

WATER SAFETY QUARTERLY UPDATE

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Dear volunteer,

As another summer draws to a close it's my pleasure to introduce the latest Water Safety Quarterly Update, but to also start with a huge thank you for your effort and dedication to helping people enjoy the water safely. Despite the changeable weather I know it has been a very busy few months, and you have all been supporting our Water Safety plan with lots of important lifesaving work, so on behalf of the RNLI, thank you for your commitment.

My name is Ross MacLeod, and I am part of our central Water Safety Team. My role focuses on working with public sector partners and networks to help prevent accidental drowning and water-based suicide. My journey with the RNLI started in 2002 as a seasonal lifeguard where I spent several enjoyable summers whilst studying in Bournemouth. After university I kept working for the RNLI every summer, but embarked on a few winter adventures, including a season lifeguarding in New Zealand, and another working as a scuba diving instructor in Borneo.

In 2009 I landed a permanent job with the RNLI's prevention team which allowed me to combine my passion for water safety and my marketing degree, and I have since held several water safety related roles. I helped establish campaigns like Respect the Water, which has now been adopted by the UK National Water Safety Forum, and Float to Live, which I am proud to see has been updated recently and is still helping save lives.

Sadly however, despite best efforts from the RNLI and partners across Ireland and the UK, not every life can be saved. This was brought into focus for me again on World Drowning Prevention Day, where many families commemorated loved ones lost to drowning, including Megan and Brogan Griffiths, who bravely shared the tragic story of their brother Haydn in support of the RNLI on 25th July, and supported vital advocacy work with Parliamentarians by speaking at a National Water Safety Forum event in Westminster to raise awareness of water safety issues and opportunities.

The World Health Organisation awareness day also inspired huge amounts of activity from our teams which you can read about throughout this newsletter, so thanks to everyone who got involved and helped 'do one thing' to improve water safety this summer.

There have been plenty of other successes this summer, including:

- the launch of our new Float to Live campaign with updated resources
- the Local Ambassador Scheme continuing to grow, with over 1,000 local businesses now registered
- Swim Safe celebrating its 10-year anniversary with a successful media day in Scarborough, having taught 160k children vital water safety skills since 2013
- our GAA partnership being spotlighted again during a prestigious Croke Park All-Ireland Hurling match in support of water safety
- Water Safety teams supporting several Pride events.

Thank you again for everything you do – I have got no doubt you have helped save lives and prevent many tragedies this summer. As we move toward the RNLI's 200th year please do familiarise yourselves with the RNLI's plans, including a great new *200 Voices* podcast series, and we'll be in touch soon about specific Water Safety activity.



Ross MacLeod – Water Safety Public Affairs Manager

A statement from Mark Dowie

Many of you will be rightly concerned by the recent media coverage relating to poor behaviour within the RNLI.

I am both dismayed and personally sorry that, for thousands of well-meaning, decent volunteers and staff, this has brought shame on our noble Institution and could damage our reputation with loyal supporters and followers of the RNLI.

The RNLI is a superb lifesaving charity, populated with extraordinary people, and driven by kindness and courage; but the events which have been reported in the newspapers demonstrate that we also have in our team those whose behaviour is unacceptable and damaging to our charity and its cause. The RNLI has a clear code of conduct for all to follow and this simply must be lived and supported by everyone within the RNLI. Or we, on our watch, will fail to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the Institution.

To be clear, examples of behaviour that simply will not be tolerated include:

- Bullying
- Racism
- Misogyny
- Unfair treatment
- Inappropriate communications

These failings do not have any place in our organisation and will not be tolerated. I want to assure anyone who has experienced anything of this nature within the RNLI that you can speak up safely and the organisation will listen, treat your complaint seriously, and take appropriate action. Should you wish to bring anything of this nature to my attention you can [via the safeguarding email address](#).

Some of the recent articles have also referred to the RNLI's failure to deal adequately with these cases when they have occurred. I want to assure you that every effort is made to deal fairly and professionally with every case. In most cases, the organisation is unable to make comments about individuals or specific details in the media due to legal or confidentiality restraints, and this sometimes makes it look like we are saying nothing in defence of the Institution. I would ask you to trust us with this but in saying this, we are listening and are also willing to learn and change.



I am absolutely committed to rooting out this behaviour across all levels. To be clear, it has no place in this organisation and, for the overwhelming majority of you, you will have had nothing to do with this ever. As one crew we now need to take stock, make sure we are being kind and respectful at all times, and that we do not walk on by when we see or hear of this sort of behaviour. This is at the core of our values, and I expect every single person to live to these high standards in everything we do.

This is your RNLI – please make sure you are doing everything in your power to nurture each other and our charity to keep it safe.

Regards,
Mark

Reporting any concerns you have

We have support systems in place should you need to report a concern. Please read [People Director Sue Barnes' recent update](#) for a reminder about how to do so.

If you get asked any questions about recent media coverage by members of the public, please use [this Q&A](#) to help you respond.

