



# LITTLEHAMPTON WAVE LIFE SAVING CLUB

## ANNUAL REPORT 2021

### **GENERAL SUMMARY**

The various lockdowns and the need to keep everything we managed to do under constant review and yet remain within the boundaries of what the Government allowed, and indeed what the Royal Life Saving Society required of us in the teaching and examining scenario, has not made 2021 an easy ride for the club.

This was especially the case as we had only formed in late 2019, so the disruptions over two successive years have hampered our efforts to get established and attract new members. The limitations on permitted numbers in our pool space during the pandemic, the reduced time allowed due to the need to sanitise, the reduced changing facilities, and having to adapt teaching and training practices, were likewise something we had to cope with. Despite all this, we did cope, very successfully.

Thankfully we're also in a sound financial position at the moment.

### **Exam successes**

We had 44 exam passes in the year 2021 and this compares with 42 in the period September 2019 – December 2020.

The highlight of this was 3 of the first class who enrolled, succeeding in completing their Survive and Save Distinctions, and in December also managing to pass their Gold Sport to achieve 'a Survive & Save full house'.

Slow delivery of awards and the move to on-line exam administration have not gone down well with those of us involved in running the club. The former is understandable, the latter, frustrating and not user friendly.

Jo Jex also completed a course run at Horsham LSC to qualify as an Assistant Instructor. Sadly, we will lose her involvement, at least for the time being, due to personal circumstances but meantime we offer our thanks for her input and support over the last 2 years.

We lost 5 during the lockdown periods and joiners were few and far between for reasons already stated, but 4 new ones have made a start with passes at Bronze Medallion, Stillwater and Beach level.

Stillwater and Beach activities were shared with Horsham and we were able to host some beach training and exams at Littlehampton Beach. The added bonus was the transfer of the ocean kayak to Littlehampton thus giving a lot of members of both clubs the opportunity of operating the craft as well as providing safety cover in a sea environment.

### **Membership, Funding & Equipment.**

Membership remains insufficient to actually 'pay our way' on pool hire costs. If the quarterly fee is pushed up significantly, we would risk losing the members we have, and further deter new joiners. Fortunately, the National Lottery Grant secured in 2020, provides a buffer to ensure we keep our 'heads above water' financially at least for the next 2 years.

We secured donations from Littlehampton Town Council and 2 local Freemasons Lodges to enable us to secure our own sets of 4 Junior and 4 Infant Manikins as well as 4 skill monitors and a choking vest. These donations were most welcome, allowed us to return the manikins borrowed from Horsham, and saved further denuding financial reserves to cover operating costs.

Additional expense was incurred following the need to provide each member with their own manikin masks and lungs for adult, junior and infant manikins, as well as protective gloves, aprons and sanitizers to clean down our equipment and our dry session room after use. We are indebted to Mrs Hannah Hendey for undertaking this.

### **Publicity, PR & Outreach**

We have obtained significant press coverage on 4 occasions. Firstly upon our return to the pool in April after lockdown. Secondly as a result of Club Chairman setting a Sir Tom Moore Trust Challenge to the 3 older members to relay-tow a half-filled manikin 100 lengths in our allocated 40 minute swim-time, in return for a £100 donation to the Captain's Trust. With 2 minutes to spare they succeeded, and the Chairman was £100 out of pocket! Thirdly, in June, when we had a Drowning Prevention Week 'Day' display outside the pool and a visit from 'Perry Buoy' at the pool, in Mewsbrook Park and along the sea front. Lastly, in December when we were able to report the Distinction and other exam successes and a visit by Littlehampton's Mayor to formally present the Junior Manikins.

We've also managed to twice get articles in the 4 local 'All About' monthly magazines featuring the club activities and each with a drowning prevention message.

We've also placed items and reports on the RLSS Membership Facebook page as well on the 'What's On In Littlehampton' Facebook page each month.

Each of the 3 schools the Distinction successes attended, reported their efforts on the school media sites, and mentions were also made at end of term assemblies. The hope is, this may generate some 2022 joiners.

Talks were given to 2 local groups and on 3 occasions we were permitted to have an attended stand and display in the pool foyer and twice, we also gave CPR demonstrations to donors and parents when presentations took place.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June, on a very, very, wet and cold evening, David along with Jo's son Nial (Beach LG qualified) provided safety cover for a film shoot on Climping Beach. The near 4 hour stint was finally put to bed in semi-darkness. It was errr, an interesting experience!

### **National Honours**

We were delighted that Olivia Kidd's 2020 fund-raising 'Channel Walk' (£400) was recognised with the presentation of a Certificate of Merit in Worcester Cathedral. Hannah Hendey's Friends of the Society Certificate was presented by Littlehampton's Mayor.

### **Thanks.**

My sincere thanks to everyone, members, committee, parents and donors who have made 2021 such a success despite the problems caused by the pandemic. We've had a good year with some considerable success and certainly we're 'punching above our weight'.

### **The future.**

We've made ourselves known reasonably well within the local community and as an active part of activities at The Wave. Progress in growing the club base is slow and the loss of our Assistant Instructor, albeit only for some time, will make for some difficulties in structuring classes given our single instructor situation, but we'll press on.

As Captain Sir Tom Moore said 'Tomorrow will be better'.

David Slade  
Chairman/Instructor  
December 2021