This photo: June 1983 – The RNLI’s first Tyne class lifeboat City of London 47-001 on trials at Selsey
Front cover photo: April 2019 – The last of the Tyne class lifeboats Annie Blaker 47-035 with her devoted Wicklow crew
FAREWELL TO THE TYNE

On Sunday 28 April 2019 at 1.30pm, the last of our Tyne class all-weather lifeboats made her final launch.

Annie Blaker (shown on the front cover) devoted 30 years to saving lives at sea at Wicklow and was very much part of the team.

‘She has been as much a part of the crew as any volunteer that passed through our doors and she has earned her retirement,’ says Des Davitt, Lifeboat Operations Manager for Wicklow RNLI.

With a top speed of 18 knots, the Tyne was twice as fast as the motor lifeboats she was designed to replace, revolutionising lifesaving at sea. She was introduced to the fleet in 1982 and was the RNLI’s first fast slipway lifeboat.

‘A huge leap’

Speaking about the first time he stepped onboard the Tyne, Ciarán Doyle, Second Coxswain at Wicklow, says:

‘I had been lifeboat crew for 5 years, and then suddenly this spaceship arrived! I looked in it and saw all these electronics, engine control systems, nothing like we were used to. It was a huge leap.’

After 37 years of saving lives at sea, the Tyne has been replaced by our Tamar and Shannon class all-weather lifeboats as part of the RNLI’s plans for a faster and more efficient 25-knot lifeboat fleet.

‘Her personality? Rock solid’

CONNIE O’GARA
CREW MEMBER AND DEPUTY MECHANIC, WICKLOW LIFEBOAT

‘A reliable big sister, always there waiting to help’

TOMMY DOVER
PRESS OFFICER, WICKLOW LIFEBOAT

‘Very much a quart in a pint pot’

REAR ADMIRAL WJ GRAHAM
RNLI DIRECTOR IN 1982

TYNE FACTS

First Tyne
ON1074 (47-001) City of London
Built 1982
Selsey Lifeboat Station
1983–2006

Last Tyne
ON1153 (47-035) Annie Blaker
Built 1989
Wicklow Lifeboat Station
1989–2019

• The Tyne was the first fast slipway boat (FSB1).
• Top speed: 18 knots
  Twice as fast as the lifeboats she replaced.
• Named after ex-Tynemouth Coxswain Paulin Denham Christie
  Paulin was a big part of the fast slipway boat project.
CONTENTS

03 Farewell to the Tyne
A tribute to 37 years of lifesaving

05 Foreword
A look back at 2019 with RNLI Chief Executive Mark Dowie

06 Data collection
How we collect incident data

06 Operational aims
Our performance vs. our aims

06 Definitions
A glossary of terms used in report

08 Lifeboat statistics
Lifesaving at our stations in 2019

16 Lifeguard statistics
Lifesaving on the beach in 2019

22 Beach management statistics
Improving the safety of our beaches

23 Water safety statistics
Drowning prevention in the UK and Ireland

25 Youth education statistics
Working to keep young people safe

27 Flood rescue statistics
Our flood rescue capacity

28 International statistics
Drowning prevention on a global scale

31 RNLI rescue map
Our lifesaving locations and lifeboats as at December 2019
RNLI volunteer lifeboat crews provide a 24-hour search and rescue service in the UK and Ireland, and our seasonal lifeguards look after people on busy beaches. Our in-house experts and specially trained volunteers also support flood rescue throughout the UK.

In 2019, our volunteer lifeboat crews aided 9,379 people, with our lifeguards aiding a further 29,334 (9,412 and 32,207 in 2018 respectively). Together, they saved the lives of 374 people (329 in 2018).

Wherever drowning occurs, we aim to defeat it. With your support, the RNLI can break the drowning chain and make early interventions by influencing, supervising and educating people.

We work with partners to understand the risks and offer innovative solutions – and our Water Safety teams share this knowledge with anyone using the water to keep them safer. We share that expertise internationally too. We give support to countries where drowning rates are significant, and work with like-minded organisations to raise awareness of the problem to address it together.

