

DART TALES

Lifeboats

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Train one **save many**

The night of the 15th of August will be memorable for many reasons. It was the night when six teenagers had planned to spend the night in Landcombe Cove and had lit a fire in a sea cave on the beach. Rocks from the cave roof fell on them and the emergency call went out at 01:57a.m. Volunteer crew member, Jerry Gilby, jumped from his bed and ran across the

deserted streets of Dartmouth to the lifeboat station. Jerry is also the trainer for the tractor drivers at the station. On his arrival, with the crew almost ready and the tractor running, he donned a hi-visibility jacket and ran across the park to open the barrier onto the road and the launching slip.

It had only taken six minutes from the

pages sounding to the launch of the ILB with the Dart paramedic crewmember on board. Back in the lifeboat station there was disappointment not to be on the boat, but satisfaction with a good launch. Suddenly there was a crash as Jerry fell, striking his head on the desk. Immediately colleagues responded: 'He's having a fit' 'Recovery position' 'He's not breathing.' 'There is no pulse'

There was no time for thinking that he is 'one of us.' A sternal thump may have saved his life - mouth-to-mouth resuscitation - cardiac massage - 'What is the ratio?' All the memories from the ten- evening first aid course and the revision that the paramedic had given only five days before flooded back. 'Thirty to two.' Oxygen was brought, an airway inserted and the ambulance, on its way to the cave rescue, was diverted and arrived in four minutes. One shock from the defibrillator and the ambulance crew stabilised Jerry's heart.

Whilst all this was going on the Dart ILB had landed their paramedic and medical equipment at the cave. They then ferried another paramedic crewmember and larger items of first aid equipment from the Torbay ALB which was illuminating the scene from offshore.

The decision was made to take the two most seriously injured teenagers off the beach →



Jerry Gilby on Thomas three days before the cave rescue

Photo by JOHN FENTON

What knot to do at Christmas

There were only two call outs on Christmas Day in the South West last year. Strangely the cause was the same in both Fowey and Dartmouth, when tenders had broken loose and were reported to be drifting out of their harbours. The coastguard asked the crews to check them out and make sure no one had fallen overboard and was still in the water. In Dartmouth, the pagers went off at 10:35 a.m. One volunteer was opening presents with his family. Another was preparing their families traditional Christmas breakfast. Yet another did not realise what the sound of the pager was

and wondered if it was the fire alarm (it was only our second shout!)

As they raced to the station many thoughts went through their heads. "I hope it isn't a hoax" - "It's a bit early for the LOM to be serving Sherry!" Some families stopped their celebrations and came down to see the boat launch.

The tender was easily recognized by the Gunfield. There wasn't much else moving on the river! The area was searched and the tender was returned to its parent yacht.

"Now where's the LOM and his Sherry?"



Cartoon by JAMES FENTON

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by helicopter and an RAF Helicopter from Chivenor made an amazing touchdown on the beach with the rotors only feet from the cliff face. The Dart ILB brought a third teenager back to a waiting ambulance at Blackpool Sands. The training exercises with the Coastguard controllers and their local mobile teams, the RNLI flanking stations and the West Country Ambulance service all proved invaluable. They returned to Dartmouth some 2 1/2 hours after the initial call, unaware of the drama that had unfolded as they sped off into the dark.

One of the helms went with Jerry in the ambulance, whilst another crew volunteer took Jerry's wife, who had by now arrived at the boathouse, to Torbay Hospital. They were sitting in resus at Torbay Hospital when the Chivenor helicopter flew in with two of the three injured boys.

Following surgery in Derriford Hospital, Jerry has made a very good recovery and is back at the station. Tom Mansell, Training Divisional Inspector, rang all those involved the next day to pass on his congratulations and to listen to what they had to say. Rob Clements, LOM, and Haydn, the paramedic, talked it through with them over a beer after the Sunday training session.

Four members of the crew have since applied to be First Responders in Dartmouth and two of those are seriously considering training as paramedics.

"Train one - Save many"; in Jerry's words. "On this occasion perhaps train many - save one is more fitting for me. Without the crew I wouldn't be here today!"

