



RNLI 2025 IN STORIES

**The difference we
make – together**





Our purpose

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Our vision

To save every one

Our values

Courageous, dependable, selfless, trustworthy

Whoever we are Wherever we are from

We are one crew

Ready to save lives

We're powered by passion **talent** and **kindness**

Like generations of selfless lifesavers before us

This is our watch

We lead the way

Valuing each other Trusting each other **Depending on one another**

Volunteering to face the storm together

Knowing that **with courage nothing is impossible**

That is what has always driven us

to save every one we can

It's what makes every one of us

a lifesaver



INTRODUCTION

'This is something very, very special'

Karen Ellis | Supports lifesaving with kind donations

Welcome to *RNLI 2025 in Stories* – where people share the stories behind our charity's impressive statistics. You'll read about the real, human impact of each element of the RNLI's work – from communities being brought together, to rescued people going on to achieve incredible things.

I'm so happy to introduce this report. As a regular donor, I'm proud of what my support is helping to achieve, in the UK, in Ireland, and beyond. However you've helped, I hope you're proud too.

I grew up in landlocked Warwickshire, but going on family holidays to the seaside. And from a young age I remember Dad saying that the crews were volunteers and thinking gosh, this is really something very, very special. Important work, and also exciting!

The RNLI was the first charity I decided to support when I had my first pay cheque. And years later I'm still proud to make a regular donation. Even in these modern times, we're still very reliant on the sea in our island nations.

When I donate, I feel I'm contributing to the upkeep of the lifeboats, stations, equipment ... practical things. I've done some fundraising myself, and people

often ask the question, quite legitimately: 'Where does my money go?' Charities can't operate without spending a little bit on admin, and it's helpful and transparent to have that breakdown, which you can see in the Annual Report and Accounts.

I've also supported Launch a Memory, where you can put a loved one's name on a lifeboat – it's such a lovely idea. When my husband Martin was alive, we used to say that if we won the lottery we'd like to fund a lifeboat. When Launch a Memory started, I thought: 'I can do something that is meaningful and beneficial to the RNLI but also a comfort to me.' I've now put mine and Martin's names on a lifeboat, as well as my grandparents' and my parents'.

This report shows the real, everyday impact of the donations we make. And the volunteers are so deserving of that support.



Karen is just one of the thousands of people who keep the RNLI's work going, and who have a special place in their hearts for our lifesaving community

'It puts a lump in your throat to think of people bravely helping others'

I recently read about a couple who were getting married when their pagers went off – it puts a lump in your throat to think that people drop whatever they're doing to help.

My Dad used to say that you never know when you might need the RNLI, and that's still so true.

It's a special community, and lovely to be a part of.



Kind people like Karen make sure RNLI lifesavers have what they need to help people in danger



ACHILL ISLAND | August 2025



Ger (blue hat), Anne-Marie (red hat), and the friends they were with when Ger went into shock

'I didn't think I'd ever need a lifeboat'

Ger Murphy | Rescued by Achill Island lifeboat crew

My partner Anne-Marie and I were in Achill for the weekend, visiting friends. On Saturday morning, we decided to hike down to the secluded Annagh Beach. It was quite steep, with a lot of heather – tricky to get down. I wasn't looking forward to hiking back up. There was a sightseeing boat out on the water and I remember joking that maybe it would give us a lift home.

We went in for a quick dip to cool off. Then, when we came out, Anne-Marie asked why I wasn't getting changed. I don't remember it, but apparently I asked her to give me a minute as I was a bit disorientated.

I asked Anne-Marie where we were. She said: 'Remember we came down to Achill last night?' I said: 'Did we?' I had zero memory

of anything. When my friends told me it was 2025, I couldn't believe it. When they said it was August, I couldn't believe it. They thought I must have had a mini stroke. There was no way I was getting back up the hill. My friends called the Coast Guard.

