

# WATER SAFETY QUARTERLY UPDATE

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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

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

## CONTACT US BY:

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

### *Dear volunteer,*

*In this edition we once again celebrate the incredible work taking place across Ireland and the UK and highlight a small sample of the activity aimed at keeping our communities safer and ultimately prevent drowning.*

*The recent service in Westminster Abbey for the RNLI 200<sup>th</sup> birthday provided a powerful moment for us all to commemorate, celebrate and be inspired. A hugely important moment in time that was proudly attended by volunteers, partner organisations and staff across our nations, including strong representation from the Water Safety Team. Thank you to those who either attended in person or watched online. As we now enter our 201<sup>st</sup> year I for one have been focussing heavily on how we can best prepare our charity and Water Safety for the next step in our evolution.*

*RNLI trustees have recently approved a preferred direction of travel for the RNLI as we head towards the next milestone of 2030. Naturally, water safety will form a vital pillar and work is well underway to develop the important and necessary steps. More to follow on this but be assured we are working hard to ensure the Water Safety Team will continue do all it can to stop drowning for the next 200 years.*

*To date this year, I have had the pleasure of working with our teams in Bristol, Bangor, Redbay, Manchester, Poole, London, Dublin and working on plans for many more locations over the coming months in the run up to our busy summer period. We also have some good progress in the spaces of commercial fishing, partnership developments, FLOAT research with the Black Swimming Association and the University of Portsmouth and in the development of our regional water safety plans. I would be only too pleased to support more regional activity or events if appropriate opportunities arise.*

*The dedication of those who make up our team isn't just a drop in the ocean; it's a ripple that creates waves of positive change and lifesaving impact. The commitment, passion and selflessness inspires hope, transforms lives and makes our communities stronger and safer. My ask is to please keep doing all you can to make a difference and continue to engage with all RNLI colleagues to ensure water safety continues to build the DNA of our organisation.*

*Thank you for being the heart and soul of our mission.*

*Together we can achieve anything.*

**Gareth Morrison – Head of Water Safety**



# RNLI WATER SAFETY NEWS

## Pioneering FLOAT Research

January 2024 saw the beginning of some pioneering and very exciting FLOAT research between the Black Swimming Association, University of Portsmouth and the RNLI. We intend to work alongside these respected organisations throughout 2024 to improve our FLOAT knowledge and ultimately our ability to save more lives in the future with effective water safety education and messaging. We will keep you updated on our progress throughout the year.



## Gaelic Athletic Association visit

We were honoured to welcome from Ireland, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) to Poole at the beginning of the year. The GAA remains one of the most impactful and valued partners of the RNLI. We will continue to work together to prevent drowning in Irish communities and 2024 will be another exciting year for the evolution of this lifesaving partnership. In the below picture, GAA Director of Communications, Alan Milton, presents RNLI Chief Executive, Mark Dowie, with a framed print showcasing just some of the iconic moments we have shared as a partnership.



**Gareth Morrison – Head of Water Safety**

## Water Safety Resources for 2024

As all our water safety teams gear up for a busy Easter and Summer we wanted to take this opportunity to remind you to order your resources in plenty of time, forecasting what you may need for the year. Orders can take up to 10 working days.

Resources can be ordered through the online ordering platform, [MyStore](#) or by emailing the Water Safety Support team at [water\\_safety@rnli.org.uk](mailto:water_safety@rnli.org.uk).

## RNLI Lifeguard opportunities 2024

The RNLI are now recruiting lifeguards for the 2024 season. We know from previous years that word of mouth is one of our strongest tools for recruiting great people to the RNLI crew – so we'd love for you to share these opportunities with your friends and families. You can also support by sharing and engaging with the exciting content featuring on RNLI social channels.

Recruitment is now open for the 2024 season. If you know someone who has a passion for the RNLI, a good level of fitness and loves helping others, they could make an amazing lifeguard - so spread the word and send them to the link attached by clicking the below picture to find out more.



**Rebecca McCarthy – Marketing Executive**

## Port of Cork Partners with RNLI to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Port of Cork in Ireland are supporting the RNLI's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary by displaying Float To Live messaging at key locations across their site.

This includes banners, tap to donate machines and audio-visual installations to help keep everyone safe throughout 2024 and beyond.

County Cork is one of the highest risk counties in Ireland and this targeted intervention will help us reach everyone.



**Tim Doran – National Water Safety Partner**

## Launch of Water Safety Education Framework

As part of the UK's Drowning Prevention Strategy, the National Water Safety Forum aims to drive a generational shift in water safety education, with an increasing awareness of the everyday risks of water to ensure messaging reaches families as a whole.

