



Lifeboats

Winter 2014 / Issue 12

FOREVER BY THE SEA

TRIBUTE FUNDS NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our Winter newsletter, honouring loved ones whose lives are celebrated through tribute funds.

So much has happened since the Summer and the warmer weather, which drew huge numbers of people to the beach. Swimming, surfing and sailing are always popular, but water is unpredictable and our volunteer crew and lifeguards were kept extremely busy all season. They worked tirelessly around the coast and inland, as well as around the clock, to rescue people in danger.

It's only thanks to the generosity of our supporters that we can respond so quickly and be there when needed. Read about some of the lifesavers who make a difference, including a dramatic rescue on the River Thames in London. You can also learn more about the people commemorated in tribute funds. Each moving story tells of someone special and how much they are missed.

Tribute funds remember people in such positive ways: how they laughed, inspired and loved. Thank you for your generosity and allowing us to share in the memory of your loved one.

Gemma

Gemma Nightingale,
RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator



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'MY DAD ABSOLUTELY LOVED THE SEA'

I lost my Dad, Allan Bicknell, very suddenly on 9 August 2010. He had never been ill in his life and had very rarely had a day off. This came as a massive shock to my family and I. My heart sank and ever since that day I feel like a part of me has been missing.

After the initial shock, we wanted to find a positive from this sad situation. We decided to ask people for donations rather than flowers at his funeral, and this is when our relationship with the RNLI began. There was never a mention of any other charity. My Dad absolutely loved the sea, and as children we regularly visited many of the lifeboat stations throughout the country.

Late last year, after getting married, I looked at my Dad's Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund and thought this isn't enough, so set myself a new target of £10,000. In July I opened my garden to the public and raised over £200. In May, my children Joshua aged 10 and Katie aged 8, along with my husband, did the Waendel Walk, which is more than 7 miles and raised over £100. I was so proud of all of them and the understanding they have of the RNLI. They were so delighted to raise money for their granddad.



'IT HAS ALSO KEPT HIS MEMORY ALIVE IN A VERY POSITIVE MANNER, WHICH I KNOW HE WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PROUD OF'

The perfect end to this fundraising year was an Auction Night held on Saturday 4 October at The Band Club in Higham Ferrers. Around 120 people enjoyed the evening, where 42 lots were auctioned. The highest bids on the night were for tickets to the English National Ballet, which fetched £170, and a four-ball round of golf at Wellingborough Golf Club, which fetched £250. There was also a raffle with 50 prizes and a disco. The night was a great success and raised just over £2,300 towards my Dad's Tribute Fund.

Having the Forever By The Sea Tribute Fund and relationship with the RNLI, and in particular Gemma Nightingale, has been far more than I would have ever expected and has helped us to grieve as a family for my Dad. It has also kept his memory alive in a very positive manner, which I know he would have been extremely proud of. I thank the RNLI and look forward to thinking of many wild and wacky fundraising events for the future!

Words from Sally Edgington – Allan's daughter



'ONE OF MY MOTHER'S GREATEST LOVES WAS THE SEA'

I grew up in a village in Essex and some of my earliest memories are trips to Southend with my mother. Walking on the pier, looking at the (then) lifeboat station and putting my pennies into the RNLI lifeboat collection boxes. As a seafaring family (my father was lost at sea in World War II, and my husband, myself and our son have all served at sea) we always had a keen interest in the work of the RNLI. Although we have lived in Australia for many years, I maintain membership of the RNLI and we are able to follow its news and progress through *Lifeboat* magazine and the internet and can continue to support the RNLI from afar.

One of my mother's greatest loves was the sea. When she passed away at the age of 98 in February 2011, I was already aware of Forever by the Sea Tribute Funds. I felt it would be a most fitting way to honour my mother and continue supporting the RNLI. I set up the Evelyn Lucy Warner Tribute Fund in March of that year. The Tribute Fund was also a meaningful way to



allow family and friends to contribute in memory of my mother. Through the Fund, I received information about the RNLI's In Memory Days from Gemma Nightingale, the Tribute Fund Coordinator. This year it was possible for my husband and I to plan a trip to England around one of those days. On the 20 June, we attended the Service of Remembrance and Dedication at the Lifeboat Station in Appledore, Devon.

The day was so memorable for us. Being able to attend a service all the way from Australia and meeting Gemma, who is now no longer just a voice or an email contact. Having the opportunity to tour a lifeboat station and meet the extraordinary men and women who keep the lifeboat service operating, especially the crew members who often put their lives at risk to save others from the dangers of the sea. Our day at Appledore Lifeboat Station is a day we shall never forget, and it is all thanks to the opportunity of having a Forever by the Sea Fund with the RNLI. Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Appledore Lifeboat Station for their part in making it such a special day.

Words from Diana and David Montgomery, Brisbane, Australia



‘THE FOREVER BY THE SEA TRIBUTE FUND HELPS ME TO REMEMBER MY WIFE’



I have been a volunteer at the Eastbourne Lifeboat Museum since March 2002. It was also around 2002 when I set up a Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund in memory of my wife, Daphne, who died suddenly in November 2001. We'd been married for 48 years and were looking forward to our Golden wedding anniversary, but sadly it was not to be.