I think the fact we stayed calm eased things. I'm sure my partner and friends were panicked, but

they didn't let on. Apparently I kept asking what day it was, where are we, how did we get down here? The first memory I have is seeing the helicopter coming towards us. And then the Coast Guard boat and the RNLI lifeboat. We had to wade out 2 or 3 metres and were helped aboard the Coast Guard boat, transferred to the larger lifeboat, and then taken back

to the lifeboat station, which took about an hour. An ambulance took me to hospital in Castlebar. It turned out that cold water shock had caused transient global amnesia. It's like pulling out the hard disk on your computer. For an hour and a half I wasn't creating any memories, and I wasn't able to access memories. My GP had only heard about the condition in training. There were no lasting effects.

There's a barber shop I go to, who have an RNLI donation box. For years I've put money into it, but I didn't realise I'd ever be calling on their services.

It's hard to articulate my immense gratitude to everyone involved. The coast guards and RNLI lifeboat crew were so professional and caring.

'I had zero memory. My friends said it was 2025 and I couldn't believe it'

Ger is just **1 of 8,290** people aided by RNLI lifeboat crews in 2025



238
LIFEBOAT STATIONS
KEEPING COMMUNITIES
SAFE



272
LIVES SAVED



9,058
LIFEBOAT LAUNCHES



Dig deeper into LIFEBOAT STATISTICS here



‘They’re brilliant people, truly selfless’

I especially want to thank the lady who kept a watchful eye on me onboard. I was apologising for all the fuss. They said: ‘No, don’t ever say that, we’re just happy it’s a good result.’ This year I have in mind to organise something to raise funds for the Coast Guard and Achill RNLI.

Ger Murphy | Rescued by Achill Island lifeboat crew



Achill Island lifeboat volunteers are proud to be there when needed, thanks to community support and kind donations



Dig deeper into LIFEBOAT STATISTICS here

GREAT YARMOUTH AND GORLESTON | September 2025



Helm John McLellan and his crew did what they had to do in severe conditions

'I asked my crew if they were happy to go. They said: "We have to."'

John is just **1 of 5,400** lifeboat volunteers ready to rescue in 2025



56,570

CREW HOURS AT SEA



23

PEOPLE HELPED EACH DAY ON AVERAGE



8

CLASSES OF LIFEBOAT FOR DIFFERENT SITUATIONS

'Waves broke over us. It was a bit spicy'

John McLellan | Helm, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston RNLI crew

We were told there were four people in a liferaft, with their yacht going down. We launched our RIB-style B class lifeboat, to make best speed and to navigate the shallows around Cross Sands.

It was a rough journey, bumping along the waves. And we felt every bump. Spray was soaking us. We could see Cross Sands, and the whole area was just white with rough water.

Caister's independent lifeboat had launched, and its crew had found the liferaft empty. The Caister lifeboat is an all-weather craft, large and with an enclosed space for survivors to warm up and recover – ideal if the

people had been in the liferaft, as reported. But its size meant it couldn't go closer to the sands, or it would risk running aground. That risk was there for us too, in our smaller lifeboat, but we had a better chance of finding the missing sailors, and getting out safely ourselves.

The yacht was fully over on its side, with waves breaking over the top. I turned to my crew, Phil, Ben and Dan, and said: 'Are you happy

for us to go in?' They said: 'We have to.'

We made our way in, with waves coming from all directions, a couple of metres high and breaking over us. They were picking us up and dropping us down; we hit the bottom a couple of times. We were trying to count people and could only see two of the four, still onboard the yacht.

On our sixth or seventh attempt to get close, we saw

a third head bob up. The yacht was breaking up, and there were things like lifejackets and chests drifting. We checked the debris for the missing person, as did Caister's crew. Then we saw a wave come over the yacht and knock one of the sailors overboard. He hung onto the side and his friends pulled him back in. Next we saw of them, it seemed they were drifting away – we thought they were in the water. Right then, we almost went over ourselves. But we had to keep trying.

