

# WATER SAFETY QUARTERLY UPDATE

## IN THIS EDITION

MNABC WaterWatch  
initiative

RNLI updates

Water Safety news

Training opportunities

Regional highlights

Water Safety

partnership success

What's coming up



### *Dear volunteer,*

I am really pleased to introduce the first of our Quarterly Update newsletters of 2023. I started with the RNLI over a year ago as the Water Safety Education Manager for the South West. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about myself, how I have found the role over the last year and some of the direction that water safety is taking in the South West region with regards to education. Before joining the RNLI I worked a number of seasons as a beach lifeguard having grown up in Devon, since then I have spent the last 15 years teaching outdoor adventure at both university and college level in Cheltenham.



I was excited to be able to join the RNLI in the region I call home and everyone has been extremely welcoming. I found during the start of my role I spent a great deal of time listening to you, our volunteers. Hearing from you directly and getting to understand you better. Doing this has highlighted several areas of training and process that I have enjoyed working on and helping to improve.

I have also been out to observe our water safety education volunteers delivering sessions in schools and for youth groups. I have seen first-hand the passion and impact you have on children and young adults you present to. Our water safety education volunteers across all our regions welcome the return of the online booking for schools via the RNLI website. We know that there will be a flurry of activity as the weather starts to improve and we see the shift towards people spending time at the coast and enjoying inland water destinations. This will see many of you, our passionate volunteers, going out to schools and youth groups to deliver those vital, core lifesaving messages.

Coming up in this newsletter we take a look at what's been happening across the RNLI and our Water Safety regions since our last update. And I'm excited to share that Joel Nannes, fellow Water Safety Team Member based in the South West, showcases an exciting interactive beach safety signage project that recently launched in Cornwall.

Whether it's through direct delivery by you or your fellow RNLI people (other volunteers, lifeguards, lifeboat crew), or through collaboration and working with partners, local businesses, or community networks – we are ultimately stronger together as one crew and so is the impact of our water safety messages. Thank you for all that you do for our lifesaving charity and your communities, it is a privilege to support you.

**Tim Treloar**  
**Water Safety Education Manager**



## 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).

# FEATURED NEWS

## Merchant Navy Association Boat Club: WaterWatch initiative

The Merchant Navy Association Boat Club (MNABC) established the WaterWatch initiative to help promote vital RNLI water safety messaging, and ultimately, to help reduce the number of drownings on the coast and inland waterways. This initiative utilises the wealth of experience of the members of the MNABC and other partner organisations - such as the Norfolk & Suffolk Boating Association (NSBA).

Participating volunteers are known as WaterWatch Crew Members.

These teams of experienced boaters and skilled observers help to:

- Spot potential incidents and hazards.
- Respond by reporting detailed information about the nature of the incident to HM Coastguard, the appropriate inland waterways authority or other emergency services.
- Stand-by ready to assist the co-ordinating authority, depending on the circumstance and what's needed. For example, by maintaining a visual watch over the site of the incident, providing on-going situation reports, taking photographs etc.

Our initiative is progressing well, particularly in the area of The Broads, where our crew have already assisted with several incidents. WaterWatch Crew Members are part of a motivated and enthusiastic team, having the opportunity and satisfaction of putting their boating experience and expertise to good use by helping to enhance safety on and around their local waters. All whilst protecting the boating environment and promoting responsible behaviour. Head to our website to [find out more about this initiative](#) and how you can become a WaterWatch Crew Member, or get in contact with me directly via [commodore@mnaboatclub.org.uk](mailto:commodore@mnaboatclub.org.uk).

**Clive Edwards – Merchant Navy Association Boat Club Commodore**



## 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.



## 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

## RNLI appoints new Chair



At the end of January the RNLI [appointed Janet Legrand KC \(Hon\)](#) as its new Chair following a rigorous recruitment process. Janet has had an extensive legal career and performed the role of Chair for numerous other not-for-profit organisations. Janet said: 'I am thrilled to take on the role of Chair at the RNLI – I admire the charity's volunteer ethos, lifesaving cause and values of selflessness, trustworthiness, dependability and courageousness.

Janet sat down with RNLI Lead Media Trainer Andy Cummins to [reflect on joining the RNLI crew](#) and the key challenges and opportunities ahead.

