



## NAMING CEREMONY AND DEDICATION

of the Atlantic 85 class lifeboat

### ***OLIVE LAURA DEARE II***

at Gravesend Lifeboat Station  
Royal Pier Road, Gravesend DA12 2BG

Saturday 6 June 2009 at 2.30pm

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



**Lifeboats**

## Atlantic 85 – B class lifeboat OLIVE LAURA DEARE II

The new Gravesend Lifeboat *OLIVE LAURA DEARE II* is an Atlantic 85 class lifeboat, an improved and larger version of the successful Atlantic 75 class inshore lifeboat.

The decision to replace the *OLIVE LAURA DEARE* E class lifeboat at Gravesend with an Atlantic 85 was made as part of a project to replace all the Thames E class lifeboats within the next two years due to heavy wear and tear.

The Atlantic 85 was trialled on the Thames from Chiswick down to Gravesend and, although the wash of the boat amongst other issues made it unsuitable for work in the upper tidal Thames, it was found to be very effective in working the more coastal conditions at Gravesend.

The Atlantic is powered by petrol outboard motors as opposed to the E class diesel engines and petrol was not then available anywhere on the river. The RNLI has funded a "floating petrol station" moored in Gravesend Reach and taken to the Port of London Authority depot at Denton to be refilled at approximately 3 monthly intervals. The PLA has kindly agreed to fund the mooring and all the necessary logistics for moving and bunkering the facility in return for being able to purchase petrol from the RNLI for their outboard motor driven craft. This has enabled the Atlantic 85 to come into service at Gravesend and allows the development of the future E Class for the very different conditions in the upper Thames.

Although basically a standard Atlantic 85 Class lifeboat, the *OLIVE LAURA DEARE II* has been modified to meet the additional requirements for Thames lifeboats. These include a second VHF Radio, an Emergency Services Airwave radio system, a loudhailer and automatic fog signalling system. The propellers have also been up-rated to give the boat a service speed of 40 knots.

The lifeboat is berthed on a floating cradle that keeps it clear of the water when not in use but allows the boat to be launched within 30 seconds.

The *OLIVE LAURA DEARE* remains in service on the Thames and is currently based at Tower Lifeboat Station.

### Particulars:

Length:	8.5 metres
Speed :	40 knots
Endurance:	3 hours at maximum speed
Construction:	FRC (Fibre reinforced composite)
Crew:	3 – 4
Weight:	1.97 tonnes
Launch:	From floating cradle



### The Donor

Mrs Olive Laura Deare, who came from Gravesend, was a supporter of the RNLI and a very proud to be associated with the Institution.

She had a particular interest in the Thames because her great-grandparents had fishing boats that opened from Gravesend. Her generous bequest has funded two Thames lifeboats (the E-class *Olive Laura Deare* and the Atlantic 85 *Olive Laura Deare II*) and has contributed to the cost of the floating fuel pontoon at Gravesend.

## Order of Ceremony

1. **National Anthem**
2. **Mr Ian Dunkley**, Station Manager, opens the proceedings.
3. **Mrs Elizabeth Baker**, cousin of the late Mrs Olive Deare, hands the lifeboat over to the RNLI
4. **Mr William Everard CBE BSc (Eng)**, RNLI Council Member, accepts the lifeboat on behalf of the RNLI and passes her into the care of the Gravesend lifeboat station.
5. **Mr Ian Dunkley**, accepts the lifeboat on behalf of the Gravesend lifeboat station
6. Service of dedication led by **The Reverend Nigel Bourne**, Vicar of St Mary's, Chalk.
7. **Mr William Everard CBE BSc (Eng)** RNLI Council Member invites Mrs Mary Straight, sister-in-law of the late Mrs Olive Deare, to name the lifeboat
8. **Mrs Mary Straight** names the lifeboat *Olive Laura Deare II*
9. **Mr Ian Dunkley** closes proceedings and proposes a vote of thanks
10. The lifeboat launches for a short demonstration

**Service of Dedication**  
**Call to Worship**  
(The Reverend Nigel Bourne)

**Hymn**  
**Will Your Anchor Hold?**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Will your anchor hold in the storms of life,<br/>When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?<br/>When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,<br/>Will your anchor drift or firm remain?</p> <p><i>We have an anchor that keeps the soul<br/>Steadfast and sure while the billows roll;<br/>Fastened to the rock which cannot move<br/>Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!</i></p> | <p>2. Will your anchor hold in the straits of fear,<br/>When the breakers roar and the reef is near?<br/>While the surges rage, and the wild winds blow,<br/>Shall the angry waves then your bark o'erflow?</p> <p>3. Will your anchor hold in the floods of death,<br/>When the waters cold chill your latest breath?<br/>On the rising tide you can never fail,<br/>While your anchor holds within the veil</p> |
| <p>4. Will your eyes behold through the morning light,<br/>The city of gold and the harbour bright?<br/>Will you anchor safe by the heavenly shore,<br/>When life's storms are past for evermore?</p>  |   |

**The Lifeboat Prayer**

Merciful Father, all things in heaven and earth are held within Your loving care, look with favour upon the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. Protect and bless the crews of all our lifeboats, our lifeguards and all who risk their own safety to bring help to others.

Guide all who work for the Institution as volunteers, supporters or staff that they may be faithful to the vision of our founders, so that it may always be seen as a beacon of hope and light to those who find themselves in peril on the seas. Through the same Jesus Christ, to whom with You and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and forever.

