

# WATER SAFETY QUARTERLY UPDATE

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please continue to report all of your activity so we can record the impact of your lifesaving work and recognise the contribution you make to the RNLI.

## CONTACT US BY:

- Using the Microsoft form for your region.
- Letting us know of any school/youth group bookings via email: [Water\\_Safety@rnli.org.uk](mailto:Water_Safety@rnli.org.uk).

### *Dear volunteer,*

Welcome to this pre-peak summer season edition of the Water Safety newsletter. My name's Tony and I work within the central Water Safety Team, as the Senior Water Safety Partner. I've been fortunate enough to work in the RNLI for over 24 years, many of which in this team. I've seen a few changes in my time, been part of many discussions on the best way forward and have been privileged to have worked with international counterparts on best practice for drowning prevention.



For me it starts with the data and evidence and ends with good quality evaluation. Everything in the middle is an evolution of what we have learnt from the impact of our work. That learning and adapting is what makes the role interesting for me and something this team will continue to do in order to save lives. On the next page I'll delve more into the data and insights that shape our lifesaving work, but for now, what else have we got coming up in this edition? We'll take a look at the work that's been going on at the RNLI as we approach our busiest season. The lifesaving activity that's been delivered across the regions, the opportunity to catch-up on our Water Safety & Lifeguards Live Event, a look at our unique Local Ambassador programme and exciting behind the scenes access of our [brand new Float to Live campaign](#) that's just got underway.

And finally, before you enjoy the rest of this newsletter, please join me in welcoming Megan Manneh to the Water Safety Team. Megan is our Water Safety Delivery Manager, covering for Sarah Pennicard who is on maternity leave. Megan has responsibility for ensuring our delivery teams have everything they need to deliver their regional plans effectively, as well as working closely with the central team to ensure alignment of plans from a delivery perspective. Megan's joined us from the RNLI Events Team and has a lot of experience of working on the coast at lifeboat stations. Megan also wears an additional hat, as Chair of the RNLI Race Equality Network which is helping to support the organisation on its journey to become more inclusive, ensuring everyone at the RNLI has a voice and that our vital lifesaving messages reach all communities.

The Race Equality Network is open to all volunteers and is always looking for new members. Get in touch by emailing [race\\_equality@rnli.org.uk](mailto:race_equality@rnli.org.uk), and head to the wellbeing pages on [Compass](#) or the [Volunteer Zone](#) to find out about the other Equality, Diversity and Inclusion networks available to you. If you see Megan be sure to say hi, and I wish you all a fantastic summer season ahead.

**Tony Wafer**  
*Senior Water Safety Partner*



# FEATURED NEWS

## Don't miss the Water Safety & Lifeguards Live Event



CLICK TO PLAY



### Water Safety & Lifeguards Live Event

At the end of May (31) we held the very first Water Safety & Lifeguards Live Event from Bridlington Lifeboat Station in East Yorkshire. This was a great opportunity to come together ahead of our busiest season and give an update from both the WS + LG worlds, as well as shining a light on the fantastic partnership work between both teams, both locally in the region and in other areas - helping us

to reach new audiences, drive recruitment, deepen our connection within Lifesaving Operations and ultimately save more lives. A huge thank you to Steve Clarke (Lifeboat Operations Manager), Bob Taylor (Water Safety Officer) and Mike Milner (Lifeboat Press Officer), and the rest of the crew from Bridlington Lifeboat station & the Yorkshire and East Riding Lifeguard Teams for your hospitality!

We had some great questions come in live for the Q&A, so thank you to all of those who submitted a question. These events are really for you – to get the latest updates directly from the team and a brilliant opportunity to ask the questions that matter to you.

### Exclusive look: behind the scenes of Float to Live

During the event you'll get to see a really exciting and exclusive behind the scenes look at the making of our brand new Float to Live film, made entirely in-house by our Creative Services Team.

If you were unable to tune in live or are yet to watch it back – please take some time to do so. And please do share the link to the recording with your fellow RNLI water safety volunteers and teams.

