

City of Derby Branch

December 2017

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Once again, on behalf of all Committee members of the City of Derby Fundraising Branch of the RNLI, I am delighted to pass on our very best wishes to you and your families for the coming 'Festive Season' and 2018. Let us hope it is a good, healthy and safe year for us all.

I suspect, in common with many people, we think the last year has simply flown by. Our last collection for the year is going to be held on December 15th, at the Morrison's store in Belper but, inevitably I suppose, the Committee have recently been taking an initial 'look back' at the local fundraising activities we've been involved with over the last year. The one thing has really struck us all is just how many of **you**, our branch supporters, have kindly given some of your precious time, over the last twelve months, to help the Branch raise the vital funds the RNLI needs so that it can continue to provide the 24/7, 365 days a year emergency search, rescue and response service around our coastline.

It's just a little too early to report on the final total of money we've raised locally in 2017. However, one thing is for sure, whatever the final, confirmed figure is (I will provide that at our next AGM - details of which will be sent out in due course) the Branch could not achieve it without the support **you** give. So, on behalf of the RNLI, my thanks, to **you**, for all that **you** have done to help the City of Derby Branch complete another, successful, fundraising year.

I do hope that you managed to see some - or all - of the 12 episodes of '*Saving Lives at Sea*' which were broadcast by the BBC this autumn. Everyone within the RNLI thought the footage screened (obtained from special helmet cameras) was a wonderful demonstration not only of the work undertaken by the RNLI, whether by the Lifeboats and their volunteer crews or the Lifeguards, but also of the diverse occupations our volunteers have in their daily lives and the impact the time they devote to the RNLI has on their work and family life.

Our volunteer crews can expect to be busy this Christmas. Over Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day in 2016, RNLI Lifeboats launched on seventeen occasions, from Lifeboat Stations as far apart as, for example, Lerwick in the Shetlands, Redcar, Hartlepool, Lytham St Annes, Douglas, Gravesend, Weymouth, Ilfracombe and 'Tower' on the River Thames. Amazingly, 'shouts' resulting in Lifeboat launches occur, on average, 23 times every day of the year. Brave RNLI volunteer crews are ready to respond, selflessly, to every call for help.

I hope that you'll again be able to respond to our own 'shouts' for your assistance, locally, during 2018. With this in mind, and as something of 'advance notice', can I ask if you could consider giving some time to help with our **City Flag Day** which will be held on **Saturday, June 2nd**? Our website at www.rnli-derby.org.uk will carry more details and is regularly updated with our fundraising plans and other news. We all look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Best wishes.

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