



TRINITY HOUSE

A BRIEF TIMELINE OF TRINITY HOUSE HISTORY

The Corporation of Trinity House of Deptford Strond has a long and interesting history, which began officially in May 1514. This timeline offers a glance at some of the milestones.



1514

Royal Charter granted on 20 May by Henry VIII to the Corporation of Trinity House; Sir Thomas Spert is the first Master



1566

Elizabeth I grants to Trinity House the power to build lighthouses and other seamarks for the protection of seafarers



1594

Elizabeth I confers upon Trinity House ballastage rights on the Thames, an important early income for the charity



1604

James I grants Trinity House rights concerning the compulsory pilotage of shipping, and the exclusive right to license pilots in the River Thames



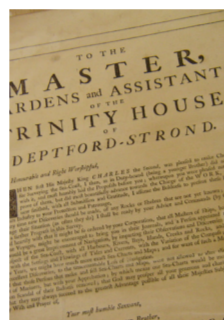
1609

We build our first lighthouses at Lowestoft, to protect shipping along the coast of East Anglia



1676

Renowned diarist and Naval Administrator Samuel Pepys is elected Master of Trinity House



1685

James II issues a renewed Royal Charter to Trinity House; this document is still the foundation of our authority today



1698

Eddystone becomes the first rock lighthouse in Europe, built by Henry Winstanley; it is destroyed by a storm in 1703



1732

The first lightvessel in the world is moored near the Nore Sands at the mouth of the River Thames



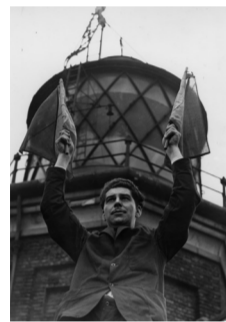
1759

The third Eddystone Lighthouse is built; pioneering civil engineer John Smeaton uses dovetailed stone blocks in the shape of an oak tree



1796

Our current headquarters are built at Tower Hill. Today the Grade I Listed building is one of London's most prestigious venues



1803

The Blackwall workshops are established by the Thames, becoming a hub for engineering and lighthouse keeper training



1836

Trinity House is given compulsory powers to acquire and maintain all private lighthouses



1838

Grace Darling, the daughter of the keeper at Longstone Lighthouse, rows out to save nine victims of the wrecked *Forfarshire* steamer



1858

Electricity introduced to the first Trinity House lighthouse at South Foreland



1882

The present Eddystone Lighthouse (the fourth to be established), designed by Sir James Douglass, is completed



1940

The Trinity House headquarters in London is destroyed during the Blitz. The house is faithfully restored in 1953



1958

Almshouses for retired mariners are built at Walmer, Kent, the latest in a tradition predating even our first Royal Charter



1969

First reliefs of lighthouse keepers by helicopters are trialled



1977

Last oil burning light removed from a Trinity House lighthouse at St. Mary's Bay, Tynemouth



1982

Eddystone Lighthouse becomes the first Trinity House rock lighthouse to be converted to automatic operation; THV *Patricia* is delivered



1989

Lightsmen are withdrawn from the Channel station, the last manned Trinity House lightvessel



1991

Lundy North becomes the first Trinity House lighthouse to be converted to solar powered operation



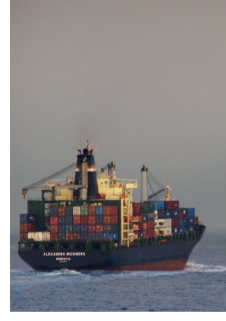
1993

The conversion of Trinity House buoys to solar power is completed



1998

Keepers are withdrawn from North Foreland, the last manned Trinity House lighthouse



2002

The Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) network provided by the General Lighthouse Authorities becomes operational



2006

THV *Alert* enters service, becoming Trinity House's first Rapid Intervention Vessel

2007

THV *Galatea* is delivered, the most advanced vessel ever built by Trinity House



2008

Development of e-navigation concepts such as AIS, eLoran and DGPS begins



2011

New power systems reduce CO₂ emissions. HRH The Princess Royal elected Master



2014

Trinity House celebrates 500 years of service to the mariner

2025+

The General Lighthouse Authorities' strategy for the UK and Ireland's marine aids to navigation for 2025 and beyond is realised