## Let's celebrate!



Five dedicated RNLI Volunteers, Denis Brophy, Edwin Luckin, Rosalie Whitlock, William John Collis and Dupre Strutt, who, alongside Water Safety Campaigner Andrea Corrie, have all been recognised for their [incredible contribution to our charity and their roles in drowning prevention](#) in the King's New Year Honours.

### A new year ahead...

Our Chief Executive, Mark Dowie, gave his [New Year message](#) last month taking the opportunity to recognise what we've achieved over the last few years and to look ahead to 2023.

## Our Watch Progress Update



An update on the [progress we've made together](#) as one crew with the latest insight into how we are performing against our Strategic Outcomes. These Quarterly 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. Please take a moment to reflect on how we performed through September, October and November 2022.

## Saving lives with global influence



Check out some of the recent highlights from our International Team – who have been influencing the global effort towards drowning prevention, helping share our expert water safety and lifesaving knowledge with some of the communities that need it most:

- A step towards [securing a World Health Assembly resolution](#) on Drowning Prevention.
- [Leaders in Lifesaving Course](#): 12 participants from 9 countries came to Poole to take part.
- [Survival swimming in low-resource settings](#): a workshop of experts from over 10 countries coming together to develop practical guidance.

## Supporting the National Coastwatch Institution



The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) are expanding their service to provide members of the public with water safety advice. We've been working behind the scenes to share our knowledge and expertise with them as well as provide advice on training etc. We've already seen in a number of areas, such as Hunstanton/Brancaster, the value in working together. If you have a local NCI station nearby, then please do make contact with them. If you have any questions or would like to share examples of successful collaboration with the NCI – please feel free to contact me on [Samantha\\_hughes@rnli.org.uk](mailto:Samantha_hughes@rnli.org.uk) – or speak to your regional team.

***Samantha Hughes – National Water Safety Partner***

## Water Safety Plan 2023-2025

We have refreshed our overall main Water Safety Plan giving greater clarity on the objectives, with the aim of enabling everyone at the RNLI and our partners to feel they can contribute to Water Safety simply and easily.

This plan details our behaviour change approach in our Water Safety work, and goes into more detail around how we will deliver this through:

### 1. ASSIST

By influencing others, organisations and communities may be better situated to take a lead on delivering messages and interventions to at-risk groups.

### 2. SUPPORT

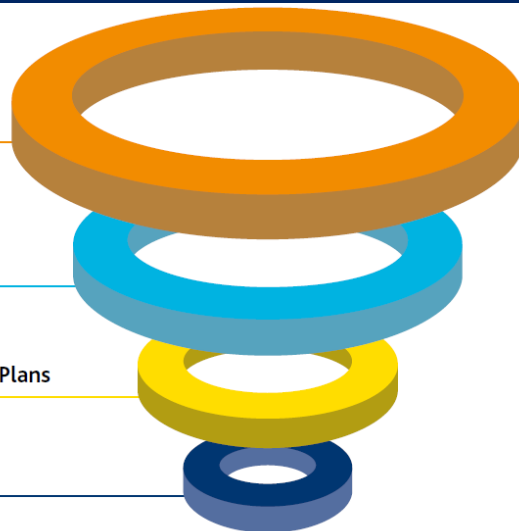
We can't do this on our own. We need to grow our network with high impact partnerships and develop opportunities for others to support or lead on activities.

Water Safety strategies - UK, Scotland, Wales and Ireland

RNLI Water Safety Plan

x6 RNLI Regional Water Safety Plans

Local RNLI Water Safety Plans



### 3. PROVIDE

The RNLI will lead on interventions directly targeting at-risk audiences, whether it's a pub conversation with friends, a chat with a family on a beach, a school talk, or a media campaign. Interventions and resources with an educational nature have been proven to help change people's behaviour, such as with government campaigns like: THINK!.

Further details about the content of the new plan and how to access it will be shared over the coming weeks – so keep an eye out!

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

# RNLI TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

## New volunteer welcome sessions

From next month (March 2023), we will be launching new one crew volunteer welcome sessions. These online sessions are for all new RNLI volunteers and will cover key information about the RNLI and the next steps in the volunteering process. All new volunteers will be able to sign up to the sessions via Eventbrite and will be sent the Microsoft Teams call link and joining instructions. More information about these sessions is [available on the Volunteer Zone](#).

