

NCI Hengistbury Head – News Archive 2020

*Hengistbury Head NCI wish all our NCI colleagues, emergency services partners, local agencies we work with and our supporters and friends a peaceful, safe and healthy Christmas. And for all of us we hope 2021 brings easier times.
Thank you for everything you've done that has made it possible for us to continue to assist HMCG in protecting lives at sea and around the coastline.*



Seasons Greetings from Hengistbury Head NCI



Let Us Entertain You!

**Play Now To WIN
1 Of 5
Entertainment
Bundles In The
National Draw**

Including an Amazon Echo Show 8, Echo Dot & Tablet!



**£25,000
JACKPOT**

PLAY THE LOTTERY TODAY

- Play from just £1 per week
- Support our good cause today
- It's a WIN-WIN for you and the community

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older enter by 19th Dec 2020 *See website for Terms and conditions.

Let Us Entertain You!

Be in the national draw on the 19th of December for your chance to WIN 1 of 5 Entertainment Bundles!

Each Entertainment Bundle includes an Amazon Echo Show8, Echo Dot, & Fire7 Tablet.

Remember there are weekly CASH prizes up to the £25,000 jackpot too!

To be in with a chance of winning and also support our Lookout, click here:- [BH Coastal Lottery](#), see the 'Current Offer - Let Us Entertain You', then buy your tickets.

(Please read the T&Cs - you need to be happy with the publicity that's going to follow the win.)

BH Coastal Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

A draw takes place every Saturday and a 6 digit winning combination will be picked. Winners are notified via email. Match all 6 and you win the JACKPOT! A top prize of £25,000 is possible.

Become a Friend of Hengistbury Head NCI and support us by purchasing tickets on a regular basis, information with a link to BH Coastal Lottery can be found on our [Friends](#) page.

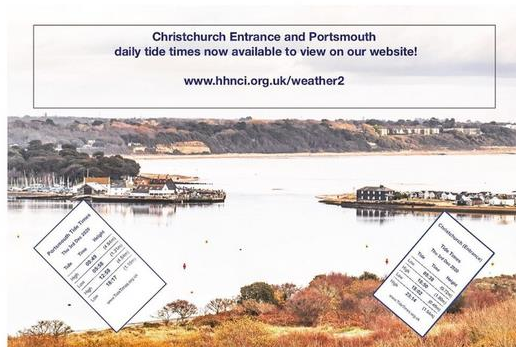
Tickets can also be purchased without becoming a Friend via our [Support](#) page.

However you support us, thank you!

Card Reader Goes Live!

Every Penny will help keep HHNCI Operational

We are now able to accept cashless donations at the Lookout. We have a card reader which will print a receipt if you want one, so don't worry about not having any cash on you. The minimum donation is just £1 – Ask one of our Watchkeepers on duty, who will happily help you to contribute towards the running of our Station. We are always grateful for your ongoing support.



Tide Times now on Weather Page

We are pleased to advise that tide times for Christchurch entrance and Portsmouth are now shown daily on our weather page hhnci.org.uk/weather2/. This is something that has been asked for by many water users for some time. Hopefully it will be found helpful.

HHNCI TO REMAIN OPERATIONAL SEVEN DAYS A WEEK DURING LOCKDOWN

"Eyes along the coast" are never so important as when the weather and sea state are as unpredictable as of late.

Under current Government guidelines for the new lockdown measures commencing 5th November 2020, HHNCI is, this time, able to operate as normal. As per a previous notice below, our Station is currently restricted to two Watchkeepers per watch. These operational measures have been taken to try and ensure that we can best serve the interests of both our volunteers and the public.

We will remain on watch seven days a week 0800 until 1700 or dusk, if earlier.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



In line with the clocks going back, we have commenced our winter operating hours – 8am until 5pm (or end of daylight hours, if earlier) seven days a week.

Weather Station Reinstated 15th October 2020

The work on the roof of the Lookout has been completed, the scaffolding has come down and our weather station has been reinstated. Updating every 10 minutes, latest weather available on our [weather page](#), or by calling us on VHF CH65.

Week Commencing 12th October 2020, The Weather Station Will Be Temporarily Decommissioned

Work on re-felting the Lookout roof will commence the week of 12th October, and is due to last all week. We aim to remain operational throughout but will update our social media and web pages should that situation change. The weather station sensors have had to be removed from the roof, therefore the weather station will remain decommissioned until the work is complete. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

LATEST CORONAVIRUS DEVELOPMENTS MEANS NO MORE THAN TWO WATCHKEEPERS PER WATCH

We wish to keep everyone safe, whilst still allowing us to continue our work of protecting and preserving life at sea and along our coastline. To this end, we must now restrict our Station to two Watchkeepers per watch. You may see three on duty for a few weeks, 2 plus one outside buddy, because we are honouring pre-booked Watches. This, of course, means that, unfortunately, we are still unable to welcome any visitors into the Lookout.

