



Lifeboats

IMPACT REPORT FOR GWYNT Y MÔR OFFSHORE WIND FARM LTD



LIFEBOAT CREW TRAINING

RNLI training is what turns our willing lifeboat volunteers into highly competent lifesavers. That's exactly what our crews at Llandudno, Conwy, Rhyl and Flint have become. Your support over the past 12 months has helped make that possible. And the training continues so they can be prepared for any eventuality, day or night and in all weathers, when putting their lives at risk to save others.

In 2015, on-station training formed the bulk of the training that our crew members undertook. Practising different rescue scenarios – some involving emergency services such as HM Coastguard – helped build teamwork, improve competence and reinforce safety procedures. Training exercises at sea also enabled crew members to become competent using the range of equipment onboard their lifeboats.

Their training was supported by visits from our mobile training instructors and specialist training courses at RNLI College in Poole, Dorset.

CREW TRAINING – FACTS AND FIGURES

Forty crew members attended specialist training courses at RNLI College in the following subjects:

- Annual regional exercises
- Approved engine certificate
- Basic DC electrical
- Long range certificate
- Medical casualty care
- Radar navigation aids
- Trainee crew (all-weather lifeboat)
- Trainee crew (inshore lifeboat)
- Talus tractor driver.

Station	Number of crew trained	Crew hours at sea on training exercises
Llandudno	24	642
Conwy	21	403
Rhyl	27	488
Flint	14	391
Total	86	1,923

Above: Llandudno's Mersey class all-weather lifeboat *Andy Pearce*. Photo: Nicholas Leach

IMPACT OF CREW TRAINING

Station	Launches	Launches in darkness	People rescued	Lives saved	Crew hours at sea on service
Llandudno	34	10	34	2	397
Conwy	29	4	46	2	61
Rhyl	47	11	55	4	348
Flint	13	5	11	4	66
Total	123	30	146	12	873



Above: Rhyl's Mersey all-weather lifeboat *Lil Cunningham*. Photo: RNLI/Nathan Williams



Photo: RNLI/Llandudno

LLANDUDNO

'I'm Chris Martin, I'm a volunteer here at Llandudno Lifeboat Station, both on the all-weather lifeboat and the inshore lifeboat. 2015 for us has been a busy year. We've had a large number of shouts for each boat, shouts ranging from injured people on cliffs or stuck on rocks, missing boats and fishermen, and also injuries onboard boats. When we had a call out at 3am, a chap had set off his distress flare. It was quite an old flare where some of the phosphorus had dripped down onto his hand and quite severely burnt it. Through our first aid knowledge and the training that we've done we were able to do the right procedures and keep him calm, and look after him until we were able to transfer him off to hospital.'

'In another first aid call out a young lad had been jumping off rocks into the water – also called tombstoning – and he'd just completely underestimated the depth of the water he'd jumped in. He had a small fracture of his ankle. With that one, working with the Coastguard, we were able to stretcher him off the beach and give him the right first aid that he needed to make sure he was okay.'

'My aim now is to progress towards my Helm plan which is underway and going very well. I've got my Helm course booked soon at the training college. So I'm looking forward to getting down there and getting stuck into some more training.'

'Thanks very much for your donation. It was an extremely kind donation. It really does help a lot – myself, a new recruit – older crew members, it helps us all out. So thank you very much.'

'With the training we've done we were able to keep him calm'

Chris Martin, Crew Member, Llandudno

CONWY

Conwy RNLI Lifeboat Station is now one fully competent crew member better off following an assessment visit by an RNLI Divisional Trainer/Assessor in December.

Mike Thomas has been training hard during his probationary period to gain sufficient experience to be able to complete all his competency based training units. He passed with flying colours and this now sees him officially join the station's competent crew list.

The RNLI assessors visit the station periodically to assess the competency of our volunteer crew members in different areas, from navigation to boat handling. Along with Mike, a few other crew managed to pass training units also and are well on their way to becoming fully competent crew.

