

Source 10: Organisations supporting the cause of saving lives at sea

Across the country, people involved in local, grass roots efforts to save lives at sea sought financial help for their cause from Britain's larger, national maritime organisations. These examples show the involvement of two such organisations in Essex and the Isle of Man.

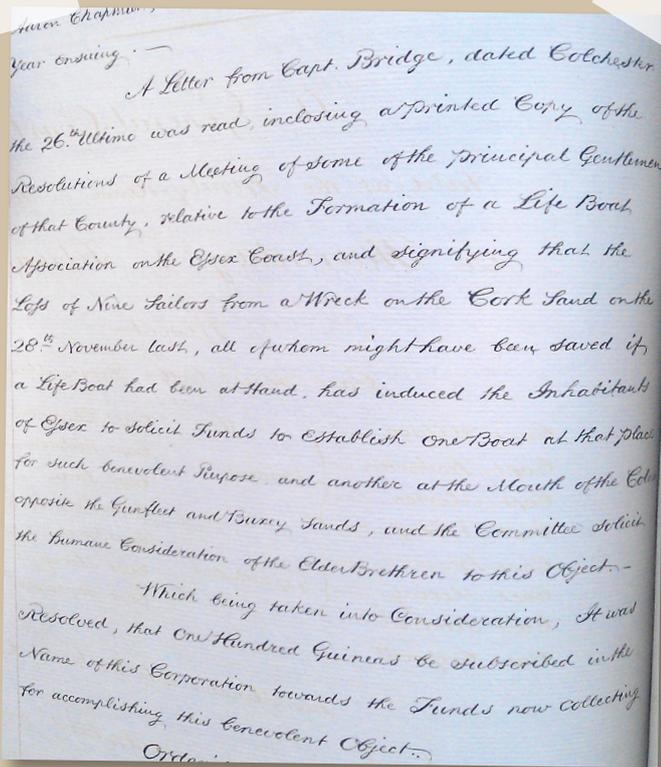
Trinity House

The extract from the Trinity House Court Minutes dated 4 January 1821 shows that the key maritime organisation Trinity House gave support and funds to the early lifeboat movement.

The Corporation of Trinity House started out as a charitable guild of mariners that was granted a Royal Charter by Henry VIII in 1514. Its aims included the safety of shipping and the wellbeing of

seafarers. In 1566 it was given powers to set up beacons and marks indicating coastal dangers to shipping.

Trinity House gradually became recognised as the official coastal lighting authority so, by 1836, all lighthouses and coastal lights in England, Wales and the Channel Islands came under its management.



A Letter from Capt. Bridge, dated Colchester the 26th ultime was read inclosing a Printed Copy of the Resolutions of a Meeting of some of the Principal Gentlemen of that County, relative to the Formation of a Life Boat Association on the Essex Coast, and signifying that the Loss of Nine Sailors from a Wreck on the Cork Sand on the 28th November last, all of whom might have been saved if a Life Boat had been at hand, has induced the Inhabitants of Essex to solicit Funds to Establish one Boat at that place for such benevolent Purpose, and another at the Mouth of the Colne opposite the Gunfleet and Buxley Sands, and the Committee solicit the humane Consideration of the Elder Brethren to this Object. -

Which being taken into Consideration, It was Resolved, that One Hundred Guineas be subscribed in the Name of this Corporation towards the Funds now collecting for accomplishing this benevolent Object. -

Transcript of Trinity House Court Minutes, 4 January 1821
Courtesy: The Corporation of Trinity House

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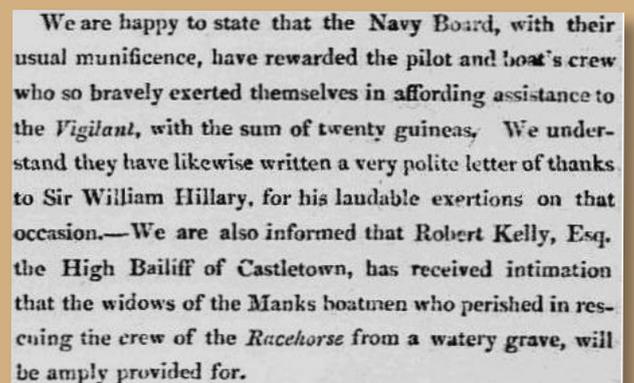
Q

1. What prompted local lifesaving associations to spring up around Britain?

2. How did they get support for their purposes?

The Admiralty

The article in the *Rising Sun* newspaper on 21 January 1823 reports the positive response of the Admiralty (Navy Board) towards those risking their lives to save shipwrecked Navy crews on the Isle of Man.



We are happy to state that the Navy Board, with their usual munificence, have rewarded the pilot and boat's crew who so bravely exerted themselves in affording assistance to the *Vigilant*, with the sum of twenty guineas. We understand they have likewise written a very polite letter of thanks to Sir William Hillary, for his laudable exertions on that occasion.—We are also informed that Robert Kelly, Esq. the High Bailiff of Castletown, has received intimation that the widows of the Manks boatmen who perished in rescuing the crew of the *Racehorse* from a watery grave, will be amply provided for.

Extract from the *Rising Sun* newspaper, 21 January 1823
Courtesy: Manx National Heritage

Q

3. According to this article, which key decisions have the Admiralty (Navy Board) made?

4. What influence do you think the Admiralty's decisions reported here would have had on Sir William Hillary, on the Manx community and on British society in general?