

WATER SAFETY QUARTERLY UPDATE

IN THIS EDITION

RNLI Water Safety News

Regional updates

Featured News

What's Coming Up



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.
- Using the Microsoft form for your region.

Dear volunteer,

I am delighted to open the Spring 2024 edition of the Water Safety Volunteer Newsletter. This will be the last time I get to talk to you as Water Safety Volunteers collectively before I finish as Chief Executive of the RNLI on 26 June.

My message is simple; thank you for all you do help us Save Every One We Can.

Last year alone, your reported Water Safety activity reached more than 1 million people; mostly with face-to-face interventions which we know are most likely to make a lifesaving difference. Millions more were reached through the Water Safety campaigns you promote, and the partnerships you nurture to help us spread our message far and wide.

You may not feel the immediate adrenaline rush a lifeguard or lifeboat crew member does when they save a life by pulling a casualty from the water. You may never see the name or shake the hand of the person whose life you save. But your actions are saving lives, and I am hugely proud of what you do.

At this busy time of the year as more and more people enjoy our coastline and inland waters, many of you will be in full swing showing school children how to Float to Live, talking to sailors about the importance of wearing floatation devices or explaining to stand-up paddleboarders why offshore winds should be avoided. But do take a moment to pause and reflect on how much you achieve. Water Safety is a core lifesaving service everyone in the RNLI should be proud of and something our One Crew can all contribute to; you lead the way in making Water Safety everyone's business.

I have fond memories of meeting Water Safety volunteers and staff across the UK and Ireland who are driven by passion, talent, and kindness and who continue to adapt to an ever-changing landscape.

The RNLI has saved more than 146,000 lives since 1824, and Water Safety is a key pillar of our lifesaving effect to save more lives as we embark on our third century. It has been a privilege and an honour to lead the charity into our 200th year. Naturally, I have spent recent weeks reflecting on where we have come from, where we are today, and where we are going in the future. As I hand over to Peter Sparkes, I leave assured that Water Safety is in safe hands, and I wish you the best for your ongoing efforts to Save Lives at Sea.



Mark Dowie – Chief Executive

RNLI WATER SAFETY NEWS

Lifeguarded Beaches

Our world-class lifeguards patrol 238 beaches around the coast of the UK and the Channel Islands and as we see the return of some of our lifeguarding teams to the beaches, we wanted to tell you about a valuable resource which you can utilise for yourselves as volunteers or use within your interventions when speaking to members of the public.

The RNLI website has a '[Find your nearest lifeguarded beach](#)' guide. This guide gives you the updated patrol dates and times of the local beaches near you.

As always please encourage everyone to visit a lifeguarded beach and to remember no flags = no lifeguards.



World Drowning Prevention Day 2024

World Drowning Prevention Day is held annually on 25 July. This global advocacy event serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and offer lifesaving solutions to prevent it. As water safety volunteers, we encourage you to take part in World Drowning Prevention Day encouraging your lifeboat stations and wider volunteering teams to do so too. We would encourage as many volunteers as possible to sign up to the [National Water Safety Forums World Drowning Prevention Day Webinar](#) on Thursday 6 June 2024. This webinar will be discussing the plans for World Drowning Prevention Day. If you are unable to attend the webinar then please do keep an eye on [Volunteer Zone](#) and the [Water Safety Volunteers Facebook page](#) for more information.



Volunteer Wellbeing

Our greatest asset to the RNLI is you. Without you, we would not be able to provide our lifesaving service and strive to save every one. Your wellbeing and health are vital for leading fulfilled and healthy lives, both inside and outside of your RNLI role.

Support is here for you. Things don't have to be at a crisis point before you reach out. If you are struggling, know you are not alone and there are lots of support options available to you whenever you may need them.

Please look at all available support to you as volunteers on [Volunteer Zone](#). The summer season is in full swing and we want you to feel empowered to complete your role whilst knowing there is the support available to you. If you have any further questions regarding RNLI support, then please do not hesitate to contact your Water Safety Delivery Support or Education Manager.

WHERE TO GO FOR WELLBEING AND WELFARE SUPPORT ...



YOUR MANAGER Your manager is here to support you in your RNLI role. Let them know if you have any concerns. 	MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID Connect with a Mental Health First Aider for a confidential chat: mhfa@rnli.org.uk 	WELFARE ADVISER Call, text or email the Welfare Adviser for support: +44 (0)7824 866046 welfare@rnli.org.uk	EXTERNAL SUPPORT Contact your GP samaritans.org / 116 123 pieta.ie (Ireland) mind.org.uk
TRiM Peer support for people exposed to traumatic incidents as part of their RNLI role: UK: 0800 011 3129 Ireland: 1800 200 376 trim@rnli.org.uk	FINANCIAL SUPPORT The Personal Injury Benefit scheme: welfare@rnli.org.uk The Lifeboat Benevolent Fund: lbf@rnli.org.uk 	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH Get in touch with the team: +44 (0)1202 663567 ohservices@rnli.org.uk 	SUPPORT 24/7 A free, independent and confidential support service. Please log in to Horizon using your RNLI email address and password, or speak to your RNLI manager.