## Stay connected

We've pulled together some useful groups, links and resources to help you stay connected with your team and fellow volunteers:

- Join our [Water Safety Facebook Group](#).
- Be part of the planning for our 200<sup>th</sup> birthday year in 2024 by joining the Steering Group – get in touch with: [RNLI2024@rnli.org.uk](mailto:RNLI2024@rnli.org.uk).
- Find resources to help you look after your [wellbeing, and information about support](#) available at the RNLI.
- Check out the [RNLI podcast Lifesavers](#), where crew members, lifeguards and the people they've rescued share their personal stories.



## RESOURCES FOR YOU

### Learning and development

As a water safety volunteer you have access to the RNLI Learning Zone where you can complete any required learning to help you feel confident to carry out your role. If you have recently joined you may also have a buddy who will help you settle in. When you join the team your volunteer manager will have your RNLI login details for the [Learning Zone](#). For more information about how to use the Learning Zone please visit this [Horizon page](#) (you will need your RNLI login details to access this).

Our brand new Float to Live campaign



Our new lifesaving [Float to Live campaign](#) is underway, and we're really excited that our brand new film and supporting campaign assets will be launching imminently – so keep your eyes peeled.

The assets are based on our recent water safety research in partnership with the University of Portsmouth [Extreme Environment Laboratory \(EEL\)](#), which builds upon the existing advice already proven to save lives.

It's more important than ever that we get behind this campaign – helping spread our key water safety messaging and ultimately saving as many lives as possible this summer.

## The drowning statistics

There were 226 deaths in the UK from accidental drownings in 2022, across inland and coastal locations. Of the people who died 40% had no intention of entering the water, such as those walking, with causes including slips, trips and falls, being cut off by the tide, or swept in by waves.\*

And our RNLI Water Safety Survey from April this year reveals that 27% of people in Ireland and 32% of people in the UK still do not know what to do if they unexpectedly get into difficulty in the water.\*\*

## Why have we updated Float to Live this year?

Our advice for Float to Live when it was launched in 2017 was grounded in an initial round of research that has undoubtedly saved lives. But we've always wanted to test this further against a range of factors including different open water environments.

We did exactly that in 2022, working with our longstanding partner Professor Mike Tipton and the University of Portsmouth's Extreme Environments Laboratory (EEL).

Head to the Volunteer Zone to [read more about the results from this research](#) and how that informed us to update and improve our Float language to be more specific, and ultimately to be as effective as possible and save the most lives.

*\*Water Incident Database (WAID), maintained by the National Water Safety Forum. To view and download the WAID 2022 report, visit: <https://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/waid>. \*\*RNLI research on Float to Live awareness: Basis Research, RNLI Water Safety Survey, April 2023. Representative sample of 1,007 UK adults, and 501 Irish adults aged 16-64.*

## Water Safety: Data, evidence and insights

The UK and Ireland has some of the best data and insights internationally on drowning, audience segmentation and risk analysis. This gives us a solid base to know what the problem is, and therefore make decisions and plans to support the RNLI, and wider country-level strategies. Can it be better? Of course, and with the advent of local plans with volunteers and staff working closer with partners, our insight has only gotten better – and will continue to through effective reporting.

### What is success in water safety?

When I first started, we were targeting those who used the sea for leisure purposes, whose attitudes and behaviours could have been better. We used lifeboat launch data as that is what we had at the time. Over the years of working with partners, the [Water Incident Database \(WAID\)](#) generated some jaw-dropping statistics – showing that over half of those who lost their life in, on or around water, had no intention of going in.

The change in focus towards reducing 50% of lives lost by 2024 was the right thing to do for the charity that exists to save lives at sea and by doing so, started to get the whole organisation behind our water safety work. The core principle of changing behaviours remains true, and from that, additional research gave us insights into the driving factors that could save the most lives for individual activities. These are still used today for planning interventions.

Water safety today has evolved its measures of success due to the number of high-quality country-level plans in place. The common denominator for the RNLI across all regions when we explore risk is the Deaths, Rescue, Injury (DRI) scale. It gives us a high-level indicator of where our work needs to be focussed and a heading to remain on course for the wider RNLI objectives. National and local insights will sharpen that focus, empowering everyone to make decisions in their area as to the best approach from there on.

