

FOREVER BY THE SEA

TRIBUTE FUNDS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012
Issue 7



Lifeboats



Photo: RNLI/Nicholas Leach

CELEBRATING BRAVERY

Welcome to the Summer edition of this newsletter, which honours the success of our tribute funds, the dedication of those who set them up and the lives they commemorate.

In this edition we are celebrating three lifeboat crew members who received medals for gallantry for some of the more dramatic rescues in 2011 and early this year. We are also recognising the bravery and dedication of our tribute fund holders as we hear how some of you have used your funds to overcome personal challenges and emotional heartache.

Summer brings the opportunity for you to head to the coast and meet RNLI lifesavers to hear first

hand how their commitment results in some truly astonishing rescues. RNLI station open days also provide the opportunity for you to see how your donations and fundraising efforts may be spent. Further details are available at RNLI.org/opendays.

The accompanying letter includes your fund's total. As always, if you have any questions or require any assistance, please get in touch. Thank you for your generosity and your effort in helping us to continue saving lives at sea.

Gemma

Gemma Nightingale, RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator



Your funds in action

| Your stories

| Fundraising ideas

REMEMBERING WILLIAM MACIVER

My dad, William Maciver, spent many years at sea – first, leaving his home of North Tolsta on the Isle of Lewis at 16 to join the Merchant Navy and subsequently on the NLV *Pharos* with the Northern Lighthouse Board.

He grew up with the story of the *lolaire* disaster, an Admiralty vessel that sank on 1 January 1919 in the Minch strait. It was one of the worst maritime disasters in UK waters during the 20th century, with 205 sailors losing their lives, 181 of whom were islanders.

My dad's love of the sea prompted us to raise money for the RNLI and the Forever by the Sea tribute funds seemed a fitting way to remember him, starting with donations received at his funeral.

But I wanted to do more. To mark my 40th birthday I set myself a challenge to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. I left the freezing cold of Edinburgh on 19 January 2012 and arrived in the sweltering heat of Tanzania.

The first 4 days were spent acclimatising to the altitude and taking in the amazing scenery but starting the final ascent to the summit in the cold and dark at 11pm was hard.

The ensuing 5-hour hike up what felt like a

1,000m sand dune, passed in a bit of a haze due to the lack of oxygen.

After a lot of sweat, a few tears and encouragement (pushing and dragging!) from my dedicated guide Asante, I made it to the top. I can't put into words what a relief it was, arriving for the sunrise and a well-earned cuppa.

Ten of the group of 15 made it to Uhuru Peak, the highest point in Africa – on the anniversary of the death of my dad. I think it's fair to say I will remember this birthday, although I'm still not sure I can say I actually enjoyed it!

The generosity of everybody that donated to my fundraising page and the messages they left were fantastic. I was proud to see the fund grow knowing that, as I self-funded the trip, all the money donated was going directly to the RNLI.

We know that dad would have been pleased that the money was going to such a good cause so thank you to everyone for their support.

Ali Maciver



REMEMBERING ANDREW

Our beautiful little boy Andrew James was born with x-linked hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain). Andrew was brain damaged and disabled and could not walk or talk. Although he was totally dependent on us to do everything for him, he was also fully aware of everything around him.

Andrew spent his life in and out of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and our local hospital, and also spent time at the Shooting Star Hospice. Sadly Andrew passed away in June 2009 aged 13.

We visited many different places around Europe with Andrew, as well as going as far as Disneyland in Florida, but our favourite holiday destination with Andrew and our daughter Sarah was St Ives and Land's End in Cornwall.

It's a beautiful place to be. Andrew spent many happy days on the beach with us watching the boats. His favourite colours were orange and yellow and he loved to see the big orange lifeboats coming and going.

Every year on Andrew's birthday, and on the anniversary of his passing, we travel to St Ives to write messages in the sand in his memory and let balloons go, knowing that Andrew would be reaching out to catch them in the sky. We stand by the sea for a long time, thinking and reflecting on our wonderful son.

Whenever we see an RNLI collection box, we always donate money as it's such a good cause. We also like buying many lovely items from the RNLI shop in St Ives and on one of our visits we filled out the form on the back of a paper bag to become an RNLI member. We wrote on the form 'In loving memory of our son Andrew'.



Next thing we knew, we were contacted by the Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund Coordinator, Gemma, and was asked if we would like to set up a fund for Andrew in his memory.

We set this up in 2010 and asked family and friends to make donations each Christmas and on Andrew's birthday. So far we have raised over £1,000 in his memory. The Forever by the Sea fund is a perfect way to keep our brilliant, beautiful son Andrew's memory alive.

We love and miss Andrew very much and will carry on raising money for his fund and the two lifeboat stations that are close to our hearts – St Ives and Sennen Cove.

Thank you Gemma for helping us set up the fund and giving us a wonderful way to keep Andrew's memory alive, always and forever.

Natasha and Lance Duppa-Whyte

REMEMBERING NIC TOWERS



My stepdad Nic Towers loved to sail and he was happiest on the open water. Some of our fondest memories as a family were there too. The RNLI was therefore a charity that was very close to Nic's heart and a cause he supported strongly throughout his life.

When Nic died suddenly last year, the family decided that there was no better way to remember him than to set up a Forever by the Sea fund as a tribute to him. The past year has had many ups and downs but, throughout, the RNLI team has offered support.

I wanted to do more to raise funds for Nic's RNLI tribute fund and, in the pub one night where all good ideas are formed, my friends agreed to take on the London2Brighton Challenge – a 100km walk from Richmond Park, London, to Brighton Racecourse.

On 12 May, Team Towering On! (Nicole Bullen, Tanja Deane, Vicky Higham, Hannah Wyatt and myself) headed off with over 2,000 other walkers. We completed the first 25km in high spirits and, after a break and words of encouragement from my mum and brother, we headed off again. As the 50km point neared, the terrain became increasingly difficult and a real challenge.

Near the halfway checkpoint it became clear that Vicky had seriously injured her ankle and paramedics told her that she would not be able

to continue. Vicky's bravery and determination encouraged the rest of us to carry on so, after an emotional goodbye, we headed off into the night.

After bad weather the previous week had created lots of mud, the night was a struggle. The only positive I could think of was being able to wee in the countryside without anyone seeing!

Finally, the 75km checkpoint came into sight and, after a massage and bacon sandwich, we were ready to face the remaining distance. With encouragement from the mummies and Vicky, we climbed Ditchling Beacon at 90km and Brighton Racecourse was in sight.

This spurred us on and after 29 hours and 48 minutes we crossed the finish line and fell into the arms of the loudest supporters – our families and friends, without whom we would never have completed the challenge.

Icepacks and Ibuprofen gel featured heavily over the next few days but it was worth it for the amazing feeling of completing the challenge and supporting such a fantastic cause. Money is still coming in but we hope that our final fundraising total will be over £5,000.

A fitting tribute to the best man I've known.

Jen Holland

YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION

Three lifeboat crew members recently received medals for gallantry at the Annual Presentation of Awards for three dramatic rescues in 2011 and early 2012. Thanks to your support, with the right equipment and training, they were able to return home safely to their loved ones.

Silver Medal: Garry Clark, Dungeness

On 3 January 2012, in violent storm force 11 winds, seven crew members onboard a sail training yacht with steering-gear damage sent a distress signal.

After three attempts in the turbulent seas, Dungeness lifeboat Crew Member Garry Clark was

transferred to the yacht. He persisted in setting up a tow rope, which parted three times in the horrendous conditions, took care of injured and seasick casualties, and tried to mend the yacht's steering.

With help from both Dungeness and Dover lifeboat crews and an RAF helicopter, all seven were rescued safely.

Garry was awarded the RNLI's Silver Medal for Gallantry – one of the RNLI's highest honours – in recognition of his exemplary bravery and determination during the rescue.



