

FOREVER BY THE SEA

TRIBUTE FUNDS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013–14
Issue 10



Lifeboats



Photo: Craig Denford

KEEP THEIR MEMORY ALIVE

Welcome to the Winter 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 feature three incredible people who are remembered with RNLI tribute funds. We hear about their lives through the words of the loved ones they have left behind – a granddaughter, a father and a daughter.

At this time of year, around Christmas, our thoughts naturally turn to family and loved ones. Thanks to your support, the families of lifeboat crew who save lives in all weathers can be assured that the RNLI training, equipment and lifeboats will help keep their loved ones safe at sea.

Overleaf, find out how a young lifeboat crew at Tobermory coped in a high-pressure rescue where the lives of three fishermen were in the balance. The coxswain highlights how vital it is for the crew to have faith in the lifeboat.

Thank you for your generosity and your effort in helping us to continue saving lives at sea.

Gemma

Gemma Nightingale, RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator



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REMEMBERING STEPHEN ALLEN

Our son Stephen was born into what could only be described as a marine family with his Grandfather, uncles and great granduncles being captains, as well as being a boat builder myself. The only holidays he experienced from an early age were sailing holidays on the south and west coasts of Ireland and motorboating on the Shannon with his family.

Even Stephen's Summer jobs through school were driving rescue boats and ferries at the local yacht club, so it came as no surprise when he told us he was going to pursue a career in the marine industry as a deck officer.

It was a very proud day for all of us when he started college at The National Maritime College of Ireland. After serving on a number of BP tankers (as a trainee) and completing his degree, this dream came to a tragic end only two weeks after he qualified as a 3rd mate. He died in a road traffic accident on 1 March 2010, at the age of 21.

Stephen's Uncle David decided to set up a fund with the RNLI in order to keep Stephen's memory alive. He has set up monthly donations himself and the fund has also received donations from the tanker industry.



Stephen's friends wanted to do something in his memory and competed in the local Crosshaven triathlon to help raise money for the Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund in Stephen's name, raising over €3,000 on the day.

At the Service of Celebration and Remembrance held at Kinsale by the RNLI in November 2012, I realised how much this fund had helped myself, my wife Mary and my daughter Judy to cope with our loss. The volunteers and staff we met were so understanding and the day itself was so touching. But one must never forget that the RNLI is solely funded by donations from you and me. The funds raised to date with Stephen's Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund is over €7,000 and rising.

We miss our son every day and pop out to Buoy # 8 in Cork Harbour, where we have scattered his ashes, for a chat. We feel a lump in our throats if we see the local RNLI lifeboat heading out, but know deep down that Stephen's fund is helping support that team on a rescue.

Thanks to you guys in the RNLI for all your support and of course the team at both the Kinsale and Crosshaven lifeboat stations.

Words from Richie Allen, Stephen's dad



MY GRANDDAD FRED

I have always been close to my Granddad, Fred Stanley, and he meant a lot to all our family, especially me and my brother Adam. Granddad loved gardening and fishing and had an allotment. He was also helped by Nan June, who shared his passion for gardening.

Nan and Granddad loved their holidays – always in England so he could do lots of fishing. The Norfolk Broads and Somerset were their favourite destinations. He also loved going on day trips during the Spring and Summer months.

In 2006, on a trip to Spalding Flower Show, he complained of feeling ill. The first aiders were very good and checked him out and suggested he go to Boston hospital. Not one to fuss, he politely declined.

When they arrived in Sheffield, Granddad felt ill again and was taken to hospital. It was a great shock when he was diagnosed with kidney failure and multiple myeloma (leukaemia).

Granddad continued to go fishing and tended the allotment, while having dialysis three times a week and chemotherapy. However, on the 19 March 2008 Granddad died suddenly of a heart attack, leaving us all stunned, as everything seemed to be going so well.

Nan decided to send money to the RNLI, because the whole family are supporters. On one holiday to Lyme Regis, Nan and Granddad heard a big boom and realised that it was the lifeboat launching in atrocious weather conditions. Granddad thought the volunteer crews were all incredibly brave, and since that day they have both supported the RNLI. Nan also continues to support the RNLI by knitting garments to be sold in the Weston-super-Mare Lifeboat Station shop.

I decided I would do a skydive in Granddad's memory and collect money for the RNLI. He would have been so proud of me for doing the skydive. I know he would have been watching over me.

Granddad is gone now, but will never be forgotten. We have so many memories of the holidays he took my brother and myself on. The wonderful meals he cooked for us after collecting us from school. The Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund is our way of saying thank you Granddad for all your love and care.

**Words from Charlotte Phipps,
Fred's granddaughter**



CELTIC COURAGE

I said goodbye to my father at the Toronto Pearson International Airport as a 15-year-old girl on June 22, 1985. My father, Trichur Krishnan Venketeswaran, worked for the Atomic Energy of Canada in Mississauga as an engineer. He was returning to India to visit his parents and to attend the marriage of his youngest brother.

