

May 2012 Issue 14

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Production JEFF COOPER



The Spirit of the Dart out on a shout

been to incidents there. **But how many do you think were in the river North of the Higher Ferry or to incidents out in Start Bay?**

Question 1. North of the Higher Ferry

- A: 15-20%.
B: 20-25%.
C: 25-30%. or
D: 30-35%.

Start Bay

- A: 15-20%.
B: 20-25%.
C: 25-30%. or
D: 30-35%.

Photo by Andy Kyle

What have we done?

After four and a half years we have enough records to look back and see how reality is different from our initial expectations. I for one imagined that after the initial rush of enthusiasm the need for training and commitment to it would fall away. In fact the time on the water has remained remarkably constant. This is partly because some crew have left for a variety of reasons and new members have joined and require training. Training of the current crew is an ongoing process.

It was hard to foresee in 2007 how the pressure to find and stay in work would require even the most committed to move away.

The attendance at the weekly crew meeting has also remained undiminished. There is so much happening in Operations, Education, Sea Safety and on

the fundraising side that it is difficult to see how we could all keep up without it and the weekly summary that follows.

An observation from Dartmouth Coast Guard Station Officer Andy Pound who said that "in the two years before there was a lifeboat on the Dart the land based CG Teams would have benefited from the services of a boat on 50% of their callouts" was one of the pointers towards the need for a lifeboat here. In the event 28% of our launches have been involved in searches, almost invariably in association with land based coastguard teams from Dartmouth or Berry Head and with other Emergency services, such as the Police.

The percentage of people and boats at risk has naturally been highest in the area of the Dart estuary which includes the harbour itself. 45% of our calls have

Of the ninety nine vessels we have launched to assist 52% have been motorboats, but sail craft are not far behind at 37%. The latter have required assistance for a variety of reasons. Crab pot lines round the prop have entangled three. Capsizes accounted for another pair. Two more sprang leaks and a third ran aground. One single handed sailor had simply fallen asleep and was drifting onto rocks.

Question 2. What was the length of the largest yacht we have been called to?

A final question – How many times have we rescued the same boat?

If you want a tie breaker – how many individual inshore lifeboats have been on service from the Dart lifeboat station this Century?

For the answers see Page 7

Annual stats Crew hours at sea

LB Station name (proper)	2007 Services	2007 Exercise	2007 Total	2008 Services	2008 Exercise	2008 Total	2009 Services	2009 Exercise	2009 Total	2010 Services	2010 Exercise	2010 Total	2011 Services	2011 Exercise	2011 Total
Dart	3.24	123.56	126.80	102.86	525.46	628.32	156.88	448.67	605.55	163.56	490.56	654.12	219.49	452.95	672.44

Launches since November 2011

No.	Date	Assisted	Location / Search area.	Description
136	11/11/11 Friday 19.48	1 adult life saved	Dartmouth harbour	A middle aged holiday maker had become very short of breath whilst on a yacht on the Kingswear trots. The condition had not responded to his own medication and he requested medical help. The inshore lifeboat attended and he was assessed and treated by the paramedic crew member. He was given oxygen and transferred by lifeboat to a waiting ambulance on the Higher ferry slipway for onward transfer to Torbay Hospital.
141	09/03/12 Friday 11.57	3 adults	Mouth of the Dart	The 31ft Moody yacht Viadante was on the final leg of a training week with a local skipper and two crew on board. She began to take in water through the stern gland and propeller shaft and the lifeboat was asked to shadow her to her berth at the Darthaven Marina in case of complications. This was achieved without incident. The lifeboat was unable to launch from her usual slip next to the Higher Ferry due to the extremely low tide. The tide had fallen to less than 0.4m with half an hour to go before low water. Launching from the Lower Ferry slip was achieved without incident although the lifeboat could not be recovered for another one and a half hours after she had left the casualty. She was placed back on service whilst still on the water.

Launch 141 was the second to a vessel taking on water. In October 2010 a 30ft yacht on the deep water moorings developed a leak and the crew called for assistance. On that occasion the Dart Harbour Authority salvage pump was available and was used. The lifeboat

transferred another pump from a yacht and then towed the yacht to Darthaven Marina for a lift out.

