



FRIENDS OF HENGISTBURY HEAD LOOKOUT

Welcome to our first edition

NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2019

In early 2017 three NCI Watchkeepers who volunteered at Calshot Tower NCI at the bottom of Southampton Water got together to discuss the possibility of re-opening the Lookout at Hengistbury Head. All three, Brian Roberts, Chris Lloyd-Smith and Ed Essery lived locally and two had played on the Head as children. Trial Watches were held over the 2017 Air Show weekend to establish feasibility - this generated much interest including first contact with our current Station Manager, Peter Holway. An early approach to Bournemouth Council indicated support from that direction and an offer to use the Beach Office at Southbourne as a temporary location whilst negotiation continued with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency over the use of the Lookout Building. The Station opened in Southbourne Beach Office on 3rd March 2018 keeping Watch on Saturdays and Sundays only and transferred to the Lookout a few months later, on the 10th August. Such was the popularity of the idea of Hengistbury Head NCI, volunteers came forward at a rate it was difficult to deal with from a training perspective. As the numbers of volunteers grew and we managed to train them to the required national standard, the number of days per week the Station was open was extended. Since January 2019 we have been open seven days per week and we currently have 73 qualified Watchkeepers with a further 32 at various points of their training. With the most recent recruitment process from July through to September 2019, we are up to the target number of Watchkeepers we need to man our rota 364 days per year with three Watches per day.

When Hengistbury Head NCI opened in the spring of last year we had very few qualified Watchkeepers available to cover the few Watches we were doing. We were greatly helped by Calshot NCI at the time. By agreement with the Calshot Committee, a number of Calshot Watchkeepers did Watches with us that counted as part of their commitment to Calshot. As we became established some of these Watchkeepers returned to solely Watchkeeping at Calshot and others chose to transfer to us. The last Calshot Watchkeeper working with us under the loan agreement has recently been appointed as Station Secretary at Calshot NCI and has told us that she will no longer have time to do Watches with us. We congratulate Sue on her appointment and thank her, all the "loan" Watchkeepers and the Calshot Committee for the support they have given us as we have grown and become self-sufficient. Without your help it is doubtful we could have made it through those early days.

With our 100+ volunteers we are part of an organisation of 2600+ volunteers running 56 Stations around the country.

Summary of Incidents

These can be found on the NCI National Website at : www.nci.org.uk/stations/hengistburyhead/incidents

Incident Reports since late June:

- IR32024 - 07/09/2019: Yacht "Symphony" has fouled rudder - rope wrapped around it. Casualty called HMCG but gave incorrect location. Poole ILB despatched. HH NCI has "eyes on" and called HMCG with corrected position. Poole ILB rendezvoused with casualty and were able to clear rudder to enable Symphony to continue on passage.
- IR31994 - 04/09/2019: Whilst monitoring a small RIB with 2 POB fishing off Christchurch Ledge it was seen to suffer engine failure. Occupants waving for help. Called in to Solent CG who tasked Mudeford ILB. Watchkeepers conned ILB to Casualty. ILB took casualties aboard and towed RIB back to Mudeford. All well.
- IR31959 - 01/09/2019: Boat owner telephoned station to request assistance with a flat battery.
- IR31917 - 30/08/2019: Boat beached on Hengistbury Head with engine failure
- IR31889 - 28/08/2019: HMCG requested observation of yacht reporting engine failure by Mayday call.
- IR31867 - 26/08/2019: Motor Boat anchored off Christchurch Entrance found they had no drive and required tow back into harbour
- IR31795 - 21/08/2019: Rib off Avon Beach with engine failure
- IR31794 - 21/08/2019: Fishing Vessel recovered RNLI Dummy
- IR31792 - 04/08/2019: Tree Floating in water 0.5nm from shore
- IR31441 - 30/07/2019: Mudeford Lifeboat launched to recover kite surfer off Avon Beach. Surfer and Sailboard separated. Surfer swam to Avon Beach safely accompanied by a paddle boarder. Both Safe. HH NCI called Coastguard. Mudeford Lifeboat launched and sail recovered.
- IR31378 - 26/07/2019: Speed boat seen by Watchkeepers to be waving both arms at passing craft having come to a halt near Clarendon Rocks. Reported to HMCG and kept them informed as passing vessel took casualty in tow to slipway at Mudeford Quay.
- IR31223 - 15/07/2019: Paddle Boarder spotted long way off Southbourne beach wearing only shorts, no life-jacket, heading south for extended time.
- IR31189 - 13/07/2019: Solent Coastguard called to Station to ask if we had "eyes on" a swimmer who had been reported by a member of the public as being a long way offshore from Southbourne Beach.
- IR31188 - 13/07/2019: Station called by Solent Coastguard to ask if we had eyes on a red jet ski with engine failure 200 to 300 metres off Old Harry Rocks at Handfast Point
- IR30992 - 06/07/2019: Pan Pan call from motorboat off Isle of Wight not received by CG.
- IR30991 - 06/07/2019: Motor boat reported suspected fire on board outside The Run at entrance to Christchurch Harbour.
- IR30884 - 03/07/2019: Member of public reported dog seen swimming out to sea to Hengistbury Head NCI. No obvious owner visible.

- IR30716 - 28/06/2019: HMCG NMOC called to ask if Station had visual on a yacht aground in surf between Bournemouth Pier and Middle Chine (5NM from Station). Yacht sighted with APM Binoculars broadside onto beach in surf. Situation confirmed to CG who asked Station to keep eyes on and inform them of any developments.
- IR30694 - 26/06/2019: HMCG NMOC called Station to ask if we had eyes on an unmanned kayak that had drifted off Southbourne Beach. Due to the low angle of the sun and reflections off the calm sea, it was not possible for the Watchkeepers to identify it.
- IR30637 - 22/06/2019: Fire on Cabin Cruiser

Southampton Boat Show September 2019

Seven Watchkeeper colleagues spent September 18th on the NCI stand at Southampton Boat Show. The seven this year, Peter Holway, Ed Essery, Chris Lloyd-Smith, Caroline Walker, Sue Grundy, Frank Willis and Brian Robinson, were joined by two Trustees, Tim Colquhoun and James MacDonald, and a watchkeeper colleague from Gwennap Head, Cornwall. The chief aim of the day was to raise the NCI profile with the 'yachtie' community and to push Ch 65. Many people were approached during the day, and these messages imparted. Donations were gratefully received for the 'freebies' available, pens, button badges, window stickers etc.

Fundraising Update

We are delighted, and very grateful, to have now received donations from both Tesco and Waitrose following our inclusion in their Bags of Help and Community Matters schemes as well as a donation from the Winton Christadelphian Church.

Donation amounts currently include:

- Tesco £1000.00
- Waitrose (Christchurch) £573.00
- Winton Christadelphians £310.00

We continue to get amazing support both generally and financially from the community.

Our Pub of the Month

Every two months the Watchkeeper meet at a different pub in the area for a social evening. October's Pub of the Month is to be the **Thomas Tripp in Christchurch on Thursday the 24th October 2019**. Meeting time is from 19.30, although it is likely more than one of our number might be there before that time. If it concerns you, we understand there will be no live music that evening, so it should be quieter than last time we met there. Should you wish to join us that evening, please come along and make yourself known.