### *We are 'evidence informed, insight lead'*

This data is now available to us in Power BI dashboards, and available to you through your Regional Water Safety Team, as Head of Water Safety Gareth Morrison [recently went into detail about](#) at the Water Safety & Lifeguards Live Event. Please request access through your Regional Water Safety Team who can assess these on a case-by-case basis and can help to ensure our analysis of data remains consistent.

### Electronic reporting forms

Finally, you'll be aware of the new electronic reporting forms for both volunteers and staff that we have just rolled out this year. These are vital, especially in today's economic climate to enable the RNLI to ensure all our activities add value and contribute to the wider plan, whilst being transparent and accountable for spending our donors money wisely. Without accurate reporting we run the risk of making poor decisions, not having the evidence to improve interventions, and ultimately not helping us save as many lives as we could. Please ensure all activities are recorded to help us improve our data, support the future of water safety and work towards our vision to save every one.

***Tony Wafer – Senior Water Safety Partner***



# LOCAL AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

## Helping to share lifesaving messages

Being an RNLI Water Safety Local Ambassador is a light touch volunteer role and part of a network of more than 800 businesses across the UK and Ireland who are making a real difference to people's lives by displaying and promoting RNLI water safety messaging to their customers.

Every year, people get into difficulty at the coast. So, we're asking local businesses to become RNLI Local Ambassadors to share lifesaving water safety messages with people in their community on our behalf. Once the [simple steps to sign up](#) to the scheme online have been followed, they'll receive access to our materials and resources, which can be used to share our lifesaving messaging in three simple ways:

1. **Displaying water safety messaging posters in their windows.**
2. **Sharing water safety messages on social media channels.**
3. **Having conversations with customers about water safety.**

We're expecting large numbers to visit our coasts again this year. But we know our lifeguards can't be everywhere at once. That's where water safety education and other volunteer roles like our Local Ambassadors come in, as extra eyes and ears where it matters most. The impact Local Ambassadors can have through that one small conversation, one small action or one small display can help save lives.

Our resources for Local Ambassadors have been updated ahead of the new season, including posters and social media films. If you know a local coastal business that may want to get involved in the scheme and support our work, encourage them to find out more by visiting [RNLI.org/LocalAmbassador](https://www.rnli.org/LocalAmbassador) and sign up today – and help us grow this lifesaving network.

## Looking for Local Ambassadors to share their stories and successes

It's always great to hear from our Local Ambassadors, the reasons why they joined the scheme and the all-important conversations they have with members of the public to give water safety advice, helping to keep their community and customers safe. If you know of a Local Ambassador who would be happy to share their story with us then please drop us a line by emailing [watersafety@rnli.org.uk](mailto:watersafety@rnli.org.uk).



Every year, people get into difficulty and drown at the coast. Our water safety messages can help turn those preventable deaths into a life saved.

So we're asking local businesses to become RNLI local ambassadors.

As an ambassador, you'll share lifesaving water safety messages with people in your community on our behalf.

When you sign up, you'll receive access to our safety materials and resources. You can share our messages in three simple ways.

- Displaying our water safety posters in your windows.
- Sharing some of our key safety messages on your social media channels.
- Having conversations with your customers about water safety.

By sharing water safety messages with your local community, your business could help save lives. Thank you.

To find out more and sign up scan this code:  
Or visit [RNLI.org/LocalAmbassador](https://www.rnli.org/LocalAmbassador)



The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea  
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHI 2478 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1JZ



This year, we're asking businesses to become RNLI local ambassadors. As a local ambassador, you'll share lifesaving water safety messages with your community on our behalf.

Why are RNLI local ambassadors so important?

- With many people staying closer to home for their holidays this year, we're expecting the coast and its beaches to be very busy.
- Many people drown at the coast every year. But our water safety messages can help turn those preventable deaths into a life saved.
- By sharing our water safety messages with your local community, you could help save lives.

**Rebecca McCarthy**  
Marketing Executive

# UPDATES IN THE LAST QUARTER

## Saying 'thank you' to you!



In May we celebrated [Volunteering Week in Ireland](#) (15-21 May) and at the start of this month it was [UK Volunteers' Week](#) (1-7 June). We also shared a new online [Thank You Wall](#) – a place for RNL people to share messages and photos for you, our incredible lifesaving volunteers.