We got close, and it turned out they were in their tender. When we pulled the tender in, we were relieved to count four people. We got them onboard and got clear of the sandbank. What a sigh of relief. We transferred the sailors to Caister lifeboat. High fives and well dones all round. It was definitely a bit spicy.



Dig deeper into LIFEBOAT STATISTICS here



'Someone ordered a pizza, while we got the boat ready for the next shout'

When we got back, we refuelled and washed down the lifeboat. Our mechanic was fixing some damage from the battering we'd got, while we and the sailors warmed up. They had come from Denmark and had nowhere to go. Our coxswain set about finding them a hotel, while we had tea and biscuits, and then a pizza arrived.

John McLellan | Helm, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston RNLI crew



Ben, Dan, Phil and John were ready to help the sailors, thanks to you

RESCUE HEAD CAM 01

▶ RNLI LIFEBOATS

01



02



03



Rescue footage:
 01. The RNLI crew liaised with their rescue colleagues on Caister independent lifeboat
 02. The sailors were cold and exhausted, and the transfer between lifeboats was difficult
 03. The small RNLI lifeboat could get in close, and the large Caister lifeboat was warmer and more comfortable - teamwork benefits all



Dig deeper into LIFEBOAT STATISTICS here

TRESAITH BEACH | July 2025

'The little girl and her grandma clung to each other in the waves'

Molly Newland | RNLI Lifeguard



RNLI lifeguards kept people safe to enjoy our beautiful beaches throughout 2025

It was quite cold, but a fairly busy day. I was sitting in the lifeguard chair on Tresaith Beach, and there were dumping waves. I watched a woman walk into the water while holding a little girl, her granddaughter. And I saw a wave come and knock them over. It happens; I thought they'd get straight back up again. But the waves just kept coming and they weren't getting up. This all happened in a matter of seconds. I ran in to help.

The little girl and her grandma were clinging to each other, being swept about by the waves and pulled deeper by the backwash. I made the quick decision to get the girl back to the beach first. At this stage, she was face-down in the water. This would have still been a matter of seconds, but it felt at the time like it was going on for ages, because every second counted. The grandma was panicking and holding on tight to the girl, but I managed to pick the little one up and carry her

out of the water. She was crying. I had to leave her on the sand and go back in for her grandma.

The woman still couldn't get to her feet, she must have been very tired and scared. I got my arms under her armpits and managed to pull her upright and walk with her back to the shallows, so she could catch her breath.

I brought them to the lifeguard hut and gave them the big blue RNLI blanket we give to people who look cold. I checked them over, made sure they hadn't inhaled any water, and gave some safety advice.

Later that day, the little girl came back with some shells she had collected for me on the beach. I was really touched by it. I collect sea glass I spot on the beach, so I gave her a piece of sea glass from my pocket. The grandma asked what beach I was going to be on the next day, and they found me and gave me a shell the little

'It felt like ages, but it all happened in a matter of seconds'



Molly was touched when the little girl presented her with a shell – hand-painted especially for her

girl had painted for me overnight. It was really sweet. I still have it, on a shelf in my bedroom, next to a picture of our lifeguard team. The colours she used are pink, yellow and blue.

Molly is just **1** of **1,608** RNLI lifeguards who patrolled in 2025



3,126
PEOPLE RESCUED



117
LIVES SAVED



249
BEACHES COVERED



Dig deeper into LIFEGUARD STATISTICS here



'The beach is here for us all to enjoy'

I hope the little girl and her grandma have had many more fun days on the beach. It can be dangerous, but if people choose a lifeguarded beach, we are there to help. And it sounds cheesy, but that really, really wouldn't be possible without people's donations.

