

SHOUT OUT

February 2023

THE EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT SUPPORTERS NETWORK

Exmouth Lifeboat Shouts:

See pages 2-5 for details of the active start to the year.

Lifeboat Operations

Operations update along with our crew and management. See page 5-7.

RNLI Fundraising, Exmouth Lifeboat Shop, Visits Team

All the latest from these teams. See pages 7-9 for details.

Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of the newsletter for all our current and former supporters / helpers / crew / etc. of Exmouth Lifeboat Station. Of course, the paramount event from the last newsletter was the sad news of our Patron, Queen Elizabeth, passing away at the beginning of September.

We can all look forward to the coronation of our new king, Charles III later this year. When Sir William Hillary established the RNLI on 4 March 1824, King George IV became Patron. Since then, the reigning monarch has always held the position.



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. You will also find links to the fantastic fundraising efforts by Crew member Dougie Wright and Tim Jones, which are described later in the Newsletter.

Welcome again to our newsletter for all of you who have been supporters, helpers or crew at Exmouth Lifeboat Station. Our aim is to give a good insight into the workings of the lifeboat station.

Do get in touch if there are any items you would like to see covered in a future issue. As always there have been a number of developments and new faces to update you on, but first there follow the narratives of all the shouts we have attended since the last newsletter.

Ian Taylor
Exmouth Lifeboat Operations Manager

EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT SHOUTS

03/09/2022 – 09:40

ILB launched following Coastguard request to retrieve 3 people trapped by rising tide on beach. ILB picked up the three people (one adult and two younger people) and brought them back to the beach by the Lifeboat station.

09/09/22 – 16:24

At 16:24 the DLA received a direct call from a yacht in distress. The yacht's steering system had failed and was drifting outside the entrance to the river Exe with 4 persons on board. The ALB was launched and took the yacht, Matthew Flinders, under tow to its mooring.

14/09/22 – 20:45

Tasking request from Solent Coastguard: Broken down RIB Exe estuary vicinity of 13 buoy. 2 POB one child. ILB launched and RIB located and towed to Marina.

15/09/2022 – 11:30

At 11:22 on the 15/9/22 the RNLI received a tasking request to attend to a Dinghy that was drifting towards moorings near Bull Head bank in the River Exe. At 11:30 the ILB launched and arrived on scene at 11:40. The ILB took the dinghy in tow and returned the dinghy to the beach with both dinghy sailors brought safely ashore.

17/09/2022 – 19:35

Coastguard reported call from Tudor Rose craft that an individual in a tender dinghy was in difficulties in Exe estuary near to #20 buoy. Tender was from a Cornish shrimper run aground attempting to reach mooring at Starcross Yacht Club. Member of RNLI crew reported that individual seemed less than competent to navigate craft and requested ILB to assist in order to prevent further mishap.

ILB launched at 19:35 and assisted with tow to mooring, leaving the sailor safely on beach at 20:35.



18/09/2022 – 16:10

Coastguard requested launch to broken down jet ski fouled on mooring in Exe estuary. Attended scene but River Exe harbour patrol boat already on scene and had retrieved casualties plus had ski in tow. ILB stood by to assist if needed then returned to station.

24/09/2022 – 09:40

Coastguard paged tasking request at 09:30 to yacht aground in Exe estuary opposite Powderham sands. Reported that the boat had a fin keel and not stable. Requested ILB launch to attempt tow.

ILB reached yacht 09:56. Yacht had 4 on board and raising keel. ILB unable to tow vessel, sitting in 1 foot of water, tide falling. No danger to crew remaining on board. ILB crew assisted with anchor and left vessel to refloat on rising tide.

25/09/2022 – 13:40

Member of public reported 2 paddle boarders being swept out to sea, ILB launched at CG request to investigate, went through area reported but the only two paddleboarders there were fine and did not need assistance. ILB did brief patrol of area but no one found to need assistance so returned to station.