Family Forest Staycation if you support BH Coastal lottery by 31 October 2020.

To be in with a chance of winning and also support our Lookout, click here:- [BH Coastal Lottery](#), then click on the 'Current Offer – Play Today and Win a Stay' tab, then buy your tickets.

(Please read the T&Cs – you need to be happy with the publicity that's going to follow the win.)

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However you support us, thank you!



The poster features the BH Coastal Lottery logo at the top left, which includes a compass rose icon. To the right is a circular logo with a compass rose. The main text reads 'PLAY TODAY & WIN A STAY' in large, bold letters, followed by 'Support Our Lottery This Summer'. Below this is a photograph of a wooden cabin in a forest. The text 'WIN A Family Forest Staycation!' is prominently displayed. A list of benefits includes: £25,000 jackpot!, Sign up from £1 per week, Support our good cause today, and Your support makes a real difference to our local community. At the bottom, it says 'To start supporting, visit: www.bhcoastalottery.co.uk'.

UPDATE: Calendar now available in all outlets! See third image below.

Our 2021 Calendar is available Now!

Every penny we make from sales goes towards the running of HHNCI Station. Thank you to the amazing retailers who are stocking the calendars. Available from today 22nd August 2020 at the suggested retail price of £7.50 from the following outlets:-

PP Printing, Bargates, Christchurch

Hengistbury Head Post Office & News, Broadway, Hengistbury Head

BH6 Books and Home, Southbourne Grove, Southbourne

Southbourne General Store, Southbourne Grove

Mocha Turtle, Tuckton Road, Tuckton

More outlets will be stocking the calendars from next week so look out for the next calendar post. All the stockists are shown on one of the images. **UPDATE: Now available in all outlets listed in image below.**



Special thanks to PP Printing and @cobwoodstudio for their help in the design and printing of our calendar.

We can now add the Captain's Club Hotel in Christchurch @captainsclubhotel and Occasions Cards in Highcliffe @highcliffecards to the list.



We would like to thank the following organisations for their support in the production and distribution of this calendar.

Printing & Design
Printing: PP Printing, 31A Bargates, Christchurch
www.pp-printing.co.uk
T: 01202 480700
Design: Cobwood Studio, www.cobwood.co.uk

Stockists
PP Printing, 31A Bargates, Christchurch
T: 01202 480700
Westbourne Bookshop, 65 Poole Road, Westbourne
T: 01202 768626
Gullivers Bookshop, 47 High Street, Wimborne
T: 01202 882677
Hengistbury Head Post Office & News, 106 Broadway, Hengistbury Head
T: 01202 424889
BH6 Books and Home, 69 Southbourne Grove, Southbourne
T: 01202 418403
Southbourne General Store, 47 Southbourne Grove, Southbourne
T: 01202 420141
Castle Cameras, 329 Wimborne Road, Winton
T: 01202 326668
Christchurch Regent Centre, 51 High Street, Christchurch
T: 01202 499199
Delicious, 6 Falson Drive, Muddford
T: 01425 540072
Mocha Turtle, 184 Tuckton Road, Tuckton
T: 01202 419419
Sunset at Muddford Quay

Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this calendar, we cannot accept responsibility for any errors.

We've listened to all the feedback from our first calendar last year and have made changes to reflect what you, our supporters, want in a calendar. This year you've not only got great photos but you know where they were taken, you've got more room to write your appointments etc. And we've even given you room to make notes on each month!



FIVE £100 B&Q GIFT CARDS TO BE WON!

This offer ends 29th August 2020

BH Coastal Lottery is an exciting weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

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BH Coastal Lottery

WIN 1 OF 5 £100 B&Q Gift Cards

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY Through Thick & Thin

- £25,000 jackpot!
- Sign up from £1 per week
- Support our good cause today
- Your support makes a real difference to our local community

To start supporting, visit:
www.bhcoastalottery.co.uk
and search for: **Hengistbury Head**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Offer ends 29th August 2020. See website for terms and conditions.



What a Two Years it has Been!

On 10 Aug 2018, HHNCI reopened the coastguard station on the top of Hengistbury Head. In that time the building has gone from shabby to chic, our Watchkeepers have increased from 16 (plus four on loan from Calshot NCI), to over 100, with our watchkeeping hours climbing from a base of just three days a week to our current seven days a week.

We have logged thousands of vessels and kept eyes on many thousands more. We have been involved with over 80 incidents, have responded to hundreds of requests for radio checks and as many for local information. Just as importantly, we have become an accepted and respected part of both the local community and the Search and Rescue community. Thank you for your ongoing support, we couldn't do this without you.

