

OCT  
1970

103 AGM .

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Founded 1866

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*President:*

Lt.-Col. R. S. CHIPCHASE, C.B.E., M.R.I.N.A.

*Vice-President:*

M. W. THOMPSON, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

F. Davison, Esq.

*Hon. Solicitors:*

Bowman & Brown

*Hon. Secretary:*

G. T. Talbot, Esq.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Watch House on MON., 26th, OCTOBER, 1970 at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the members.

AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
  2. Business arising out of Minutes.
  3. Annual Report.
  4. Treasurer's Report.
  5. ~~Social Secretary's Report.~~
  6. Election of Brigade Captain.
  7. Election of Deputy Captain.
  8. Election of Committee Members.
  9. Election of Social Committee.
  10. Any other Business.
  11. Vote of Thanks.
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# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1970

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 103rd Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. Once again there were no calls on the Brigades Services. Training has, of course, continued throughout the year and this was put to good use in competition work and demonstration drills. Once again the Brigade gave a successful demonstration across the Marine Park lake as its contribution to South Shields Sports Week. A demonstration drill was also given at Gosforth Park Hotel as part of the Evening Chronicles Boat and Leisure Week.

The Inshore Rescue Boat has been fully operational again this year with regular patrols being undertaken. During these patrols the Inshore Rescue Boat on several occasions went to the aid of capsized dinghies. On 31st May, however, two crew members from a dinghy were rescued and brought to shore by the Inshore Rescue Boat. A combined Exercise with the Inshore Rescue Boat of Blyth Cullercoats and South Shields and the Air Sea Rescue Helicopter was held in June off the coast at Seaton Sluice. The Exercise was co-ordinated by H.M. Coastguards. It is proposed to hold more of these exercises to give practice in combined Air Sea Rescue Operations, using the V.H.F. Radio Telephones.

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It is proposed to form a Cliff Rescue Section within the Brigade and training, once again will be undertaken and co-ordinated by H.M. Coastguard.

Repairs and renovations to the Watch House have continued and much of the maintenance work has as in previous years, been carried out by the members themselves. The Inshore Rescue Boat has also been maintained by the members and repairs carried out when necessary.

The new tenancy agreement between the Port of Tyne Authority and the Brigade has been formally signed and is now in operation.

## *Subscriptions and Donations.*

Once again we are extremely grateful to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for their valued support and to all who kindly subscribed to our funds during the past year, including the many visitors to our Brigade House and the Mayoress's Charities Committee. Without these donations the Brigade could not survive.

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We are grateful to Mr. N. Anderson for the gift of Wardrobe which was made by his father from teak salvaged from "Salween" wrecked November 25th, 1895, from which the Brigade rescued the crew. The wardrobe is a welcome addition to the Brigade House. We also thank Mr. F. Darling for gift of photographs of the Brigade House.

*Expression of Thanks.*

We, once again, must record our gratitude to our President, Lt.-Col. R. S. Chipchase, for his continued interest and guidance in the Brigade affairs. Our thanks are also due to Mr. Walton of Bowman & Brown, our Hon. Solicitors; Mr. F. Davison, our Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. A. Marr, our new assistant Hon. Secretary for all the work they have done in the administration of the Brigade. We are also grateful to Mr. C. Thompson our Caretaker/Curator for all the effort he has put into keeping the Brigade House spick and span. Our thanks are also due to Mr. B. Whitaker who has given several talks on the history of the Brigade to various organisations and any collections or fees he has donated to the Brigade funds. And last, but not least, we wish to thank all those who have assisted us throughout the year and especially our many friends in H.M. Coastguard for their co-operation.

# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1970

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
Interests Received			239 11 10				
<b>Donations :</b>				<b>Cost of Premises :</b>			
Tyne Lifeboat Society	150	0	0	Post of Tyne Authority—			
Mayoress of South Shields				Rentals	16	11	
Charity Fund	50	0	0	Rates	23	2	0
Collection Boxes—General				Electricity and Water	78	6	9
Public	42	1	8	Repairs and Renewals	23	2	5
Lt.-Col. R. S. Chipchase	10	10	0	Caretaker and National			
Smiths Ltd.	9	9	0	Insurance	82	16	10
Marsden Women's Guild	2	2	0	General Cleaning Materials	1	3	6
W. R. Stephenson	2	0	0				209 8 5
Marsden Rd. Baptist Church—				<b>Inshore Rescue Boat :</b>			
Men's Fellowship	1	13	0	General Equipment	5	0	0
B. Whittaker	1	1	0	Fuel	7	5	6
A. Ards	10	0		Insurance	11	19	0
			269 6 8	Repairs and Maintenance	3	4	9
							27 9 3
<b>Grant :</b>				<b>General Expenses :</b>			
Board of Trade			40 0 0	Printing and Stationery	9	12	1
<b>Miscellaneous :</b>				Telephone	23	10	10
Income Tax Refund	30	10	8	Insurances	12	7	0
Profit on Sale of Brochures				Cheque Book		10	0
and Postcards	13	15	4	Audit Fee	4	4	0
			44 6 0	Wreath	1	10	0
				Postage	8	3	7
							59 17 6
				<b>Miscellaneous :</b>			
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			593 4 6	Uniforms	34	15	6
				Legal Charges—Tenancy			
<b>Balances at 30th June, 1969:</b>				Agreement	7	7	0
Cash in Hand	5	19	3	Legal Charges	7	7	0
Cash in Bank	426	14	8	Donation—District Officer,			
			432 13 11	J. Sweeney	1	0	0
				do. —R.N.L.I., Fraserburgh	10	10	0
				Elizabethan Trophy	1	0	0
							61 19 6
				<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>			358 14 8
				<b>Balances at 30th June, 1970 :</b>			
				Cash in Hand	8	5	10
				Cash in Bank	605	9	2
				Stock of Brochures &			
				Postcards	53	8	9
							667 3 9
			£1025 18 5				£1025 18 5

I have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account and certify that it is properly drawn up in accordance with the books.

21 St. Aidan's Road,  
SOUTH SHIELDS.  
18th September, 1970.

THOMAS VASEY,  
Chartered Accountant.



DEC  
1971

104 ASM.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Founded 1866

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*President:*

Lt.-Col. R. S. CHIPCHASE, C.B.E., M.R.I.N.A.

*Hon. Secretary:*

G. T. TALBOT, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

F. Davison, Esq.

*Hon. Solicitors:*

Bowman & Brown

*Asst. Hon. Sec.:*

A. Marr, Esq.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Watch House on Monday, 6th December, 1971, at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to members.

