



# WE ARE THE RNLI THE CHARITY THAT SAVES LIVES AT SEA

**Every day of the year, people get into trouble in the water.**

The RNLI is here to help. By 2024 we aim to halve coastal drowning in the UK and Ireland, and reduce drowning around the world where it's a major risk.

Our lifeboat crews provide a 24-hour rescue service in the UK and Ireland. Every summer, our lifeguards look after people on busy beaches. And our Flood Rescue Team is ready to help those affected by flooding.

Our community safety teams help explain the risks and share safety knowledge with anyone at risk of drowning.

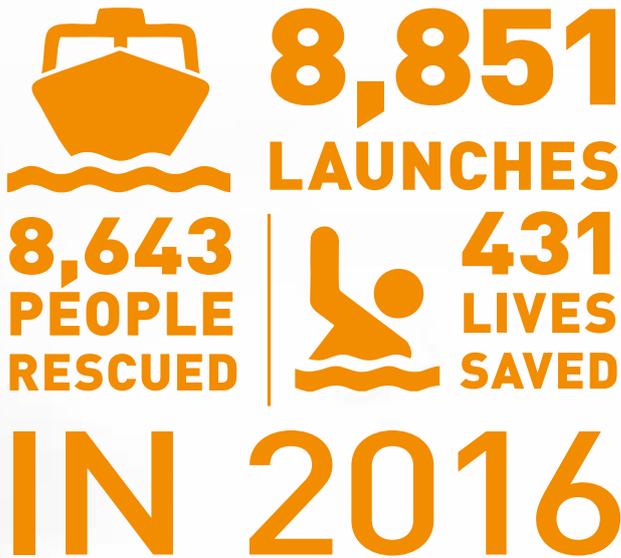
Our international teams work with partners to help tackle drowning in communities at risk all around the world.

And thousands of RNLI volunteer fundraisers help to support our lifesaving work.

# OUR LIFEBOAT CREW

RNLI lifeboat crew members come from different backgrounds and careers – from teachers to tattooists, farmers to pharmacists. At a moment's notice, they readily exchange work, comfort and sleep for cold, wet and fatigue.

They spend many hours of their own time training together so they can meet the dangers and challenges they face on search and rescue missions at sea.



## TRAINING

Today, only 1 in 10 of our volunteer crew members comes from a maritime profession, so training is essential. They don't just need boathandling skills – they learn everything from navigation and engine repair to first aid and sea survival. Our training provides crew members with comprehensive courses and recognised qualifications.

These high standards are maintained and developed with the help of the training staff and facilities at the RNLI College in Poole, Dorset, which complements training around the coast. This central facility provides accommodation, classrooms and distance-learning resources. There's also the Sea Survival Centre, with its state-of-the-art lifeboat simulator, wave tank and live engine workshop that give our volunteers hands-on experience.

This training costs £1,600 per crew member, per year. We want our volunteers to keep themselves safe when they launch to the rescue and that's only possible thanks to our generous supporters.

## ON SHORE

Volunteer shore crew form a vital part of the rescue team. They help with the launch and recovery of the lifeboat, sometimes carrying out challenging tasks such as tractor launches in powerful breaking waves. The support of shore crew is especially valued on a difficult or long shout and they are described by crew as the 'unsung heroes' of our rescues.

## OUR SUPPORT NETWORK

The RNLI Support Centre in Poole, Dorset, stores and distributes the 750,000 items needed to run all our lifeboats, stations, lifeguard units and fundraising offices in the UK and Ireland. Our support team can dispatch parts within 30 minutes, around the clock.

Specialist engineers, surveyors, technicians and training experts look after the requirements of stations in their division.

## LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT

### ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOATS

Shannon class £2.2M  
Shannon launch and recovery system £1.5M

### INSHORE LIFEBOATS

D class inflatable £52,000  
B class Atlantic 85 RIB £214,000

### ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOAT CREW KIT

Gloves £25  
Safety boots £54  
Helmet £263  
Offshore trousers £249  
Offshore jacket £349  
Lifejacket £458  
Thermal top £50

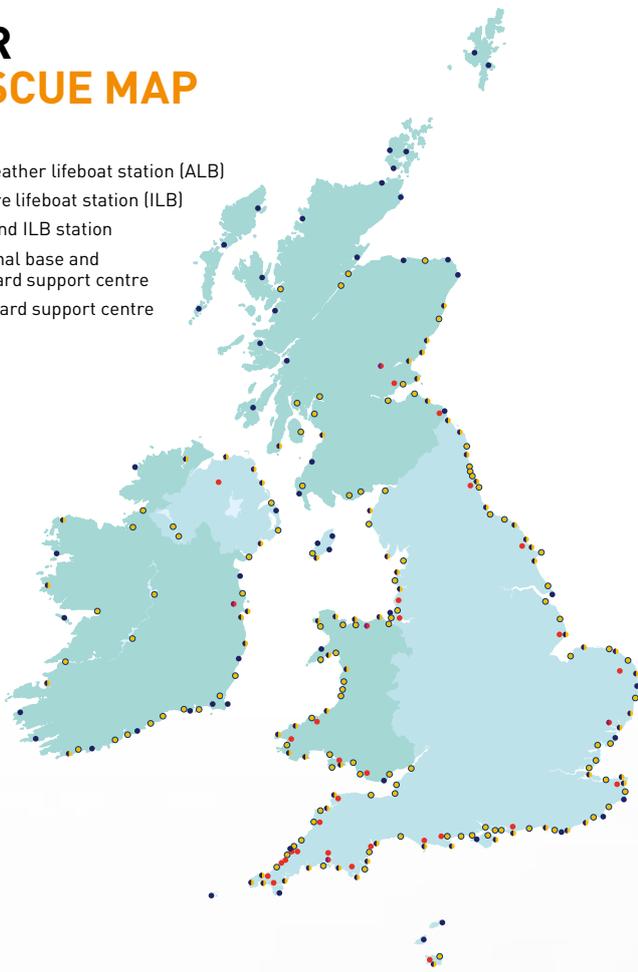
### INSHORE LIFEBOAT CREW KIT

Gloves £25  
Thermal suit £225  
Helmet £263  
Drysuit, including boots £700  
Lifejacket £458  
Balaclava £15



## OUR RESCUE MAP

- All-weather lifeboat station (ALB)
- Inshore lifeboat station (ILB)
- ALB and ILB station
- Regional base and lifeguard support centre
- Lifeguard support centre



## RING OF SAFETY

There are 238 lifeboat stations around the UK and Ireland, covering 19,000 miles of coastline.

Of these, three are on the River Thames in London, and another four are inland lifeboat stations.

The RNLI operates over 240 lifeguard units on UK and Channel Islands beaches.

The demands of saving lives on the water constantly evolve – and so do we. This means the number and type of lifeboats in our fleet and lifeguard units will change over time.

The RNLI is responsible for maintaining these stations and lifeguard units. This includes building new or replacement facilities when required.

## OUR FLOOD RESCUE TEAM



The RNLI's Flood Rescue Team is a group of volunteers and staff who are specially trained to carry out search and rescue operations in severe flooding situations throughout the UK and Ireland – and around the world.

# IN 2016

**8**  
REGIONAL  
TEAMS



**10**  
CUSTOMISED  
FLOOD  
RESCUE BOATS

**100**  
FLOOD RESCUE  
VOLUNTEERS

**3,000**  
HOURS OF TRAINING  
PER YEAR



# OUR LIFEGUARDS

They are tasked to reach any casualty within 300m of the shore between the red and yellow flags in 3.5 minutes.