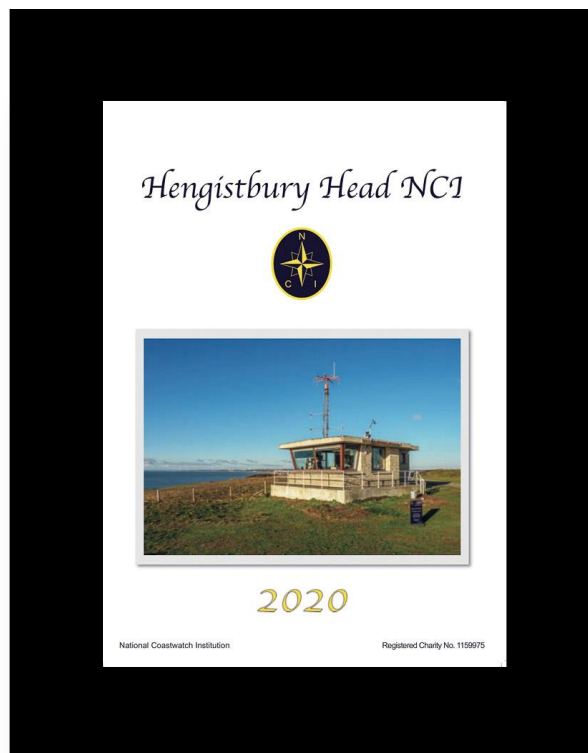
Our first HHNCI Calendar

We are very proud to be able to offer you the opportunity to purchase one of our 2020 calendars while stocks last. All photos have been taken by our Watchkeepers and we hope you enjoy them, and every penny of profits will go towards maintaining and improving our services.

The cost of a calendar is £5.00 (+ £2 post and packaging, if not delivered/collected locally).

If you would like to order one, or more, please email hengistburyhead.administration@nci.org.uk to arrange payment, delivery/collection/postage.

Please note these calendars are not for sale from the Lookout.



Our official NCI 25th Anniversary photo, which will be included in the NCI Year Book which is in the process of being produced.



All NCI Stations have been encouraged to join in the charity's 25th anniversary celebrations by holding events and taking photos of as many Watchkeepers as possible. As Hengistbury Head NCI has a number of Watchkeepers who are keen sailors it was thought a great idea for a flotilla to position itself under the Lookout and form an 'HH' for an official photo. Several dates came and went with either the weather not playing ball or not enough vessels available but finally, on 30th August we got the shot - with a little help from Photoshop. Our group shot of Watchkeepers was taken just before our AGM on 2nd September.

Bournemouth Half Marathon – Paul Hawkins running for Hengistbury Head NCI

One of our Watchkeepers, Paul Hawkins, is taking part in the Bournemouth Half Marathon in aid of our Station. The event takes place on 6th October and is a great spectator event - taking place along the seafront. If you would like to sponsor Paul, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paul-hawkins-nci2019>. Any amount donated is really appreciated - no matter how small.

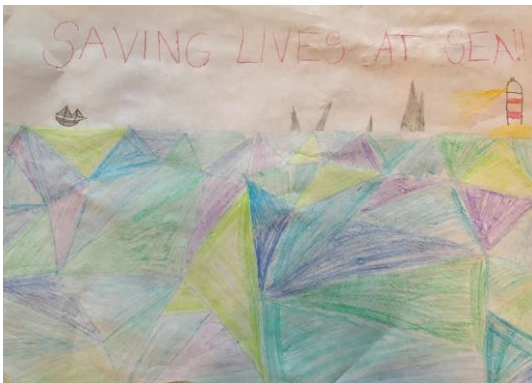


[Crowdfunding to Help Fund the National Coastwatch Institution station at Hengistbury Head on JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/paul-hawkins-nci2019)

I am running the 2019 Bournemouth Half Marathon (again) to raise money to help support the Hengistbury Head National Coastwatch station. The fact that this is the second time in my life I am willing to run that far shows, not only how daft I am, but how worthy the cause must be to go through all that pain.

Drawing competition

As part of our Charity of the Month exhibition within Christchurch Priory last month we held a drawing competition for children, with the theme being, 'Saving Lives at Sea'. We had a great response and some wonderful entries, which made judging very difficult for our panel of Watchkeepers. However, after much debate, a winner was chosen and we look forward to welcoming Sophie and her dad to the Lookout to spend some time with us finding out more about what we do.



Christmas Carol Service

A Christmas Carol Service for the Hengistbury Head NCI is being arranged to celebrate Christmas.

It will be held on 17th December 2019 at 19.00hrs at St Nicholas Church, Broadway.

Everyone welcome.

Visits to the Lookout

Should anyone be interested in a visit to the Lookout, please email hengistburyhead.administration@nci.org.uk and we will do our best to find a suitable time and date for you to see the Watchkeepers at work!

Our next Newsletter should be with you in January 2020

Thank you again for your support

Reminder – online donations can be made via Virgin Money Giving at <http://tinyurl.com/hhncivmg>

For further information please visit our website at <http://hhnci.org.uk> or email

Hengisburyhead.administration@nci.org.uk

National Coastwatch Institution - Registered Charity No. 1159975

