

# SHOUT OUT

January 2022

THE EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT SUPPORTERS NETWORK

## Exmouth Lifeboat Shouts:

See pages 2-6 for details of the busy autumn the lifeboats have had.

## Lifeboat Operations

The Ramp rebuild and some of the new additions and developments with our crew and management. See page 5-6

## RNLI Fundraising, Exmouth Lifeboat Shop, Visits Team

All the latest from these teams. See pages 6-7 for details.

Welcome to the New Year edition of the newsletter for all our current and former supporters / helpers / crew / etc. of Exmouth Lifeboat Station

Do check out the Station Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ExmouthRNLI/> where there are many more reports on activity round the station and videos of exercises.



Happy New year to all. As a Friend of the Station, you all know that our volunteer crews are available for Saving Lives at Sea, 24x7x365 days of the year. This year, we sadly commemorated the forty years since the Penlee disaster. On 19<sup>th</sup> December 1981, the crew of the Penlee RNLI lifeboat Solomon Browne lost their lives striving to save others in difficulty at sea. On the anniversary, the Exmouth crew lit up the lifeboat and held two minutes silence for the 8 courageous, selfless, and brave volunteer crew who lost their lives in the service of others in appalling conditions that disastrous night.

I know you will join me in supporting our brilliant crews, who continue the traditions exemplified by the Penlee lifeboat all those years ago, in saving lives at sea.

*Ian Taylor*  
*Exmouth Lifeboat Operations Manager*

## EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT SHOUTS

06/09/2021 – 01:37

SW Ambulance Service had been in telecommunication with a distressed individual threatening to go into the water at Dawlish Warren steps. Individual had ceased to communicate but line still open, suggesting they had separated from the phone. ILB launch page at 01:40. ALB on instant readiness as there was some sea mist and could launch immediately if further assistance required for search.

ILB on station at 02:04. Casualty had been located by ambulance crew and was taken to safety. Both boats stood down at this point. Recovery complete 02:45.

08/09/2021 – 17:22

First responder atop the cliffs at Budleigh Golf Club heard loud shouts for help but no visual contact with the person(s) requiring assistance. The ILB was already afloat doing assessments off Dawlish Warren and was SAR ready. CG asked the ILB to investigate. DLA authorised the launch of the ALB to assist the ILB in locating the casualty(s). Both boats searched the shoreline between Budleigh and Otter Cove and back again but no trace of any person or persons requiring assistance. Three kayakers were asked if they had shouted for help or heard shouts themselves this proved negative. ILB returned to station to refuel at 18.05 and was back on scene at 19.05. The ALB continued to look for the person shouting for help. After nothing was found the ILB was tasked to investigate a situation on the west side of Straight Point. Two persons fishing from a ledge were unaware that they'd been cut off by the tide. ILB took two people ashore at Sandy Bay with the ALB standing by.



15/09/2021 – 02:25

At 0203 CG requested launch of ILB to assist police in search for an apparently suicidal male who had travelled from Leeds to go to Langstone Rock for the purpose of committing suicide. He was reported to have telephoned the police and was threatening to injure himself.

ILB launched at 0217 arriving on scene at 0225. Meanwhile at 0219 the CG reported that the police had been unable to locate the casualty but he had telephoned and said that he had cut his wrists. Launch of the ALB was requested and approved at 0220.

The ILB crew landed on the beach on the west side of Langstone Rock, two proceeded to climb the rock carrying all their Casualty Care equipment at the request of the police who had minimal first aid equipment and little first aid training. One crew member remained as the boat keeper.

The ALB, having launched was stood down at 0229 as the casualty had been located. The police requested the ILB remain on station as it was undecided whether to extricate the casualty by sea or by air. The casualty had cut his wrists and arms and was found to have a five-inch knife stuck in his parietal bone and was bleeding profusely from many sites. The police had done what they could but with little training and an inadequate first aid box. Due to the position of the knife, it was not possible to pack the wound. The police had applied pressure from the beginning and it was agreed that moving their hands could cause the knife to move resulting in further injury. Due to the extra oxygen equipment carried by the ILB it was used whilst further monitoring the casualty's

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condition to endeavour to stabilise him. It was noticeable that there was a significant head trauma by the reduced consciousness and the swelling of his right eye that was closing and had turned black.

It was decided to be too dangerous to move the casualty by the two ILB crew and Teignmouth mobile down the cliff and the CG helicopter was called for. The Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) arrived on scene and took over casualty management at 0245.

The helicopter arrived at 0332. Oxygen continued to be administered by the crew, the casualty remained barely conscious during the time that the helicopter took to arrive but was kept talking.

The paramedic took the casualty and was winched up to the helicopter, the highline being handled by the ILB crew members, and departed at 0415. The casualty was admitted to Cardiff Royal Infirmary at 0530. Later that day he was reported as being in a stable condition.

The two ILB crew members descended on a slightly safer route down the rock to the east side of Langstone Rock where the third crew member had brought the ILB to Dawlish Warren beach where a full debrief with police, HART and CG took place.

26/09/2021 – 14:40

Initial page from CG after receiving a 999 call. Confused reports of number of occupants, motorboat with 3 on board approximately 1 nm S/E of RNLI boathouse, engine failure and taking on water.

DLA requested immediate launch of the ILB and bring ALB to immediate readiness. Casualty located in the surf on the far side of the bar beyond the safe water mark. ILB took the casualty under tow, escorted by the ALB and returned to Belshers slipway. No medical assistance required.

27/09/2021 – 14:38

Exeter Harbourmaster reported a 17 foot dayboat with engine failure, 2 males aboard, close to No 17 channel buoy. They were attempting to row but gradually being swept out to sea on a strong ebb. CG requested launch to assist. ILB paged at 1432, launched at 1438, on scene at 1452. Casualty vessel towed ashore to south end of Starcross at 1507. Arrived back at Exmouth 1516.



04/10/2021 – 17:51

We received a tasking request at 17:51 from the Coast Guard to investigate a report of a kayak afloat in the River Exe without a paddler present and to see if there was a person in distress. The 1st responder reported the red and orange kayak floating towards Lymestone.

The ILB was launched to investigate. They found the kayak and put it ashore. Following a search of the adjacent river and shoreline they could not find any evidence of a paddler. After completing the search, the ILB returned to the station at 18:45.

07/10/2021 – 19:31

Coastguard reported a call from a member of the public describing a 22-26' yacht maneuvering erratically adjacent to Orcombe Point and in danger of running aground. The vessel was reported as having navigation lights and with sails down or stowed.

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ILB was launched and crew contacted verbally. This was a familiar vessel and crew, who seemed to be in a state of intoxication and unable to effectively navigate. ILB helm advised them to moor at a visitor mooring and proceed the next day. Crew declined advice and indicated they required no assistance and would proceed to mooring at Turf Lock. Vessel showed no identifying name or registration. ILB escorted vessel into estuary and departed for recovery.

DLA followed up with Coastguard and advised that this group had previously been encountered on 19 March, during COVID restrictions. On that occasion the boat was towed to harbour and met by police and coastguard units.

28/10/2021 – 11:55

Tasking Request from Solent CG, Report of person, semi-dressed in the surf line at Orcombe point. Immediate CG authorisation of ILB Launch. 1140 Following discussion with Coxswain DLA authorised Immediate Launch ALB in support of ILB with conditions marginal for ILB 20/30 K onshore wind 1.5 meter breaking swell.

1150 ILB on Scene. ILB Beached Casualty located in surf. Sadly, it was immediately clear the casualty was deceased and beyond resuscitation.

In recognition of the sea state, the ILB was accompanied by ALB returned to Exmouth Marina and transferred body to ALB in the safety of the marina to await emergency services there.

10/11/2021 – 20:07

Coastguard requested support of ALB at 20:03 to search for a woman reported to have fallen in the Shaldon cliffs area. CG AC 10 unit already engaged in search. ALB was on exercise in Lyme Bay and DLA authorised search in support with use of FLIR equipment.



ALB arrived on scene at approximately 20:30 and began search pattern south from Shaldon point. Casualty was found during land search and ALB was stood down at approximately 20:50. Casualty evacuated safely by ambulance at approximately 21:20.

14/11/2021 – 17:52

CG requested the Exmouth ALB lifeboat to assist RNLI Lyme Regis, Sidmouth Independent lifeboat, and Coastguard helicopter in the search of a missing person from a boat that had capsized with three people on board at the mouth of the Axe River. The ALB was launched but was stood down shortly

after as the person was found by the Coastguard helicopter

20/11/2021 – 10:40

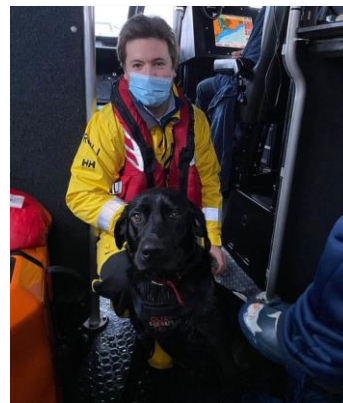
Male in his 50s slipped near the Imperial Recreation Ground, breaking his ankle. ILB already on exercise in the estuary tasked to assist Ambulance and Air Ambulance crews carry him to the ambulance.

23/11/21 – 10:02

Coastguard requested an immediate launch for the D Class. Tasked to Orcombe Point for a suspected suicide. Coastguard attended the scene from the shore. Lifeboat crew went ashore to check for signs of life. The body was subsequently recovered by the Coastguard, with police also in attendance.

31/12/2021 – 15:00

This New Year's Eve, Exmouth RNLI volunteer crew were tasked to rescue two adults, a child and their dog 'Rufus' stranded at Orcombe Point, Exmouth, having been cut off by the tide



## LIFEBOAT OPERATIONS

### RAMP EXTENSION

At last, we have the contractors on site and working on the extension to the ramp down to the bed rock level. Weather permitting this should all be completed by mid-February. The contractors – Earlcote, arrived on site on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and have initially been working on the repair of the sea wall and the encasing of the ramp supports. You will now see a coffer dam erected around the end of the ramp to protect the area of the extension. The concrete ramp beams can then be positioned securely with the full impact of the sea held back.



### RETURNING THE STATION TO NORMAL LAUNCH AND RECOVERY PROCEDURES

We will see the return of the SLARS (the ALB carriage launching unit) by mid-February to coincide with the ramp extension completion. It has been receiving a service by its manufacturer Supacat in Dunkeswell.

Our team of dedicated shore crew have been under utilised since the problems with the beach level dropping first started. In preparation for the return to normal activity we have recruited 3 additional shore crew – Paul Dean, Steve Woodbridge and Duncan Richards. There will be a period of intensive training for all our crews on the launch and recovery procedures later in February. At that time, you will see repeated launches and recoveries using the extended ramp. It is very important that we operate safely at all times, and practice makes perfect.

Of course, getting the ALB back into the boathouse and on its launching carriage has been our priority. It has seemed a long and, at times, tortuous journey getting back to this situation. However, throughout the last 18 months our crews have maintained their operational effectiveness wherever the boats were temporarily positioned. The RNLI have worked hard at getting the necessary permissions, and most of



all you, our friends and supporters, have always been behind us and encouraging us. We all thank you for your support through this.

## RNLI FUNDRAISING



We would like to thank everyone involved in fundraising throughout another very challenging year for the RNLI.

We were very fortunate with some extremely generous donations such as Exmouth’s Manor Lodge Residential Home who donated £1,000 in lieu of their annual Garden Party fundraiser that had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions..

A very big thank you and congratulations must go to the Exmouth RNLI Events team, led by Louise Hockings-Thompson for organising the tremendous fundraising events such as the Boat Jumble at the Boathouse on 17th October, the magnificent Fireworks at the Imperial Recreation Ground on 5th November that raised an amazing £14,700 and the superb Fish Supper at the Point Bar & Grill on 25th November that raised over £640.

Alongside these events Doug & Kath at the Strand pub put on a series of events including a quiz and a buffet during the week commencing 8th

November which raised £250. See the handover in the picture below:

Unfortunately, as we moved into December, we were hit with the news of the latest Covid variant Omicron and we had to cancel two fundraising events. For the Carol Service at Holy Trinity, we look towards having a Spring Concert at Holy Trinity in the New Year and the Bumble Bimble Jingle Fun Run planned for 12th December, discussions will continue to find a suitable date in 2022 for a similar fun run.



In the week before Christmas Leanne Fletcher, the Community Champion at Tesco’s Salterton Road store arranged to have a few collecting buckets instore with our “cardboard cutout” crew member on duty. Approximately £100 was donated by their customers.

The incoming Veterans Captain at Tiverton Golf Club – Dave Turner – is promoting Exmouth RNLI as his nominated charity for his year as Captain. His first planned event is a lunch in January (Omicron permitting), with other events in May and September which we will support.

Thoughts now to turn to 2022 with a number of Fundraising events in the early stages of planning, watch out for the following in the first few months of the year: -

- May                      RNLI Mayday Fun 5km Run
- 21st May                Exmouth RNLI Ball
- 3rd – 5th June        Platinum Jubilee Weekend
- August                 Exmouth RNLI Weekend (including The Open Day at the Boathouse and Exhibition)

**Des White**  
**Chairman, Exmouth Fundraising Group**

## EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT SHOP

Since reopening post Covid, we have streamlined the stock and now have a full complement of very enthusiastic and professional volunteers, which enables the whole operation to run smoothly, giving the customer a very positive buying experience.

Despite not being able to trade for the first 3 months of the year due to Covid and, like many retail outlets, suffering with stock shortages, we have recorded record business month on month and have exceeded 2019 total takings by over £2000.

Poole have promised a revamp of the shop next year, to include repairs/repainting of the walls and new shelving, which should further enhance the buying experience.

We anticipate business going from strength to strength in 2022 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for their dedication and hard work.

***Dave Britten***  
***Shop Manager***

## EXMOUTH VISITS TEAM

The Visits Team were allowed to take groups of up to 5 visitors into the boathouses from June 12th. These visitors were required to complete Track & Trace formalities and wear masks during their visit.

We also saw a resumption of bookings for group visits, with 4 school groups visiting in July. In September we had visiting groups from the Deaf Academy and Natural England Volunteering Support Team.

Our search for new volunteer guides has been successful and we have 3 joined the roster in September.

## COMMUNITY PRESENTERS

For those who didn't know, Exmouth Station now has a dedicated Speaker (Volunteer Community Presenter), George Hislop, who is available to give talks about the RNLI to groups who would like to hear more about us than is shown on Saving Lives at Sea. Talks are free and usually last for 30-45 minutes at a venue of your choice.

To book, go to [talks@exmouthlifeboat.org.uk](mailto:talks@exmouthlifeboat.org.uk) . Tell your friends too!