If you are directly approached by the media, please pass enquiries to the RNLI Press Office:
pressoffice@rnli.org.uk / UK: 01202 336 789 / Ireland: +44 1202 336 789.



Float To Live update

Our [Float to Live Campaign](#) got underway in May, with the brand new film and supporting resources going live in July. It's more important than ever that we get behind this campaign – helping spread our key water safety messaging and saving as many lives as possible. Our [Float resources can be found on the website](#) to download and print or order through MyStore.



RNLI LOCAL AMBASSADORS WATER SAFETY

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.

Local Ambassador Scheme hits 1,000 sign ups!

We're excited to announce that this month the RNLI Local Ambassador Scheme has hit a huge milestone with 1,000 ambassadors recruited.

A huge thank you to all our Water Safety volunteers who have supported us on this scheme. We have seen a 33% increase in ambassadors, up from 760 last summer, and we know this has been a focus for many of you this year.

To celebrate this achievement, we caught up with Mandy Humphreys, Water Safety Officer in Wells-next-the-Sea to [see how she has signed up ambassadors](#) to help her tackle the tidal cut-off issue in Wells.

Megan Manneh – Water Safety Delivery Manager

Paddlesport (kayaking, canoeing and stand up paddleboarding) update

Thanks to all those who attended the [paddlesport webinar](#) in July – it was great to see so many of you join. You will be pleased to know that a new stand-up paddleboarding leaflet has been produced which covers the four key messages and further information about choosing the correct leash for the environment. This is ready to order from My Store.

Offshore winds continue to cause lots of lifeboat call outs across the country so please continue to help promote the message to avoid paddling in offshore winds. British Canoeing have recently conducted some research into offshore winds, and you can [listen to their podcast to find out more](#).

Sam Hughes – National Water Safety Partner



Training session on activity reporting

We are holding a virtual training session on **Thursday 28 September at 7.00 pm** to support you when reporting your lifesaving activity via our new Microsoft form.

We will show you the brand-new interactive map, explain why reporting is so important to help support our prioritising of activity, based on risk and how it helps us recognise the RNLI's amazing water safety volunteers.

If you have any questions about completing the form or want to understand how you can use the information to share with your communities, please join Nick, Ray and Nicky for an overview.

[Click here to join the training session.](#)

Water Safety volunteer line management and support – what is changing this autumn?

To continue to best support you in the targeted activities you complete with communities throughout the UK and Ireland, we are in the process of making some changes to how we support some members of the team. We have taken on board feedback and are keen to build on the momentum within the team at present to ultimately save more lives.

As part of this development work within the team, the decision has been made to make changes to reporting lines for the Water Safety Officer (WSO) role. The volunteer line management of WSOs will change from the Lifeboat Operations Manager (LOM) or Area Lifesaving Manager (ALM) to the Regional Water Safety Lead from 1st October. This change will not make a difference to the day-to-day role of the WSO, they will continue with station life and activity as normal.

Please do join us in thanking all our LOMs, ALMs and wider teams for their ongoing work to embed water safety at stations throughout the UK and Ireland; from hosting water safety events and training to supporting the development of lifesaving plans.

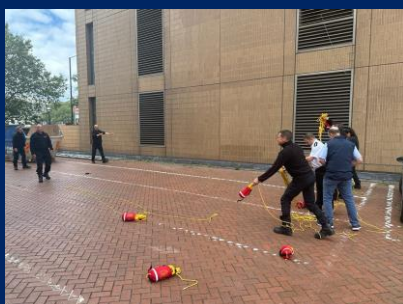
Bringing our volunteers into the regional water safety structure will support better alignment of our water safety activity, allow us to work more safely by bringing more clarity, and in turn, maximise our lifesaving effect as a team.

Gareth Morrison – Head of Water Safety

World Drowning Prevention Day (WDPP)

Thank you for everyone who helped promote the United Nations and World Health Organization's World [#DrowningPrevention](#) Day on 25th July. We were proud to see lots of volunteers and staff getting involved and answering the WHO's call to 'do one thing' to help prevent drowning. Examples included:

- In Poole our Support Team encouraged staff to pledge support, including Emily from the Data Governance Team, pictured here with Nora and Ellie, who said: *'I've been meaning to sort out swimming lessons for my son for ages, but the drowning prevention day made me prioritise it'*. A week later we received a photo of her son practising a starfish float!
- In London, South East Delivery Support Nick Fetcher ran a 'train the trainer' waterside responder scheme session for the London Fire Brigade.
- In Ireland the team supported lots of events, including a fundraiser by a man who floated for 9 hours.
- In North & East, Si Bristow supported Leicester Fire and Rescue Service to deliver Waterside Responder at the Mooring pub in Barrow-upon-Soar, close to where a young life was lost earlier this year.