## AGENDA :

- ~ 1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
  - 2. Business arising out of Minutes.
  - 3. Annual Report.
  - 4. Treasurer's Report.
  - 5. Election of Committee Members.
  - 6. Social Report.
  - 7. Any other Business.
  - 8. Vote of thanks.
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# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30th, 1971

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 104th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. During the year the Brigade took part in numerous exercises, and although there were no wreck service calls, training continued and this was put to good use in competition work and demonstration drills. There were two full-scale combined exercises at Marsden and Tynemouth and the annual demonstration during South Shields Sports Week in the South Marine Park.

For sometime it has been our intention to form a cliff rescue section within the Brigade, to give added protection to the general public who visit the coast and to increase the scope and activities of the Brigade. Plans are now going ahead and two cliff rescue teams have been formed and have had a number of exercises with Sunderland Volunteer Brigade and H.M. Coastguard. New cliff rescue equipment is being supplied by the Department of Trade and Industry. At the Brigade's 103rd A.G.M. the Mayor of South Shields, Ald. W. Newby, launched our Landrover Appeal with a donation of £3.15, and although we are far short of our target of £500 the Committee have agreed to the purchase of a suitable vehicle.

The Inshore Rescue Boat has also been busy during the year providing rescue cover in and around the Shields harbour area. On several occasions the boat has gone to the

assistance of capsized dinghies and also taken part in combined air-sea rescue exercises with neighbouring Inshore Rescue Boats and the R.A.F. air-sea rescue helicopter, co-ordinated by H.M. Coastguard.

During the autumn and winter months the District Officer of the Coastguard N.E. Division and the Brigade's Captain visited numerous organisations in the North-East showing films and explaining how the Coastguard rescue services function.

During the year vandals removed the lead from the Watch Tower roof which necessitated the total recovering of the Tower roof at a cost of £220. Repairs & renovations to the Watch Tower have continued and, as always, much of the maintenance and improvement work has been carried out by members themselves. Members have also maintained and repaired the Inshore Rescue Boat as and when necessary.

It is with regret that we had to say goodbye to our District Inspector, Lieut. Cmdr. P. R. A. Russell-Brown, who has left to take up a similar position in the North Western Division, and we wish him well. We extend a warm welcome to his successor, Lieut. Cmdr. M. P. Grubb.

## *Subscriptions and Donations:*

We are once again extremely grateful to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for the valued support and increased subscription and to all who kindly subscribed to our funds during the past year, including the many visitors to the Brigade House and Mayoress's Charities Committee. Without their continued support and financial help the Brigade could not function.

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### *Obituary:*

It is with deep regret that we record, after a short illness, the death of our President, Lieut. Col. Robert Stanley Chipchase, C.B.E., on the 20th February, 1971, at the age of 84. Lieut. Col. Chipchase was President for 21 years and had always taken a keen interest in the Brigade, his advice and guidance has been responsible for much of the Brigade's past successes.

"Chippy" was a man with the interest of the sea very much at heart and sea rescue was a subject with which he was closely involved. His loss was a sad blow to the Brigade and we are having extreme difficulty in choosing a successor. The Brigade Captain, H. M. Clavery and Deputy Captain D. Teale and Curator Mr. C. Thompson attended the funeral on behalf of the Brigade.

A new Trust Deed has been drawn up by the Brigade's Solicitor, Mr. Walton of Bowman & Brown for which we are most grateful, which came into effect on the 18th November, 1970, naming the Brigade's Trustees as Herbert M. Clavery, D. E. Tinning, F. Davison and Alfred Parker Clavery.

### *Expression of Thanks:*

Our thanks are due to Mr. Walton of Bowman & Brown, our Hon. Solicitors; Mr. F. Davison, our Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. A. Marr, our Hon. Secretary, for all the work they have done in the administration of the Brigade. We are also grateful to Mr. C. Thompson our Caretaker/Curator for all the effort he has put into keeping the Brigade House spick and span. We also wish to thank Mr. P. Gargett of the Northern Rock Building Society for the excellent window display of the S.S.V.L.B. and Coastguard work. Last but not least, we wish to thank all those who have assisted us throughout the year and especially our many friends in H.M. Coastguard for their co-operation and the Brigade members for their loyal support.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for Year ended 30th June, 1971

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	£		£
<b>Interest Received</b> .....	261.84	<b>Cost of Premises :</b>	
<b>Donations :</b>		Repairs & Renewals .....	220.17
Tyne Lifeboat Society .....	175.00	Port of Tyne Authority—Rentals .....	.25
Mayoress of South Shields Charity		Rates .....	24.20
Fund .....	20.00	Electricity & Water .....	35.10
Corporation of Trinity House .....	5.25	Caretaker & National Insurance .....	82.86
Smiths Ltd. ....	3.15	General Cleaning Materials .....	2.31
Newcastle Motor Boat Club .....	2.20		364.89
Collection Boxes — General Public	2.15	<b>Inshore Rescue Boat :</b>	
Mr. C. W. Grice—Blue Peter Soc. ....	1.05	Fuel ....	6.81
Northern Rock Building Soc. ....	1.00	Insurance ....	11.60
Mrs. E. Stibbard ....	1.00	Repairs & Maintenance ....	23.05
Mr. R. Wood—Roker V.L.B. ....	1.00		41.46
Mr. R. Errington—Blue Peter Soc. ....	.50	<b>General Expenses :</b>	
	212.30	Printing & Stationery .....	9.13
<b>Grant :</b>		Telephone ....	32.16
Board of Trade .....	40.00	Insurances .....	22.35
<b>Land Rover Fund Donations :</b>		Audit Fee ....	4.20
Miss M. Ferguson—Westoe Methodist		Postages ....	6.25
Church .....	9.54		74.09
Mayor of South Shields—Ald Warden		<b>Miscellaneous :</b>	
Newby ....	3.15	Uniforms Cap Badges & Shoulder	
Mr. S. H. Kell — Blue Peter Society	1.05	Flashes ....	38.16
Mrs. M. Rodgers—New Marsden		Elizabethan Trophy Fees ....	3.00
Townswomen's Guild .....	1.05	Legal Charges ....	1.00
Mr. T. Coulson ....	1.00	Donation — Commander R. Brown	1.00
	15.79		43.16
<b>Miscellaneous :</b>			
Sale of Scrap Lead from Brigade			
House Roof .....	111.37		
Income Tax Refund ....	35.37		
Profit on Sale of Brochures &			
Postcards ....	6.15		
Sale of Ties ....	1.50		
	154.39		
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS :</b>	684.32	<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS :</b>	523.60
<b>Balances at 30th June 1970 :</b>		<b>Balances at 30th June, 1971 :</b>	
Cash in Hand .....	8.29	Cash in Hand .....	17.47
Cash at Bank ....	605.46	Cash at Bank ....	766.40
Stock of Brochures & Postcards ....	53.44	Stock of Postcards & Brochures ....	44.04
	667.19		827.91
	1351.51		1351.51

I have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account and certify that it is properly drawn up in accordance with the books. The attached Schedule of Investments has also been verified.

