

Newsletter 2009

The Services

Yet another busy year with 79 launches by our lifeboats. We have launched the all-weather boat 13 times and the inshore lifeboat on 50 occasions. The 'D' class/boarding boat has responded to 16 shouts. As always there is no single category of casualty but over recent years there has been an obvious increase in tasking to different types of leisure users. Local RNLI lifeguards have reduced the number of incidents requiring us to respond close to the beaches. For details of all services visit

www.appledorelifeboat.org.uk

Changes at Station

Keith, our Mechanic, left to take up a new role within the RNLI of Divisional Technician based in the North East. Owen Atkinson, our 2nd Coxswain, was appointed as his replacement in August. Crew members Cassie Day, Martin Davis and Richard Crossman left, but new volunteers Stuart Moles, Stuart Arnett-Clark and Mark Peters have all joined and we have three others who are 'checking us out'! David Maxwell retired, and Marion Trapnell resigned, from their roles as Deputy Launching Authorities. Andrew Littlejohn joined the team of station officers as a DLA.

But, we are short of new recruits for the boat, so please spread the word, particularly to anyone who might be available in Appledore/ Northam during the day, Monday to Friday, when cover is most difficult to find. **Ladies** – you don't always have to be the ones left on shore – we would welcome you on the crew too!

Current crew: 2 full-time, 18 boat crew, 8 shore crew, 10 station officers

Well done and thank you to the crew and station officers who have left, and to those who have just joined, welcome - we all wish you every success.

Station News - 2009

Because our boarding boat is used so frequently to respond to incidents, the RNLI decided it should be replaced by a better-equipped 'D' class from the relief fleet. This lifeboat, equipped with navigation lights and a fixed radio arrived on station in October and has already been used to attend incidents.

A new training regime was introduced in 2009 as part of the Institution's commitment to maximise the use of funds while maintaining the standards of expertise within our crew. Every three years trained crew no longer have to be re-assessed on all units of their **Competence Based Training (CoBT)**, but will be assessed at station by RNLI Divisional staff from Saltash on a few units selected by them. Appledore was the first station to be assessed in this way and the Inspectors were very happy with the outcome.

We attended the Bideford Water Festival and the *Douglas Paley* took part in an exciting display with RMB Chivenor's SAR helicopter.

John, the Vicar, conducted the Sea Sunday service at the boathouse on the second Sunday in July with the support of Appledore Band. For a change the weather was kind enough for it to take place outside.

The station Open Day continued to be a great attraction on August Bank Holiday Monday. Our thanks to Richard Bowden for bringing along his fabulous model boats, which has inspired a fundraising exhibition of models to be held in the Boathouse in 2010. Alison Murray (of the knitted Christmas Tree, and knitted Gingerbread House fame) taught children to finger knit and updated parents on her knitting project 'Above and Below the Waves', which will be launched in 2010 to raise money for the RNLI 'Train One Save Many' crew training campaign. Thanks to all the volunteer crew and the wives who supported Martin, our Coxswain, and the volunteers who sold souvenirs and raffle tickets. Thanks to everyone for coming along and taking part.

Appledore Band gave a wonderful performance for us at a Christmas concert in the Boathouse when nearly a hundred guests joined us to share mince pies and mulled wine. We hope to make this a regular event.

Next year's Open Day will be earlier in the year and is booked for **Saturday, July 25th 2010**

Don't miss it! Come along and join in the fun

Links with other Search and Rescue organisations

Westward Ho! Coastguards and Poppy, their Search and Rescue dog, came to station with other dogs and handlers from SARDA (Search And Rescue Dog Association) in October. They exercised with the ILB to help train Poppy to detect a person under water.

We have also exercised with the SAR helicopters from Valley in Wales and on several occasions with Chivenor, who also gave a brilliant demonstration at our Open Day.

RNLI Junior Members - Storm Force

In October we invited the Storm Force members in Devon to a fun day at the lifeboat station. Both the all-weather and inshore lifeboats were taken alongside Appledore Quay and the children, with their parents, were shown around both boats. They walked along to the lifeboat station to try on kit and deafened everyone with the lifeguards' loudspeaker! They witnessed a joint demonstration with the lifeboats and lifeguards after which Stormy Stan, the RNLI mascot, presented the children with certificates and a goodie bag, including discounted family tickets to the Big Sheep. The Coastguard supported us on the ground and the Search and Rescue helicopter from Chivenor did a fly-past at the end of the day, which made the day really special for our Storm Force members.

New man at the helm

The RNLI has a new Chief Executive, Paul Boissier, who paid a visit to the station in the summer before he took over from Andrew Freemantle.

RNLI Congratulations

Chris Nurse was awarded the Institution's Gold Badge for fundraising support to the station for over 25 years

Graham Fisher and Martin Cox were both awarded their 20 year badge

Crew - Special Occasions

Birth congratulations:

Grandad Gary (Hulme) – congratulations to your daughter and welcome to grandson, Trystan

If you like to know what's going on at your lifeboat station, tell your friends - we'll be happy to add them to our annual mailing

Plans for 2010

With our new Tamar due for delivery in the early part of the year our main objective is to ensure all crew become fully conversant with their new lifeboat and the high-tech equipment on board

The next priority will be to meet the donors of our new Tamar and organise a fitting Dedication Service and Naming Ceremony

To continue recruiting and training new crew members

Every one of you is helping us to save lives at sea.

A big thank you to:

Our volunteers and their families.

Our colleagues in other Search and Rescue organisations – the ever supportive Coastguards and helicopter crew from Chivenor.

Supporting organisations: Appledore Band, Appledore Gig Club, Ashreigney Country Fundraisers, Wing & A Prayer, ASDA, Bideford Rotary, Morrisons, North Devon Yacht Club, Plymco, Skern Lodge, local Churches, Residents' Associations and

Employers: Babcock Marine, Seawind Barclay Curle, The Beaver, The Royal George.

Our Guild Committee for their hard work; **David** Maxwell, our Souvenir Secretary; **Robert** Walker, our Box Secretary; and **their dedicated teams** - well done for increasing our annual income from these sources yet again, and not forgetting the kind **people who donated prizes** for our raffles.

Some of the ways in which people have raised funds for us this year – **thank you** to the organisers and those taking part –

run the marathon; three bridges fun run in Barnstaple; open garden; an auction; a coffee morning; an angling competition; a steam working day; a 24-hour sponsored gig row; a vintage gathering; a country concert; golf competitions and many more.

Collection points for recycling inkjet and toner cartridges and mobile phones are available at the lifeboat station.

Need a Guest Speaker? Ring 01237 470745 or 473969

Want to volunteer in any capacity? Ring 01237 473969

Wendy Dale (Lifeboat Operations Manager)
Appledore Lifeboat Station 01237 473969
email: appledore@rnli.org.uk