RNLI 200 and counting

2024 is set to be a big year for the RNLI as we mark our 200 year anniversary. The *200 Voices* podcast launched on 18 August 2023, counting down to 4th March 2024. Visit RNLI.org/200Voices where you can listen to a new episode each day.



Please join us for a webinar on **Thursday 21st September at 7:30pm** to hear more about the RNLI's plans in 2024, including the sailing events programme: 'RNLI 200: All Hands on Deck'. The RNLI has already contacted sailing clubs across the UK and Ireland encouraging them to host a fundraising event in aid of the RNLI in 2024 and we would love your support at these events. The webinar will be recorded so if you cannot attend you will be able to catch up after.

You can see the [wider 200th plans coming together on the Volunteer Zone](#). You can also contact the RNLI 200th team at any time on RNLI2024@RNLI.org.uk.

[Click here to join the webinar on Thursday 21st September.](#)



Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a collective responsibility. Everyone is responsible for safeguarding – volunteers, staff, and contractors. This means that everyone needs to have an understanding of safeguarding risks and the types of harm that fall under safeguarding law and guidance and know how and when to report any concerns.

Over the course of the next year, all volunteers and staff will have opportunities to learn more, building on our existing knowledge to ensure that everyone knows the risks and types of harm that fall under safeguarding guidance and law, and how and when to report concerns.

As a reminder, if you have not as yet completed the [Safeguarding E-Learning via Learning Zone](#), please take time this September to sign into the platform to ensure you are aware of your responsibilities, good practice guidance and reporting procedures. If you are unsure of your login details or need any further support accessing RNLI2 to complete the training, then please do email water_safety@rnli.org.uk who will be able to assist you.

Sam Johnson – National Water Safety Education Partner



**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.



Swim Safe 2023



Swim Safe has enjoyed a very busy summer, and by the end of September we expect to see nearly 25,000 young people go through the programme from both school and public sessions. This is our highest number of participants since pre-pandemic and, even with the great British and Irish summer weather, shows the programme going from strength to strength. In August, James Woodhouse, and Ashley Jones (Swim England), spent the day on Scarborough North Bay beach with a Swim Safe cohort and press teams from around the UK. Scarborough Swim Safe is run in conjunction with the Andrew McGeown Foundation; Andrew lost his life in the North Sea when trying to rescue his dog from rough surf in 2015. Andrew's sister, Donna, has run a Swim Safe session every year since and Donna has taught more than 5,000 young people how to stay safe when at the beach. Our press coverage was shared across more than 180 media outlets with a reach of over 65 million people, which was a fabulous outcome after a summer of hard work and effort from our amazing teams running Swim Safe across the UK and Ireland. Bring on 2024!

James Woodhouse – Senior Implementation Manager, BSA

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 200th birthday year in 2024 by joining the Steering Group – get in touch with 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).

UPDATES IN THE LAST QUARTER

Cold water dip fundraising events



You may remember that last June, we shared some [information and supporting materials](#) about organising cold water dip events. As a result of the guidance, last year we saw 10 events take place in-keeping with the guidance resulting in over £46k being raised, with some news outlets and local governments praising the safety standards of the well-organised events. If a cold water dip event is something you are thinking about organising, then please take a look at the [event planning resources available](#) and check the requirements. If you have any questions or concerns then please get in touch with the events team at Event_BP@rnli.org.uk.

The latest *Our Watch* progress update



Our Quarterly Progress Updates are our regular summary of how we are performing as an organisation. They provide an overview of how our collective efforts as one crew contribute towards the [Outcomes set out in *Our Watch*](#). Delivering against these outcomes puts us in the best possible position to achieve our mission to save every one.

The last update is now available to download: [Quarterly Progress Update 2023 – spring](#)

Recruiting for a new RNLI Chief Executive



As we look ahead into 2024, we know that this will be a momentous year for our charity as we prepare to celebrate 200 years of lifesaving. We also know that Mark Dowie will be standing down as our Chief Executive at the end of June 2024, marking the end of his incredible 5-year term.

The external search begins in September. The job advert and recruitment brief is available to all volunteers and staff so that you can promote it among your networks.

Read the [latest update on Chief Executive recruitment](#) on the Volunteer Zone.

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 RNLI volunteers, staff, equipment, or property.

Your safety always comes first, and the RNLI 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.

IRELAND

Farewell and hello to Water Safety volunteers

We are delighted to welcome the following new volunteers to our Water Safety Team.

- Brendan O'Callaghan WSA Fethard-on-Sea
- Nadia Blanchfield WSA Fethard-on-Sea
- Roisin Kiersey WSA Helvick
- Karen Harris WSO Dunmore East
- James Kennedy WSA Dun Laoghaire
- Sinead O'Donoghue WSA Youghal

We had to say farewell to our Water Delivery Support Lisa Hollingum, who has begun a new journey in the RNLI and is taking up her new role as an Area Lifesaving Manager. We wish her the best of luck and thank her for all her hard work and dedication to the Water Safety Team.

