

Bravery award for builder



Pic. Martin Cavaney Photography

Martin Williams is pictured with Mayor of Neyland, Clr. Margaret Brace (left) and Chrissy King, port officer for the Fishermen's Mission.

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A local builder has been honoured for a totally selfless act of bravery.

On November 21 last year, Chrissy King witnessed the rescue by Martin Williams who had been working on a house on Neyland Promenade when he spotted a dramatic incident unfolding on the waterway.

In atrocious weather, Martin jumped over the railings on the promenade and ran the length of the beach jumping into a tender drifting onto Llanstadwell beach and went out to the middle of the Haven to save a pensioner who had got entangled in a rope attached to his dinghy.

Martin released the man and took him safely back to Neyland beach. From there, the man, who has not been traced since the incident, was taken to hospital suffering from hypothermia.

"It was a totally unselfish act by Martin with no thought for his own safety," explained Chrissy.

"I could hear cries for help and 'phoned the coastguard, but in the meantime, I saw Martin running to help."

Chrissy continued: "As port officer for the Fishermen's Mission, I am invited by the Royal Humane Society to nominate anyone I feel who deserves an award for bravery. I saw a report about the incident and followed it up asking them to get in touch with Martin for me and get his details. After speaking with Martin, I had no hesitation in nominating him."

On Wednesday night, a reception was held in Neyland Council Chamber, attended by Neyland and Llanstadwell councillors, including the Mayor, Clr. Margaret Brace, who presented Martin with his award.

Humane Society honour for hero who pulled man from the Haven

By Becky Hotchin

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A LOCAL builder who rescued a 71-year-old man clinging for his life to a marker buoy has been honoured by the Royal Humane Society.

Marthin Williams, from Haverfordwest, was working at a property on the Promenade, Neyland, last November when he heard screams for help coming from the water.

He saw a man clinging to the mooring buoy of a yacht and a dinghy washed up on the beach towards Llanstadwell. The man had slipped while climbing from the dinghy into the yacht and had been in the water for around 25 minutes.

Keen sportsman Marthin ran across the mud flats to the boat, rowed it out to deeper water and then started the engine. He got to the distressed pensioner, whose cries for help were getting fainter. He managed to free the man's foot and drag him into the dinghy before racing back to shore.

After the emergency services arrived, Marthin changed out of his wet clothes and went back to his plastering.

"I just did what I had to do," he said after the incident. "There was no thought, it was total instinct. It was what I hope somebody would

do for me if I was ever in that situation."

Marthin was nominated for his act of heroism by Chris-ty King, South Wales port officer for the Fishermen's Mission.

She watched the drama unfold from her home and rang the emergency services. Before they arrived Marthin had rescued the man.

"This man jumps over the over prom railings, runs the length of the beach, gets in the little boat, goes out to the middle of the Haven and rescues the man," she said. "He never hesitated."

When the Society contacted the Fisherman's Mission to see if they had any nominations, Chrissy thought immediately of Marthin.

"I hadn't met him before he was awarded the certificate," she said. "What a lovely man, he was genuinely overwhelmed and thrilled."

"I was chuffed," said Marthin who has hung the award in pride of place in his home. "I'm really proud. I was over the moon to get recognition."



The award was presented to Marthin Williams by Neyland Mayor, Cllr Mrs Margaret Brace, pictured with Deputy Mayor or Cllr Simon Hancock and Chrissy King, south Wales Port Officer for the Fishermen's Mission. PIC: Marthin Cavaney

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