



Ahoy!

National Coastwatch Institution
www.nci.org.uk

**The bi-monthly newsletter for Friends of
Hengistbury Head Lookout and its Watchkeepers**

Issue 16 June 2022

First of all, apologies for the tardiness of this publication this month.

We are expecting a busy summer both on and off the water with events to which all Friends and Watchkeepers are cordially invited, together with their friends and families.

In this issue:

- **In Focus** - a regular feature about our volunteers
- **Congratulations** – newly qualified Watchkeepers
- **Thank you** - to Friends & supporters
- **Been there done that** - a summary of recent Station activities
- **Looking ahead** – planned events
- **Stay in touch** – essential contact details



In Focus

Name: John Campbell
Role within Station: Watchkeeper



When did you join NCI Hengistbury Head?

I joined in March 2018, just at the Station's inception and when it was still situated in the beach office at Southbourne. However, I didn't actually do a Watch until August of that year, by which time the Lookout, as we know it, was open on the top of Hengistbury Head.

And why did you join?

For two reasons. Firstly, I had often thought how forlorn the Lookout

appeared when it was boarded up (for some 25 years) and secondly, I wanted to give something back to the local community and this wonderful place that I have called home since 1989.

So, are you a sailor?

No. I don't have a boat (although I did have a ski boat at one time) but I am amongst a number of NCIHH Watchkeepers who had a career in aviation - we seem to be drawn to the Lookout!

Tell us more about your career in aviation

I actually experienced Bournemouth for the first time in 1973 when I enrolled at the College of Air Traffic Control (ATC). I then moved to England from Northern Ireland in 1975. From then on I had a fantastic time in ATC, working at Heathrow, Manchester, Belfast, Bournemouth and Newcastle airports.

I also had a second career: for three years I was a DJ on two radio stations - County Sound Radio, Monday-Friday, 7-10pm and Ocean Sound, Saturday mornings, 9-12. I still do a few programmes at ForestFM in Verwood.

Any time for other hobbies?

Oh yes. I've spent over 60 years playing golf and I'm determined to stick with it until I get it right! I also enjoy indoor bowls, our delightful beach hut, as well as Sudoku and its variants. I also read a bit, but having established the Bournemouth Airport Golf Society in 1993 and the International Jurassic Coast Golf Tournament in 2016, I find running them takes a fair bit of time and energy.

Anything you particularly enjoy, or not, being part of NCI Hengistbury Head?

I don't not enjoy any of it! It's all most enjoyable! Looking out from the Lookout is, in a way, similar to Air Traffic Control. The tricky bit for me is that planes travel miles per minute whereas boats take minutes to travel a mile! We are a terrific bunch, so friendly and professional even though we're all volunteers.

Now for the in-depth questions ...

Do you have a favourite tippie?

I love grapes of any colour – as long as they're in a bottle, the odd pint (never Guinness - it's rubbish here) and even the occasional G&T. A shorter answer would have been: 'yes'!

Dogs or cats?

Definitely dogs. You know the saying ... dogs have masters, cats have servants. Having said that, a friend of mine has taught his cat to fetch. The cat likes to give him a day off now and then!

Anything else you'd like to share with us, John?

I can ski, fly a light aircraft, I've travelled all round the world. I've written a book about my experiences in control towers and flight decks titled "Clear for take-off and hope for the best!". I love curries and I'm a rubbish bowler!

Wow! What a busy man you are, John, I'm exhausted just reading about your hobbies! We're very happy you make time to be one of us!

Congratulations.....



... to three Watchkeepers who have passed their final assessments since the last edition of *Ahoy!*:

Jan Richardson receives her epaulettes from Station Manager Peter Holway on 26th April.....



Training Officer Brian Robinson presents Val Ennis with her epaulettes on 14th June.....



.....and Brian Winkworth successfully completed his final assessment on 21st June, bringing the total number of qualified Watchkeepers to 95.

Congratulations, Jan, Val and Brian! We wish you many happy years of enjoyable Watchkeeping with NCIHH!

Thank you....

We continue to be most appreciative of all the support for our Station, to those who give of their time and to those who support us through donations and fundraising ventures.

One of our very own, Watchkeeper Revd Chris Colledge manages to find time to support many associations and community projects throughout the Bournemouth area. At his farewell Dinner as President of Westbourne Rotary Club, Chris presented to Station Manager Peter Holway a cheque for over £4,000 for NCIHH, our Station being one of two charities chosen by Chris to

benefit from the Rotary's fundraising achievements this past year. Peter was delighted to accept this generous and kind donation on behalf of the Station:



THANK YOU, CHRIS AND WESTBOURNE ROTARY! This wonderful donation will go towards future Station developments.

Been there , done that.....

Training Update

Following on from a report in the last edition of *Ahoy!*, we have embarked on our next round of recruitment - we have a list of over 25 people who have been patiently waiting to join us! Our protocols have been revised to give potential Watchkeepers a more authentic taster of the work we do, and from next week we will be capitalising on the daylight as we welcome potential recruits to the Lookout in the evenings.

Please note: these sessions are pre-booked for people already on our waiting list. If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our ranks, they should register their interest with our Station Secretary Gill Stevens gillian.stevens@nci.org.uk. Thank you.

Annual BBQ

Last Thursday saw some 20 souls brave a cool evening at our annual BBQ, this year on the beach near Friars Cliff. It was great to welcome some Friends to the event, as they bravely weathered the chilly temperatures and battled to light BBQs despite our best efforts with a wind break!

The breeze and darkening skies suggested that we may return to Southbourne next year, where the sun doesn't go down until a bit later!

If anyone has any photos of the event, could you please send them to our Friends administrator Adele.Orr@nci.org.uk. who will forward them to the editor for inclusion in the next edition of *Ahoy!* Thank you!

Incidents since the February edition of Ahoy!

An “Incident” in NCI terms is a situation concerning the safety of life or property, during which an NCI Station has observed, or had any involvement of supporting the Coastguard (CG) or other Search and Rescue (SAR) resource. Most recent Incidents appear at the top of this list.

CRT = Coastguard Rescue Team; MoP = Member of Public CG = Coastguard; ILB = Inshore Lifeboat; LB = Lifeboat; nfa = no further action; cas evac = casualty evacuation; FAWGI = False Alarm with Good Intent

Date of Incident	Incident Summary	Lifeboat involved
28/06/2022	RIB issued Pan Pan with engine fire. Upgraded to Mayday. HMCG asked NCI to clarify position, as they had visual. LB tasked, and towed casualty to safety.	Yes
18/06/2022	HMCG requested NCI look for motor boat reported to have electrical and engine failure. 7 POB. NCI had visual. ILB tasked, and conned to casualty by NCI. LB took 6 people back, then towed vessel back.	Yes
11/06/2022	HMCG reported to NCI a power boat, 3 POB, drifting towards rocks. NCI did not have visual, and asked to keep look out. Visual was established, vessel at anchor and not drifting., ILB tasked, proceeded to casualty. Vessel entangled and LB assisted in freeing vessel, having cut anchor. LB towed vessel to safety.	Yes
11/06/2022	NCI observed canoeist capsize, and unable to get back in. HMCG informed, ILB tasked. NCI then contacted CG to inform them canoeist had beached and was safe. CRT attended, ILB stood down.	No
04/06/2022	MOP reported to NCI that his wife had fallen and was injured. HMCG informed, local CG on scene, ambulance requested. CRT carried stretcher to ambulance, and casualty taken to hospital.	No

Date of Incident	Incident Summary	Lifeboat involved
03/06/2022	NCI heard call from HMCG re. vessel with engine failure, requesting tow. Second boat approached but sent away. Vessel then towed by other vessel to safety.	No
14/05/2022	Motor vessel reported to have anchor chain wrapped around propeller, radio inoperative. HMCG requested NCI for visual - confirmed, 4 POB, no lifejackets. ILB tasked and towed to harbour and safety.	Yes
14/05/2022	Motor boat, at anchor, reported to NCI they had been struck by a sailing yacht. Bow damaged but not taking on water. Advised to call HMCG, and NCI advices CG they had visual. Vessel decided to return to harbour, but had to wait for tide. NCI monitored until vessel safe.	No
14/05/2022	HMCG asked NCI for visual on swimmer 500m offshore. CG advised nothing seen. Info then updated to possible dinghy with 2 POB Incident closed.	No
04/05/2022	Motor vessel had engine failure, and was taken in tow by yacht. NCI had visual. Casualty was towed to harbour entrance, then tow taken up by second vessel. All safe	No
01/05/2022	ILB asked NCI to monitor small boat they had assisted. 2 POB. Boat had suffered fuel shortage and engine problems. NCI monitored boat until entered harbour safely.	No

Looking ahead → → → →

Sea Sunday Service

Sunday 10th July 3pm – St. Nicholas' Church, Broadway

This is the first time we have been able to hold this annual service since 2019. It has been organised by our own Revd Chris Colledge and is part of a national commemoration to remember and think about all those who go about their business on the seas, and those who support and watch over them.

The service will be attended by the Mayor of Bournemouth Bob Lawton, who was the first Bournemouth Councillor to back us in our bid to open the the Station in 2017. Our Liaison Trustee, Tim Colquhoun, and Sector Manager, Eric Taylor, will also attend.

Friends of NCIHH, Watchkeepers, and their friends and families are all welcome to attend.

Mudford Lifeboat Blue Light Event

Sunday 25th July 10am - 4pm

Please come to see our stand at this event, to be held on the Green near Mudford Lifeboat Station. Various emergency organisations will be in attendance, and we would be delighted to tell you more about NCI and our work here in our local area.

This will be your opportunity to start your Christmas shopping in earnest (!) by purchasing our hot-off-the-press 2023 CALENDARS!

We look forward to welcoming you to our stand!

Stay in touch

Please let us know if any of your personal contact details change. Please address all correspondence to our Friends Administrator Adele Orr Adele.Orr@nci.org.uk. who will also be happy to provide details of how to become a Friend should you know of anyone interested.

You can keep up to date with our activities via various social media:

- Facebook Hengistbury Head NCI
- Twitter [@NCIHengistburyH](https://twitter.com/NCIHengistburyH)
- Instagram @hengistburyheadnci

NCI Hengistbury Head is one of 57 NCI Stations around the UK keeping “*Eyes along the coast*”.

Current opening hours are 8am - 7pm

The next edition of *Ahoy!* will be published at the end of August 2022