

Response and Responsibility

The headline conveys the theme of this issue. There was a wonderful response to the Dart SOS events, both from the Dart team who organised them and the donations that flooded in. The list of launches details some of the situations the crew responded to and there is the chance for you to use your Mobile as a responder. The Sea safety photograph leads into the area of our own responsibilities, whether on the sea or shore.



Al Duffy and Lee Darch raise support before the Lifeboat Open day

Photo by Kevin Pyne

SOS triumph

In 2009 the award for "South division RNLi SOS team of the year" went to the Dart Lifeboat volunteers. It did not seem possible that the magnificent sum of £2264 raised last year could be overtaken without another high profile event such as Chris Tracey's Strip our Skins tribulations; but beat it we did!

There was huge support from the community and the local Primary Schools. A taste for loud music appears to have been the key to the purse, for the adults at least. Tinnitus, the rock band with Dart lifeboat crew members, supported by local businesses, raised £449 with a gig at the Royal British Legion. The Sax on Saturday concert by Sax Appeal at the Guildhall raised £1383. The band played their hearts out all night whilst only charging a reduced fee and Richard Baker, the DJ, gave his services free. Sainsburys, Jim Brent from the Ship in



FR Treasurer, Colin Myers gets excited

Photo by Kevin Pyne

Dock and Mike Felton of Caterfood donated all the food for the night and Mike Holliday's lethal Mojito cocktails certainly livened up the proceedings.

The Dartmouth Arms kindly donated the proceeds from their weekly Pub Quiz to the event and the new trophy for the Scatter our Skittles evening at the Dartmouth Yacht Club was won by the Senior Rates mess at BRNC, in spite of a strong challenge from Police, Ambulance and RNLi teams. The Fundraising volunteers packed bags at Sainsburys as well as manning stalls at the Lifeboat station including the Souvenir table.

Traditionally support from local Primary Schools has been at the core of SOS day nationwide. John Fenton, the Dart Education volunteer, accompanied by Bob Thomas, Station Manager, and several crewmen in full lifeboat kit, took part in the presentations. Dartmouth Primary and St John the Baptist R C Primary School have been supporters since our start and this year Kingswear and Blackawton Primary Schools were also visited. Whole school assemblies learnt what the volunteers had achieved over the last year, but the undoubted highlight of the visits for the children was when they could talk directly to the crewmen. The children raised a wonderful £395



Trust me. I'm a Mechanic.

Photo by Kevin Pyne

on SOS day by dressing nautically or in Spots or Stripes or by being Smart or Scruffy.

Many of the same children came to the lifeboat station the next day and found it a hive of activity. The hot soup stall run by Rob and Lynn Clements (LOM) and the burgers cooked by John Turner-Bone (Mechanic) did a roaring trade, on what felt like the coldest day of the year. If that was not enough to warm you through there was the Marmite Victoria Sponge with crushed curry baked beans cooked by John Yunnie (SSO) which went down famously. By the time the profit from the books (sold at £1/ inch by John Mills and Chris Harrison), the cake stand (Sheila Strudwick) and the plant stall (Liz Yunnie) had been added in £590 had been raised at the station, resulting in an amazing £3412 overall. A wonderful achievement and many thanks to all who took part; named and unnamed, you know who you are.

Launches since November 2009

No.	Date	Assisted	Location / Search area.	Description
49 & 51	24/11/09 Tuesday 01:30 hrs & 08:15 hrs		Dartmouth Harbour Total search time 5hrs 50min.	An unmanned 14ft open boat was reported to be going round in circles between the two Lower Ferry slips. The ILB was tasked to search the River between Bayards Cove and Castle Cove. The Dart lifeboat crew launched a second shore boat and were joined by the Torbay RNLI ALB and SAR helicopter 169 and the shore was searched by mobile CG teams.
52	10/12/09 Thursday 16:26 hrs	Assisted 1	Duncannon Reach. River Dart	A middle aged lady fell whilst walking alone with her dog along the embankment, fracturing her right ankle. Two paramedics were taken from Stoke Gabriel and landed close to the Casualty. She was transported back to the ambulance on the newly acquired lifeboat stretcher.
53	13/12/09 Sunday 20:06 hrs	Assisted 1	Dartmouth Harbour	A middle aged man fell overboard from a yacht berthed at Darthaven Marina. The ILB was launched in six minutes and was joined by the Torbay All Weather Lifeboat and the Coastguard helicopter from Portland which was on scene in 20 minutes. Seven additional lifeboat crew also launched in two dories to assist in the search. The casualty was located on the surface by the helicopter just outside the Castles and directed the lifeboat to him. He was lifted into the lifeboat and the paramedic crewmember began immediate CPR. This was continued until the land ambulance crew waiting on the Kingswear Lower ferry slip took over four minutes later. He was transferred to Torbay Hospital where he was certified as dead.
56	07/03/10 Sunday 11:20 hrs	Retrieved 2 dogs	Tinsey Head Nr Beesands Start Bay	Two family dogs chased a sheep and all three went over the cliff. The ILB crew found that all three were dead. The Tamar ALB from Salcome was also out on a task and when they had finished escorted the ILB back to the Dart estuary because of the rough conditions.
57	16/03/10 Tuesday 18:10 hrs	Offered assistance to 1	Dartmouth Harbour	A young man was reported to be swimming across the shipping lanes from Kingswear to Dartmouth. He was not accompanied by a boat and was not wearing a wetsuit. He declined assistance from the lifeboat and would not talk to the Coastguard who met him as he came ashore.
58	27/03/10 Saturday 13:01 hrs	Assisted 1	Start Bay	The single handed skipper of a 47ft sloop with loss of electrical power requested assistance and was found 7.5 miles SE of Dartmouth. The vessel, with an RNLI crewman on board, was escorted by Torbay ALB and Dart ILB to her mooring at Dittisham.