29/09/2022 – 19:43

HM Coastguard issued an immediate launch for the 'D' Class. Female in the water believed to be under the influence of alcohol. Location sailing club on the River Exe. The ALB was launched for support. The casualty was found but was refusing the offer of assistance. Eventually the casualty was held by a crew member alongside the ILB and taken to the shore at Retreat Boatyard, with police and an ambulance on scene to assist.



04/10/2022 – 17:32

A 20 foot yacht was reported sideways to the sea off Exmouth with damaged rigging and no working engine, solo sailor required a tow into safe water. Onshore breeze force 4. DLA authorised the launch of the ALB. Crew member David Preece was put on board the yacht to assist the tow. Successful tow into the river. At the skippers request the yacht was secured to a mooring and the skipper stayed onboard the yacht. ALB returned to station.

06/10/2022 – 15:35

Three persons, one adult and two children cut off by incoming tide between Orcombe Point and Sandy Bay. DLA authorised the launch of the ILB. Assistance given and returned to station 17:00.

11/10/2022 – 01:10

Coastguard paged for ILB launch at 00:55. Notified by Police unit that a lone female had entered the water at Budleigh Salterton, threatening self-harm and was in possession of bladed weapon. Police en route. Immediate ILB launch authorised and ILB helm requested launch of ALB to assist. Police recovered casualty while lifeboat en route and both boats stood down at 01:25. ALB at waters' edge and not launched. ILB recovered 01:35.

25/10/2022 – 12:13

A yacht was having navigation difficulties off Pole Sands. The ILB was on exercise and approached the yacht to check they were seaworthy and to inform them they were likely to run aground on their current course. After contacting the Coast Guard at 12.13 the ILB agreed to guide the yacht safely up the channel into Exmouth. Once the yacht was safely in the channel the ILB was stood down at 12.32 and returned to the boat house.

26/10/2022 – 00:03

At 23:45 on the 25th October the RNLI received a tasking request from the Coast Guard to attend to a vulnerable person that was reported to be near Orcombe point in Exmouth. The Coast Guard requested an immediate readiness for the lifeboat. Low tide conditions meant that the ILB was able to launch in the shelter of sandbar it could search to the West of Orcombe point but sea conditions were too rough to round Orcombe point. The ALB was launched to support the ILB and to continue the search to the East of Orcombe point. The vulnerable person was located by the Coast Guard team 00:30. Both boats were stood down at 00:45 and the ILB recovered at the boathouse at 00:58 with the ALB recovered at the boat house at 01:20..

28/10/2022 – 16:10

Tasking request from Solent Coastguard, lone fisherman on Pole sands. Observed by Exmouth NCI watchkeepers. Tide flooding rapidly and NCI thought fisherman was in danger of being cut off by rising tide.

1615 ILB on Scene. Fisherman had safely waded to Dawlish Warren. Spoken to by ILB crew advised about potential dangers of flooding tide in that location. Crew debriefed an appropriate tasking fisherman was experienced and acknowledged he had underestimated rate of tidal rise.

13/11/2022 – 12:39

Called by Coastguard to reports of 2 persons cut off by the tide on Sidmouth seafront. They could not get hold of Sidmouth Rescue, so called Exmouth lifeboats. ILB launched on service but stood down before they could be on scene.

13/11/2022 – 13:21

Exmouth RNLI called to reports of a windsurfer in difficulties off the Pole sands. DLA requests launch of the Exmouth ILB. ILB launched and proceeded to Pole sands to casualties' position to offer assistance.

18/11/2022 – 14:35

Tasking Request Solent coastguard. Grounded broken down speedboat in between Starcross and Exmouth. Harbour patrol launch in attendance but cannot approach vessel insufficient depth of water. Tide ebbing request ILB to attempt to pull boat off, 2 Person on board. ILB Launch 1440 On scene. Crew able to attach line and pull boat off. Towed toward Belshers slipway. Casualty crew able to start engine and proceed under own power part-way through tow. Casualty safely recovered to shore.

