



About 170 years ago on 7 September 1838, a steamship called the *SS Forfarshire* was sailing from Hull in Yorkshire to Dundee in Scotland.

The ship's engines were not working properly and the *Forfarshire* was tossed on big, angry waves in a very bad storm.

The Captain took the ship past a group of big rocky islands called the Farne Islands. Suddenly a big wave swept the ship up into the air and it crashed onto Big Harcar rock.

Half of the ship sank but half of it stayed on the rock. Nine people escaped in a little boat and others climbed onto the rocks away from the sea. Sadly, about 45 people died.

Grace Darling lived in a lighthouse called the Longstone lighthouse. When morning came, Grace saw the survivors sitting on the rocks and knew she had to help them.

She rowed out with her father, William, to rescue them. He climbed onto the rocks to help the survivors and Grace waited in the boat, holding it steady even though the sea was very rough.

Grace and her father took them back to their lighthouse and looked after them for three days, until the storm finished.

At the same time, the local lifeboat crew also went out to save the people on the rock. It took them a long time to get there because of the bad weather, so when they arrived all the survivors had already been rescued.



Grace became a heroine. Even Queen Victoria heard about her bravery and sent her £50 as a reward. Many people sent her money and presents. She was also given two medals for her bravery.

Sadly Grace became sick and died four years later when she was only 26 years old, but she is still remembered today.





**A** Make a timeline by drawing pictures in the boxes of these famous events:

**1837** Victoria becomes Queen of England

**1879** First electric light bulb

**1838** Grace Darling rescues nine people

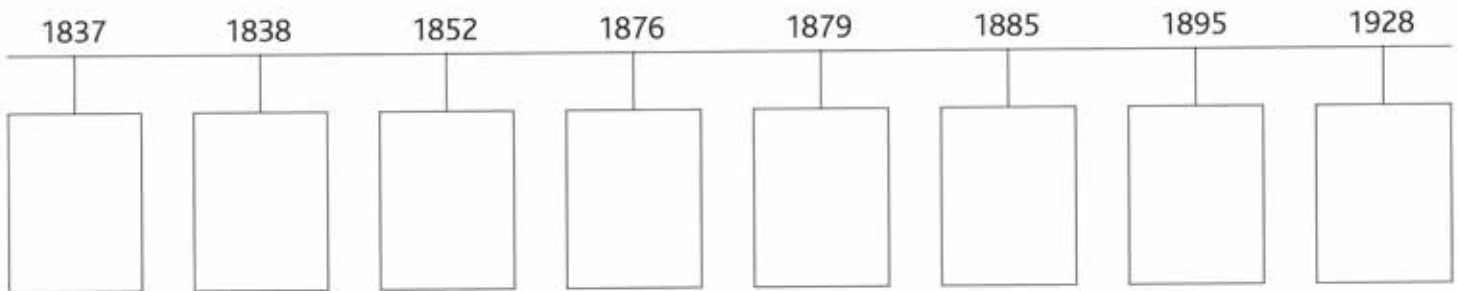
**1885** First motor car

**1852** First proper toilet opens to the public

**1895** First radio (a wireless)

**1876** First telephone call

**1928** First television set



**B** Below is a list of how Grace might have become famous. Put a tick ✓ by the true sentences and a cross ✗ by the ones that are not true.

- Newspaper stories
- News on television
- People talked about her on the telephone
- Her picture was painted
- Photos in the newspapers
- Boat trips to see her





You are in charge of a ship that has just left Hull in Yorkshire for Dundee in Scotland. Just as you are leaving port, you find out the boilers are leaking. Do you decide to turn back to get them fixed or carry on with the journey?

- ▶ The ship is carrying cargo that needs to get to Dundee and about 63 passengers returning to Scotland.
- ▶ The boilers were checked not that long ago and were fine.
- ▶ It is a new ship that was only built four years ago.
- ▶ When you left Hull the engines were still working even though the boiler was leaking.
- ▶ You did not know there was a storm in Northumberland.



Do you turn back? **Why?**

Do you carry on? **Why?**



...It appears that she left Hull on Wednesday morning, the 5th (September), on her voyage from Hull to Dundee, and had proceeded as far as Bamburgh, when it was reported that the pumps were no longer able to supply the boiler with water... At eight o'clock the wind began to blow strong ...and the leak in the boiler had increased ...about one o'clock on Friday morning the engineer reported that the engine would not work... The rain was falling heavily at the time, and the gale continuing with great violence. The captain (John Humble) was unremitting in his endeavours to preserve the vessel and the lives of the passengers; unfortunately the fog was so dense at the time that they were unable to perceive

the lights until they were very near them. About a quarter of an hour before she struck, the crew, lowered the larboard quarter boat down, and left the ship... (one passenger only succeeding in leaping into the boat), leaving the captain, who bravely determined to stand by his ship to manage her in the best way he could. ...at three a.m. she struck upon what is called the "Long Stone" or "Outer Farne Island"...

From 35-40 have perished, nine are alive on the outer island, and nine escaped in the boat. After the vessel struck, the second sea broke her in two parts; the fore part remains on the rock, but the other half was carried away, and all who were on it...

Vocabulary

Proceeded	=	travelled
Unremitting	=	non-stop
Endeavours	=	actions
Vessel	=	ship
Perceive	=	see
Larboard quarter boat	=	left side lifeboat
Leaping	=	jumping
Perished	=	died
Fore part	=	front





- ▶ 1 Where was the ship travelling from and to?
- ▶ 2 Where did the ship 'proceed as far as'?
- ▶ 3 What did the engineer report at 1 o'clock on Friday?
- ▶ 4 What was the weather like?
- ▶ 5 What was the name of the ship's captain?
- ▶ 6 What happened at 3am?
- ▶ 7 How many people 'perished'?
- ▶ 8 Which part of the ship remained on the rock?
- ▶ 9 How many passengers jumped into the boat as it was being lowered?
- ▶ 10 Write down as many descriptive words from the text as you can.
- ▶ 11 Do you think the crew should have left the ship? Give your reasons.
- ▶ 12 How many different times of the day were reported?
- ▶ 13 How would you describe the captain of this ship?
- ▶ 14 What were the causes of this accident?
- ▶ 15 Is this newspaper article well written? Give your reasons.

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...CURRENCE.  
**FORFARSHIRE STEAM-  
HIRTY-FIVE LIVES.**

...ay never, been our duty to report  
lent in our neighbourhood so serious  
we are about to narrate, which befel  
Dundee, at Fern Islands on Fri-  
we contemplate the immense traffic  
n, and the innumerable passengers  
medium gone between Scotland  
a short distance of the very spot  
this instance, we are led to won-  
which seems to have been extend-  
occurrence. Having scrutinized  
loss, ultimately attaching to the  
set of the boilers, it appears...

THE  
**DUNDEE and HULL**  
STEAM PACKET COMPANY'S  
Splendid and Powerful Steam Vessel.  
**FORFARSHIRE.**  
450 Tons Burthen, and 200 Horse-Power.  
JAMES KIDD, COMMANDER,  
leaves DUNDEE every Saturday.  
and HULL every Wednesday.  
WITH GOODS AND PASSENGERS.