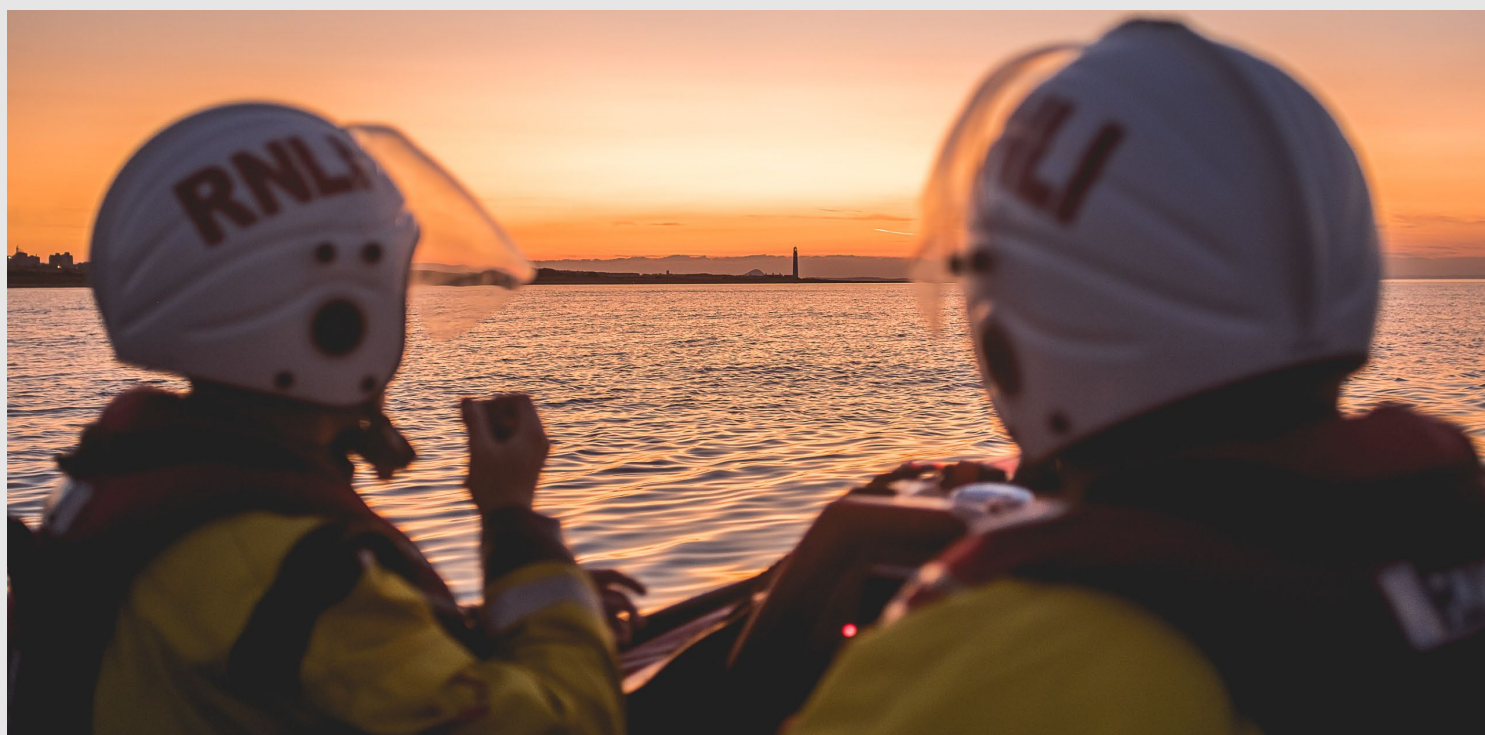
## Dates for your diary!

**Tuesday 4 April @ 7pm - Let's talk about Gifts in Wills live online training**

Join us for a live training session that will explain the importance of gifts in Wills, give you tips and suggestions on how to feel more comfortable talking about gifts in Wills, and let you know where to direct people to for more information. Can't make this date? Don't worry, we have other sessions running throughout the year.

[Click here to book on today](#)

## Gifts in Wills: new training and development opportunities in 2023



Take an opportunity to uphold the RNLI value of being courageous and step out of your comfort zone by learning more about legacy giving and the impact it has on our charity.

When you are out and about promoting Water Safety your conversations may steer towards how the RNLI is funded or about donating/fundraising for us. We want you to feel knowledgeable, comfortable and supported to also talk about Gifts in Wills and their importance to the RNLI – which we know can sometimes feel like a challenging subject matter to raise with a supporter. The Legacy Team have created new training opportunities to help you learn more about gifts in Wills in 2023. You can attend [one of several live training sessions](#) or book one directly with your team at a time that works for you.

