

FOREVER BY THE SEA

TRIBUTE FUNDS NEWSLETTER



Lifeboats

Summer 2013
Issue 9



Photo: Kayleigh Hughes

IN LOVING MEMORY

Welcome to the Summer issue of the newsletter which honours those whose lives are commemorated through Tribute Funds.

We feature a father, a brother and a grandfather, who are remembered with RNLI tribute funds. We hear of their achievements and unique experiences. We also discover the incredible generosity and dedication of their friends and family members in keeping their memory alive by raising support for their fund.

After such a wet Winter it is wonderful to say hello to Summer. If you and your family visit the beach you may well spot our lifeguards. This looks to be their busiest year yet as they are patrolling on over 200 beaches.

Our story in this issue describes how 85 swimmers were helped to safety by our lifeguards and lifeboat crew members.

It is thanks to donations from fantastic people like you that the RNLI continues to save lives at sea. Thank you.

Gemma

Gemma Nightingale,
RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator



Your funds in action

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ANDY CANTLE REMEMBERED

Andy's two passions in life were aviation and the RNLI. He was the only person that could be a helmsman on a boat, yet get seasick, and be a pilot despite being afraid of heights. He was also one for pranks, and once filled his crew's yellow wellies with talcum powder.

Andy was born in January 1984 in Sunderland, where he lived with his mum, dad and brother. In 2000, Andy volunteered at his local RNLI station as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. He enjoyed it so much he joined as a crew member the minute he turned 17.

Despite leaving for Salford University in 2000 to pursue a degree in Aviation Technology with Pilot Studies, Andy continued to volunteer as an RNLI crew member and would return home at weekends for Sunday morning training sessions. He became a helmsman and stayed a volunteer at Sunderland station until 2008.

After graduation, Andy and his girlfriend Beth moved to Bedfordshire where he attended the Cabair College of Air Training to gain his pilot's licence. After a lot of hard work and determination, Andy found himself a dream job employed by Manx2 as a First Officer – a pilot at last!

Only 2 weeks later, in February 2011, Andy was killed in a terrible accident when the plane he was co-piloting crash landed in Cork, Ireland in February 2011.

This tragic event changed the lives of everyone who knew and loved Andy, and he is missed every day. Andy was a handsome, fun, caring and constantly happy young man with a bright future ahead of him.

We knew that we had to do something in his memory that would not only help an amazing cause but also give many opportunities to remember him. That's when we discovered the Forever by the Sea fund. Andy's fund was set up by me and my sister Holly, so that people could donate money specifically to Sunderland Lifeboat Station in place of flowers at his funeral (Andy used to think that flowers were a waste of money!).



The station crew members remain a massive support to both Andy and Beth's families. They helped with funeral arrangements and took turns to be pall bearers for Andy. They even arranged a guard of honour, lining the path up to the church doors.

Two years after the accident, it was announced that we had raised enough money to buy Sunderland station a new D class lifeboat and it will be named *The Andy Cantle*. We are all so proud. We're already planning more fundraising events, including netball and football tournaments. RNLI crew members do so much for other people, so it's a fantastic feeling for us to be able to help.

Words from Beth Webster, Andy's girlfriend

MY DAD, ALEXANDER HUGH HEMSLEY

My Dad was the much-loved husband of my Mum, Rosemary, a loving father to me and my four siblings, Lizzie, Francis, Sarah and Kate, and a proud grandfather of 13. He was a wonderful man with a lifelong relationship with the sea.

It started with early childhood experiences in Pembrokeshire, then grew during National Service in the Royal Navy, and continued throughout his adult life when he built dinghies and sailing yachts. He was a dedicated member of the RNLI and helped my Mum raise funds for Shoreham Lifeboat Station over many years.

Dad died, quite unexpectedly, in February this year and of course it came as a great shock to everyone. In coming to terms with our grief, we wanted to try and create some small legacy in his name for a cause that we knew meant a lot to him personally. With some kind advice from the In Memoriam team at the RNLI, we very quickly settled on a Forever by the Sea fund.



Dad had a passion for the sea that spread throughout his life. His early childhood memories included a first encounter with a lifeboat when holidaying by the sea at St David's in Pembrokeshire. Not, I hasten to add, at the sharp end of a rescue but on a jaunt on the lifeboat which included a launch down the ramp – a thrill that created a lifelong memory.

National Service saw him join the Navy. Postings took him to Gibraltar and Malta and to see action during the Suez Crisis. He was on the last ship out at the very end. His final voyage was on *HMS Duchess*, escorting the replica of *The Mayflower* across the Atlantic.

Marriage and a burgeoning family (five children in all!) saw a new phase in his relationship with the sea as he built his first boat, a Mirror dinghy sail no. 22653. I still remember 'helping' to build it at the age of 4, and have many special memories of being taught how to sail.

Yachting came along in the guise of a boatshare. *Quicksilver* – or *Slowsilver* as she was cruelly nicknamed – by the Horsham cruising fraternity – was the first, and she sailed extensively around the Solent and across the channel. She was superseded by *Just Beth*, an Elizabethan 23, which he found more manageable in retirement.

In all his seafaring time he never had cause to call on the services of the RNLI, but was always aware of their presence should misfortune have come his way and was grateful for the sense of security that gave him.

Setting up a fund in his name has ensured that in some small way his death has supported a wonderful organisation. We have been overwhelmed at seeing the fund raise over £1,000 and taken great comfort in the kind words that people have left on the site as they generously donated.

