

FOREVER BY THE SEA

TRIBUTE FUNDS NEWSLETTER



Lifeboats

Issue 5, Summer 2011



Photo: RNLI/Nicholas Leach

SUMMER EVENTS

Welcome to the Summer edition of the RNLI's *Forever by the Sea* tribute funds newsletter, which celebrates the success of our tribute funds, the dedication of those who set them up, and the lives they commemorate.

With Summer now upon us, many of us will be out and about around the coast and on our inland waterways enjoying the promise of warm weather. This busy time of year brings new challenges for our lifeboat crews and lifeguards. Of course, our crews and lifeguards would not be able to provide their lifesaving service without you. So far, Forever by the Sea tribute funds have raised nearly £200,000 and I would like to take this opportunity to give you my thanks for your generosity, time and effort.

The Summer also brings the opportunity for you to find out more about our lifesaving services. Lifeboat station open days are taking place across

the UK and RoI and we are throwing open our doors at RNLI Headquarters, Poole, offering demonstrations, tours and much more.

Visit rnli.org.uk/opendays for more details.

Along with this newsletter we have included a collection box for you to make and keep. Designed as a simple fundraising tool, there are literally dozens of ways you can use it to help your fund grow.

The accompanying letter includes your own fund's current total. If ever you require an update, or any other assistance, please contact me. Also, if you have any questions or would like to see your story in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I am always delighted to hear from you.

Gemma

Gemma Spencer, RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator



Your funds in action

| Your stories

| Fundraising ideas

NAOMI'S STORY



Each year Naomi Hopes and her friends embark on a new challenge to remember her partner, Chris Ball.

'Chris and I met at the University of Gloucestershire. He then returned to the university in 2008 to train as a teacher, but sadly he was only able to teach a small number of lessons before he passed away. Chris died very suddenly on 27 October 2008. He was just 25.

'Chris had been passionate about the RNLI. We visited every lifeboat station when we went to the coast – especially Weymouth. He respected those that worked on and around the sea, especially those who put their lives on the line to save others. This characteristic was mirrored in Chris's personality – he would recognise when those around him were a little low or in need of one of his huge hugs.

'In the darkest hours after he died, friends and work were incredibly supportive. Weymouth was also one place that I could find peace and attempt to make sense of all that had happened.

'As the months rolled by, the daunting

prospect of reaching Chris's birthday without him came closer. His best friend and I decided to celebrate it and, as we had discussed the Three Peaks Challenge before Chris passed away, we decided to walk Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon within a 24-hour period.

'With support from friends, family and The Wey Valley School, three teams representing Chris's life took part – close friends, Harlow Adventure Scouts and Harlow Rugby Club. On Snowdon we sang "Happy Birthday", drank champagne and received a surprise hug from Chris's mum and dad at the summit. It was an incredible time.

'2010's challenge was even bigger. We meticulously planned to complete a 192-mile Coast to Coast challenge within 12 days. For those who couldn't take part, we organised the Ball for Ball. The venue, live music and a signed rugby ball to auction from the England Rugby Team were all donated and our generous friends made the night a great success.

'Starting with our feet in the sea at St Bees, we followed the tradition of carrying a pebble from one coast to the other to throw into the sea. We met incredible people, notably the Extreme Cello group who, on top of Kidsty Pike, played mountain-related songs while we phoned Chris's mum. It was really moving and we felt huge pride for what we had achieved.

'Chris was kind and thoughtful beyond words and those who met him will never forget him. Plans are already in place for this Summer's adventure. Chris's life was full of adventures and his birthdays will continue to be a tribute to the man who loved the sea and those who work on it.'



YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION

Clutching a thank you card, Hannah Woolcott, 16, and Charlotte Wright, 15, met Exmouth lifeboat crew on 23 October 2010 to thank the volunteers who, just 2 weeks previously, had saved their lives.

Charlotte – who had suffered late-onset near drowning – said: 'I couldn't remember their faces very well as I was drifting in and out of consciousness at the time, so it's really good to meet them. We are just so grateful. If it weren't for people like this risking their lives to save ours, we wouldn't be here today.'