Molly Newland | RNLI Lifeguard



Lifeguards, lifeboat crew, silly mascots and you
– Molly is part of a lifesaving community that means so much to so many



Dig deeper into LIFEGUARD STATISTICS here

KIRKCUDBRIGHT LIFEBOAT STATION | November 2025



'It's almost like the people of Kirkcudbright have reclaimed their lifeboat'

Far left: Kirkcudbright lifeboat crew are incredibly touched by the community's support

Left: Christine (quoted) is part of a dedicated group of fundraisers making the new station possible

'It feels as if the town has given us a great big hug'

Christine Collins | Volunteer Fundraiser, Kirkcudbright RNLI

Kirkcudbright Lifeboat Station was built in 1892. And, until very recently, if somebody from 1892 had arrived here, they'd have felt completely at home. Very little had changed. But construction is now nearing completion on a building with the facilities the volunteers deserve.

Our local fundraising committee was asked if we could raise £50,000 towards the £1.2M cost of the new station. We sat and looked at each other. We had been raising £5,000 to £6,000 a year. It was a huge ask for such

a small community. But people's generosity has blown us away.

The different things people all around Kirkcudbright have done have been incredible. Just as we were launching our appeal, I had a phone call from somebody

saying their choir was doing three concerts, and we were welcome to bring along collecting buckets. We raised £800. At one concert, one man took a great interest, and the next day we received a cheque from him for £814. That's the number of our lifeboat – B-814 *Sheila Stenhouse*.

We've had an art trail, tribute band nights, a tractor parade, runs, walks, swims and coffee mornings. Local businesses decorated their windows for us, and Castle MacLellan Foods Ltd gave over £37,000 when its workers voted for our appeal to receive its annual donation. Two local women arranged a film night and a raffle and made £1,000. We've now raised £140,000 locally, and it's still coming in.

We've had fun. To be honest, fundraising isn't always fun, like when you're standing with a bucket in the rain! But it does give

you a real feeling of satisfaction, and that you've contributed something. And, as fundraisers, the appeal has absolutely pulled us together. We've formed great friendships, and that's so important.

We were amazed to win one of the Scottish Fundraising Awards in September 2025. Then in November the committee were given Kirkcudbright's Citizen of the Year Award, which involved turning on the Christmas lights, and that local appreciation meant just as much to us as the big national award.

It's lovely to know that the lifeboat is held in such high regard. It's almost like the people have reclaimed their lifeboat. Our chairman summed it up – he's not a sentimental guy, but he said it feels as if Kirkcudbright has given us a great big hug.

Christine is just **1 of 14,700** volunteers raising funds and giving safety advice in 2025



**£277.1M/
€324.7M
RAISED**



**650
LOCAL FUNDRAISING
GROUPS**



**65%
OF INCOME COMES
FROM GIFTS IN WILLS**



Dig deeper into the RNLI's FUNDRAISING FIGURES here



'The new station should be open by summer'

The crew deserve it, especially the shore crew. While waiting for the lifeboat to return from a shout, they've had to climb up a ladder and sit on deckchairs, with no heating, just a kettle on a bench. The appeal taught us that people are hugely generous and wanted to help. We didn't have to do it alone.

Christine Collins | Volunteer Fundraiser, Kirkcudbright RNLI

Kirkcudbright Lifeboat Station is an old, isolated building with few facilities. Local fundraisers, with huge support from the surrounding community, are helping to change that



Dig deeper into the RNLI's FUNDRAISING FIGURES [here](#)



Special events and hands-on activities help children retain important water safety lessons

COLD FALL SCHOOL, LONDON | June 2025

'It was as if an A-list celebrity was in the room'

Sebastien Descrettes |
Assistant Head, Coldfall Primary School

The RNLI visited our school on 6 June to lead a water safety workshop for Year 5 children and to take some photographs for their magazine. A Year 3 class performed a special RNLI-themed assembly. RNLI Lifeguard Mungo also went into this Year 3 class for a short Q&A.

There was a sense of excitement that it was a real lifeguard. The presentation was delivered with high energy and the children were involved, and eager to answer questions and take part. Because the content was well pitched, and delivered in a fun, interactive way, the children were fully engaged. Teachers always enjoy workshops where we don't have to step in to manage behaviour!

