



## STORIES FROM THE SEA

## SHIPWRECK OBJECTS



### KNOCKER

#### Date made

Unknown (19th century)

#### Object ref.

GRYEH : 1971.8

#### Credit

Great Yarmouth Museums

#### Description

The coastguards and lifeboat men were all volunteers in Victorian times. They were not paid to rescue people. Before the telephone was invented it was very difficult to tell everyone when a ship was in trouble. Every lifeboat station had a spotter, who would watch the sea and look for signs of trouble. If he saw an emergency rocket then he would sound the alarm to launch the lifeboat. A boy from the lifeboat station would run into town to fetch the crew. Every lifeboat man had a knocker like this outside

their bedroom window, with a long piece of string going all the way to the ground. The runner would pull the piece of string and bang on the window to wake them up.

#### Questions

1. What other ways could you wake up the lifeboat men?
2. Imagine you are a lifeboat man. You wake up in the middle of the night and hear the banging on your window! How would you feel? Write down a list of the emotions you might have.