On the first anniversary of the Dart lifeboat

To maintain and run a lifeboat
Will always say for me
We are a people who live
Inside a harbour
Yet who care about those
Who go to sea!
We are not unkind or mean folk
Nor selfish in our ways
But we make ready to be
Of service to unknown others
When and as needs may
And if it takes a little time
Or money
Then all this will with time abound
For all those out there
May be sea going strangers
But to us they are sea friends
Which have not as of yet been found



Photo by JOHN FENTON

To CoBT or not to CoBT

Training is at the heart of everything in the RNLI, which is why the institute operates a system of training development as sophisticated as that of any major organisation. The Competence Based Training system (CoBT), breaks down the roles and responsibilities of crew members into core competencies, which are the basis for monitoring and assessing crew's skills and abilities. Once volunteers have been assessed as competent in all elements of their role they are then 'Green Lighted' and enrolled as full lifeboat crew members.

As a new station, Dart faced a supreme challenge. To train a complete team from scratch and achieve our targeted 20 'Green Lighted' lifeboat crew was a task few stations have to achieve. As Lifeboat Training Co-ordinator, my role was to organise a training plan that would meet the needs of the whole crew, which included people with a diverse range of skills, from complete novices to experienced trawler skippers.

Working as a team, we developed training plans for the whole crew, and over an intensive period worked hard to bring them up to RNLI competency. Meeting twice a week, many crew members were training up to 4 times per month for exercises on the water and in the classroom, learning about everything from boat handling and rope work to First Aid and Radio communications. In addition, most crew have now attended the Lifeboat College at Poole. It is an amazing training facility where every RNLI volunteer experiences for themselves what it means to be a member of the RNLI.

"Train one - save many" is our motto in the RNLI, and 'skill fade' is our biggest threat, so the crew continues its commitment to training. We are constantly renewing our skills and developing new knowledge that will help us to be ready to meet the once in a lifetime challenge that might meet us on the next shout.

Kevin John, Dart Lifeboat Training Co-ordinator



The idea behind the "Train one, save many" campaign is that by training one volunteer, many lives can be saved. The national fundraising day for this campaign is 30th January every year and is known as "RNLI SOS day". Although the RNLI fundraising teams and the crew volunteers are fully committed to the SOS campaign it is an opportunity for the whole community to get involved. You do not have to be linked to the RNLI in any way and the fundraising activity does not have to be on the central day. Hundreds of schools, including our two Primary Schools in Dartmouth, joined in last year as well as a huge number of groups and individuals. The SOS activity can be at work or at home, in a club or as an individual. Traditionally events have been linked to the acronym SOS. Share our Soup, Sizzle our Sausages, Shiraz or Sauvignon, Soap our Saloons, Sample our Snacks....the list is endless. There are many more examples in the photo gallery on the RNLI SOS web page.

To sign up for a free fundraising pack call 0845 121 4999 or visit www.rnli.org.uk/sos and the RNLI will send you everything you need for a fantastic fundraising event.



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Launches since becoming Operational on 07/11/2007

