

Summer 2014 / Issue 11



Lifeboats

# FOREVER BY THE SEA

TRIBUTE FUNDS NEWSLETTER

## IN LOVING MEMORY

Welcome to the Summer issue of the newsletter, which honours those whose lives are commemorated through tribute funds. A lot has happened since I was last in touch – it was an especially challenging Winter for our lifeboat crews. I'm sure you remember the winds, rain and flooding only too well. The weather was really extreme, but our volunteer crew still answered the call time and time again, on the coast and inland.

This issue of the newsletter features one of many rescues carried out in those extreme conditions. Our lifesavers are only able to respond so quickly, skilfully and bravely thanks to the generosity of our supporters and their families.

So it is always moving to get an insight into the lives of the people commemorated with tribute funds. You will once again be able to read about three of these well-loved people in this newsletter. They will never be forgotten, thanks to the generosity and dedication of people who keep the memory of their loved ones alive.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

*Gemma*

Gemma Nightingale,  
RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator

## INSIDE:

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YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION:

# FOUR SAVED FROM FISH FARM

When four fish farmers found themselves at the mercy of big waves and gusting wind, their hopes lay with a crew of RNLI volunteers. The four men were working at a fish farm in Clifden Bay on 12 February when the increasingly powerful winds and ebbing tide created big swells, putting them in danger. Three of them were aboard an open workboat, while the fourth was on a large fish cage. Realising they would struggle to reach safety alone, they raised the alarm.

At 1.44pm, the Clifden lifeboat crew pagers sounded and the volunteers rushed to the station. Helmsman Bernard Whelan launched the Atlantic 85 lifeboat with crew members Kenneth Flaherty, Robert King and Thomas Davis. The Irish Coast Guard helicopter Rescue 118 from Sligo also headed to the scene.

Skilfully pulling alongside the workboat in the heavy seas, the lifeboat crew put their own safety on the line to reach out and pull three of the men aboard. But the rescue wasn't over

– the fourth fish farmer was still on the large cage. Helping him aboard in the unforgiving weather proved a tough task, but the steady hand of the Helmsman and determination of the crew brought him safely onto the lifeboat. The Atlantic 85's powerful engines then made short work of the passage back to Clifden, where the four grateful fish farmers were returned to shore unhurt.

'This was a challenging call out given the gusty weather conditions the lifeboat crew was presented with,' said Saul Joyce, Clifden RNLI Deputy Launching Authority. 'The four casualties made the right decision to call for help. Our crew used their skill and training to good effect and we are delighted to have brought all four safely back to shore.'

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# 'I KNOW THAT HE'S STILL THERE NEXT TO ME, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY'

My college friends were 100% there for me around the time that my Dad, David Crossley, passed away. They were incredibly supportive and when my classmates came up with the idea of doing a long sponsored walk to raise money for my Dad's **Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund**, I was so overwhelmed. We raised £1,000 for the RNLI.

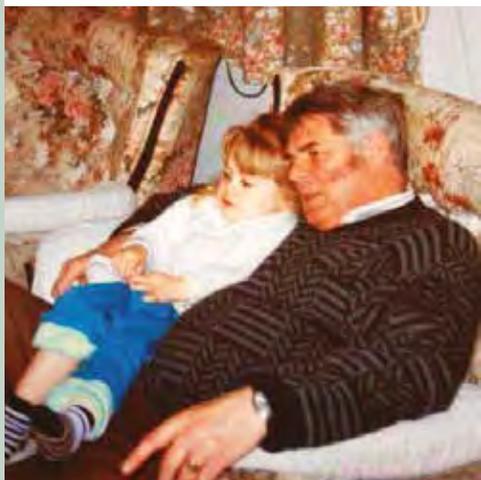
My Dad was so proud of everything I did and was so supportive of me going to Kingston Maurward College to do something that I love: Countryside Management. Even though he didn't live long enough to see me finish college, I know that he's still there next to me, every step of the way.

My Dad worked for the RNLI for more than 20 years. He saved countless lives at sea as a crew member at Selsey, and also worked as a lifeboat engine surveyor. He was respected and well-liked by everyone he worked with (I found this out after he passed away and we got an insane amount of cards from people he had worked with, saying all kinds of nice things about him). When he passed away, my family and I wanted to do something to remember him by, and so created his fund so that people could donate to a cause he loved.

