



Ahoy!

National Coastwatch Institution
www.nci.org.uk

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

Issue 26 March 2024

From the Editor:

Hello again to all our friends and supporters.

Welcome to your latest update of the activities of our NCI station at Hengistbury Head. Already we are close to the longest day (you probably didn't want me to remind you of that) and to the peak of our summer activities. From now until the end of September we expect to see the usual increase in requests for our help. At our peak times we expect there to be in excess of 200 craft within our watch area, ranging from paddle boarders to super yachts but all with the potential to require assistance.... though some more likely than others!

Ken Male

In this issue:

- **In Focus** - a regular feature about one of our volunteers and any personnel highlights
- **Training update** – new recruits and developments
- **Thank you** - to Friends & supporters
- **Been there done that** - a summary of recent 'Incidents' and Station activities
- **Looking ahead** – planned events
- **Stay in touch** – essential contact details



In Focus

Name Ian Cleary

Roles within the Station

Watchkeeper

Health and Safety Officer

When and why did you join NCI Hengistbury Head?

In May 2018, I was reading the Bournemouth echo and saw the advert asking for Volunteers. That sounded like a good idea, and I have always loved HH, so off went my application!



What are the best and worst aspects of being part of NCI Hengistbury Head?

The banter between a whole spectrum of professions and personalities, learning about the local conditions, tides etc. and without a doubt, the view (in all weathers) together with a sense of being involved and part of the safety services

Are you a sailor?

Held an inshore sailing certificate years ago, had my own windsurfers and a crew member when we sailed an RAF 34ft yacht to the channel islands and back. That's about it!

Tell us a little about your career.

Worked in a bank in Andover when I left school, joining the RAF as an avionics technician in 1980, leaving 12 years later. I fell into the Health & Safety (H&S)

pit where I was coerced into delivering electrical safety training and did PATesting in offices in London. I Worked in diverse employment sectors from Education to Construction, Mining to Television, Theatre to Outdoor Advertising and Rail Engineering. I wrote business risk 'management standards' for small medium sized businesses, of which one was published!

I have my own H&S consultancy business and some choice clients but not for too much longer, as I am getting to the point where enough, is enough!

You must have had some real career highs and lows!

As I said, I fell into the H&S world, not through a career choice but I had some amazing experiences at the BBC especially on 'Later with Jools' and F1 outside broadcasting and being in the boardroom at Old Trafford! It took me to Australia (mainly Sydney) and worked the eastern seaboard from Brisbane to Melbourne.

The worst of lows was returning to RAF Leuchars the day after our display Phantom crashed on a practice session, when both crew members died.. a long journey from Lyneham.

Hobbies

Trying to maintain a level of fitness but realising that I can no longer do what I used to do!! Motorbikes and the great outdoors.

Cat? Dog? Stick Insect?

Dog

Favourite tippie

Real Ale – Hopback Summer Lightning, hoppy IPA's & a good Cote de Rhone

Favourite Book/Film

James Clavell – Tai Pan & James Herberts books

The Omen, Aliens 1&2 & The Matrix

What, for you, is the best bit of being part of NCI Hengistbury Head?

Getting involved and being part of the overall safety service provided for those who may need it whilst out on the water. Interacting with the public

And finally, where's your feel-good, favourite place?

Ajaccio (Corsica), Port Kembla Beach NSW & Fuerteventura

Training Update

Although there are no newly qualified Watchkeepers since the last issue of Ahoy the training is an on-going process for all qualified Watchkeepers. Every Watchkeeper has to undergo an annual review to ensure the standards required are maintained and no one is allowed to get 'rusty'.