Bronze Medal: Darren Crowe, St Abbs

On 6 June 2011 angler Simon Halston was swept off a rock and into a cave.

Volunteer Helmsman Darren Crowe launched the St Abbs inshore lifeboat along with his uncle (Alistair) and brother (James).

Darren, attached to a line to the lifeboat, swam 20m through the breaking swell into the cave to reach Simon, who was shivering, tired and bleeding from hitting the rocks.

Darren persuaded Simon to jump from the rock ledge and tightly grip him on his back and Alistair and James hauled them both back out.

Simon later said: 'I would have died that day if the RNLI had not been there. Darren risked his life and I owe him mine.'

Darren's courage, level-headedness, physical strength and resourcefulness were critical to saving Simon's life and he was awarded the RNLI's Bronze Medal for Gallantry.



Bronze Medal: Roger Jackson, Exmouth

With four people clinging to a capsized RIB, in danger of becoming separated from their boat and lost in the dangerous, confused and large seas in the River Exe Estuary, the Exmouth D class was launched on 23 October 2011 despite near gale force 7 winds.

Helmsman Roger Jackson and two crew launched through 1.5m surf, working hard to keep the lifeboat upright and using full engine power to climb the face of very large waves.

Roger had little margin for error as the casualties swam to them lifeboat one at a time, timing his passes accurately between wave crests. His skill, tenacity and decisiveness under pressure ensured that all four were rescued safely.

Roger was awarded the RNLI's Bronze Medal for Gallantry.



LOVED ONES REMEMBERED

We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate all the Forever by the Sea funds opened since our last newsletter.

We are proud to commemorate:

- Alan Cantrell • **Alan Albert Seager** • Alexander Neil Turner
- **Annie Axe** • Audrey Ivory • **Barbara Bacon**
- Barbara Eileen Norman • **Bob Jones** • Brenda Clark • **Brian Heath**
- Captain Carl Mason • **Captain Harry G Mowat** • Charles Fox • **Cliford Roy Hadley**
- Colin Edward Cook • **Colin Fleisig** • Daniel Stephen Dakin • **David Bradford Johnstone**
- David Marshall Allsopp • **Des O'Prey** • Diane Underhill • **Donald Carr** • Doris Eileen Gard
- **Dorothy Ainsworth** • Fiona Campbell • **Florence Ameila Endacott** • Frederick John Hayward
- **George Henry Endacott** • Giuliana Dribbell • **Gladys Gloyn** • Graham Brian Lilley
- **Hermanus Krekelaar** • James Stewart • **James Costello** • James Walker • **Joan Crane**
- Joan Mary Hooper • **John Brien Mann** • John David Wallis Howlett • **John Read**
- John William Alexander Dennison • **Johnny Curry** • Josephine Mansell • **Joyce Adams**
- Joyce Margaret Parsons • **Kenneth Richard Knapp** • Kezzy the cat • **Marjorie Moffat**
- Mary Elizabeth Johnstone • **Maureen Scrivener** • Millicent Barbara Andrews • **Nancy Simpson**
- Nora Ellen Patricia Carter • **Nyall James Davies** • Pamela Malim • **Pat Davies**
- Patricia Kate Levick • **Peter Charles Cox** • Peter H Wall • **Peter Hales** • Phil Willis
- **Raymond Hamilton Dukelow** • Richard Blackburn • **Robert Large** • Roland Quayle Kendrick
- **Ronald Townley** • Rose O'Halloran • **Ruby Clearey** • Stuart Mark Wellman
- **Thomas Charles Mellors** • *Titanic* • **Tom Riley** • William Watson • **William Pennycook**



Photo: Tony Jones

The A-Z of fundraising ideas

G

Garden party
Golf tournament
Gym challenge

H

Head shaving
Highland Games

I

Indoor games
International evenings

More to follow ...



CONTACT ME

If you would like to include *your* story in this newsletter, or if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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