If you haven't already, take a look at more pages on this website, including our [Support page](#), or if you are considering becoming a friend visit our [Friends page](#). You can also keep up to date with us via social media, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#). However, if this is your first visit to our website, hello, and please visit us again. Whichever method you choose, do keep in touch!

A Facelift for the Lookout

April 2020



July 2020



Lockdown gave us a reduction in operating hours, so what did this mean to a team of our dedicated Watchkeepers? It meant an opportunity; they have transformed the exterior of the Station. Our door and window frames are now a vibrant NCI blue, the plinth and fascia are a brilliant white, plus a new banner message is visible to anyone passing the Lookout on the water. Thanks guys, a fantastic job!

SEVEN DAYS A WEEK WATCHKEEPING RETURNS

After four long months we have today, 20th July 2020, resumed Watchkeeping seven days a week. We are now operational between the hours of 08:00 to 19:00, with either two or three Watchkeepers on duty.

'EYES ALONG THE COAST' FROM 10am to 7pm EVERY DAY EXCEPT TUESDAY

Today the 6th July, marks the start of Maritime Safety Week 2020, also from today, we are able to increase our Watchkeeper numbers to a maximum of three per Watch. We will, of course, still be adhering to current COVID-19 regulations and advice. We also have a new internet service, this means our [weather page](#) should update every 10 minutes.

OPERATIONAL SIX DAYS FROM 17TH JUNE 2020

With effect from 17th June we will be operational Wednesday to Monday inclusive 10:00 - 19:00

More of our volunteer Watchkeepers have made themselves available, allowing us to become operational on six days. We will, of course, continue to work within all the current restrictions and guidelines.

OPERATIONAL NOW THURSDAYS TO MONDAYS INCLUSIVE

More of our volunteers have stepped up and enabled us to open an extra day, whilst still keeping everyone safe and working within all the current restrictions and guidelines.

With effect from 4th June we will be operational Thursdays to Mondays inclusive 10:00 - 19:00 and aim to be back covering all our normal Watches as soon as possible. In the meantime, stay safe and in case of an emergency call 999 and ask for the Coastguard

NCI HENGISTBURY HEAD RESUMES WATCHKEEPING SATURDAY 23 MAY



We are re-opening the Lookout on Saturday 23rd May 2020.

Initially we will be operational only on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Mondays from 10:00 to 19:00. Our procedures have had to be significantly revised in line with COVID-19 guidance, advice and regulations. Watches will be kept by two Watchkeepers operating in fixed buddy pairs, with one Watchkeeper in the Lookout and one outside. More days/watches will be added as Watchkeepers become available, updates will be issued accordingly.

All at NCI Hengistbury Head are excited to be back as 'eyes along the coast' and thank you all for your continued support.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF NCI HENGISTBURY HEAD DUE TO CORONAVIRUS



Following on from our earlier post of today, we are truly, truly sorry that we are having to temporarily cease operations due to the spread of the Coronavirus. We honestly thought that we had a chance of riding this out, at least for a while longer but, ultimately, the decision was taken out of our hands.

To this end, and with effect from 17:00 today (Wed 18th March), the Lookout will be closed until further notice.

However, we stand united as a Station and aim to be back serving our community as soon as we are allowed.

In the meantime, the donation box will still be available outside the Lookout for you to pop your spare change in, you can still buy lottery tickets for our cause via the BH Coastal Lottery website and you can still become a Friend of Hengistbury Head Lookout via this website.

Also keep in touch via social media - [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), where we will keep doing posts (possibly more pictures than words but that may not be a bad thing!) We will be making regular visits to the Lookout for housekeeping purposes, to pick up any messages left on our phone etc. Interesting snippets and up to date weather information will still be available on this website.

Apologies to all our four legged friends too as they have come to expect the water bowl to be filled and ready for them; hopefully they'll understand and forgive us.

Your support has always been hugely appreciated by everyone involved with HHNCI and we hope that we can continue to count on it in these difficult times.

Remember, if you see anyone in trouble call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. The Coastguard and the RNLi are still operational (at the time of writing) and your call will be answered.

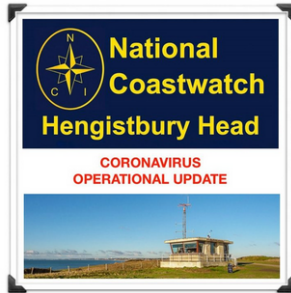
Thank you. Look after yourselves and each other and we will see you as soon as we get through this and out the other side.

HHNCI is committed to remaining open and operational for as long as possible but the safety and wellbeing of our Watchkeepers and their families is paramount.

With the fast pace of Coronavirus, and in light of yesterday's Government guidelines, we are making some changes to our operations to try and ensure that we can best serve the interests of both our volunteers and the public.

We realise that some of our local community will feel that the best way to keep socially distant will be to get out on the water and for others it may mean walking their dog on the Head and the shoreline and we want to be there for you.

