

Funding A New Lifeboat Station for the Dart

All our supporters will wish to know that we are making significant progress.

South Hams District Council agreed to planning permission for our new station on Coronation Park, close to the centre of Dartmouth, at their meeting on 18 July 2007.

No station can operate without funding. The RNLI gets no financial help from the government to run its lifeboat service in the UK; we rely entirely on the public and our supporter's generosity. We therefore started an appeal to raise funds in July 2006. The target was to raise £205,000 to set up the station with a boathouse, crew equipment, an inshore lifeboat, a tractor and trailer and associated equipment. A local fundraising team was set up under the chairmanship of Terry Knight in Dartmouth, ably supported by Rosemary Gifford and her team in Totnes, to promote the appeal and raise funds.

Approaches have been made to potential donors, charitable Trusts and local companies. To date four very significant donations have been received. Mr Mike Felton of Caterfoods responded to one of our mailings and very kindly donated £29,000 to buy

the inshore lifeboat. Mike is continuing to raise funds for us for which we are most grateful. The Hadley Trust, who has close links with Dartmouth, donated £25,000 to purchase the crew's clothing.

Mike and Jane Madigan who were recently married and now have a house in Dartmouth asked all their friends to donate to the appeal instead of receiving wedding presents. This wonderful gesture has produced a further £6000. A fund set up to commemorate the life of Bill Howell who was a keen and enthusiastic local sailor has been very well supported and has raised a further £4000 to date.

The local teams have also been working hard to raise money through their events programme and by encouraging third parties to organise an event for the appeal. A wide variety have already taken place these include: the Kingswear Regatta £1000, Sea Shanties on Sir Bedivere at the Dartmouth Regatta £1961, Tappers travel sponsored lunch on the ship the Seven Seas Voyager £705, Justin Aylett participation in the London Marathon £142, Stokenham Village Bingo £436,



Above: Simon Pryce, DI, David Hannah, Appeals Manager, Rob Clements and Terry Knight, Fundraising Chairman

Photo by JOHN FENTON

ladies and gents arm and thigh wrestling competition £300 (the mind boggles!), Stoke Gabriel WI £600, Sea Shanties with Hanging Johnny at Alf Resco restaurant £1500, and a beach party £1000. The events organisers in both Dartmouth and Totnes are planning further events.

To date, due to the enthusiastic and determined efforts of our volunteers and supporters, we have raised £183,000 towards our target of £205,000. So a most sincere thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far. Please help us to go the last mile if you can.



Far Left: Duncan Green and Anna Perry, Events Secretary

Left: Chris Tracey, crewman, accepts the cheque from Doug Twigg, Chair of the D&K Society

Photo by JOHN FENTON

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

The National Coastwatch (NCI) Station at Froward Point is well placed and tasked to survey the area around the entrance to the Dart, Start Bay and the coastal area to its East and West.

Manned by 55 trained volunteer Watchkeepers who maintain a visual watch year round, in daylight hours, the Station cooperates closely with the RNLI, also HM Coastguard, Police and Search and Rescue services within the area.

NCI Froward point was established on my initiative in 2005 and is a valuable part of our current 36 Station network.

Sailors going both eastwards and westwards will pass into the areas covered by several NCI Stations, all manned year round tasked to help protect and preserve life at sea and along the UK coastline.

We wish you all success with the D Class.

Jon Gifford

Chairman, National Coastwatch
www.nci.org.uk

UK Beneteau Owners Association RNLI Raffle

Dear Editor

Each year for the past eight years the UK Beneteau Owners Association has held its annual dinner and disco dance at the Dart Marina Hotel just before Christmas. As usual a raffle organized by Carl and Janice Targett was held in aid of the RNLI. £1012 was raised.

As many of the 82 members who attended travel from all areas of the country most make a weekend of the event. It has become something of a tradition to have Saturday lunch at the Cherub and afternoon tea at the hotel. Also as many areas of the country are represented the proceeds are donated to different RNLI areas, last year's went to Walton-On-The-Naze Lifeboat station. This year we felt, as Dartmouth has under taken the daunting task of raising funds for a new lifeboat station, that as we always hold the event in Dartmouth, it would be appropriate to support them once again as we did in 2004 with a donation of £1045.

Chairman, UK Beneteau Association

Dear Editor

Hope the information I gave was useful. The pictures are great - I will show the crew here the Bob Savage in her new home waters! Our situation in Suffolk is very similar to yours. We can launch across the beach into the North Sea, but we also have sixteen miles of river to cover sweeping inland behind the town. We have to get the boat over the Harbour wall and then drive nearly a mile down the High Street to the local Yacht Club to launch on the river.

I and the crew here at Aldeburgh, are so pleased that you have overcome all the obstacles that you encountered on your way to where you are today and we wish you every success in the future. We hope that the Bob Savage, and your new IB1, when it arrives, serves you well and carries out many successful, and safe, rescues. If you need any further assistance please do not hesitate to call me.

Regards to all at the station and good luck!

Lee Firman Coxswain Aldeburgh lifeboat

(So much for local worries about the time taken to cross Coronation Park! – Editor)

IN FOCUS



Rob Clements L.O.M. (left)

Photo by JOHN FENTON

Lifeboat Operations Manager (L.O.M.)

The L.O.M. has sole responsibility to the RNLI Trustees, through the Divisional Inspectors of lifeboats, for all operational activities at the lifeboat station.

I do not believe I fully realised the importance of what I was letting myself in for when I first put up my hand to volunteer way back in August 2004. That seems an age ago. Now we are on the brink of going "operational" and the hard but exciting and rewarding work begins.

The main duty of the L.O.M., on receiving information of the need for a lifeboat service, is to authorise the launch in accordance with launching procedures. I am also responsible for the correct exercise of all operational activities at the station and to ensure that the lifeboat is in a constant state of readiness to launch.

Additional tasks are:

- To inform the Lifeboat Management Team of all operational matters.
- The day to day management of personnel
- To liaise with all other emergency services
- To represent the RNLI locally on operational matters.
- To ensure that the competence based training programme is fulfilled.
- Promulgate health and Safety issues
- Discipline, recruitment, reports to H.Q. and many other tasks.

Fortunately I have the support of a talented team of deputies and helpers at the station, together with a tremendous crew. I think it could be the best job in the world... and I don't even have to get wet!! (It could be arranged – Editor)
Rob Clements. L.O.M. Dartmouth



Photo by KEVIN PYNE

Dartmouth's first lifeboat for 111 years

D 520, "Bob Savage", was based at Aldeburgh from June 1997 to April 2007. Her last shout was on 16 April this year. In her time at the station she launched 107 times, rescued 49 people and saved one life.

She arrived in Dartmouth on the 8th of August after a complete refit at Poole. She is called Bob Savage after a volunteer crew member from Aldeburgh who sadly drowned when bringing a yacht back from Holland in 1990. At the

time Bob was the Senior Helm of the stations inshore lifeboat. The lifeboat was funded by Mr Hugh Turner of Aldeburgh. Mr Turner has since passed away, but Mrs Turner is still alive and often calls in to see the Coxswain.

Above: D520 alongside the Higher Ferry

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CORNWALL DEVON SOMERSET DORSET LONDON

News of the Crews



Cartoon by JAMES FENTON



Photo by ROB CLEMENTS

The partially pre-fabricated timber lifeboat station, built by John Shields Woodwork at North Tawton, was erected in mid September and will take a further two weeks to fit out. The paggers have been handed out and there was an unannounced training exercise which was passed with flying colours. Sufficient personnel to man and launch the boat arrived within three minutes of the call and by four minutes they could have manned four boats. There will be a two day inspection of the personnel and facilities in mid October with another joint exercise involving one of the RNLI flanking All Weather Lifeboats from Torbay or Salcombe. If enough assessments are completed the Inspector will recommend that we go operational.

We have enrolled twenty four volunteer lifeboat crew and eight launch crew with more on both waiting lists. Initially weekly meetings were in the Ship in Dock and subsequently at the Dartmouth Yacht Club or the British Legion. Before the boat arrived, it was a case of getting to know each other and having basic tutorials on subjects such as chart reading and knot tying. Orienteering trips were made on the "Sea Falcon" with Tony Hoile, DLA, up the Dart and around the estuary. Several members of the crew are in the DARC and a crack team was entered for the Canoe races at Tuckenhay. They were beaten on water and land by a team of Morris Men but triumphed in the Invitation Whaler Race at Dartmouth regatta.

As a group they were most upset by the constant stream of correspondence objecting to the planning application for the proposed lifeboat station on Coronation Park. They threw themselves wholeheartedly into gathering signatures from the "silent majority" and obtained over 3000 signatures of support over four days, before presenting the petition, in full kit, to Steve Munday, Chief Planning Officer of South Hams District Council. The Council approved the application, eighteen to nil, with one abstention.

Training began in earnest when the "capsize boat" arrived. Simon James, RNLI trainer from the Torbay station, took the crew out in groups of three and demonstrated how to re-right the boat and then restart the engine until everyone was proficient and had passed their basic Sea Safety training. Even South Hams Radio joined in, and recorded a piece for their News Report from the safety boat, along with watery sound effects and an interview with a slightly breathless Chris Wallace who had just emerged from under the boat!

Once D520 arrived in early August training began in earnest covering subjects such as pilotage and navigation, boat handling and man overboard drills and towing and veering. Advanced training of the fifteen who have put themselves forward as prospective helmsmen will take place before they are chosen and the station can become operational. Mobile Training Units from the Lifeboat College at Poole have covered the eight night First Aid course for ten of the crew and VHF training will be covered in October. Training is extensive, expensive and ongoing and is the very heart of every lifeboat station.

How to help



To make a donation, please call 0800 543210 and quote **DARTMOUTH APPEAL** or fill in the form below

I would like to support the Dartmouth Lifeboat Station Appeal and enclose £20 £50 or £ a gift of my choice

Please debit the sum above from my Maestro/Delta/Visa/Mastercard/Solo card
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Issue number Maestro only

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I enclose a cheque made payable to the 'Dartmouth Lifeboat Station Appeal'

Tick here to increase the value of any donation made from 6th April 2000 and all future donations by almost a third through Gift Aid. For every pound you give us we get an extra 28p from the HM Revenue and Customs. To qualify for Gift Aid what you pay in income or capital gains tax must be at least equal to the amount we will claim on your donation in the tax year.

Please note that we will never give your information to other organisation. The information will only be used by the RNLI.

Please return in an envelope to FREEPOST LIFEBOAT
(nothing more needs to be written – the Royal Mail will deliver to us)

Local Dartmouth RNLI contacts

Lifeboat Operations Manager
Rob Clements. 01803 832926

Chairman Fundraising team
Terry Knight. 01803 834933

Chairman Management team
Robin Shiffner. 01803 835853

Administrator & Press Officer
John Fenton. 01803 770761

www.dartmouth-lifeboat.org.uk