

# EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT STATION

## The Volunteer Edition Autumn/Winter 2015/2016



**Welcome to the volunteers edition of our Exmouth lifeboat station newsletter. This edition is dedicated to all the volunteers who keep the station running.**

It is not just the volunteer crew who are on call 24/7; there is also the shore crew, tractor drivers, and the DLA's who assist in launching both lifeboats. Without the money raised from the shop volunteers, the fundraising team, donations and legacies bequeathed to us, we would not be able to launch the lifeboats to save lives at sea and keep the lifeboat station operational.

Our thanks also to our families and loved ones who support us in our roles at the station and keep family life running whilst we are at sea.

A very big thank-you to you all!

**Steve Hockings-Thompson, Exmouth RNLI Coxswain**

### Tim Barnes' life as a volunteer

**By Tim and Kelly Barnes**

As a junior member of the British Red Cross in my early teens, I soon learned the importance of a volunteer's role during a crisis or hardship.

This stayed with me during my education and later whilst building up our business, Krispies Fish and Chips. I have always had an affinity for water and admired the work of the RNLI but I didn't want to volunteer to be a crew member until I was sure I could take on such a huge commitment.

Our training every week in all conditions, gives all of us confidence in our two boats and equipment as well as in each other. I am proud to say that last month I passed out as a crew member and finally taking on the ultimate responsibility.

The camaraderie and team spirit here at Exmouth is amazing and I am honoured to have the opportunity of playing a part, going out on a shout in all weathers, day or night, wet, freezing cold and not knowing when we will return. The best part is bringing the survivors to safety. It can be difficult getting the work, home and RNLI balance right but I am fortunate that Kelly and the children are very supportive and wouldn't want it any other way.



### Kelly Barnes' as a WAG

When Tim expressed his ambition to join the RNLI, I was concerned how it would affect our family and work life balance. However two years in, I can only praise his commitment and from my point of view I have gained another family. The wives and girlfriends are very supportive of each other and we regularly meet socially with or without the children and husbands! Our 6-year-old son Charlie says he is going to follow in his daddy's footsteps and be one of the next generation RNLI crew volunteers. He already has the yellow wellies and outfit!

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## OUT ON A SHOUT

By Emma Tarling

Since the naming ceremony of our Shannon class lifeboat *R and J Welburn* on 9 May, Exmouth RNLI crew volunteers have been called out on service a total of 21 times.

At the end of May, a woman fell into the water from a leisure fishing motorboat two miles south of the lifeboat station. Both lifeboats were launched. D class inshore lifeboat *George Bearman* was first on scene and crew volunteers found the casualty clinging to a life ring. They recovered her from the cold sea and administered first aid until Coastguard rescue helicopter 106 winched and transferred the casualty to hospital. Inshore lifeboat Helmsman, Scott Ranft commented:

'When we reached the casualty, the man was unable to pull his wife to safety himself. She had ingested cold seawater and we needed to get her out quickly.

'A large percentage of our call-outs this year have been to rescue casualties in the water without lifejackets and we cannot stress enough the importance of wearing one at sea.'

In September, *George Bearman* launched following reports of four people in difficulty in the river Exe between Topsham and Turf Locks.

The casualties had called 999 for the police from a mobile phone after their small sailing day boat had struck an underwater object, causing their boat to flood. The two men and two women had been sailing up river towards Topsham but were unaware of their precise location. Their boat was not equipped with lights or flares and light was fading quickly in a quiet area of the river Exe.

Crew volunteers were on scene within 14 minutes and found the casualties standing on their sinking boat up to their waists in water, clinging to the two masts. The three volunteers helped the casualties off the sailing boat, into the D class lifeboat.

Volunteer Helm, Roger Jackson commented:

'They were four very lucky people – there's usually no-one around in this part of the river at night and it was getting dark as we set off to search for them. They had embarked on a simple journey up river but found themselves in difficulty and called the police. Within a short amount of time, a lot of water had caused the boat to sink very quickly.'