Topliner Statistics: Thank you to all our volunteers who are completing the evaluation forms. The analysis from these forms shows us that we have at least reached 60,000 people with our water safety messages.

Local Ambassador Scheme: As part of the World Drowning Prevention day request to 'do one thing', the Ireland Water Safety volunteers did a huge push on the Local Ambassador Scheme. It has become clear to us how vital a programme like this is. Local businesses in local communities are our eyes and ears. They are meeting members of the public every day. They are respected and listened to, so they are critical to delivering water safety messaging to the wider community and to holiday makers. To date we have seen nearly a 100% increase in participant businesses (from 72 to 142).

Waterside Responders: Another project that made progress over the last quarter is the Waterside Responder Course with delivery and implementation at the inland water location of Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim.



Partnerships: RNLI volunteers across the island of Ireland took to the pitch during the All-Ireland senior hurling championship semi-final at Croke Park on 9 July, to promote our charity's water safety partnership with the GAA.



Before the throw-in, in front of approximately 50,000 thousand gathered at the stadium, RNLI volunteers dressed in their full lifeboat kit unfurled a giant flag showing an all-weather lifeboat in action. A second group of RNLI crew wearing county jerseys unfurled a flag with a water safety message, calling on everyone to Float to Live.

Six years on, the RNLI and GAA water safety partnership serves to raise awareness of drowning prevention and to educate communities on how to stay safe in and around the water. The partnership is part of the GAA Healthy Clubs programme and has seen RNLI lifeboat crew visiting GAA clubs around Ireland to deliver water safety talks to all age groups.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their time over two weekends for the practice and for the event.

Education: It was great for our two crews from Meet the Lifeguards and Water Safety education volunteers to meet before the school visits season kicked off. We all got to meet at the MTL training day in Ballymoney in April. It was a great opportunity to share experiences and ways of working. The Meet the Lifeguard programme was very successful this year with the team visiting 58 schools and delivering water safety messaging to nearly 6,000 students.

IRELAND NEWS CONTINUED

Waterford Truck Show: The 10th Annual Waterford Truck Show took place on the 9th July and continued to raise funds for Helvick Head and Dungarvan RNLI. Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who organised the stands, the vehicles and who gave their time on the day to deliver water safety messages.



#WeAreOneCrew: In April this year the community of Youghal was hit by a drowning tragedy. Kevin, the WSO at our Youghal Station, made it his ambition to support his community in the aftermath by ensuring all 1,100 students in the local school received Float water safety messaging. The ask for support was put out to flanking stations and they answered the call. This was a great show of our 'one crew' ethos, and a great example of how a cluster of stations can rally to support each other and their communities.



Linda-Gene Byrne – Regional Water Safety Lead

World Drowning Prevention Day: The wet day didn't dampen our spirits or efforts on World Drowning Prevention Day. Here are some snaps from some of the brilliant work done by our volunteers to highlight the day. We managed to deliver joint water safety statements on the day with the Irish Coast Guard and Water Safety Ireland and with HM Coastguard in Northern Ireland. We also got a primetime slot along with Water Safety Ireland to talk about the objective of the day and deliver water safety advice on national radio with a listenership of over 170,000.



Opening of a National Surf Centre in Co. Sligo



RNLI 'Float' Fundraiser supported by Water Safety Teams from the RNLI and HMCG in Belfast

SCOTLAND

Hello to our new Water Safety volunteers

We'd like to extend a very warm welcome to the following volunteers who have recently been enrolled into the Scotland Water Safety Team. We are delighted to have you join us and look forward to working with you.

- David Bova WSO Girvan
- Deanna Johnston WSO Longhope
- Katie Irving-Lewis WSO Kirkwall
- Gerry King WSO Thurso
- James Wight WSO Montrose
- Kirsty Main WSO Aberdeen
- Tom Mitchell WSO Broughty Ferry
- Laura Ferguson WSO Peterhead
- Sylvia Rankin WSA Kessock
- Tamsen Collins WSA Largs
- Sean Brady WSA Dunbar

Water Safety volunteers in Scotland have been busy over the summer months carrying out a range of targeted and focused engagement: by August this year we had carried out 209 interventions, surpassing the total number of events carried out in 2022 already. Well done! We want to express our gratitude to all volunteers across Scotland who have planned and carried out fantastic engagement with communities, no doubt encouraging those individuals to make safer choices and enabling them to enjoy Scotland's water safely.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of fantastic interventions which took place within the last few months:

David Bova (Water Safety Officer at Girvan Lifeboat Station) has been busy carrying out meaningful engagements at events such as Girvan Lifeboat Open Day and Girvan Harbour Gala, providing key safety information to large audiences. David spoke to 60

people (mostly families), focusing on the important 'Float' message (photo below). It is promising that nearly all the young people spoken to said they could float and had recently been taught how to. Additionally, David facilitated our involvement at the popular Girvan Harbour Gala (photo below) which drew in locals and visitors enjoying holidays in the Girvan area. David took this opportunity to focus on key information around the dangers of improper use of inflatables and the 'in an emergency' messaging, using resources such as the 'Spot the Dangers' posters to illustrate beach and harbour related risks, whilst underlining safer behaviours that allow families to enjoy a safe day out. A total of 314 engagements were recorded at the Gala alone, which is a fantastic commitment to keeping communities safe and well-informed.



