

A man recalls how the Southend-on-Sea lifeboat helped rescue residents of Canewdon, Foulness Island, and Wallasea Island. Those rescued were brought to the Corinthian Yacht Club in Burnham-on-Crouch to be given tea and support.

‘The Southend lifeboat at that present time had been going over to Foulness and Canewdon and Wallasea trying to rescue people from the farms and bring them to the Corinthian Yacht Club where they could be fed and warmed and looked after. They were coming up with their few possessions and that sort of thing. And so thankful, you know to be rescued. And soon they were given tea, and meals, and nice armchairs, and that sort of thing, you know. And people were coming in from the WRVS – WVS as it was in those days – and just looking after, saying now can I phone so-and-so, auntie so-and-so, and looking after people generally. It was a wonderful spirit, and these people were so thankful.’

The interview was broadcast on BBC Essex in 1988 as part of the programme ‘Tide on Tide’ [SA 1/313/1]