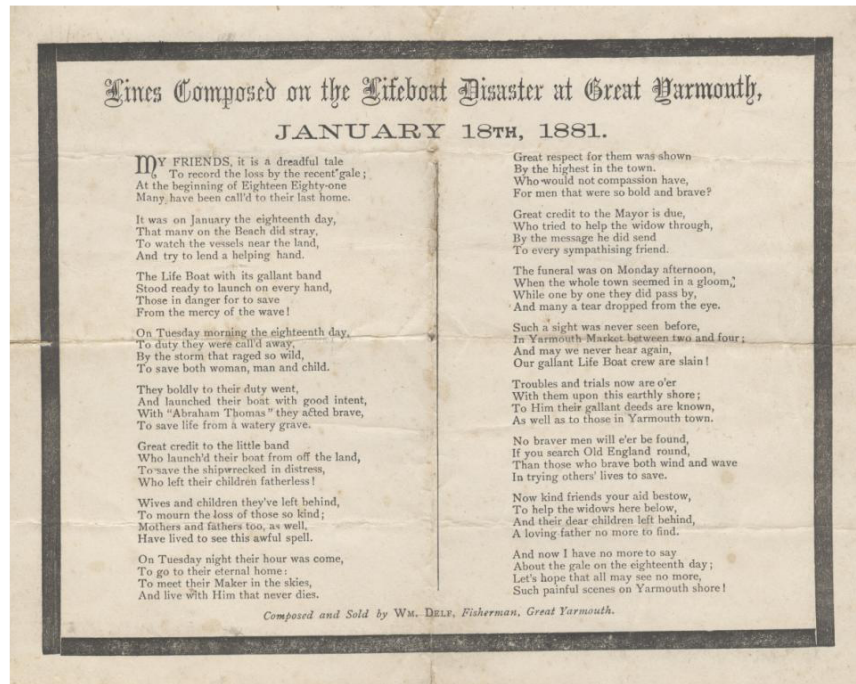


## STORIES FROM THE SEA

## SHIPWRECK OBJECTS



## POEM

### Date made

1881

### Object ref.

GRYEH : 1979.4

### Credit

Great Yarmouth Museums

### Artist/maker

William Delf

## Description

In 1881 a disaster happened off the coast of Great Yarmouth. The local lifeboat was trying to help a sinking ship in a ferocious storm, when a huge wave smashed into it and rolled it over. Six lifeboat men were drowned. To raise money for their families, and to build a new lifeboat, local people made things and sold them to visitors, then they gave the money to the lifeboat volunteers. A local fisherman called William Delf wrote this poem. He had it printed and sold to raise money. The poem begins;

'My Friends it is a dreadful tale  
To record the loss by the recent gale;  
At the beginning of Eighteen Eighty-one  
Many have been call'd to their last home.

It was on January the Eighteenth day,  
That many on the beach did stray  
To watch the vessels near the land,  
And try to lend a helping hand.'

## Questions

- Using these two verses to start, write your own poem about the 1881 lifeboat disaster.
- In what other ways could the local people have raised money for the lifeboat men.

