

# RNLI '200 VOICES' PODCAST MARKS BICENTENARY

In the run-up to the RNLI's bicentenary in March 2024, remarkable stories from around Ireland are being shared as part of the RNLI's new '200 Voices' podcast 2024, wherein an episode will be released over 200 days exploring captivating stories from the lifesaving charity's history and through to the present day.

The unique podcast series will hear from people connected to the RNLI in Ireland and those whose lives have been touched by the lifesaving charity. Stories will be shared of a special kinship to a lifeboat station, a crew member who's been on service for a generation, or the family of someone rescued by an RNLI frontline lifesaver.

The first episode on 26 August featured 'Niamh Fitzpatrick Remembers One of Our Own', in which Niamh reflected on how much the RNLI has meant to her on a personal level. She lost her sister Captain Dara Fitzpatrick, following the tragic Coast Guard incident off the North Mayo coast in March 2017.

The '200 Voices' podcast has also heard from Co. Wexford priest Fr Tom Dalton, a Courtown RNLI crew member, who described what is like when rescue turns into recovery in 'Pulling Together'.

Meanwhile, an event that was to change yacht racing forever, the 1979 Fastnet tragedy was the focus for 'The Calm Before Force 10' podcast on 30 August when Baltimore RNLI's Kieran Cotter remembered the fateful call-out and the response to the disaster.

## RNLI'S CROSS-BORDER ROLE

Later in the autumn the series will also hear from celebrity ambassadors including musician Phil Coulter on his writing of the RNLI anthem 'Home from the Sea' and former President of Ireland Mary McAleese on the cross-border role of the RNLI.

The charity has been saving lives at sea since it was founded in 1824 and during that time, its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 144,000 lives. The RNLI operates over 238 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and more than 240 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK and Channel Islands.

Independent of the Coastguard and the Government, the RNLI depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service, with lifeboats crewed by specially trained volunteers.

Available across all podcast platforms and the RNLI's website, the '200 Voices' podcast series will give survivors, supporters, volunteers, lifeguards, celebrity ambassadors, historians and others from Ireland and beyond the chance to share their own stories.



To listen to the RNLI's podcasts, visit [www.RNLI.org/200Voices](http://www.RNLI.org/200Voices)

## REMARKABLE COLLECTION OF STORIES

RNLI Strategic Content Manager, Rory Stamp said: 'We knew we had to do something really special to mark the RNLI's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which is such a monumental milestone.'

He described the '200 Voices' podcast as an incredible collection of stories that are emotive, powerful, inspiring and heart-warming. "The series gives us a chance to hear from a variety of amazing people who have played a part in or have been touched by our lifesaving charity.

"The podcast is the first in a programme of activities to mark the RNLI's bicentenary as we celebrate the world-class lifesaving service, remember our remarkable history and aim to inspire the future generations of lifesavers and supporters as we move through into the next 200 years."



For more information about the RNLI's bicentenary on 4 March 2024 visit [www.RNLI.org/200](http://www.RNLI.org/200).