

Outing to Southend on Sea and the RNLI Lifeboat Station: September 2022

Didn't we have a lovely day at the seaside?

On Wednesday, 28th September a group of us visited Southend on Sea.

We arrived in good time for the 11.00 am train to take us down the pier to the Lifeboat Station.

We were met by our two guides, who gave us an amazing insight into the day-to-day working of the station and the RNLI in general.

We were shown everything from the equipment on the boats to the clothing the crew wear. The clothing is all one size only – over usual clothing, a full length fleece is worn before donning an outer dry suit, the sizing totally dependent on the (moulded) shoe size.



Our guides explained to us that every crew member is a volunteer, and that their entire income is derived from donations and legacies as they receive no government funding.

RNLI is an inshore RNLI station. Owing to the fact that Southend's tide goes out about a mile twice a day, a lot of their "shouts" are related to people and children stranded when the tide comes in. For this reason, Southend RNLI have 4 lifeboats: at the pier end they have both a D-Class and an Atlantic Class boat, while at the shore end there is both a D-Class and a hovercraft which is used mainly for rescues when the tide is out and people are caught out on mud. The D-Class boats and hovercraft all have 3 crew, while the larger Atlantic craft has a crew of 4.

Following our 1.5 hour tour we returned to the pier head and then had free time before being collected by our coach to return home.



An amazing day out to an incredible and worthwhile organization, to which we made a donation from our u3a for this wonderful cause.