No	Date	Day	Assisted	Location	Description
1	24/11/07	Sat	1	Dart estuary	Zap-cat hit submerged object throwing driver into the sea. Casualty brought to Hosp.
2	25/12/07	Tues	0	Warfleet	Drifting tender. Local search. Returned to parent yacht
3	17/02/08	Sun	2	Stoke Gabriel	Motor cruiser. Engine failure. Towed to berth
4	23/02/08	Sat	0	Kelly's Cove E. of Mewstone	Sheep trapped on ledge. Returned to shore
5	19/03/08	Wed	2	Home reach, Totnes	Motor cruiser. Engine failure. Towed to berth
6	06/04/08	Fri	0	River Dart	Search River Dart for overdue yacht
7	14/05/08	Thur	0	Kingswear quay	Search for car driver. Brought diver to verify body in car. Assisted police divers to retrieve car driver.
8	14/07/08	Mon	3	Mewstone	Motor cruiser. Engine failure. Towed to berth
9	23/07/08	Wed	0	Brutus Bridge, Totnes	Asked to assist Police rescue person from river.
10	02/08/08	Sat	0	Leonards Cove Stoke Fleming	People reported in the water. Call made in good faith.
11	02/08/08	Sat	0	Stoke Gabriel	Search of shoreline for elderly missing lady. Found by shore team
12	12/08/08	Tues	0	Blackpool Sands	Stood by as helicopter winched casualty to safety
13	15/08/08	Fri	3	Landcombe Cove Stoke Fleming	Called to teenagers injured in rock fall. Worked with Torbay ALB Brought 1 casualty to Amb at Blackpool Sands
14	25/08/08	Mon	0	Off Beesands	Start Bay Small sailing vessel requested assistance. Stood down en route as fishing boat took them in tow.
15	14/09/08	Sun	2	3miles E of Berry Head	MFV engine fire. Arrived at same time as Torbay ALB who dealt with the incident.
16	21/09/08	Sun	1	3miles S of Blackpool Sands	Injured Dory passenger. Assessed by paramedic crew. Escorted to Ambulance.
17	28/09/08	Sun	2	½ mile off Start Point	Motor Fishing Vessel. Engine failure. Towed to berth
18	26/10/08	Sun	6	Dart estuary	Yacht with power failure. Towed to berth
19	12/11/08	Wed	0	Sugary Cove. Dart estuary	Sinking vessel reported. Local search. Remains of vessel towed to Dart estuary



Photo by JOHN FENTON

Photo by KEVIN JOHN

Trafalgar Night Dinner

Dart Lifeboat was declared a lifesaving facility on 25th Oct 2007. It seemed fitting to celebrate the completion of our first year of operations, so on Fri 24th October we sat down to a superb meal, cooked by Rob Smith of the Market Café. It was on the 21st October, two hundred and three years ago, there occurred one of the great turning points in the nation's history. The Battle of Trafalgar. Whilst we felt proud of our local achievement in placing a lifeboat at Dartmouth, we really had to mark "Trafalgar," especially as the records show that on that momentous day thirty one Dartmouth-born men fought for our liberty.

The boathouse was decked out in patriotic colours and made an excellent venue for such an occasion. Care of course was taken to place the Lifeboat outside, ready to go at a moments notice, and a sober crew had previously been selected by lot!

After the dinner and the appropriate toasts, Don Campbell, one of our Launch Authorities, kept us enthralled and amused. He set out the course of the battle and then explained how different it would be if fought today under current Health and Safety legislation!

A special vote of thanks is due to Andora Glanvil, who worked so hard to provide us all with such an enjoyable night.

Rob Clements, LOM

PLEASE SUPPORT THE DART LIFEBOAT STATION

'The Dart lifeboat became operational in November 2007 and has proved its worth by responding to 18 shouts during its first year on station'

Rob Clements, Dart Lifeboat Operations Manager



CAN YOU HELP US PLEASE

If you can help in any way, or require sea safety advice, please contact Rob Clements on 01803 839224

Thank you

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Lifeboats



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of rib collars, inflatables &
flexible tanks

The generosity of our advertiser has enabled us to produce this edition at reduced cost to the RNLI. Please support him.

Details of our first nineteen Launches, recent and forthcoming events, as well as information on the new IB1 D class lifeboat can be found on the local RNLI web site. Notices are also posted on the Notice Boards in Market Square and on the Lifeboat Station.

www.dartmouth-lifeboat.org.uk

Dart RNLI contacts

Lifeboat Operations Manager.

Rob Clements. Mobile 07917 514 948

Chairman Management Team.

Robin Shiffner. Tel 01803 835853

Chairman Fundraising Team.

Position vacant.

Local Membership Secretary

Bob Hattersley. Tel 01803 832182

Boathouse Manager.

Bob Thomas. Mobile 07980 099 932

Administrator and Press Officer.

John Fenton Tel. 01803 770761

Dart Lifeboat Station.

Tel. 01803 839224

Please do not ring this number if you think a launch is in progress.