I work in the Launch and Recovery Team at the RNLI. We design and engineer systems to make sure that our boats can launch quickly and safely to a rescue. Some boats get into the water by riding down a slipway like at the Lizard lifeboat station; some are towed into the water by tractors and others are moored with anchors.

Did you know, the Shannon lifeboat costs £2.1M! So, we must make sure it doesn’t get swept into the rocks when our storms hit. That is what I work on, the design and maintenance of the anchors and mooring lines keeping the boats in place during all conditions. It is great to know that the work I do ensures we look after our donor funded equipment responsibly to help save lives at sea.”

Helen
Design Engineer

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EcoHelmet - the helmet for on the go cyclists
The James Dyson Awards encourages students to develop ideas to solve common problems. Isis’ created ‘EcoHelmet’ which is a folding, recyclable helmet for bike share. Made of waterproofed paper in a unique honeycomb pattern, EcoHelmet empowers cyclists to ride more confidently, more safely and more often.

Did you see the Hastings Lifeboat during Storm Ciara?
You may have seen the dramatic footage of Hastings lifeboat during Storm Ciara where, as it battles the heavy seas, it tips onto its side, almost capsizing. This is called a knockdown and for many vessels, would be a very dangerous event. But the Shannon class lifeboat is different. Designed and built by RNLI engineers at the All-weather Lifeboat Centre in Poole, the Shannon has some key design elements that mean it can self-right, even in seas as rough as those seen during Storm Ciara.

Meet Beth
Beth Wilkinson has been a crew member at Holyhead Lifeboat Station for around 6 years. She’s also a cadet in the merchant navy and studied navigation to a high level and learned all about keeping ships and people safe. She believes her earlier careers have helped her become an effective lifesaver. ‘There are so many tricks of the trade I put back into lifeboating,’ she says. ‘And my RNLI experience feeds back into the day job. When an emergency happens onboard my ship, I feel my RNLI training kick in and it gives me a calmer, steadier approach.’

Learn how the Shannon lifeboat self-rights