Our charity prevented people getting into trouble in the first place too. We reached millions with our Float to Live message and more people came forward to tell us that it helped to save their lives.

We delivered Swim Safe lessons to 62,696 children (46,588 in 2018) and spoke with thousands more adults and children about water safety. 81% of the UK population now consider safety important when in and around the water, with average 2019 results higher than all previous years measured. The figure is 83% for the Irish population.

We strengthened lifesaving partnerships with local authorities, governments and like-minded organisations across the UK, Ireland and around the world. We also increased the impact of our drowning prevention work with priority countries and continued to influence world leaders and global policy.

We are the RNLI: The charity that saves lives at sea

Every day of the year, people of all backgrounds get into danger in the water. It’s a problem we’re here to tackle.

We’re here to explain the risks, share safety knowledge and rescue those people whose lives are in danger.

We’re here to work with others to make the water a safer place for everyone.

We’re here to prevent tragedies inshore and offshore.

And with your help, we always will be.
**DATA COLLECTION**

Incident data is collected from lifeboat crews through an electronic return of service. Lifeguards submit both electronic records and paper forms whilst we expand the user base of our Lifesaving Activity Reporting system (LSAR), which captures data electronically. The Flood Rescue Team complete paper incident forms. These returns are entered, processed, checked and validated at the RNLI Support Centre in Poole by the Service Information Section. This incident data provides the basis for the statistics in this report.

For the RNLI’s international projects, project partners are responsible for collecting, analysing and reporting summary data. Though the RNLI aims to verify this data through spot-checking, the data is not owned by the RNLI and is not directly comparable to RNLI operational statistics from the UK and Ireland.

All data in this report is correct as at 13 February 2020. Figures may rise in other publications or articles produced using a newer dataset.

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**OPERATIONAL AIMS**

**CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

The RNLI saves lives at sea throughout the UK, Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands by providing:

- A strategically located fleet of all-weather lifeboats, which are available at all times, and tactically placed inshore craft, which are subject to weather limitations
- A lifeguard service on a seasonal basis
- A flood rescue capability available for deployment to a defined standard of performance, commensurate with the resources available, using trained and competent people, who, wherever possible, are volunteers.

**STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

We aim to:

- Achieve an average launch time of 10 minutes from notification to the RNLI
- Reach all notified casualties where a risk to life exists, in all weathers, out to a maximum of 100 nautical miles
- Reach 90% of all casualties within 30 minutes from launch and within 10 nautical miles of the coast, in all weathers, where there is an identified need
- Reach any beach casualty up to 300m from shore, within the red and yellow flags, on RNLI lifeguard-patrolled beaches within 3½ minutes.

It is not cost-effective to measure the average response time but our risk assessment process, fitness standards and operational configuration of the lifeguard service are all designed to achieve this strategic performance standard.

- Deliver clear, straightforward safety advice and products that positively influence behaviour, measured against agreed benchmarks
- Maintain the capability to deploy up to 4 Type B flood rescue teams

There was 1 deployment in 2019 and no people assisted. In October 2019, capacity was reduced to 2 Type B teams.

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**DEFINITIONS**

**LIFEGUARDS**

Animals – when a lifeguard rescues or assists an animal to safety.

Anti-social behaviour – when a lifeguard takes action to deal with anti-social behaviour.

Assistance – where a lifeguard aids a person in the sea who is at low risk but, if left, would be at increased risk.

**INCIDENT** – any situation that RNLI lifeguards are involved in.

**Body recovery** – where a lifeguard responds to an incident knowing that they will be required to recover a body. This includes those in the sea or on land.

**Casualty care** – where a lifeguard formally assesses and/or treats a casualty according to RNLI casualty care protocols.

**False alarm** – when a lifeguard responds to an incident where a person is believed to be in difficulty but upon arrival it is confirmed they do not require assistance.

