August 2016 Issue 27

Editor JOHN FENTON
Masthead Design NICHOLAS SHILABEER
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Production JEFF COOPER

# Storm Force event at RNLI Dart

July 16 was a glorious hot summer's day and 41 young Storm Force members, mostly from South Devon but including two from Cornwall and North Wales, joined the children of the crew as they descended on RNLI Dart for the afternoon. Storm Force is the junior membership of the RNLI for children aged 7 to 11 years. Some had taken the opportunity to visit the new RNLI Dartmouth Visitor Centre in the morning.

Once they had registered into five teams there were five different scenarios for them to visit in turn. Lifeboat crewmen Buster Hart, Kevin Murphy, Jamie Mathys and Dean Nettleton explained how and why they used different stretchers on the boat to help seriously injured casualties. (See video of Launch 121 on 4 August 2011 on <a href="https://www.dartlifeboat.org.uk">www.dartlifeboat.org.uk</a>) The children and their parents were most impressed by the "Roll up stretcher" and how easy it was for the children to strap in a casualty and to carry them to safety.



They learnt stretcher techniques



Luke Lane RNLI Lifeguard rescued an 'unconscious' Haydn Glanvill

Chris Rampling, RNLI Beach Lifeguard Supervisor, is also on the Dart lifeboat crew. He and fellow lifeguard Luke Lane brought the RNLI Lifeguard truck and all their equipment. They taught the children about the flags they use on the beaches and then showed them the First Aid and other equipment that they have available in the truck and on the beach.

Chris Tracey and Haydn Glanvill are both members of the Dart lifeboat crew but are also on the RNLI Flood Rescue team. They brought the Flood Rescue truck from the base at Saltash. They were joined by fellow Flood Rescue team member Marc



Flood rescue off to collect a casualty

Gibbons who had driven all the way from Barry Docks in South Wales to take part. Haydn entertained the children with stories of the difficulties they had when they were visiting flooded homes. The children were particularly glad that they had a dog pen to put pets in before they were lifted onto the boat. He also taught the children to use throw lines to rescue casualties in the water. Meanwhile CT and Marc, in the second Flood Rescue scenario, 'rescued' the entire group as they crossed a flooded

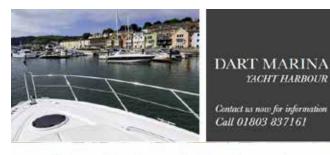


Beach lifeguard showed the flag

## Selected launches since May 2016

No.	Date	Assisted	Location / Search area.	Description
254	08/05/16 Sunday 7.58pm Video on web site	1 adult A life saved	Lower Gurrow Point Near Dittisham River Dart	Hypothermic Kayaker rescued from the River Dart A 27 year old experienced kayaker from Somerset had been kayaking alone on the Dart. As he returned to Dittisham in the dusk he capsized in the gusty conditions and was unable to reboard the boat. He swam it the 500m to the shore but was unable to climb through the trees to the field above. After 30 minutes waiting for another boat to pass and up to his waist in water fending his boat off the rocks, he called the Coastguard on his mobile phone. They ordered an immediate launch of the RNLI Dart inshore lifeboat. The D class crew spotted the strobe light on his boat as he was hidden by overhanging branches. He was lifted into the lifeboat and the kayak was secured. Haydn Glanvill, the paramedic crewman on board established that he was hypothermic and he was wrapped in a thermal blanket and reflective sheet for the return to the lifeboat station where he was given a change of dry clothing and hot drinks. When the Paramedic Ambulance arrived to give him a formal checkup his temperature had risen. He was given accommodation at the Ship in Dock Inn, owned by a member of the crew. Rob Clements, Lifeboat Operations Manager said, 'This man's life was saved by his having the right safety equipment and clothing and by the quick professional response of the RNLI volunteers.' Lifeboat crew; Buster Hart, helmsman. Haydn Glanvill and Jamie Mathys, crew. Shore crew; Stuart Millard, tractor driver.
255	29/05/16 Sunday 11.59am	2 adults	Blackness Rock Between Dittisham and Stoke Gabriel River Dart	Yacht aground on Blackness Rock.  The RNLI Dart inshore lifeboat was diverted from an exercise to attend a 7.2m yacht with two adults onboard. The yacht had sailed onto the Blackness Rock and was caught fast by her rudder. A member of the lifeboat crew went into the water and was able to free the rudder and the vessel refloated. The yacht was then able to proceed up to Totnes under her own power.
phot	14/06/16 Tuesday 2.35pm Photo on web site	nal maps an	d video if	Major search for missing teenager  The Police helicopter found a submerged object around 600m off Blackpool Sands. The Dart inshore lifeboat was asked to investigate and found it to be a submerged buoy attached to the seabed. Coastguard SAR teams, the Mountain Rescue team from Ashburton, the Police and the Coastguard helicopter all joined the search and the inshore lifeboat conducted a shoreline search and examined the cliffs from the sea. The Salcombe RNLI Tamar lifeboat, which could also provide better communications, conducted a sea search. After three and a half hours at sea the inshore lifeboat was re-fueled and changed
available can be found on the Dart RNLI station web site whose address is at the foot of the page.				crews. They carried out a close inshore search of the coast as far east as Scabbacombe Sands. When low water had passed the lifeboat was stood down but the Coastguard teams continued searching until 2am but found no one.





