

**Lifeboats**

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

News release

**Lifeboats**

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

HRH Princess Royal gets up close and personal with new Dungeness RNLI lifeboat

- Date: 02/06/2014
- Author: Tim Ash



Lifeboats News Release

Volunteer lifeboat crew members at Dungeness RNLI lifeboat station took an unexpected guest out on their new lifeboat at the weekend, when HRH The Princess Royal visited the station.

Princess Anne visited the Kent lifeboat station on Saturday 31 May to take part in the official dedication and naming ceremony of the Shannon class lifeboat, named *The Morrell*.

But the original tight schedule of meeting and greeting volunteers was happily extended when HRH The Princess Royal was so impressed by what she saw, she decided she wanted to take to the ocean and see for herself what the lifeboat was like.

Never ones to refuse a distinguished guest, the crew warmly welcomed her aboard the lifeboat during the planned demonstration, in front of crowds of invited guests, RNLI supporters, and local people, and enlisted her help in putting the lifeboat through her paces.

The Morrell is the latest class of lifeboat, the Shannon. She arrived at Dungeness in February, and since being placed on service she has already launched on three rescues. The lifeboat and its launch and recovery system were entirely funded by an extremely generous legacy left by Mrs Barbara Morrell, from Bromley in Kent. The lifeboat has been named in memory of Mrs Morrell, her late husband Stanley, her brother-in-law Cyril and her sister-in-law Patricia.

Speaking at the ceremony, HRH The Princess Royal said: 'It is always an honour and a privilege to be asked to name a lifeboat and I do so, bearing in mind there are so many people who contribute to each lifeboat that is named and launched. It is a special occasion to have a new class of lifeboat and a revolutionary new launch and recovery system as well.

'I am sure this was the right place to put it, this is an experienced crew with a lot of history, and this is a very special place. I also name it in the memory of a very generous donor, so it is my very great pleasure to name this lifeboat *The Morrell*, and may God bless her and all who sail in her.'

As well as going afloat on the lifeboat – and being on-board during its dramatic beaching on the shore – HRH The Princess Royal met volunteer lifeboat crew and shore helpers, and fundraisers, as well as enjoying a tour of the lifeboat station and its facilities. .

The Shannon, the latest class of lifeboat in the charity's fleet, is capable of 25 knots, making her 50% faster than the lifeboat she replaced. She has increased manoeuvrability and features water jet engines, allowing the volunteer crew to operate in shallower waters.

Chris Ubee, Lifeboat Operations Manager at Dungeness RNLI, said: 'It was an absolute pleasure to welcome HRH The Princess Royal, and to take her afloat on the new lifeboat. We're all really proud of *The Morrell* so when the Princess asked if she could go afloat we were more than happy to show her what she can do.'

RNLI media contact

- Tim Ash, RNLI Public Relations Manager (London/East/South East)
0207 6207426 / 07785 296252 / tim_ash@rnli.org.uk
- James Oxley, RNLI Press Officer (London/East/South East)
0207 6207425 / 07786 668825 / james_oxley@rnli.org.uk
- For enquiries outside normal business hours, contact the RNLI duty press officer on 01202 336789

Photos and video



Download Dungeness naming 1



Download Dungeness naming 2



Download Dungeness naming 3



Download Dungeness naming 4

Key facts about the RNLI

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is the charity that saves lives at sea. Our volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland from 236 lifeboat stations, including four along the River Thames and inland lifeboat stations at Loch Ness, Lough Derg, Enniskillen and Lough Ree. Additionally the RNLI has more than 1,000 lifeguards on over 180 beaches around the UK and operates a specialist flood rescue team, which can respond anywhere across the UK and Ireland when inland flooding puts lives at risk.

The RNLI relies on public donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. As a charity it is separate from, but works alongside, government-controlled and funded coastguard services. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 our lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved at least 140,000 lives. Volunteers make up 95% of the charity, including 4,600 volunteer lifeboat crew members and 3,000 volunteer shore crew. Additionally, tens of thousands of other dedicated volunteers raise funds and awareness, give safety advice, and help in our museums, shops and offices.

Learn more about the RNLI

For more information please visit the [RNLI website](#) or [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#). News releases, videos and photos are available on the [News Centre](#).

Contacting the RNLI - public enquiries

Members of the public may contact the RNLI on 0300 300 999 or by [email](#).

The RNLI is a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland
