



Branch Activities

The Branch has continued to expand its fundraising activities for the RNLI. The Branch works closely with Chiswick Lifeboat station where it holds most of its meetings. If you would like to give time or money to this excellent cause, please contact Richard Millar on richardmillar@supanet.com. Remember, Gift Aid increases your donation by 28%.

This Years Achievements

- Chiswick Lifeboatman Steven East raised £8,000 in sponsorship in the rowing race from London to Paris in May.
- The Branch members manned stalls at Chiswick Pier during the Great River Race, the Party on the Pier, London Corinthians open day and Barnes Green day, raising nearly £1,000 in sales and donations. Total fundraising by the branch this year exceeds £4,000.

Future Events

The Branch is planning fundraising events including:

- Chiswick Branch has been asked to organise collectors on 6 November at the Shepherds Bush Empire when Seth Lakeman will be performing. He is a keen supporter of RNLI and has suggested collections be made at each of his gigs. Collecting at 7.30 and 10.30pm. please tell Richard Millar if you can help - it should be fun.
- Carol Singing at Hammersmith Tube Station (Piccadilly/District). 17.30-19.00 on Wednesday 10 December. All singers and bucket carriers welcome.
- Pub Quiz night, watch for announcements.
- Lifeboat SOS day on 30 January 2009 involves schools and workplaces in a national fundraising initiative. The branch has contacts with a number of local schools, any further suggestions would be welcome. The RNLI produces a full pack of information and fundraising material.



The RNLI depends on voluntary contributions and legacies for its income.

More than 4,600 volunteer lifeboat crew members at 232 lifeboat stations throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Last year, lifeboats lunched over 8,000 times and rescued 7,834 people.

Since it started operations on the 2 January 2002, Chiswick lifeboat has attended over 1300 incidents and rescued over 675 people.

The four Thames lifeboats together have attended over 4000 incidents.



Chiswick Lifeboat



Most cars don't float

After a dramatic incident in August when a car went into the river in Isleworth in full view of some anglers who managed to pull out the driver, Chiswick lifeboat was called to cars in the water at Putney on two successive nights on 6 & 7 October. Both cars were found to be empty but each time the lifeboat crew need to make sure there is no one is trapped inside and to secure the vehicle to prevent any hazard to navigation.

Strong support for volunteer crew membership

Chiswick lifeboat station has 10 full time crew who do a rota of 4 shifts on and four off, and 50 volunteers who commit to doing two 12 hour shifts per month. This then permits 24/7 manning.

There is a lengthy volunteer waiting list from which 8-10 probationers are recruited each year to replace natural wastage. There is now a 'boot camp' of shore based basic training before probationers take to the water. This is eventually followed by a 1 week largely practical course on the inshore lifeboats at the RNLI college in Poole. Specialist courses in VHF, First Aid, Sea Safety and basic fire-fighting can also be taken.



Chiswick reserve lifeboat now sits on a boat lift to protect its hull