'I'm delighted to have passed all my units and have enjoyed the challenges along the way,' says Mike. 'The close knit team here at Conwy RNLI is a pleasure to be a part of, and I now look forward to the next chapter in my RNLI career.'

Conwy RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Aled Williams says: 'As the RNLI is a charity, achievements like Mike's would not be possible without donations like the one from Gwynt y Môr. The training of our crews is paramount to the success of the rescue service and we are thankful for any donations which help us achieve this.'



Photo: RNLI/Conwy

'Our training in first aid was invaluable.'

Michael Thomas, Crew Member, Conwy



Above: Flint crew during a training exercise
Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard

RHYL

Dave Clark, 32, an electrician and volunteer with Rhyl RNLI says: 'Local training is vital, it complements the training we receive at our headquarters in Poole. At Rhyl, we train twice a week every week and it definitely has helped me to grow in confidence.'

'One incident which stays with me is when we were called to assist a lady in the water who needed first aid quickly. We needed to act quickly and knowing exactly where the kit was located and our training in first aid were invaluable.'

FLINT

As part of the ongoing RNLI crew training programme ten of the volunteer lifeboat crew attended and passed a casualty care course at Flint Lifeboat Station under the careful guidance of RNLI instructor Trevor Evans.

Lifeboat Operations Manager Alan Forrester said: 'Lifeboat crew training for our volunteers at Flint is a huge commitment, and this last course has been very intensive. I am really proud that they all came through with flying colours.'

FLOOD RESCUE

Members of the Welsh Flood Rescue Team based at the RNLI's Divisional Base at St Asaph – one of six such teams around the UK which is ready to mobilise within 48 hours – helped rescue hundreds of people during floods in Cumbria in December.

Among those deployed were Team Leader Martin Jones from Rhyl, fellow Rhyl Crew Members Callum Robinson, Darrel Graham and Paul Archer-Jones, and Greg Donald and Chris Martin from Conwy.

Working for up to 13 hours at a time in a joint operation with other emergency services, they helped rescue 300 people cut off by rising flood water, and brought them to safety.

Just 12 hours after their return from the 4-day mission to Cumbria, the four Rhyl crew members were in the thick of it again, this time in a search for a missing swimmer.



Above: Martin Jones, Coxswain of the Rhyl all-weather lifeboat, leading his team on the streets of Carlisle. Photo: RNLI/Callum Robinson



Above: Flood Rescue Team members evacuating residents from a Carlisle street. Photo: Mark Barker

Below left: Crew members from Flint Lifeboat Station.
Below right: Crew members from Conwy Lifeboat Station.
Photos: RNLI/Nigel Millard, Danielle Rush

'Your rescue support vehicle has been a vital asset to the team'

RESCUE SUPPORT VEHICLE

The rescue support vehicle (RSV) which you so generously funded played a central role during the Cumbria floods in December. It was the field command centre for all the rescue services (fire rescue service, RNLI, Police and mountain rescue).

'As well as being a central hub for the rescue services,' says Paul Archer-Jones, Rhyl Crew Member and a member of the Flood Rescue Team, 'the rescue support vehicle was a focal point for friends, family and relatives wanting to find out about their loved ones.'

'Your rescue support vehicle has been invaluable, in its first main use in the Cumbria floods. A vital asset to the team. Very much appreciated by all of the rescue services up there.'

In a joint operation, the Flood Rescue Team went to the aid of 15 elderly and vulnerable residents who were marooned without power on the first floor of their care home as water flooded through the ground floor in December. Three specially adapted flood rescue boats were needed to get them safely to dry land.

'We have evacuated hundreds of people and some of the elderly people were scared and cold,' says Rhyl's Callum Robinson, 'but we managed to bring them to safety. It's been a busy few days, but working alongside other emergency services we have managed to help a lot of people in what has been a very difficult time for the area.'

THANK YOU

On behalf of all our crew members at Llandudno, Conwy, Rhyl and Flint, and the Welsh Flood Rescue Team, thank you for your support. You are helping to save lives.



For more information please contact Ross Martin
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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

FRSB
give with confidence