**Incident** – any situation that RNLI lifeguards are involved in.
Incident action – the number of different ways that lifeguards deal with incidents. Any one casualty could receive multiple actions by lifeguards. Actions where no people are involved are also included.

Life saved – where an intervention by the RNLI, another emergency service and/or other third party saves the life of a casualty who would otherwise have died.

Minor first aid – where a lifeguard treats a casualty due to sickness or injury who is at low or no risk but requires treatment to ensure the risk does not increase.

Missing/found – where a lifeguard assists in the location of children separated from their parents/guardians, or other people who have been found or reported missing, including those who are known to be missing as a result of an incident in or on the water.

Near miss – when a lifeguard observes an incident, event or condition that does not cause death or serious injury but has the potential to do so.

Non-aquatic assistance – when a lifeguard assists a person not in the water.

Other – anything else that does not fit into the specified categories.

People aided – the total number of people that lifeguards have assisted.

Preventative action – any action taken by a lifeguard that provides advice, guidance or direction to a person that mitigates against risk.

Rescue – where a lifeguard responds to a person at risk and physically returns them to shore or transfers them to another rescue craft.

Search – an organised search, with other search and rescue units, for a missing person either at sea or on land.

**LIFEBOATS**

Crew assemblies – where the crew arrive at station and are subsequently stood down because the launch has been cancelled.

Life saved – where an intervention by the RNLI, another emergency service and/or other third party saves the life of a casualty who would otherwise have died.

People aided – all people aided by RNLI lifeboat crews where lives are saved and people are assisted or rescued.

Taskings – the sum of launches and crew assemblies as a result of being tasked to an incident.

**FLOOD RESCUE**

Assistance – where the rescuer aids a person who is at low risk but, if left, would be at increased risk.

Community tasking – where a lifeboat station or lifeguard unit is tasked to assist with a flood incident.

Deployment – where flood rescue team members depart from their base either to the incident or to a strategic holding area (SHA).

Flood Rescue Team (FRT) tasking – one of the designated flood rescue assets.

Life saved – where an intervention by the RNLI, another emergency service and/or other third party saves the life of a casualty who would otherwise have died.

Incidents – flood incidents are usually the result of specific events, such as storms. If the event cannot be associated with a specific event, a flood incident can potentially be defined through the establishment of the emergency management command structure (Gold/Silver/Bronze).

Rescue – where the rescuer responds to a person at risk and physically returns them to a place of safety or transfers them to another rescue craft/asset.

Standby – when flood rescue teams are requested to go to a heightened state of preparedness. Some or all of the team assemble to prepare kit and/or are on standby at base or home.

**INTERNATIONAL**

First aid actions – these include both minor and major casualty care. In an overseas context, the full RNLI casualty care protocols cannot always be adhered to, particularly where there is no effective ambulance service or sufficient standards of emergency referral services.

Rescue – where a lifeguard responds to a person at risk and physically returns them to shore. This includes incidents where if a lifeguard had not intervened, a life would have been lost.

Survival swimming – two different swimming programmes implemented in different locations: the RNLI Aquatic Survival Swimming Programme delivered in natural open water bodies; and the registered trademark programme SwimSafe delivered in community ponds or portable swimming pools in Bangladesh.

Water safety lessons – formal sessions delivered to schoolchildren in a school setting, based on the 10 standard water safety messages included in the RNLI Aquatic Survival Manual. Or more informal community meetings covering the same content in villages near to the schools visited.
Lifeboat incident headlines

8,941 launches + 856 crew assemblies = 9,797 total taskings

220 lives saved
9,379 PEOPLE AIDED

75,379 CREW HOURS AT SEA

3,614 LAUNCHES IN DARKNESS

16,779 VESSEL HOURS AT SEA

6,635 CREW USED

FIGURES EXCLUDE TRAINING EXERCISES.
Operational aims

10 MINS AVERAGE LAUNCH TIME

88.4% OF CASUALTIES WITHIN 10NM REACHED WITHIN 30 MINS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Number Used</th>
<th>Launches</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A Class</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E Class</strong></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Boat</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shannon</strong></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tyne</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B Class</strong></td>
<td>124</td>
<td>2,908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hovercraft</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RWC</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D Class</strong></td>
<td>147</td>
<td>2,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mersey</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Severn</strong></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trent</strong></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y Boat</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>461</td>
<td>8,941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lifeboat headlines by region

