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£1M fund helps Falmouth RNLI volunteers learn lifesaving skills

A new volunteer for Falmouth RNLI lifeboats has received training at the RNLI College in Poole. Adrian Hingston, aged 46, who runs his own Marine Engineering business, completed the charity's Sea Survival Training Course thanks to funding provided by Lloyd's Register Foundation.

The Sea Survival Training enables a new recruit to be trained in a variety of crucial subjects including how to “abandon ship” with a four metre jump into the water; team survival swimming and coping in a liferaft in darkness; how to deal with fires aboard lifeboats; how to right a capsized inshore lifeboat and the importance of lifejackets.

The training took place in the Sea Survival Centre at the charity's college, which includes a 25 metre 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.

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*.

Talking about the training he had received Adrian Hingston said “The training I received was second to none and the instructors were all first class. I was inspired to volunteer for the lifeboat as it is a family tradition. I have wanted to become a volunteer for a long time but lived too far away from the station. Luckily, I now live close enough. My great grandfather was coxswain of Falmouth lifeboat *Bob Newbon* during the incident involving the *Hera* in February 1914, and several other members of my family have been crew members.”

John Blakeston, Coxswain of Falmouth Lifeboat, said “The support given by LR Foundation is hugely important to the RNLI. We are extremely grateful that the Foundation has chosen to continue to fund sea survival training, which teaches vital core skills to our volunteer crew. This training is needed to help keep volunteers as safe as possible while on rescue missions. It equips volunteers with essential sea survival skills, providing them with the courage, poise and self confidence to save lives even in the most perilous of sea 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

- *Lloyd's Register Foundation donated £1M to the RNLI over 5 years from 2010 – 2015: and £400K over 2 years from 2008 – 2009, taking over the obligations of the Lloyd's Register Educational Trust in 2013.

About Lloyd's Register Foundation

Lloyds 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.

RNLI media contacts

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RNLI online

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

Key facts about the RNLI

The RNLI charity saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 230 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and has more than 100 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 137,000 lives. The RNLI is a charity registered in England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, Irish Charity number 2678.

Charity number CHY2678 in the Republic of Ireland and registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SCO037736).

