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# DART TALES

Lifeboats

## NEWS FROM THE RNLI LIFEBOAT TEAM IN DARTMOUTH

### BOB GILBERT - NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE RNLI DART FUNDRAISING BRANCH.

Ed Featherstone retired as Chairman of the RNLI Dart Fundraising Branch at the AGM on 21 April 2016, having served for two years. His role was taken over by Tracey Lucas and Paul Manley who agreed to be Vice Chairmen until the post was filled. We are delighted that Bob Gilbert has now volunteered to take on the role.

Bob has sailed from a young age and is glad to claim that he has not had to call on the services of the RNLI, yet! He was a member of the team

that won the RYA Team Championships in the Midlands where he lived, and when he went to Law School he successfully raced the RNVR's Volunteer in the Royal Ocean Racing Club offshore races.

In 2002 he retired from a very successful career as a corporate lawyer and insolvency practitioner with the law firm Wragge and Co. in Birmingham, having risen to the position of Deputy Senior Partner, to pursue his other extensive business interests in both the public and private sector.

Other than sailing, his main interest beyond work was in motor racing. He said, "My greatest achievement was



Bob Gilbert - photo by Maggie Gilbert

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to drive my Bentley into third place in the 100th Anniversary race for classic racing cars at Le Mans in 2006”.

His first Government post came when he was asked to Chair the Motor Sport Development Board. He is currently Chair of the Intellectual Property Office and The High Value Manufacturing Catapult and will retire from both posts at the end of March 2018 and devote his energy to RNLI Dart.

He was awarded a CBE in the 2017 New Year's Honours List for services to the legal profession and the economy.

After 20 years with Wragge and Co. he took a six month sabbatical to do a post graduate business course in America at the Darden Business School at the University Of Virginia. The Dean told the participants in his graduation address, “You are now equipped to make a difference.”

It has always been the aim of the Branch to cover the annual operational costs of the station. For the last few years, due to the generosity of our donors and the hard work of the local volunteers both as fund raisers and on the Operations team, this has been achieved. We are looking forward to moving on under Bob's direction.

**John Fenton.**

**RNLI Dart Lifeboat Press officer**

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