The children already had good knowledge of water safety, but they learned tips on how to float well (making sure their ears are in the water) and what to do if they got caught in a rip current. They learned about staying safe on the beach. They learned about different beach flags, and how to call for help.

One class then got to stay behind for further activities so they could be photographed. The children really loved getting to dress up as lifeguards and practise throwing the lifesaving aid around the classroom. They loved seeing themselves in the magazine after the photoshoot. And I loved seeing the Year 3 class who had prepared the assembly about the RNLI meet Mungo. It was as if an A-list celebrity was in the room.

Months later, I asked two Year 5 girls what they could remember. They confidently told me: 'You should always go to a beach that has a lifeguard. You should look for flags: a red flag shows you shouldn't swim. If you get caught in a rip current you should try to swim across or diagonal rather than back towards the beach.' I asked about falling into cold water. They said: 'Take deep breaths, don't try to swim straight away, and float with your head back.'

'Months later, the children confidently told me that you should always go to a beach with a lifeguard'

Coldfall is just **1 of 1,700+** schools reached in 2025



213,000
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SPOKEN WITH



1,500
BUSINESSES SHARING SAFETY ADVICE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES



82,000
FANS REACHED AT ALL-IRELAND HURLING SEMI-FINAL



Dig deeper into EDUCATION AND WATER SAFETY here



'Children are always learning'

Special events like this give them a tangible point in time to attach knowledge to, which helps them retain it. The RNLI coming in really did feel like a special event. Parents can't be experts on everything, and often children don't receive the correct messages at home. The visit helped us get factual and important messages to children, in a fun learning environment, to keep them safe.

Sebastien Descrettes | Assistant Head, Coldfall Primary School

Coldfall's kids give RNLI Lifeguard Mungo Palmer their full attention in a lifesaving lesson



Dig deeper into EDUCATION AND WATER SAFETY [here](#)

LAKE VICTORIA, TANZANIA | January 2025

'I hear testimonies from fishermen whose lifejackets saved their lives'

Venant Enock | Project Officer, Lake Victoria Drowning Prevention Project



Above: Fishing is a way of life on Lake Victoria, and drowning can be prevented

Right: Venant (left) takes the lead in a buoyancy device design workshop in Zanzibar



I am a project officer and trainer for the Lake Victoria Drowning Prevention Project, run by EMEDO Tanzania and supported by the RNLI. I conduct awareness campaigns for the community, and I gather statistics. I also teach fishers about safety when doing their work on the lake, and train other local people to be trainers.

I usually wake up between 1am and 6am – it depends what time the fishermen are coming in from the lake. I don't have an office – I'm more of a mobile person. I go to the landing sites to observe the numbers wearing lifejackets. Then I visit the beach management offices to discuss any issues.

Later I check whether the weather board has been filled in by the weather champions, and speak with them about any updates too. I sometimes attend public meetings or meetings with community leaders, to talk about any issues, or any new themes or ideas. I usually end my day by giving some awareness messaging to the fishermen and fish processors – I can usually find them in groups.

The best part of my role is seeing the direct impact on fishermen. They are now reducing financial losses since they now check the weather boards. The local fish processors, usually women, are also avoiding losses because they check the forecast

before buying fish at a high price. Of course, the most important part is the lives that have been saved. I hear testimonies from fishermen whose boats capsized and who relied on lifejackets to save their lives. Lifejackets were not commonly worn before the project.

The most obvious challenge is resources. We have had to adapt our training here by using picture cards as most of the local areas are so remote that they don't have electricity. Also, we often lack the proper materials that are recommended for use, so we mostly tell the fishermen to improvise and utilise the available resources, for example saving someone from drowning by throwing a jerrycan with a rope.