The RNLI's lifeguard service operates a fleet of inshore rescue boats, rescue watercraft and four-wheel drive vehicles. Each lifeguard unit is equipped with rescue boards, rescue tubes, first aid kits, defibrillators and various other items of essential lifesaving equipment.

 **127**  
LIVES SAVED

**17,414** | **20,538**  
INCIDENTS | PEOPLE AIDED

 **2.79M**  
PREVENTATIVE  
ACTIONS

**IN 2016**

## TRAINING

Lifeguards must reach people in trouble quickly and are often the first on hand to help. They all hold an internationally recognised beach lifeguard qualification, giving them vital lifesaving skills.

RNLI lifeguards must be able to complete a 200m swim in under 3.5 minutes and a 200m run on sand in under 40 seconds.

They also learn advanced first aid skills and how to operate their lifesaving equipment.



## LIFEGUARD KIT

Full wetsuit	£245
Binoculars	£90
Sunglasses	£50
Rash vest	£25
Swim suit / trunks	£35

# SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE

## SAFETY

Around 190 people die in British and Irish waters each year. That's more than those killed in cycling accidents. Around half those who drown, never intended to get wet.

We want to halve coastal drowning in the UK and Ireland by 2024. Respect the Water is the RNLI's drowning prevention campaign. It highlights the risks, advises how to avoid danger and survive an emergency situation.

The main risks are: cold water shock, rip currents, tidal cut-off, and unexpected slips, trips or falls into the water.

## COASTAL SAFETY TIPS

- Check tide times and weather conditions
- Read signs and be aware of local hazards
- Carry a means of calling for help
- If you see someone in danger, dial 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard

## IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE WATER UNEXPECTEDLY

- The initial effects of cold water pass in less than a minute so don't try to swim straight away
- Float on your back to catch your breath. Try to get hold of something that will help you float
- Keep calm then call for help or swim for safety if you're able

## IF YOU SPOT SOMEONE IN TROUBLE

- Call 999 or 112 and ask for the coastguard
- Throw something that floats that they can hold on to
- Don't go in the water yourself – too many people drown trying to save others

## ACTIVITY TIPS

- **Swimming:** swim at a lifeguarded beach, between the red and yellow flags
- **Angling from rocks:** always wear a lifejacket and carry a means of calling for help when fishing from rocks or an exposed coastline
- **Angling from boats:** check your boat and equipment before every trip, always wear a lifejacket and carry a means of calling for help
- **Kayaking:** carry a means of calling for help and keep it within reach
- **Commercial fishing:** always wear a lifejacket
- **Scuba diving:** check you are 100% fit to dive
- **Sailing and motorboating:** always wear a lifejacket, ensure all onboard know how to call for help, get appropriate training and check your engine and fuel before every trip

## Know what to do

Visit [RNLI.org/RespectTheWater](https://www.rnli.org/RespectTheWater)



# OUR FLEET

RNLI lifeboats are divided into two categories – all-weather and inshore.

Different classes of lifeboat serve different locations, depending on geographical features, the kind of rescue work, and cover provided by neighbouring stations. Hovercraft, introduced into the RNLI fleet in 2002, can operate in areas inaccessible to conventional lifeboats, such as tidal mudflats.

RNLI designers and engineers meet the changing needs of the lifeboat service by developing new classes of lifeboat and making improvements to existing ones.

The RNLI has 408 lifeboats on service, 170 all-weather lifeboats and 234 inshore lifeboats. It also has four rescue hovercraft for areas that are inaccessible to other lifeboats, such as mud flats and river estuaries. There are over 100 lifeboats in our relief fleet, ready to replace operational craft during routine maintenance or emergency repairs. Our lifeguards use two types of powered craft – inshore rescue boats and rescue watercraft.

## ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOATS

All-weather lifeboats are capable of high speed in offshore conditions and can be operated safely in all weathers. They are inherently self-righting after a capsize and fitted with navigation, location and communication equipment.