21 St. Aidan's Road,  
SOUTH SHIELDS.  
5th November, 1971.

THOMAS VASEY,  
Chartered Accountant.



DEC  
1972

105 AGM.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Founded 1866

*President:*

J. E. WILCOCK, Esq.

*Vice-President:*

D. E. TINNING, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer:*  
F. Davison, Esq.

*Hon. Solicitors:*  
Bowman & Brown

*Hon. Secretary:*  
A. Marr, Esq.

13<sup>th</sup> NOTICE is hereby given that the 105th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in the Watch House on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1972, at 20.00 hrs. when the Annual report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the Members.

## AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
2. Business arising out of minutes. £40 NOT £60. - ^
3. Annual Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Election of committee members.
6. Social secretary's report.
7. Any other business.
8. Vote of thanks.

10/1/73

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## ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 105th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. There have been no wreck service calls during the past year, but the Brigade has continued to be active in its traditional and primary role of breeches buoy rescue. This has been supplemented by the work of the Inshore Rescue Boat and the newly-formed Cliff Rescue Section.

Training has continued throughout the year and the Brigade took part in a number of exercises, perhaps one of the most useful was the full-scale exercise arranged by H.M. Coastguard to test the Brigade's emergency call-out system, which proved very successful. The night was wet and cold and Brigade members called from home, pub and club carried out a successful cliff top hawser drill in difficult conditions.

The Inshore Rescue Boat has again been active in the harbour area and there have been a number of assistance calls answered. Several capsized dinghies and their crews have been assisted.

Apart from the breeches buoy exercises, the newly-formed Cliff Rescue Section has been involved in exercises along the coast at Marsden in conjunction with H.M. Coastguard and Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade.

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The Brigade has now purchased its own Land Rover and it has been extensively fitted out and overhauled. The Brigade Captain has been the driving force behind the purchase, overhaul and operation of the Land Rover which has added a new dimension to the Brigade's work. It has provided greater scope and mobility in all aspects of the Brigade's activities and the continued support of all members is needed to take advantage of the improved facilities to produce an increasingly efficient team.

The Brigade has been in the limelight during the past year. The *Shields Gazette* has given coverage to Brigade activities and featured the Land Rover in an article together with a picture of the vehicle. *Radio Durham* recorded an item during a drill night to use in a programme.

The District Officer of the Coastguard N.E. Division and the Brigade Captain have once again been devoting their leisure time to visiting local organisations and clubs to give talks and film shows to publicise the work of the Coastguard and auxiliaries.

Following the death of President, Lieut.-Col. R. S. Chipchase, Mr. Eric Wilcock was elected to fill the post. We extend a warm welcome to our new President who has already been able to contribute valuable assistance. The vacant post of one vice-president was also filled during the year. At a meeting of the committee the position was offered to Honorary Captain D. E. Tinning, who accepted.

The Brigade is proud to record the compliment from the Deputy Chief Inspector H.M. Coastguard during a visit to the Watch House:

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*The Brigade is very well run and the men have developed into a team, well equipped with a rescue boat and Land Rover. The approach is very forward looking and the result is that the station is very efficient and reliable.*

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

We are extremely grateful to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for their valued support, also the Westoe Methodist Church, the Corporation of Trinity House, Smiths Ltd., the Mayoress Charities Committee, and all who kindly subscribed to our funds during the past year, including the many visitors to the Brigade Watch House.

#### EXPRESSION OF THANKS.

We record our thanks to our President Mr. J. E. Wilcock, to our Hon. Solicitors Bowman & Brown, Mr. F. Davison, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. A. Marr, Hon. Secretary; Mr. C. Thompson, Caretaker/Curator, for all their good work, and a special thanks to our many friends in H.M. Coastguard and to all who assisted us throughout the year.

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT** for Year ended 30th June, 1972.

I have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account and certify that it is properly drawn up in accordance with the books. The attached Schedule of Investments has also been verified.

THOMAS VASEY,  
Chartered Accountant.



DEC  
1973.

106 AGM.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Founded 1866

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*President:*

G. E. WILLCOCK, Esq.

*Vice-President:*

D. E. TINNING, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

F. Davison, Esq.

*Hon. Solicitors:*

Bowman & Brown

*Hon. Secretary:*

A. D. Marr, Esq.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the 106th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Watch House on Wednesday, 19th December, 1973, at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the Members.

## AGENDA :

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
  2. Business arising out of the minutes.
  3. Annual Report.
  4. Treasurer's Report.
  5. Social Secretary/Treasurer's Report.
  6. Election of Deputy Captain.
  7. Election of Committee Members.
  8. Election of Social Committee.
  9. Any other Business.
  10. Vote of Thanks.
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# ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending 30th June, 1973

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 106th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. Once again, this has been a year without wreck service calls, but as always the Brigade has continued to maintain its traditional standards of efficiency in breeches buoy rescue. This primary function of the Brigade has been augmented by the work of the Inshore Rescue Boat and the Cliff Rescue Sections.

Normal training has continued throughout the year, with the Brigade taking part in a number of exercises and demonstrations. As part of the 1972 Sports Week celebrations the Brigade carried out a drill and demonstration in the South Marine Park. During Sports Week 1973 the Brigade completed a more ambitious programme outside the Watch House. This was a highly successful event and included a display of pyrotechnics and other rocket equipment by Messrs. Schermuly Limited, breeches buoy drill, followed by a film show. The Brigade also took part in the Sports Week opening parade. Another highly successful assignment tackled by the Brigade was a demonstration, at the request of the District Officer, at a Motorsport Weekend at Newcastle Town Moor.

The Inshore Rescue Boat has again been operational at weekends, and routine maintenance and servicing has been carried out. The Rescue Boat has been particularly effective as a deterrent to 'would-be' speeders in the harbour following the introduction of a Sunday speed limit, and also stood by during a canoe race from Marsden Bay to the South Beach.

