

# NATIONAL INDEPENDENT LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1197997

## Details

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**Other names** NILA

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2022-02-21

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 2 Selborne Road  
Margate  
Kent  
CT9 3SP

**Phone** 07494 124795

**Email** [secretary@nila.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nila.org.uk)

**Website** [www.nila.org.uk](http://www.nila.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** THE OBJECT OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENT LIFEBOAT ASSOCIATION IS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT, TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF LIFE ON THE WATER BY SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT LIFEBOATS AND ASSOCIATED ORGANISATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UK. IN ORDER TO SAVE LIVES AND PROMOTE WATER SAFETY, THE NILA WILL, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY, PROVIDE ACCESS TO OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING, GROUP PURCHASING, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND FUNDRAISING SUPPORT, AS WELL AS RAISE AWARENESS OF THE WORK OF INDEPENDENT LIFEBOATS NATIONALLY BOTH PUBLICLY AND POLITICALLY AND ACT AS A LIAISON BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONS AND THE MCA / RNLI.

**Activities:** The National Independent Lifeboat Association will ensure the preservation and protection of life on the water by supporting independent lifeboats and associated organisations throughout the UK. In order to save lives and promote water safety, the NILA will provide access to training, group purchasing, public education and fundraising support, as well as raise awareness both locally and publicly.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Jersey
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£32,814	£4,674	-	-
2023-12-31	£2,655	£891	-	-
2022-12-31	£2,002	£865	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>John Neil Dalton</b>	Chair	2022-02-02
David Harvey		2022-09-22
Michael Messenger		2024-03-19
Sean Patrick McCarry OBE		2022-02-02
Shaun Egan		2025-03-13
Wayne Brian Monks		2022-02-02

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# Accounts

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Since the last Annual General Meeting, the trustees have diligently continued their efforts to promote the National Independent Lifeboat Association (NILA). Unfortunately, the planned drop-in meeting for October could not proceed due to the proroguing of Parliament. However, the Chairman used this time productively, arranging a one-to-one meeting with Anthony Mangnall during a visit to London, where he provided an update on our progress.

In February, Wayne and David represented NILA at the Dinghy Show, where they successfully promoted the association through a dedicated stall. Subsequently, the drop-in session for MPs was rescheduled and took place on March 4th, attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and North Area Lead. The event was a notable success, drawing many MPs. Among the key outcomes was a consensus on the need to revive Grant Aid for Independent Lifeboats, alongside discussions about potential grant funding for training, particularly given that the previous LIBOR-funded grant for training has expired without a new sponsor emerging.

A meeting with UKsar covered the anticipated requirements under the new Rescue Boat Code, including discussions on first aid qualification levels and clinical governance, particularly with Paddy Morgan from HMCG. However, at the time of the meeting, nothing was finalised. Additionally, progress from the Blue Light Driving Committee was reported, with proposals expected this year, though their implementation has been delayed by the dissolution of Parliament before the general election.

Membership has continued to grow, with new members joining, bringing our total to 38. Unfortunately, Anthony Mangnall lost his seat in the general election on July 4th, creating uncertainty regarding our access to Parliament. Nevertheless, Anthony has recommended Paul Holmes MP as a potential advocate for our cause and has graciously agreed to remain as our President, offering further suggestions for prominent figures who could serve as trustees.

In July, we received notice of the collapse of CAVRA and their generous donation of assets to NILA. Once these assets are catalogued and valued, they may be put up for sale, after which a discussion will be held on how to utilise the funds. It is not anticipated that the amount raised will be significant.

Throughout the year, we have approached various suppliers to negotiate preferential rates for NILA members. Several suppliers have responded positively, and we will be distributing the details shortly. However, engagement with our Facebook page remains lukewarm, with only a few members actively participating. Similarly, contributions to our magazine have been sparse. Wayne has passed responsibility for the magazine to Tony Ross from ESRA, who brings extensive experience in this area. Both the Facebook page and the magazine present valuable opportunities for sharing news, information, and insights.

There was a query this year regarding whether NILA could adopt a more centralized approach to publicity, akin to the RNLI. However, unlike the RNLI, which operates as a corporate body with control over its operations, training, and equipment, NILA's strength lies in its members retaining their independence. Therefore, a "one size fits all" approach is not feasible. Instead, I encourage all members to actively engage with their local communities to raise awareness of Independent Lifeboats.

Regarding the requirements of maintaining a Declared Facility Agreement (DFA) with HMCG, it appears that qualification standards are tightening. Several members have recently undergone inspections by their DLO, and while these should not be feared, there is an increasing emphasis on adhering to the agreement. In fact, it was suggested that organizations may now face five-yearly inspections, with interim visits. One particular concern raised was the standard of competence in radio procedures.

