

Sue Hickson-Marsay Biography

Sue Hickson-Marsay is Hornsea Lifeboat's station manager, began her career in lifeguarding at Hull's Woodford Leisure Centre in 1991 while also serving as a coastguard in Hornsea.

That year, the coastguard's inshore patrol boat was moved to Hull, leaving Hornsea with no emergency cover, and the nearest RNLI stations were at Bridlington and Withernsea. Several local people, including Sue, decided to set up their own independent lifeboat and charity.

Within three years, enough money was raised to purchase their first lifeboat and Hornsea Inshore Rescue became operational in 1994. Sue was then working full-time as a training instructor for Humberside Offshore Training Agency (HOTA), teaching sea survival techniques and emergency helicopter procedures to workers in the offshore oil and gas industry. Her spare time was taken up looking after her horses, dogs and donkeys and being a crew member for Hornsea Inshore Rescue.

In 1997, Sue became the only female pilot launch coxswain in the country, ferrying pilots up to 25 miles offshore, and in all weather conditions, to the ships entering and leaving the Humber.

In 2000 Sue was appointed a Churchill Fellow and was awarded a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship to spend six weeks in Australia and New Zealand studying pilotage operations, search and rescue and water safety for children. On her return Sue won the Churchill Fellow of the Year Award, which was presented at a ceremony by Churchill's daughter, Mary Soames.

Sue has also won numerous awards including the Women of Achievement Award from Women in Business, is a major fundraiser for the RNLI and was awarded the MBE