

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020



**It's certainly been a difficult year.**

**But 2021 is finally near!**

**Make the most of your Christmas and those you hold dear,**

**And may your holidays be filled with seasonal cheer.**

This is the last e-newsletter of 2020, and what an extraordinary year. Our new CEO Robert Gofton along with RLSS UK President Mark Smith launched our new strategic direction, new partners were gained for RLSS UK and a new IT system called Tahdah began life, which will link easily with clubs, branches and process courses faster. It is hoped that Tahdah will gain more functionality in the first quarter of next year.

New membership categories settled in during the year, as did our very own Kent members at HO - Deborah Hunt as RLSS UK Deputy President and Cavell Burchell took up a Trustee position for a further term as Governance Advisor after the AGM.

Looking forward, our Kent Branch AGM will be held in the first few months of 2021 and as our Virtual Open Meeting went well - will go ahead as current Covid-19 restrictions permit – which may be a pure virtual or hybrid meeting of face to face and virtual.

Covid-19 has changed many things, including how training is currently undertaken, and one of Kent's Community Instructors Donna Thomas presented 'How to Save a Babys Life' and can be viewed here [William Henry Lectures | Royal Life Saving Society UK \( RLSS UK \)](#). A number of members have started the process of becoming Lifesaving Instructors by undertaking virtual training – and some other courses have been requested.

If there is sufficient interest, we may undertake for those members over 12 years, a Young Leaders Course. This gives members skills and knowledge to plan, deliver and lead a Rookie

Festival or another Lifesaving Event as well as covering the different pathways available within Lifesaving. Theory being delivered online and continued practically when back in the pools.

Similarly, if sufficient interest, a Community Instructor Course can be arranged. Kent has an award-winning Team, providing the Save a Life Series as part of our Outreach Programme. Primarily Save a Babies Life courses 'normally' run throughout Kent providing parents and parents-to-be lifesaving knowledge on how to deal with choking and undertake CPR if needed. If you want to join the team – or know someone that is interested in this or the Young Leader course – please contact me at [cazzandrew@aol.com](mailto:cazzandrew@aol.com).

Many members are now using new found skills in different job roles than those planned at the beginning of the year. I am always amazed how members adapt to the challenges ahead, building on previous knowledge and that gained during training and passing their knowledge and skills onto others.

2020 has been a challenging year, and looking forward to 2021, differing challenges lie ahead, but learning from the past means we have a better understanding of the challenges ahead and with everyone's help, we can share our expertise and knowledge with as many people as possible, giving everyone the potential to save lives and enjoy water, safely.

On behalf of Kent Branch, we hope you and your families have a safe and Merry Christmas, this may not be the 'normal' festive period we would have planned - but nothing this year has been 'normal'.

Enjoy a mince pie (or two) a drink of your choosing; & thank you for supporting your communities, clubs & Society.

Andy Griggs

Kent Branch Secretary