

# 150th ANNIVERSARY SHANNON LIFEBOAT FUND APPEAL

## INTRODUCTION

TO MARK THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIFEBOAT FUND, OUR 2015-17 APPEAL SEEKS TO RAISE £1.1M TOWARDS THE COST OF A BRAND NEW SHANNON CLASS ALL-WEATHER LIFEBOAT FOR WELLS LIFEBOAT STATION

The RNLI's courageous volunteer lifeboat crews have been saving lives in the waters around Wells – a popular holiday destination on the north Norfolk coast – since 1830. That same lifesaving spirit is as strong today as it's ever been: in 2014 the crews launched 36 times and rescued 44 people.

Wells RNLI operates two lifeboats – a much-loved all-weather Mersey class lifeboat *Doris M. Mann of Amptill*, which is due for replacement, and a D class inshore lifeboat. The new Shannon lifeboat, which will replace the Mersey, will be the 53rd lifeboat funded by donations from The Lifeboat Fund's supporters.

## THE NEED

The RNLI needs a new Shannon class lifeboat at Wells as part of its commitment to provide a 25-knot all-weather lifeboat fleet. The new boat – designed in-house by the RNLI's engineers – is faster and more manoeuvrable than the Mersey.



## THE BENEFITS



Every minute counts when lives are at risk. Like the Mersey, the Shannon can be launched and recovered from the beach using a purpose-designed launch and recovery vehicle, making it ideal for Wells Lifeboat Station. But it is faster and more efficient to launch than the Mersey, and it is almost 50% faster over the water.

As with other all-weather lifeboats it is self-righting in the event of capsize and can cope with the roughest conditions the sea can throw at it.

Incorporating cutting-edge technology, the revolutionary Shannon features a single integrated system and information management system, or SIMS for short, which enables the crew to monitor the lifeboat's vital functions, including engine management, communication and navigation. This they can do from the safety of their all-new shock mitigating seats – an important consideration when operating in rough weather.

The Shannon is the first all-weather lifeboat to be powered by waterjets. This allows it to operate in shallow waters and to be intentionally beached. Waterjets also give the coxswain greater control when alongside other craft, in confined waters and in all sea conditions.

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## THE IMPACT

The impact of the new Shannon lifeboat is already being felt around our coasts, with seven boats already in service and that number growing steadily.

The new Shannon lifeboat will enable Coxswain Allen Frary and his crew to continue to save lives at sea and bring them home safely for years to come.



Coxswain Allen Frary.  
Photo: RNLI/Nigel Millard

'It's been a long time in the planning, but we are all extremely pleased we're getting the new boat.'

**Allen Frary, Coxswain,  
Wells RNLI**

'The new Shannon will ensure we can continue to fulfil our vital role of saving lives at sea off the north Norfolk coast.'

**Chris Hardy, Lifeboat Operations Manager, Wells RNLI**

## ABOUT US

The Lifeboat Fund exists to support the vital work of the RNLI, saving lives and rescuing people at sea, on our rivers and from floods.

It does this thanks to generous donations from serving and retired employees of the Civil Service, British Telecom and Royal Mail. We are proud to be the RNLI's longest-serving, and one of its biggest, contributors.

The RNLI is a registered charity, independent from the UK government. Its volunteer lifeboat crews and lifeguards rely on donations to continue their vital role of saving lives at sea. Each year The Lifeboat Fund and the RNLI agree upon the priorities to be supported through The Fund's appeal.

The Lifeboat Fund was founded 150 years ago by a group of Civil Servants wishing to donate a single lifeboat to the RNLI. The aptly named lifeboat *Civil Service* was put on service and a new charity, The Lifeboat Fund, was born. Since then, The Lifeboat Fund has provided the RNLI with 52 new lifeboats. These craft have helped volunteer RNLI crews save over 4,700 lives and assisted thousands more.



Photo: RNLI/Mike Lewis

A new Shannon being put through its paces.

The RNLI rescues 23 people on average every day. Its volunteer lifeboat crews are ready to respond to shouts in all weathers and at all times of the day and night. These men and women come from all walks of life but share a commitment to saving lives at sea.

Our volunteers are often called away from work, home comforts and deep sleep to brave conditions that test their skill, strength and courage. Their lifesaving work is essential, often difficult and can be life-threatening.

From over 235 lifeboat stations around the coasts of the UK and Republic of Ireland, the charity's lifeboats launched 8,462 times in 2014, rescuing 8,727 people and saving 368 lives. In total, the RNLI has saved over 140,000 lives since it was formed in 1824.