



Life Lines

News and reviews from
Brixham Lifeboat Guild

February 2007 Issue 1

Torbay and Salcombe work together

RNLI facts



Heavy weather makes it difficult for the Emma Jane to pick up a tow.

These vivid photographs were taken when Torbay's all-weather lifeboat (ALB) was called out to take over the rescue of a 16-metre fishing vessel from Salcombe lifeboat.

The initial rescue was necessitated after the Salcombe registered Emma Jane fouled her prop in mid-Channel.

She was taken under tow by her sister vessel near Prawle Point and the Salcombe lifeboat launched to assist them into Salcombe, however gale force conditions forced them to divert to Dartmouth.



The Torbay lifeboat takes over the tow of the Emma Jane

The severe weather also caused further difficulties with the tow parting several times.

Assistance was requested from Torbay and the ALB was launched. The tow was transferred around Start Point and the Emma Jane taken safely into the River Dart.

Torbay lifeboat station based in Brixham, is one of the busiest in the UK with more than 100 rescues a year – helping to contribute to the 8,100 people who are brought to safety nationally by the RNLI.

The RNLI in Torbay works in conjunction with a number of other agencies including Brixham Coastguards, helping to promote safety on the water and the safety of the coastline. The charity provides a 24-hour lifesaving service, aiming to change attitudes and behaviour among people who use the sea regularly, educating them on ways to stay safe on the sea.

The Torbay lifeboat station has operated an all-weather lifeboat for around 140 years and the crews have a remarkable bravery history with more than 50 gallantry awards.

The search and rescue service responds to incidents 365 days a year up to 100 miles off the UK coastline, often in difficult and dangerous conditions with volunteer crew members coming from all walks of life, often being called out in the middle of the night to help people in difficulties on the sea.

Nationally the service costs around £330,000 a day to run, however as it is independent from the Government, voluntary contributions and legacies are vitally important. If you would like to help fund this important service, why not join your local guild or come along and support one of our events.

Alternatively, regular donations are always welcome and why not remember the RNLI in your Will. For more information on ways to support the RNLI, please contact our committee members, see page 4 for their details.

Our first centenarian

See page 2

Welcome to Life Lines

As Chairman of the Brixham Lifeboat Guild, may I take this opportunity to welcome you to our new and very exciting newsletter "Life Lines". When it was first put to me that we should have a newsletter, I threw my hands up in horror saying that we have more than enough to contend with, with all our events and activities. Then to my delight, up popped Annie and Richard Powell who volunteered to take on this project and you can see what a fantastic job they have done.

It is proposed that "Life Lines" will be published twice a year and will include articles of interest and hopefully stories of rescues by the crew of

Torbay lifeboats, together with comments on Guild activities. This issue is based on Brixham Guild, but it is hoped that in future Paignton and Torquay will have an input, as we all work to support the Torbay lifeboat and of course the RNLI generally.

2006 was once again a very successful year, due in no small part to the hard work of our Guild members and the continued generosity of our supporters. May I take this opportunity to thank you all.

*Shirley Wheeler
Chairman, Brixham Lifeboat Guild*

Brixham Lifeboat Guild has its first centenarian!

Lily Goodson was 100 on February 2 and celebrated with Guild members at their New Year Party on Monday 29 January at Brixham Rugby Club.

After she moved from Reading to Brixham in 1970 Lily almost immediately threw herself into local life, joining not only the Guild for which she has been an energetic fundraiser but also the Brixham Ladies Forum and the Brixham WI.

She has been an extremely active member of the WI drama group, still treading the boards last year aged 99 in the WI's Victorian style Christmas revue of songs and poetry dressing up as a Victorian schoolgirl complete with a blond pigtail wig and reciting a poem she originally recited to wounded soldiers returning from the Somme in the First World War.



Lily receives a basket of flowers from Guild President, Sheila Thomlinson and Chairman, Shirley Wheeler.

Also a member of the Horticulture Society and the League of Friends for Brixham Hospital for which she carries out fundraising, Lily says she has had a good life with loving parents, husband and son, lots of friends and lots of fun which has kept her feeling young over the years.

Barclays sponsors Life Lines

The printing of this first issue of Life Lines has been sponsored by Barclays Bank Brixham.