**WALES AND WEST ENGLAND**
- Launches: 1,534
- Lives saved: 60
- People aided: 1,602
- Crew assemblies: 233
- Crew hours: 10,627
- Vessel hours: 2,289

**IRELAND**
- Launches: 1,089
- Lives saved: 9
- People aided: 1,406
- Crew assemblies: 102
- Crew hours: 10,014
- Vessel hours: 1,944

**SOUTH WEST ENGLAND**
- Launches: 1,345
- Lives saved: 23
- People aided: 1,692
- Crew assemblies: 101
- Crew hours: 9,887
- Vessel hours: 2,022

**SCOTLAND**
- Launches: 1,308
- Lives saved: 17
- People aided: 1,335
- Crew assemblies: 113
- Crew hours: 12,593
- Vessel hours: 2,295

**NORTH AND EAST ENGLAND**
- Launches: 1,157
- Lives saved: 37
- People aided: 1,322
- Crew assemblies: 141
- Crew hours: 14,639
- Vessel hours: 4,126

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND**
- Launches: 2,508
- Lives saved: 74
- People aided: 2,022
- Crew assemblies: 166
- Crew hours: 17,822
- Vessel hours: 4,104
Distances to casualties are measured from the lifeboat station as the crow flies.

**ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOAT (ALB) LAUNCHES**

- 0-6 NM: 1,590
- 7-10 NM: 342
- 11-15 NM: 225
- 16-20 NM: 93
- 21-25 NM: 43
- 26-30 NM: 32
- 31-35 NM: 16
- 36-40 NM: 1
- 41-45 NM: 1
- 46-50 NM: 2
- 51-55 NM: 0
- 56-60 NM: 0
- 61+ NM: 0

**INSHORE LIFEBOAT (ILB) LAUNCHES**

- 0-6 NM: 5,287
- 7-10 NM: 252
- 11-15 NM: 75
- 16-20 NM: 16
- 21-25 NM: 1
- 26-30 NM: 1
- 31-35 NM: 2
- 36-40 NM: 0
- 41-45 NM: 0
- 46-50 NM: 0
- 51-55 NM: 0
- 56-60 NM: 0
- 61+ NM: 0

LIFEBOAT STOOD DOWN BEFORE REACHING CASUALTY: **ALB 283 ILB 606**

NOT RECORDED: **ALB 3 ILB 13**

Distances to casualties are measured from the lifeboat station as the crow flies.
Lifeboats on exercise

16,949 exercises afloat

177,320 hours of crew training afloat

Launches to animals

186 animals

157 most common animal casualty

Dogs
Proportion of lifeboat incident activity by lifeboat type and sea state
Lifeguard incident headlines

17,356 INCIDENTS

21,289 INCIDENT ACTIONS

3,890,982 PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS

154 LIVES SAVED
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total beach visitors</td>
<td>18,609,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days on duty across all beaches</td>
<td>25,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of lifeguards on patrol</td>
<td>1,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of lifeguard units</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery against contract</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidents on average per unit</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People aided</td>
<td>29,334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lifeguard actions

- **154** Lives Saved
- **2,822** Rescues
- **3,208** Assistance Given
- **1,352** Casualty Care
- **9,979** Minor First Aid
- **214** Searches
- **1,785** Missing/Found
176
NON-AQUATIC
ASSISTANCE
GIVEN

1,002
NEAR MISSES

59
FALSE ALARMS

251
ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR

139
OTHER

148
ANIMALS
RESCUED

21,289
TOTAL
ACTIONS
## Lifeguard distance to casualties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance from water's edge (m)</th>
<th>0–50</th>
<th>51–200</th>
<th>201–500</th>
<th>501–1,000</th>
<th>1,000+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0–50</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51–200</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>201–500</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501–1,000</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000+</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Teal** indicates **lowest danger to casualty**
- **Blue** indicates **moderate danger to casualty**
- **Orange** indicates **highest danger to casualty**

