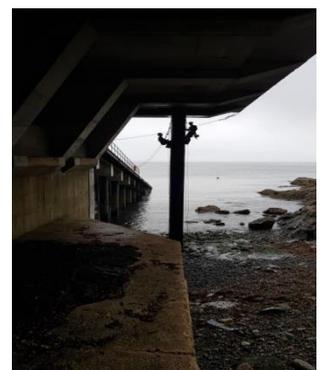
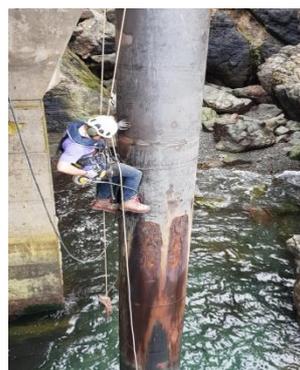


LIZARD LIFEBOAT VISITOR CENTRE NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Visitor Centre Team had to cope with a few unavoidable difficulties in 2018. Atrocious weather at the start of the year, two heavy (for the Lizard) snowfalls and essential maintenance work to the station and the cliff face caused a significant reduction in available opening hours. More bad weather at other times during the year meant that key events were affected but we were not, of course, alone with those problems. Fortunes were mixed. The Lizard Vintage Rally had yet another awful day and Lizard Carnival Fun Day had its share of the 'wet stuff' whereas the Grade Ruan Vintage Rally enjoyed their best day for some time!



ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE WORK TO THE STATION STRUCTURE AND THE CLIFF FACE CARRIED OUT BY 'VECTOR ROPE ACCESS'.

That said, amazingly, visitor numbers were 500 or so up on 2017 with over 7,000 visits formally recorded through the Station doors. Only visitor numbers we can be certain of are formally recorded. Events such as Lifeboat Day, October AGM Open Day and the annual Carolaire have many more visitors than we can accurately count so those visits are not included in our figures. Visitors attending a number of 'formal' and school visits also cannot be quantified precisely and are not included but, all in all, the Centre Team provided a welcoming smile and assistance to approximately 8,500 people making their visits as pleasant and interesting as possible. A mammoth achievement indeed.

Visitors arrive at Kilcobben Cove from all parts of the UK and from all over the world. In 2017 we welcomed visitors from 22 different countries. In 2018 we added to this with visitors from 7 countries not previously represented. These were:

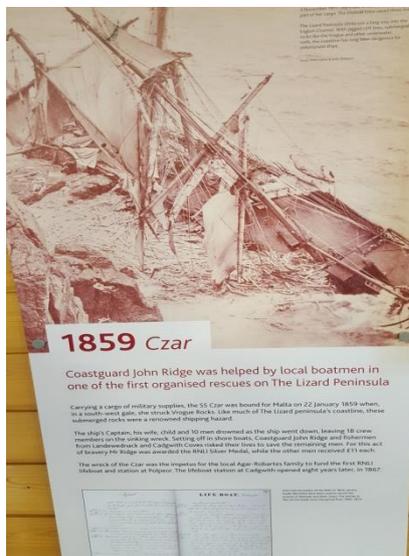
BRAZIL CHILE COLOMBIA GEORGIA PORTUGAL ROMANIA SOUTH AFRICA

As a New Year teaser, can you match the correct country to the national flags shown below?



The 22nd January this year saw the 160th anniversary of the tragic sinking of the SS CZAR on the Vroque Rock, Bass Point, Lizard. The CZAR Captain (Captain Robert Jackson) was en route to Malta with his ship laden with a valuable cargo of arms, munitions and other military stores when either her engines or her boilers (it is not clear which) began to give trouble. The Captain decided to turn about and make for Falmouth but during the procedure came too close to land and fell foul of the infamous Vroque Rock resulting in Captain Jackson, his wife and child and 10 crew losing their lives. Although founded in 1824, there was no RNLI presence on this part of the coast at that time but the heroic efforts of local coastguard John Ridge and local boatmen saved the lives of the remaining 18 crew members.

The tragedy had a profound effect on the local community. In particular, the Agar Robartes family of Lanhydrock were so moved that members donated the monies required to provide the first Lizard Lifeboat, Anna Maria (named after Mrs Agar Robartes) and a boathouse for her atop Lizard Point. This first Lizard Lifeboat and Boathouse became operational in November 1859 and other stations were founded along the coast over the following few years giving RNLI support to local shipping for the first time.



SS CZAR 1859



CADGWITH LIFEBOAT JOSEPH ARMSTRONG 1893

JANUARY SALES

A trip to the Boathouse could very well prove beneficial to you at the moment! Our 'JANUARY SALES' are in full swing and there are some excellent bargains to be had in the Visitor Centre Shop. Why don't you come along and take a look!

Take care and have a good year.

**DAVID GASCOIGNE
VISITOR CENTRE MANAGER**