



**He volunteers  
to face 10m  
waves, in the  
pitch dark and  
freezing cold**

**Please can you volunteer  
£20 to help him?**

[rnli.org.uk/donate](http://rnli.org.uk/donate)

## Explore, Discover or Observe the RNLI

The RNLI is a charity that provides a 24-hour lifesaving service around the UK and Republic of Ireland. Our lifeboat service in the UK receives no Government funding. As a charity, the RNLI relies on your support to carry on saving lives at sea.

The RNLI has over 230 stations around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland. These are split into three levels - **Explore**, **Discover** and **Observe**. Our Explore category stations offer you the best opportunities to enjoy the station and lifeboats close at hand, all free of charge. Subject to operational requirements, you can go inside and look around the station.

Our crews from Discover and Observe stations are equally welcoming to visitors as those at Explore stations. However these lifeboat stations were often built before visitors were considered. Discover stations normally open their boathouse doors during the summer months while Observe stations are often in more inaccessible places. Both are situated in stunning locations so you can enjoy exploring the local area.

**KEY TO STATIONS**

- EXPLORE
- DISCOVER
- OBSERVE
- MUSEUM



**Come visit us**  
Explore Hastings Lifeboat Station



Thor Taylor



**Train one, save many**

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SAP FCL011



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## Where to find us



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**Hastings** The Stade, Old Town

EXPLORE STATION

**Open:** Generally 10am–4.30pm daily  
Jan and Feb – weekends only

**Directions:** Go to Hastings Old Town  
and the boathouse is near the harbour  
and fishing boats

**Contact for group visits:**

Shirley Hawley

**Tel:** 01424 425502

**Shop open:** Mar–Dec

**Don't miss:** Crew training – check the  
notice boards at the station for details

**S** Shop /  
Souvenirs

**35** Maximum  
Group Numbers

Although our buildings are designed primarily for operational purposes, the RNLI is striving to provide disabled access at its stations wherever possible. However, at present, access levels vary considerably so please contact each station directly to ensure that access, appropriate to your needs, is available.

## Our history

In 1857 a sailing vessel and all its crew were lost off the coast of Hastings. This tragedy led to funds being raised to purchase a lifeboat, which was stationed in a boathouse at Rock-a-Nore. Six years later the RNLI took control of the station.

Today, the town's fishing fleet can be seen drawn up on the shingle beach in front of the historic Old Town, with distinctive black shiplap net lofts set against the cliffs of the West Hill. It is within this setting that the lifeboat station, built in 1995, sits. Visitors can't fail to miss the blue building, which is large enough to house a 12m Mersey class lifeboat, a tractor and a D class inflatable lifeboat. The station was designated as the first visitor centre for the RNLI because of the high profile tourist area. It is a popular station for school visits and over 40,000 people visit the boathouse each year.

It was the first station to have disabled access built into the design and there is a special lift to the viewing gallery, which runs alongside the lifeboat at deck level. There is also a shop.

Nine Medals for Gallantry have been awarded – two Gold, three Silver and four Bronze, the last in 1985.



## Our lifeboats

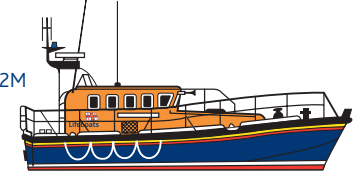
### Sealink Endeavour ON-1125 (12-002)

#### Mersey class lifeboat

The Mersey class all weather lifeboat has protected propellers and is relatively lightweight, which make it suitable for carriage launching, although it is capable of operating from slipways and may also lie afloat at berths.

#### Specification

**Length:** 12m  
**Speed:** 16 knots  
**Range:** 140 nautical miles  
**Launch method:** Carriage, slipway or moored afloat  
**Crew:** 6  
**Introduced:** 1988  
**Cost to replace:** £1.2M–£2M



### Cecile Rampton II D-540

#### D class lifeboat

The D class is the most numerous of the inshore fleet and was introduced in 1963 as the first inflatable lifeboat. Fast, light and with very shallow draught, it can respond rapidly and work in very shallow and confined waters. It is an ideal lifeboat for rescues close to shore in fair-to-moderate conditions in both daylight and darkness. It has a single outboard engine and can be launched from special trolleys or even manually.

#### Specification

**Length:** 5m  
**Speed:** 20 knots  
**Endurance:** 3 hours at maximum speed  
**Launch method:** Trolley  
**Crew:** 2/3  
**Introduced:** 1963  
**Cost to replace:** £29,000

