



Branch Activities

The RNLI Chiswick Branch works closely with Chiswick Lifeboat Station where it holds most of its meetings. The Branch runs many fundraising activities for the RNLI, through stalls at many local events, box collections and pub quizzes. If you would like to give time or money to this excellent cause, please contact Richard Millar on 020 8995 7021. And remember, Gift Aid increases your donation by 28%.

This Years Achievements

- SOS day in January was a great fundraising success. 10 crew members walked in full kit from Teddington to Tower Bridge, collecting money on the way. As well as over £6,000 raised directly from the walk, on SOS day the station received a surprise donation of over £25,000 after the closure of Brentford and Chiswick Swimming Club. The committee were keen to use their remaining funds to benefit a charity concerned with saving lives on the water.
- The branch received £525 from Waitrose in Chiswick as their share of the £1,000 that the store gives to three charities each month. The proportions are determined by tokens that customers put into boxes as they leave the store.

Future Events

The Branch is planning fundraising events including:

- **LIFEBOAT DAY 6 MAY** Volunteers will be collecting at tube and rail stations. All bucket carriers welcome.
- **VIDEOS FROM THE LIFEBOAT** will be shown at The Pier House 19:30 **12 MAY**. These will be the results of a competition to produce the best video images from Chiswick lifeboat when on service. The showing will be preceded by the Branch AGM. All are welcome.



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

There are 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



A still image from the boat camera's video recording of the crew recovering a person from the water at Hammersmith in March

Lifeboats on TV

The E-class lifeboats on the Thames are now equipped with mast mounted video cameras. These are part of a nationwide initiative by the RNLI to generate more visual material from real incidents. This can prove invaluable in getting more press coverage of the RNLI's activities and so help with fundraising. The recordings can also help with training and resolving disputes. The full-time crew have all been trained to edit the video footage into 30 second clips which can be sent to news organisations and headquarters.

Crew support in depth

On Monday evening 6 April Chiswick RNLI lifeboat joined lifeboats from Tower and Gravesend at Westminster Bridge. The crews were ready to act after police reports that people involved in a protest on the bridge had threatened to jump into the river en masse with women and children. Four lifeboat crews spent the whole night on the water.

Following the deployment of the duty lifeboat to central London a call for volunteers to crew the reserve lifeboat was put out; 30 minutes later it was ready to launch. Station Manager Wayne Bellamy said "I am extremely proud of my off duty crew who immediately dropped what they were doing and rushed to the station in order to maintain emergency cover on the upper part of the river. It shows the depth of commitment we have built up in our team".