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The Cliff Rescue Section has carried out numerous patrols and exercises along the coast around Marsden in conjunction with H.M. Coastguard and Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade.

The Brigade Land Rover, which is now fully equipped with two-way radio, emergency flashing light and two tone emergency horns, is proving to be one of the Brigade's greatest assets. This vehicle, although costly to purchase, insure and maintain, has been widely used in all aspects of the Brigade's work and has greatly increased the scope of activities. Apart from its value for cliff patrol it has widened the hitherto limited range of operations and has enabled the Brigade to participate in an increasing number of outside events.

During the past year, the wives and lady friends of Brigade members have taken an increasing interest in Brigade affairs and have been of great assistance in raising funds and generally promoting the interests of the Brigade.

The Committee has also agreed to start issuing an occasional Newsletter to keep members informed of Brigade activity. The first issues have met with an encouraging response.

The Caretaker/Curator, Mr. C. Thompson, resigned during the year and the Committee thanked him for his passed services. It was agreed that until the vacancy can be suitably filled the general cleaning duties be carried out as best as possible. The ladies have rendered valuable assistance in this respect.

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The Brigade was well represented at a farewell presentation evening for District Officer, Mr. J. Sweeney. Mr. Sweeney proved to be of great assistance to the Brigade during his time at Tynemouth and we wish him well in his retirement. We also extend a warm welcome to his successor Mr. W. C. Craigie.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Once again we are extremely grateful to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for their valued support and to all who have kindly subscribed to our funds during the past year, including the South Shields Mayoress' Charity Fund and the many visitors to our Watch House. Without these donations the Brigade, as a voluntary organisation, could not survive.

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

We, once again, must record our gratitude to our President, Mr. G. E. Willcock for his continued interest and guidance in Brigade affairs. Our thanks are also due to our Vice-President, Mr. D. E. Tinning; Mr. A. D. Marr our Honorary Secretary; and Mr. F. Davison our Honorary Treasurer, for all the work they have done in the administration of the Brigade. We are grateful to the Brigade members who gave up valuable time during the year to carry out modification and renovation work to the Committee and Recreation Rooms within the Watch House. And last, but not by any means least, we wish to thank all those who have assisted throughout the year and especially our many friends in H.M. Coastguard for their co-operation.

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JAN  
1975

107 ASM.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Founded 1866

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*President:*

G. E. WILLCOCK, Esq.

*Vice-President:*

D. TINNING, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

F. Davison, Esq.

*Hon. Solicitors:*

Bowman & Brown

*Hon. Secretary:*

A. D. Marr, Esq.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the 107th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Watch House on Wednesday, 8th January, 1975, at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the members.

## AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
  2. Business arising out of the minutes.
  3. Annual Report.
  4. Treasurer's Report.
  5. Social Secretary/Treasurer's Report.
  6. Election of Captain.
  7. Election of Committee Members.
  8. Any other Business.
  9. Vote of Thanks.
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# ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending 30th June, 1974

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 107th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. The past year has been one of the most interesting twelve month periods in the history of the Brigade. The most historic happening since the Brigade was founded in 1866 was the enrolment of the Brigade's first woman member, Mrs. V. Coulson. During the year the Committee accepted the principle of female membership, under certain conditions, thus ending one hundred and six years of the Brigade's all-male tradition.

The Brigade's primary function as a Breeches Buoy Rescue Company has been augmented by the work of the Inshore Rescue Boat and the Cliff Rescue Sections. Although there have been no wreck service calls, the Brigade has continued to maintain its high standard of training and efficiency in Breeches Buoy Rescue. The Brigade's Land Rover, with its ancillary equipment, is playing a major part in the extension of the Brigade's activities and the range of its operations and this is reflected in the increasing number of exercises and demonstrations the Brigade has taken part in.

During the past year the Brigade took part in the 1973 South Shields Flower Show and ran a successful static display along with a Breeches Buoy demonstration. One of the Brigade's longest-ever trips to a demonstration came with an invitation to take part in the Annual Houghton Feast. Another highly successful event was the Brigade's display in connection with Sports Week, when a full display was supported with lifeboat, inshore rescue and helicopter demonstrations. One of the most unusual displays was held at the South Shields District Scout Camp Site at West Hall during the local Association's open week-end. The Land Rover and Trailer took part in the South Shields Carnival Parade.

The Inshore Rescue Boat has been fully operational at week-ends and provides useful duties in and around the harbour and estuary, as well as being "on call" with Tynemouth Coastguard Rescue Headquarters for work further afield. The Inshore Rescue Boat again supervised the annual canoe race from Marsden to South Shields foreshore, and despite atrocious weather there were no casualties.

The Cliff Rescue Section continues to carry out week-end patrols, training Brigadesmen in the use and handling of the equipment along the cliffs, in conjunction with the H.M. Coastguard. A party of Venture Scouts spent a week-end with the Brigade watching and taking part in all the Brigade activities. This was a highly successful event and provided extra training for Brigadesmen in all aspects of our work.

It is with deep regret that the Committee reports the deaths of two of the longest serving members of the Brigade. Mr. Alf Clavery, senior member of a family which has given great service to the Brigade over many years, died in March 1974. Alf was a member for forty-two years and did much to promote the Brigade. Mr. Cecil Thompson, another doyen over the years, who was latterly caretaker/curator and in which time issued the Brigade Brochure which is today still on sale, died in October 1973 after rendering valuable service during the years with the Brigade.

The Brigade took part in the Wearside Ship Owners' Shield Competition in September 1973 and gave a creditable performance. There has been a great revival in the spirit of competition during the past twelve months and the Committee is expecting good results in the coming year.

Essential maintenance has been carried out to the Brigade House. External roof repairs have been necessary and certain internal improvements have added to the voluntary work undertaken by certain Brigadesmen. The major improvement has been the complete renovation and decoration of the Committee Room. The Committee is grateful to those Brigadesmen who spent many hours carrying out the improvements.

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Once again we are extremely grateful to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for their valued support, and to all those who have kindly subscribed to our funds during the past year, including the South Shields Mayoress' Charity Fund, and the many visitors to the Brigade House who have given so generously.