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river. The children put on lifejackets and safety harnesses before they were clipped to the line that crossed the water. The line was at an angle to the flow of the water so that it helped carry them as they were hauled across. Once there the children formed teams of 5, holding onto each other in a triangle for safety's sake. When the casualty was reached they were placed in the centre of the triangle as the team retraced their steps.

Last, but certainly not least, they found their way to the 'cliff face' behind the lifeboat station where Jai Prettyjohns and his team from the Dartmouth Coastguard Search and Cliff Rescue team were waiting. They showed the teams the safety equipment they use when they work on the cliffs, before carefully allowing the children to be hauled a short distance up. After a break for refreshments whilst the various teams moved to the North Embankment of the Dart, the children were escorted to watch the launch of the D class inshore lifeboat.

The Coastguard team then performed a 'tethered rescue' where a coastguard swims out to a casualty whilst attached by a rope to his colleagues ashore.

Luke Lame, the lifeguard, had to

work very hard as he first rescued lifeboat crewman Haydn Glanvill using a rescue tube, before having to rescue him a second time as Haydn had returned to the water and become 'unconscious'. This time Luke used a rescue board and all the watchers lining the Embankment were most impressed to see how he used the board to flip the unconscious casualty over and bring him ashore.



Not to be outdone the lifeboat crew carried out what is now a routine 'man overboard' drill but then anchored off the Embankment and veered back to the steps. This allows the crew to exactly position the boat so that a casualty can simply step aboard, for instance from a rock where they have become trapped. The children then returned to the lifeboat station for their Goodie bags before going on their way celebrating a great day out.

The day was organised by John Fenton, RNLI Education Volunteer





'Abseiling is fun'

# Visit by Paul Boissier to the RNLI Dartmouth Visitor Centre and the Dart lifeboat station.

Paul Boissier. Chief Executive Officer of the RNLI, and his wife Sue, paid an unofficial visit to the Visitor Centre and the Dart lifeboat station on Tues 19 July. They were greeted at the Visitor Centre by Tracey Lucas, volunteer Visitor Centre Manager, and her volunteers, Lynn Clements, Jean Farley and Lucy Treleaven. After a thorough tour of the facility he explained to Tracey how much he had been looking forward to his visit; he had heard such glowing comments from his colleagues. He commented particularly on how well the stock was displayed and would have loved the chance to play in a lifeboat and wear the kit when he was a child.

He was most impressed with his visit and would like to see the Centre replicated elsewhere around the country. In conversation with Dave Nicoll, Fundraising manager for the South West, he described the Centre as 'Fabulous'.