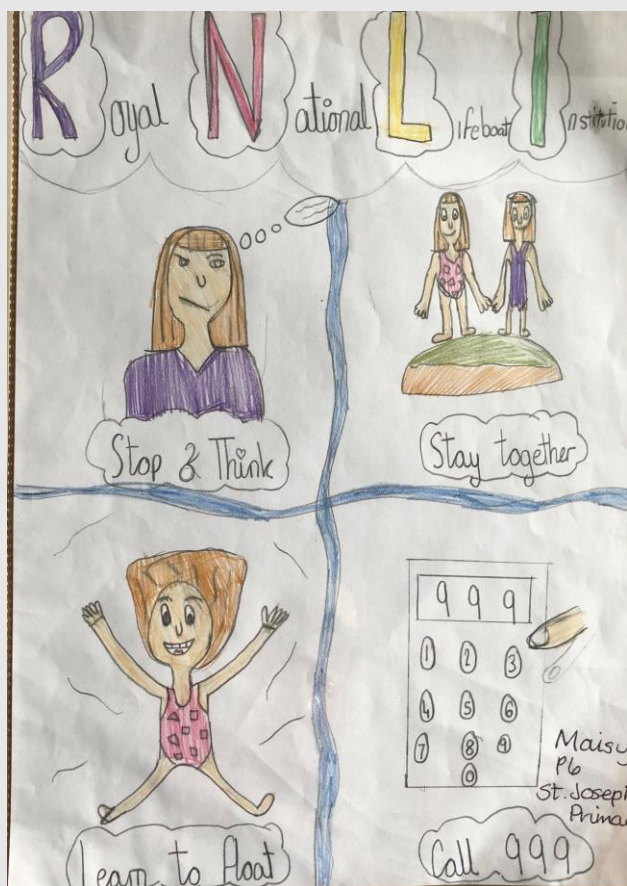
Girvan Lifeboat Station Open Day



Girvan Harbour Gala

SCOTLAND NEWS CONTINUED

Additionally, we'd like to highlight a fantastic initiative by Shona Shields, Water Safety Advisor at Helensburgh Lifeboat Station. Shona created the 'RNLI Helensburgh Schools Competition 2023' involving seven primary schools surrounding Helensburgh. Pupils were asked to design an accurate, original water safety poster featuring the four-step messaging and then were entered into two categories (Primary 1–3 and 4–7). Each school could submit up to 10 entries and three winners from each category were invited, alongside their families, to visit the lifeboat station and were presented with an RNLI goodie bag each. Shona worked with the Lifeboat Press Officer to get the winners and their fantastic posters onto social media, as well as the local paper.



Upcoming activity for the next 3 months:

We are looking forward to welcoming Water Safety volunteers Paul Gillions and Mark Wilcock to the region in September for the introduction of the Young Adults Programme in Scotland. A big thank you to Paul and Mark, as well as all the volunteers who have signed up to the training which will take place in September at Troon Lifeboat Station. The Young Adults Programme will be a fantastic additional tool for engagement, specifically with the 16–25 age group. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact the Water Safety Education Manager, Laura Erskine, at Laura_Erskine@rnli.org.uk.

Laura Erskine – Water Safety Education Manager

SOUTH EAST

Hello to our new Water Safety volunteers

A massive welcome to our newly reformed Tower Water Safety Team:

- Matt Maher WSO
- Mark Donovan WSA
- Adam Kanabar WSA
- John Farquhar-Smith WSA



Waterside Responder Training

In July on a very wet Saturday afternoon, eight South East Water Safety Officers from Selsey through to Swanage, as well as Water Safety Administrator Ellie, took part in Waterside Responder training. They all learnt about how to equip people and businesses who work near water with the basic knowledge and skills to be confident to take action to save a life. The training programme has now given them the basic knowledge and skills to:

- recognise hazards in and around the water
- provide safety advice to people using waterside areas
- rescue someone from the water.

Nick Fecher – Water Safety Delivery Support



Partnership work

Volunteers at Teddington RNLI developed a partnership with Richmond Council to reach those at risk of drowning in the Thames this summer. Thanks to Gianna and Grace, Teddington's Lifeboat Press Officers, and Miranda from the Water Safety Team, 176 local businesses are now carrying co-branded Float to Live messaging as well as the team putting out local press, social media and video content. This work demonstrates the incredible value that passionate volunteers bring to their communities with the timing (around World Drowning Prevention Day and the start of the school holidays) carefully planned. A huge thank you to the Teddington team for all their hard work and their fierce commitment to drowning prevention.