21/12/2022 – 13:35

Coastguard advised DLA of multiple reports of a dog reportedly on an edge and possibly an owner attempting recovery below feature Geo Needle at Orcombe Point. DLA authorised crew assembly and subsequent launch of ILB. ILB launched but was stood down on approach to S&R area by UKCG. Dog and owner reported to be safe on cliff top and continuing their coastal walk.

10/01/2023 – 18:30

Coastguard monitoring police comms regarding missing 51 year old female in the Lympstone area. No indication that she'd entered the water but could be a possibility. DLA authorised the launch of the ILB. ALB also launched with caveat regarding shallow water in estuary. No persons found and boats returned 21:55. The following day we learnt that the missing person had returned home at 01:00 hrs.

12/01/2023 – 17:27

At 17:20 the Coast Guard issued a tasking request to look for a kite surfer reported missing in the Exe River adjacent to the Rock Fish restaurant. The kite surfer was seen just before dusk struggling to fly their kite and their board was reported to be stationary for over 20 minutes. The ILB was authorised to launch for the search and the ALB was launched to support the search at 17:56. Both lifeboats searched the river without result. At 19:31 the coast guard confirmed that the kite surfer was safe on land and the search was stopped.

13/01/2023 – 10:30

Call to DLA from crew, reported with a "help message at top of Foxholes hill". Understood car had been there overnight. Police informed and imminently expected to attend boathouse to discuss. Police had contacted Coastguard to request lifeboat support for a search of the base of Orcombe cliffs.

Approx 20 min elapsed with no tasking request from the Coastguard, Station mechanic initiated ILB launch. State of the tide warranted ILB self-launch as ebbing tide would complicate a close shore search. 1035 ILB on station commenced shoreline search Orcombe to Straight point.

1100 Owner of car identified and located safe in a local hotel. Person was known to emergency services and considered to be vulnerable. 1105 ILB returned to boat house.

21/02/2023 – 20:20

Coastguard contacted by a male individual reporting as being on Dawlish Warren spit and cut off by Coastguard suggested that the individual seemed "confused" and asked for the ILB to launch and locate the casualty. Casualty was assessed and transported by ILB to Dawlish and handed into care of the Coastguard Shore Team.

LIFEBOAT OPERATIONS

EQUIPMENT UPDATE

Our Shannon Class Lifeboat – R & J Welburn is back from servicing and was recently swapped with the relief Shannon we had been using for the last few months. Its return coordinated well with the final fix on the SLARS launching tractor. A hydraulic leak had developed on the SLARS which proved a little problematic to fix. This justified having the back-up of the mooring and boarding boat still available and meant that the problem with the SLARS didn't affect us operationally. Everything is all back to full working order again now.



Exmouth is going to be a new trial station for a development of the ramp and how we recover the Shannon class lifeboat. A guide slot will be bolted to the ramp so that the keel of the lifeboat can slot into this and be guided straight to the SLARS carriage. This will enable the option of recovering the lifeboat straight onto the ramp at high tides, given the conditions are favorable. Obviously, this is not like a beach recovery where the lifeboat comes in at speed to get itself out of the water. When we use this alternative, we nudge carefully into the slot and the SLARS winches the boat out of the water. More to come on this in the future.

LIFEBOAT STATION ROOF

In February 2022 the roof of the Sennan Cove Lifeboat Station was blown off during Storm Eunice. This was of particular concern to us here at Exmouth as we have a similarly designed and constructed roof. As a precaution a full inspection and strengthening exercise was carried out on our roof, and this is why the station was temporarily shrouded with scaffolding. The inspection did highlight that more fundamental works may be required to further strengthen the roof in the future. This will ensure the station can cope with stronger and more frequent storms that may well come our way.

Some of crew also took the initiative to organize an open day event on the 13th August this again proved very popular and included many stalls and tours of the lifeboats, with some interesting eyewear on show!!

