

## Peter N Davies Seminar, 1 November 2023, 5:30pm

### Weathering the Storms: The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), 1849 – 1897

by  
Dr Sam Jones

Online and at John Foster Building,  
Liverpool John Moores University, Mount Pleasant, L3 5UZ

The seminar is **free** and if you'd like to attend, in person or online,  
please email **Hanna Nsugbe**:  
[h.o.nsugbe@2022.ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:h.o.nsugbe@2022.ljmu.ac.uk).

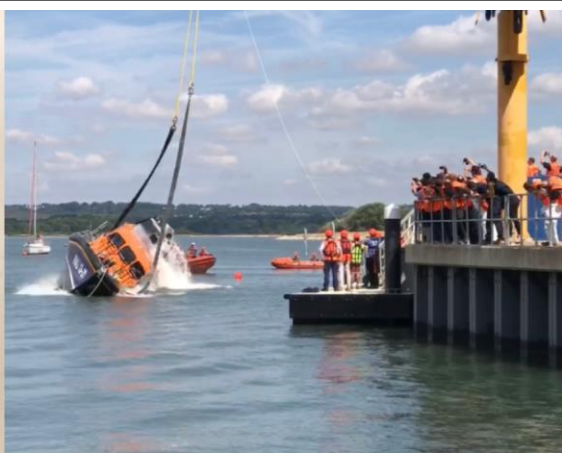
In your email please state CPMH PND seminar and in-person or online

#### Abstract

Despite its auspicious beginnings in 1824 when it raised £10,000 in its first year, by 1849 the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) had an income of just £354 and less than 20 lifeboats, many of which were literally rotting away around the coast. By 1897, however, the RNLI had almost 300 well maintained lifeboats encircling Britain and Ireland and an annual income of £60,000. With the RNLI on the cusp of its bicentenary in 2024, this seminar will explore this pivotal period in the charity's organisational development through the prism of two events: the RNLI's receipt of a government subsidy between 1854 and 1869 and a Parliamentary inquiry into its management and operations in 1897, neither of which have received significant attention in either the RNLI's own historiography or the wider literature on nineteenth century charity and philanthropy and maritime safety reform.



TESTING SELF-RIGHTING BOAT.



#### Biography

Dr Sam Jones is in her sixth year of a part-time PhD in maritime history at the Centre for Maritime Historical Studies at the University of Exeter. She has an LLB in law from the London School of Economics (1989) and a DPhil in socio-legal studies from the University of Oxford (1992). Sam is also an RNLI volunteer, joining the lifeboat crew at Tobermory in 2010 where she is now the station's volunteer lifeboat operations manager (one of the first women to hold the role in the RNLI). Sam is also a member of the RNLI's Scottish Council.