### SHANNON

Introduced in 2013, the Shannon is the newest lifeboat in the fleet. Propelled by waterjets, she has greater speed and manoeuvrability and can operate in shallow waters and confined spaces. Specially designed seats and SIMS (see Tamar panel) improve crew safety.

**Length:** 13.6m  
**Speed:** 25 knots  
**Range:** 240 nautical miles  
**Construction:** fibre reinforced composite (FRC)  
**Crew:** 6  
**Weight:** 17 tonnes  
**Launch:** carriage or lying afloat

### TAMAR

Introduced in 2005, the Tamar is designed to be launched from a slipway, but can also lie afloat. A computerised Systems and Information Management System (SIMS) allows many of the onboard controls to be operated from any position and the crew can remain in their ergonomic seats for longer, further improving their safety.

**Length:** 16m  
**Speed:** 25 knots  
**Range:** 250 nautical miles  
**Construction:** FRC  
**Crew:** 6  
**Weight:** 30 tonnes  
**Launch:** slipway or lying afloat

### SEVERN

Introduced in 1995, the Severn is still the largest lifeboat in the fleet. She carries a Y class inflatable that can be launched with a crane. Last built in 2004.

**Length:** 17m  
**Speed:** 25 knots  
**Range:** 250 nautical miles  
**Construction:** FRC  
**Crew:** 6  
**Weight:** 41 tonnes  
**Launch:** moored afloat

### TRENT

The 1994-introduced Trent has the same hull shape as the Severn class but is smaller. The sheerline sweeps down for ease of survivor recovery. Last built in 2003.

**Length:** 14m  
**Speed:** 25 knots  
**Range:** 250 nautical miles  
**Construction:** FRC  
**Crew:** 6  
**Weight:** 27.5 tonnes  
**Launch:** moored afloat

### TYNE

The RNLI's first 'fast' slipway lifeboat was introduced in 1982, but the Tyne is also capable of lying afloat. The last Tyne was built in 1990.

**Length:** 14m  
**Speed:** 17 knots  
**Range:** 240 nautical miles  
**Construction:** steel  
**Crew:** 6  
**Weight:** 25 tonnes  
**Launch:** slipway or moored afloat



### MERSEY

Introduced in 1988 as the RNLI's first 'fast' carriage lifeboat, the Mersey can also lie afloat or slipway-launch if required. Last built in 1993.

**Length:** 12m  
**Speed:** 17 knots  
**Range:** 140 nautical miles  
**Construction:** aluminium or FRC  
**Crew:** 6  
**Weight:** 13 tonnes  
**Launch:** slipway or moored afloat

In 2015, the RNLI opened the All-weather Lifeboat Centre, a lifeboat-building facility that brings all-weather lifeboat production, maintenance and refit in-house, under one roof for the first time.

The facility will save the RNLI over £3M a year and secure the charity's supply of all-weather lifeboats.

## LAUNCHING

There are three main ways of launching an all-weather lifeboat: from a mooring, down a slipway, or from a carriage hauled across a beach. Shore crew help with slipway and carriage launches.

Inshore lifeboats differ. The D class can usually be launched into the water from a trolley. Larger B class Atlantics launch by tractor-hauled DoDo (drive-on drive-off) carriage, by shore-mounted crane (davit) or from a floating boathouse.

Hovercraft can launch from any flat area, such as a car park or beach, provided there is enough room. Specialist transporter vehicles move them between sites.

## INSHORE LIFEBOATS

Inshore lifeboats are designed for rescues closer to shore – in shallow waters, surf and near rocks.



### D CLASS

Originally introduced in 1963, the D class has evolved into a highly capable modern lifeboat. It is the workhorse of the RNLI's fleet and is ideal for working close inshore, near rocks or in shallow water in moderate conditions. It can be righted by the crew if it capsizes and a customised version forms part of the RNLI Flood Rescue Team's fleet of boats.

