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RNLI College Opening

North West RNLI lifeboatmen join the
Queen at Lifeboat College opening



Photo of Queen shows Steven Henderson from Silloth lifeboat station in the foreground, first in the guard of honour

RNLI volunteer crewmen from Cumbria and the North West had a right royal day when Her Majesty The Queen visited the Institution's headquarters in Poole, Dorset, on Wednesday 28 July.

The Queen, patron of the RNLI, was in Poole with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to formally open the Institution's new Lifeboat College, a purpose-built residential centre which will deliver cost-effective, high quality individual training to lifeboat crews and other volunteers.

Six lifeboatmen - one from each RNLI division - were chosen to form a guard of honour to welcome the Queen to the college and Silloth lifeboat station senior helmsman Steven Henderson represented the North Division.

Steven says: 'Everyone at Silloth

lifeboat station is very proud that we were chosen to be part of the guard of honour. The college opening was a great experience and a very special day for everyone involved in



North West lifeboatmen: Stuart Clark of West Kirby; Dave Whiteley, Hoylake; Graham Lowe, New Brighton; David Warburton, Blackpool; Martin Jaggs, Lytham St. Annes; Steven Frith, Fleetwood; Michael Dixon, Morecambe; Alec Moore, Barrow; Paul McDowell, St. Bees; John Stobbart, Workington; Steven Henderson, Silloth

the RNLI and lifeboats. 'The Lifeboat College is going to be a real asset. Good training is essential when you are going out to sea to save

Electric Blanket Tests



L-R: Susan Anderson (Trading Officer ACNWC), Sue Pardslow (Scheme Manager - Pennine View), Margaret Snaith (Town Councillor - Silloth), Geoff Wilkinson (Information & Advice - ACNWC)

ACNWC successfully launched their new monthly drop-in session for the over 50's at Pennine View Communal Building on Wednesday 4th August.

The drop-in was officially opened by local Silloth Councillor Margaret Snaith who added her support to the venture. This was followed by refreshments kindly provided by Sue Pardslow, Scheme Manager of Pennine View.

A number of clients dropped in during the two hour session and took advantage of the free information and

advice and insurance and energy quotes. Visitors commented on how nice it was to talk to someone about their problems 'face to face' rather than over the telephone.

The next drop-in will be on Wednesday 1st September from 2pm to 4 pm. Anyone wanting a free electric blanket safety check via Cumbria Trading Standards can leave their blankets (name label attached) at Pennine View or drop them off on 1st September and ACNWC will pass them to Trading Standards for checking.

lives and the college will ensure that every lifeboatman receives the very best training available.'

The RNLI's 4,600 lifeboat crew, 90% of whom come from non-maritime backgrounds, will receive progressive, specialist training at the waterfront college which will prepare them for rescues in the most difficult and dangerous conditions.

The college's own Sea Survival Centre has a lifeboat wheelhouse simulator and a wave tank where volunteers can be taught survival techniques including capsized recovery.

Facilities at the college include an auditorium, classrooms and sixty bedrooms - allowing crew members to stay on site and therefore save the charity £1 Million a year in accommodation costs.

The RNLI depends on voluntary contributions from the public to continue its sea rescue service. By complementing vital local training, the Lifeboat College will help the RNLI save more lives at sea.

The RNLI's annual costs are around £110m, the organisation continues to rely on voluntary contributions.

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