Ready to launch with our Storm Force Rescue game

With so many incredible things happening in 2024 to recognise our 200th anniversary and as part of our commitment to inspire a new generation of lifesavers, Storm Force Rescue has now been launched!

Just like our incredible lifeguards and volunteer lifeboat crews, players can use rescue boards, waterjet-propelled rescue craft and three types of lifeboat to answer the call for help.

Storm Force Rescue is a free-to-download game with no in-app purchases and is suitable for children ages 4+. You can download on Google Play or Apple App Store or visit: RNLI.org/StormForceRescue



RNLI WATER SAFETY NEWS

Water Safety Partnership Update

British Canoeing have re-branded to Paddle UK due to the rapid growth in recreational paddling by a broader and more diverse audience. The new name reflects the demographics of their evolving membership and is far more inclusive as it captures more fully the breadth of paddling activity that fall under their responsibility including kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddleboarding and paddlesport. The Scottish Canoe Association and the Canoe Association of Northern Ireland have also rebranded to Paddle Scotland and Paddle Northern Ireland respectively with Canoe Wales looking to follow suit in due course.

This summer we continue to work with Paddle UK to encourage safer paddling in the UK with a joint safety campaign launching mid-June. More information and resources will be shared soon.



Stay afloat, stay in touch, stay put

The RNLI is launching refreshed safety messaging and interventions for boat users to give them the best chance of surviving in an emergency.

Enjoying time of the water is one of the greatest joys in life for sailors and powerboat users. But it's easier than you think to get in trouble at sea. The refreshed safety messages are to help boat users be prepared and know what to do if something goes wrong – giving them the best chance of being rescued and coming home to their family.

Read more regarding our new messaging on [Volunteer Zone](#).



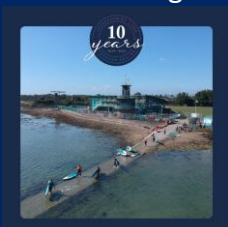
Water Safety Education Partnership Update

This year, our partners at the [Andrew Simpson Foundation](#) are celebrating [10 years](#) of transforming lives through sailing. Our team have been working in collaboration since [2019](#) in Portsmouth, Portland and Reading - and more recently in Birmingham.

ASF have worked in collaboration with our partners at Swim England and our team to build elements of [Swim Safe](#) into their programmes to support those taking part in programmes - piloting first at ASC Birmingham in 2022 to address the risk to communities across the city.

"There is a barrier to getting in the water due to the large number of people who cannot swim or who have lower than usual levels of trust in the water. In order to address the issue head on, water safety and confidence sessions are being delivered as stand alone sessions or integrated into larger sessions...this approach has shown significant success in reaching out to communities across the city that have been difficult to reach." ASF Impact Report 2023

The Foundation plans to expand its work over the next 10 years, so please look out for centres opening in your local area and reach out to your Water Safety Education Manager for more information.



SHE Reporting

As active members of our volunteering team within the RNLI your safety is paramount and with the summer season ramping up and more events taking place, we just wanted to inform you of the most recent update from Olly Alexandar, Head of Water Safety regarding the improvements that are being made within safety and the crucial part that you play. To read the full update head to [Volunteer Zone](#).



If you have any questions regarding safety or are unsure of the reporting procedures, then please do reach out to your regional water safety team or email the central support team on water_safety@rnli.org.uk.

Float to Live Launch 2024

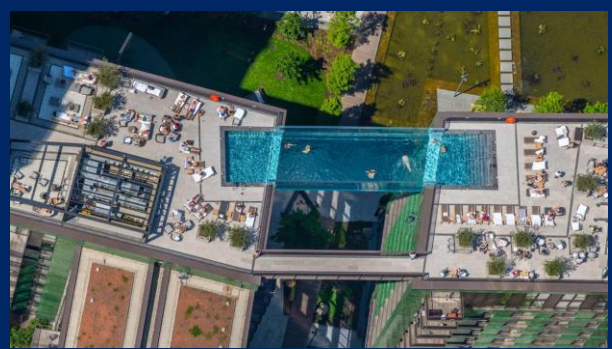
This year we're very excited to announce our Float to Live campaign will be launching on Tuesday 21 May at the stunning Sky Pool 'floating' swimming pool venue in London.

Suspended 35m above the ground, the Sky pool forms a bridge between two buildings at the Embassy Gardens development in Wandsworth, South London. Bathers can enjoy the very unique sensation of swimming in midair, safe in the knowledge that the 25m heated pool features a 12-inch-thick acrylic base supported by a hidden steel frame.