Launches 56, 57 and 58 were carried out using D 602 Gilbert Goble, while Sprit of the Dart was being refitted. D600 to 604 were the first IB1 lifeboats to be built and were on trial for 2 years before entering the relief fleet.

A fuller account of these launches, as well as those not mentioned above, can be found on the Dart RNLI station web site. The inshore Lifeboat was launched twice in 2007, twenty times in 2008, thirty one times in 2009 and five times up to the end of March in 2010.

Lifeboat launches on your mobile.

(Originally printed in Lifeboat Magazine)



20.06 13/12/09 Search and find man overboard.

RNLI supporters in the UK can now stay connected with lifeboat launches on their mobile phones.

Choose your favourite stations and receive an SMS message once

the lifeboat has launched on emergency service. You choose how much you would like to pay for each message received. A portion of the fee will come to the RNLI, so not only are you kept in the know, you are also contributing to the cost of the lifeboat launch. The amount donated depends on your mobile operator.

The SMS alerts are triggered by the crew pager system so, shortly after they get the call, you do too. However, unlike our volunteer crews, you can choose what time of day you would like to receive alerts and set a limit on how many messages you receive. You can also pause the service for a while, for example if you are going abroad on holiday. To sign up visit www.rnli.org.uk/sms-launch-alerts



14.47 18/10/09 Lady knocked out on shoreline rocks.

Details of the Dart lifeboat launches are usually available on the local web site shortly after the boat returns or, in the case of a prolonged call out, whilst it is in progress.



01.30 24/11/09 3 hour search for possible man overboard.



16.50 11/9/09 Lady with fractured ankle on river bank path.

Cartoons by James Fenton jamesfenton@blueyonder.co.uk

The launches are factual – the cartoons are fictional – maybe!



This safety notice is on Oakura beach, North of Auckland, New Zealand. How does it differ from the guidance on the RNLI safety notices at launching sites in the UK? To find out go to the RNLI web site [HYPERLINK "http://www.rnli.org.uk"](http://www.rnli.org.uk) www.rnli.org.uk and chose "what do we do". The Sea Safety section has a host of updated, practical, informative and interactive safety material. To book a free Sea Safety check please contact John Yunnie.

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“Modern Lifeboat a picture 2006” by Kevin Pyne.



Photo by John Fenton

Kevin has been writing poems about the RNLI lifeboats long before the Dart station became a reality. This poem was read during a fund raising evening he took part in at the Dart Yacht Club in February.

Did you see my boy John?

His truck's on the hard

The door still open and the lights still on

I should have known he'd be gone

John you see is his father's son

And did you see my girl Jane?

Her car doors left open on the quay again

The CDs working and the screen wipers still flick on

Better ask at the boat house?

If any one knows just where it is she's gone?

And did you hear two great engines

Start up and roar away

Then did you see her bright orange topsides

Buried in the storm and spume almost right away

Things they change

Things move on

Yet it still takes a special kind of person to pull that

Guernsey on

Future events

Sunday 23 May

Canoe Racing

From noon. 1st race 1pm

The Malsters, Tuckenhay

A Family day out. Barbecue, music, stalls & raffle.

Support the Dart crew who came 2nd last year.

Saturday 20 June

Blackness Marine Family Day

2pm start

Dart RNLI Lifeboat Week 31 July to 6 August

Saturday 31 July

RNLI Flag Day

If you can help please contact

Jo Escott.

Sunday 1 Aug

Local Garden Safari

11am to 5pm

Map showing the Gardens £5 from TIC

Take the opportunity to wander through the historic narrow streets of Dartmouth to visit a small selection of town gardens. You can also take a short scenic drive and explore more gardens in the coastal villages of Stoke Fleming and Strete.

Friday 6 August

RNLI Fete in Royal Avenue Gardens

10am to 4pm

If you can help in any way please contact Harry Escott.

Friday 6 August

Source to the Sea

A sponsored run, bike and row by Dart lifeboat crew members.

The runners will start on Dartmoor at the source of the Dart and finish by rowing, against the tide, to hopefully arrive in time for the Fete. If you can help with back up, sponsorship, or any other way, please contact Yorkie Lomas Mob. 0793 0671 200

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

Sea Safety Officer.

John Yunnie Mobile 07768 007 365

Dart Lifeboat Station.

Tel. 01803 839224

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

Chairman Totnes Fundraising Team.

Roger Jobson Tel. 01803 732837

Do you have an idea for a feature article? Got something to say? Please send your views to John Fenton

Details of our last fifty eight 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 front of the toilets on North Embankment and on the Lifeboat Station.