TEAM NEWS

We are pleased to introduce 2 new shore crew to our team – Debra Quine and Ashleigh Palmer Robinson. Debra you may know as she operates the Bumble and Bee/Sea Cafés. Ashleigh has already been involved with Exmouth station as a volunteer in the Water Safety team.

These 2 further shore crews are the latest additions to further develop a dedicated shore crew team. Ultimately a separate team from the boat crew. Boat crew have been covering both roles, but as we all get older and eventually must retire from volunteering, replacing key boat crew who also had key shore crew roles, is a little harder. So, by developing people in each of the roles separately (boat and shore) helps with keeping all the skills needed at station not being held by too few people.

We unfortunately had to say goodbye recently to a stalwart of our shore crew team – Neil Cannon. Having given 10 years of his retirement to us and being one of the most reliable and likeable team members. It is sad to have him finally “hang his boots up”.

Many of you will know one of our long standing crew members – Dave Preece. He is still a faithful volunteer with us. However, he has taken up the challenge of joining the Humber Lifeboat team, in training to be a Coxswain with them. This is a full-time job for him, but the shift patterns they work means that when he is home, he can still be a crew member for us too.



2 of our boat crew have recently passed out as “substantive crew on the Shannon class lifeboat – Geoff Mills and Ed Thomas. Congratulations to them as they have made sterling progress through the ranks.



Also, James Edge has become the first person in the country to be passed out as a Navigator on the ILB. This is one of the final hurdles to him being passed out as a ILB helm soon.



The RNLI has been working on substantial changes to the training structure, and how volunteers are assessed and developed. Exmouth has been one of a few trial stations for the new systems. This has meant using the new structure and formats for training and development over the last couple of years and giving feedback on what is working and what isn't. It is nearly there now for roll out to the rest of the country. Hence the new navigator for ILB role and the substantive crew role, or Tier 2 as it is also termed. The new training system has proved very popular and a distinct improvement on what was there before.

Crew member Dougie Wright will be running the London Marathon this year, fundraising for the RNLI. Dougie is also raising further funds with his students at Bicton TCS: here's what Dougie says about this:

“This year as part of the wider fundraising campaign, I asked the students from Bicton College Military and Protective Services Academy to help plan, deliver and execute a physical challenge to help raise funds. They did not disappoint.

At 15:00 on Tuesday 28 February 2023, the academy will start the grueling 4x4x48 challenge, created by former Navy Seal, David Goggins. This involves running 4 miles, every 4 hours, for 48 hours. This is simplistic in nature but immensely difficult.

The challenge will take place from 15:00 on Tuesday 28 February, with the final run leaving at 11:00 on Thursday 02 March. The students have put so much time and effort into this, it is going to be a great couple of days.”



RNLI FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

Since the last Newsletter we have had a very busy period of Fundraising and I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in the many events that have brought in an amazing amount of money for Exmouth RNLI. Up to the end of August, net receipts were over £40,000 for the year to date, more than 30% up on 2021 at the same point. The total for the year was almost £90,000.

Once we were able to undertake fundraising activities, we had several successes, with Lou's Events Team topping the bill with the RNLI Ball in May and the Fireworks Display in November together raising around £30,000 for Exmouth RNLI. We appreciate the many events that are not only crucial in terms of bringing in much needed funds for our Lifeboat Station but they also raise our profile with the local and wider community here in East Devon.



We had a fabulous donation of £1,694.68 from the Exmouth Pirates in January, raised in their fundraising day and split between Exmouth and Teignmouth Stations.

In the December we received the generous donation of £2805.96 from Tiverton Golf Club which they raised for us during the year, along with further donations from their members of £550. Here we



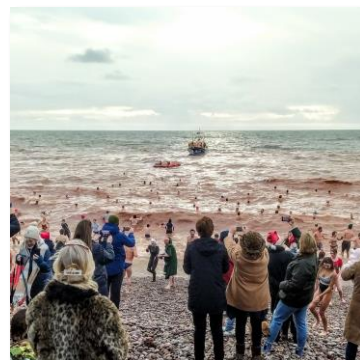
are presenting a certificate of thanks, signed by the RNLI Chief Executive to Dave Turner, the 2022 Veterans' Captain.