Paul then drove to the RNLI Dart



Sue and Paul Boissier with Nigel Jones and Dave Nicoll at the Visitor Centre

lifeboat station where he was greeted by Nigel Jones, Divisional Operations Manager and Rob Clements the Dart Lifeboat Operations Manager. He was impressed to see that the initial enthusiasm present when the station was established had not diminished. It was a fine opportunity to discuss the operational issues facing the station and for him to share 'hot topics' involving the wider RNLI.

## 'Who knew when I joined the RNLI I would end up assisting in a rescue in Finland?'

Chris Tracey is a helmsman on the RNLI Dart inshore lifeboat and was one of the first to join the crew as the station was becoming established in 2006. He is a member of the RNLI national Flood Rescue team and until recently was the station Training Co-ordinator.

The aim of the International Maritime Rescue Federation exchange. (IMRF) is to challenge some thinking, to develop areas of consistency between lifeboat services and ultimately to improve the overall maritime SAR response of all the organisations involved.

This is his account of his exchange to Finland in 2015.

"I headed out to Finland with a bag full of warm clothes along with my dry suit and was greeted at the airport by Joonas, who is one of only three full time staff within the Finnish National Lifeboat Institution (FNLBI). The exchange group included Erik and Alexander from Iceland, Dirk from Germany, Richard from Holland, Stavros from Greece and Jan from Denmark. Our Finnish hosts were Jaska, Heikki, Roosa and Marjo.

The next day we went to the Finish coastguard watch room and were given a great introduction on how they monitor the coastline and deal with emergency situations.

We then headed for the island station at Anturi on board two twin water iet powered Type 4 and Type 5 lifeboats, accompanied by the 24m training vessel Jenni Wihuri. At the island we were joined by some smaller jet powered inshore boats, with an open stern. We were split into groups and had a number of scenarios to complete. This was the first time we had been tested in our life saving skills and it was interesting to see that we all had very similar ways of dealing with the situation. One of the Finnish guys summed it up well, 'Land is land and water is water; there's only so many ways you can do things.' We spent the night aboard the Jenni Wihuri, but not before the customary Sauna, which can be found at the majority of lifeboat stations across Finland.

On the second day Erik and I were tasked with navigating and helming the Jenni Wihuri through the narrow channels of the Finnish Apelago. We were nearing our destination when a call came over the airwave radio of a shout. A sailing vessel with engine difficulties required assistance and as we were the nearest emergency vessel to their location we quickly adjusted our route and increased speed from 12 to 20 knots. On nearing the casualty vessel it was decided to launch the daughter boat from the slip on the stern of Jenni due to the shallow waters in the vicinity. When we arrived at the vessel the couple on board had managed to get the sails down and I went aboard with a tow line. With the tow set up we were able to safely berth the yacht back in their marina. Luckily for me the lady onboard spoke fairly good English because my Finnish is definitely not up to scratch.

Once we had returned to the Jenni Wihuri we set off for the Border Guard Station at Espoo. We were shown round their headquarters and taken out on their patrol vessel - the same design as the Finnish Class 5, but a more modern version which enables increased speeds. They also carry a fully calibrated alcohol breath testing machine, similar to those in UK Police stations. Prosecutions are carried out on the back of the results tested on the boat and apparently this has helped considerably in decreasing the number of boating drink/drive accidents.

The next three days were spent on the FNLBI training island of Bagasker. We looked at the training courses supplied within the Finnish Lifeboat Institution and we were able to carry out our own training sessions from our home countries to share experiences. We took part in training in basic self-rescue in the water through to engine room fire, extraction and first aid. I carried out a training session on first aid using our laminated check cards which every attending country was very impressed with. They all expressed a strong interest in having a similar system as this is an area that can be highly affected by skill fade if not used on a regular basis.