**Note:** The percentages represent the proportion of lifeguard incidents occurring within each distance category.
Casualty care

**TOTAL INCIDENTS REQUIRING CASUALTY CARE**

- Incidents with casualty care
- People requiring casualty care
- People - Big Sick (time-critical)
- People - Little Sick (not time-critical)

**CASUALTY CARE GIVEN BY LIFEBOAT CREWS**

- 507
- 292
- 215
- 468

**TOTAL PEOPLE NEEDING CASUALTY CARE**

- Incidents with casualty care
- People requiring casualty care
- People - Big Sick (time-critical)
- People - Little Sick (not time-critical)

**CASUALTY CARE GIVEN BY LIFEGUARDS**

- 1,346
- 1,329
- 418
- 928

RNLI OPERATIONAL STATISTICS 2019
The RNLI lifeguard service endeavours to provide services based on beach safety assessments and that meet best practice standards. Effective and efficient beach management is a core organisational competency that drives service delivery. We also provide advice and support to beach operators on a national and international basis.

**BEACH SAFETY ASSESSMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICE**

The RNLI lifeguard service offers a free coastal beach safety assessment consultancy service to all local authorities and private beach owners. The assessment process is designed to help facilitate a comprehensive beach safety management strategy by highlighting hazards and assessing ratings and suggested control measures. The number of non-RNLI beaches assessed in 2019 was 12, bringing the total number assessed to 465. In addition to the external consultancy service, a full beach safety assessment is completed tor each RNLI lifeguarded beach every 5 years, with annual reviews carried out in between by the local teams. Figures shown below do not include internal assessments.

**BEACH SAFETY SIGNAGE**

2019 saw the continued rollout of beach operators installing the RNLI’s national guideline beach safety signage system. Signage audit reports were provided tor 14 non-RNLI beaches, bringing the total number audited to 276. The RNLI’s publication *A Guide to Beach Safety Signs, Symbols and Flags* is available as a self-help guide to all beach operators and the RNLI can provide local authorities with further assistance and advice through beach safety signage audits.

**PUBLIC RESCUE EQUIPMENT**

Following on from the RNLI’s publication *A Guide to Coastal Public Rescue Equipment*, public rescue equipment audit reports were provided tor 9 non-RNLI beaches. This brings the total number of non-RNLI beaches that have now benefited from this service to 169. The publication is also available to beach operators as a self-help guide.
During 2019, the Water Safety Team undertook a range of programmes delivering safety advice and interventions across a range of activities.

The WellPoint health kiosk was taken to dive centres and dive shows again, encouraging divers to view their health as the most important part of their kit before diving.

The roll-out of the Waterside Responder Scheme continued in partnership with local fire services. The scheme trains staff in venues such as waterside pubs on how to use throw lines and become first responders in situations where people find themselves in the water near their venues.

Our free Text for Tide service remained popular and received an increase in texts during 2019. The service provides safe crossing times to members of the public wanting to travel to Cramond Island near Edinburgh and Coney Island in Co Sligo, which both get completely cut off by the tide.

**INDIVIDUAL ADVICE**

The RNLI has around 500 active water safety volunteers who are specially trained to provide safety advice on a wide range of activities. The Water Safety Events Team attends national and regional events as well as supporting volunteers at local events. The team records the number of face-to-face conversations they have with members of the public at events they are responsible for. In 2019, 46,630 people received some form of safety advice from team members.

**LIFEJACKETS**

Lifejackets save lives. Our lifeboat crews have been wearing them since the 19th century and the RNLI has been encouraging lifejacket use for many years. We offer the public expert advice on lifejackets through our free lifejacket checks, dedicated clinics and other events. In 2019, we recorded checks of 3,868 lifejackets to make sure they were serviceable.