RNLI Lifeguards and one of our Lifeboat crew members will be on hand at the event to give live Float demonstrations in the Sky Pool. One of our Float to Live case studies – Michael Whiteley – will also be in attendance to share his story of how using Float to Live helped save his life.

Together with our partner, Helly Hansen, the RNLI will be using this distinctive setting to launch our 2024 Float to Live campaign with a bang, broadcasting the Float to Live message to the gathered media.

It promises to be a memorable event!



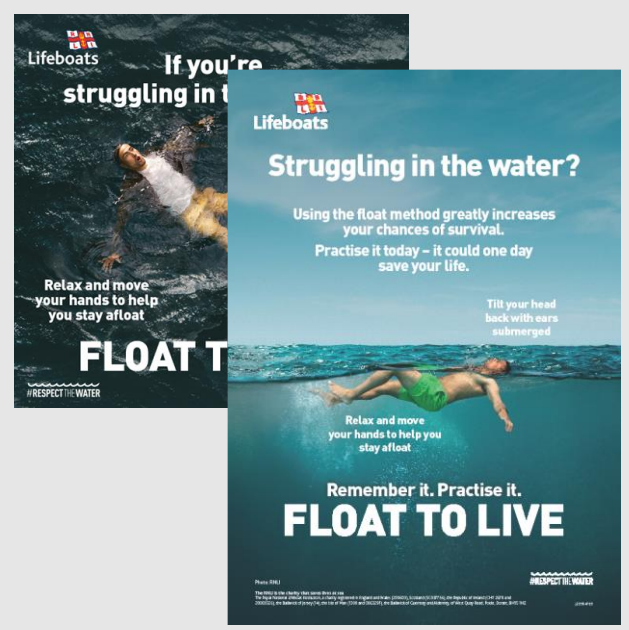
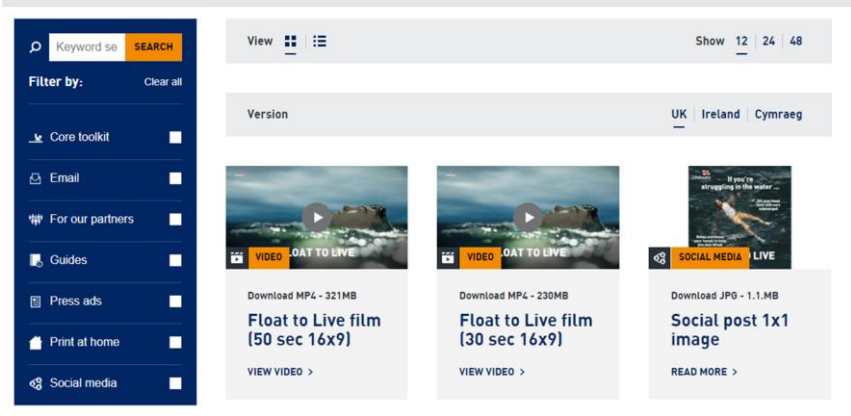
Float in 2024

2024 will be the second year running that there will be no national paid media behind our Float to Live campaign. However, as in 2023, we will continue focusing on maximising reach by leaning into our fantastic new resources as well as collaborating with our brilliant network of strategic partners to achieve as much awareness of Float to Live as possible – watch this space.

The right tools for the job

Last year a phenomenal amount of effort was put into refreshing our Float to Live assets, resulting in the creation of a diverse toolkit of impactful resources perfect for spreading the Float to Live message.

We will be reusing the same toolkit which worked so well last year. Visit our [Float to Live Toolkit](#) online where all these superb resources are available for you to download now, or alternatively order through [MyStore](#).



Click [here](#) to watch the 2024 Float to Live launch webinar

Float to Live Launch 2024 Continued and Volunteer Training

Float to Live and Water Safety Scotland

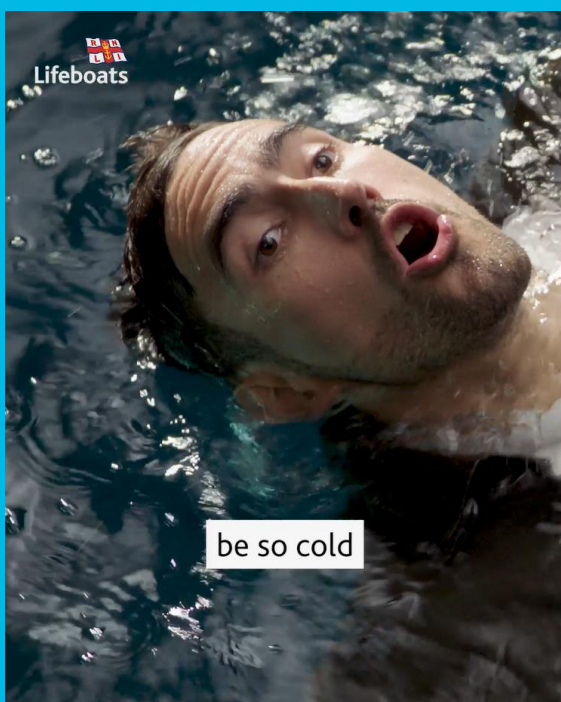
Water Safety Scotland is a voluntary association of organisations and individuals whose main purpose is to understand the risks around water in Scotland and to engage with partners to develop a consistent approach to the prevention of water related fatalities.