Drowning risk increases as children reach teenage years, peaking among 20-29 year olds. Encouraging safer attitudes and improving skills and behaviours ahead of time is an essential ongoing priority. It is worth noting that the number of children who drowned in England increased from 20 in 2019/20 to 37 in 2021/22, which is a worrying development.

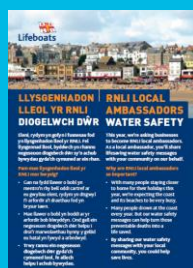
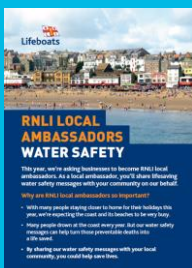
Recognising the pivotal role of education in drowning prevention, we continue to support practitioners to further develop children and young people's awareness of the dangers of open water, while enabling them to safely participate in water-based activities.

In spring 2024, National Water Safety Forum will be launching a messaging framework to support age and stage-appropriate content for young people aged 3-18 years old in England. This will support practitioners in the development, delivery and evaluation of new resources, materials and interventions for an identified audience. This is a critical step to support those working in this space and will contribute to future work to ensure that more young people are able to access and develop valuable lifesaving knowledge, skills and understanding.

**Sam Johnson – National Water Safety Education Manager**

## Local Ambassador 2024

If you would like to learn more about how your local community can support your local water safety team we are [holding a session](#) on promoting the Local Ambassador scheme on the 23rd and 25th April. For more details on the Local Ambassador scheme then please do look on the [website](#).



## Volunteer Training Sessions

Thank you for your patience while we sorted out technical issues at the start of the schedule of training. If you are still having issues with Eventbrite please email [Water\\_safety@rnli.org](mailto:Water_safety@rnli.org) before the event, and we can send you the direct link to the sessions to avoid log on issues.

If you missed any of the training, please click on the links below to watch the recordings. Look out for April dates which will be emailed out at the end of March!

Training Sessions	Link	Date Recorded
Water Safety Activity Reporting	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Sep 2023
200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Overview & Sailing Event	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Sep 2023
Intro to the Support team (including Resources)	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Dec 2023
Festive Dips Ireland Region	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Dec 2023
Paddle Sports Intro & Risk Specific Hazards	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Jan 2024
Suicide Prevention & Awareness	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Feb 2024
Education Messaging Recap Passport 2	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Feb 2024
Core Skills (Calling for Help, Hazards of Immersion & Environmental Hazards)	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Feb 2024
Swimming Intro & Risk	<a href="#">Click Here</a>	Feb 2024

**Nichola Evans - Water Safety Co-Ordinator**

## Pin badges to thank our 200<sup>th</sup> crew



To mark 200 years of lifesaving, the RNLI is giving a special gift to every volunteer and staff member.

If you volunteer or work with numerous teams across our charity, we have agreed in advance which team should send a pin

badge out to you. If you haven't received yours by now, please email [water\\_safety@rnli.org.uk](mailto:water_safety@rnli.org.uk) and we will arrange for delivery as soon as possible. For more information see the [Volunteer Zone](#).

## World Drowning Prevention Day 2024

This is a save the date for this year's World Drowning Prevention Day. Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 will see the worldwide campaign being hosted in a bid to prevent drowning. Please keep your eyes peeled on the next newsletter for more details. For more information, please visit the [World Health Organisation's website](#).

**World Drowning Prevention Day 25 July**

Anyone can drown, no one should.

## The New Learning Zone

**A new Learning Zone will be launched on Wednesday 20 March. Find out what to expect when the changes go live.**

The new Learning Zone will replace the current platform which is going out of service at the end of March.

### What does this mean for me?

The new Learning Zone is an upgrade on the current system with more up-to-date features including the option to pause training halfway through to finish at another time and the option to complete your training on a mobile device.

[Watch the video](#) to learn more.

### What do I need to do?

As the new Learning Zone is rolled out, there are actions that you may need to take regarding your current training before 20 March. Please read the following information to understand what those actions are:

- Mandatory compliance training will need to be completed by Tuesday 31 December 2024.
- All mandatory compliance courses will need to be re-taken on the new platform once it goes live. You have until Tuesday 31 December to do this and will be sent an email notification to advise when courses are available. For water safety volunteers, the mandatory compliance training includes Safeguarding and Cyber Security.



## Frequently asked questions

### Will course bookings be affected by the change of system?

Please continue to book training courses on the current Learning Zone until Tuesday 19 March. From this date, all course bookings will be transferred across to the new platform by the Learning and Development Services Team. Once the new Learning Zone is launched on Wednesday 20 March, you will be able to use the new system.