**ADVICE ONBOARD**

The RNLI offers a free, friendly and confidential service known as Advice Onboard that looks at the safety aspects of almost any type of leisure craft. The face-to-face sessions are conducted by our highly-trained volunteers and take place onboard the owners’ craft. This service is available in all parts of the UK and Ireland and saw 124 people undertake an Advice Onboard session in 2019.

**COMMERCIAL FISHING**

Commercial fishing is recognised as a dangerous profession, and the RNLI is working hard to reduce the number of commercial fishermen who lose their lives each year. During 2019, we had conversations with approximately 2,100 commercial fishermen at exhibitions and directly at ports.

**COMMUNITY LIFESAVING PLANS**

Community lifesaving plans (CLPs) are the key mechanism for RNLI communities to plan and deliver water safety actions at a local level. Each plan is owned and looked after by the local community and is managed by the volunteer water safety officer. CLPs drive behaviour in that community to bring partnerships together and tackle risks. They are integrated into a lifeboat station to look at all available lifesaving assets.

Each CLP goes through a set of phases to be developed. Through the monitoring and reporting system, we can identify planned activity against actual activity and analyse where resources are linked to priority risk areas around the UK and Ireland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of CLPs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wales and West England</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South West England</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South East England</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North East England</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland and the Isle of Man</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total of CLPs</strong></td>
<td><strong>49 (covering 53 lifeboat stations)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The key aims of the Respect the Water campaign in 2019 were to arm people with the knowledge of the ‘Float To Live’ message, increase relevance among the target audience and build confidence on how to float.

2019 SUCCESSES

• 76% of young men aged 16–39 years in Ireland and 69% of young men in the UK agreed the campaign was relevant to them.
• Two major publicity campaign launches reached 37M people in May and 37.5M people in August.
• New bilingual resources for Wales were produced to help us engage with Welsh-speaking audiences. These were extremely well received with all items in high demand and rated more helpful than their English equivalents. 88% of communities ordering launch packs in Wales opted for a bilingual pack instead of an English pack. And nearly 40 regional partners helped share the bilingual #FloatToLive #ArnofiwchiFyw messaging with their audiences online.
• Regional activity around the coast included:
  • the Lifeshack at Victorious Festival
  • Float To Live illumination at Blackpool
  • media coverage and engagement at the National Services Day in Dublin
  • working in partnership with the GAA at the All Ireland Semi Final at Croke Park

FLOAT TO LIVE IMPACT

Our main measure of success is real world impact and we’re extremely proud that in 2019, 11 people came forward to say that our ‘Float To Live’ advice helped save their life. This demonstrates how vital the Respect the Water campaign is as we work towards our goal of reducing coastal drowning.

Respect the Water campaign reached 74.5M people in May and August

PEOPLE RECEIVED ADVICE AND PRODUCTS FROM THE WATER SAFETY EVENTS TEAM

124 PEOPLE WERE SEEN AND ADVISED AS PART OF OUR ADVICE ONBOARD SERVICE

46,630 PEOPLE RECEIVED ADVICE AND PRODUCTS FROM THE WATER SAFETY EVENTS TEAM

‘I realised it wasn’t about swimming for my life, it was literally about relaxing to save my life.’

SURFER RUTH OSBORNE WHO IS IN NO DOUBT THAT THE RNLI’S FLOAT TO LIVE ADVICE SAVED HER LIFE.
YOUTH EDUCATION STATISTICS

RAISING AWARENESS

The Youth Education programme aims to increase awareness of the RNLI brand and the risks children and young people face in, on and around water. The activities are targeted at young people as well as parents, teachers and youth leaders.

In 2019, we continued training our 400-strong team of education volunteers across the UK and Ireland to deliver our new safety messages for young people as per our youth brand guidelines. The guidelines ensure that our cause and prevention communications are consistent, age appropriate, clearly understood and engaged with.

In June, we launched our online Water Safety Workshops on RNLI.org. The purpose of our digital launch was to raise awareness of the importance of water safety and what the Youth Education Team can offer to schools and youth groups.

