

We're doing even more to safeguard lives

The RNLI has been saving lives at sea since 1824, but as we progress through the 21st century, our role is becoming even greater. Our lifeguards provide a world-class service on over 150 of the UK's busiest beaches. Find your nearest at rnli.org.uk/findabeach.



Photo: Terry Bearpark

The Lifeboat College

RNLI regular supporters and donors are welcome to use the Lifeboat College facilities, which include Riggers restaurant, Slipway bar and accommodation. For more information please contact the Lifeboat College reception in Poole, Dorset, on +44 (0)870 8332000.



Photo: Fred King



The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Support us by becoming a member



Photo: John Watt

Please help our courageous crews to continue their lifesaving work

When people get into difficulties on or near the sea, the Coastguard usually calls on the RNLI to respond to the call for help. Since 1824, our lifeboat crews – and, since 2001, lifeguards – have saved over 139,000 lives. However, we can only carry out our lifesaving work thanks to the generosity of people like you.

It costs around €455,000 per day to run our essential service. Without continued donations from our supporters, our volunteers simply would not be able to carry out the 9,000 or so lifeboat rescues they are called to every year.

Awards for Gallantry

On Friday 15 May 2009, Dunbar Coxswain Gary Fairbairn and his crew launched to a yacht in difficulty with a husband and wife onboard. The lifeboat crew faced a 42-mile passage, with wind speeds reaching severe gale force 9 and 7m waves that tore away fendering and dislodged the salvage pump. At one stage the lifeboat plummeted 10m and, later, she was knocked over by a large wave, submerging her port side.

By the time they reached the position of the



Gantry Medallist:
Coxswain Gary Fairbairn

yacht, the lifeboat was battered and the crew bruised. The yacht had already capsized twice and the lives of her crew were in danger. Coxswain Fairbairn powered alongside and a lifeboat volunteer managed to drag the yacht's female crew member to safety. On a repeat approach, the lifeboat crew dragged her husband over the lifeboat's guardrail.

The pair were given first aid and hot drinks and taken back to the station. As everything they owned was on the yacht, they were now penniless – so the lifeboat crew organised a whip round to pay for a night's accommodation.

All they ask for is the right equipment

Lifeboat crews are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – ready to drop everything and risk their lives to save others. Our volunteers don't get paid for the vital service they provide. What they do get, however, are the best boats, training and equipment needed to carry out their lifesaving work: equipment such as yellow sea boots. A pair of these boots costs €47 – and they are essential when huge waves are crashing on to the deck of a lifeboat.

So your donation really can make sure our volunteer lifeboat crews are prepared when they are called upon.

This leaflet contains everything you need to become a supporter of the RNLI.