Rob Mathews has been compiling a library of documents offering guidance on maintaining records for your DFA and on achieving boat coding. While many of you likely have your own documentation, I would recommend reviewing these materials as they may prove useful. Additionally, it is advisable to ensure that all members are familiar with the HMCG's code of conduct, which we are expected to follow.

A request was received this year for NILA's submission to the Cranston Inquiry into migrant deaths in the Channel. Although we do not currently have boats operating in the Channel, we provided a requested copy of the Rescue Boat Code. DFA documentation was requested but it was explained that these matters are handled between individual organizations and HMCG. We have since received acknowledgment of our submission.

Lastly, an article on NILA and its role within the Search and Rescue (SAR) community was published in the July edition of *Fishing News*, further raising the profile of our organization. Over the past year, awareness of NILA's influence and importance within the SAR sector has increased significantly. We anticipate that our seat on the UKsar Committee will become permanent this year, further underscoring the growing recognition of Independent Lifeboat organizations among both the public and policymakers.

Neil Dalton

Chairman

Income		Expenditure	
membership fees	£4,098.40	Shows	£ 2,184.00
CAVRA equipment	£26,451.34	Insurance	£ 477.86
donations	£250.29	Other	£ 2,012.50
gift aid	£394.99		
bank refund	£1,620.00		
Total	£32,815.02	Total	£ 4,674.36
Opening Balance	£5,985.15		
Closing Balance	£34,125.81		

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## **NILA Chairmans report 2023**

Since the last AGM, the trustees of Nila have continued to work diligently towards establishing the organisation's credentials.

The organisation has continued to expand with several new members joining since the launch and last AGM and others seeking admission.

Monthly meetings of the trustees took place the main issue being obtaining a seat on UKSAR committee. The committee was extremely helpful in our pursuit of membership giving advice and support throughout, regular liaison meetings between UKSAR and the trustees have been taking place since the last AGM and I am pleased to say that a probationary membership for 12 months has been achieved.

In January a Parliamentary debate took place on Independent Lifeboats and Lifeboat coverage overall within the UK, which provided the opportunity for expanding awareness and increasing the knowledge of independent boats and the existence of NILA.

During the first months of the new year the trustees issued a request for volunteers to undertake Regional Lead roles and applications were received and accepted for the following posts. Regional Team Leader Mike Messenger, assisted by Rob Matthews and Mark Carwadine, Communication Team Leader, Chris Rudders.

Monthly Trustees meetings have now been re-scheduled to bi-monthly with intervening general management meetings.

In addition, membership of the National Water Safety Forum coastal group has been achieved with Neil Dalton and Wayne Monks representing NILA.

Several issues were raised by members in the early part of the year concerning training costs and insurance costs.

In addition to these a major issue concerning the use of Blue Lights on vehicles arose, the present code for this is being scrutinized at the moment with our Vice Chairman sitting on the relevant committee. Until this committee has completed its deliberations and issued its findings NILA cannot support, condone or excuse the use of blue lights without destroying our credibility. There has been a lot of press interest in this with the possibility of negative press occurring for NILA. I would please ask that should this occur, and you have been using blue lights and complaints are raised, that you contact NILA first for assistance in formulating a suitable response. Clarification on any new regulations can be obtained by contacting our vice chairman Sean McCarry direct.

There is an increasing use of the NILA facebook page for exchange of information and ideas which is exactly as it should be, use it as a forum for members to assist one another.

The HMCG Rescue Boat Code is also being revised to make compliance easier, this should hopefully help those members, seeking compliance and also Declared Facility status, not finding the task so onerous. Advice and help are always available from the regional team leaders and those members who have achieved the status, this is a major role and aim of NILA.

A drop-in meeting for MPs has been arranged on October 31<sup>st</sup> at Westminster and I would urge all members to encourage their local MPs to attend and to keep them updated on the activities of your organisation.

Several commercial companies which are able to supply equipment and services to Independent Lifeboats have made enquiries and requested advertising on our facebook page. Whilst the trustees feel unable to offer recommendations, they are happy to inform members what is on offer and if a company is offering discounts to members. Possible use of our closed page for advertising is being discussed.

Once again NILA will have a stand at the NEC for the Emergency Services show within the UKsar zone, any members who feel they can assist with this should contact the secretary.

Exchange of information is a key to the value of NILA and I would encourage all of you to participate when appropriate, Rob Matthews is currently preparing a library of forms which may be useful to members pursuing Coding or Declared Facility status. These are meant as an initial aid and not as a requirement of NILA.

I would like to finish by assuring all that the current trustees continue to work on the development of NILA which we regard as a work in progress, I extend my thanks to include the regional officers who are making valuable contributions on your behalf to NILA.

I would finish by acknowledging the continued help and inspiration given by Anthony Mangnall MP and Rachel Roberts for keeping NILA to the forefront of minds at

Westminster. Another parliamentary event has been scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> October to give the opportunity for further dissemination of information regarding NILA and the work of Independent Lifeboats.