**Length:** 5m  
**Speed:** 25 knots  
**Endurance:** 3 hours max  
**Construction:** Hypalon-coated polyester  
**Crew:** 2-3  
**Weight:** 436kg  
**Launch:** trolley or davit

### E CLASS

Introduced in 2002, the E class is the fastest lifeboat in the RNLI's fleet. It uses waterjets rather than propellers and is designed especially for use on the River Thames, where it's stationed.

**Length:** 9m  
**Speed:** 40 knots  
**Endurance:** 4 hours at maximum speed  
**Construction:** aluminium alloy with closed cell polythene foam collar  
**Crew:** 3  
**Weight:** 3.5 tonnes  
**Launch:** moored afloat

### ATLANTIC 85 (B CLASS)

Introduced in 2005, this B class is larger than the Atlantic 75, has a faster top speed, radar, VHF direction finder, provision for a fourth crew member, and more survivor space.

**Length:** 8.5m  
**Speed:** 35 knots  
**Endurance:** 3 hours max  
**Construction:** FRC  
**Crew:** 3-4  
**Weight:** 1.8 tonnes  
**Engine:** 2 x 115hp  
**Launch:** trolley, floating boathouse or davit

### HOVERCRAFT

Introduced to the fleet in 2002, hovercraft can operate in areas of mud, sand and very shallow water – useful for shoreline searches.

**Length:** 8m  
**Speed:** 30 knots  
**Endurance:** 3 hours at maximum speed  
**Construction:** marine grade aluminium with moulded FRC  
**Crew:** 2-4  
**Weight:** 2.4 tonnes  
**Engine:** 2x75hp  
**Launch:** bespoke transporter

## LIFEGUARD CRAFT

### RESCUE WATERCRAFT (RWC)

Fast, agile and durable, the RWC is easy to launch and can get through surf quickly. The RNLI's RWCs have a rescue sled and the waterjets mean that it is easy and safe to manoeuvre close to people in the water. Mainly used at lifeguarded beaches, there are a few at lifeboat stations.



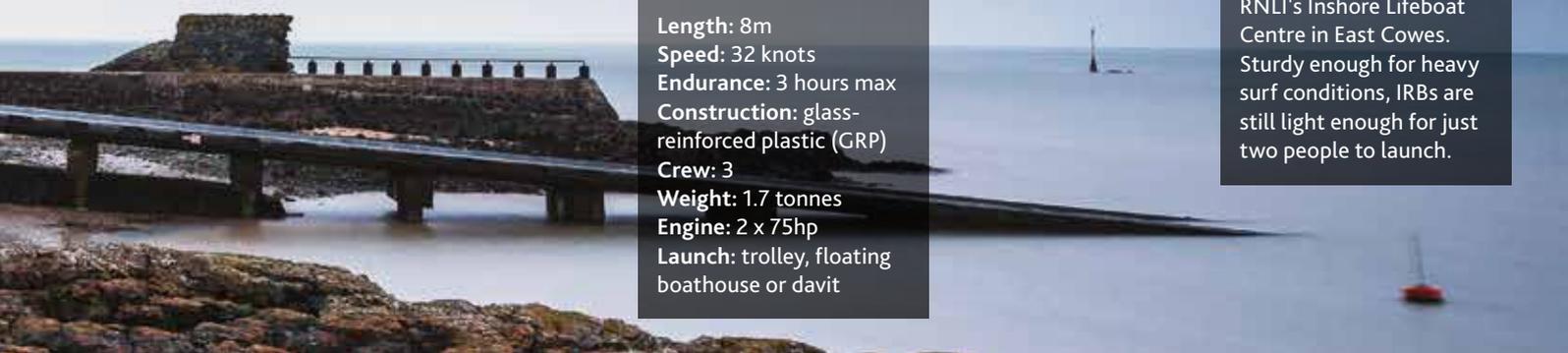
### ATLANTIC 75 (B CLASS)

This rigid inflatable lifeboat replaced the Atlantic 21 in 1993. Crew can right the craft using an inflatable bag should it capsize, and the engines are inversion-proofed to restart from wet.