We will be working with Water Safety Scotland during 2024 to spread awareness of our Float to Live message across Scotland. Utilising our toolkit of assets and their comprehensive network of partners, we hope to launch our joint Float to Live initiative to coincide with the start of the Scottish school Summer holidays, helping to extend the impact of our Float to Live campaign beyond our initial launch activity.



Water Safety Spotlight – ‘Hot Out There’ video

Last but not least, we'd like to call attention to our new version of the previously known 'Hot Out There' video. It highlights the dangers of cold water shock during hot weather – it may be hot out of the water but the water temperature remains low! This is a great resource to help raise awareness of a danger we know catches a lot of people out over the summer months, especially around heatwaves.



Volunteer Training Sessions

If you have missed any of the training, then please click on the links below to watch the recordings.

Training Sessions	Link	Date Recorded
Water Safety Activity Reporting	Click Here	Sep 2023
200 th Anniversary Overview & Sailing Event	Click Here	Sep 2023
Intro to the Support team (including Resources)	Click Here	Dec 2023
Festive Dips Ireland Region	Click Here	Dec 2023
Paddle Sports Intro & Risk Specific Hazards	Click Here	Jan 2024
Suicide Prevention & Awareness	Click Here	Feb 2024
Education Messaging Recap Passport 2	Click Here	Feb 2024
Core Skills (Calling for Help, Hazards of Immersion & Environmental Hazards)	Click Here	Feb 2024
Swimming Intro & Risk	Click Here	Feb 2024
Behaviour Change and Approaching the Public	Click Here	Mar 2024
Education Rewind (14-18) & Practical Delivery Signposting (Call, Tell, Throw)	Click Here	Mar 2024
Education Challenge Passport (11-14) Talk Reach Thow	Click Here	Apr 2024
Beach Activities & Walking Intro Risk Specific Hazards	Click Here	Apr 2024
Maximising your Local Ambassador	Click Here	Apr 2024

IRELAND

Hello to our new Water Safety Team members

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

- ❖ Alan Watters
- ❖ Riona Casey
- ❖ Aoife Murphy

Partnerships

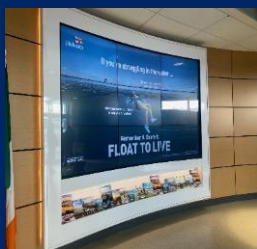
The momentum of collaborating with stakeholders and businesses who are interested in supporting our water safety messaging has continued.

We have seen an increase in the water safety bookings for the Gaelic Athletic Association Clubs in this second quarter of the year with many more booked in quarter three. Our new water safety resources for the Gaelic Athletic Association clubs will also be delivered this month providing Float to Live posters in Irish and English language to be displayed in the dressing rooms.

We have been working closely with Water Safety Ireland and the Irish Coast Guard on water safety press releases targeting key days in which we see an increase in calls to 999. Throughout April and May we saw three press releases on St Patricks Day, Easter and the May Bank Holiday.

In February we were presented with an opportunity to work on a pilot water safety programme with the trainee recruits of An Garda Síochána in Limerick. The feedback that we received has been excellent and we are hoping to see more of this in the future.

We are also delighted to have been able to partner up with the Port of Cork, Knock Airport and City of Derry Airport who have all collaborated with us on our 200th celebrations and have allowed us to display our Float To Live messaging.



A sad goodbye

We are saddened to hear that, Mary Breen; Water Safety Adviser for Lough Ree Lifeboat Station for many years has passed away.

We wish Mary's family our condolences at this time.

Education

Our education volunteers have been busy within the last quarter making sure our water safety messaging has reached as many children as possible around the region.

We saw a programme called Student Safe run in Baldoyle, Dublin, which has been identified a high-risk county. Along with other emergency services 350 students received a wide range of safety messages. In Nenagh, the tourist office organised and facilitated us for another two-day water safety education event which saw another 301 students receive our vital messaging. This was also another recognised high-risk county with inland lakes.

Thank you to all our volunteers who have been visiting schools within the last few weeks.



In other news

During March and April our focus was on sailing and boating. We ran two highly successful events in Howth and Dun Laoghaire which incorporated boating safety talks and life jackets checks.

Many lifejacket clinics have been completed and in February 84 lifejackets were presented at these clinics with a fault rate of 74%. We have asked for our lifeboat press officers to post more information about lifejackets on our behalf to not only provide more awareness to wear them but to also maintain them.