Barclays Bank South West has been very supportive towards the RNLI with a large donation of £30,000 to fund education packs for schools across the region.

Elaine Arnold, Barclays Community Relations Manager for the South West, said: "We

maintain strong links with the RNLI and are very pleased to offer our support whenever we can. The education packs were a very positive way to develop children's understanding of sea safety."

The Brixham branch of the RNLI would like to thank the staff of Barclays Bank for their continued support.

SHOUTS!

St Mary's Bay

Lifeboat diverted from an exercise to investigate reports of possible people in difficulty in St Mary's Bay south of Berry Head. Windsurfers and canoeists located and all OK.

Tenacious

Whilst on exercise the Jubilee Sailing Trust vessel 'Tenacious' on passage to Torbay with 39 people on board reported a fire in her engine-room. ALB immediately diverted from exercise towards her some 25 miles east of Berry Head. Fire brought under control as lifeboats stood by. Tenacious then escorted under sail towards Portland by LB17-27. Torbay returned home.

Dartmouth Mew Stone

A 30ft Catamaran style fishing vessel on passage from Brixham to Galmpton suffered engine failure close to the Dartmouth Mew Stone and ALB tasked to her assistance. The catamaran anchored approx 50ft off the southern end of the Mew Stone rocks but the anchor did not hold. A line was passed from FV Bosloe to hold her off the rocks which was then transferred to ALB and the vessel taken in tow to Kingswear.

Gear box failure

The 35 ft yacht 'Beau Jangles' making for Torquay with five on board suffered gear box failure and was unable to manoeuvre in close quarters. In the fresh easterly wind and poor sea conditions she requested assistance. The ALB was tasked to return her to Brixham.

Torre Abbey

An emergency call was received regarding a person entering the sea at Torre Abbey Sands, Torquay, in suspicious circumstances. Police, ambulance and ALB tasked. Person apprehended by police shortly before ALB arrived on scene.

Below Berry Head

A local fisherman reported a car in the sea below Berry Head. ALB, Coastguards, Police and Ambulance were all called to the scene. The car was subsequently confirmed as stolen and the crew of the ALB were able to make sure that the car was unoccupied by using the Y boat (a small inflatable boat launched from the ALB).

Shouts NOW

To receive email notifications whenever the lifeboat is launched go to www.torbaylifeboat.org.uk ; select EMail and enter your email address. The station website is updated following every service so you can view the full details of all shouts at your convenience.

If you don't have internet access see the monthly summary posted on the notice board at our souvenir shop in Middle Street.

Looking forward

Mon 12 March **One of the Last Lighthouse Keepers in Britain**

Lighthouses were established around the coast as an aid to ships – to help them establish their position and to warn of dangerous rocks or shoals. The keepers who manned them were often away from their families for weeks at a time, providing a vital service to keep the light operating. Come and hear the first hand experiences of one of the last lighthouse keepers in Britain. If you haven't been to one of our talks, they are held in the upstairs function room at Brixham Rugby Club and the admission price includes refreshments. The club has a large car park and is served by the 15 bus service.

Sat 24 March **Easter Bazaar**

A chance for everyone to do a bit of spring cleaning and raise funds. Bring your clean, working and unwanted items (bric a brac, clothes, jewellery, children's toys, CD's & DVD's) to Scala Hall on Friday 23rd between 3:30 and 4:30 and help to set up the stalls. On the Saturday, with the hall full of stalls we need all the help we can get (no experience needed). If you can't come to help then please come to buy!

Wed 25 Apr **Coffee Morning — Brixham Yacht Club**

A chance to meet new friends over coffee and biscuits. Have a go on the raffle and buy souvenirs, cakes, crafts and other goods

Sat 9 June **Cheese and Wine**

Thanks to Margaret and Les for hosting this cheese and wine evening— come and join us. If you think you could host a fundraising event then please contact a guild committee member for further help and advice.

Sun 15 July **Service on the Quay**

An evening interdenominational service to bless the lifeboat and all seafarers. Music by Brixham Town Band and the Orpheus Male Voice Choir.

