

Source 20: *Rising Sun* supports fledgling organisation

Just 7 months after the formation of the National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck, an article in the *Rising Sun* on 12 October 1824 reports on plans for three new lifeboats for the Isle of Man, which, along with the lifeboat that was already on its way for Douglas, would provide a lifeboat for every principal port on the island.

The early campaign concentrated on providing lifeboats around Britain's coastline and organising volunteers to man them. This newspaper extract details how lifeboats were paid for by public subscriptions and it also encourages volunteer lifeboat crew in its assurance of reward for their efforts.

The press were very supportive of this fledgling national lifeboat organisation; celebrating other organisations that supported it and criticising those that didn't!

HONOR.—It gives us very great pleasure to state, that the Committee of the Royal National Institution have presented Sir William Hillary with a Boat for the use of the Isle of Man, 29 feet in length, built upon the plan of Mr. Hennessey, of Cork, with some particular improvements; they have also furnished Sir William with two of Capt. Manby's Mortars and Apparatus, also some of the late improved Hand Mortars. The Committee have also offered to build two more Boats for the use of the Island, if the inhabitants will bear half the expence. Having inserted all the documents in former Nos. of this paper, as they appeared, we now give the Rules and Regulations of this admirable Institution, in the origin and establishment of which no praise of ours can be adequate to the merits of the philanthropic Baronet, whose name, as we upon a former occasion remarked, will rank with that of

Howard and the best men of every age and of every country. The present, and the offer of the above boats, are in addition to the one now on its way to this Island, intended for the use of the Port of Douglas. If, therefore, a sufficient sum could be collected to meet the liberality of the Committee, there would be a Life Boat for every principal Port in this Island; and as the means chiefly relied on for the attainment of the purposes of the Institution are, "The formation of Establishments on the Coasts of the United Kingdom and British Isles, superintended by District Committees," we can readily believe that there would be no difficulty in finding Gentlemen ready and willing to act in the necessary Committees. "And the excitement to exertion in the hour of danger, by the certainty of relief to the Widows and Families of any who perish in their attempts to save the lives of others, and of reward to those who succeed in their preservation," will at the same time urge every brave seaman and fisherman to follow the dictates of his heart by coming forward to man boats in which comparatively there is so little personal risk.

The following are the forms, for the District Committees

Rising Sun newspaper article,
12 October 1824
Courtesy: Manx National Heritage

Transcript of newspaper article. Courtesy: Manx National Heritage

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of those who succeed in their preservation" will at the same time urge every brave seaman and fisherman to follow the dictates of his heart by coming forward to man boats in which there is comparatively so little personal risk.

The following are the forms for the District Committees to transmit to the Parent Institution, of the circumstances and particulars of each case as they may occur:-

[See image above right.]

Thus the rewards may always be expected to be received by the return of a post or two. Donations and subscriptions have increased equal to the most sanguine expectation. we observe the donation from the Corporation of Trinity House to be £500, - the Merchants of Liverpool do not appear to have taken the subject into consideration with that liberality they are wont to shew under all circumstances connected with maritime interests, and we are the more surprised at their apathy as they must well know, that the want of liberal rewards to seamen and others, who might have been the means of preserving the lives of their fellow creatures, has deterred many belonging to that Port from incurring the risk of leaving their wives and families destitute. They have some sort of Establishment of that kind at that Port, but we know that the liberality of an association of Merchants will bear no comparison in performances with that of a National Institution such as we are describing.

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—1.—

WRECK at Langness Point, near Castletown, Isle of Man, Oct. 11th, 1824, of the brig Venus, Cupid Dove, master, bound from the Isle of Cyprus, to the Isle of Skye.

Persons saved.	Description.	How disposed of.

—2.—

PERSONS EMPLOYED IN SAVING THE LIVES OF THE CREW, &c.

Names.	Description of Persons, and whether Service of Boats or Apparatus.	Time Employed.

—3.—

ACCOUNT OF EXPENCES INCURRED.

Date.	£	s.	d.

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1. How important was the role of newspapers in Sir William Hillary's campaign?

2. Why were newspapers so important to the success of the campaign?

3. How important are they today?