Personally, through this project I have got a chance to interact with a lot of people from different parts of the world (the UK, Uganda, Madagascar, Mozambique, Kenya, Belgium and many other countries). I have also had a scholarship from EMEDO and the RNLI to study at Dar Es Salaam Maritime Institute to improve my skills as a trainer, which is a lifetime skill.

'Fish processors, usually women, are saving money by checking the weather forecast before buying at high prices'

Venant is just **1 of 12** people trained by the RNLI to give safety advice to fishers in Tanzania



300,000
PEOPLE DROWN
AROUND THE WORLD
EVERY YEAR



80
COUNTRIES MARKED
WORLD DROWNING
PREVENTION DAY



5
TRAINING MANUALS
TRANSLATED INTO
4 LANGUAGES



Dig deeper into OUR WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS here



Lifejacket access makes a huge difference, and we're sharing knowledge with partners around the world, to make the biggest impact

'There are ways we can save even more lives'

I hope the project will be extended to more places, so that more communities get access to the weather forecast, and to quality lifejackets at affordable prices, enabling safety of all the stakeholders in the fish chain. I also hope to continue learning and to deliver knowledge to larger groups of fishers and trainers.

Venant Enock | Project Officer,
Lake Victoria Drowning Prevention Project



Dig deeper into OUR WORK WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS here

ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOAT CENTRE, POOLE | October 2025



Apprenticeships like Jack's help us develop the technical skills the RNLI needs, while also giving opportunities to those starting out in vital technical careers

'The responsibility gives me a sense of accomplishment, and the lifeboats I'm helping build will save lives'

Jack is just **1 of 108** apprentices at the RNLI in 2025. Investing in people is part of our sustainability plan, keeping us fit for the future.

'This apprenticeship has helped me in all areas of my life'

Jack Domoney | RNLI Technician Mechanic

In 2025 I came to the end of my 4-year RNLI Marine Engineer Apprenticeship.

I worked on Shannon class commissioning, which involves testing the systems on the lifeboat and making sure they are all working as they should. Not only did this improve my diagnostic skills, but I also noticed a positive difference in my attention to detail.

After commissioning, we take the lifeboat out for a sea trial.

I was lucky enough to be involved in this too, which was great fun.

At college I completed a unit on diesel engines, where I had to take three engines apart and do various tests, such as pressure and cylinder leak tests.

I learned a lot about the different components in an engine, including how they work and how to fix them. These skills were so useful in helping me solve problems independently while working at the All-weather Lifeboat Centre (ALC).

I got so much out of my fourth year because people trusted me to get on with more complex mechanical work on my own.

Having more responsibility and being independent gave me a real sense of accomplishment, especially when the lifeboats I was helping to build would go on to save lives. I also felt more mature in all aspects of my life – having a good routine, communicating with a variety of different people, and being trusted to do a good job all made a difference.

This apprenticeship was the best thing I could have done for my career. I'm a real hands-on learner, so getting

on-the-job experience was invaluable. I also had so many amazing opportunities, such as representing the RNLI and showcasing some of my work at the Bournemouth Air Show.

In the final few months of my apprenticeship, I visited a few lifeboat stations and met some station mechanics, where I learned more about the work they do onsite.

By the end of October I was ready for my end-point assessment and presentation. It was a challenge, as I'd never done anything like it before. But it went smoothly, I passed, and was offered a job as a technician, which I was thrilled about. The transition has been exciting, but also a huge learning curve. My team has been excellent in helping me settle into the role, and this support is the main reason I have grown into the confident technician I am today.



