

DART TALES



Cartoon by JAMES FENTON

Serious Fun With The RNLI

Serious Fun! is the new campaign from the RNLI. The campaign is called Serious Fun because we want everyone to go out on the water and enjoy their chosen watersport to the maximum but also want people to take their fun seriously by raising skill levels and staying safe.

Leisure marine users account for over half of all lifeboat launches. With the help of the Serious Fun DVD we hope to prevent more accidents at sea, and save lives, while also reminding

watersports users that they might one day need the RNLI, so we need their support too.

In support of the new Dart Lifeboat station a local version of Serious Fun has been produced which we hope will be appreciated by watersports participants in the River Dart area. The DVD features additional footage about the work of your local lifeboat station – the Dart.

Packed full of practical tips and advice, the DVD features 11 short →

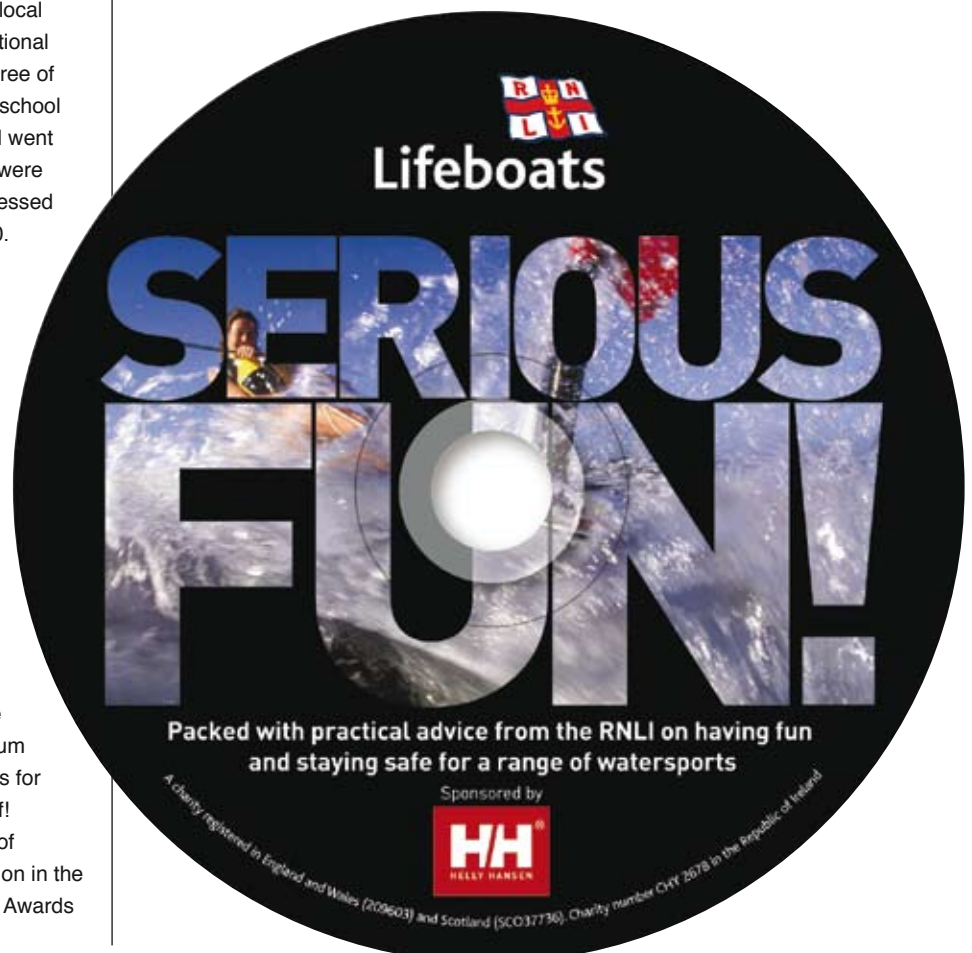
Dart is South Division SOS Team of the Year

Supporters of the Dart RNLI lifeboat raised nearly £2900 with events for the national RNLI SOS scheme. The local fundraising team, the operations team and the educational volunteers all organised events. The children from three of our local primary schools donated money to come to school in fancy dress on the day. Dartmouth Primary School went for Spots Or Stripes. Stoke Fleming Primary School were Smooth Or Scruffy and St John the Baptist School dressed up nautically. Between them the children raised £280. All the children from Stoke Fleming School visited the lifeboat station during the week to learn how an Inshore Lifeboat operates.

J. Sainsbury's had supported SOS day throughout the South West, and for the first time the Dart fundraising team were at the local store, packing bags and handing out literature. Next year is already booked!

The Operations team ran a whole series of events on Saturday 31st of January in the lifeboat station. Over 100 Sausages were Sizzled and Soup was Slurped. The greatest draw however was to see how the hairiest helmsmen, Chris Tracey, stood up to having his back waxed. The event was supervised by Jo Tinning, Beautician and prospective Shore helper. Strip Our Skin raised the magnificent sum of £1340. An extra £45 was donated by his colleagues for the dubious honour of doing the deed. It was a rip-off!

South Division SOS fundraisers beat their target of £50,000 by £1000 and were the second highest division in the country. The new shield will be presented at the S.W. Awards ceremony at Poole on 19th June.



Packed with practical advice from the RNLI on having fun and staying safe for a range of watersports

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films – each dedicated to a different watersport and aimed at all levels of skill and experience. Serious Fun includes something for all watersports enthusiasts. There are films on kayaking, canoeing, wakeboarding, jetskiing, diving, windsurfing, sea angling, sailing and motor boating; along with top tips, lifejacket clinic films and a film about the RNLI and how to support the charity that saves lives at sea.

The RNLI is a national charity operating 236 lifeboat stations but we also want people to feel part of their local station. It is the local community who rely on the station and its volunteers. As Dart is a new station it has presented the RNLI with a great opportunity to link RNLI membership to the local station. Dart is new station working in new ways.

If the DVD inspires you to join as an RNLI member you will regularly receive Dart D Tales, keeping you up to date with the work of the Lifeboat station and rescues carried out in the local area, as well as notification by E-mail, if you wish, of local RNLI events and launches as soon as they are reported on the local station web site at www.dartmouth_lifeboat.org.uk

To order your FREE copy of Serious Fun featuring The Dart Lifeboat Station please complete and return the enclosed form.

Future events.

Sunday 21st June.

Canoe racing at the Maltsters at Tuckenhay
2pm start.
Family fun. Come and watch.

Saturday 1st August.

RNLI Flag Day in Dartmouth.

Friday 7th August.

RNLI Fete in the Royal Avenue Gardens.



Photo by JOHN FENTON

Dartmouth Golf & Country Club

Dr Terry Keen (right), Captain of the Dart and Country Golf Club in 2008, handed over a generous cheque for £500 in a recent ceremony at the Lifeboat Station.

The Golf Club had collected enough over the year to donate half the total to the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust and to divide the rest between the Dartmouth Lifeboat Appeal, The Dartmouth Hospital Friends and the Blackawton Village Hall Fund.

Harry Escott, the new Chairman of the Dart Lifeboat Fundraising Team, welcomed this final addition to the Lifeboat Appeal which, with this donation, reached the magnificent sum of £305,849.

Dart Lifeboat happy to record a memory.....

At 18:28 hrs on 3rd March 1941, RAF Wellington Bomber R3279 took off from RAF Marham in Norfolk for a raid on German warships in Brest harbour. The air observer was Sgt Ronald Brockway. Of the fifty four planes in the raid R3279 was the only one that failed to return home.

Recently released information from the Ministry of Defence indicated the plane was seen to crash into the sea off Dartmouth. There were no survivors and only one of the five-man crew was recovered, his body being given up by the sea at Dartmouth.

RNLI Lifeboats do not normally accede to requests for the scattering of cremated remains but a recent request from a Sussex widow had a poignant local connection. Mrs Margaret Brockway's late husband Denis was a lifelong supporter of the RNLI and expressed a wish in his will for his remains to be scattered on the sea at Dartmouth so that he might join his brother.



Mrs Brockway, who is in her 80's, was able to travel to Dartmouth last November for the event. Driven to the Castle she was able to witness the scattering of the ashes by the crew of Dart Lifeboat south of the Checkstone buoy. The passing of both Denis and Ronald was marked as the crew released two white flares.

A very satisfying day for all, especially for the crew, who she thanked personally.

Launches since November 2008

No	Date	Day	Assisted	Location	Description
20	12/11/08	Wed	Saved 1	Mill Meadow Cove West of Dart Estuary	Called to rescue Canoeist who had taken 40 min to swim ashore after capsizing. He was taken from the cove with hypothermia to an Ambulance at Blackpool Sands.
21	18/12/08	Fri	Assisted 1	Redlap Cove West of Dart Estuary	Recovered a stranded RIB in Redlap Cove. Tow line brought inshore from Torbay ALB to the craft. Alb towed the RIB to Dart Estuary and ILB took the tow to return the craft to her Dart berth
22	21/02/09	Sat	0	Old Mill Creek to Dartmouth Castle	Search for a missing person. Stood down when found on shore.
23	25/02/09	Wed	0	Lower Ferry to Dart Estuary	Search for a missing person. Stood down when found on shore.

There were two further requests to launch from the Coastguard in 2008 which, up to now, have not been included in our totals.

On 8th August 2008 lifeguards reported a small inflatable boat being swept out into Start Bay. The ILB was paged but a passing RIB reached the boat before the ILB was launched and she was stood down. On 10th August 08 the call was to two canoeists seen by the Police in rough water at Totnes. They reached safety four minutes later and the ILB was stood down before she was launched. These call outs should have been included in our totals and so the number of "Launches" is now officially 25.



Photo by ROB CLEMENTS

Due to the work being carried out on the Higher Ferry slip the lifeboat has been launched at the Lower Ferry since 28th November 2008



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From Left to right: Jo Escott, Diane Leighton, Clare Thorp, Harry Escott, Ian Symons and John King

The 2009 Fundraising Team

The new Dart Fundraising Team was appointed at the AGM held on 2nd March 09. The following volunteered in addition to those listed under Contacts opposite. Vice Chairman, Dr. Mike Holliday and Box Secretary, Gordon Pepperell. John King, Brian and Diane Leighton, Alan Sherratt and Serg. Ian Symons all agreed to sit on the Committee.



Bob Thomas and Tony Hoile

Thanks

Tony Hoile has been a Deputy Launch Authority with the Dart lifeboat since March 2007. He played an invaluable role during the initial training period with his diving boat "Falcon" and remains a trainer to local RNLI crews over diving matters. In May 2008 he was the first to dive to the submerged car that had driven off Kingswear Quay and subsequently received the Chief Constable's Award for Good Citizenship for his public spirited actions and gallant attempt to save a life on that day.

During the summer months, he is fully occupied as a qualified BSAC National Diving Instructor taking parties of divers off-shore. He resigned in February 2009 when he found that he was no longer able to give the time to his voluntary role that it required. As an ex Deputy Head of Dartmouth Primary School he was invaluable on the school visits to the lifeboat station. Thank you again Tony for all you have done.

Third party events.

These events are organised by those who wish to support us, but are not members of the local RNLI fundraising team. Posters can be produced by the Fundraising team and keep the corporate RNLI image. Contacting Anna Perry, Events Co-ordinator, on 01803 832393 early in the planning stage should help to avoid date clashes, both with our own events as well as those of other organisations in the Town.

Dart RNLI contacts

Lifeboat Operations Manager.

Rob Clements. Mobile 07917 514 948

Chairman Management Team.

Robin Shiffner. Tel 01803 835853

Chairman Fundraising Team.

Harry Escott. Tel 01803 834296

Secretary Fundraising Team.

Clare Thorp. Tel 01803 832123

Treasurer Fundraising Team.

Colin Myers. Tel 01803 832674

Local Membership Secretary.

Bob Hattersley. Tel 01803 832182

Souvenir Secretary.

Mrs. Jo Escott. Tel 01803 834296

Event Co-ordinator.

Anna Perry. Tel 01803 832393

Boathouse Manager.

Bob Thomas. Mobile 07980 099 932

Administrator and Press Officer.

Editor Dart D Tales and website.

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.

Details of our twenty five 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