Hannah recalled the night: 'We had missed the train so walked along the Dawlish sea wall, which we had done many times before. It was quite calm but then, all of a sudden, there was a large wave that swept Charlotte into the sea and a second one that got me straight after.'

The girls, both strong swimmers, struggled in vain against the current but the waves and worsening conditions made it impossible for them to reach the shore. The situation was dire. People ashore shouted encouragement and said that help was on the way. Meanwhile Hannah was desperately holding onto Charlotte, who had hit her head and was starting to sink under the waves.

Exmouth RNLI inshore lifeboat arrived within minutes. The crew put their training into practice immediately and no time was wasted getting the girls into the lifeboat, despite the treacherous conditions.



Forever by the Sea funds provide the training and equipment our crews need to be able to make split-second lifesaving decisions:

- **£1,214 – the training of a crew member**
- **£319 – an inshore lifeboat drysuit**
- **£166 – RNLI crew helmet.**

Helmsman Giles White explained: 'We only had one shot at getting to them as the waves were continually rebounding off the sea wall. We had to take that one chance. A delay of just moments and the girls would have lost their lives.'

Giles added: 'We don't often get to meet the people we rescue and it was a pleasure to meet the girls and see them looking so well.'

Hannah's mother visited the station with the two girls and recalled the moment she heard the news of the rescue: 'It's every parent's nightmare to get that phone call. You just don't know whether they are alive or dead at that time. I am just so grateful that, thanks to the RNLI, this is a story with a happy ending. It could so easily have been the other way round.'



AN ALL-ROUND GOOD GUY



'Can you ever in your life say you have met one of those all-round good guys? They cover all bases, they are good family men, hardworking, popular, positive, charismatic and spirited. Well I can answer yes, and this was my dad. He truly was my best friend and my hero.

'Bill Mcfarlane passed away on 16 November 2009 at the age of 60 and is sadly missed by Annette, Laura, Andrew, Sarah and myself – Rob.

As a young mechanic he set up a business on his own, and one of his first business premises was situated on the nearby docks. Fixing both car and boat engines side by side did nothing but help develop his love of the sea.

A keen surfer, sailor and diver, he would always donate to our local Loughor Boating Club inshore rescue appeals and regattas while he was an active member there. He really valued the work of the lifeboat crews. So when I was looking to commemorate his death, the RNLI was the perfect choice.

'My dad was the most supportive person, encouraging me through my education and always on hand for any advice I needed. I truly looked up to him. When I started running my

dad gave me lots of support. He would ask how training was going, attend races and cheer me on from the sidelines, often in the rain, and would then tell me how well I had done afterwards. It was a great feeling.

'With the generous help of 10 friends and a couple of family members, we organised a 15K run along the millennium coastal park in Llanelli in his memory. Fifteen people entered, local businesses supplied bottled water and friends marshalled and directed the runners. The day was an amazing success and we raised just over £500.

'Following last year's success the run is now going to be an annual event, with all proceeds going to the RNLI Bill Mcfarlane Forever by the Sea fund. This year's Bill Mcfarlane 15K Memorial Run will take place on 20 November 2011, starting at midday, from Bynea Gateway to Burry Port along the coastal path.

If you can run, jog or walk we'd love to see you. Donation of your choice for entry. Please contact me, Rob Mcfarlane, on shoebob_2000@yahoo.co.uk for more details. Thank you.'

MY TRULY INSPIRATIONAL DAD



'My dad, Allan Bicknell, died very suddenly on 9 August 2010. It was a massive shock as he was a fit and healthy 60 year old. He loved the sea and I remember, as a child, visiting dozens of lifeboat stations, especially Hunstanton. When organising the funeral, we knew the natural choice for us was to raise money for the RNLI instead of spending money on flowers.

I needed something positive to focus on and so I phoned the RNLI about the London Marathon. I knew this would be a massive challenge as I am not a natural runner, but it was in Dad's memory. I was over the moon when Team RNLI accepted me in September.

'As a single parent to my beautiful children Joshua (7) and Katie (5), and starting a full-time job in January, it was hard work, but I trained

for 5 months, 6 days a week. My fitness levels improved until a few health problems set me back.

I also had the challenge of fundraising. I wrote to hundreds of companies, celebrities and TV programmes and received great support. In February, an auction evening raised £2,440 with signed items from Cheryl Cole, Sir Steve Redgrave, Phil Collins, the cast of *Coronation Street*, *Holby City* and *Emmerdale*, along with flight tickets and flying lessons.

'On Sunday 17 April the start line loomed. By mile 3 I was struggling – I'd injured myself in training and soon realised jogging was not an option. That's when I met Rob, who was running for a local charity I was familiar with. He was also struggling so we decided to complete the marathon together. And 23 miles later we crossed the finish line in 7 hours 12 minutes and 37 seconds!

'With me, every step of the way, was my dad. I kept saying to myself: "Come on Sally, you can do this for Dad."

I've now raised £3,754 and have another £1,000 target with the Run to the Beat Half Marathon in September. I've also joined my local RNLI branch as I would like to look back in years to come having raised tens of thousands of pounds.

'The marathon, alongside childbirth, is one of the hardest things I've ever done and I know my dad would have been truly proud of my marathon achievement and fundraising for the truly inspirational work the RNLI does.'

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

Enclosed with this newsletter is a collection box that was inspired by Christopher and Jonathan Woodhouse, who collected money by asking their family to donate a penny every time they needed to 'spend a penny'.

Realising that many of you would love to raise more money for your funds but struggle with the pressures of everyday life, we hope you will be able to use this to help your fund grow.

Perhaps you can put those pesky coppers to good use, or maybe use it to motivate your family to do the chores – a pound in the box for the washing up, a fiver for washing the car, along with many others. We'd love to hear how you use yours, so please get in touch with your ideas.



LOVED ONES REMEMBERED

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

- **Abraham Albert Roger Anidjar-Romain** • Alan Bonella
- **Allan and Iris Maslin** • Andy Cattle (Sunderland RNLI Crew)
- **Anthony Cox** • Anthony James Bennet • **Arthur Henry Hoyle**
- Bob Heeley • **Bob Thomas Girdler** • Caroline Evans
- **Catherine Gannon** • Cathie Northcott • **Charles and Mary Major**
- Clifford Arthur Vincett • **Daphne Eldridge** • David McLeod
- **David Edward Strawbridge** • Del Lander • **Derrick John Baker**
- Dominic Ewart Lewis • **Dr Maurice Kettle** • Ellen Betty Glover
- **Elsie Mary Ward** • Evelyn Lucy Warner • **Frank Mintern** • Frederick Jack Gore • **Gardner Drummond**
- George Leonard Leaper • **Gwenyth Mary Endacott** • Harry Francis Alexander Sterno • **Harry Renshaw**
- Harry Turner • **Herbert Goldfinch** • Howard Packham • **James Gilbody** • Joan and John Ingham
- **John and Isabella Smith** • John Fieldhouse • **John Gregor Snow** • John Leonard Parker • **John Mitchell**
- John Patrick Sheath • **Joy Sampson** • Joyce and Eric Rose • **Judith Helen Ricketts** • June Austin
- **Lilian Buttress** • Lynn Marie Bray • **Margaret Marlene Hart** • Marjorie Devlin • **Paul McCartney**
- Paula Hooper • **Peter Bateman** • Robert Howard • **Rod Addy** • Roger Warfield • **Ron Todd**
- Sid Hamman • **Stanley Meldram** • Stephen Maurice Manson • **Sylvia Holloway**
- Una Margaret Gillett • **William Arthur Martin Brooking** • William Blair • **William Maciver**



The A-Z of fundraising ideas

A

Abseiling
Art exhibition
Assault course
Athletic races
Auction of promises

B

Baby picture quiz
Bake sale
Balloon race
Barbeque
Black-tie event
Bingo
Bring and buy sale

C

Car boot sale
Cycle ride
Concert
Coffee morning
Craft sale

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.

Gemma Spencer, RNLI Tribute Fund Coordinator
RNLI, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ
01202 663504, gemma_spencer@rnli.org.uk
rnli.org.uk/foreverbythesea