Also, a donation of £3248 was raised by Andy Beake and Darren Strode for their Kilimanjaro expedition.

The Carol Service was held for the first time since 2019 and was a great success, renewing our connection with the community and raising more than £600 in donations.

We were very fortunate with some extremely generous donations such as Exmouth 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.

We had two fabulous individual collections, with Jean Hiscox from Cullompton raising over £1,000 including a large Whisky bottle of coins, and Christine Chittock from Exmouth who collected £349.50 from friends and family for a special birthday celebration. Budleigh Lions donated a cheque to us for £890 which they collected during the Budleigh Christmas day swim, another event which was not held during the Covid emergency.



Many thanks to everyone who has been involved with Exmouth RNLI Fundraising during 2022, it wasn't a straightforward 12 months as we still had the last stages of Covid with the Omicron variant hanging around and the repair to the Boathouse slipway ongoing for the 1st part of the year. Towards the end of the year we had a number of Fundraising events cancelled because of the passing away of Queen Elizabeth II.

Overall, it has been a very good year – we have almost got back to normal – let's make 2023 a bumper year for Exmouth RNLI.

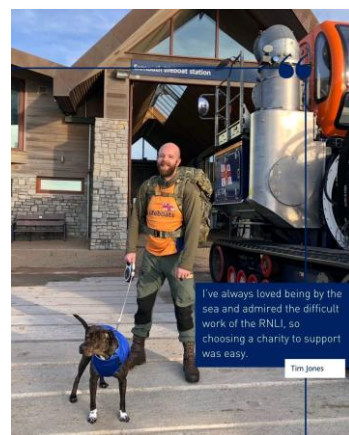
One more thing: Please support Tim Jones and his dog, Monty, after he set off from RNLI Exmouth Lifeboat Station on 20th January to walk the entire British coastline to raise funds for the RNLI. You can support Tim and his fundraising through his Just Giving page and follow him on Facebook. As I write, he is past the Lizard and heading for the Scilly Isles.

Already in the diary forthcoming events for 2023:

Friday 2nd June – Budleigh Lions Coffee Morning

Saturday 10th June – Events “Not a Ball but a Casual Do” at the Ocean

Saturday 22nd July – Armed Forces Day in the Strand.



Des White
Chairman, Exmouth Fundraising Group

EXMOUTH LIFEBOAT SHOP

We had a busy trading time in November with sales of Christmas card doing especially well. We were also able to start the sale early with calendars and some other stock reduced in November. Sadly, stock issues from Poole have been a problem but we're hopeful this will get better.

Our amazing volunteers have kept the shop open during both months with only a few closed days due to either; extreme weather, Christmas day or stock taking day! We shortened some opening hours, when only one shift was available, during the festive period.

2022 takings totalled £125,285 compared to 2021 about £109,000. A very good year, 15% higher, with additional donations at the shop of £3,487.13 from the spinner, box and hole in the wall, £722.92 from the till, £370 from the contactless machine in the window, £1,801.23 From our secondhand books.

On our new till we can "donate the change" and easily add donations to purchases, if customers request it, and now we know the money comes back to our station I think this function will be used more this coming year.

In December our Outside Events Crew did a great job at Topsham Sailing Club where the club put on a coffee morning with raffle and we were able to sell our Christmas cards and calendars. The ILB came up too and a brief talk was given. Our shop team took £761.55 plus the coffees and raffle were really successful, taking over £500. The next day the shop team were at Exmouth sailing club craft sale where another £325.50 was taken. A great team effort.

Dave Britten
Shop Manager

EXMOUTH VISITS TEAM

The Visits Team are now back to normal, with a resumption of bookings for group visits, and schools.

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 . Tell your friends too!