

The Shipwrecked Sailors of Start Point



Teachers notes

A note for the teacher.

This is a dramatic story from an extraordinary weather event and it's also a tragic story of loss of life in appalling conditions. The children, and you, are living through extraordinary times at the moment, with news of tragedy and death reaching us all. As the teacher you will know if there are any children in your class, or adults in your school, who may find this subject a difficult one. We understand that it's a sensitive time for people and a schools guide to bereavement is included in this pack.

We hope this won't be the case and that the children will create wonderful new stories with imaginative endings. That in the process they can develop their literacy and learn about history, local history, weather and their home environment too.

Please contact Nicky Bailey if you have any questions or would like some more guidance.

Here are some links that you may find useful to look at.

1. A detailed **map** of the coast including cove and rock names as it was in 1891 with a slider to compare with modern times

http://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/build_nls_historic_map.pl?search_location=,%20East%20Prawle,%20Devon&latitude=50.211402&longitude=-3.711168&password=freesearch@freesearch.com

2. **Reference from the time** - A Victorian book called the Great Blizzard 1891 details events from various west country locations. It gives a lot of insight into what it was like and the impacts of the storm. It's not child friendly, but will make good background reading and there are some wonderful words and phrases in it. It was written only 3 weeks after the storm to record what happened.

https://www.gutenberg.org/files/43758/43758-h/43758-h.htm#CHAPTER_II

3. Lots of **local history** and photographs of the area on East Prawle History Society website, including pages on the restoration of the church.

<https://eastprawlehistorysociety.co.uk>

4. **Drawing** of a woman walking past Chivelstone Church – 1892-1933

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/item/CGH01/01/1082>

5. **Music** - there are lots of great Sea shanties and folk music about the sea and sailing. This is a modern piece which is lovely and tells of a wife's loss of her fisherman husband -

Lament for the fisherman's wife - <https://suhart.com/music-2/>

This is a traditional English folk song - *a ship in distress*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_7Flm67-V4

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5. Safety on board ships <https://eastprawlehistorysociety.co.uk/rocket-apparatus>

The rocket apparatus is mentioned in Mrs Perry's story for three reasons.

it's part of the story of what happened

it's a significant part of local, coastal history and matter of pride for local people

this storm brought about changes for the better

Pre 09/03/1891 the rocket apparatus was kept at Prawle.

Post 09/03/1891 they also kept one at Hallsands so it didn't have to travel so far when crisis struck.

It's interesting to look at why and when improvements to maritime safety come into force. For example, after the Royal Charter Storm of 1859 in the Irish Sea (with terrible loss of life) the National Gale Warning Service was brought in in 1860 inspired by Captain Robert Fitzroy. Today it's known as The Shipping Forecast.

<https://rnli.org/about-us/our-history/timeline/1854-first-lifejackets>

Life jackets were invented in 1854

Lifebelts were compulsory on ships by 1891.

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The AONB and the 60th anniversary project, plus anything generally about schools work and the Shipwrecked Sailors project
- **Vicky Tucker - Chivelstone Church PCC restoration and community project, plus East Prawle History Society**
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The restoration project, the church and local history.
- **Sara Hurley - Storyteller**
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Any information on story making and story telling

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