### Why does everyone need to retake the mandatory compliance training?

All training will be reset when we switch to the new Learning Zone as it is not possible to migrate all mandatory training records. As part of this process content owners have reviewed all existing mandatory compliance courses and have confirmed that they meet the RNLI's needs to ensure all volunteers and staff are compliant.

## IRELAND

### Hello to our new Water Safety Team members

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

- Elizabeth Griffin : WSO Youghal
- John McAleese : WSO Portaferry
- Paul Roseingrave : WSA Cork

### Education

The year has started strong for our Water Safety Education Programme. The Young Adult Programme has been delivered in Coláiste Muire Crosshaven and Kinsale Outdoor Education, both locations are in our high-risk area of Co. Cork.

We were invited to take part in the Transition Year (TY) expo in Co. Cork which saw 2,500 students aged 16 attend. It was a great initiative to target our high-risk groups. This led to us participating in the TY Hub webinar which was delivered to another 1,900 students.

There have also been a number of school visits in local areas by volunteers and we were delighted to take part in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Be Safe event, attended by 904 Primary 7 pupils, which took place in one of our high-risk areas near the inland lakes.

As mentioned previously we have had a strong focus on open water swim events and have conducted a number of in person swim talks with many more planned over the coming months.



### Partnerships

It has been a busy few months building relationships with stakeholders and businesses who are interested in supporting water safety messaging and we have many more initiatives planned for the coming months.

### A big thank you from us to you for 2023

Many thanks to all the volunteers who made 2023 such a great year. Our water safety messages have reached over 100,000 people. We have circulated a great 2023-year overview, if anyone hasn't received it or would like it again, please let us know and we will recirculate it out to you.

As part of our open water swimming plan we are also running a series of webinars with Swim Ireland, RLSS and Triathlon Ireland ranging on a host of water safety topics. As part of this plan we have reached out to other charities who are doing fundraisers which are water based and have offered them free water safety talks to their participants. We have had a good uptake so far with the Women Aid talk being particularly successful with about 100 people attending the webinar.

We also ran our first Festive dips webinar online which saw over 500 people register for the event. We had great feedback and learnings which we will take forward into 2024. The aim of these webinars is to equip the participants with an amount of water safety knowledge to keep themselves safe.

Our GAA partnerships continues as we attended their Healthy Clubs conference whereby over 50 clubs have expressed an interest in receiving water safety talks from our team. We have met with the GAA and now have a plan in place for 2024 which we will be circulated soon to our GAA ambassadors.



In January we ran our first ever Water Safety search and rescue partnership event at the regional base in Swords. Over 10 different search and rescue agencies attended. The aim was to join

together a few pre-existing local and national groups with the ambition of creating a support network for the prevention of drowning and water safety messaging and to provide a space for sharing of information and experiences.

In February we completed two Man Overboard Training events with support from BIM. The events proved very popular as we targeted commercial fishermen, aquaculture workers and part time fishermen. The feedback from the participants was excellent and we hope to secure more funding to continue this behaviour changing training.



## SCOTLAND

### Hello and welcome to team Scotland's first quarterly update for 2024

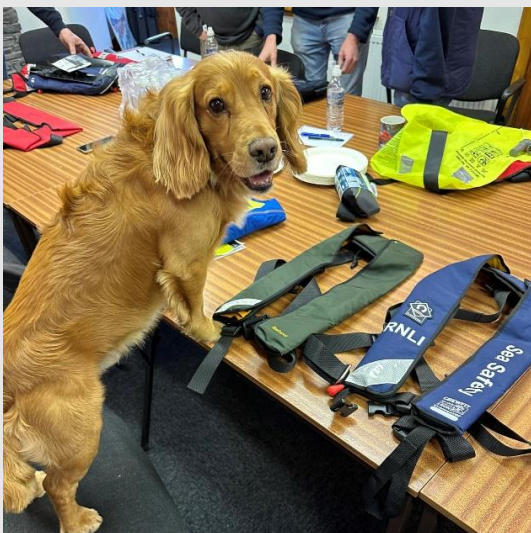
As a brief indication at time of writing there have been 18 completed Evaluations by the end of January, this totalled 850 total engagements with members of the public.

11 of the interventions were youth messaging with us reaching 550 young people in schools and youth groups.

Team Scotland is beginning to prioritise recruitment with campaigns being focused on the highest priority stations based on high-risk activities shouts having recruitment live at time of writing.

As well as this a large amount of work with Water Safety Officers and stations developing their 2024 planning documents and Water Safety Lifesaving Plans has gone on throughout the first 2 months of the year with the goal of this being a good focus point and baseline to continually update throughout the year.

In addition to a significant amount of Scottish volunteer attendance at the national online training sessions, two Lifejacket clinic training sessions have also been run in Kessock and Oban. This allowed Water Safety and Station volunteers from Kessock, Loch Ness, Oban and Tobermory to gain the skills and knowledge to begin delivering Lifejacket clinics as part of their high-risk targeted interventions.



### Changes within our team

As many of you are aware, Scotland has had a few role changes in the Regional Water Safety Team.

With the departure of Laura Erskine from the role of Water Safety Education Manager back in December 2023, her role has now been filled by Ray Cunningham.

Some of you may already be familiar with Ray as he has been in the post of Water Safety Delivery Support in Scotland for the last few years. Ray began his RNLI career as a lifeguard on the Causeway Coast before moving to Scotland to take on a Lifeguard Supervisor role and then moving across to the Water Safety Team. We are looking forward to working closely with Ray in his new role moving forward.

Furthermore, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce Scotland's new team member, taking on the Water Safety Delivery Support role, Iona Hamilton.

Iona is coming across from the RNLI's lifeguard Team in Scotland bringing a wide range of skills and varied experiences, and here is what she has to say:

Hello! My name is Iona. I'm delighted to be the new Water Safety Delivery Support in Scotland. I've been working for the RNLI in Scotland since 2017. Starting as a Lifeguard, before progressing to Senior Lifeguard and most recently I've been privileged to be working as a Lifeguard Supervisor alongside an awesome team. In my spare time I like to open water swim, travel on my bike and explore Scotland. I'm currently in New Zealand working as a Beach Lifeguard and Education Instructor. I am excited to return home and start my new role, supporting RNLI Scotland's Water Safety Team.



## SOUTH EAST

It was with deep sadness that I learned, in mid-September last year, of the death of Terence (Terry) Michael Colbran.

Terry passed away with his family around him in the hospital on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023. After his courageous fight with cancer, Terry passed away aged 78 years. A loving husband to Hilary for 56 years, a very proud father to daughter Debbie, son Russell, and grandad to Jack and Harry. Father-in-law to Tony, Judy, and Paul and brother to Susan and Stephen.

As well as being a respected business owner in Eastbourne, Terry was a passionate member of the RNLI family. Terry had served through an illustrious career as Lifeboat crew, but I met him, very early in my RNLI staff role, when Terry volunteered to support our Water Safety work.

Initially recruited as a 'SEA Check Adviser', Terry quickly assembled a team and led our work in the Eastbourne area. Ahead of his time, Terry integrated our work with the wider RNLI Team, long before that became the standard way of working, indeed, much of the way that Terry approached his volunteer role, and the running of his team has been modelled and emulated as best practice since. Terry will be sadly missed as a stalwart and cornerstone part of the Water Safety team in the Southeast and beyond.

On a personal note, Terry was somebody that I considered, not only a valued volunteer but as a friend, I miss him greatly.

Mr Terence (Terry) Colbran

1st December 1944 – 12th September 2023



### Lifeboat Festival

Over the weekend of the 18th and 19th May, Poole will be hosting our 200th anniversary Lifeboat Festival.

The festival has been a long time coming, with planning starting way back in 2020 and will celebrate all things RNLI and our lifesaving work over the past 200 years. Over the weekend there will be stalls, demonstrations and exhibits from every department within the RNLI, including Water Safety!

We will be hosting a lifeguard talk and Float to Live demonstrations on the specially built stage in the shadow of our lifeboats out the back of the All-Weather Lifeboat Centre. While down on Poole Quay, our education tent will be manned by our fabulous volunteers sharing our water safety messaging with an expected crowd of over 10,000 people! There is plenty of family fun to engage with; from jetski demonstrations, a heritage trail and ending with a lifeboat flotilla, old and new, at 4pm on Sunday 19th. Let's just hope for a weekend of good weather and we will hopefully see you there!



### An insight into life as a Water Safety Officer at Eastbourne Lifeboat Station

Following my family tradition of volunteering for the RNLI I am now the Water Safety Officer in Eastbourne where I am lucky enough to lead a team of seven knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and skilled advisors. My role as WSO is both diverse and complex and includes the key task of producing, implementing, and delivering the station's Water Safety Plan. The plan details the key areas and types of risk and how we will use education, engagement, influence, media etc. to mitigate risks. My aim is to concentrate on available resources to achieve the best level of outcomes.

No two weeks are the same, one-minute we attend key locations at the times of highest risk to tidal cut off with safety advice to coastal walkers while conducting observations and where necessary intervention. The next, in a heated swimming pool where water users can experience their lifejacket inflating, getting into a life raft and use of MOB techniques and tuition in using throw lines.

Most enjoyable is mine and my team's role involving public engagement and how best to deliver our safety campaigns, promotions, and key messages to the widest audience.

