

KATY WILKS (P86-94)

She was born in 1976 and when only 19 years old saved a life from drowning at Felixstowe. The following is a summary of the full story that was included in the Spring 1996 OF Magazine :-

When Katy Wilks arranged to meet a group of OF friends in April 1995, for a day out in Felixstowe, she had no idea that by the end of the day she would become the latest in the line OFs to be honoured for lifesaving by the Royal Humane Society.

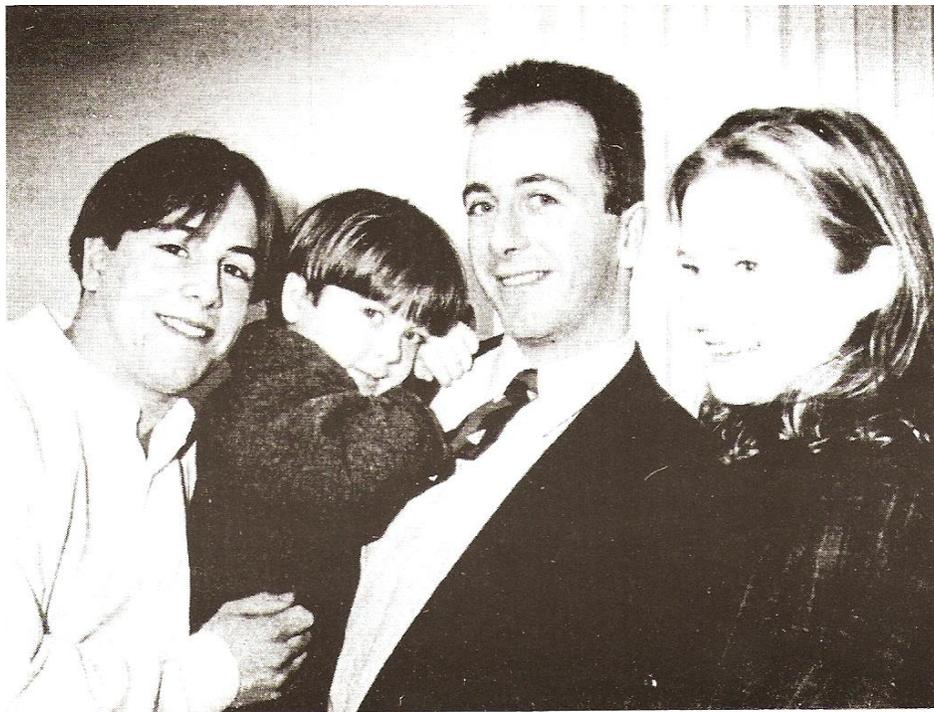
Katy, who started at Brandeston, went all through Framlingham and then on to York University. With fellow university student John Noble and OFs Adrian Leek, Mark Roderick, Sam Hayes, Edward Hanlow, Jeremy McIlveen and Antonia Key she helped save the life of a 3 year old William Cardwell.

The boy had fallen from Felixstowe Pier 100 metres from the shore and was swept underneath it. The group heard the mother's cry for help and John Noble jumped in, grabbed the boy and clung to one of the pier supports.

Katy meanwhile, had found a lifebelt and reached them with it. The OF team then hauled young William to safety.

On 4 January 1996 the Mayor of Felixstowe presented John Noble with the Royal Humane Society's testimonial and Katy their certificate for helping to save a life. She was also awarded some book tokens by the Vice Chancellor of York University.

William's mother said of the 2 awardees "They were just fabulous. John reacted instantly and jumped into the water ten seconds after William fell in. Katy was the calming influence on the pier. She stopped all the panic going on and we are full of admiration for these two people. We cannot thank them enough. To them it means they saved somebody's life. To us it means they saved our son."



*Katy Wilks with John Noble (left)
and William Cardwell in father's arms*