Our lifesaving work is only possible thanks to the generosity of our supporters. But did you know that **over 60% of our income – that's 6 out of every 10 lifeboat launches – comes from gifts left in Wills?**

Every conversation you have about the RNLI could result in someone leaving a gift to the charity in their Will. The course will give you suggestions on how to feel comfortable talking and writing about gifts in Wills and signpost you to additional information.

Click here to see the [dates available this year](#) and to book your place, or request a bespoke session for you and your team by emailing [legacy\\_engagement@rnli.org.uk](mailto:legacy_engagement@rnli.org.uk).

*Jessica Persad – Legacy Marketing Executive*

## IRELAND

### YAP Foundation Training

Ireland was delighted to facilitate the Young Adult Programme (YAP) training at the Swords Regional Base this January. In total, 14 of our water safety volunteers have now completed training in YAP and will be going to colleges, universities and further education schools to deliver this leadership, teamwork and decision-making course to audiences aged 16-25 years old.



### Waterside Responder Training

The outdoor workers of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon (ABC) Council in Northern Ireland, delivered the Waterside Responder scheme at their offices in Lurgan. Many of the workers operate along canals, rivers and lakes in their area – and the ABC Council have committed to buying throw bags for all their vehicles.



### Water Safety Workshop

Our Water Safety Team in Sligo, led by Water Safety Officer, Cillian Murphy, delivered talks with a group of 400 Ukrainian's who are now living in the local area. Specific risks such as local tidal cut-off issues were discussed to help keep them safe in the area.

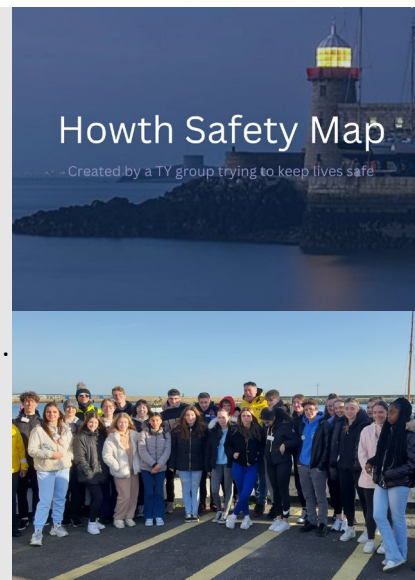


**BeeSafe** - Volunteers Peter Scott, Patricia Storey, David McCausland and Patrick Bunting delivered five days of water safety programmes as part of the BeeSafe initiative with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. They spoke to 360 children throughout the week.



### Howth Transition Year Students

Four days of water safety programmes, including the Young Adult Programme, were delivered to transition years students from seven different secondary schools for the week beginning Monday 6 February. Lead by Water Safety Volunteer, Rose Michael, with the assistance of Ian Sheridan and Kieran O'Connell. As part of the programme the students were tasked to create their own water safety map of Howth, showing all the ring buoys, Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and emergency signage. [Click here to view the map.](#)



## SCOTLAND



### Skills Scotland

In November 2022, the Scotland Water Safety Team attended Scotland's largest skills, career and apprenticeship event. Water safety volunteers attended the Skills Scotland event at the Scottish Event Campus to engage with 4,000 young people – to share prospective RNLI opportunities and key water safety messaging. Water safety volunteers were joined by the RNLI Engineering and Apprenticeship Teams, coming together and creating a buzz around all things lifesaving. The attendees had the opportunity to compete in a timed RNLI crew kit dress-up activity, as well as participate in a water safety quiz which allowed key messages to be highlighted.

Kirkcudbright based Water Safety Volunteer, Keith Armstrong said: 'I was delighted by the range of engagement from the young people about who we were and what we do. They had access to learn more about water safety, careers, the 'Float' messaging and access to the teachers regarding education visits and online resources. And I think we even found a future new crew member for Broughty Ferry RNLI. I really enjoyed working with the other RNLI teams and it was great to meet fellow water safety volunteers who until then, I had only seen online via Teams.'