Chris Tracey



The Finnish National Lifeboat Institution training vessel Jenni Wihuri



Launching the smaller lifeboat from the Jenni Wihuri

## Modernising the RNLI Call out and Messaging System

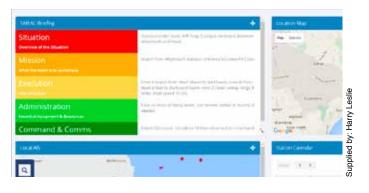
The RNLI operates a search and rescue service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from more than 235 lifeboat stations around the UK and the Republic of Ireland. The RNLI's mission is to Save Lives at Sea. COACS - the RNLI's Call-Out And Communication System - has been at the heart of that mission since it was launched in 1999, replacing BT's and other paging networks with the largest privately owned paging system in Europe. It continues to provide one way alerting to almost 10,000 crew and volunteers. For over 15 years COACS, and the pagers connected to the system, have been a vital link in the communication chain from the first distress call to the lifeboat being launched. Throughout that time, and continuing to this day, when their pagers go off, at work, in the shower, relaxing or asleep, the crew members know exactly what to do.

In 2013 work began on the Call-Out System Modernisation Programme. It is focussed on the needs of lifeboat stations, Launch Authorities, the crew and their support teams. In the future the system will be extended to cover the RNLI Flood Rescue teams and the Lifeguards. The first step was to Life-Extend the COACS System as spare parts were becoming very scarce. This was achieved by modernising the paging network in the Republic of Ireland, whilst collecting and refurbishing old equipment for use as spares in the UK. Those spares are

now enabling the RNLI to safely complete the remainder of the programme.

Late in 2015 the RCAMS design was rolled out to ten stations to use and to provide feedback. These stations include Exmouth, Cowes, Newhaven and Weymouth. RCAMS can

be thought of as a collection of programmes, called Widgets, brought together to help with mission planning and routine operations. Currently there is an Automatic Identification of Shipping (AIS) display, the weather, a SMEAC briefing template to plan an operation, a display of crew availability and a crew shout response including the optional location of the crew. Other inputs are planned, such as casualty location and tidal conditions at the scene. Another advance with the new system is that the alert not only appears on the pager but also via an app on iPhones and Android smartphones. The crew can then indicate whether they are responding and the app sends their current location. Their position appears on the station computer so that the Launch Authority has an immediate overall view of the call out response. One launch during the trial required the presence of a Paramedic and the Launch Authority could see that he would be later in arriving than the rest



of the crew. The lifeboat was readied and launched as soon as he arrived.

A separate but extremely valuable addition to the new system was that all station staff had input to record their availability and absences and this would allow the paper recording system to be superseded. The programme is designed to allow other organisations, such as the Maritime Coastal Agency (MCA), to have access to the system and this is in the process of being incorporated.

The system is currently being updated to reflect the user group's feedback.

Information for this article was taken from the COSM newsletter and from a day spent with John Roche, COSM Programme manager at Poole. He discussed with Emma Tarling, Lifeboat Press Officer at Exmouth, and I how the requirements of LPOs might be incorporated into the system. John Fenton. LPO RNLI Dart.

# The RNLI Dart Lifeboat Station and Visitor Centre are seeking new volunteers.

The RNLI has been saving lives at sea for more than 200 years and has grown into a world class Search and Rescue organisation.

At its very heart are the volunteers; the RNLI's greatest asset.

There are positions within our local Dart team to fit all ages and abilities.

Can you engage with the public in the visitor centre? Do you have three hours a week you can commit to informing our visitors about what we do? I am sure you will soon be at ease talking to all about the RNLI, whether the subject is Lifeboats, Beach Lifeguards or the RNLI's amazing history including stories of triumph and

tragedy. We also need to explain how the RNLI are striving to reduce coastal drowning by a half in the next 10 years. The charity will use many different proactive measures, from encouraging the wearing of lifejackets to educating both young and old to develop safe habits both afloat and on the shoreline.

Can you man the Lifeboat? Are you that special man or woman to strengthen our crew? You will need to be under 45 years old, fit and live or work within 10 minutes of the station. You will need commitment and drive to train regularly and respond to the 'Shouts'. Many of our crew are only available either during the day or the night but still manage to respond with alacrity

when needed. If this is you and you have the courage and drive to join a very special band of people then please get in touch.

Can you help the rest of our team?

Can you contribute, either with time or effort, within our band of enthusiastic fundraisers? Have you significant sea and local experience to become a **Deputy Launch Authority** and take command of the station and events when the lifeboat is launched?