**Length:** 8m  
**Speed:** 32 knots  
**Endurance:** 3 hours max  
**Construction:** glass-reinforced plastic (GRP)  
**Crew:** 3  
**Weight:** 1.7 tonnes  
**Engine:** 2 x 75hp  
**Launch:** trolley, floating boathouse or davit

### INSHORE RESCUE BOAT (IRB)

Introduced in 2001, IRBs are hand-built at the RNLI's Inshore Lifeboat Centre in East Cowes. Sturdy enough for heavy surf conditions, IRBs are still light enough for just two people to launch.



# MAKING IT WORK

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the bedrock of the RNLI; without them we couldn't carry out our vital lifesaving service.

Over 95% of the RNLI's people are volunteers.

From lifeboat crew, lifeguards and shore crew to fundraisers, safety advisers and education presenters – thousands of dedicated volunteers save lives, raise funds, raise awareness, and help in our museums, shops and offices.

## OUR STAFF

The RNLI could not run as effectively as it does without its staff, based all around the UK and Ireland and at the charity's headquarters in Poole, Dorset. Staff members include lifeboat designers and engineers, crew and lifeguard trainers, surveyors, marketing and PR professionals, IT experts, HR support, safety experts, and many others who support lifesavers and fundraisers on the frontline.

## GOVERNANCE

The RNLI's work is overseen, and directed, by the charity's trustees. These are volunteers who lend their skills and experience to help govern the RNLI.

Last year, the RNLI welcomed Stuart Popham as chair when Charles Hunter-Pease stepped down after 3 years serving in the role. A keen sailor since his youth, Stuart was previously vice-chair of the charity.



**95%**  
OF RNLI PEOPLE  
ARE VOLUNTEERS

**4,800**  
VOLUNTEER CREW

**3,000**  
VOLUNTEER  
SHORE CREW

**OVER  
22,000**  
VOLUNTEER  
COMMUNITY  
FUNDRAISERS

**170**  
VOLUNTEER  
LIFEGUARDS



# INTERNATIONAL

Around 372,000 people drown worldwide each year.\* The RNLI is helping to tackle this hidden epidemic by sharing almost 200 years of lifesaving expertise at both a community and national level. We are working with partners worldwide to:

- learn more about the causes of drowning and explore possible solutions
- identify and develop suitable programmes to reduce drowning and ensure there is evidence of their impact
- build the capacity of communities most at risk of drowning to deliver these programmes.

In 2017 the RNLI has projects underway in Bangladesh, Tanzania, Ghana and Lesvos, as well as a first-of-its kind Future Leaders in Lifesaving training programme – more information on these can be found at [RNLI.org/international](http://RNLI.org/international).

## Funding

Our international work is funded by donations made specifically for international projects and by our investment income. It currently equates to 1% of the RNLI's total annual spend.

\*Figures estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO)



**372,000**  
**PEOPLE DROWN**  
**WORLDWIDE**  
**EACH YEAR\***

**91%**  
**OF DROWNINGS OCCUR IN**  
**LOW OR MIDDLE-INCOME**  
**COUNTRIES**



**CHILDREN**  
**UNDER THE AGE**  
**OF 5 ARE AT THE**  
**GREATEST RISK**

# SPREADING THE WORD

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

RNLI lifeguards and education volunteers deliver lifesaving education to help keep young people safe in and near the water. Learning takes place on the beach, in lifeboat stations, in schools and at youth groups.

Children aged 7–14 can learn how to stay safe in open water by taking part in a free, practical Swim Safe session. Swim Safe is a partnership project between Swim England and the RNLI.

**RNLI.org/shorething** has interactive games and activities for young people.

Downloadable resources for teachers and youth leaders can be found at **RNLI.org/education**.