116

RESCUE CRAFT AND VEHICLES WORKED ON IN THE ALC



£63K

OF INCOME FROM RNLI-GENERATED RENEWABLE ENERGY

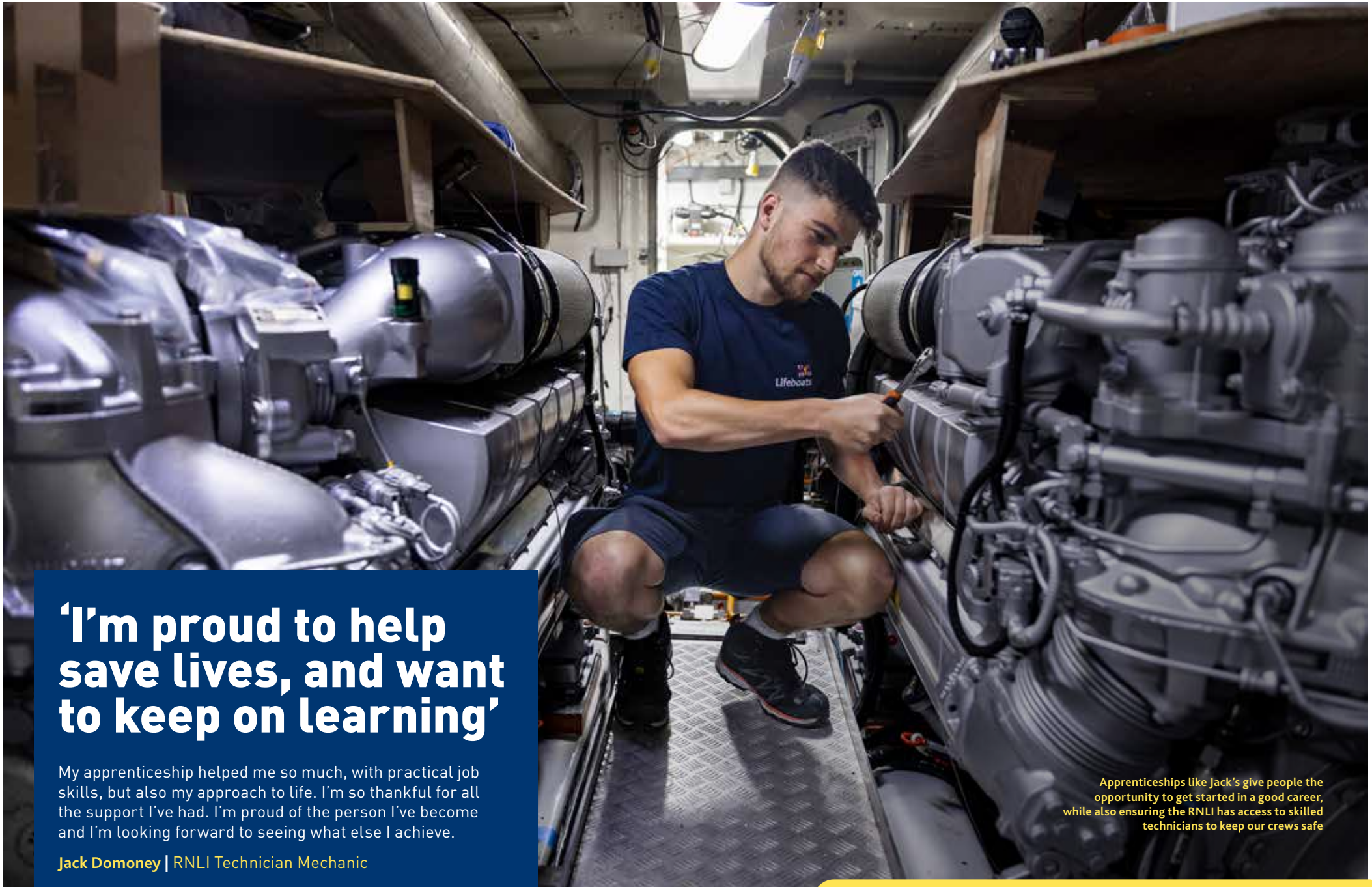


0.4%

GENDER PAY GAP



Dig deeper into SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE PLANS here



'I'm proud to help save lives, and want to keep on learning'

My apprenticeship helped me so much, with practical job skills, but also my approach to life. I'm so thankful for all the support I've had. I'm proud of the person I've become and I'm looking forward to seeing what else I achieve.

