

DART TALES

Lifeboats 

NEWS FROM THE DART LIFE BOAT

*Written by John Fenton
Dart RNLI Lifeboat Press Officer*

LIFEBOATS PAST AND PRESENT, MAGAZINE OF THE LIFEBOAT ENTHUSIASTS SOCIETY VISIT.

On 8 June 2021 the volunteers at the Dart RNL I lifeboat station were fortunate to be visited and photographed by Nicholas Leach, editor of Lifeboats Past and Present, the magazine of the Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society. He decided to visit the port on a double mission. He wanted to capture the inshore lifeboat D-838 Dudley Jane which had not featured in the magazine since her naming ceremony on 4 August 2019 and also wanted to see B-825 Norma Ethel Vinall since her transfer from the relief fleet to the Dart station on 18 August 2020. Nicholas spent a beautiful early summer's morning on the water, photographing the two boats on exercise.

The Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society



was formed in 1964 and its magazine is published three times a year, posted out to members on annual subscription. It includes all the latest news of lifeboat stations, inshore lifeboats, former lifeboats and foreign lifeboats. Articles on

technical matters of historical interest are included, with features on lifeboat stations and lifeboats. Lifeboat modellers can get tips and hints on how to research, build and display models. Photographs and articles submitted by members contribute to each edition. Updates on the lifeboats at the historic lifeboat collection at Chatham Dockyard, and the work of the volunteers there, are included. The magazine promotes the restoration and preservation of former lifeboats, and the efforts of those who own and operate them.

An annual lifeboats handbook is published at the start of each year detailing the all-weather lifeboat fleet, and includes listings of inshore lifeboats, tractors and carriages, lifeboat stations and locations of former lifeboats and much more.

The Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society



brings together those with a keen interest in lifeboats and the lifeboat service and exist to support the RNLI and provide an interchange of information between the RNLI and members on the many different aspects of lifeboats, past, present and future.

For more information and details see www.lifeboatenthusiasts.com

All photographs by Nicholas Leach.

Crew of Dart Lifeboat B-825. Helm Richard Eggleton. Crew Tom Shanley and Aaron Spicer

Crew of Dart Lifeboat D-838. Helm Chris Rampling. Crew Caleb Brown and Will Davis.



UPDATE ON JAMES HESTER'S WALK AND KAYAK DOWN THE THAMES FROM ITS SOURCE TO THE CITY.

The Environment Agency decided not to open their Thames-side camping sites and facilities found at locks until the full opening of the Government's lockdown on July 19. They have now decided not to open these this year and this will seriously interrupt James's plan to camp as he paddles down the river. The revised start date is now 2022.

The fundraising by the Dartmouth Branch has been severely curtailed this year. The fete has had to be cancelled but the **Flag day on Thursday 5 August** will still go ahead.

We have access to at least one contactless donation device so please remember, for once, to put some cash in your pocket on the day.



NEWS FROM THE RNLI VISITOR CENTRE ON THE SOUTH EMBANKMENT

The RNLI has decided to continue with its Covid procedures, at least for the present. All sneeze screens, hand sanitiser and floor markers are to remain in place in RNLI shops. Masks are to be worn still when volunteering and we ask all customers to wear one when entering the shop – a box of masks will be placed at the doorway and customers are asked to help themselves to one to wear when inside. We strongly encourage social distancing to remain – but we can revisit the allowed numbers in shops on a site by site basis. Ventilation is still key so where possible doors and windows will remain open while the shop is open to the public. All cleaning schedules and checklists will be maintained. There are several new lines for sale and Christmas cards are sailing off the shelf.

Opening hours are variable but increasing as volunteers return.

Monday 11-3, Tuesday 11-2, Wednesday 11-1, Thursday 11-3, Saturday 11-2.

News, details of launches, photographs and videos can be found on the Dart station website. www.dartlifeboat.org.uk or the station Facebook page www.facebook.com/dartnliilifeboat