Ron Copeland, Water Safety Volunteer from Largs said: 'The demographic of older secondary school pupils are not who we most commonly engage with. It was great though as most pupils and teachers we interacted with were all keen and interested in the RNLI. And the fact we had apprenticeship and job opportunities gave the stall real value to the young people. We worked really well together as one crew with all elements complimenting one another. The attendees could get more detailed knowledge about the apprenticeship around engineering, we – the water safety volunteers, could engage directly with the students and get them to complete the QR questioner. The crisps from our partners *Burts* provided an extra incentive to come towards the stall (who doesn't like a packet of crisps!?). Plus the crew kit dress-up activity was a real giggle.' A big thank you to all that were involved in the organisation and delivery of this event. Without your help we wouldn't have been able to engage so successfully with a demographic that often proves challenging to reach.

**Laura Erskine - Water Safety Education Manager**

### Water Safety Interventions

Another big thank you to our volunteers who carried out interventions over the last quarter. There have been 57 planned interventions carried out since October reaching important safety messaging to an estimated 3,396 people. This included a wide range of activity-specific and youth-focused events.

### A Warm Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to those of you who have recently joined the team and have been dedicating time to induction and training. We are excited to have you join the Water Safety Team here in Scotland. Recruitment is ongoing to support teams to extend their reach and activity across the region.

## WALES AND WEST



Capernwray



Worcester

### 'Get Connected' volunteer events



Swansea



Wirral

At the time of writing this update, so far we've held four of our 'Get connected' events for the Wales, West and Isle of Man region. These events were aimed at getting us back together face-to-face, sharing ideas and updates after a long gap following the impact of the pandemic – and it has been absolutely brilliant to be able to do so again. We've been covering updates from around the region and RNLI, and spending some time reconnecting with fellow volunteers and staff from around the area. We've had some great discussions about what the local risks are and sharing ideas on how to target our water safety interventions and messaging to mitigate these risks. Sorry to anyone who hasn't been able to make it so far, but based on the feedback received these events have gone down well and we'll be looking to run them again – so there will be more opportunities to meet up in the future. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it, it was great to see so many of you.

**Alice Beetlestone – Water Safety Delivery Support**

### Inspired to help others stay safe

A mother who called 999 when her daughters used 'float to live' after they got caught in a rip current (whilst on holiday in Barmouth last year), has signed up to be an RNLI water safety volunteer! New Volunteer Melina, said the experience inspired her to sign up with the Water Safety Team to educate others. Click here to [read more about this amazing story](#).



### In Memoriam

'Sadly we lost two fantastic water safety volunteers in the latter part of 2022. Andrew Marchant, Water Safety Adviser at Barry Dock (passed away 24 November 2022) and Lance Jackson, Water Safety Adviser, Fundraiser and Community Presenter from the Shrewsbury area (passed away 29 December 2022). They both specialised in our water safety youth messaging and loved doing so. Andrew and Lance were dedicated and highly valued members of the team. They will be very sadly missed.'

**– Alice Beetlestone**

### Welsh curriculum links updated

With the introduction of a new curriculum in Wales (September 2022), we have updated the references to reflect this on the [Education resources section on RNLI.org](#).



## SOUTH EAST

### Chichester Yacht Club



On Saturday 21 January we held a fantastic intervention at Chichester Yacht Club. The meeting was arranged by Brian Masters from Portsmouth, ably assisted by Paul White. The session also involved flanking stations of Hayling Island and Selsey – with Water Safety Volunteers; Brian Masters, Jacquie Dowding, Linda Munro, Paul White, Bryn Jones and Martin Willard, from all three stations in attendance. Brian also invited a local Coastguard Officer who was able to assist in

adding her experience during the presentation and at the Very High Frequency (VHF) radio demonstration (demo) station. The presentation and workshop centred on calling for help, lifejackets, Man Overboard (MOB) and throwlines. The attendees were given an hour-long presentation by Brian. They were then divided into groups and split between the five workstations (with an RNLI water safety volunteer at each of the five stations).

The workstations were MOB, kit demo, calling for help on a VHF radio (aided by our Coastguard colleague), lifejacket clinic, and lastly to practice throwbag throwing. The session went down a storm and I think it should be replicated further. It helps to tackle real issues within the yachting and motorboating communities in relation to boosting knowledge and confidence of individuals and all members of the crew onboard – and this in turn, means a better – more robust safety culture on vessels going forwards.