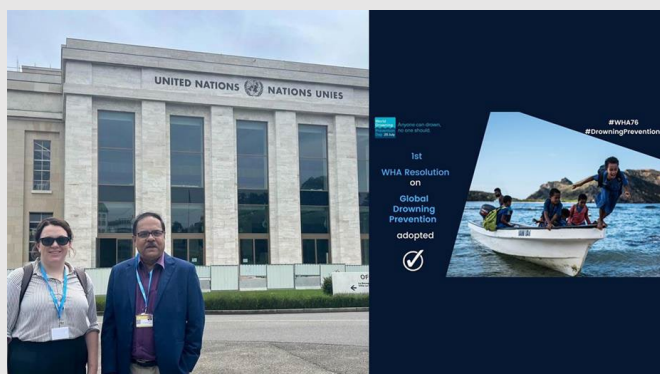
## Summer #OneCrew update and Q&A



Our [#OneCrew summer live update and Q&A](#) was held at the start of June. Hear from Ross Barraclough, Head of Region in the North and East, as he's embedded into his new role, see some of the special RNL 200 retail products, and get an exclusive look at our new Float to Live Film.

[Watch the moment](#) Mark learns about our updated Float to Live campaign and gets in the pool to try floating for himself.

## A new resolution on global drowning prevention



You may remember [an article from February](#) where we reported on our progress in helping secure a new resolution on drowning prevention at the World Health Assembly (WHA). The International Team have done just that, as on 29 May 2023 the [first-ever WHA resolution on global drowning prevention](#) was adopted!

Learn more about the steps being taken to promote drowning prevention through public awareness and community engagement. Also keep an eye out on our channels for how the RNL will be getting behind this year's World Drowning Prevention Day on 25 July.

## Protecting against anti-social behaviour



Protecting against anti-social behaviour is an important part of safeguarding. We have seen an increase in anti-social behaviour and criminal offences over the past few years, which is sometimes targeted at RNL volunteers, staff, equipment, or property.

Your safety always comes first, and the RNL takes a zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour and criminal offences, so it remains important to continue reporting any incidents. Please read [this important safety message](#) and guidance as we near the busy peak summer season.

## IRELAND



It's been a busy 2023 so far with national events and local events and an engaged and passionate team to deliver our water safety interventions. We have now completely moved across to the updated evaluation form and we'd like to thank all our volunteers for using this reporting system which will give us much greater oversight of regional activity. We will be reporting this information back to all our volunteers on a quarterly basis.

The Ireland Region also welcomes our new Water Safety Lead, Linda-Gene Byrne to the team. Many of you will already have met Linda-Gene online at our bi-monthly team meeting but you can expect to meet her in person over the next few months at our cluster group meetings and other calendar events. Linda-Gene brings a fresh perspective to the team and is keen to explore new opportunities and partnerships in the region.



### Ireland Dive Expo, Irish Spring Angling Fair

Our water safety volunteers attended two national events, the Ireland Dive Expo in Dublin and the Irish Spring Angling Fair in Waterford. Both events were a real success with great audience engagement, well attended and very well supported by our volunteers. A huge thanks to all who got involved and gave up their time over the weekends to be there.

## SCOTLAND



*Photos from Water Safety Volunteers at Buckie RNLI: Emma Williams and Karen Murray.*

### Some top line stats

50 of our volunteers in the region completed evaluations from the beginning of the year until May 2023, this totalled 5078 total engagements. Youth messaging made up 31 of these interventions with 19 being activity focused. The most common activity addressed was delivering the four core water safety messages.

### A warm welcome to our new recruits

Our large recruitment campaign is finishing up with recruitment now complete for several stations in the region. With this I would like to extend a warm welcome to:

- Kirsty Main – Water Safety Officer (WSO), Aberdeen
- Gerry King – WSO, Thurso
- Deanna Lee – WSO, Longhope
- David Bova – WSO, Girvan
- Katie Irving-Lewis – WSO, Kirkwall
- Michael Wilkinson, Richard Keay, Daniel Staal, Tom Mitchell and Alasdair Morrison as new Water Safety Advisors (WSA) for Broughty Ferry.

We still have WSA recruitment underway for Kessock RNLI and a WSO role for Largs Lifeboat Station.

### Waterside responder programme

Another project that has made progress in Scotland is the delivery of the Waterside Responder programme, with the delivery and implementation of the scheme at River Leith in Edinburgh city, delivered to 17 new trainers with several businesses receiving the training so far. The scheme has also been developing in East Neuk of Fife with four new trainers and, as of writing, 26 businesses signed up and willing to receive training in the scheme. With throwlines to be provided through donations from the Fife Charities Trust in conjunction with the Fife Water Safety Group.

### Upcoming events

- 15 June** - CNR By the Sea event, Aberdeen.
- 24 June** - Kessock Sailing Day Regatta.
- 14 July** - RNLI Awareness Day Scotland.
- 15 July** - Inverness Highland Games.
- 25 July** - World Drowning Prevention Day, Kelpies.

***Ray Cunningham - Water Safety Delivery Support***



### Living Land Event



Our water safety education specialist volunteers attended Living Land on the 4 May as part of Kent County Agricultural Society. Speaking to over 1250 children and 250 adults they delivered the four key water safety messages whilst interacting and talking all things water safety. The event is a great opportunity to interact with a new audience and those likely to head to the Kent coast this summer. A huge thank you to Gerry Skinner, Pam Stephens, Roger Newlyn and David Barnes for delivering.

We have had a busy start to the year with all our fantastic water safety volunteers getting involved in events including Safety in Action, Junior Citizens, lifejacket clinics and the Waterside Responder scheme. We would like to thank all our volunteers for their dedication and welcome those who are new to the region. We are looking forward to working together to implement our regional plan and water safety interventions ahead of what will no doubt be a very busy summer.

**Waterside Responder scheme:** In April, the RNLI delivered the Waterside Responder scheme to Pagoda security in Brighton, a really positive opportunity to engage with a key organisation patrolling a high risk city and coastal area.

**Vitamin Sea webinar:** Hosted by Brighton & Hove (B&H) Healthy Lifestyles Team who sit on the B&H Coastal Forum. A webinar was delivered at the end of March to members of the public. The focus was on water safety but also ways to access the coast, using the space safely but also with intent to support the public to increase their health, fitness and wellbeing. Subjects covered included, cold water shock, tides, dog walking, stand-up paddleboards and kayaks, benefits of cold water, wellbeing and signposting to both water and land activities including health walks, lifesaving clubs and swimming lessons.

**Online training:** We have had a successful start to this years' online training sessions with an average of 40 South East Water safety volunteers attending each time. We have delivered sessions including Hazards of Immersion, Calling for Help & Key Safety Messages. Our next online training session which is Behaviour Change is to be held on 30 of May 6-7pm.

### Poole Lifeboat & Water Safety Team: #WeAreOneCrew

'Our crew from the station came to Cobbs Quay Poole Open Day to give the public a view of our lifeboats and to help at the crabbing competition. The Water Safety Team also showing how to check and advising owners on their life jackets.'

*David Samuel – Water Safety Adviser*

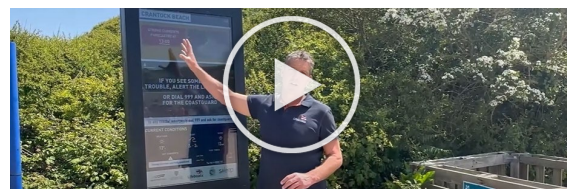


**Meet the Lifeguard:** In addition to our Water Safety education volunteers and in preparation for the summer season, RNLI lifeguards are delivering important beach safety messages to thousands of primary school children across the South East this month. The RNLI's 'Meet the Lifeguard' programme is an interactive session where lifeguards visit a school and teach children key safety advice. It aims to educate and raise awareness of the potential dangers around the coast, changing weather conditions, tide times, and having the ability to identify beach flags. Initial feedback from teachers indicate that the children are really enjoying the sessions. As well as going home with some really important advice that they can carry with them for life, the Water Safety Team are confident that by educating the children, they will in turn share the key messages with their older siblings, parents, family and friends making the impact even greater.

*Gabbi Batchelor – Water Safety Education Manager*

## SOUTH WEST

Joel Ninnes and Steve Instance talk all about the digital beach hazard sign at Crantock Beach in Cornwall.