23 – 28 July **Flag Week**

One of our key fundraising events of the year where we collect in the centre of Brixham (not house to house). We need as many people as possible to give at least one hour of their time at some point during the week – the more people who are collecting, the more we will raise. It's not hard, we get good support from the public and it can be fun. To volunteer contact Cathy Craig on 857106

Sun 29 July **Lifeboat Station Open Day**

Fun on the quay for all the family. Crew and guild members run a variety of stalls and events at the harbourside near the marina. The all-weather lifeboat will be alongside and open for visitors so come on board and imagine yourself on a shout!

As always we need cakes, raffle prizes and importantly we need help to run the stalls, so come along and lend a hand. Last year we raised over £2,000

People profiles

Camaraderie helps inspire Sheila

When Sheila Thomlinson first joined the Brixham Ladies Lifeboat Guild in 1981, she had no idea that 12 years on she would be presented with a medal for services rendered and 25 years on be chosen to be president of the Brixham Lifeboat Guild.

As Sheila explained: "After a year I was asked to join the committee. I'd never sat on any committee before so didn't know what to expect. After two years I was in charge of souvenirs, responsible for ordering, checking and selling."

Having proved herself with the souvenirs, Sheila was asked to become chairman of the guild, overseeing the introduction of men to the guild and also a change of name to the Brixham Lifeboat Guild.

However, after eight years as chairman, Sheila decided the time was right to step down and let someone else take over the reins. But instead of taking life easy, she took on a new role of looking after the collection boxes, again being innovative and helping to introduce the boxes to Shearings Coaches, a move that was highly successful from a fundraising point of view, as well as making sure all the other collection points were looked after.

Sheila added: "The coach drivers asked if they could have boxes on board and to begin with I was a bit unsure as I thought it would be taking tips away from the drivers but they've proved to be very successful."



Sheila Thomlinson
President Brixham Lifeboat Guild

She added: "Sometimes I'd get phone calls from foreign ships which had collection boxes on board filled with foreign coins. It was a lot of work keeping track of all the money. I was in charge of that for five years."

For Sheila, one of the most satisfying parts of helping out with the Guild is meeting the lifeboat men and their families. Another is the camaraderie of the Guild – as she said: "Nobody falls out. Everyone abides by what the committee has decided regardless of their personal views."

Arthur - President after a lifetime of involvement with the Torbay lifeboat

With several of his family involved in the Lizard lifeboat, it was no surprise that Arthur Curnow decided to join the Torbay lifeboat 43 years ago.

And having spent a lifetime giving his time to help others, Arthur was made president of the Torbay lifeboat last year and says he feels privileged and honoured to have been able to have served his time on board.

After he joined in 1964, Arthur quickly moved up through the positions, soon becoming helmsman of the inshore inflatable.

He remembers: "The next big step was to crew on the big boat. I then became deputy coxswain of that one and was coxswain from 1978 to 1991. During the time when I was on board 533 lives were saved by the lifeboat.

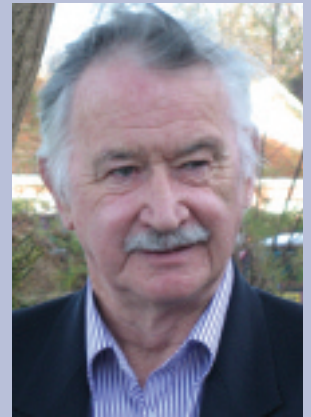
"I took over on my birthday, November 10 and that night went off on my first rescue. It was a biggish yacht in trouble off Start Point and we towed her into Dartmouth." He added: "My ultimate aim was always to be coxswain of the lifeboat. It represented everything that was good in life, people risking their lives for the good of their fellow man.

That's what appealed to me."

Arthur came ashore when he was 55 having seen the number of rescues per year increase dramatically from about eight, when he first started, to more than 100. He says the only time he was frightened on the boat was when there was a call out involving a fire on a tanker carrying 740 tonnes of butane gas.

He said: "The pilot boat, tug from Plymouth, the Navy and the fire brigade were all involved. We picked up the crew of six from the Navy inflatable which had swamped itself trying to get to the tanker.

"I had a magnificent boat, the Edward Bridges, which was the last wooden lifeboat built. To drive her was a privilege."



Arthur Curnow BEM
President Torbay Lifeboat Branch



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has great effect

We're delighted to support
Brixham Lifeboat Guild



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Action packed



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Lifeboats

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