The next day, my mother, Ann Eileen Venketeswaran, a mental health nurse, came home from the night shift with the heartbreaking news that 'something was the matter with your father's plane'. His plane – Air India Flight 182 – had crashed off the coast of Ireland with no survivors.

Despite the devastating news, I had to fly to Cork, Ireland, to represent our family. The compassion and soft Irish accent of the people resonated deep within my breast during that difficult time. It was also a very traumatic time for the rescue team, who had to recover the bodies and when grieving family members requested a meeting with them, they were initially reluctant. But it was such a humbling experience to meet so many men of courage, strength and dignity.

Immediately after the crash, the British and Irish, true to their rich seafaring heritage, were on hand to step in and rescue, recover and provide a strong hand of comfort and compassion that is, in my humble opinion, unparalleled upon the face of the earth.



The sea is a mighty and awesome power, something the RNLI knows only too well. Despite this, the courageous and well-trained crew, with the aid of state-of-the-art engineered equipment, continue to help those in a life and death struggle at sea.

I chose to support the RNLI with a Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund, because it is a charity that goes to the aid of people lost or in trouble at sea – people like my Dad. There was nothing anyone could do by the time they found him, but with the RNLI and the types of rescues they perform, people still have a fighting chance of survival.

**Words by Esther Maria Venketeswaran,
Trichur's daughter**

The Air India Flight 182 memorial at Ahakista, Co Cork, which has the inscription:
TIME FLIES,
SUNS RISE AND SHADOWS FALL.
LET IT PASS BY.
LOVE REIGNS FOREVER OVER ALL.



YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION

When a fishing boat's gearbox failed in waves of 4–5m, the RNLI crew had to put their faith in their lifeboat to save three lives.

The Tobermory all-weather lifeboat *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsay* launched at 8.30am on 27 January 2013, with the crew strapped safely into their seats in force 7 winds. They soon found the troubled boat, a crabber, 8 miles west of the Isle of Coll, with three men onboard.

After setting up a tow, the lifeboat started for shore, but the wind increased to force 8, whipping up 6–8m waves. Coxswain Andrew McHaffie remembers: 'The fishing boat was completely disappearing behind waves for seconds at a time. But the lifeboat didn't struggle at all, even in that weather.'

Then the crabber's skipper arranged for a smaller fishing boat to take over the tow, and the lifeboat stood by. As the fishing boats entered Milton Harbour, the tow parted. Within seconds, the large swell had hold of the

disabled crabber, dumping her onto rocks. Large waves broke over her stern.

As it was so shallow and time was of the essence, Andrew took the lifeboat close to the rocks, bow first and the crew passed the tow rope by hand.

Pulling the crabber free was difficult with large, breaking waves pushing the lifeboat forward. Eventually, the boat came free and the lifeboat towed her backwards through the swells to open water – a 20 minute journey pushing the lifeboat to the limit of its capabilities.

Andrew recalls the pressure on the crew: 'During that time, if anything had gone wrong with the lifeboat, we would have ended up the same as the fishing boat, but she never missed a beat.'

Once away from the treacherous harbour entrance, the crew set up a more conventional tow and took the crabber back to the safer waters of Tobermory.

Andrew reflects: 'We have a fairly young crew, who are still getting experience and seeing what the boat can do. I think this rescue showed them that they can trust the boat with their lives because, at the end of the day, that's what you do.'



THANKS FOR KITTING OUT OUR LIFEBOAT CREWS THIS WINTER

Your funds help kit out all-weather lifeboat crew:

Seagoing gloves	£10	Thermal top	£50
Yellow seaboots	£42	Safety helmet	£194
Trousers	£210	Lifejacket	£350
Jacket	£290	Pager	£150





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:

- **Allan Butchart** • Angus R H Easson • **Barbara Anne Pocock** • Barrington Owen
- **Bernard Marsden Fox** • Beryl Money Tubby • **Beryl Partridge** • Brian Alcock
- **Christopher Rickard** • David E L Husband • **Derek Stuart James Ribbits** • Don Urquhart
- **Eileen Langridge** • Howard Dixon • **Irene Dickie** • Jack Shears • **James Charles Stewart**
- Janette Crisp • **John Meehan** • Jon Cockman • **Joseph Dooley** • Keith Hudston • **Ken Goldsbrough**
- Luke Stimson • **Michael and Ella Thorp** • Nigel John Hesketh Taylor • **Nora Elizabeth Brown**
- Patsy Colwell • **Paul Towning** • Peter Jenkin • **Ronald George Patterson** • Sydney Green

The A-Z of fundraising ideas

P

Parachute jump
Pet show
Pantomime

Q

Quiz
Quit something in return for sponsorship
Question of sport night

R

Run a race
Raffle
Rowing competition

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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