Storm Force, our membership club for young people, inspires and educates those aged 5–12, now and into the future. It also sows the seed for becoming a supporter, volunteer or lifesaver in later life.



## SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

Stay **SAFE** on the beach by following these simple steps:

- S** – SPOT the dangers
- A** – take **ADVICE**
- F** – stay close to a **FRIEND** or **FAMILY MEMBER**
- E** – learn what to do in an **EMERGENCY**

Find out more at **RNLI.org/education**

## OUR PROUD HISTORY

# 1824

THE YEAR THAT  
THE RNLI  
WAS FOUNDED

# 142,200

# LIVES

SAVED SINCE  
ITS FORMATION



The RNLI was founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary. First called the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, it organised dedicated lifeboats for volunteer crew to help save those in trouble at sea.

The RNLI's heritage team cares for objects and archive materials to preserve the history of the RNLI and inspire future generations of supporters and lifesavers.

The RNLI manages 32 museums and visitor centres around the UK, as well as object and archive collections at the RNLI's headquarters in Poole, Dorset. Historic items are displayed in many lifeboat stations and visitor centres.

External heritage funding has supported the redevelopment of museums celebrating the RNLI's most decorated lifeboatman Henry Blogg at Cromer (pictured left) and Grace Darling at Bamburgh in new buildings with family-friendly displays.

Eastbourne, Whitby and Salcombe museums are set in their original boathouses while Chatham Historic Dockyard holds the RNLI Historic Lifeboat Collection. Find out more and plan a visit at [RNLI.org/heritage](https://www.rnli.org/heritage).



## OPT IN

On 1 January 2017, the RNLI became the first UK charity to be a fully opted-in organisation. That means that we only contact people by post, email or telephone if that have given us permission to do so.

So far, over 450,000 people have asked us to stay in touch and that communication is vital to giving our lifesavers everything they need to continue saving lives.

To opt in or change your preferences, visit [RNLI.org/SavesLives](https://www.rnli.org/SavesLives).



# MONEY MATTERS

COMMUNICATION  
**SAVES LIVES**

**IT COST  
£177.3M  
TO RUN  
THE RNLI  
IN 2016**

**£51.5M  
RAISED  
THROUGH  
DONATIONS  
IN 2016**

**£130.5M  
RAISED  
THROUGH  
LEGACIES  
IN 2016**

## FUNDRAISING

In 1891, the RNLI became the first charity to organise a street collection, marking the beginning of a strong fundraising tradition. Today we remain separate from the coastguard and independent of the government, so we rely on the generosity of people like you.

Over 1,000 groups of volunteers in communities throughout the UK and Ireland organise all sorts of fundraising activities throughout the year. From coffee mornings to quiz nights, rambles to races, and more. Many groups have close links with local lifeboat stations.

We also have several big fundraising campaigns throughout the year, including Mayday in the spring and Fish Supper in the autumn.

To find out how to get involved with RNLI fundraising visit [RNLI.org/volunteer](http://RNLI.org/volunteer).

## GIFTS IN WILLS

Legacies are much more than gifts in Wills. They are the lifeboat that launches to answer a call for help, and the training that will help crews reach a vessel in distress. Legacies are our lifeline, now and in the future. Please see [RNLI.org/legacy](http://RNLI.org/legacy) for more information.

## MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Supporters are the lifeblood of the RNLI, making one-off or regular donations throughout the year. Many supporters choose personal challenges to raise funds and more than 170,000 have chosen one of our membership options: Shoreline, Offshore, Governor, or Storm Force for children under 11 years old.

The RNLI relies also on other organisations, such as companies and trusts for support, and employees can support the charity through payroll giving.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution  
West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1HZ  
0300 300 9918 | [RNLI.org](http://RNLI.org)



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[instagram.com/rnli](https://instagram.com/rnli)

**RNLI.org**

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603)  
and Scotland (SC037736). Registered charity number 20003326 in the Republic of Ireland