ENGAGING WITH OUR EDUCATION COMMUNITIES

We continue to focus our work on young people within their communities across the UK and Ireland. In 2019, our Youth Education Team engaged with a record number of over 600,000 young people through a variety of channels including:

• volunteer visits to schools and youth groups
• work with safety centres and Lifeskill events
• and partnerships with local authorities and other local safety providers including the fire service and police.

LIFEGUARD ENGAGEMENT

2019 saw an overall increase in the number of children reached through our Meet the Lifeguards programme. In areas where numbers remained static, interest was still very high.

A total of 145,959 children participated in our Meet the Lifeguards programme and 856 children in our Hit the Surf programme.

Both lifeguard engagement programmes are delivered by RNLI lifeguards during the summer and autumn school terms.

SWIM SAFE

Swim Safe is a programme that offers free water safety sessions for children and young people, equipping them with the skills to stay safe in and around open water. A total of 62,696 children and young people took part in Swim Safe in 2019 – a 35% increase on 2018. Of these participants, 22,054 attended our outdoor sessions. And for the second year, Swim Safe was delivered indoors with 40,642 participants at 101 Everyone Active sites across England.

Of the returning participants, 76% remembered the messaging from the previous year. In addition, we were able to measure the knowledge retention of accompanying parents/guardians, 99% of whom could recall the Float To Live message.

DEVELOPING OUR FUTURE SUPPORTERS

We continue to raise awareness of the RNLI with our youth audiences. Our aim is to create young adults who are receptive to our water safety messages and willing to support our organisation in the future because they will know who we are and what we stand for.

Storm Force membership is the RNLI’s very own club for young people under the age of 11.

Membership includes:
• an exclusive crew bag, pencil case, stickers and more
• four issues of Storm Force magazine a year, packed with real rescue stories, fun things to make and do, competitions and water safety advice
• exclusive access to our online Crew Room with great activities and exciting rescue videos.

In 2020, the RNLI’s Water Safety Team will continue to drive forward our work with young people across the RNLI and ensure that all our activities and programmes align to the Water Safety Plan, thereby contributing to the overall organisational objectives.
145,959 children reached through our Meet the Lifeguards Programme

62,696 Swim Safe participants

1,953 website sessions leading to youth education presentation enquiries

12,180 Storm Force memberships

42,109 youth education lifeboat station visits

607,856 children and young people reached with key water safety messages
The RNLI Flood Rescue Team is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to deploy to flooding events in the UK, Ireland and abroad to perform search and rescue. The team comprises lifeboat crews and lifeguard personnel from all around the RNLI, who have been specially trained for the risks involved when working in or around fast-moving floodwater.

The RNLI had the capacity to deploy up to four Type B teams until October 2019, at which point the service was reduced to two Type B teams. The teams meet DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) configuration requirements and are declared to the relevant national agencies for deployment anywhere in the UK, Isle of Man and Ireland. There are also occasions when our community assets, the lifeboat stations and lifeguards, are called upon to support their local communities.

The RNLI responded to one flood-related incident in August 2019 when the north of England experienced a series of heavy rain systems which were made worse by the prevailing wind. The result of the heavy rain and wind direction caused overtopping of the Toddbrook Reservoir in Whaley Bridge. Two teams were deployed to the village of Whaley Bridge due to the risk of the failure of the dam. While on site, they assisted the fire service with the safe movement of pumping machinery.
Over the last decade, 4 million people drowned globally. This is an international development challenge that lacks recognition, and for this reason drowning has been identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the silent epidemic. Over 90% of drowning deaths happen in low- and middle-income countries. In many parts of Asia, drowning is now a leading killer of children over the age of 1.

**INTERNATIONAL STATISTICS**

The RNLI is working with partners globally and in countries where drowning has been recognised as a significant problem to elevate the issue onto the global agenda. Together we aim to widen the research base, grow skills and identify cost-effective and practical solutions to save more lives. Overall, it is our goal that by 2024, drowning prevention will be a higher priority and better resourced in areas of the world with the greatest burden.