**Amen**

## Reading

Psalm 107: Verses 23-31

*Read by Helmsman Jason Carroll*

## The Prayer of Sir Francis Drake

O Lord God, when You give to Your servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory: through Him that for the finishing of Your work laid down His life for us, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

## Dedication of the lifeboat

To the honour and glory of Almighty God and for the noble purpose of rescuing those in peril on the sea, we dedicate this lifeboat, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## Hymn

### Eternal Father Strong to Save

1. Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
*O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.*
2. O Christ, whose voice the waters heard,  
And hushed their raging at Thy word,  
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,  
And calm amid the storm didst sleep:  
*O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.*
3. O Holy Spirit, who didst brood  
Upon the waters dark and rude,  
And bid their angry tumult cease,  
And give, for wild confusion, peace:  
*O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.*
4. O Trinity of love and power,  
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go:  
*Thus evermore shall rise to Thee  
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

## The Lord's Prayer

## Blessing

# CREWLIST

## Station Manager

Ian Dunkley

## Thames Helm

David Greenfield, Ian Smith, Jordan Hill, Paul Frickey, Peter Birthright,  
Jason Carroll, David Fry, Dave Parry, Graham Tassell, Andy Colley

## Lifeboat Medical Advisor

Bhargawa Vasudaven

## Crew

Keith Phillips

*Jon Thornton*

Ricky Smith

Kathryn Workman

Jade Harle

Chay Luchford

Mathew Small

Kevin Greagsby

Eamon Fanning

George Durrant

Stewart Challis

Luke Benning

Derek Davis

Stuart Downs

Alan Greenstreet

Mark Warburton

Chris Maher

Tanya Houston

Roy King

Steve Hutson

Craig Stowers

Steven Rae

David Creek

Rolf Allison

Steve Cardew

Kevin Butler

Adrian Belcher

Rob Brennan

Tim Wyatt

James Salmon

Mark Jackson

Sam Houston

Peter Harman

Mike Rountree

Tina Jarvis

Simon Blake

Hilary Carmichael

Paul Burton

Gemma Gill

Dan Gray

Kathy Batts

Ross Boushear

## Thanks

Booker Cash & Carry

Alexandra House

Gravesham Borough Council

Gravesend Sea Cadets

WE Cox & Co. (Recoveries) Ltd

Millbrook Garden Centre

Revd Nigel Bourne from St Mary's Chalk Parish Church

St Johns RC Comprehensive School

The Port of London Authority

Metzendorff for providing the champagne

The Gravesham Borough Band

Under the direction of the Band Master, Mrs C.Elmer

With permission of the Band Committee

## Gravesend Lifeboat Station History

Gravesend lifeboat station is one of only 4 lifeboat stations operated by the RNLI that are continuously manned 24/7, 365 days a year; the others being Chiswick and Tower Lifeboat Stations on the Thames and The Humber Lifeboat Station on the remote Spurn Point at the entrance to the River Humber.

Gravesend Lifeboat Station commenced operation on 2nd January 2002 along with the other Thames Lifeboat Stations at Teddington, Chiswick and Tower Pier as a result of recommendations made by the Thames Safety Enquiry held in 1998/9 which took into account the lessons learned from the Marchioness and Bowbelle collision of 1989 in which 51 of the Marchioness' passengers lost their lives.

The station is crewed by a total of ten full time helmsmen and 40 volunteer crew. Each period of duty lasts 12 hours and the duty crew will normally consist of two full time helmsmen plus a third volunteer crewmember. The volunteer crew have all agreed to undertake at least two 12-hour duty shifts at the Station per calendar month and, like all volunteer lifeboat crews, come from a variety of backgrounds. Many have little or no previous maritime experience and are trained by the RNLI both at Station and at the RNLI's state of the art Lifeboat College at Poole in Dorset.

The lifeboat station was initially established in temporary accommodation located in the car park of Alexander House with the lifeboat berthed on Royal Terrace Pier. Considerable effort was made to find a suitable location for a permanent Lifeboat Station on the Gravesend waterfront but a variety of planning and other issues prevented this and in 2006 it was decided to approach the Port of London Authority to lease accommodation that had recently become vacant on the end of Royal Terrace Pier as the permanent home for the station.

The space was converted by the Port of London Authority property division to current building regulations to provide an operations room, crew standby room, drying/changing room, catering and bathroom and storage facilities. The Station moved into the new accommodation in May 2007.

Since commencing operations in January 2002, the Gravesend Lifeboat has been launched on service on 680 occasions between Canvey Island and the Thames Barrier, saving 39 lives and assisting more than 1000 people.



# Lifeboats

## THE LIFEBOAT SERVICE

The RNLI is a voluntary organisation which exists to save life at sea. Since its foundation in 1824, its lifeboats have saved more than 137,000 lives.

It provides, on call, the 24-hour lifeboat service which covers the entire coastline of Britain and Ireland. There are over 230 lifeboat stations, 330 lifeboats on station and 137 more in the relief fleet. Modern lifeboats, designed to the highest standards and fitted with sophisticated equipment, cost thousands of pounds to build and maintain.

Lifeboatmen, apart from the mechanic who is usually a full-time employee of the RNLI, are volunteers. Teachers, engineers, fishermen, doctors - men and women from all walks of life are lifeboat crew members. In addition to their everyday jobs, they are ready to exchange the comforts of home for cold, wet, fatigue and possible danger. Whatever the weather, or the time of day or night, distress calls are always answered.

One very important reason for a voluntary service is that each lifeboat station attracts the support of a number of the most able and active people from the community whose interest is the sea. They devote considerable time and energy to the efficiency and well-being of the station and often their local knowledge is vital. Whenever the lifeboat crews put to sea and whatever they are required to face, they can always rely on the loyalty and support of the community.

**The lifeboat service is dependent on voluntary contributions for its income.**

Two main sources of income are:

- 1) the voluntary efforts of some 2,000 fundraising branches and guilds and
- 2) legacies, trusts and special gifts.

**The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea**

Registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736). Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland

