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DART TALES

Lifeboats

NEWS FROM THE RNLI LIFEBOAT TEAM IN DARTMOUTH

STORM FORCE. Storm Force is the Junior RNLI membership for 7 to 11 year olds. A year's membership includes four Storm Force magazines packed with activities, rescue stories and water safety advice. There is access to an exclusive web site for SF members. Education volunteers sometimes arrange Storm Force days at Lifeboat stations to give members a chance to meet lifeboat crews and lifeguards and to see the boats and sea safety equipment in action. The membership pack contains a crew bag full of goodies and can be purchased for £12 at RNLI Visitor Centres and online at RNLI.org.uk if you search for Storm Force. It makes an ideal Christmas present for grandchildren. The Dart RNLI Visitor Centre is on the South Embankment between Rockfish and the Hospital. There is an excellent variety of Christmas cards and gifts for all ages and your purchases all go to support the RNLI.

THE 2 YEAR TRIAL WITH B-794 JOAN BATE, AN ATLANTIC 75 in service with RNLI Dart, began on 26 October and exactly a week later she was tasked for the first time. The Falmouth Coastguard received a call from a 23 foot angling boat with two on board who had been fishing five miles out to sea on the Skerries bank. The lifeboat crew established that a line caught around the propeller was the reason why the engine would not turn over. The boat was towed at nine knots,



Chris Tracey at the helm of B-775 with Dave Jackman, RNLI South Division Coastal Infrastructure Engineer on the newly built RNLI Dart Aquadock.

Photo: Amy Gateley

against the tide, to Dart Marina. The three lifeboat crew had a drier and much quicker journey to the casualty vessel than if they had been in the D class and the launch time was comparable to the time it would have taken to tow the D class to the launching slip. Amy Gateley, a visitor from Birmingham, was on board Dart Explorer and found herself in exactly the right place to photograph B-984 leaving on her first shout.

INTERNATIONAL LIFESAVING OR WHAT DO SOME OF OUR LIFEGUARDS DO IN THE WINTER?

'There is much to learn about drowning and drowning prevention, but we must take proven, preventive action while research continues. This means urgently targeting vulnerable populations in exposed communities with strategies most likely to save lives'

Margaret Chan, Director-General, World Health Organization

The WHO estimates that around 360,000 people drown worldwide each year. The RNLI has been working with our partners abroad to find solutions that work for them - solutions that fit the skills and materials available in low-resource communities. We now have tried-and-tested interventions that can either protect people from the risk of drowning, or rescue them safely from the water.

Flood Rescue. As world sea levels rise and extreme weather becomes more common, countries and communities need to be more resilient to floods.

Future Leaders in Lifesaving. With great leaders organisations can develop and thrive without needing ongoing help.

Lifeguarding. In countries like Bangladesh, where a growing middle class are boosting domestic tourism, the need for beach lifeguard services is increasing.

Maritime Search and Rescue. When disaster strikes on the water, many low and middle income countries lack the

resources, training and co-ordination to reach people in time.

Sustainable lifesaving equipment.

Drowning overwhelmingly affects the countries with the fewest resources to prevent it. Many organisations struggle because they do not have the rescue equipment they need.

Swim survival and water safety.

Children in low and middle income countries may miss out on this life saving learning.

From understanding the problem to measuring the impact of a particular project, research underpins every new intervention.

Resources

Lifesavers worldwide can download our free guides to help develop their own services.

Since 2012, the RNLI has been working with partners in low-resource areas, helping them to set up rescue and prevention services. Together we've tested and developed a series of free, open-source materials to help others do the same. Resources that are available online include;

Rescue Board

This manual provides step-by-step instructions on how to build a rescue board in a low-resource setting, including all the materials and equipment needed.

Rescue Throwline Manual

The primary aim of this is to equip people with the skills and knowledge to manufacture the



rescue throwline in-country.

The Beach Lifeguard Service Implementation Guide

aims to guide organisations with the background and knowledge to assist them with developing a Beach Lifeguard Service. This resource has been designed as a guidance document and can be adapted to suit the local environment. It includes chapters on Casualty assessment, the unconscious casualty, treatment of injuries and Cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

It is designed for organisations based in low-resource areas with limited access to equipment.

The international drowning problem is vast, but we know that simple, inexpensive solutions are very effective.

Where we are working.

Drowning is a killer that affects every country to some degree. But when just 25 countries share 80% of the world's drowning burden, it's important to direct our attention and resources

where we can help the most.

At present the RNLI is working with other organisations in Bangladesh, Ghana, Greece and Zanziba

Using funds well

The international drowning problem is vast, but we know that simple, inexpensive solutions are very effective. A small amount spent on overseas projects can change countless lives. During any project, we help partners with organisational development to ensure that they can continue without the RNLI's support - in particular finding sustainable ways to fund their services in future.

We are also seeking funds from a wide range of other organisations, trusts, foundations, businesses and donors to support our international work.

In 2017 we spent £2.9M on international projects. At just 1.6% of the RNLI's total expenditure, this covers everything from advocacy work at the United Nations to setting up a training pool in Cox's Bazar. Supporters can specifically donate to the International Lifesaving work of the RNLI by following the links on the www.rnli.org.uk web site. What do we do > International Lifesaving. All the information in this short summary can be found there and many more details of the work being carried out in each country.

News, details of launches, photographs and videos can be found on the Dart station website. www.dartlifeboat.org.uk or the station Facebook page www.facebook.com/dartnllifeboat

John Fenton, RNLI Dart Lifeboat Press Officer & Education Volunteer

bythedart.co.uk

Everything & Anything about Dartmouth

What's on, what to do, where to eat, shop, stay & much, much more



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