At weekends and after hours the DHNA workshop is not open and it was agreed by the Divisional Inspector that, exceptionally for a station with only an ILB, Dart could

keep a donated 2inch petrol driven pump for emergency use.

An account of all launches, along with positional data, photographs, timings and weather conditions can be found on the Dart RNLI station web site whose address is at the foot of the page.

RNLI was PALM fm Charity of the year.



Photo by Andrew Park Photography

Neil Cripps (Teignmouth), Jennie Park (Palm fm), Adam Fowler (Torbay) and Darren Hopley (Dart)

Palm 105.5fm has been very pleased to support the RNLI in South Devon during 2011 as our nominated Charity of the Year. Our goal was to raise £5000 with the help of our listeners to go towards training a new member for each of the RNLI teams in Dartmouth, Brixham and Teignmouth.

We launched the campaign in March 2011 with a non-uniform day in more than twenty local schools. Many of the participating schools took the opportunity

to teach the children about safety at sea and received a visit from one of the RNLI team members. The campaign got off to a great start with over £2000 being raised on just one day!

Many sporting activities followed, including the Palm fm Cricket and Football teams

taking on local teams across South Devon in aid of the RNLI. This was followed by our annual bowling night and then on Tuesday 4th of October seventeen local teams took part in a two game bowling challenge.

We are delighted to have been able to raise in excess of the £5000 goal we set at the beginning of the year, and have been very pleased to fund the training of Dart crew member Darren Hopley. In 2012



Jennie Park
Sponsorship & Promotions Manager,
Producer & Presenter



we have continued our promotion of the RNLI in South Devon with both me and breakfast presenter Ben Moseby taking part in the RNLI SOS Day in January. Through the help of Brixham Cricket Club we were able to donate over £1000 to the Brixham branch, which helped to meet the £10,000 target set to buy new life jackets for the crew.

We look forward to continuing our support of this fantastic local charity in 2012 and thank all of our local listeners for their wonderful participation in 2011/12 and look forward to joining in and organising events in the future. ●

Blue water pedigree:

Local boy, 80 sets sail for the Azores in aid of the RNLI Dart Lifeboat *Spirit of the Dart*.

Born and bred in his home port of Dartmouth, Dennis Courtney is no stranger to the sea. Starting out as a Fitter and Turner with Philip & Son, where he met local Kingswear girl and wife-to-be Thelma, Dennis moved into the drawing office as engineer draftsman in 1947, before stepping aboard with Shell Tankers in 1952 for 4 years on the ocean wave. Another 3 years as chief engineer for Metcalf Motor Coasters saw Dennis graduate to blue water life before a growing family took him back to ship building.

Dennis is proud Skipper and custodian of the fine-lined and beautifully proportioned *Quadrille*; an exemplar of the Camper & Nicholson stable. Her modest length of 31 feet a solid testament to the architects who drew her back in 1975, and her exceptional condition a reflection of Dennis' own skilled hand and passion for his craft. With over 70,000 nautical miles registered on her log since acquiring her in 1984, Dennis has covered nearly as many miles in his 31 footer as he did as an engineer on tankers, probably more, and certainly with a few more stories to tell!

This is *Quadrille*'s third visit to the Azores, the last seeing *Quadrille* beat hard to windward in a gale on the outward leg only to become desperately becalmed and surrounded by a shoal of Whales for the best part of two days on her return voyage. A heavy displacement long keeled sloop with a pure blue water pedigree, *Quadrille* has surpassed all expectation, keeping Dennis and all those who have been fortunate enough to help trim her sails safe in all weathers.

As well as the Azores, *Quadrille* has nosed her way into most ports around the British Isles in two circumnavigations, and has been dazzled by lighthouses in an extensive cruising ground ranging from Gibraltar to the Orkney Islands.

With a passion for all things boats and sailing, and ambitions of a full time career on the sea, sole crew member James Taylor – over 50 years junior to his veteran skipper - met Dennis in their local tavern in Dawlish. 'I was enjoying a quiet jar one evening when above the natter I heard this eloquent Gent talking about boats - my kind of bloke I thought to myself!'

Skipper of his own Newbridge Corribee



Fitting out at Darthaven

21, James grew up in London and moved to Devon to get closer to the sea; more recently ditching his paint brush and tile cutter for the engine bays and gleaming topsides of charter yachts in the Greek islands. 'I've got my Yachtmaster theory and with a few more miles under *Quadrille*'s keel I'll be well on my way to the practical exam and a life aboard boats.'

So after such an illustrious skippering career, much since retirement, why put *Quadrille* through it again? 'The old girl's getting restless!' Dennis chuckles heartily, the glint of the ocean wave clearly in his eye once more. 'James needs the sea time and *Quadrille* needs the exercise!'

With only weeks to go before the start of her next 3,000 mile adventure, *Quadrille* waits patiently in her berth on the Dart, and will be slipping her lines from the Town Quay in Dartmouth on May 27th. The voyage will begin with a day sail to Plymouth followed by a hop down to Fowey, then across Biscay to La Cornona on the northern Spanish coast. This will set her up nicely for a third visit to the



James Taylor and Dennis Courtney aboard *Quadrille*

Azores, a group of Portuguese islands famous for their juicy pineapples and smoldering volcanoes and situated a third of the way between Europe and North America.

Of course *Quadrille* will take it all in her stride, a remarkable boat with an even more remarkable skipper. And it is testament that reaching the ripe old age of 80 doesn't mean that your sailing boots have to be hung up for decoration. 'Give up sailing, you'll be lucky!' smiles Dennis, 'I'm only a boy you know!'

If you'd like to sponsor *Quadrille*, Dennis and James for all - or part - of their Summer 2012 voyage to the Azores, you can do so at www.virginmoneygiving.com/quadrille

All proceeds will go to the RNLI and Dart Lifeboat *Spirit of the Dart*. ●

Future Events

Sunday 13th May

**10th Annual Canoe Races
& Spring Ale Festival**

The Malsters Arms Tuckenhay.

1st race is 11.15am

Bar BQ, Real Ales, Music,

Children's entertainer.

Come and support the crew.

Sunday 27th May

**Yacht Quadrille sails on
sponsored trip to the Azores.**

Sailing at 12 noon from Town Quay.

Monday 4th June

Jubilee Waterborne Street Party.

M.V. Cardiff Castle.

Embark 7pm Town Quay.

Tickets to be purchased in advance.

See posters & web site.

Sunday 17th June

Blackness Marine fun day.

Fun & Games for all the family.

Opens 1pm. Bar BQ.

ILB demonstration at 2.15pm.

Sunday 8th July

Dartmouth Sea Shanty festival.

Royal Avenue Gardens.

RNLI run Tea Hut.

Saturday 14th July

Storm Force day.

for National RNLI Storm Force

members.

Dart lifeboat station. Starting at 1pm.

Dart RNLI Lifeboat "Week"

3rd to 9th August

Friday 3rd August

Dartmouth RNLI Flag day.

If you can help please contact Harry

Escott.

Sunday 5th August

**Deep Sea Angling on Outlaw of
Dartmouth.**

Contact Owen Mallia for details on
01803 832897 or 07891 498023 for
booking information.

Thursday 9th August

RNLI Fete in Royal Avenue Gardens.

10am to 4pm.

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

The first Storm Force afternoon at the Dart lifeboat station



Storm Force is the RNLI Junior Membership for 5 to 11 year olds.

Although the programme is still at the planning stage we hope to open the lifeboat station on Coronation Park Dartmouth around 1pm. As well as a really close up look at the inshore lifeboat there will be several other teams present on the day.

Two of the lifeboat crew are in the South RNLI Flood Rescue team. The Flood Rescue vehicle with all their equipment will be coming from Saltash and the crew will be there to tell the Storm Force members how they have been trained to get people out of cars that are being swept away and how to carry out swift water rescues.

Another crewman is also an RNLI Lifeguard. We plan to have one of their beach rescue vehicles present carrying all the different beach rescue equipment. Storm Force members will all know the different flags that the lifeguards use but the Education volunteer will be on hand to see how good they are at "Spotting the dangers" when they visit a beach and what the different signs mean on the beach safety boards.

On many of our launches the lifeboat crew work closely with the land based Dartmouth Coastguard Cliff Rescue team. If all goes well they will also be there with their equipment, as well as demonstrating how the two teams work together.

The day has been chosen so that the tides are right for the inshore lifeboat to carry out a lifesaving demonstration easily seen by the Storm Force members on the Embankment. However there is always the possibility that the Coastguard team or the lifeboat may be called away for operational reasons.

This afternoon is by invitation only to Storm Force members in the TQ and PL postcodes. It is not open to children of the general public.

A call to Grandparents (and to Parents for that matter!) Had you thought of giving your grandchild / child Storm Force membership?

What are the benefits of membership?

Each Storm Force member receives four issues of Storm Force News a year, packed with rescue stories, comic strips, water safety advice, educational articles and competitions with cool prizes.

The Membership pack contains an exclusive 'crew bag,' pencil tin and contents, stickers, map and colouring poster, postcards and a bumper activity booklet, as well as invitations to Storm Force activities in their area.

Membership is only £7.50 a year. Join using www.rnli.org/shorething and choose 'Join Storm Force' in the left hand menu, or contact John Fenton the Dart RNLI Education volunteer. If you do arrange membership please also inform John as the invitations to the Storm Force afternoon may be sent out before the new membership is processed. His contact details are on the back page of this newsletter. ●



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The year ahead for the Dart fundraisers

We are delighted that Harry Escott agreed to continue for another year as Dart Fundraisers Chairman.

Harry writes; - The year ahead for the Fundraisers, after the AGM in March, is looking quite exciting as we now have a new Vice Chairman in the guise of Iain Simons and we wish him the very best in this role. The new Souvenir Secretary, Tony Kirkland, was introduced and confirmed at the meeting as well.

This year, 2012, sees a number of organisations supporting the RNLI, and particularly the Dart Lifeboat, as their chosen 'charity of the year'. The Dartmouth Steam Railway & Riverboat Company is one of these and they are giving us the use of the Cardiff Castle for a river cruise on the Monday of the Diamond Jubilee, 3rd June. They will also be supporting us in many other ways. The Yorkshire Building Society has also chosen the RNLI as their Charity for 2012. The staff at our local branch are 'pulling out all the stops' to make it a good year here in Dartmouth. They will be '**rowing**' for us in August, and '**running**' for us in the Torbay half marathon, as well as '**sky diving**' to raise money later in the year.

The Blackness Marine Fun Day will be on again this year and happens to fall on Father's Day, the 17th June, so make a date in your diaries.

There will be our usual events such as Flag Day 3rd August and the RNLI Fete on 9th August. We do need help on these two days so please let us know if you can be there. ●



Harry Escott
Dart Fundraising
Chairman



Lt. to Rt. Iain Simons, Jill Samworth, Harry Escott, Anna Perry & Jo Escott.

Photo by John Fenton

Who needs Friends?

There are at present 103 supporters of the Dart inshore lifeboat who have signed up as Friends. The majority did this in the early days when we were fighting to find a site for the station and to get the lifeboat established on the Dart.

That was five years ago and much has changed since then. We are on the 2nd version of our local RNLI web site and "Dart D'Tales" has progressed from a single A4 sheet to a glossy eight page issue that is read and appreciated within the RNLI and by its supporters, as well as by the wider public. The aim of both these channels is to keep the Dart station favourably in the public eye.

In those five years much has also been achieved by the Dart RNLI team. The station is one of the three busiest in the charity amongst the thirty six where there is only a D class lifeboat on station. The local fundraising team, along with active contributions from the crew, generous donors and third party events, have very nearly managed to match the annual operational costs of the station for the last two years; a rare achievement within the organisation.

"Dart D'Tales" and the website are funded by the advertisers to the newsletter. We pay "By the Dart" to distribute our newsletter where our areas overlap. We believe that the 266 National RNLI members who keep their boats on the Dart or are in contact with the local station should continue to be kept informed, as well as those who have donated to the station in the past. Most of these 400 are sent by post and the cost is about to rise dramatically, as have all the other costs of production. **Although we receive no funding from their national RNLI membership only 21 of the 266 members are also enrolled as Friends.** It should be pointed out that Jeff Cooper, We Make Magazines, who is the brilliant design consultant of "Dart D'tales", gives his services free and Pete Callis and Ralph Seeley both designed our respective local web sites at no cost to the RNLI.

The bottom line is that we can just about cover our costs with an eight page issue with eight advertisers. However we lose about £100 with every four page issue with four advertisers. With costs such as postage due to rise again steeply we need the Friends to contribute annually rather than occasionally. In the past these contributions have been quite varied but never less than £5 per Friend. Please fill in the form on the reverse even if you feel unable to contribute at the present time.

Who needs Friends? We do!

John Fenton, Dart Lifeboat Press Officer, Editor of Dart D'Tales

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Application Form

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Dear Sir or Madam: Please fill in the following form **whether you intend to contribute to being a Friend of the Dart Lifeboat or not.**

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Surname

Address

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Post Code

email

Home Tel

Mobile

I give my permission for the above information to be kept on the local Dart lifeboat database for RNLI purposes only.

Signature

Date

I enclose a cheque made out to the RNLI as my donation to be a Friend of the Dart lifeboat for the year starting 1 April 2012.

Amount

I am a UK taxpayer and would like the RNLI to treat all donations I have made during the past four years prior to this year and all donations I make in the future as Gift Aid donations until I inform you otherwise. I understand that I must have paid an amount of Income tax/ or Capital gains tax for each year that is at least equal to the amount of tax the RNLI claims on my donations for that tax year. ☐

I would like to continue to receive Dart D'Tales by post.
Yes / No / Does Not Apply

I would / would not like to receive the monthly news update by Email, listing forthcoming events.

**Thank you for your support, please send your application to: The Membership Secretary
RNLI DART LIFEBOAT STATION
Coronation Park, DARTMOUTH, TQ6 9NL**

Helm revision day

Chris Tracey, Rob Clements, LOM, and Mark Strudwick, DLA, came up with the idea of having a day devoted to combating any possible skill fade amongst the seven helmsmen in the Dart lifeboat team. The four original helms, Chris Tracey, Kevin Murphy, Andy Pomeroy and Chris Wallace had been on their helmsman courses at Poole three years ago. The other three; Buster Hart, Squiff Howitt and Tony Chapman, had been more recently. Lloyd Turner has stood down due to the pressure of work. There had been no previous self assessment and it would be a helpful exercise to establish that everyone was still singing from the same song sheet.



**Chris Tracey,
Dart Training
Coordinator**

Initially half of the helms went out in the boat and each had to teach a standard operating procedure. Whilst this was happening the others sat a standard helm's test used during previous courses at Poole. This was provided by Tom Mansell, Divisional Training Inspector from Saltash. After each session the groups went through the teaching and the papers together before swapping over activities for the afternoon. At the end of the day there was a further debrief.

In any teaching role it is only too easy to concentrate on the areas where you are most confident. The group all agreed that it was a very worthwhile exercise and plan to repeat it every six months.

Five of the current lifeboat crew have also expressed an interest in beginning the training to qualify as helmsmen. ●



Photo by Nigel Millard

Haydn Glanvill, Paramedic on the crew and Kevin Murphy, Helmsman, on a training exercise.



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Dart RNLI Lifeboat now has its own Facebook page

The aim is to share some of the information that can be found on the local RNLI station web site, but to make the contact a two way process.



Launches will be notified as they happen and the Facebook page will be updated as soon as possible after the crew returns. This already happens on the web site.

Events on the station's social and fundraising programme will be posted up, as well as current photographs of the team's Operational, Educational, Sea Safety and Fundraising activities.

Work on developing the facebook page is in progress. Please do click the "Like" invitation on the page and it will become a useful new contact for a range of people who do not regularly open the station website.