An example of face-to-face engagement involves the developing area of plunging, dipping and open water swimming for wellbeing and where the majority are individuals or in small groups without organisation or structure. This can require walking on the beach at irregular hours and tides and even dipping myself.

A busy marina of over 800 berths, schools both state and private plus a college and university campus provides a more tutorial style engagement.

The population increases by some 30% in the summer which presents its own challenges with tourists, day visitors and language students, some of whom have little or no knowledge of tides, currents, local hazards and not having English as their first language. Good for the legs, walking the beaches and talking about how to stay safe on the beach.

In summary, the objectives are prioritized and clear while the implementation and delivery is flexible and tailored while measured by activity and outcomes. It is not possible to number crunch outcomes but it's interesting, even fun and do feel we all contribute to the RNLI's vision to 'save every one'.



*David Phillips – Water Safety Officer*



## SOUTH WEST

### Gearing up for Water Safety activity in 2024

In the South West Water Safety teams have been busy preparing their one-page Water Safety plans in preparation for Water Safety activity in 2024. This plan is an addition to their more in-depth plans and its aim is to give a real focus to each Water Safety team on both activity and events throughout what is gearing up to be a very busy and exciting year. One example of how the Water Safety teams' one-page plans have assisted with greater focus, was highlighted during a day's training on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January at Portishead Lifeboat Station which was attended by Water Safety teams from; Burnham-on-Sea, Portishead and Weston-super-mare, as well as welcoming some more inland Water Safety Education volunteers to the station. The training day gave an opportunity for each flanking station to discuss their top five priorities of risk and focus throughout 2024. This allowed for some excellent discussions and sharing of ideas amongst the teams. This progressed onto some focused training in the afternoon. The focused training was informed by the key risks that were highlighted by stations on their one-page water safety plans.



### Local Ambassadors in the South West

We currently have recruited 230 businesses to our local ambassador scheme in the South West, and this year we are wanting to double that number. The local ambassador scheme helps us share our safety messaging via numerous small businesses around our coast, encouraging them to display our safety messaging and talk to the public when they visit their premises.

At the end of last year, we undertook a feedback session with the businesses to see how we can improve this scheme and following this we're now looking at expanding the messaging and resources we provide whilst aiming to recruit more. Our volunteer teams have been out signing up businesses and talking to our current ones, we have Lifeguard teams heading out over Easter to encourage more to join, which will assist them in their prevention work and we also have our new project with the holiday parks in the Duchy that is already underway, with many joining the scheme and hosting more resources than before.

If you're interested in supporting this scheme then please get in touch with your Water Safety support, view the link via our website: <https://rnli.org/support-us/volunteer/volunteering-opportunities/rnli-local-ambassador>, and encourage local businesses to join.

### Meet the Lifeguard Programme

The start of the year has also seen a considerable amount of planning for our lifeguards returning to schools to deliver beach safety messages through our Meet the Lifeguards programme, bookings will start to be made towards the end of February and most of the lifeguard teams will be in schools around the weeks of the 15<sup>th</sup> of April to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2024.

### Water Safety Education in the South West

At the end of 2023, the South West saw both the launch of the Girlguiding partnership and the Young Adult Programme (YAP) aimed at large colleges and universities. We are very pleased to have continued the great progress with YAP which in January 2024, saw volunteers from the region deliver to Duchy Stoke Climsland College in Cornwall, with over 70 students getting the valuable Water Safety tutorial and a focused group of protective services students receiving the afternoon workshop. It is hoped that not only will these students gain lifesaving water safety knowledge, but they will be inspired to think about their potential role with the RNLI after they leave college and move into the wider world of work.



### Hello and goodbye to some of our Water Safety Volunteers

We would like to say hello to Gemma Scire, WSO for Whitby Lifeboat Station, Jenny Smith, WSO for Craster Lifeboat Station, Karen Furzeman, WSA inland, Anna Gregory, WSA for Cleethorpes lifeboat station and Anna Needham, WSA for Bridlington Lifeboat Station.

We would also like to say goodbye to Christopher Hudson, WSO for Berwick Upon Tweed Lifeboat Station. We would like to say a huge thank you for all the amazing work that Christopher has done at the lifeboat station. It has been inspiring to see the contribution that Christopher has made to the lifeboat station even in ill health. We hope to see you back in a water safety role soon.

### Scarborough Lifeboat Station

A big celebration goes out to the water safety team in Scarborough Lifeboat Station.

Michael Whitley went for a routine dip off the coast of Scarborough on the 8<sup>th</sup> January, where he was caught out by strong currents which dragged him out of his depth. Fortunately, Michael had a friend with him who was able to call for help whilst Michael floated on his back to wait for the lifeboat.