Jack Domoney | RNLI Technician Mechanic

Apprenticeships like Jack's give people the opportunity to get started in a good career, while also ensuring the RNLI has access to skilled technicians to keep our crews safe



Dig deeper into SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE PLANS here

ONGOING IMPACT

The ongoing impact of the RNLI's work

So far, in this report, you've read about things that happened in 2025. But every action has an impact that lasts for years, none more so than when a life is saved. Here, we catch up with some people on what they've been up to since their rescues, made possible by the RNLI and our supporters.

MEG:

'Finishing a novel is stressful, but not as bad as being stuck on an upturned dinghy'



About a week after I was rescued, I got the final set of notes on the draft of my novel. Finishing a novel is quite stressful. But in difficult moments I thought back to some scary moments at sea, and remembered that, relatively speaking, novel edits are not so bad!

It was 20 July when our Wayfarer started to capsize repeatedly due to a crack in the buoyancy tank. It must have been around 20 minutes – and then we had that magic moment when a friendly orange boat bumped over a wave. Clovelly and Appledore lifeboat crews were there to help.

The novel, a dark feminist reimagining of Arthurian myth, will be published in 2026. Without the RNLI, it's best not to think about what could have happened instead. And the crews were so kind and funny and warm. It was like being picked up by some lovely friends.



JON:

'I moved in with my partner and I got promoted, which was lush!'

When I fell while climbing in Anglesey in 2024, I felt my back break. Holyhead lifeboat crew were there on the ledge with me for hours, making sure I was comfortable. One of the crew members held my hand. The lifeboat crew worked with the Coastguard to get me into an air ambulance.

Despite multiple fractured vertebrae, I recovered quickly. In 2025, I moved in with my partner. I got promoted at work, which was lush. Spending a lot more time with friends was another highlight. One thing that wouldn't have happened had the RNLI not been there to help me.

On the anniversary of my accident, I visited Holyhead Lifeboat Station to say thank you. I had a cup of tea and I gave them a cheque from my grandad, who had passed away a couple of months prior, and had asked for funeral donations to the RNLI.

DAVE:

'My incident didn't put me off boats!'

I was rescued in 1977, after getting caught out by a severe gale when sailing back to England from Cherbourg. I still vividly remember the lifeboat arriving through the spray and the skill with which the Yarmouth volunteers handled their vessel in those boiling seas at the Needles.

Since then, I've built boats on the Thames as part of a long career. I'm about to retire, but this summer I'll spend 3 days a week working on Rollesby Broad as a skipper. My incident didn't put me off boats! I've also been a youth worker with Youth for Christ. I've got three children and nine grandchildren, who I'm so proud of.

In 2025, our ninth grandchild was born, and our eldest grandchild turned 18. Beautiful moments, but I wouldn't be here without the RNLI.



Dig deeper into OUR ONGOING IMPACT here



Every story you've read in this report – every rescue, every child taught a safety message, every life saved or changed for the better – is only possible thanks to the RNLI's wonderful donors, volunteers and supporters.

The RNLI is a charity, independent of the government. We rely on kind voluntary contributions to give our lifesavers what they need to help people in distress, and to teach people how to keep themselves safe. This support comes from individual donors, local groups, fundraising events, trusts and foundations, corporate partners, and gifts in Wills. We are so grateful for every contribution, and so are the people you've met in these pages.

Thank you.



Find out how to join OUR LIFESAVING COMMUNITY at [RNLI.org](https://www.rnli.org)





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 (CHY 2678 and 20003326) the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney (CH135 and CH386), of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ

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RNLI.org

Cover image:

An RNLI lifeguard gives safety advice on Broughty Ferry Beach

Credit: www.fotonick.co.uk

Photos: Pauline Driscoll, EMEDO, Philip Haynes, RNLI/(Caister, Phil Denby, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, Nigel Millard, Nathan Williams), Jon Tweedlie

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Lifeboats