Julie Rainey – Regional Media Manager

Sharing our interventions

We wanted to give a special mention to Water Safety Officer Alan Doe from Bembridge Lifeboat Station for sharing the interventions that the Water Safety Team have been conducting. On the Water Safety Facebook page there have been numerous posts about everything from lifejacket clinics, to lifeboat station open days and throw line interventions with members of the public.

Alan and the team in Bembridge are working incredibly hard to make sure our messaging is out there, and we know they are having a drastic impact on their community.

If you would like to [join the Water Safety Facebook group](#), please submit a request.

The South West saw a royal start to the summer season. The St Ives RNLi Lifeboat Station was incredibly honoured to welcome Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Thursday 13th of July as part of their first official visit to Cornwall since the Coronation. In attendance was our RNLi Area Lifesaving Manager, Dickon Berriman, as well as two members of the local RNLi Water Safety Team, Tom Bolt and Mic Poynter.

Within water safety education, our lifeguards have attended 322 schools in total delivering the 'Meet the Lifeguards' programme and reaching a total of 43,702 upper primary students. By adding this number to the volunteer and partnership water safety activity, this in total rises to 72,896 young adults having received a water safety message in the first 6 months of the year in 2023, which is a very positive effort.

The South West have also launched a new initiative which invites schools to create a project of their choice to celebrate the RNLi turning 200 years (more information on this can be provided by the education manager Tim Treloar).

There has been an incredible amount of water safety volunteer activity throughout the summer, attending several of the large county shows, from Devon, Bath & West to the Royal Cornwall show, to name just a few. Our focus at these events remains water safety and, due to the rising trend in stand-up-paddle boarding incidents, we have narrowed our focus with messaging towards this activity. We would like to extend a huge thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time at these events and given valuable water safety advice. Equal thanks go to those who have completed the water safety online evaluation form, which is giving us a great deal of insight into just how much advice is being given across the South West.

On the 25th July water safety teams engaged in various events for World Drowning Prevention Day. One of these events was held at Exeter Quayside in association with Devon Fire and Rescue. This day allowed water safety advice to be given to members of the public and for the delivery of throw bag training to those businesses on the quayside that have signed-up to the waterside responder scheme.

Exmouth RNLi Lifeboat Station now has 24 lockers secured in a metal frame for swimmers to use whilst participating in their daily dip. The metal frames were skilfully fabricated by two of the Exmouth Crew, as Lifeboat Mechanic Andy Stott stated: 'the crew wanted to give something back to the local community following their successful and well attended lifeboat station events and great local support over the years'. Having the lockers in place will hopefully provide a focal point for swimmers all year round and will give the water safety team the opportunity to engage with them on a regular basis.

Tim Treloar – Water Safety Education Manager



St Ives RNLi volunteers gathered to meet Their Majesties at the lifeboat station



World Drowning Prevention Day on 25th July in Exeter Quay



Andy Scott & Riley from Exmouth Lifeboat Station proudly launching the new swimming lockers at the station



NORTH AND EAST

It's been an incredibly busy summer term for our Water Safety Education specialists and RNLI Lifeguard teams, sharing our key messages with over 250 individual establishments across the region. We have had some exceptional commitment to the role from Water Safety volunteers in Great Yarmouth, Skegness, Redcar & Tyne & Wear, as well as targeted intervention work at many other coastal and inland locations.

Geoff Pearson and Tony Dale have completed their delivery of water safety workshops to 25 different schools in partnership with Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Police teams programme, [Mini Police](#). The programme is designed to give young children (9-11 year olds) the opportunity to learn about their safety and their role within their community. It is a great way to work with other like-minded prevention organisations and be able to signpost the children to opportunities to gain more skills and knowledge, specifically Swim Safe and all the other water-based activities they can pursue.

Lifeskill events have continued to be a great way to engage young people with the return of the North Yorkshire event allowing the RNLI Yorkshire lifeguards to gain some experience of our programmes and develop partnership links around Filey, Scarborough and Whitby. The Norfolk and Suffolk lifeguards have also been supporting the crucial crew delivery across their counties and, as a water safety team, we will continue to work alongside our colleagues to keep people safe when in, on or around water.

Waterside Responder Scheme training has been delivered to Fire & Rescue teams in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, West Yorkshire, Bedfordshire & North Yorkshire and they are now rolling the programme out across their counties. A significant delivery of WRS took place on World Drowning Prevention day in Barrow Upon Soar near Loughborough, the site of a teenager's drowning in May 2023. Huge thank you to Kate Garrigan (Watch Manager Community Safety) and her team from Leicestershire Fire & Rescue for the invite to be involved with the session and to those staff members & friends of The Moorings.

 Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
July 26 at 12:30 PM · 🌐

Yesterday to coincide with [#WorldDrowningPreventionDay](#) Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service launched a water safety partnership scheme with the [RNLI](#) 🇬🇧 🇬🇧

The Waterside Responder Scheme seeks to reduce the number of people who drown every year by training hospitality staff, security staff and waterside community members to deploy life-saving water rescue equipment.