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

We must record our gratitude to our President, Mr. G. E. Willcock, for his interest, guidance and assistance to the Brigade, and it is with regret that the Brigade learns of Mr. Willcock's resignation from the post. We wish him well in his new job. A large measure of thanks is due to Mr. A. D. Marr, our Honorary Secretary, for the unstinting work he has carried out in the past year, both on the administration of the Brigade and his physical efforts in connection with the improvements. Thanks are also due to our Honorary Treasurer, Mr. F. Davison, for all his work and to our Vice-President, Mr. D. E. Tinning and the Brigade's Trustees. And last, but by no means least, we wish to thank all those who have assisted during the years, and especially our many friends in H.M. Coastguard for the valuable co-operation and help.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

FINANCIAL STATEMENT for Year ended 30th June, 1974

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	£		£
Interest Received	332.61	Cost of Premises :	
Donations :		Repairs & Renewals	36.23
Tyne Lifeboat Society	200.00	Port of Tyne Authority	0.25
South Shields Mayoress' Charity Fund	25.00	Rates	28.10
Collection Boxes—Gen. Public	10.90	Electricity & Water	62.41
Corporation of Trinity House	10.00		126.99
—do.—	7.00	Inshore Rescue Boat :	
Westoe Methodist Church	8.00	Fuel	1.42
St. John Sea Scouts	5.00	Repairs & Servicing	4.10
Halford Auto Leisure Land	5.00	Insurance	10.95
Smiths Ltd.	3.15		16.47
Marsden Rd. Church Fellowship	2.50	Landrover :	
Belsfield Ladies	1.50	Fuel	16.87
Shields Gazette	1.00	Repairs & Servicing	42.28
South Shields United Swimming Club	1.00	Insurance	50.53
	280.05		109.68
Grant :		General Expenses :	
Dept. of Trade & Industry	100.00	Printing & Stationery	13.95
Land Rover Fund :		Telephone	36.23
H.M. Coastguard for use of Land Rover on Coastguard Operations	10.00	Insurances	42.50
Miscellaneous :		Audit Fee	10.00
Profit on sale of Brochures & Postcards	1.81	Postages	2.55
—do.— Coastguard Ties	0.40	Travelling Expenses	1.29
	2.21	Wreath	3.00
		First Aid Examination Fees	4.85
			114.37
		Miscellaneous :	
		Uniforms	20.80
		Sundries	0.64
			21.44
TOTAL RECEIPTS :	724.87	TOTAL PAYMENTS :	388.95
Balances at 30th June, 1973 :		Net Amount Re-invested	600.00
Cash in Hand	0.48	Balances at 30th June, 1974 :	
Cash at Bank	595.04	Cash in Hand	1.50
Stock of Brochures & Cards	38.65	Cash at Bank	328.60
	634.17	Stock of Brochures and Cards	36.19
		Stock of Coastguard Ties	3.80
			370.09
	1359.04		1359.04

I have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account and certify that it is properly drawn up in accordance with the Books. The attached Schedule of Investments has also been verified.

21 St. Aidan's Road,  
SOUTH SHIELDS.  
16th October, 1974.

THOMAS VASEY,  
Chartered Accountant.

*M. B. Leary*

1976

108 AGM.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Founded 1866

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*President:*

J. LANDELLS, Esq.

*Vice President:*

D. TINNING, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

D. Teale, Esq.

*Hon. Solicitors:*

Bowman & Brown

*Hon. Secretary:*

A.D. Marr, Esq.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the 108th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Watch House on Monday 19th January, 1976, at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the members.

## AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting. *CAPT D. TEALE*
  2. Business arising out of the minutes.
  3. Annual Report. *D/CAPT J. ROBERTSON*
  4. Treasurer's Report. *COM. A. WARD*
  5. Social Secretary/Treasurer's Report. *T. FENELLY*
  6. Election of Deputy Captain. *G. DONNS*
  7. Election of Committee Members. *J. STEPHENSON*
  8. Confirmation of Trustees. *J. LAYTON*
  9. Any other Business.
  10. Vote of Thanks.
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# ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending June 30th, 1975

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 108th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. The past twelve months has seen a number of changes in the organisational side of the Brigade's work with the election of a new President and the resignation of our long-serving Treasurer. Both these matters are dealt with later in the Report. The most significant development during the year has been the greatly increasing amount of co-operation with H.M. Coastguard in the field of patrol work and general Coastguard duties.

Now that H.M. Coastguard has accepted full and proper responsibility for all cliff incidents along our stretch of the coastline, the Brigade in its Auxiliary Coastguard role has played an increasingly important part in search and rescue operations. Twice during the latter half of the year, the Brigade was called out by the full-time Coastguard to mount coastal searches for missing persons. The Brigade's regular weekend patrols have also been involved in a number of incidents, particularly at Marsden Bay, concerning swimmers in difficulties and persons trapped by the tide.

In keeping with this diversity of functions, there have been a number of training exercises. In June a full-scale cliff rescue exercise organised by Tynemouth CRHQ involving both South Shields and Roker Volunteer Life Brigades, air-sea rescue helicopter and St. John's Ambulance Brigade was staged at Marsden. The exercise provided useful training in cliff rescue techniques, communications and co-ordination with other rescue services.

At the same time the Brigade has maintained its primary role as a Breeches Buoy Rescue Section with regular training, quarterly drills and the usual round of competitions. Another year has passed without a Wreck Service Call, but the high standard of efficiency in the Breeches Buoy Rescue continues to be the Brigade's main aim.

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Using the Heath Jackstay Drill method, the Brigade came very close to winning the Chronicle Cup Competition, which was staged at South Shields last September. And, again although no prizes were won, the Brigade gave creditable performances in the Wearside Ship-owners' Shields and the Elizabethan Trophy competitions. Practice and more practice is the key to success in these competitions and the Committee is considering introducing a monthly drill to introduce a great spirit of competition among members during training sessions.

Once again the value of the Brigade's investments in a Land Rover and VHF radio equipment has been demonstrated. The Brigade's mobility and operational capacity has won praise from the full-time Coastguard. The Brigade has taken part in the annual round of "flag-waving" demonstrations including the South Shields Carnival Parade.

Due to mechanical problems the Inshore Rescue Boat was not operational during the latter part of the year, and steps are now in hand to completely overhaul the engine and hull.

Eight Brigade members were successful in the First Aid Examination of the British Red Cross Society. Tutors from the St. John's Ambulance ran a popular First Aid Course in the Brigade headquarters and we now have a record number of qualified First Aiders.

Membership continues to flourish with an encouraging influx of new recruits to the rank. The nucleus of old hands and faithful members provide the mainstay of the Brigade's operational and competition teams, and the Committee is anxious to make good use of the youthful enthusiasm of the newer members to weld together an award-winning team.