This knowledge saved Michael's life, which he had learnt from a water safety talk held in Scarborough back in October.

This good news story really goes to show how our key messages can make such a huge impact and this was definitely a life saved by an intervention.

If you are unsure of our current float advice, then look on our [website](#) where there is an abundance of resources to use.



Daniel Bedwell – Water Safety Delivery Support

### Cromer Cold Water Dipping Talk

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, Clare Stagg (Cromer LPO) organised a very successful event for Cold Water Dippers from the local Bluetits group. The event was held at the Henry Blogg Museum in Cromer and had over 50 attendees. The presentation lasted almost 90 minutes, with contributions from local crew, water safety volunteers and even the owner of the local surf school. Ben from Glide Surf School kindly shared his years of experience of interpreting the data from the Surfline App to what the conditions would be like on the local beaches, an invaluable part of assessing the conditions before entering the water. Immediate impact has been seen with one person wearing a new bright orange swim hat the following day, another with a whistle on their swimsuit and others with tow floats on order. One of the many messages of thanks received here *'Evening Clare. Just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone for the talk on Saturday! I found it so useful and interesting - time flew by. The speaker was really good and the crew being there was very interesting.'*

The local 'Bluetits' groups can be found using this link [The Bluetits Cold Water Swimming Groups!](#). This talk was arranged by contacting the local listed 'admin' on the Facebook page. Thanks to Clare Stagg for organising such a brilliant event, Jacqui Palmer for being so accommodating at the Henry Blogg Museum and to the local crew for coming along to share their expertise too. An amazing example of 'One Crew' in action!



Liam Fayle-Parr – Water Safety Delivery Support

## NORTH AND EAST

### Girlguiding in North East England

On the back of the [successful launch of the Girlguiding South West England 'Mayday Mayday'](#) education resource in 2023, Girlguiding North East England are hot on the trail in supporting the partnership. They have created a regional specific resource and in the process of planning a launch date for later this year, the hope is to reach all the 42,000 members within the region.

If any regional volunteers who are currently volunteering with or have been a member of any Rainbows, Brownies, Guides or Rangers groups, please contact Simon Bristow or the regional Water Safety team so we can provide a regional perspective of being part of two amazing organisations and support the development of the partnership and provide role models, ambassadors and potential RNLI volunteers of the future.

We are saddened to share that Dave Armitage, Water Safety Officer for Sheringham, passed away on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. Dave was a valued member of our team and he will be sorely missed by us and his local community. Dave was a very experienced boater, however, most of his water safety activity targeted beach safety, which is what his community needed. Dave ensured all local businesses selling inflatables also handed their customers a safety leaflet, worked alongside the lifeguards to share safety messages with the public as they arrived and supported North Norfolk District Council to deliver their summer beach safety events.



### Water Safety Education Delivery Plan in the North and East

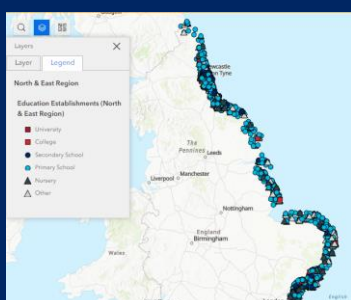
As part of our team's aspiration to provide all North & East region's lifeboat stations with Water Safety Targets for L1 Assurance boards, we rolled out our Water Safety Education Delivery Plan (N&E) 2024 – 2026 to our station's water safety teams in January 2024.

With the aim of creating a proactive approach to delivery of messaging to the area's geographical community, we have focused on education establishments, within a 10-mile radius of the station, with the desire to provide key safety messaging & lifesaving skills, via our National Curriculum linked & evaluated water safety education workshops, to audiences before they move into the high-risk age groups identified by national, regional & local drowning incident data.

In conjunction with the roll out of the new Water Safety Plan Templates which include a water safety education delivery aspect, Dan, Liam (WSDS) & myself have provided support & training in relation to Sharepoint Access, Marketing, Delivery Content (including the local template adaptations) and Intervention reporting through the evaluation form.

Feedback from our volunteers at the coast has been extremely positive, especially during the planning phase of activity for the year to come, and we are looking forward to supporting their delivery this summer term and beyond.

If you have any questions about this from the North & East region please contact your WSDS or myself.