11 members of staff from The Moorings public house received their training - pictured here along with Simon Bristow, Water Safety Education Manager from the RNLI and members of our Community Safety Team who delivered the session.

If you think your business would be interested in joining the scheme please get in touch to find out more!

[#WorldDrowningPreventionDay](#) [#RespectTheWater](#) [#BeWaterAware](#)
[#RNLIWatersideResponderScheme](#)



Water Safety Teams have also been present at several 'Emergency Services' events over the last 3 months, with one of the outstanding locations being Wollaton Hall in Nottingham. The event coincided with the National Police Dog trials and had a footfall of around 10,000 people during the day and we engaged with around 800 people delivering Float to Live, throw bag and 'Spot the Danger' activities, and also gained some new water safety volunteers.



NORTH AND EAST NEWS CONTINUED

A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT OUR WATER SAFETY TEAMS HAVE BEEN UP TO ...



Happisburgh

The team have seen the roll out of a new established task force team targeting beach goers of the conditions at the beach and the local rip currents that are found at the beach. On one Saturday, Derek and Doreen spoke to over 80 people! They have been working alongside the lifeguards when patrolling.

Great Yarmouth and Gorleston

Albert Cadmore has again worked tirelessly to deliver water safety messages in his community, reaching 2,500 children. Albert always ensures he works as efficiently as possible by visiting a school and delivering our messages to multiple classes each day.

Skegness

Through visits to schools and hosting visits at the station, Alan GG has reached over 3,000 local children with our lifesaving messages! Incredible effort.



Clacton

Angela Rogers took on the role of Water Safety Officer earlier this year, and since starting has had an unbelievable impact. In a very short space of time, Angela has set up a Water Safety Hub on Clacton Pier, arranged Waterside Responder Training for local staff and even influenced Clacton Pier to illuminate blue for World Drowning Prevention Day.



Liam Fayle-Parr – Water Safety Delivery Support

Hello to our new Water Safety volunteers

A very warm welcome goes to our new Water Safety volunteers who have joined the team across the region in recent months: Mark Henrikson (WSA Greater Manchester), Rokshana Kosa (WSA Rochdale), Marian Whittaker (WSA Gloucestershire), Mike Wilkins (WSA Shropshire), Ed Kinsella (WSO Barry Dock), Owen Morgan (WSO Port Talbot), Sian Richardson (WSO St Davids).



Water Safety Education

A good news story from this quarter includes the incredible story of Harvey Taylor, a 5-year-old boy from Conwy in North Wales. During a family holiday to Spain, Harvey's sister got into difficulty while playing in the pool but, due to receiving one of our Water Safety Education talks at school, young Harvey was able to effectively call for help by staying calm and shouting very loudly, which in turn saved his sister's life. Myfanwy Jones, WSA for Llandudno Lifeboat Station, who conducted the Water Safety presentation, returned to the school and presented Harvey with a certificate to congratulate him on his bravery. [Read the full story on the RNLI News and Media Centre.](#)

This story really goes to show the true impact our messaging has on future generations.

Trearddur Bay F2F intervention

The Trearddur Bay Water Safety Team – led by WSO Tony Hardman – took the opportunity early in the season to link up with the local face-to-face (F2F) representatives. Tony met with and provided the local team with laminated cards that outlined significant local risks around coastal walking, rips, off-shore winds and weaver fish stings. This gave the F2F teams a chance to spread more detailed water safety messaging during quieter times and develop their knowledge over a cuppa. Knowing that the F2F teams are often out on a limb it also provided the perfect opportunity to embrace the #OneCrew ethos that we all strive for!



Swim Safe in Rhyl

For the past 2 years, Lesley Wilde, WSO for Rhyl Lifeboat Station, has been working hard to get Swim Safe back up and running and this year was accepted onto the programme as a coordinator to run some of the sessions.

On the day of the event, the weather was so bad that the beaches were red flagged, but a little bit of rain didn't stop play. Instead of running the sessions in the water it was run from the beach. On day two the weather was even worse, but the children still attended, and the session ran again from the beach. Everyone really enjoyed themselves.

Port Talbot and Porthcawl response to tragic incident

A word of thanks to LOM Clive Morris and WSO Ian Cole, and their teams, for unwaveringly responding so positively in the shadow of a deeply tragic event. The combined outreach from their teams led to the local communities of Port Talbot and Porthcawl receiving significant support, in which more than 4,000 secondary school students received important key messaging in the month prior to the summer holiday.

Sarah Lewis – Water Safety Delivery Support



A BIT MORE NEWS FROM WALES AND WEST...

Lifejacket clinic training by Porthcawl Water Safety Team

This quarter the Water Safety Team at Porthcawl completed a refresher training on lifejacket clinics and calling for help. This training has now enabled the team to go out and deliver lifejacket clinics with confidence.