The exterior of the Watch House has been completely repainted and renovated with a 50 per cent grant from South Tyneside Council which undertook the work. The Committee is still investigating ways and means of obtaining grant aid from other local authority and Government sources towards the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings.

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Internal repairs and maintenance have been carried out as required during the year and the cleaning of the premises has been carried out regularly by Brigadesmen. Socially, the Brigade is still flourishing with regular outings to Coastguard functions in the area.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

The Brigade could not continue without the support of our many friends and benefactors and once again the Committee expresses grateful thanks to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for their donations, also to the Mayoress of South Tyneside's Charity Fund and the many visitors to the Brigade House who have given so generously.

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade is extremely fortunate in having as its new President, Mr. John Landells, shipping correspondent of the Shields Gazette. Mr. Landells, a renowned and respected North-East journalist, has always been a keen supporter of the Brigade and since his election has shown an even greater enthusiasm for the welfare and general well-being of the Brigade and its members. Mr. Frank Davison, Treasurer for many years, reluctantly resigned the post due to pressure of work and other commitments, and the Committee is extremely grateful to him for the many hours of financial work on our behalf. Mr. Davison left the Brigade in a very healthy financial position and the position of Treasurer has been filled by Mr. D. Teale, the Deputy Captain. The Committee's thanks are also due to our Vice-President and Honorary Captain, Mr. D.E. Tinning and the Brigade's Trustees, and we wish to thank all those who have assisted and contributed to our work during the past twelve months. We are especially grateful to our many friends in H.M. Coastguard for their valuable co-operation and help and their guidance in all matters affecting the Brigade's Auxiliary Coastguard operations.

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1977

109 AGM.

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# South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

Founded 1866

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*President:*

J. LANDELLS, Esq.

*Vice-President:*

D. TINNING, Esq.

*Hon Treasurer:*

D. TEALE, ESQ.

*Hon. Solicitors:*

BOWMAN & BROWN

*Hon. Secretary:*

A. D. MARR, ESQ.

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NOTICE is hereby given that the 109th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Watch House on Monday, April 25th, 1977, at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the members.

## AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
  2. Business arising out of the minutes.
  3. Annual Report.
  4. Treasurer's Report.
  5. Social Secretary/Treasurer's Report.
  6. Election of Captain.
  7. Election of Committee Members.
  8. Any other business.
  9. Vote of Thanks.
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# ANNUAL REPORT

18 Months Ending December 31st, 1976

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 109th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. One of the most encouraging signs during the past 12 months has been the continuing influx of new members into the Brigade, adding youth and enthusiasm to the hard core of experience and dedication of the older hands. This balance of youth and experience gives the Brigade great strength and versatility to meet the demands of the various tasks and services carried out in conjunction with H.M. Coastguard.

Although the Brigade's primary function remains as a Breeches Buoy Rescue Company within the Auxiliary Coastguard Service, the Committee feels that the forward-looking policy adopted some years ago to diversify our interests and to take a greater interest in all aspects of Auxiliary Coastguard work is now paying dividends. To this end one of the main tasks of the Brigade during the summer months has been an increasing number of mobile patrols and exercises by our Cliff Rescue Teams. The Brigade continues to maintain its high standard of training and efficiency in Breeches Buoy Rescue and this is complemented by regular training sessions in Cliff Rescue techniques and other general aspects of Coastguard work.

Perhaps one of the major individual events of note during the year was the retirement as an Auxiliary Coastguard of Honorary Captain and Vice-President, Don Tinning. Captain Tinning completed 50 years' service as an Auxiliary Coastguard in April and having attained his 65th birthday was obliged to retire. To mark this magnificent achievement the Committee organised a surprise presentation of an inscribed marine barometer to Captain Tinning and celebrated with a special social evening. The Committee and members wish Captain Tinning, who remains a member of the Brigade, and his wife, a stalwart supporter of the Brigade throughout this long period of loyal and dedicated service, a very happy and healthy retirement.

The Brigade took part in the usual number of demonstrations and exercises in and around the area, participating once again in the Annual Sports Week activities, the Showmen's Summer Carnival

Parade. The Brigade acted as hosts for the annual Wearside Shield Competition and came very close to winning, but had to settle for a very commendable second place. There has been an increasingly healthy competitive spirit among the Brigade members in relation to the various inter-company competitions and the Committee hopes that during the next 12 months the Brigade can bring success back to South Shields.

As the Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts shows the past 18 months have been very expensive for the Brigade. For the first time for many years the Watch House was the target of a number of isolated attacks by vandals and money had to be spent on repairs and better security measures. General maintenance to the building was carried out as and when required with Brigade members lending a hand where and when possible. It has also been necessary to carry out repairs and maintenance on the Land Rover and the Inshore Rescue Boat.

The Land Rover has been re-equipped with a better V.H.F. radio set and a major overhaul proved necessary but very costly. However, the Land Rover is regarded as the key to much of the Brigade's work in conjunction with H.M. Coastguard and the Committee regard this as money well spent to keep the company at maximum operational efficiency. Unfortunately, although the Inshore Rescue Boat has been operational during the past 12 months the Committee consider that it is probably reaching the end of its useful working life and urgent consideration must be given during the next few months to an immediate replacement, especially in view of the loss by fire of the rescue boat operated by our friends the South Shields Volunteer Lifeguards.

In view of the high cost of new or replacement uniforms, the Committee decided that the future uniform shall consist of blue overalls, cap, black tie and white shirt. To this effect a full set of overalls was provided during the year and the Brigade has enjoyed suitable comments about the high standard of dress and smartness at various events. It was also decided to recover as many uniforms as possible from former members and the Committee authorised the issue of a special legal document relating to the use and return of all items of Brigade uniform and equipment. The committee's persistence in pursuing exemption from payment of rates proved successful, although this minor financial success hardly makes a dent in our expenditure.



At a special presentation evening, when the Chief Inspector was present, the Brigade received a souvenir copy of the newly published History of the Coastguard Service. The author, Mr. Bill Webb of Headquarters staff, had previously visited the Brigade House for information to help in compiling the book and the Brigade's assistance is acknowledged.

There has been a successful year in the Brigade's social life with good support of the Social Club and its activities from the usual loyal band of Brigadesmen. The committee is grateful to the Social Club and its Members for their continuing efforts on behalf of the Brigade.

