail on 20 July and close on 14 September. The draw will take place on 28 September.

To take part, please call 0300 300 9990 or email your details to lottery@rnli.org.uk and request a lottery mailing.

Phone lines are open Monday–Friday, 8am–6pm.

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/Nathan Williams



PARTNERS IN INNOVATION: RNLI AND HELLY HANSEN



Helly Hansen is working with the RNLI
to defeat drowning

The sailing gear icon will deliver safety messages to its customers, raise money, and supply the very best kit to the RNLI's lifesavers.

The new kit, due to go on service from September, will meet the demanding needs of our volunteer crews. It's waterproof, easier to move in, and uses a technical layering system to keep crews warm and dry when they're out saving lives in all conditions.



'The new gear is much lighter than the old kit and uses breathable fabric, which is ideal for the more demanding tasks we often need to carry out'

Weymouth Crew Member Alice Higgins