*Some of the Water Safety Team at Devon County Show (right) and Lulworth Cove (left).*

This Spring, the Water Safety Teams have been busy with a range of exciting interventions, delivering our focused water messages around the South-West. Our Water Safety volunteers, who are education trained, have been very busy going into schools and youth groups delivering vital water safety messages to young people across the South-West. The beginning of this year has seen a flurry of training activity taking place across the region, for both new and current water safety volunteers, who wish to deliver education. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome everyone who has joined our Water Safety teams in the year 2023 and extend a big thank you to our existing and dedicated water safety volunteers. This formal training will start up again in October 2023.

Over the period from 17 April until 12 May our lifeguards have been busy delivering our 'Meet the Lifeguards' programme across schools in the South-West; visiting a total of 322 schools and reaching a total of 43,702 students. We have been busy communicating to the volunteers and partnerships, using our new method of mapping, on which schools to work with and to support when creating a strategy for planning future water safety talks. One example of this is that we know that 93% of schools in Cornwall, at upper primary level, have received a 'Meet the Lifeguard' talk in the last two years and therefore we are able to target the remaining 7% of these schools.

This year we have been busy with numerous events across the region, including the Devon County Show and Lulworth Cove Water Safety Engagement events. Due to the increased number of paddleboard incidents being attended by our lifeboats and lifeguards, we have ensured that our events have a paddleboard safety focus. This focus has seen the inclusion of an interactive scenario on our stands at larger events, along with all our existing water safety messages.

**Tim Treloar – Water Safety Education Manager**



For the start of the year the teams focus has been on the support of recruitment of new water safety volunteers at the stations where we have gaps and bolstering existing teams to help deliver even more interventions. To support our volunteers who sit outside of the traditional station structure, we have developed inland teams focusing on a specific area such as a local authority or county. This will help us become even more focused and ensure our volunteers feel supported. Following on from the recruitment came the re-training and initial training of water safety volunteers where we saw Liam, Taryne and Simon run workshops throughout the region updating volunteers with the latest training and messaging.

We saw great success last year with volunteers targeting their time at higher risk locations such as Brancaster in Norfolk. With this learning we are planning to roll this out in new areas and trialling this at some of our lifeguarded beaches too – you can find out more about this as I spoke to Taryne in more detail at the [Water Safety & Lifeguards Live Event](#) from Bridlington. Big thank you to the station and local teams for being so hospitable and welcoming during those couple of days around the event.

At the beginning of the year our teams have been busy targeting swimming and cold water dipping groups by providing workshops in communities sharing knowledge, guidance and ways they can help look after themselves and others. Water safety volunteers and lifeboat press officers worked together to advertise and deliver 'Cold Water Dipping/Swimming' safety talks at Southwold, Lowestoft, Happisburgh, Cromer, Hunstanton and Whitby Lifeboat Stations. All six events were all very successful, with some inspiring local media coverage sharing our key safety messages too! Off the back of these events, we also recruited several new water safety volunteers who will be supporting some of our summer interventions.

This year Taryne and Liam have been working closely with leisure provider Everyone Active; they trained a team of swimming teachers our water safety education messaging and how to deliver the lessons, and in return the team of teachers will be targeting schools in the area of Waveney as part of their outreach program. It's a great example of partners delivering our messaging on our behalf.

Following the success of our Task Force at Brancaster, we will be rolling this style of engagement out on Holy Island where we see a large number of lifeboat call outs to cars becoming stuck on the causeway after being cut off from the tide. Simon and Liam will be launching a new partnership with 'The Deep', which is an aquarium in Hull, Yorkshire. The Deep on average sees 450,000 visitors each year. The Visits Team at The Deep will be trained up in our messaging and showcase the RNLI on a daily basis. We can't wait to see this program launch in the region.

As we head into another busy summer, we will be supporting our teams across the region ensuring our water safety messages are getting out there and targeting those most at risk. Thank you for your continued dedication.