## Hello to our new Water Safety team members

Vaughan Everett, Water Safety Officer for Angle Lifeboat Station; Stephen Maudsley, Water Safety Adviser for Barrow Lifeboat Station; Lindsey Cockburn, Water Safety Adviser for Barrow Lifeboat Station; Richard Sharp, Water Safety Adviser for Lytham Lifeboat Station; Tracey Kerfoot, Water Safety Adviser for Flint Lifeboat Station; Linda Farrell, Water Safety Adviser for Lytham Lifeboat Station; Colin Midwinter, Water Safety Adviser for Morecambe Lifeboat Station; Deborah Pye, Water Safety Adviser for Morecambe Lifeboat Station; Sandra Knight, Water Safety Adviser for The Mumbles Lifeboat Station

## Early Season Intervention

Workington, Water Safety Officer, Terry Wake, over the course of the last two years has steadily developed an effective informal boating partnership with Workington and Whitehaven Harbour. Terry



has identified that although January is a quiet time for fisherman, it is the best time of the year to support those people with safety advice and preparation ahead of their seasons on the water. Terry has devised a small pack of resources that two of the local harbours can share with their boat owners as they register their vessels for the year ahead. The feedback from both the harbour and the boat owners that Terry has received has been incredibly positive and created a great opportunity to raise awareness for calling for help, flare disposal and the need for basic equipment maintenance.

## Elizabeth Wright

The regional team would like to just say a little **thank you** to Liz Wright. Liz has been delivering Water Safety messaging to between 30-40 Secondary Schools across 3 counties in North Wales annually. With a wide demographic we know that she has met many challenges but also has so many rewarding memories. Having been with the RNLI for 11 years the impact and reach of her messages must be far reaching. Liz we wish you well with your move to the North and East Region, our loss is certainly going to be to the benefit of the children in the communities local to your new home!



## National Award for multi-agency partnership



A multi-agency partnership programme aimed at promoting community safety amongst young people has won a national award.

The Ynys Mon Community Programme was recognised at the inaugural Wales Safer Communities Awards winning the Partnership category for its inclusive approach to promoting community safety.

Trearddur Bay Water Safety Officer, Tony Hardman, worked alongside Anglesey Council, North Wales Police and Streetgames whilst representing the RNLI. One of the main initiatives involved supporting the council in running the Swim Safe Programme over a period of six days. This initiative gave year 6 pupils on Anglesey to develop their confidence in and water and make them more aware of the local water hazards that surround them.



Windermere Get Connected



Swansea Get Connected

## Water Safety Wales, West and Isle of Man 'Get Connected' Events 2024

A big thanks goes to the Wales, West and Isle of Man Water Safety Team volunteers who attended the five recent 'Get Connected' events around our region.

65 of you attended the events in Windemere, Wirral, Worcester, Swansea and Menai Bridge, along with guest speakers Jo Partner, RNLI Head of Region, and external speakers from Lake District National Park Authority, RNLI Lifeguards Wirral, Royal Lifesaving Society, Swim Wales and Bangor University.

We had volunteers ranging from 50 years' service with the RNLI to others brand new on their Water Safety journeys and it was wonderful to look back on our successes from 2023 and hear about some of the plans you have for 2024.

If you attended one of our 'Get Connected' events and have yet to do so, please could we ask for you to spare 5 minutes and fill out our [feedback form](#) so that we can tailor these events to be bigger and better.



Worcester Get Connected



Menai Bridge Get Connected

# UPDATES IN THE LAST QUARTER

## Join the RNLI Women's Community



For 200 years women have played a critical role in the RNLI's history, from lifesaving to fundraising and everything in between. This community is a celebration of the unique perspectives that each woman brings to our charity.

We have made progress, but there is more to do. Our goal is that every woman in the RNLI feels welcomed, included and is treated fairly. We believe that diversity is our strength, and we want to create a truly inclusive RNLI that inspires the next generation of woman.

Visit [Volunteer Zone](#) to find out more on how to [join](#).

## Ring the bell for Barry Dock's new Shannon



On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, the RNLI celebrated the completion of the Shannon class lifeboat ON 1358.

*RNLB Richard and Caroline Colton II*, as she will be known, will be heading to her home at Barry Dock Lifeboat Station in the Vale of Glamorgan once remaining sea trials and commissioning have been completed.

The majority of this all-weather lifeboat has been funded by the generous legacy of Richard Colton, who left two rare classic Ferraris to be sold at auction. [Click here](#) to read more regarding this.

## 200 Years of Courage – Royal Mint 50p Coin



To commemorate the RNLI's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Partnerships Team have collaborated with The Royal Mint to create a commemorative 50p coin, with a percentage of the Royal Mint's proceeds being donated to the RNLI to help fund our lifesaving work.

The 50p Brilliant Uncirculated Coin and 50p Silver Proof Peidfort Colour Coin are now available to purchase through the RNLI shop or visit the [Royal Mint](#) to view the full range.

For more news and updates about our 200<sup>th</sup> commemorations, and the ways to get involved, please visit the [200<sup>th</sup> section of the Volunteer Zone](#).