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## The Station Shop

By Pat Atkinson

Life as a shop volunteer is fun and rewarding and this year has been one of our best ever! Boosted by the Surf life saving championships and the Lifeboat Station open day, the RNLI Lifeboat shop in Exmouth has seen a record breaking summer season in 2015, with sales exceeding £15000 in August for the first time ever! A wonderful achievement and could not have been done without the hard work of the shop volunteers. We have recruited three new people to keep the shop open and fully staffed seven days a week over the winter months. We have had a busy time selling shop merchandise at many outside events, including Armed Forces Day and a Huntingdon's disease charity event in the Strand, a coffee morning at Sidmouth's Riviera Hotel and of course Jean Carpenter's open garden in Woodbury, to name but a few. We are now looking forward to the run up to Christmas and have a large stock of Christmas cards, calendars, and diaries as well as some Christmas food gifts, all of which are available now.

If you are interested in joining our team of shop Volunteers, our working hours are flexible. Contact us: [rnliexmouthshop@gmail.com](mailto:rnliexmouthshop@gmail.com) or pop in and see us at the shop.

### Did you know...

upstairs in our lifeboat shop we have a visitors experience with a history of Exmouth's lifeboats and a viewing gallery to the Shannon class lifeboat, *R and J Welburn* and the SLRS? You can arrange visits to the station by appointment, download the form on our website through the 'visits' link.

[www.exmouthlifeboat.org.uk](http://www.exmouthlifeboat.org.uk)

## The Fundraising Team

By Beryl Cole

The Exmouth Lifeboat Fundraising Team is a group of volunteers who organise various events throughout the year. We have people from all walks of life on our committee and this brings lots of knowledge and experience. We do not set ourselves a financial target, but we do try and beat last year's figure.

Our events are varied and sometimes challenging, as it is not always easy to find enough people to help and they are not all Fundraising.

We have Flag Day collections in Exmouth and Budleigh Salterton stalls at the Station open day, open gardens, a coffee morning at Budleigh Salterton and a collection at the Christmas day swim on the sea front.

It is an exciting and busy life being a volunteer and we get to meet some lovely people at our events. The reward is when we see our lifeboat go out to rescue somebody in difficulties out at sea. If you are interested in fundraising or getting involved please contact me: [thecolehole@uwclub.net](mailto:thecolehole@uwclub.net)



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## Exmouth Lifeboat Station news...in brief!

This year has seen a very active time at the station; we had our naming ceremony in May and a very successful open day in August. September saw the Minis arrive for the Mouth 2 Mouth rally, and we have just waved Stormy Stan goodbye from his visit to the Exmouth illuminated carnival!

Our pre-Christmas events are coming up and don't forget our station shop is open for all your Christmas gifts! Our Shannon class lifeboat, *R and J Welburn* will be out on exercise throughout the winter months.

### Forthcoming Events & Exercises

DATE	TIME	EVENT
11/11/15	1800 hrs	<b>SHANNON EXERCISE</b>
21/11/15	1000-1200 hrs	<b>Budleigh Salterton coffee morning:</b> Entry includes a cup of coffee and a biscuit. Stalls to include; Craft, books, cakes, RNLI souvenirs
25/11/15	1800 hrs	<b>SHANNON EXERCISE</b>
26/11/15	1930 hrs	<b>Exmouth Sailing Club Cheese &amp; Wine Evening</b>
05/12/15	1100 hrs	<b>Christmas Cracker: RNLI stall in the Strand, Exmouth</b>
09/12/15	1800 hrs	<b>SHANNON EXERCISE</b>
12/12/15	1600 hrs	<b>Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth:</b> RNLI service of 9 lessons and carols by candlelight
16/12/15	1800 hrs	<b>SHANNON EXERCISE</b>
25/12/15	TBC	<b>Christmas Day swim:</b> <i>R &amp; J Welburn</i> to be launched for PR

Please see social media for any amendments

### Lifeboat Shouts

DATE	LIFEBOAT	DESCRIPTION
08/04/15	ALB/ILB	Four people saved from sinking speedboat
23/05/15	ALB/ILB	Woman overboard from fishing boat
25/06/15	ILB	Man stuck in mud on an incoming tide
27/06/15	ALB	Yacht with engine failure
01/07/15	ILB	Small fishing boat drifting out to sea
02/07/15	ILB	Broken down speedboat
07/07/15	ALB/ILB	Sinking fishing trawler in river Exe
15/07/15	ALB	Motor cruiser in difficulty
17/07/15	ILB	Flooded leisure craft
31/08/15	ALB/ILB	Broken down speedboat
17/09/15	ILB	Sinking sailing boat at Topsham
28/09/15	ILB	Man cut off by tide at Lympstone

ALB – *R and J Welburn* 13-03  
ILB – *George Bearman* D669



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