Lifeboat rescues and fund-raising success for Lyme Regis RNLI

Three rescues due to be screened by the BBC, a video Christmas special featuring the crew and their families and an all-time record £40,000 raised during Lifeboat Week...these were the highlights of 2019 for the RNLI volunteers in Lyme Regis.

Operations Manager Nick Marks, said: “Once again teamwork and training by the crew and tremendous fund-raising efforts by the Lifeboat Supporters group have contributed to a very successful year for our volunteers.”

The rescue of two 14 year old boys being swept out to sea from the River Axe in June is due to be seen in the BBC’s Saving Lives at Sea series this year. Video using a helmet camera worn by a crew member shows the boys’ dramatic rescue as they cling to each other at sea. Two other ‘shouts’ are also expected to be featured in the series this year. They are the rescue of two ex-professional sailors whose dinghy capsized and the search for a woman trapped on cliffs with her two dogs.

Lyme Regis lifeboat crew answered 33 emergency calls during 2019. A third of them to people cut off by the tide. The first two ‘shouts’ of the year were to such incidents in the Charmouth area. Mr Marks said: “We always urge people to check tide times and general conditions when out walking. Although the year was largely successful there was also sadness when an extensive search by our crew, Exmouth lifeboat and the coastguard helicopter failed to find a man who, it later transpired, had died in the Freshwater Bay area.”

Senior helm Tim Edwards, who was aboard the lifeboat when the two schoolboys were rescued and who features in the BBC film of the incident, said “It was a generally safe and successful 2019 and the rescue of those boys will remain with me for many a year. “It was a wonderful end to an incident that could have been so different. It’s what makes all our volunteer work and training so worthwhile.”

Hundreds boost RNL funds by £2k at Christmas Day swim

Hundreds of spectators and dozens of fancy dress swimmers enjoyed the Christmas Day sunshine at Charmouth and donated £1,826 to the RNLI. The event was reckoned to be one of the most successful for several years, chairman of the Lyme Regis Lifeboat Supporters Ken Lavery said: “Once again, we are so grateful to everyone who donated to our life-saving charity.”

Marion raises £1,000 in a year from promoting ‘Betty’s Pots’

Betty’s 5p Pots, named after the originator, Betty Frith from Herford Branch, uses recycled mini jam jars (individual portion size), to be filled with 5p pieces and once full, return the jar donating the contents to the RNLI. Pots are available in our Lifeboat Shop on The Cobb at Lyme Regis. If you would like to use some for an RNLI fund raising event please contact Marion Morris via the Lifeboat Shop.

RNL mascot Stormy Stan to run the London marathon

Stormy Stan, the RNLI’s mascot, whose ‘home’ is a cupboard in Lyme Regis lifeboat station, is running in this year’s London marathon...with a little help from a 41 year old lorry driver. Simon Marchant, a former RNLI crew member in Penarth, used social media to trace the Stormy Stan outfit in Lyme Regis. Nick Marks, volunteer Lifeboat Operations Manager, said: “Simon has raised many donations for our life-saving charity and we are delighted to let him borrow Stormy Stan for the marathon and, of course, we wish them both every success.” Simon, from Willand, Cullompton, will be taking time off from driving his HGV to take part in the marathon on April 25. He tried on the mascot outfit for size one night and ran around Holmbush car park in Lyme Regis at 2am. “with a few stops here and there. I hope to complete the marathon within 8 hours. Stormy has a big head so I think other runners will give him a wide berth.” Simon has a fund-raising site for Stormy Stan at JustGiving.com

LIFEBOAT WEEK Saturday 25th to Friday 31st July 2020

Supporting the charity that saves lives at sea
DIARY DATES

AGM ALL WELCOME
Guest Speaker
Wednesday 1st April,
7.30pm The Lifeboat Station, Lyme Regis

Blessing of the Boats
Sunday 17th May 2020, 3pm
The Slipway, Lyme Regis

Flag Day
Saturday 30th May
Helpers wanted - contact alan@alanvian.co.uk tel 01297 442220

Lifeboat Week Lyme Regis
Saturday 25th - 31st July 2020

“Lifeboat week in Lyme started in the early 70s when some of the crew and members of the Guild decide to start a Lifeboat week to raise funds for the RNLI and looking back over the records during Rob’s period as Chair of the Lyme Regis and Charmouth, then, Lifeboat Guild now Supporters raised approximately £250,000 which is the replacement cost of Spirit of Loch Fyne our current Atlantic class Lifeboat here in Lyme Regis.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Rob but I am told he typified so many RNLI volunteers being quiet and unassuming but who know how important our fund raising activities are to keep the RNLI on the coast to save lives at sea. He was Chair of the Guild for 8 years and during that time built on the work of his predecessors, as we do today, so that our small town punches well above its weight in fund raising.

As the latest Chair of the Lyme Regis and Charmouth Lifeboat Supporters. I would like to, on behalf of all our members in Lyme, pay tribute to Rob for all he did during his time in Lyme Regis.”

Ken Lavery

SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
To join our friendly team to help in our popular shop Friday afternoons & weekends Please contact Krys Lavery rnli1824@btinternet.com or ask in the shop

Items wanted for Comedy Charity Auction
Due to the success of this event we shall run an auction again in 2020 but it will depend on your generous donations of items. Once again the comedy duo of auctioneers from Lyme Bay Auctions will be presiding so you will have an evening of hilarity, whilst helping raise money for the RNLI! Please contact Gerry Hampton 01297 34410

KNITTED GOODS Are always popular: donations gratefully received. Contact Marion 0791 9966780

Donations of raffle prizes for the Lifeboat Week Pub Quiz please contact Sally: 0771 3026826.

Boathouse News
Lyme’s X-Boat was put to good use immediately when three boys found themselves in difficulties in the harbour recently.

Volunteer Lifeboat Operations Manager: Nick Marks
Volunteer Press Officer for Lyme Regis RNLI: Richard Horobin

Supporters Who’s Who
Chairman: Ken Lavery kmlavery@doctors.org.uk
Secretary: Maggie Sullivan maggieangles@aol.co.uk
Treasurer: Brian Cursley lifeboat1824@gmail.com
Flag Day Secretary: Alan Vian alan@alanvian.co.uk
Shop Enquiries: Krys Lavery rnli1824@btinternet.com
Membership: Anne Marks annemarks101@gmail.com

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a charity registered in England and Wales (209603)