The Brigade Committee has decided to form a branch of The Coastguard Association and steps are progressing towards this end.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Once again we are extremely grateful to our many friends and benefactors for their valued and much needed support. Special thanks are due to the Tyne Lifeboat Society, and to all those local organisations who have kindly contributed to our funds during the past year, including the Mayoress of South Tyneside's Charity Fund and to the many visitors to the Brigade House who have given so generously.

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The Committee is pleased to record its sincere thanks to our new and enthusiastic President, John Landells, for his magnificent support during the year. His presence at the Brigade is a great encouragement and his work on our behalf is much appreciated. Again, much of the credit for the efficient running of the Brigade is due to the unstinting work of Senior Captain H. M. Clavery. Also, our hard-working Honorary Secretary, Mr. A. D. Marr deserves a special note of thanks for his efficient administration of our affairs and his many efforts of the Social side of our activities.

Thanks are also due to Captain D. Teale for his work as Treasurer and to our Vice-President, Captain D. Tinning and the Brigade's Trustees. And last, but by no means least we wish to thank all those who have assisted during the year, and especially to our many friends in H.M. Coastguard, especially Mr. T. Horsburgh and Station Officer J. Turner, for their valuable co-operation and support.

1978

110 AGM.

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## *South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade*

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Founded 1866

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*President:*  
J. LANDELLS, Esq.

*Vice-President:*  
D. TINNING Esq.

<i>Hon Treasurer:</i>	<i>Senior Captain:</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary:</i>
M. R. VASEY Esq.	H. M. CLAVERY Esq.	T. P. FENNELLY Esq.

NOTICE is hereby given that the 110th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Watch House on Monday, September 25th 1978, at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the members.

### AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
  2. Business arising out of the minutes.
  3. Annual Report.
  4. Treasurer's Report.
  5. Social Secretary/Treasurer's Report
  6. Election of Committee Members
  7. Any other business
  8. Vote of Thanks.
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## ANNUAL REPORT

### Year Ending December 31st 1977

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 110th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. There continues to be an increasing level of activity within the Brigade and this has been reflected in the number of new members joining during the past 12 months. Recruitment continues to add to the capabilities of the Brigade and the talents of the new members have been put to good use. Membership is now as strong as it has been for the number of years with the younger element showing a willingness to learn and the older more experienced members passing on their knowledge.

The past year has been significant in many ways with the Brigade maintaining its primary function as a breeches boy rescue company within the Auxiliary Coastguard Service and at the same time seeking ways to expand its range of Coastguard activities. Although the signs are that within the next year or so the Hawser rescue equipment will be replaced with a lighter more mobile set of gear the Committee is sure that the Brigade will continue to play an important role in the life saving services on this part of the coast.

Cliff Rescue and patrol work remains one of the main additional duties carried out in conjunction with H.M. Coastguard. The new VHF Mobile Radio fitted into the LandRover has proved to be a major asset in this work. The emphasis placed on Cliff Rescue and Patrol work and the amount of time devoted to it is more than justified by the increasing number of Cliff incidents in the South Shields area. There continues to be a great need to maintain cliff patrols, particularly during summer months and holiday periods and the Committee is most concerned to ensure that the LandRover and rescue equipment are kept in the best order. However, the Committee is also aware of the various mechanical problems experienced with the LandRover during the past year and while every effort has been made to keep the vehicle roadworthy it has become more and more difficult to maintain. The main problem is the age of the vehicle and it is one of the Committee's top priorities to seek ways of raising funds to purchase a new LandRover. Having said that the LandRover has not yet failed in an emergency and thanks are due to those brigade members who have devoted much time to maintenance and repair.

Another priority set by the Committee during the year is the question raising of funds to buy a new inshore rescue boat, as this element of the lifesaving service provided by the Brigade has been suspended since the withdrawal of service of the previous rescue boat two years ago.

Pursuing the Brigade's main role as a breeches buoy rescue company there continues to be a healthy competitive spirit among members and the results in the various demonstrations and competitions in which the Brigade took part during the year show that a marked improvement in performance. Despite this improvement competition success still eludes the Brigade and good efforts in both the Wearside Shield and the Elizabethan Trophy Competitions were still not enough to win. The Brigade was happy to be associated with the Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade centenary celebrations and took part in a church parade and service and demonstration drill to mark the occasion. Once again the brigade took part in the South Tyneside Sports week parade and staged a demonstration drill for the programme. A major air sea rescue exercise at Marsden demonstrated the need for close co-operation between all the emergency services connected with Cliff rescue and the Committee was pleased with the Brigade's showing at this exercise.

The repair and maintenance of the Watch House and associated buildings continues to be a major financial burden and although steps are in hand to have the building listed as a place of historical and architectural interest the Committee is hopeful that some financial assistance will be forthcoming in the very near future to allow essential short term measures to be taken to keep the building intact. Vandalism is always a problem and several major repairs have been necessary to remedy damage.

The Treasurer's report deals in great detail with the financial implications of the Brigade's work but the Committee is aware of the need to seek ways of raising new funds to keep the Brigade functioning properly and to expand in those areas where the Committee and Members see fit. To this end several fund raising ideas are being investigated. Brigade Members themselves must be congratulated for the organisation and support of fund raising events. This has produced a healthy social life among Brigade Members and the Committee is grateful of the social club and those members for their work on behalf of the brigade.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Without the valuable support of our friends and benefactors the work of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade would not go on. The Brigade is a self-financing organisation and is entirely dependent on voluntary donations. Special thanks are due to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for their continuing financial support and to the many local organisations, especially the welders from Redheads shipyard, the customers and staff of the Jolly Steward and the Albion Inn, and to the many visitors to the Brigade house who have given so generously during the year.

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The Committee is pleased to record its thanks to our interested and helpful president Mr. John Landells for his efforts on our behalf, also to Senior Captain H. M. Clavery for his continuing sterling work on behalf of the Brigade and the Auxiliary Coastguard Service. Thanks also to new Hon. Secretary Mr. T. P. Fennelly for his administrative work and also for the financial work of the new Hon. Treasurer Mr. M. R. Vasey and Hon. Auditor Mr. H. Marshall.

Thanks are also due to Captain D. Teale and a special mention is deserved for the unstinting work and enthusiasm of the Deputy Captain I. Robertson who has made great progress in training and the increased performance of the brigade and high level of morale are due mainly to his efforts.

The Committee would also like to thank all those who have assisted during the year, and last, but by no means least, the Committee wishes to record its sincere thanks and appreciation to our many friends in H.M. Coastguard especially Mr. T. Horsburgh and District Officer Mr. J. R. Little for their valuable co-operation and support.