Words from Simon, Alexander's son

BIG BROTHER PAUL GIOVANNI REA

Paul was the best big (twin) brother anyone could possibly wish for. He was caring, kind, funny and always knew how to make people laugh. Of course, he always kept me on my toes, playing pranks and tormenting me, but he would also rescue me when I ran out of fuel, and cheer me up when I was feeling sad. He was a special man with a brilliant sense of humour and he could literally get on with anyone. His family and friends really did mean the world to him, as he did to them. I am so grateful for the years I had growing up with Paul.

We chose to support the RNLI as Paul was an avid sailor and owned his own boat on Whitehaven marina. Paul had to use the RNLI a couple of times himself when (being his adventurous self) he decided to take a dilapidated old speedboat across to the Isle of Man. Somehow he managed to get there, but the engine went kaput on his travels back!

Paul also owned *Fletcher*, a small speedboat that he decided to take out on Morecambe Bay. He set off into the sea and as always, 'Mr Unlucky' had caught the propeller on the sand and it snapped! But the problem was soon solved because he managed to get talking to someone right away and bought a new propeller there and then!

I never got the chance to sail with Paul on his boat, but I hope I can go sailing in the future to see for myself what it's all about!

Paul's fund really reminds us of his great adventures and it's a very worthwhile cause. This year we raised money by creating a night of music for his friends to all enjoy called 'Live on', as Paul also thoroughly enjoyed DJ-ing in his spare time. Last year, a charity skydive saw around 20 of Paul's friends, including our dad, take the plunge!

'Live on' will now be an annual event.

We hope to raise more and more money every year by introducing new ideas and increasing the size. This year we sold wax strips at £5 each for anyone to use on a very hairy friend who nominated himself (Richard Dunn). He had also grown his hair for several years and opted to let us shave it off for sponsorship. We aim to raise more and more funds every year by any means possible!

Words from Gemma, Paul's twin



YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION

When a fun Suffolk swimming event turned serious on Sunday 26 May, local lifeguards and lifeboat crew members quickly combined forces to rescue 85 swimmers from the sea.

Known as the Southwold Pier to Pub Swim, this local event began at noon with entrants expecting to swim a mile before enjoying a sunny afternoon in the local pub garden. But strong tides quickly took swimmers into difficulty, leading to a mass rescue operation.

Southwold crew members were diverted from a training exercise to help and RNLI lifeguards, at the start of their Summer patrol on the beach, were also on the scene. Helmsman Simon Callaghan explains: 'We were out on a regular Sunday exercise when we heard a swimmer calling for help. After that we had one of the busiest times I can remember.'

In total, the RNLI rescued 85 swimmers, most of them very tired and cold. Southwold lifeboat crew rescued 58, and lifeguards brought to shore a further 27 people who had been unable to continue swimming against a strong ebbing tide. Lifeboats from Lowestoft and Aldeburgh were also launched to help search the wider area for swimmers believed to still be missing.

RNLI Lifeguard Supervisor Jo Thompson says: 'We had two lifeguards out on rescue boards recovering people who became very cold

and tired and couldn't swim any further. They were also escorting other people out of the water and back to the beach.'

Fortunately, by the end of the operation, all swimmers were accounted for.

'Our volunteer crew, the lifeguards and other rescue teams involved all responded brilliantly and may have averted what could have become a much more serious incident,' says Simon.

THANK YOU FOR KITTING OUT OUR LIFEGUARDS THIS SUMMER

Your funds help make their role possible.

Sun hat	£15
Patrol shirt	£30
Shorts	£30
Swim wear	£17
Wetsuit (short)	£45
Beanie	£3
Fleece	£60
Jacket	£130
Personal first aid kit	£75



Southwold's Atlantic 75 in action



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 Platford • **Alex Scott** • Alexander Hugh Hemsley • **Beloved Dog Arthur** • Bet Warrington
- **Bill Holland** • Brian Anderson • **Caroline Elizabeth Moseley** • Daniel Silipo • **Dave Crossley**
- David Meaton • **Donald Campbell** • Doreen Cooke • **Douglas Cameron Wood** • Edward Flowerday
- **Edward and Margaret Hier** • Edward Pinchbeck • **Edward (Ted) Clark Ranson** • Fergus O'Reilly
- **Gwendoline Mary Payne** • Gwynneth Hamman • **Harold Blainey** • Heather Gossman
- **Hildegard McManus** • Ian Mullan • **Iris Horlock** • Ivan Victor Shipp • **James Binstead Robinson**
- Jason Roberts • **Jean Edwards** • John Andrew Gooch • **John Rowland Haddock** • John Kervin
- **John Henry Lee** • John Sawyer • **Joyce Boulter** • June Rees • **Kathleen Gray** • Kathleen Mary Kallar
- **Ken Elton** • Kevin Stark • **Lucy Parsons** • Mair and Charles Roberts • **Mary Brockman**
- Michael Lawrence Kitchen • **Neville Eckley** • Nicholas Adrian Fuller • **Nick Stamp** • Norman Gray
- **Pamela Joan Upton** • Paul Nicholas Beckwith • **Paul Hawes** • Ralph Ison • **Robert Mair**
- Robert David Peter Westerman • **Ronald Bryant** • Roy Allen • **Stephen Mulcahy** • Terence Wilcox
- **Thomas Joseph Morgan** • William Henry South • **Witold Zbigniew Kirkor**

The A-Z of fundraising ideas

M

Magic Show
Marathon
Music Quiz

N

Nature Trail
Non-Uniform Day
Netball Tournament

O

Orienteer Challenge
Obstacle Course
Open Garden Day

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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