## Our charity's 2024 plan



As we embark on a new year, Chief Executive, Mark Dowie would like to take the chance to recognise the once in a lifetime opportunity for everyone to celebrate 200 years of lifesaving. 2024 is a milestone year and one in which we remain focused in delivering our key priorities whilst taking the opportunity to commemorate the lifesavers who came before us, celebrate our achievements and inspire everyone who will pave the way for our future.

If you have missed the chance to see the RNLI 2024 plan video then visit [Volunteer Zone](#) to find the whole statement made by Mark Dowie.

## Introducing sustainable energy and carbon reduction at the RNLI



The RNLI wants to become a more sustainable organisation so that we can continue to save lives for generations to come. Our Sustainability Team has been put into place to support just that, but making the RNLI a more sustainable organisation for the future is everyone's responsibility – we need to integrate sustainability into everything we do across different departments and regions.

All RNLI volunteers and staff are invited to come along to a series of events which aim to inform you of our charity's environmental sustainability goals in the years ahead.

Each session will set out to provide context on three of the environmental issues our charity is facing and potential solutions we can take forward together. The mini-series will be made up of three 45-minute sessions, which will be delivered by industry experts with plenty of time allocated for a Q&A.

[Click here](#) to find the full article on Volunteer Zone and the links to the mini-series.

## 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](#).
- Find resources to help you look after your [wellbeing, and information about support](#) available at the RNLI.
- Check out the, [200 Voices](#) podcasts hear from survivors, supporters, volunteers, lifeguards, celebrity ambassadors and more sharing how the charity's life savers have made a difference.

## Peter Sparks appointed as Chief Executive of the RNLI



I am delighted to let you know that the RNLI Board of Trustees has appointed Peter Sparkes, currently the Chief Executive of the UK Hydrographic Office, as the new Chief Executive of the RNLI. Peter will succeed Mark Dowie, on 26 June 2024 to lead our charity through the second half of our 200th year and into our third century.

Peter will join the RNLI for a handover in early June prior to officially taking on the CE role on 26 June when Mark stands down. Plans are afoot to recognise Mark's significant contribution to the RNLI and wish him a proper farewell at the end of June but in the meantime, I would like to record the Board's sincere thanks for his leadership during some of the most turbulent times in the RNLI's 200-year history – dealing with the impact of the pandemic and rising inflation, a significant increase in demand, and heightened public scrutiny, especially in response to small boat crossings in the Channel.

**Janet Legrand – RNLI Chair**

To read the full article on the appointment of Peter Sparks, please visit Volunteer Zone by [clicking here](#).



## 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).

## WHAT'S COMING UP...

### **March 4<sup>th</sup> – The RNLI's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Find out more about [our foundation on the RNLI's website](#) and [what's going on in 2024 on the Volunteer Zone](#).

### **March 10<sup>th</sup> – Service of Thanksgiving at Glasgow Cathedral**

Watch our livestreams of special commemorative services, giving thanks for the commitment and sacrifice of RNLI lifesavers for two centuries. You'll find further details a few days before each service is due to take place at [RNLI.org/2024programmes](#).

### **April 20<sup>th</sup> – Service of Thanksgiving at York Minster**

Watch our livestreams of special commemorative services, giving thanks for the commitment and sacrifice of RNLI lifesavers for two centuries. You'll find further details a few days before each service is due to take place at [RNLI.org/2024programmes](#).

### **April 27<sup>th</sup> – Service of Thanksgiving at Llandaff Cathedral**

Watch our livestreams of special commemorative services, giving thanks for the commitment and sacrifice of RNLI lifesavers for two centuries. You'll find further details a few days before each service is due to take place at [RNLI.org/2024programmes](#).

### **May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – Poole Lifeboat Festival, Open Day and Flotilla Event**

Inspiring exhibitions and interactive experiences from across the RNLI, with fun for all the family. Visit the place where our lifeboats are made, learn about World Drowning Prevention Day and talk to some people who make the RNLI what it is today.

### **May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – Bamburgh Castle RNLI Festival**

Join us at the castle all weekend for a variety of activities for families to enjoy.

### **May 26<sup>th</sup> – Inshore Lifeboat Centre Open Day, East Cowes**

The Inshore Lifeboat Centre on the Isle of Wight opens its doors to showcase the future of lifeboat building, as well as bringing together a number of special guests for the day.

As we gear up for one of our busiest seasons, we really hope that you feel informed and empowered to start this year's activity strong, delivering our Water Safety messaging within your communities far and wide and celebrating our 200<sup>th</sup> year of lifesaving delivery. As always thank you so much for all that you do to help save lives at sea 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).