To learn new skills, join a proud team and make friends for life please apply in the first instance to: Rob Clements, Lifeboat Operations Manager. 07917 514948. 01803 832926 dart@rnli.org.uk

#### Choose it or Lose it.

The way that charities contact individuals from 1 January 2017 onwards is changing. From that date you will no longer receive communications from the RNLI unless you have chosen to do so.

#### ON A NATIONAL LEVEL.

The RNLI is in the process of sending a letter to all of its members asking them to 'Opt in' to receiving future communications by phone, post or email from the charity. You can chose all or some of these methods or 'Opt out' completely. If you have not yet received this letter you can still 'Opt in' by phoning the RNLI Customer Care Team on 0300 300 9918 or emailing optin@rnli.org.uk

#### ON A LOCAL LEVEL.

If you wish to receive news of the activities of the local lifeboat, hear about forthcoming fundraising events or receive news from the highly successful RNLI Visitor Centre on the South Embankment, it will be necessary to 'Opt in' to receive those local communications from us.

In future the RNLI Dart team will be keeping you up to date with an email, sent out regularly, or you can follow events on our local RNLI station web site. <a href="https://www.dartlifeboat.org.uk">www.dartlifeboat.org.uk</a>.

There are two ways to "Opt in" to receiving news from the local RNLI Dart team. (Please note that this is quite separate from and not linked to your giving permission to hear from the RNLI centrally.)

- You can fill in a form at the Dartmouth RNLI Visitor Centre and leave it there.
- You can fill in an 'Opt in' form by choosing the 'Contact us' link on the front page of the <u>www.dartlifeboat.org.uk</u> website.

We need your name. Your address if you are happy to be contacted by post. Your telephone numbers if you are happy to be contacted by phone and your email if you are happy to be contacted by email.

Even if you have already given your permission in the past for us to hold your data on our encrypted database you will need to repeat the process so that we can be sure that we comply with all your wishes.

You will be glad to know that the lifeboat crew have continued their life-saving work. We believe they saved the life of a hypothermic kayaker who could not get back into his capsized boat and could not reach safety from the river bank where he was stranded and, in a separate incident, they freed a yacht that had gone aground on the Blackness Rock near Dittisham. Details of these rescues and a video of the kayaker's rescue can be found on the local web site.

## John Fenton RNLI Dart Lifeboat Press Officer.

#### Privacy notice

Your contact details and preferences will be stored locally. We will always store them securely. We'll use them to provide the service you have requested and communicate with you in the way(s) that you have agreed to. Your data may also be used for analysis purposes, to help us provide the best service possible. We will only allow your information to be used by suppliers working on our behalf and will only share your information if required to do so by law. For full details see the Privacy Policy at <a href="https://www.RNLl.org/privacypolicy">www.RNLl.org/privacypolicy</a> or contact Supporter Care on 0300 300 9918 or 1800 360 258 (Rol).

# South Hams RNLI Beach Lifeguard Cover

The lifeguards in the South Hams have been busy throughout the first few months of the season with numerous first aids and rescues being successfully completed. Some incidents of note are the recent treatment of two people for burns to their feet after they trod on hot sand left behind after disposable BBQ's had been used and arranging the safe passage of a cow that had fallen off the cliffs at Bantham back to its field. The lifeguards really do need to be prepared for all eventualities at a moment's notice.

Now that the summer holidays are upon us the lifeguard service is in full swing with our peak season beaches now fully operational. The lifeguard team have been busy honing their skills during the peak season induction training, covering elements such as Casualty Care training, beach management and vehicle operations. In addition to all of this the lifeguard team have also recently completed a familiarisation session with our colleagues in the Coastguard and the new search and rescue helicopter based in Newquay to ensure we are as prepared as we can be for any incidents that occur.

If you are visiting a beach this summer please remember to head to a beach patrolled by the RNLI Lifeguards, swim between the red and yellow flags and speak to the lifeguards for local safety advice and information.