When I was little, my Dad always told me to wave to the statue of a lifeboat man standing on top of the RNLI Poole Headquarters, because it brings the crew members good luck, and I still do.

Setting up a **Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund** means so much to me and my family. This is something our Dad would have really appreciated, particularly as he had to survey the wreckage of the *Solomon Brown* lifeboat of the Penlee disaster, which was extremely hard for him as he knew every crew member who sadly perished on that fateful night.

Words from Ellie Crossley – Dave's daughter



# 'DAVE ADMIRERD SELFLESSNESS AND HE ADMIRERD BRAVERY'

Dave Joyce was always a supporter of the RNLI. He had no connections to the sea, but admired selflessness and thought that the RNLI volunteers were some of the bravest people around. He could never walk past an RNLI collection box without making a contribution and would often buy RNLI Christmas cards. He had an RNLI car sticker and sweatshirt.

In March 2009, Dave died suddenly of a heart attack. His Will requested that a donation be made to the RNLI and we, his wife and daughters, requested donations to the RNLI in place of flowers at his funeral. We also set up a **Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund** as a positive way of remembering



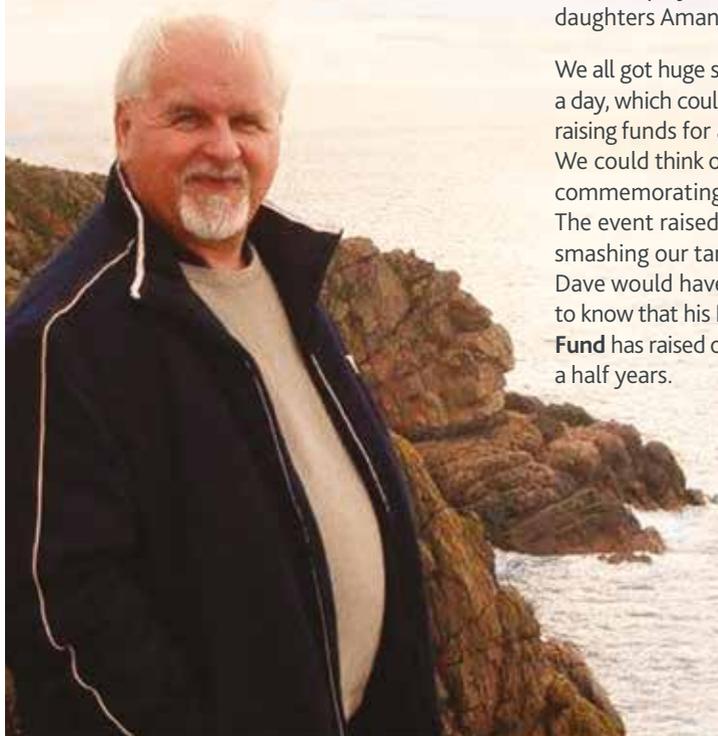
him. It became a family tradition to make a donation at Christmas, his wedding anniversary, his birthday and Father's Day.

Dave's birthday was usually on or around Father's Day and, 2 years after his death, we wanted to find a positive way of marking the two occasions. We decided to do a 16.25 mile sponsored cycle ride in our hometown of Milton Keynes for the RNLI. The event was held on Father's Day, Sunday 19 June 2011, which would also have been Dave's 59th birthday. Dave was a much loved man and many of his friends and other family members wanted to take part and help raise money in his memory. The riders were headed up by Dave's wife Barbara and two daughters Amanda and Andrea.

We all got huge satisfaction out of spending a day, which could have been full of sadness, raising funds for a really worthy cause. We could think of no better way of commemorating such a wonderful man. The event raised over £1,600 for the RNLI, smashing our target of £500. We know that Dave would have been thrilled and proud to know that his **Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund** has raised over £3,000 in the last 2 and a half years.

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Words from the Joyce family



## 'LUKE LOVED THE SEA, AND WOULD BE VERY PROUD'

Luke Stimson was a warm, generous, ambitious ball of energy, whose infectious sense of fun and humour made him friends with anyone he met. A natural salesman, Luke travelled the world while working with David Austin Roses, ultimately spending 3 years developing the company's business in Asia Pacific. He built a warehouse, visitor centre and spectacular rose gardens near Osaka, Japan. Whenever he was in the UK, Luke and his long-term girlfriend Laura travelled from land-locked Shropshire to the Solent to go sailing.