Recognising that change will take many years and learning from our work over the past few years, we spent 2019 developing new programme strategies to guide our work from 2020 onwards. In Bangladesh and Tanzania this means focusing on preventing drowning for rural children and for fishing communities respectively. These new country programme strategies are closely linked to a global strategy to get drowning onto the agenda of global partners and institutions with the resources to save lives.

**BANGLADESH**

In 2019, the RNLI worked with the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB) on two drowning prevention projects in Bangladesh.

In Barisal Division, the third year of the Bhasa project provided a comprehensive approach to drowning reduction involving multiple interventions. These included:
- community-operated crèches to supervise children aged 1–4 years in a safe environment outside their homes
- a survival swimming programme called SwimSafe which uses adapted local ponds to teach children aged 6–11 years basic survival swimming skills
- community CPR training
- and water safety messages to children in schools.

We are currently measuring the impact of this approach in order to influence next steps.

In Cox’s Bazar, the SeaSafe project provided year-round lifeguard patrols on three sections of the longest beach in the world. The SeaSafe Team also provided swimming lessons to children and water safety education in schools and communities. The RNLI’s financial support to the SeaSafe project will be ending in 2021. We are working with the SeaSafe Team to explore other sources of funding, including from the Ministry of Tourism and local hotel operators, to ensure sustainability of the services.

In 2019, the RNLI also continued to provide the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence with flood rescue operator and flood rescue trainer training as part of its ongoing partnership.
BHASA PROJECT IN BANGLADESH

- 10,852 children and community members received water safety lessons
- 10,187 children received survival swimming lessons
- 8,993 children regularly attended community-operated crèches

SEASAFE PROJECT IN BANGLADESH

- 27 RNLI-trained lifeguards on patrol
- 54 people rescued by lifeguards
- 351,931 preventative actions by lifeguards

FLOOD RESCUE TRAINING IN BANGLADESH

- 9,489 children and community members received water safety lessons
- 60 flood rescue operators trained
- 1,187 children received survival swimming lessons
- 16 flood rescue trainers trained and delivering training
In Zanzibar, the RNLI continued its work with partner organisation the Panje Project. This partnership delivers survival swimming lessons to school-age children and provides water safety lessons through schools. The RNLI’s support to the work of the Panje Project will be concluding in 2020. We have been working with them to ensure sustainability of their drowning prevention efforts, including exploring other sources of funding and providing advocacy training.

In Dar es Salaam, the RNLI continued to provide training support to Tanzania Sea Rescue, a voluntary maritime search and rescue service operating out of Msasani Bay. The RNLI also partnered with Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit (MITU) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) on a new research project in 2019. The aim of the project was to estimate the burden and impact of drowning on fishing communities around the Tanzanian shore of Lake Victoria and to understand potential methods for improving safety. This study estimated that five fishermen and women drown every day in the Tanzanian sector of Lake Victoria and these deaths have profound effects on the community.

In 2019, the RNLI continued to provide support to advocates from 11 countries where drowning is a significant problem. This support originated from our advocate development programme pilot workshop that took place in 2018. Three of the 12 advocates attended the World Conference on Drowning Prevention and put their skills to use there. All were able to connect with journalists and leaders on drowning prevention from their own countries and regions.

Since 2018, we have been educating and engaging country representatives at the United Nations, where drowning has previously been neglected as an issue. During 2019, we worked closely with three governments who have agreed to champion the issue and briefed over 50 more. Together, our work will hopefully lead to the first ever resolution on drowning prevention being proposed at the United Nations in 2020.

We have also worked closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) on a project to help 30 countries in Southeast Asia and Western Pacific region start to determine their current drowning burden and efforts to tackle it. This work will culminate in 2020 with the production of two regional status reports on drowning prevention. These reports will be the first of their kind and hopefully a model for other regions to adopt.
The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea
Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736),
the Republic of Ireland (20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man, the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney