

EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT STATION NEWSLETTER

The Awards Edition Spring 2016

Welcome to the spring edition of the Exmouth Lifeboat station newsletter, in this edition we are celebrating the achievements of our station. We are proud to announce two gold RNLI badges have been awarded to our fundraising volunteers.

50 years of Dedicated Service to the RNLI

Jean Carpenter has been recognised for 50 years of dedicated service to the RNLI. Jean, who now lives in Woodbury, began her fundraising for the RNLI in 1976 when she lived in southern Ireland. Jean began by collecting donations in envelopes, delivered through front doors, 'it was only a small village but everyone understood the important work the RNLI did, even in the poorer area they used to run after me down the street with their envelopes!'

On moving back to England Jean carried on her work fundraising for the RNLI and was awarded a silver badge in 2008.

Jean still runs the RNLI fundraising in Woodbury and opens her garden for the charity and sells plants, she still tirelessly raises money, Jean says, 'I'll carry on fundraising as long as I can, I do it so the lifeboat can get launched and lives can be saved at sea'.



RNLI Gold Badge Recipient Has Lifesaving in his Bones

Michael Baldwin received the news he was to be awarded a Gold Badge from the RNLI for his 35 years of dedicated fundraising for the institution. Mike began his fundraising for the RNLI when he worked for the ambulance service in Lewisham, 'although there was no lifeboats in London on the Thames at the time, I understood the importance of the work the RNLI do, so I began fundraising for the Lewisham branch of the RNLI and was so surprised when I stood there with my collecting tin and people would ask what is a lifeboat?' Mike has also been a bone marrow donor for the Anthony Nolan Trust; in 1992 he was a successfully matched to a 14-year-old girl suffering from Leukemia in Italy. His bone marrow was flown from London by special air-courier to Rome.

Mike was awarded his silver badge in 1997, he moved to Exmouth 9 years ago and joined the Exmouth fundraising team and became a shop volunteer and is also active in fundraising events at the station and the wider community. Mike believes fundraising should be fun, and he has no desire to stop what he loves doing best.

Jean and Mike will be awarded their Gold Badges at an RNLI award ceremony on June 30 at Dartington Hall.

Volunteer crewmember David Preece will also be recognized at the Dartington award ceremony for his 20 years of dedicated service to the RNLI.



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Shop News By Pat Atkinson

We were pleased to welcome four new shop volunteers in January, Karen, Betty, Diane and Heather. With Easter just around the corner, their help will be very much appreciated. We are currently holding a waiting list for new volunteers, but don't let that stop you if you are thinking you would like to volunteer come and leave your name and contact details with us, and we will get in touch.

We have some exciting new products coming in at the beginning of March, in particular a new "designer" range called 25 knots - inspired by aspects of the design of the Shannon lifeboat. This includes a shopper, gift bags, tea towels, and stationery. There are many other new items, along with your old favourites too, so do pay us a visit when you are next out for a stroll on the sea front!



Exmouth RNLI Fourth Busiest in Devon By Emma Tarling

Our statistics from last year reveal that we launched 57 times (12 Shannon and 45 D class) with nearly half (27) the services carried out in the dark. Our volunteer crew saved nine lives, assisted 49 people and spent 245 hours at sea. We were the fourth busiest lifeboat station in Devon.

The number of call-outs dropped significantly last year and this could be of a number of factors: Nationally, our charity's Respect the Water campaign gained huge publicity over the summer months and we continue to inform anyone near the coast of the unpredictability of water throughout the year.

We work closely with our lifeguard colleagues, both RNLI and Exmouth Beach Rescue volunteers during the summer that reduces the need to launch lifeboats to watersports casualties.

Together with the continuous work of our Education and Coastal Safety volunteers, we're all working towards reducing the number of preventable loss of lives at sea, as a Community Lifesaving team.

Exmouth lifeboat station set to recruit visitor guides

By Emma Tarling

Lifeboat Visits Officer, Derek Cairns is asking for members of the community who would like to become station visitor guides at Exmouth Lifeboat station. Derek says: 'We have a high demand for visits to look at our Shannon class lifeboat *R and J Welburn*, its launch and recovery system and D class inshore lifeboat *George Bearman*. We currently run organised group tours but we would like to be available to show visitors around throughout the week.

'We hope to attract people who are enthusiastic and have good communication skills who are confident to deliver short talks to a diverse group of visitors throughout the year. Training will be given and prospective visitor guides will need to **commit** to agreed hours to enhance visitor experience.'

The recruitment open days will be held between 11am and 2pm on Saturday 12, Sunday 13 and Saturday 26 March at the lifeboat station on Queens Drive, Exmouth. EX8 2AY. Details are on our website or email Derek: visits@exmouthlifeboat.org.uk

Crafters wanted!

This year Exmouth RNLI fundraising team are planning a Christmas craft fair to be held on November 19 at Exmouth Community College Telfer Building. If you are a local crafter, or know someone that is, we would love to hear from you! For more details please keep a look out on our Facebook and twitter pages or email Beryl: thecolehole@uwclub.net



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RNLI Teamwork and Training Saved Lives on a Stormy Day



Roger Jackson was awarded a Bronze Medal for Gallantry from the RNLI in 2012 for the life saving actions of himself and the crew onboard Exmouth's D Class *George Bearman*.

The shout came through on Sunday 23 October 2011 to rescue four people from a capsized RIB in the river Exe, Roger was the helm, and his crew was Andy Williams and Mark Champion. The lifeboat launched in gale force 7, the crew located the upturned vessel and Roger steered towards them and held the boat steady whilst one by one the four swam from their upturned vessel and were helped aboard by Andy and Mark. With the four safely onboard the crew headed back to the station where conditions were too unsafe for a trolley recovery, Roger beached the boat high on the beach so the paramedics could attend to the survivors.

The crew carried out the rescue and beach landing in 24 minutes.

Roger says, 'we worked as a team and got a good result. Without the right equipment and training programs in place, it could so easily have been a different outcome. The honour I received is for the station and the crew.'

Andy and Mark were awarded Vellums for their role in the rescue of the four. Roger is now one of the deputy coxswains at Exmouth, Mark is a helm and navigator, both work their day jobs and are volunteer crew and Andy is now the full time station mechanic.

Exmouth RNLI volunteers assist four from two stricken yachts

By Emma Tarling

Inshore lifeboat *George Bearman* was tasked at 12.35pm on 28 February following reports of two yachts aground in the Exe estuary.

At 12:42pm *George Bearman* reached the first casualty vessel, a 27-foot lifting keel sailboat with two people on board, just off Cockwood. Once on scene, it was apparent that the vessel had beached too hard in the sand bank to attempt a tow, so crew volunteers advised the casualties they would return after checking on the second stricken vessel.

A 39-foot deep-keeled ketch was soon located upriver, also high and dry. The two experienced local sailors had already streamed anchors to prevent their yacht blowing further onto a mud bank in the force two/three winds. Advice was given and it was estimated the casualties should be able to float between 7pm and 7.30pm.

On returning to the first casualty vessel, volunteers streamed one anchor to hold the boat when it refloated. A commercial operator was also tasked to assist the owner recover their yacht that had grounded due to mechanical failure, estimating the flood tide would lift the vessel at 6.15pm. The local couple were taken ashore to Exmouth by the crew volunteers to warm up.

Helmsman David Preece commented: 'All four of the casualties had lifejackets and were fully equipped for their journeys, but bad luck and propulsion difficulties halted their sailing for several hours.'



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Wall of Fame

Lifeboat Crew Medals & Vellum

1831 – Silver Medal – Lt. John Sargeant

1851 – Silver Medal – Thomas Pincombe

1894 - Silver Medal for Gallantry - John Bradford, Uriah Bradford & George Prowse

1938 – Thanks on Vellum – Coxswain Thomas Horne

1954 – Bronze Medal – Coxswain Harold Bradford

1966 – Thanks of the Institution on Vellum – Coxswain Brian Rowsell and crew Peter Rowsell

1985 – Thanks on Vellum and Service of Merit Badge – Geoffrey Ingram

2011 – Bronze Medal For Gallantry – Roger Jackson

2011 – Vellums – Andy Williams and Mark Champion

RNLI Fundraising Badges

Bronze - Alan Burton

Silver - Geoffrey Williams, Bernice Williams, Beryl Cole, Don Hodgkinson

Gold – Maureen Chandler, Brian Cole, Jean Carpenter, Mike Baldwin

(Information from Don Hodgkinson)

Forthcoming Events

26.03.2016 – 1100 – 1400 hrs. Recruitment of Visitor Guides

18.04.2016 – 1930 hrs. Fundraising AGM at Exe Sailing Club

10.07.2016 – Time TBC. Sea Sunday Service, Boat hall, Exmouth Lifeboat

30.07.2016 – Time TBC. RNLI Fish and Chip Supper, Boat hall, Exmouth Lifeboat Station

Exercises

23.03.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

06.04.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

20.04.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

04.05.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

18.05.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

01.06.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

15.06.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

29.06.2016 – 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

13.07.2016 - 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

27.07.2016 - 1800 hrs. Shannon Exercise

Opt In

Your support saves lives, and we'd love to keep you posted with our news, activities and appeals. Your details will only be used by the RNLI – we will never give your information to other organisations to use for their own purposes. You are free to change your mind at any time.

Please check our social media and website for any amendments and added events

www.exmouthlifeboat.org.uk

Facebook: Exmouth RNLI

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