**Nick Ayres – Regional Water Safety Lead**

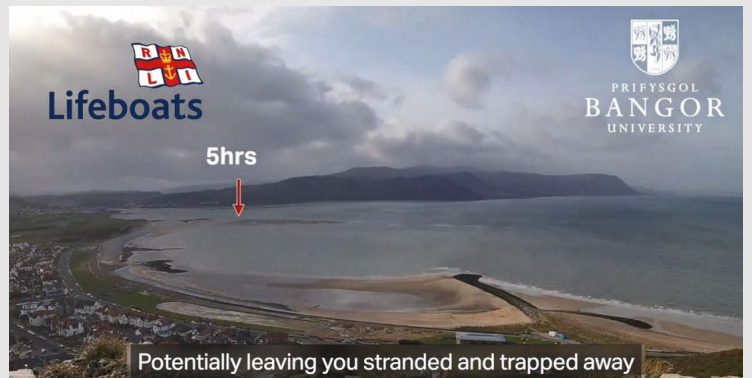
## WALES AND WEST

### Research to focus on tidal safety

New data reveals 15% of the UK population – or 10 million people - have reported having experienced tidal cut off. It was one of the findings from research undertaken by the RNLI and Bangor University to understand people's knowledge and understanding of the tide. Researchers have been talking to people who have experienced tidal cut offs to explore some of the reasons why they get into trouble.

Other headline statistics showed:

- Over half (57%) of those who had experienced tidal cut off lived inland – away from the coast
- 38% of the British population were unaware that the tide typically comes in twice a day
- 40% were not aware that the rise and fall of the tide are not the same every day
- Over a third of people were not aware that tides vary across locations.



These results were publicised to align with a safety message for the spring tides over the Easter weekend and the next phase of the project is to use the learning from the research to improve our safety messaging and interventions for cut off by tide.

Find out more by visiting [Bangor University's website](#).

### Farewell and hello to water safety volunteers!

Goodbye and a big thanks to Simone Eade, Water Safety Officer (WSO) at St Davids RNLI in west Wales, who has stepped away from her role to become the station's Lifeboat Press Officer. Simone did brilliant work as WSO with open water swimming and dipping groups, the lifeguard teams in north Pembrokeshire and was a key part of the Pembrokeshire team attending events and supporting other volunteers across the county.

A very warm welcome goes to our new Water Safety Volunteers who have joined the team across the region in recent months: Mike Wilkins – Water Safety Adviser (WSA) Shrewsbury; Elaine Bennett, WSA Penarth; Sarah Evans, WSA Barry Dock, Ian Oxley, Paul Giddings and Clive Jones, WSAs Porthcawl; Malcolm Wade, Paul Cross and David DeRyck, WSAs the Lakes; Sam McDougall, WSO Wirral; Lynn Lloyd and Ann Stein, WSAs New Brighton; Marian Whittaker, WSA Fairford, Gloucestershire; Dick Beddows and Colin Wade, WSAs at St Bees; Mandy and Stephen Moss, WSAs at Fleetwood; Jo Green, WSA Llandudno; Heidi Bakewell, WSO Pwllheli; David Atkinson, WSA Abersoch; Stuart Wallace, WSO Beaumaris; Graham Bell, WSA New Brighton; Michelle Stewardson, WSA Isle of Man; Holly Horton and Fran Martin, WSAs Rhyl and Caroline Dawson, WSA Flintshire.



### A special and fond farewell

Alice Beetlestone left her Water Safety Delivery Support staff role in our Wales, West and Isle of Man Regional Water Safety Team at the end of March. Alice will be known to many of you as she leaves us after nine years in the Water Safety Team in its various guises. Alice provided unwavering dedication to providing excellent support to you as Water Safety Volunteers and consistently championed the lifesaving work you do.

We are delighted that Alice will be continuing her volunteer roles with the RNLI in Aberdyfi and will hold her to her (loose!) promise of becoming a Water Safety Volunteer in the future. Alice, you will be missed, but we are delighted that you are taking such an exciting next step in life as an as an emergency medical technician with the Ambulance Service. We know you'll ace it!