1979

111 AGM.

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## *South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade*

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Founded 1866

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*President:*  
J. LANDELLS, Esq.

*Vice-President:*  
D. TINNING, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer:* J. P. STEPHENSON, Esq.    *Senior Captain:* H. M. CLAVERY, Esq.    *Hon. Secretary:* T. P. FENNELLY, Esq.

NOTICE is hereby given that the 111th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Watch House on Monday, September 24th 1979, at 20.00 hours when the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts will be presented to the members.

### AGENDA:

- ✓ 1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.
  - ✓ 2. Business arising out of the minutes.
  - ✓ 3. Annual Report.
  - ✓ 4. Treasurer's Report.
  - ✓ 5. Social Secretary/Treasurer's Report.
  - 6. Election of Officers.
  - 7. Election of Committee Members.
  - 8. Any other business.
  - 9. Vote of Thanks.
- 
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## ANNUAL REPORT

### Year Ending December 31st 1978

The Committee has pleasure in presenting the 111th Annual Report of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. This Brigade continues to maintain a high level of activity and enthusiasm in its work as a lifesaving organisation. During the past 12 months there has been a particularly good spirit of team work and co-operation demonstrated by Members. This has been reflected in improving competition results and good drills and it is pleasing to record a general all-round improvement in performance and efficiency. This Brigade is fortunate in having a strong nucleus of dedicated members and their efforts are encouraging newer members.

The past year has seen an important change in the primary function of the Brigade as a breeches buoy rescue company within the Auxiliary Coastguard Service. For as well as the reorganisation, some would say reduction, of H.M. Coastguard Service into larger regions, the Brigade has been re-equipped with the lighter more mobile set of breeches buoy rescue equipment known as the Heath Jackstay to replace the heavier hawser equipment. Members have been keen to practice with the new gear and the Committee feels that the Brigade is playing a useful part in the development of the use of this new equipment. The full hawser equipment has been retained for demonstration and drill purposes. South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade will continue to play an important role in the life saving services along this stretch of the coast and the supply of the new equipment is a sign of the changing nature of the task.

Cliff rescue and mobile patrol work is being maintained in conjunction with H.M. Coastguard. The importance of this aspect of the Brigade's function is emphasised by the grim statistics of fatalities and accidents each year. Despite repeated warnings and appeals there is almost an inevitability about accidents along the cliffs in the area covered by the Brigade. It is particularly disturbing to note that the majority of those involved in cliff incidents are local people who really ought to know better. Apart from maintaining a constant availability for Cliff Rescue, the Committee and Members are very much aware of the deterrent effect of regular patrols, especially during the summer months and at peak holiday times. It is with this in mind that the Committee has decided to launch a major appeal for funds to buy a replacement vehicle. The existing Land Rover has served the Brigade well for nearly eight years and is now due for replacement. A newer model with even better equipment is the Brigade's top priority. The question of a replacement inshore rescue boat has not been forgotten, but will not be looked at until the Land Rover has been replaced.

The Committee is particularly pleased to report a continuing improvement in competition results and feels that although success has eluded the Brigade this year, it will not be long before success comes our way. The competition teams made a good showing in both the Wearside Shield and Elizabethan Trophy events and this has strengthened the resolve to win one of these major trophies before much longer. The Committee knows that there is ample potential in the Brigade but emphasises that training is the key to success.

Once again the Brigade took part in the South Tyneside Sports Week Programme, in the opening parade and staging a demonstration drill. The Committee is keen to take part in as many public demonstrations and displays as possible and is continually seeking new ways to promote the work of the Brigade and the Auxiliary Coastguard Service.

The major task of keeping the Watch House and Associated buildings in good repair is a constant struggle and a heavy financial burden. The Committee is redoubling efforts to attract grant aid from Government sources, but in the present climate this does not look too promising. Nevertheless, the building has now been officially listed as a place of historical and architectural interest. Meanwhile maintenance is carried out as necessary. During the year the Watch House was subjected to the worst attack yet by vandals. Two youths, who were later arrested and taken to court, used an air rifle systematically to smash every window in the main hall. Much of the glass was the original 1866 plate glass and the replacement, fortunately mostly covered by insurance, cost £178 - to date the Brigade has not yet received one penny in restitution.

The Committee is actively considering ways of improving security and keeping the building in good repair, but it is a sad fact that wanton destruction by mindless vandals causes more problems than the ravages of a century of storms.

The Committee is very much aware of the need to sustain our fund raising activities and as will be revealed in the Hon. Treasurer's Report and the Social Secretary's Report, Members are making great efforts to raise funds. The Committee already has the firm commitment to buy a replacement Land Rover and again thanks to the efforts and support of Members in organising various social functions the money is already coming in. There is an excellent social life within the Brigade and the Committee is grateful to the Social Club, Members, friends and families for their support.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

As the Brigade is a self-financing organisation and entirely dependent upon voluntary subscriptions and donations the whole operation would grind to a halt if it were not for the generous support of our friends and benefactors. Again special thanks are due to the Tyne Lifeboat Society for their continuing most generous donations and to the many local organisations and visitors to the Watch House who have contributed during the past 12 months.

## EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The Committee wishes to record its sincere thanks to the Brigade President, Mr. John Landells, for his solid work on our behalf, and also to pay tribute to the sterling work and dedication of Senior Captain and Auxiliary Coastguard-in-Charge, Mr. H. M. Clavery. Thanks are also due to the Brigade's administrators for their often unnoticed work behind the scenes, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. P. Fennelly and new Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. P. Stephenson. Thanks are also due to the Brigade Captain, Mr. D. Teale and particularly Deputy Captain, Mr. I. Robertson for their excellent progress in training, discipline and morale.

The Committee also wishes to thank South Tyneside Council, especially Mr. Ray Lee and the staff of the Directorate of Cultural and Leisure Activities, for their kind assistance. Sincere thanks and appreciation are also due to our many friends and colleagues in H.M. Coastguard, especially Mr. T. Horsburgh and District Controller, Mr. J. R. Little, for their welcome support, guidance and advice. Finally, the Committee wishes to thank all members for their loyalty and work during the past year.

S. CAPTAIN I. ROBERTSON  
CAPTAIN D. TEALE  
D. CAPTAIN A. WARD

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

C. W. FENNELLY  
S. LAYTON  
M. ROBERTSON  
A. MANSON.