

22 May 2016

Falmouth 006 2016

£1M fund helps Falmouth RNLI volunteers learn lifesaving skills.

Three new volunteers for Falmouth RNLI lifeboats have received training at the RNLI College in Poole. Joshua Williams, aged 27 years, Jamie Connoly, 29, and James Wakefield, 26, all completed the charity's Trainee Crew Course thanks to funding provided by Lloyd's Register Foundation.

A key part of the course is the sea survival element, which enables new volunteer crew to be trained in a variety of subjects including how to 'abandon ship' with a 4m jump into the water; team survival swimming and coping in a liferaft in simulated darkness; how to deal with fires aboard lifeboats; how to right a capsized inshore lifeboat and the importance of lifejackets.

Training took place in the Sea Survival Centre at the training college which includes a 25m wave-generating survival tank, allowing trainees to experience first hand some of the scenarios they may encounter at sea should they ever need to abandon their lifeboat.

Jamie Connoly, one of the trainees on the course said: "The facilities at the Training Centre were amazing, from the sea survival aspects to the use of flares, helicopter operations and the excellent accommodation available at the college.

Jamie Wakefield's great uncle was a past member of the Falmouth lifeboat crew and this inspired him to join the organisation. All three volunteers have water based occupations and are very keen to try to make it safer for the public to use the waters around Falmouth.

The training was funded by Lloyd's Register Foundation (LR Foundation), a UK registered charity that connects science, safety and society by supporting quality research and promoting skills and education. The Foundation is funding the Sea Survival element of the RNLI's Trainee Crew Courses for a further 5 year period from January 2016 to December 2020. This additional funding of £1.06M will bring their total support for RNLI crew training to just over £2.46M*.

John Blakeston, Senior Coxswain and mechanic at Falmouth station said: "This training is vital to help keep volunteers as safe as possible while on rescue missions. It equips them with essential sea survival skills, providing them with the courage, poise and self confidence to save lives even in the most perilous of conditions".

This donation is just the latest in LR Foundation's relationship with the RNLI, which was recognised in 2010 when it received the Group Supporter Award from HRH Prince Michael of Kent in recognition of its valuable support of the charity.



Notes to editors

- The photo shows (L-R) Joshua Williams; Jamie Connolly and James Wakefield.
- *Lloyd's Register Foundation donated £1M to the RNLB over 5 years from 2010-2015, and £400K over 2 years from 2008-2009, taking over the obligations of the Lloyds Register Educational Trust in 2013.
- Lloyd's Register Foundation is a charitable foundation which aims, through grant making, to connect science, safety and society by supporting research of the highest quality and promoting skills and education.

RNLB media contacts

For more information please contact; Gerry Gearon, RNLB Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer on 01326 212438, gerrygearon@hotmail.com; or Emma Haines, Public Relations Manager South West on 01752 850689, emma_haines@rnli.org; or contact RNLB Public Relations on 01202 336789.

RNLB online

For more information on the RNLB please visit www.rnli.org.uk. News releases and other media resources, including RSS feeds, downloadable photos and video, are available at the RNLB Press Centre www.rnli.org.uk/press