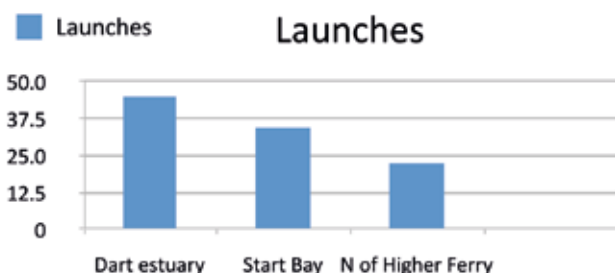
If you are not a Facebook member you can see the Dart RNLI lifeboat page on www.facebook.com/dartnrlilifeboat but cannot interact with it unless you become a member. ●

Answers to Quiz.

Question 1. Launches to incidents north of the Higher Ferry. B (22.5%). Launches to incidents in Start Bay. D (34.5%). Launches to incidents in Dart estuary. 45%.

Question 2. 47ft, Launch 59. At 7.5m also our farthest call away from land.

Question 3. Three times – Launches 100, 106 and 108.







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www.facebook.com/dartnrlilifeboat

The generosity of our advertisers has enabled us to produce this edition at reduced cost to the RNLI. Please support them. Additional costs have been met by donations from the Friends of the Dart lifeboat.

Local Dart RNLI contacts

President

Robin Shiffner. Tel 01803 835853

Lifeboat Operations Manager

Rob Clements. Mobile 07917 514 948

Chairman Fundraising Team

Harry Escott. Tel 01803 834296

Secretary Fundraising Team

Clare Thorp. Tel 01803 832123

Box Secretary

Gordon Pepperell. Mob 07791 448391

Treasurer Fundraising Team

Colin Myers. Tel 01803 832674

Local Membership Secretary

Bob Hattersley. Tel 01803 832182

Souvenir Secretary.

Tony Kirkland. Tel 01803 732877

Events Liaison

Anna Perry. Tel 01803 832393

Boathouse Manager

Bob Thomas. Mobile 07980 099 932

Administrator, Press Officer & Education volunteer. Editor Dart D'Tales and web site.

John Fenton. Tel 01803 770761

Assistant Press Officer

Janet Hall. Tel 01803 835718

Sea Safety Officer

John Yunnie. Mobile 07768 007 365

Dart Lifeboat Station

Coronation Park, North Embankment,
DARTMOUTH, TQ6 9NL 01803 839224

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

Do you have an idea for a feature article? Got something to say? Send your views to John Fenton using the 'Contact Us' facility on the web site.

Details of our last one hundred and forty two launches, recent and forthcoming events, a photo gallery as well as details of the team members can be found on the local RNLI web site. Notices are also posted on the Notice Boards on the outside the Lifeboat Station and in front of the toilets on the North Embankment.

SOS Appeal 2012

The supporters of the Dart lifeboat turned up trumps when it came to raising money for the crew's new lifejackets. Much has already been written in the local press, in

Lifeboat crewman Darren Hopley in charge of the BBQ.

£112



By the Dart and on the station Web site.

The final total raised was £4679 which exceeds the total that we were asked to raise as a station. Well done everybody.

Lifeboat crewman Ewen Menzies at Blackawton Primary Sch.

£84



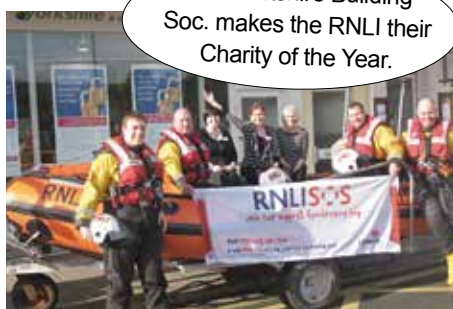
Donations
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Sue Pepperell & Jo Escott pack bags at Sainsburys.

£244

The Yorkshire Building Soc. makes the RNLI their Charity of the Year.



Paula & Colin Cooper enjoy the cake stall in the lifeboat station.

£110



Lifeboat crewman Kevin John at Dartmouth Academy.

£123



All School Events
£731

Jo Escott tries some of Lyn Clements' hot spices.

£84



Valentine's Dance
£363

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