

# Archive Trinity House News: 2009

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## Trinity House Beams as Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre re-opens on 6th April

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Mainland UK's most southerly tourist attraction will re-open its doors to the public on 6th April after an extensive updating and refurbishment programme. As well as being the location of a vital aid to navigation guiding ships safely through the English Channel, the Lizard Lighthouse is also home to an exciting new Heritage Centre.

Thanks to the award of a significant grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Trinity House has carried out a major refurbishment of its Visitor Centre and incorporated new, inter-active displays that demonstrate the importance of lighthouses to the safety of shipping around our coasts, the critical role that lighthouses and lighthouse keepers have played through the years and how Trinity House carries out its vital role both now and into the future.

The new Visitor Centre is designed to appeal to people of all ages and interests. An education programme has also been prepared to support this initiative which, through relating associated activities to the National Curriculum, will provide teachers and educational establishments with a valuable tool for their pupils. Lighthouses and aids to navigation correlate to education across a number of topics including, science, geography, history and mathematics.

Among the many things for everyone to see and do at the Lizard are:

- ⌚ The history of the Lighthouse;
- ⌚ How lighthouse keepers lived and carried out their duties and the impact on their families;
- ⌚ The evolution of lighthouses and other marine aids to navigation;
- ⌚ The workings of the old air driven fog signal (which will be sounded from time to time);
- ⌚ The history of Trinity House;
- ⌚ How modern aids to navigation now work alongside more traditional lighthouses and buoys

A series of interactive and audio-visual displays take visitors through an interesting and informative route, before offering the opportunity to have a guided tour of the operational lighthouse tower.

Both the external and internal fabric of the Engine Room, a Listed Building like the rest of the site, have been refurbished and a new Welsh Slate roof has been laid preserving this important site for generations to come.

The main exhibition area has been imaginatively re-designed to give flexibility to the room. It can be

made available to the local residential and business community for a range of activities, presentations, meetings, etc.

Ends

31/03/2009

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## Notes To Editors

Further information is available from Trinity House by calling Marketing via 01255 245000 or emailing [enquiries@thls.org](mailto:enquiries@thls.org) Alternatively visit [www.lizardlighthouse.co.uk](http://www.lizardlighthouse.co.uk) or [www.trinityhouse.co.uk](http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk)

### 1. 2009 Opening Times

April 12 – 4 pm Sat – Weds + Good Friday (Closed Thurs, Fri)

May 11am – 4pm Sat – Weds (Closed Thurs, Fri)

June 11am – 5pm Sat – Weds (Closed Thurs, Fri)

July 11am – 6pm Daily

August 11am – 7pm Daily

September 11am – 5pm Sat – Weds (Closed Thurs, Fri)

October 11am – 4pm Sun – Weds (Closed Thurs, Fri, Sat)

November & December 12 – 4pm Sun – Weds (Closed Thurs, Fri, Sat)

### Admission Charges

#### Heritage Centre

Adult £4.00

Children (to age 16) £2.00

Concessions (Students/Senior Citizens) £3.50

Family (2 adults & up to 3 children) £10.00

#### Heritage Centre & Lighthouse Tour

Adult £5.00

Children (to age 16) £2.50

Concessions (Students/Senior Citizens) £4.50

Family (2 adults & up to 3 children) £12.50

### 2. Trinity House

Trinity House is the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) for England and Wales, with responsibility for nearly 600 Aids to Navigation, from traditional aids such as lighthouses, buoys and beacons to the latest satellite navigation technology. In addition it inspects over 10,000 local Aids to Navigation provided by port and harbour authorities, and those positioned on offshore structures.

Incorporated by Royal Charter in 1514, the Corporation is also a major maritime charity, wholly funded by its endowments. The Corporation spends around £3m each year on its charitable activities including welfare of mariners, education and training, the promotion of safety at sea, and its role as a Deep Sea Pilotage Authority.

More information can be found at [www.trinityhouse.co.uk](http://www.trinityhouse.co.uk)

### 3. Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) was set up by Parliament in 1994 to give grants to a wide range of projects involving the local, regional and national heritage of the United Kingdom. We distribute a share of the money raised by the National Lottery for Good Causes.

This year, we will allocate around £220 million to projects in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Since 1994 HLF has awarded over £4.3 billion to more than 28,800 projects across the UK.

We are officially known as a 'non-departmental public body'. This means that, although we are not a government department, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport issues financial and policy directions to us and we report to Parliament through the department. Our decisions about individual applications and policies are entirely independent.

HLF is administered by the Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) which allocates around £10 million per annum to our national heritage, acting as a fund of 'last resort'. More information can be found at [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

## Response to Government Announcement on Light Dues

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Trinity House welcomes the Government's announcement yesterday (10 June 2009) on Light Dues.

Trinity House is pleased to have been able to play a constructive role during the recent period of discussion, working hard to mitigate the impact of this necessary adjustment. The level at which Light Dues have been set, while allowing us to maintain our safety remit, will provide for some difficult decisions over the next year and require greater efficiencies from us.

As is well documented, Light Dues have not increased for nearly twenty years; indeed over the last 10 years they have been reduced by 50%. This situation has been brought about by Trinity House and the other GLAs working closely together to provide a cost effective and efficient aids to navigation service around our coast. So competent has been this work that in 2006, with the knowledge of the industry, Light Dues were cut heavily and the GLF run at a loss. The shipping industry was aware at the time that a future rise in Light Dues would be necessary to finance the essential safety work of the GLAs.

However, because we have always worked so closely with representatives of all parts of the marine industry, we do appreciate the difficulties that the current financial constraints impose. The economies we have made over recent years have been translated into significant savings for shipowners. At Trinity House we have closed 50% of our depots, and reduced our staff by 33% and our fleet by 25%, well ahead of the expected economic downturn. The further savings we have made in current and future budgets - operating efficiencies and capital project deferrals - have gone far in allowing the Government to announce a much reduced level of light dues increase.

Trinity House and the other GLAs look forward to continuing to work with the Government, the shipping industry and other stakeholders on these issues. However, after our recent considerable rationalisation, our room for further savings is much reduced, and we will not jeopardise the high standards necessary to support safety at sea.

Our practical delivery of aids to navigation is largely in the hands of experienced professional seamen and engineers who are amongst the least likely to wish to expose mariners and shipowners to greater levels of expense than absolutely necessary. In last week's House of Commons debate, MPs of all parties paid tribute to the way Trinity House and the other GLAs so effectively discharge their responsibilities to a high standard in some of the most complex and high-risk shipping lanes in the world.

We are not complacent about this situation, and we will strive, as ever, to find economies while fulfilling our statutory duties.

11/06/2009

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**Notes To Editors**

For further information, please contact:

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## HRH The Princess Royal officially opens the Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre

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Mainland UK's most southerly visitor attraction, the Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre was officially opened today (13 July) by HRH The Princess Royal.

During the mid-morning ceremony, The Princess Royal visited the new Heritage Centre at the Trinity House owned and maintained Lizard lighthouse site, inspected the operational lighthouse, viewed a holiday cottage and met many of the people involved in the development of the new Heritage Centre, former keepers and local people. Her Royal Highness, who is an Elder Brother of Trinity House, then unveiled a plinth, made from locally sourced granite, to commemorate the occasion.

Also present was Landewednack CP School. Year six pupil Torla Lyne, accompanied by year 1's Rudy Donovan, presented Her Royal Highness with a posy.

Trinity House's Executive Chairman, Rear Admiral Sir Jeremy de Halpert, commented, "We are highly honoured The Princess Royal has officially opened the Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre. This Heritage Centre is a testament to the centuries of hard work and excellence many, many people have undertaken on behalf of Trinity House to ensure the safety of mariners as they navigate the busy seas around our coastline. I am so pleased to see some former lighthouse keepers associated with the Lizard present today, as well as members of the team who continue to promote safety at sea on a daily basis and develop new and increasingly more efficient methods for the future.

"We are also very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the award of a generous grant that, together with additional funding from the Trinity House educational charity arm, facilitated the project. Without this funding we would not have been able to provide a fitting and lasting testimonial to the critical contribution made by lighthouses and lighthouse keepers to the safety of mariners and to safeguarding trade.

"One thing is for certain," Sir Jeremy continued, "the methods of helping mariners navigate their way safely and expeditiously around our dangerous coasts are changing, and will continue to do so as technological developments permit. However, Trinity House will continue to ensure that we use our skills and experience to provide the most efficient and cost effective mix of aids to navigation for the benefit and safety of all mariners."

13/07/2009

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## **Notes To Editors**

### **Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre**

Since completion of the automation programme in 1998 Trinity House has been seeking to create a lasting testimonial to the contribution that both lighthouses and lighthouse keepers have made to the safety of navigation and of mariners. Many Trinity House lighthouses are open to the public but space restrictions mean that the focus is usually on what is happening today rather than demonstrating the evolution of lighthouses over time.

The now redundant former fog signal engine room at the Lizard provided the opportunity to house this story that forms a critical element in the history of Britain as an island nation. However, the monies available to Trinity House through the collection of Light Dues are for the provision and maintenance of current aids to navigation. In 2007 Trinity House made a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a grant to create what has become the Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre. The HLF grant provided the bulk of the necessary funding but the Trinity House charity also provided grant money. The Trinity House monies were directed towards the educational elements of the project.

Following the approval of the HLF, an in-house team was formed to oversee the development. Using, as far as possible, local suppliers work started on site in September 2008 and continued throughout the autumn and winter with completion on time and on budget by the end of March 2009.

The Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre opened its doors on 6 April 2009.

The official opening by The Princess Royal took place in front of an invited audience of those Trinity House personnel involved in the project, the various suppliers and contractors, former lighthouse keepers, local representatives, members of the Board of Trinity House and local dignitaries and representatives. Pupils and teachers from Landewednack CP School were also there to welcome The Princess Royal.

Aside from the Heritage Centre, there are six holiday cottages on site. For more information about these please visit [www.cornishcottagesonline.com](http://www.cornishcottagesonline.com).

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