Water Safety Officer, Ian Cole, said: *'We at the Porthcawl Water Safety Team would like to thank the Regional Water Safety Team for the recent lifejacket clinic refresher training and calling for help training we recently received. Whilst we are an established team, the training provided us a great opportunity to be brought up to speed with changes in both legislation and technology in our environment, which the whole team felt has contributed to our upskilling and personal development as Water Safety Volunteers. Once again, many thanks for the detail and delivery of the training provided.'*



Home Education Event

Our Water Safety Education Team from Bridgend have been working hard to ensure that no child, regardless of whether they are in school or not, misses out on the RNLI education. Did you know that approximately 9.8 of every 1,000 pupils in England and Wales are now educated at home, and the rate is continuing to increase? The rate has increased in almost all local authorities. However, through our partnership work we are still managing to reach and engage with these children and their families. We recently carried out an interactive education morning at Rest Bay Porthcawl, which is one of our high-risk areas within the region. This was the fourth event we have carried out specifically for

children that are home educated and their families. During the event, the children received a lesson on our four key water safety messages and then utilised the skills learnt at the beach at Rest Bay. The children, along with their parents who learn in collaboration with their children, learnt about spotting dangers on the beach, what the beach flags mean and to ensure that they are accompanied by an adult or trusted friend. They were also kept on their toes by Education Manager Anthony Jones as, whenever a whistle was blown, the children along with their parents had to assume the Float to Live position, and finally they practised carrying out a mock emergency call and who they should ask for in the case of an emergency. The event worked very well, and the interactive family learning experience was enjoyed by all. They also had the opportunity to take selfies as mini crew and lifeguards and enjoyed several activities such as a throw bag game, colouring, and quizzes. The feedback from the day was excellent and there were calls for more events over the summer months. A special shout out to Water Safety Adviser with Education Specialist, Neil French, who led the whole day.

'Meet the Lifeguard' programme

This year we have worked on our 'Meet the Lifeguard' programme again where we have managed to reach in excess of 35,000 students. Anthony Jones, Education Manager, said of the programme that it is great to see all the hard work and training pay off in the Lifeguard Delivery with children receiving lifesaving education in order to retain information to save lives in the future. A big shout out to Tirion Dowsett who co-ordinated the project.

A BIT MORE NEWS FROM WALES AND WEST...

Media event: Paddling and SUP safety awareness on Anglesey

We were fortunate that ITV, ITN and the BBC spent a day with the Water Safety Team and the Anglesey Lifeboat Teams, drawing together several news items that raise the importance of being prepared when paddling. With increasing paddling incidents across the region, it is really important that we continue to raise people's awareness of steps they can take to keep themselves safe when paddling, including the different devices available for calling for help.

Thank you very much to WSA Caroline Dawson for volunteering to go through the SUP core safety messaging. The day was a perfect illustration of why it is important to make the right choices, especially when an offshore wind creates such an enticing environment with flat, calm water.

We were also joined by Guy Lowndes, a competent kayaker who found that in a difficult situation a personal locator beacon really can save a life. Thanks to Guy for [sharing his story](#).

Sarah Lewis – Water Safety Delivery Support



WHAT'S COMING UP...

9th September 2023 – 999 Day

[Emergency Services Day](#), also known as 999 Day, is a notional day observed across the UK each year on 9th September.

10th September 2023 – World Suicide Prevention Day

Every year, on 10th September, organisations around the world get together to raise awareness about Suicide Prevention. Watch this video describing stories and advice from RNLI people with [lived experiences of suicide](#), both personally and professionally. On [Learning Zone](#), you can explore more RNLI resources related to suicide prevention.

1st – 31st October 2023 – Black History Month

[Black History Month](#) 2023 is a chance to honour and celebrate the continued achievements and contributions of Black people around the world. It also a time for continued action to tackle racism and shine a spotlight on Black history in the making.

11th November 2023 – Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day, also known Armistice Day, is a memorial day observed to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. It is observed on 11th November to mark the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I at 11am, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, in 1918.

1st – 31st October 2023 – Free Wills Month UK

It gives the opportunity to write or update your simple Will for free with a solicitor local to you. All you need to do is book the appointment within October (the appointment itself can be later).

Available to our supporters, volunteers and staff who are 55 or older (if you're in a couple only one of you needs to be 55+), it's an easy and cost-free way to make sure your wishes are followed and that the people and causes you care about are looked after.

Find out more

To find out more please [visit the Free Wills Month page on our website](#).

22nd November 2023 – We are one crew: Live autumn update Q&A

Please save the date for Mark Dowie's autumn live online update and Q&A session at 4pm on Wednesday 22 November.

5th December 2023 – International Volunteer Day

[International Volunteer Day](#) celebrates the contribution volunteers make to their communities.

Wishing you a fantastic, fun and safe autumn season!

As we wind down from one of our busiest seasons, 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.