But we also know that we have a significant number of Watchkeepers are over the age of 70 (but very young at heart) and that, regardless of age, not all of our volunteers wish to continue Watchkeeping for the time being. This we fully understand and totally accept.



With the above in mind, from today (Wed 18th March) we are bringing in some changes which, among other things, will result in less Watchkeepers on duty at any one time.

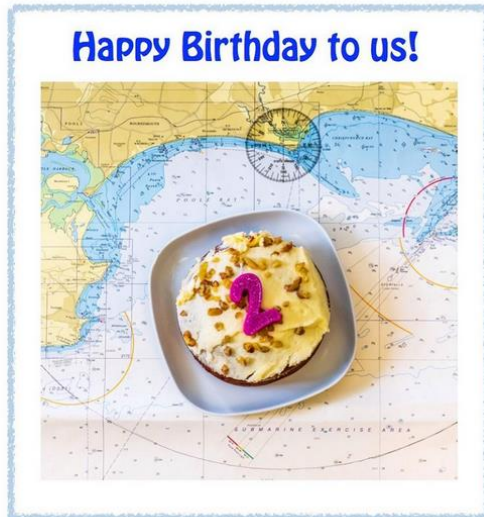
We are keeping to our normal opening hours but there will be a maximum of three Watchkeepers on any one Watch. Volunteers who wish to continue Watchkeeping will be asked to spread their Watches out, leaving 7 clear days between shifts, and to remove themselves from the Watch rota if they feel at all unwell. Of course, our current policy of no visitors and scrupulous hygiene in the Lookout remain in force. We will also not be putting out our public use binoculars or allowing members of the public to use any of our binoculars. All of these measures will help keep us safe, well and operational.

Today we have had news of a number of NCI Stations around the country having to close their doors due to operational difficulties in light of the spread of Coronavirus and we are not complacent; we realise that we too may have to take this course of action at some point but until that time comes, it's business as usual – just a bit different.

One final point... Now is a time for us all to pull together and to be there for each other. HHNCI is a community, a family, and we are supporting each other through these strange and sometimes tough times (humour seems to be our medicine of choice at the moment).

We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the world – let's be thankful for that and get out and enjoy it when we can (there's more than enough space for us to be socially distant together).

Stay safe everyone – and give us a wave if you pass the Lookout. It's likely to be a bit lonely up there for a while.



Two years ago on 3rd March HHNCI was born – and compared to the weather on 3 March 2018, today is positively balmy! The 'Beast from the East' hit as Ed Essery was up a ladder being held by Chris Lloyd-Smith mounting VHF aerials on the Southbourne Beach Office. The sky went dark and they were literally engulfed in a blizzard resulting in delaying the start of our very first Watch until 12:00. Since that day we have never cancelled another Watch.

BOURNEMOUTH DAILY ECHO

Helps Our Appeal For Safety
Reach Its Target Audience.

The following item was published in the Daily Echo on 28th February 2020.

Daily Echo retains copyright



Andy Patterson from the Echo Camera Club captured the windsurfing action at Avon beach during storm Ciara.

Hengistbury Head NCI warn surfers after storm incidents

By Greg Luckhurst

HENGISTBURY Head National Coastwatch Institution are appealing for windsurfers and kite surfers to be vigilant and stay safe in the water after a spike in the number of recorded incidents.

The Hengistbury Head Watchkeepers have released that they have been involved 10 incidents so far this year, five of which involved wind or kite surfers and three of those involved the RNLI. The other five related to a kayaker, a swimmer, a dog, a member of the public and a motorboat. This compares to a total of 54 incidents recorded in the whole of last year. Eight of those related to wind or kite surfers with five involved the intervention of the RNLI.

In a post put on the Hengistbury Head NCI [Facebook page](#), they said: "From the Lookout at the top of Hengistbury Head, we watch, monitor and log all surfers in our Watch area, especially those using the waters off Avon beach directly to our east and Southbourne beach to our west. "It is part of our duty as NCI Watchkeepers to log all 'vulnerables' within, or passing through, our Watch area. "Surfers, including wind and kite surfers, fall into this category as do swimmers, kayakers, canoeists, paddleboarders, jet skis, small watercraft, single-handed sailors, if we deem it necessary due to weather conditions etc."

The UK has been hit by four major storms so far this year including, most recently, Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis. Although these storms produce favourable conditions for wind and kite surfers, the unpredictability of gusts and big swells during experienced during storms can not only be dangerous for leisure users, but for rescue teams called out if an incident was to occur.

In the same Facebook post, the Hengistbury Head NCI said: "We believe that the vast majority of our local surfing community are very knowledgeable and experienced, properly equipped, and fully aware of the local sea state and weather conditions when they go out. We also know that they very much appreciate our presence keeping watch over them and are hugely grateful to the RNLI, as we all are, for being there should they run into difficulty."