## Training for upcoming season

A huge thanks to all volunteers for the time you've given to undertaking training over the autumn, winter and spring. One big step forward has been in our lifejacket clinic intervention, where specially trained RNLI volunteers show members of the public how to maintain a lifejacket to keep it fully functioning. We have nine new volunteers trained up to deliver this vital intervention across Wales, West and Isle of Man and at least eight clinics have happened across the region in recent months, including the Dale Sailing Open Day Lifejacket Clinic in Neyland, Pembrokeshire, where Tenby WSO Andrew Lowe and Fishguard WSO Roger Woodage saw some jackets in poor repair, like the one pictured.



Our online monthly training is now moving to a new phase in which we are moving away from delivering the core training modules, the focus is now on a range of wider topics and providing an opportunity to connect with other water safety volunteers across the region. The Local Ambassador training in April provided clear guidance on the role of a Local Ambassador, the essential support that they can provide through their links in the community, updating members of the public with a little local knowledge and RNLI water safety messages. Since the training the Wales, West and Isle of Man team have begun recruiting more ambassadors. Thank you... every message passed on really can save a life!

**Chris Cousens – Regional Water Safety Lead**



Water Safety Education Manager, Anthony Jones, has built a solid relationship with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) and works closely with Nev Thomas who is part of the SWFRS Community Safety Team. Within the south Wales area alone, RNLI water safety education team members deliver key water safety messages at approximately 10 events per year – that usually last one or two weeks, so at times it can be very difficult to cover every session. However, as part of the All Wales Education Sub Group Partnership Anthony along with Neil French a WSA from Bridgend, ran a training/workshop at Porthcawl Fire Station for six members of the SWFRS Community Safety Team. The SWFRS personnel were trained on the RNLI's four key water safety messages and how to deliver age appropriate sessions during the events, as well as observing lessons being carried out. As you can see from the photos above. they have hit the ground running and have been supporting the RNLI Water Safety Education Team to carry out lessons where we are unable to get cover. This ensures no child misses out on this lifesaving education.

# RNLI DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## RNLI Sustainability Survey is live!



The RNLI is committed to becoming a more sustainable organisation so that we can save lives for generations to come. We know our people care about the actions we can all take to create a more sustainable future. So [have your say and help shape that future](#) in our Sustainability Survey.

### TAKE THE SURVEY

Completion time: 5–10 minutes

We've also just launched the RNLI [Sustainability Champions group](#) – a place for our people with an interest in sustainability to connect, share ideas and ultimately drive positive change across our lifesaving charity so we can save lives for generations to come.

## WHAT'S COMING UP...

World Drowning Prevention Day 25 July

Anyone can drown, no one should.

World Drowning Prevention Day is taking place on Tuesday 25 July. Drowning has cost the world more than 2.5million lives in the last decade - many of these deaths are preventable. In 2021 the first World Drowning Prevention Day was established and this year the RNLI is getting behind this campaign in an even bigger and better way than ever before as we join up activity both internally and externally to help raise awareness and spread vital lifesaving messages. Keep an eye out for RNLI news on WDPD that will be shared very soon...

### More dates for your diary!

#### June – Pride Month

June is dedicated to celebrating LGBT+ communities. Keep an eye out on our channels and through your regional teams for special LGBT+ events and activity taking place. The RNLI's Harbour Network (LGBT+) is open to all RNLI people – contact [harbour@rnli.org.uk](mailto:harbour@rnli.org.uk).

#### 17 June 2023 – RNLI Summer Ball

Come along to our 8th annual [RNLI Summer Ball](#) which is open to all volunteers, staff and your friends and family! There will be a live band, cash raffle and lots of food and drink... what more could you ask for?

#### 9 July – RNLI GAA partnership at Croke Park Stadium

We are delighted to announce we'll once again be [heading to Croke Park](#) in Dublin to promote our water safety messages and partnership with the Gaelic Athletics Association, on one of the hurling semi-final match days. Stay tuned on our channels to see activity from this fantastic event!

Wishing you a fantastic, fun and safe summer season!

As we are on the cusp of our busiest time of year, we hope you feel informed and empowered to go out into your communities and deliver our vital lifesaving messages far and wide. Thank you for all you do to save lives as part of our **#OneCrew** .

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We'd love to hear your feedback about this edition of the quarterly update, or any ideas you have for things to include in the next edition. You can [take this poll](#), or alternatively please email [Water\\_safety@rnli.org.uk](mailto:Water_safety@rnli.org.uk).