#### **RNLI Lifeguard Season Dates:**

Bantham: 30th April – 25th September fulltime cover

1st October – 16th October weekend cover 22nd October – 30th October fulltime cover

Sedgewell Cove: 30th April – 25th September Challaborough: 21st May – 25th September Burgh Island: 9th July – 4th September 9th July – 4th September Hope Cove: 9th July – 4th September Slapton Sands: 9th July – 4th September Blackpool Sands: 9th July – 4th September 9th July – 4th September

# Dart Gardeners Landscaping and Garden Maintenance

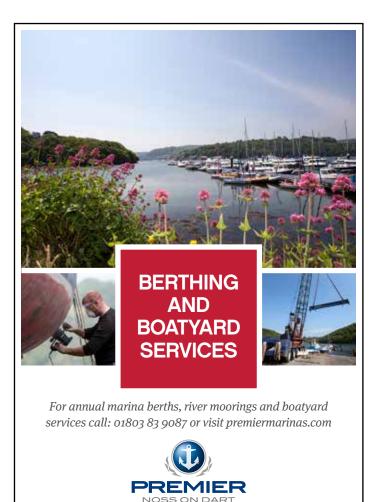
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# **Boat Safety**

Fires on privately owned boats boats kill at least three people every year. Help keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

- Get a working smoke alarm.
- Fit a CO detector.
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- Make an emergency plan.



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Acting to Protect & Save

#### **Local Dart RNLI contacts**

#### President

Robin Shiffner Tel 01803 835853

**Chairman Lifeboat Management Group** Jake Moores Tel 01803 833036

**Lifeboat Operations Manager** 

Rob Clements Mob 07917 514 948

**Treasurer Operations Team** 

Paul Weedon Tel 01803 833812

**Sea Safety Officer** 

John Yunnie Mob 07768 007365

**Chairman Fundraising Branch** 

Position vacant

Vice Chairman and Visitor Centre Manager

Tracey Lucas Mob 07850 578127

Secretary Fundraising Branch

Jenny Gould Mob 07905 935580

**Box Secretary** 

Gordon Pepperell Mob 07791 448391

**Treasurer Fundraising Branch** 

Lizzie Helyer Mob 07813 803472

**Events Secretary** 

Position vacant

**Local Membership Secretary** 

Position vacant

**Boathouse Manager** 

Bob Thomas Mob 07980 099932

Administrator, Press Officer & **Education Volunteer** 

Editor Dart D'Tales and web site. John Fenton Tel 01803 770761

**Assistant Lifeboat Press Officer** 

Riki Bannister Mob 07709 694167

**Lifeboat Visits Officer** 

Kevin Murphy Mob 07890 809106 or by the "Contact us" link on the web site

**Dart Lifeboat Station** 

Coronation Park, North Embankment, DARTMOUTH, TQ6 9RR Tel. 01803 839224

Please note that this is an unmanned station.

## **Future Events**

Dart RNLI Lifeboat "Week" 29 July to 6 August

Friday 29 July

Saturday 30 July

Tickets £5pp from RNLI Visitor Centre or from a participating garden on the day.

**Tuesday 2 August** 

10am to 4pm If you can help in any way please contact Ed Featherstone on 07889 953974

Saturday 22 August

**Enquiries to** cerirees@wildrunning.co.uk 07773 560335 Dartmouth Regatta Thurs 27, Fri. 28 & Sat. 29 August

See the lifeboat and station 10am to 4pm

**Dartmouth South Embankment** 10.30am to 4pm

RNLI shop expected to be open throughout Regatta

Saturday 10 Sep

**Paddle Steamer** 

1730-1930. Eighty Tickets on sale from the RNLI Visitor Centre. £10 adults. £5 for under 14yrs. Children under three ao free. There will be an onboard bar but bring your own picnic. Undercover seating for 82.

Saturday & Sunday to be rearranged for a weekend in September

For further information please contact Owen Mallia Mob 07891 498023

Further information on all these future events and reports of past events can be found on the Events section of the station web site.

Do you have an idea for a future article? **Got something** to say? Please send your views to John **Fenton using** the 'Contact Us' tab on the web site.