As part of this focus, we have also attended the Dive Show and the Skippers Expo meeting with both boat users and commercial fishermen. We were also delighted to be part the St. Patricks Day parade in Dublin this year.

SCOTLAND

Hello and welcome to Water Safety Scotland's spring quarterly update for 2024.

As an indication, at the time of writing this there has been 110 completed evaluations totalling 20,000 water safety engagements with members of the public. 74 of these interventions are through delivery of our youth messaging in schools and youth groups.

Irvine Maritime Museum

Water Safety volunteers, Richard Paton and Vincent McWhirter have been working collaboratively on a Water Safety exhibition at the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine. The exhibition, that will be in place until September at the Maritime Museum consists of model lifeboat displays, history boards of Troon lifeboat and lifeboat videos consisting of film clips interspersed with Water Safety education messages. The museum itself hosts historic craft and lifeboats including RNLB TBG, pictured below, and has supported us in showing some of the RNLI's history for its 200th Anniversary. The museum has also agreed to share our Water Safety messaging with schools and youth groups that will visit and will be keeping us updated with the amount of engagements that they complete over the summer period.



May Day Dook

Water Safety Officer for Anstruther lifeboat station, David Corstorphine has played an integral role in delivering our dipping and cold-water messaging to students at St. Andrews University who, in an annual tradition perform a cold-water dip at East Sands Beach on the breaking of dawn on May Day.

Prior to the dip, David had managed to encourage the University administrators to share our messaging in a University wide email to over 10,000 students alongside useful information for the dip and links to the RNLI's webpage.

On the morning of the dip, David attended a briefing at 03:45am. This was hosted by the University student services along other emergency services to an audience of around 3000 students. When David left at 06:15 am there was a trickling of students eager to join this longstanding tradition but their main difference now as that they were equipped with a more in-depth knowledge of how-to cold-water dip safely.



Lifejacket clinic

Well done to all Water Safety teams across Scotland that have recently completed lifejacket clinic training. From this training we have already seen some fantastic work, along with some not so fantastic lifejackets! A list of lifeboat stations who have completed their training so far are:

- Oban
- Tobermory
- North Berwick
- Dunbar
- Helensburgh
- Troon
- Girvan
- Kirkcudbright
- Kippford
- Kessock
- Loch Ness



SCOTLAND CONTINUED ...

Our ongoing commitment to recruitment

As mentioned in the previous Water Safety newsletter the recruitment for the Water Safety teams in Scotland has been in full swing with recruitment now completed for twelve lifeboat stations across the region.

Due to the large number of stations the individual congratulations for the new Water Safety volunteers will be given when they are better settled and comfortable within their new volunteer roles.

Aberdeen Man overboard and Commercial Fishing Expo

On May 8 and 9, Regional Water Safety team members Ray Cunningham and Iona Hamilton supported the RNLI's Commercial Fishing Manager, Frankie Horne, with the delivery of the Man overboard awareness course in Aberdeen's training services survival pool along with attending the Scottish commercial fishing expo. Learning from Frankie's knowledge and having some great engagement with the fisherman at the man overboard training has given both Ray and Iona an insight into the experience of commercial fishing as well as some of the challenges that they face daily.



A message from our new Water Safety Delivery Support

Hello my name is Iona and I am the new Water Safety Delivery Support for Scotland.

I have been settling into my new roles with the generous support of the whole water safety team and you our volunteers. Alongside learning my new role, I have been kept on my toes in the RNLI lifeguard world by organising the 2024 Meet the Lifeguard Programme. We are two weeks into the delivery as I write this and our fantastic lifeguards have already delivered to 20 schools in Fife. Pictured below are lifeguard Jacob Adams and lifeguard supervisor, Amy Spencer with their assembly display before their talk. We have five more weeks of sessions to look forward too.



Alongside the Meet the Lifeguard Programme roll out I have been attending events such as Queensferry lifeboat Open Day at Port Edgar and our Man Overboard awareness in Aberdeen. It has been brilliant to get to meet so many of our crew and I am looking forward to meeting more of our enthusiastic #OneCrew. I will be based in Fort William and supporting as many events as I can over the summer month.

Iona Hamilton – Water Safety Delivery Support

SOUTH EAST

SHE Committee

In March 2023, team members from the South East regional water safety team joined the regional SHE committee. Since its inception there have been many valuable contributions made by volunteers and there have been many useful considerations which have been noted by the SHE team and are currently being discussed.

The SHE committee is yours too so please if you have any points to raise leading to the future improvement in the world of Health and Safety then please do let your Education Manager or Water Safety delivery support know. We will then present these points at the quarterly meetings.

Steve Warne – Water Safety Delivery Support

Multi Agency Water Safety Day

On a soggy Sunday in April, Teddington water safety team took part in the annual Water Safety Day hosted by the Crown Estates Commission at the Virginia Water Lake. Amongst many other organisations, the well supported event included representatives from Surrey and Berkshire Fire Brigade, Royal Life Saving Society, Surrey Police and Ambulance Service, Surrey Canoe Club and the New Foundland Dog Rescue team.

The event saw interactive throw bag sessions, plus bankside demonstrations of water rescues by both fire brigades. The RNLI Water Safety Team and the fire brigade led the way in delivering Key Water Safety Messages and even though the weather tried to spoil the event, the teams still interacted with great numbers of the public who were very keen to get involved.



Nick Fecher – Water Safety Delivery Support

Meet the Lifeguard Programme

We are really proud that over the last couple of months lifeguards from across the region have been delivering our Meet the Lifeguard programme in both primary and secondary schools throughout Thanet, East Sussex, Chichester, Portsmouth and London, reaching so far over 8,000 young people. This programme compliments the brilliant work which our water safety volunteers do when delivering in education establishments and it targets hard to reach groups who will not necessarily have had any previous water safety awareness.

We are especially very excited to have ventured into South East London this year where we have been reaching young people who have had little exposure to the coast or even an aquatic environment. We invited along the Black Swim Association to one of our sessions to support us in how we utilise this programme moving forward and reach as many young people from African, Asian and Caribbean communities as possible. The feedback was both brilliant and constructive and we will continue to work closely with the Black Swim Association and other organisations to develop our content for this programme in the future.



Lifejacket Clinics

Over the last few months as a region, 25 lifejacket clinics have been undertaken engaging with over 700 individuals. May bank holiday saw a flurry of activity with a pop-up lifejacket clinic organised by Bembridge water safety team checking 53 jackets and imparting advice to over 60 individuals. Over the same weekend Teddington water safety team ran a lifejacket clinic at Shepperton Marina. 87 lifejackets were checked with 33 advised to be taken out of service.



SOUTH WEST

Water Safety

The Water Safety teams across the South West have been actively engaged in training for the coming summer season and assisting others with training. The Isles of Scilly water safety team now have trained education volunteers on the island their water safety team have also assisted in the delivery of some throw bag training to the local fire service.

The water safety team in Falmouth have been incredibly busy delivering water safety in the community and have been receiving great reviews. A member of Mylor Yacht Club stated; 'it was one of the best presentations I've attended, thank you' after attending a presentation by Falmouth water safety team.

The water safety teams across the South West are now looking towards the large and smaller events that are planned across the region. Some of the bigger shows include the County Shows, Bath and West Devon County and the Royal Cornish Show. There is a special excitement surrounding the shows as this is our 200th year and the RNLI is the chosen charity for some of these larger events.



Isles of Scilly Fire Service Throw bag Training

Plymouth Water Safety Team visit Poole

Plymouth Water Safety team recently visited our central support team in Poole for the day and had a great time exploring the ALC, the RNLI College, the Central Operations and Incident Response room as well as a tour of Poole lifeboat station with a networking visit with Poole Lifeboat Water Safety Officer, Chris Holloway.



Water Safety Education

This year has seen another record breaking year for the Meet the Lifeguard Programme in schools. The programme has reached 403 schools so far with trained lifeguards delivering a targeted beach safety meet the lifeguard programme to 49,294 school children in the South West from the 15 April to the 3 May 2024.

Our amazing water safety volunteers who are education trained have been busy participating in life skills events for upper primary school aged children and they have also been busy spreading our core water safety messages within schools and youth groups with a special emphasis to the RNLI's 200th year.

The water safety team in Teignmouth have been busy delivering our Young Adult Programme in large further education colleges. The programme has now reached seven large further education colleges in the South West this year and the programme is really building on the fundamental relationships with these colleges. One example is Bicton college. Volunteers have previously delivered the Young Adult Programme to the protective services students and after were invited to attend a ceremony in April marking the students completion of their 100 mile charity trekking challenge in support of the RNLI and Royal Marines Charity.



Falmouth Water Safety Team and Lifeguards at life skills events



Meet the Lifeguard program in action

A Headteacher's Thanks

Reverend Albert Cadmore, Water Safety Adviser for Great Yarmouth and Gorleston lifeboat station recently received a lovely note from a headteacher after delivering a Water Safety Assembly to a school. The note states;

'I just wanted to thank you again for visiting us again and delivering such a super assembly. As another way of thanking you, we are having a non-uniform day tomorrow, with donations from families going to the RNLI.'

With 18 education presentations confirmed for this year and more in the pipeline, the North and East team would like to thank Albert for his continued and invaluable work in the community delivering lifesaving messages and simultaneously fundraising for the RNLI.