**Nick Fecher – Water Safety Delivery Support**

### Ramsgate Water Safety event

Ramsgate Water Safety Team shared their knowledge with students completing their Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Day Skipper Navigation course. The 24 students and three of their tutors, from the Royal Temple Yacht Club, were welcomed to the station by Neil Morgan, Volunteer Lifeboat Crew, who is in charge of Community Water Safety for Ramsgate RNLI. Neil's team was supported by the wider RNLI team, including two other volunteer crew, and representatives from Ramsgate RNLI Management Team.



If other local Navigation Schools or organisations are interested in similar events please contact [neil\\_morgan@rnli.org.uk](mailto:neil_morgan@rnli.org.uk).

As part of their syllabus the students are examined on different aspects of water safety, including how to identify if a life jacket is safe, how to fight a fire onboard a ship, and how to use flares safely. The students were split into three groups and were taken onboard the all-weather lifeboat to be instructed on fire safety. They were then given a demonstration on how to identify problems with life jackets, how to use and dispose of flares, and how to deal with cold water shock and how to float to live. Afterwards, one student from each group took part in a fun activity, putting on a full RNLI wet weather suit, life jacket, boots and helmet against the clock. Although this caused much amusement, they were impressed to learn that from the moment the pagers go off, to the crew arriving at station, to being fully suited leaving on the boats – is only 10 minutes. They were even more impressed when they realised they were volunteers. We created a pop-up shop in the station so attendees were able to purchase a memento of their evening.

Andrew Beaumont-Hope, Head of the Navigation School at the Royal Thames Yacht Club said: 'We are so grateful to Ramsgate RNLI for giving up their time on a cold evening and allowing our students to have some hands on experience – which is the best way to teach water safety. For some of them, this was their first introduction to the RNLI and they felt privileged to have been allowed onboard the lifeboat, and to meet these courageous people who volunteer to save lives at sea.' Water Safety Officer, Neil Morgan said: 'This is the first time we've done something on this scale at the station, and we were delighted with the reception. It was lovely to be able to work with different parts of the RNLI together, as one crew.' **Guy Addington – Regional Water Safety Lead**

## NORTH AND EAST

As a Water Safety Team here in the North and East region, we have been reflecting on our activity from 2022 and beginning to plan and deliver our interventions to ensure we have a greater impact and sharper focus throughout 2023. Working within the timeframes of our regional delivery plan, we have several [Water Safety Advisor and Officer volunteer roles](#) currently being advertised.

From Scarborough to Brancaster, and Harrogate to Buxton, we have received great interest across the region that we will begin to onboard as new members of our teams and support their activity in the community.

This month sees the start of our Water Safety Volunteer Training in eight different locations across the region (over February and March). This training is providing us with the opportunity to upskill and update our teams across our coastal and inland locations. Covering core training modules, activity specific information and ensuring they have access to the current data, evidence and trends that help us to remain at the forefront of drowning prevention whilst working alongside our internal and external partners.

Thank you to those who have already booked onto the sessions.

Please email [Watersafety\\_ne@rnli.org.uk](mailto:Watersafety_ne@rnli.org.uk) if you would like to know more.

### Water Safety Partnerships

Our Young Adult Programme training has begun, with the first delivery of the risk management and awareness tutorials and workshops for Public Services students attending Colchester Institute. We now have facilitator pairs in Essex, Norfolk and Yorkshire (west, south and east). Two new facilitators recently attended the training in Dublin, so they can be advocates for the programme and build new relationships with further education establishments in north Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear. If you would like to know more about the programme and shadow some of the delivery within the region please get in touch with the team.

A recent event at York St John University saw the team working with the Yorkshire lifeguards to engage with students about how they can be as safe as possible in and around the city. But it was also used as a recruitment opportunity for our RNLI lifeguard and water safety advisors and ambassador vacancies. We recorded over 80 interactions at the 'Re-Freshers' event, and it has led to several expressions of interest in our lifeguard opportunities. We also gained an invite to the York Water Safety Group to help support their local interventions.

