

RNLI Largs Grant from Kelburn Wind Farm Community Fund

The grant received from Kelburn Wind Farm, £2000, was spent in 2012 on outdoor weather gear for six new volunteers and is still in use.

This year to date we have had 29 call outs, or 'Shouts' as they are known, rescuing 50 people. Five of these were carried out in darkness. We cannot publish photographs without the permission of the people concerned but I enclose a cutting from our local paper, The Largs and Millport Weekly News, which will give a snapshot of the work carried out by our Lifeboat crews. Also attached is a photograph of our B Class Lifeboat, the R. A. Wilson (B854) with local Helmsman Brian Rankin in charge.

In the past year, the RNLI has changed its emphasis from Sea Rescue to Sea Safety and has started a programme of educating the public about the dangers of water rather than only focusing on rescuing them from it.

Tanker danger for yacht in high winds

LARGS RNLI were called out to rescue a yacht, including a child on board, after it got into difficulty in high winds on Sunday evening close to a tanker ship.

The four person crew of the 30 foot boat had reported breaking down near to Hunterston jetty where a large bulk carrier was moored.

Imminent danger

It was reported at the time the yacht was in danger of being blown on to the carrier. Largs Coastguard alerted the RNLI at 8.20pm to the imminent danger.

On arrival, the lifeboat crew could see no sign of the yacht, but after some communication with the coastguard who were in contact with the yacht crew by mobile phone, the volunteer crew managed to locate the stricken vessel which was then dangerously close to the Cumbrae shore, close to the well known Lion Rock.

The vessel had no VHF radio on

board, and put down an anchor in an effort to prevent the strong east wind from blowing them further. Fortunately, the anchor did eventually take hold.

A tow line was secured and as the crew attempted to lift the yacht's anchor it was stuck fast on the seabed and had to be released, along with its chain.

The yacht was then taken in tow back across the bay to Largs Yacht Haven where it was safely moored.

Having confirmed the four man crew and young child were now safe and sound, with no injuries, the lifeboat returned to station to be made ready for her next service.

Largs RNLI were also called out



to help a young woman who was in the sea during the early hours of Sunday morning.

The unusual incident happened at 5.15am as Largs lifeboat was tasked to attend a casualty near to the lifeboat station.

On arrival on scene four minutes later, the volunteer lifeboat crew were stood down as the local police, who were already on scene, had managed to rescue the girl who was transferred to an ambulance.