Liam Fayle-Parr – Water Safety Delivery Support



Albert Cadmore

Lifejacket Clinic Importance

During a recent visit to Happisburgh lifeboat station, Water Safety Delivery Support, Liam Fayle-Parr was approached by Simon Tibble, Lifeboat Visit Officer, asking if the water safety teams still conducted Lifejacket Clinics. Simon proceeded to tell Liam that 15 years ago the water safety team had visited the South Yorkshire Boat Club and had taught him how to check and maintain his lifejacket. Every year since then, Simon has made sure to annually check his lifejackets according to the advice he was given that day.

Simon is one of many of many people who are now out enjoying their boating in a safer manner because of the ongoing engagement our water safety teams give. Pete Barnard, Water Safety Officer for Skegness lifeboat station, was the person to run that lifejacket clinic to the boat club 15 years ago and is still delivering high engagement into his 23rd year of volunteering. Well done to Pete and his team.

Liam Fayle-Parr – Water Safety Delivery Support



Simon Tibble



Pete Barnard

Redcar Education Thank you

John Reece and Rob Eddon, Water Safety volunteers for Redcar lifeboat station have received glowing feedback from Rye Hill Academy. The deputy headteacher, Kerry Scott said;

'This is the second time the volunteers have visited and as usual they were extremely professional, accommodating and gave an excellent talk to the students about water safety. It was informative and students and staff all enjoyed their assemblies.'

The North and East team would just like to say a massive thank you to both John and Rob for continuing to deliver excellent talks and spreading out water safety messaging.



NORTH AND EAST CONTINUED

Holy Island Taskforce

Over the Easter holidays, the water safety team at Seahouses lifeboat station began their yearly taskforce at Holy Island. Every year members of the public get cut off by the tide at the Island causeway and is a top risk for the lifeboat station.

Seahouses Water Safety Officer, Lynsey Carr and Water Safety Adviser, Iain Saunders have been speaking to people face to face to make sure that everyone crossing the causeway is kept safe. To plan for these interventions, the team looked at the top risk periods for when people were more likely to get into trouble. Over the busy easter weekends the teams have managed to engage with over 100 people during the high-risk period.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the success of the taskforce after the summer.



Girlguiding North and East – Mayday Mayday!

On 1 May 2024, we invited 40 local rainbows, brownies guides and rangers, their unit leaders as well as county and divisional commissioners for the UK's largest youth organisation dedicated to girls, to launch the water safety resources and Mayday badge at Bridlington lifeboat station.

The event started with an introduction to the challenge pack from one of its creators, Water Safety Adviser and lifeboat visits team member for Bembridge Lifeboat Station, Deborah Meadows.

We heard inspirational presentations from British Adventurer and Girlguiding ambassador [Jasmine Harrison](#). Jasmine holds two world records for being the youngest solo woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean and the first female to swim from Lands End to John O'Groats. We then heard from Anna Heslop, who told a story about her unique introduction into the RNLI after witnessing an incident and making the emergency call for the 'Sea Police' and how she is now in command of the boat she called for as the first female helm at Cullercoats lifeboat station.

We are the second area to launch the Mayday Mayday! Challenge pack resource and we will continue to work with other Girlguiding regions within the North and East region to promote the opportunity. With 42,000 members now having access to the information we can hope that we are creating some safer individuals and communities when visiting open water sites and potentially inspiring the next generation of future crew for the RNLI.

A special thanks to Bridlington lifeboat station management team, crew, water safety and engagement volunteers who made the launch an incredible success by providing the venue, activities and hopefully lasting memories for all those who attend.



Thank you from Water Safety Lead – Nick Ayers

Thank you for everything you do for the RNLI and to promote our Water Safety messaging. This is just a small snap shot of the work that has been carried out across the North and East region. As we gear up to another busy summer, please continue to share your work through the evaluation form and do send in some pictures of your work when you can to our email Watersafety_NE@rnli.org.uk

As always, thank you. Enjoy the sunshine and take care!



WALES, WEST & ISLE OF MAN

Water Safety in Cumbria

Whilst Water Safety has always been at the forefront of minds across schools, agencies and organisations in Cumbria we can now really celebrate that Cumbria Council now has an active Water Safety Partnership led by the Fire Service. There are now Water Safety teams at every Lifeboat Station in the county and that the informal partnership with the National Park Lake Wardens to promote Boating Water Safety messaging and Lifejacket clinics is also ongoing. Special thanks to WSO Lindsey Cockburn embracing the role, completing training and leading with so much passion in the Barrow Community whilst also providing a valuable link to Associated British ports.



Sarah Lewis – Water Safety Delivery Support

Informal Partnership with Beach Wardens



We are supporting Anglesey Council Beach Warden teams with very basic water safety information that is important for what they do and is easily accessible in their roles as wardens. In preparation for the 2024 season, 15 beach wardens across Anglesey have been provided with this basic information. Thank you to Tony Hardman, Water Safety Officer at Trearddur Bay and Mike Doran, Regional SHE lead for providing the wardens with a basic knowledge of the RNLI resources and the steps they can take to 'call for help' early and support the preparations in case of an emergency in their local area.

Sarah Lewis – Water Safety Delivery Support

The Mumbles Water Safety Signage

After the regional 'Get Connected Event' our Water Safety Team at The Mumbles lifeboat station, Kate Croall Water Safety Officer and Sidney Wilkins, Sandra Knight and Roger Jenkins, Water Safety Advisers, identified an urgent need for tidal cut off warning signage on The Mumbles middle and outer island. The team were keen to lead the project and started researching local signage companies that could potentially help them. Kate sought out who the islands were owned by to seek the permission of the landowners for the signage to be placed.

After communication with various departments including the council and numerous site visits to the Islands along with the help of Josh, lifeboat coxswain. Kate was able to submit plans for the proposed locations of the signs. Photos were taken by Kate on a spring high tide to highlight the contrast between low and high tide and were chosen for the signs. QR Codes were produced, and the signs were ready to be printed. With all the above information Kate was then able to get quotations for the signs and posts.

After the close liaison with Swansea Council, it was agreed the council would provide the signs and to site them on the council owned islands. The private lands owners had also agreed for warning signs to be placed in what was deemed a high-risk area and these signs were kindly provided to us by the manager of Signs Express, Sharon Perkins. Kate also wanted to make good use of an existing portable RNLI information sign. Again, Sharon from Signs Express has kindly provided the team with a vinyl sticker with the warning messages to add to the sign.

Kate and the team have managed such great work within 3 months just in time for the busiest period of summer.



Kate Croall – Water Safety Officer



His Majesty King Charles III announced as RNLI's new Patron



King Charles III succeeds Queen Elizabeth II and continues the tradition of patronage for our charity by the reigning monarch, which began when RNLI was founded in 184 with King George IV as its patron.

The King has a long history with the RNLI and has made several visits to lifeboat stations and sites over the years with the most recent to St Ives RNLI Lifeboat Station in July last year.

His Majesty's first ever engagement was on 7 July 1964 when, as the Prince of Wales, His Royal Highness accompanied The Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh and HRH The Princess Royal to Cowes on the Isle of Wight to observe sea trials of a new Waveney class lifeboat.

During the 1980s, His Majesty officially named the Arun class lifeboat *Snolda* in Aith, Scotland and the Rother Class lifeboat *The Princess of Wales* in Barmouth.

The appointment of His Majesty King Charles III as Patron has been approved by the RNLI Trustee Board, in line with our charity's constitution and byelaws. To read the full article then visit [Volunteer Zone](#).

RNLI lifeboat crews and lifeguards saved 355 lives last year



The RNLI has released its operational figures for 2023, revealing that our charity's lifeboat crews and lifeguards saved a total of 355 lives last year – almost one life saved for every day of the year.

The data captured between January and December 2023 – highlights the continuing demand for the services for our volunteer lifeboat crews, with 9,192 lifeboat launches over the course of the year. RNLI volunteer crew members saved the lives of 269 people over the course of 2023, whilst the charity's beach lifeguard saved 86 lives.

As we head toward summer, we're getting ready for our lifeguards to return to beaches, while also encouraging public to answer the call for this year's Mayday campaign.

For more information on the statistics from last year then keep an eye out for the latest loud and clear to be released soon found on [Volunteer Zone](#).

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.



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...

June 3 – June 9 – Volunteers Week

Volunteers' week starts on 3 June in the UK. Take some time to celebrate the RNLI's amazing volunteers.

June 7 – June 9 – The Big Help Out

Raising awareness of volunteering throughout the UK and provide opportunities for people to experience volunteering and make a difference in their communities.

June 15 – RNLI Summer Ball Poole College

RNLI's 9th Annual Summer Ball taking place on Saturday 15 June 2024. Tickets are £38 to include arrival prosecco and two course meal. Please speak to college reception for tickets.

June 16 – Pembroke Castle RNLI Festival

A family open day within the walls of Pembroke Castle and your chance to meet our lifesavers.

June 25 – World Drowning Prevention Day

Please see further details regarding this in Water Safety News.

August 1 – One Moment for One Crew

'One moment for One Crew' is an opportunity for the RNLI people to come together in their respective communities on 1.8.24 at 18:24 to take a photo of their one crew and hold a celebration of their choice.

August 19 – September 29 – One Crew: Your View volunteer and staff surveys open

In Our Watch we said we want all volunteers and staff to love being part of the RNLI, and feel inspired to do their best to take our charity forward. One way in which we ensure the views of our people are heard is through seeking feedback surveys.

As we head into one of our busiest seasons, we really hope that you feel informed and empowered to deliver our Water Safety messaging within your communities far and wide and celebrating our 200th 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.