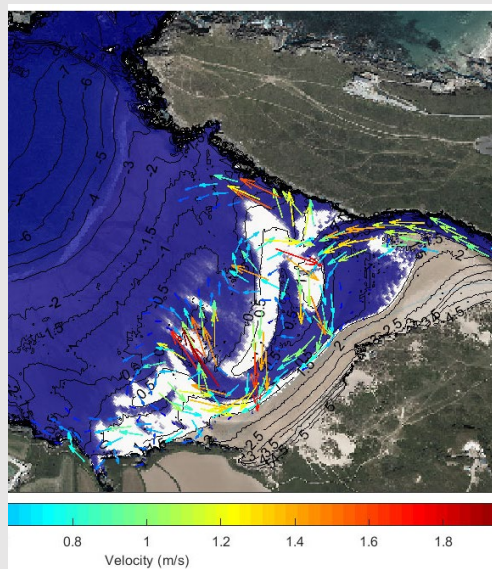
**Angling:** Seahouses and Amble Water Safety Teams are continuing to provide information and guidance for a whole season of winter fishing competitions on the Northumberland coast. Lynsey, Iain and Aaron have been working hard to influence the community and are reporting some great success in changing the behaviour of those they encounter.

### Open water swimming

A series of open water swimming presentations have been taking place over the last couple of months. Liam and the Norfolk and Suffolk Water Safety Teams had a great response from the local community. Whitby hosted their first talk on the 28 January. The response to the offer of information sharing meant they had to rapidly arrange a second session on the day – and are already making plans for another update in the lead up to Easter.



Four of Whitby RNLI's Volunteer Crew Bod Marr, Ally Brisby, Andy Brighton and Matt Sharpe, shared their expert knowledge with sea swimmers from Whitby and beyond. Around 90 people attended over two sessions. They listened to a presentation and had the opportunity to ask questions at the end. The simple but important messages shared were; stop and think, stay together, float to live and call 999. Ceri Oakes, Lifeboat Press Officer at Whitby and Founder of Whitby Wild Swimmers said: 'We all learned something from the talk, the knowledge and experience the crew share is invaluable. Even if people just took one thing away with them, it has made a difference and could help keep them even more safe at sea.' Click here to [read the full story and to see more photos](#).



## Beach Hazard Forecasting in Crantock Beach, Cornwall

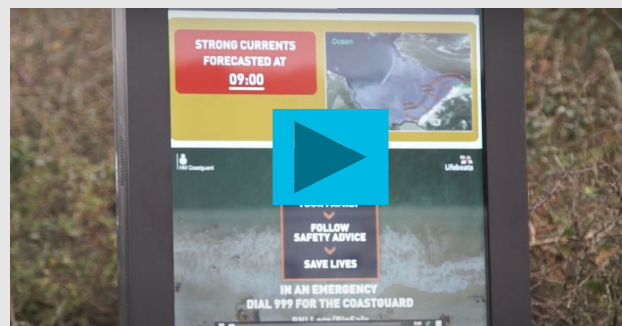
Working closely with the RNLI, Crantock Steering Group and wider community groups, the [SWEEP Team](#) delivered daily hydrodynamic bespoke forecasts for Crantock Beach (providing up to 5 days pre-warning of peak bathing hazards) and forecast outputs for potential public-facing usage. Drawing on these, and working with the wider project team, SWEEP contributed to the development of new innovative digital beach hazard warning signage, now installed at the car park of Crantock Beach. You can view the live digital feed that is displayed on the sign by following this link: <https://sign.crantockbeach.org.uk/>

Informed and enhanced RNLI practice, ultimately saving lives – The work SWEEP have done at Crantock has contributed to the fast-tracking (delivered in 6 months, following 5 years of discussion) of this ground-breaking intervention delivering public-facing, digital beach hazard messaging for safer use of the sea. The establishment of the local Surf School and Crantock's Surf Club WhatsApp Group, contributed to an incredible 31 'out of hours' rescues and assists, and 91 'out of hours' advisories during the 2021 season.

Adrian Carey, Head of Region for the South West said: 'This SWEEP project is exactly the sort of work our charity likes to align with. We've been impressed, not only with the well-researched, cutting-edge science the team have brought to this forecasting tool, but the professional way in which they have thoroughly tested and validated the data with local knowledge and experience – and worked with us to track and evidence impact.'

Continuing to build on their strong partnership with SWEEP, the RNLI are committed to continue strengthening local community water safety collaborations, developing, monitoring and evaluating the impact of Crantock's digital signage on people's behaviour, further sharing of the learnings from Crantock within the RNLI, with the potential for this approach to become part the future RNLI organisational strategy.'

**Joel Ninnas – Water Safety Delivery Support**



[Click button to watch video](#)

The South West Team have been looking at various tools to better understand the water safety education reach within the region and this knowledge is being transferred to our volunteers and lifeguards to enable them to have an accurate and focused understanding of which schools and youth groups to target for water safety interventions. It is hoped that this will further support the amazing contributions that you as volunteers make and the significant lifesaving impact that is made whenever the water safety messages are passed onto a child or young person.

# WATER SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS - IRELAND

## GAA Healthy Clubs

Our Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) volunteers from Enniskillen attended a Healthy Clubs conference in Fermanagh this month (11–12 February 2023). They had the opportunity to showcase the partnership and highlight what our volunteers can deliver in the clubs. We've a big year ahead with regards to GAA and delivering to their Healthy Clubs, so well done to Paul Keown, Cillian Creggan and Seamus McHugh. We look forward to attending and delivering at many more of these events this year.



## Simply Blue events

Cork water safety volunteers attended three public consultation events held by 'Simply Blue' – a wind energy company operating across the UK and Ireland. A total of 250 students attended each event and received water safety messaging. This opportunity to collaborate came through working with Mary Creedon, RNLI Fundraising and Partnership Lead in Ireland, and we hope to deliver at similar events in the coming months.

## BIM and RNLI Man Overboard sessions in Ireland



Photo: The Skipper

We have just completed the third and fourth Man Overboard (MOB) sessions at the National Maritime College of Ireland in Cork. These sessions are now funded by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), the Irish agency responsible for developing the Seafood Industry. The sessions educate fishers on the value of wearing a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) and having a means of calling for help.

We were delighted to have some of our Crosshaven volunteers come along and get involved, assisting with the lifejacket packing and throw-bag throwing to pull the fishers to the safety of the liferaft. Thank you to Alex and Michael Livingstone, Phil Maguire and Alan Murphy. Our first two sessions were [delivered in Donegal in January at the Errigal Training facility](#), where again we had great attendance and we're really seeing the skippers and business owners driving this safety session to their crews and staff. We have funding for a further two sessions in 2023. A fantastic partnership in action and a great example of how our partnership work with other organisations can have greater impact and save more lives.

**Lisa Hollingum - Water Safety Delivery Support, Ireland**

# RNLI PARTNERSHIPS

## dryrobe® partners with the RNLI

Powered by our shared love of the water, [dryrobe® have joined forces with the RNLI](#) to deliver key water safety messaging and raise vital funds. £1 from a selection of products sold on the dryrobe® website will be donated to our lifesaving charity. dryrobe® will also be sharing our important water safety messaging with a wider audience across their website and social media channels. The partnership will last for 3 years from October 2022 and dryrobe® will donate £100,000 annually to the RNLI.



*Volunteers have access to a year-round 15% discount code: **RNLISTAFF15***

## WHAT'S COMING UP...

### 199 years of lifesaving

On Saturday 4 March the RNLI will be celebrating our 199th birthday, as well as kicking-off the countdown to our historic birthday in 2024. Over the next year, through a series of events, activities, media coverage and more, we will be paying tribute to the RNLI's remarkable history and people – and paving the way for our future. Next month, on Friday 3 March, Chief Executive Mark Dowie will be introducing the RNLI's latest short film that talks about inspiring a new generation of lifesavers, supporters and volunteers. Look out for more details on [Compass](#), [Volunteer Zone](#) and in the [Volunteer Facebook Group](#) in the next week.

### More dates for your diary!

**Don't miss your chance to come along and have your say at our next live update...**

**Wednesday 22 March @ 4pm – RNLI Live Update and Q&A with Mark Dowie**

*Please save the date for our next live update and Q&A session on Wednesday 16 November hosted on YouTube.*

**31 March – Helly Hansen discount weekend**

*Take advantage of an online discount as part of our partnership with Helly Hansen details will be shared on [Compass](#) and [Volunteer Zone News](#).*

**May 2023 – Water Safety and Lifeguard Live Event**

*Our next Water Safety Live Event will take place from a location in the North and East Region and will be joint with the RNLI Lifeguard Team. Details of this exciting event and how to join will be shared closer to the time.*

**25 July – World Drowning Prevention Day (WDPD)**

*[World Drowning Prevention Day](#) 2023 will take place on Tuesday 25 July. Look out for activity to get involved in across our RNLI channels.*

## Wishing you a great 2023!

With winter almost over and spring looming in the air, we hope you feel energised for the year ahead. As always, a huge thank you for all you do to save lives as part of our one crew.

## 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).