Whilst in Osaka, Luke bought a yacht in need of renovation. He set about planning an epic 16,000 mile journey to take him home at the end of his 3 year stint in Japan. Luke aptly named his yacht Jonetsu, which means 'passion for life' in Japanese. He spent much of his spare time lovingly restoring and re-equipping her. When the time came for departure, Laura – by now Luke's fiancée, and pregnant with their first child – joined him on the voyage.

When Luke fell overboard 500 miles from Japan, it prompted a vast air sea and rescue search by the US Coastguard and Navy. Laura was airlifted to safety, but Luke could not be found. Laura, Luke's mother Betty and his brother Andrew will always be incredibly grateful for the kindness and efforts of all those who searched for him.

Setting up a **Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund** has been very positive and comforting for friends and family. Laura, Betty and Andrew have been moved by the way people have contributed in Luke's name. Betty



'SETTING UP A FOREVER BY THE SEA TRIBUTE FUND HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE AND COMFORTING FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY'



says: 'The Fund is such a wonderful way to remember someone after they've gone. Luke loved the sea, and would be very proud to think that so much money has been raised towards the work of the RNLI.'

And on 15 September 2013, a healthy, gorgeous bundle of joy was born: Freddie Luke Stimson, Laura and Luke's son!

Words from Liz Anderson

# LOVED ONES REMEMBERED

We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate all the **Forever by the Sea Tribute Funds** opened since our last newsletter. We are proud to commemorate:

- Alex McKenzie • **Andrew Hardie** • Anthony Stephen Craig • **Brian Chanin** • Brian Robinson
- **Edith Fox** • Edward (Eddie) Anker • **Elizabeth (Ra) Templeman** • Ernest Arthur Smith
- **Ernie Bryant** • Fred Smith • **George William Joseph Fletcher** • Ian Finlayson Mackay
- **Jack Hutton-Potts** • Lola Davids • **Margaret Bellenger** • Margaret, Charles and Ronnie Burns
- **Marion Windsor** • Mary Gilbody • **Mike MacLaurin** • Morris Hughes
- **Norman and Josephine Woolhouse** • Paul Mathew Hatton
- **Richard 'Chris' Handley** • Richard James Armstrong
- **Thomas 'Thome' Heer**

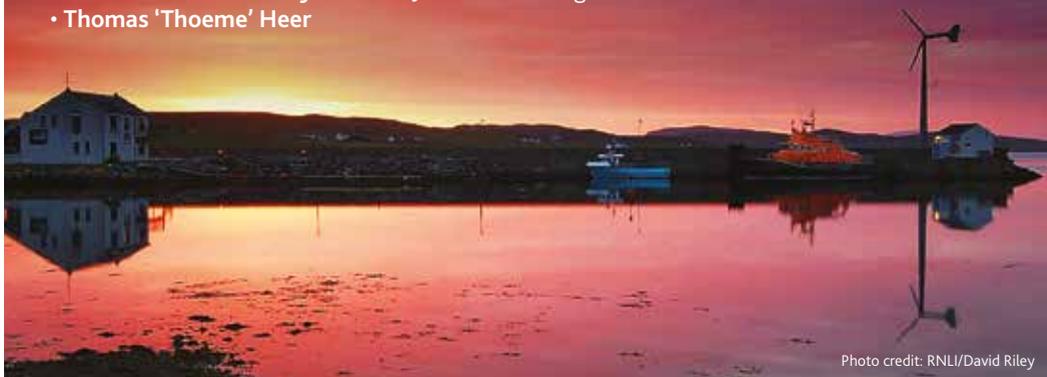


Photo credit: RNLI/David Riley

## A-Z OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS

**S** | SWIMATHON,  
SCRABBLE CONTEST,  
SKYDIVING

**T** | TALENT CONTEST,  
TREASURE HUNT,  
TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

**U** | UNIFORM FREE DAY, UNIVERSITY  
CHALLENGE COMPETITION,  
UNWANTED GIFT SALE



## 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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