Daphne and I were married in St Leonards in March 1953. She was training to be a Nurse, and I was doing my National Service in the RAF. We had four children over the years, during which time Daphne and I were very much involved in Scouting. Daphne retired in 1993 after working as a Warden of a Sheltered Housing Scheme in Eastbourne. We had a few years where we were able to spend a lot of time together, although I didn't retire until 1997.

In November 2001, Daphne died very suddenly. There was no warning. As I'm sure a lot of people have found, life seems to stand still – although obviously it does not. I could see no future. Then, an advert appeared in the Eastbourne local paper asking for volunteers at the Lifeboat Museum Shop. I'd had some retail experience in the past, so I applied, and I have been there ever since.

The Forever by the Sea Tribute Fund helps me to remember my wife. I can access the fund at any time, leave a message, light a candle, or just browse. I feel that she is there. It is also a very personal and practical way of helping the RNLI. I am hooked!

Words from Ray Eldridge – Daphne's husband

'I FEEL THAT SHE IS THERE. IT IS ALSO A VERY PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL WAY OF HELPING THE RNLI. I AM HOOKED!'



YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION:



Photo: RNLI / Nathan Williams

DRAMATIC THAMES RESCUE

A young woman has reason to be very grateful to the lightning fast response of the RNLI for saving her life.

The 20-year-old was spotted slumped over a life ring floating in the River Thames near Charing Cross Rail Bridge in London. Suffering from a series of epileptic fits, she was drifting in and out of consciousness.

Within 1 minute of a request from the London Coastguard, the crew of Tower RNLI lifeboat station was on the scene, navigating through a confined space to reach her.

Without such a fast response and expert handling of the lifeboat, she could have died, there and then in the water.

Lifeboat Helmsman Steve King said: 'We got underneath the walkway with inches to spare and one of my crew managed to grab hold of her. She was shaking violently and experiencing convulsions. She was in a bad way.'

The crew immediately radioed London Coastguard to confirm they were heading

back to the lifeboat station and would need urgent assistance from London Ambulance Service.

The highly trained lifeboat crew kept her airway clear, while protecting her head and monitoring her breathing rate. She was placed in the recovery position and given oxygen.

'When a casualty is having fits and seizures we need to get them to a place of safety, whilst also working to warm them,' said Steve.

Back at their station pier by Waterloo Bridge she was transferred from the lifeboat to the casualty care room to receive further treatment from the crew and paramedics. Later she was taken to hospital by London Ambulance Service.

'HAD SHE BEEN EXPOSED FOR MUCH LONGER THE OUTCOME OF THIS INCIDENT COULD HAVE BEEN TRAGIC.' STEVE KING

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:

- Andy Bridge • **Arthur White** • Barry John Gallagher • **Captain William E West Jr.**
- Carole Ann Mcdaid • **David Michael Griffiths** • Donald and Marian Schofield
- **Frank V A Mansfield** • Helen Francis Garrod • **James Male** • Jean and Peter Dudley
- **Jean Weir Murphy** • John David Priam Hadley • **John Potter** • Joseph McFarlane
- **Julian Simpson** • Keith Lewis • **Kenneth Noton** • Maureen (Mo) Platt
- **Melvyn Reginald Murfitt** • Nora Deasy • **Paul Goslin** • Paula Lorraine Upton
- **Peter Kay** • Ray Burrige • **Renee Gabrielle Germaine Barham**
- Ryan Charles Griffiths • **Sir Lawrence Verney** • Steve Warren
- **Stuart Aldridge** • Tony and Phyllis Gilbert • **Tony Halliday** • Tony West

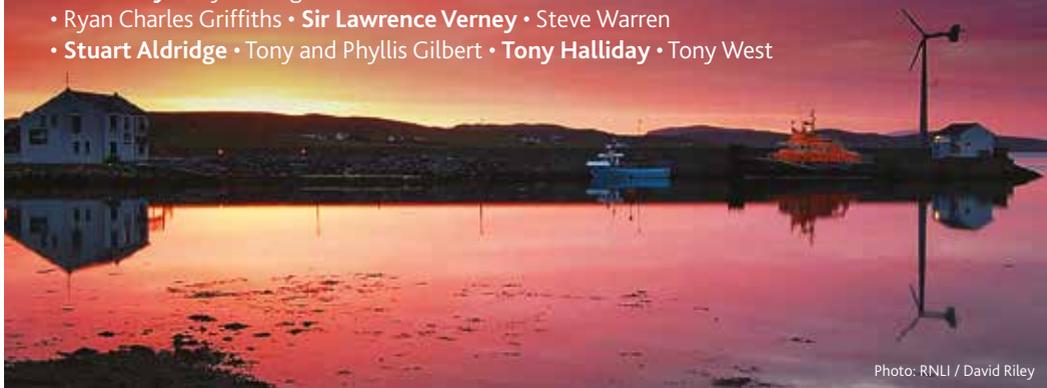


Photo: RNLI / David Riley

A-Z OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS

V

VARIETY SHOW,
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT,
VINTAGE CAR DAY

W

WINE TASTING, WORLD
FOOD NIGHT, WELLY
THROWING COMPETITION

X

X-FACTOR COMPETITION,
XMAS MARKET,
XMAS PANTOMIME



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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