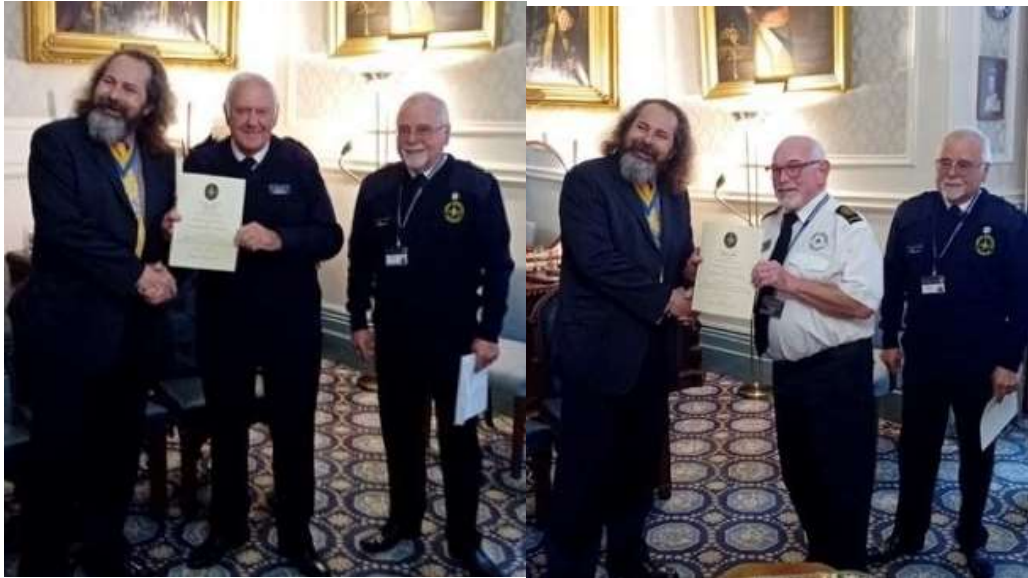
Thank you....

Bournemouth Mayoral reception for Hengistbury Head NCI Volunteers.

A group from HHNCI was invited to the Bournemouth Mayors Parlour. This is an opportunity for the Mayor, on behalf of the Town to acknowledge the work of various local volunteer groups. Sadly, Councillor Anne Filer was indisposed and so her deputy Councillor George Farquhar took her place receiving the Watchkeepers.



Some of our team were presented with their 5-year awards by Councillor Farquhar at the reception..



Been there, done that.....

Incidents since the March 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. Needless to say the number reduces at this time of year as fewer venture onto, or near, the water. 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
26/05/24	Yacht informed HMCG a paddle boarder was in difficulty. NCI had visual, CG informed. ILB tasked, NCI informed LB they had visual. LB recovered casualty and returned them to beach.	Yes
23/05/24	Ambulance service reported a vulnerable person was on Spit. HMCG tasked CRT, and asked NCI for search. CRT located person and ambulance departed with person onboard.	No
19/05/24	HMCG called NCI re. report from MOP of paddle boarder in difficulty. Visual difficult but eventually saw a kayak tied to a buoy - owner fishing. CRT confirmed the same. NFA	No
10/05/24	HMCG asked NCI to look for paddle boarder reported in difficulty by MOP. NCI already watching, not in difficulty. CG informed, NFA	No
02/05/24	HMCG asked NCI Hengistbury Head if they had visual on inflatable adrift- NCI confirmed visual ILB tasked to recover - NCI conned ILB to casualty	Yes
28/04/24	NCI Hengistbury Head spotted foil boarder swimming to shore but struggling- phoned LB station to advise them who tasked ILB - who was on exercise-potential casualty was OK and returned to beach	Yes

24/04/24	NCI Hengistbury Head observed vessel belching black smoke. HMCG contacted NCI re vessel - tasked to monitor. Fishing then moved off - no smoke. HMCG stood down incident	No
19/04/24	HMCG called NCI Hengistbury Head re report of small rib with 2 persons suspicious behaviour. NCI observed rib - appeared to be fishing. NCI lost sight after rib went round headland. HMCG confirmed closed	No

Mudford Blue Light Day

We once again attended the Blue Light Day on what turned out to be a bright but very breezy day. Our stand looked the part with The Water Safety material amongst other things and the stand attracted plenty of visitors. Thanks to the volunteers who manned the stand throughout the day and a big thanks to Rob for bringing his tractor and giving his time.



Looking ahead → → → →

Important Dates for your Diaries

18th July - Arrival of the NCI Flag relay

It is the 30th Anniversary Year of the founding of the NCI. To mark this milestone there is a flag relay taking the NCI pennant around to each station. The event is underway. It started in Fleetwood on the North West Coast and is travelling anti-clockwise. Now in Wales. The flag arrives in Bournemouth on the 18th July from NCI Swanage.

We are working up plans to receive it at the Hengistbury Head barrier, Hiker Cafe at around 14.00. On the 19th it is transported to NCI Stone Point to continue its tour. More details on the content of the Bournemouth celebrations are being worked up at this time and will be available soon via our website or on our facebook page.

1st August RNLI 200

In recognition of the RNLI's 200 anniversary this year, each Lifeboat station has been asked to take a photo on 1st August at 18:24. This commemorates the time and date that the first Lifeboat was launched. You can join the throng and show your support and more details available soon. Register your interest with robinpellatt2@gmail.com

Stay in touch

Please let us know if any of your personal contact details change. Address all correspondence to our Friends Administrator Ken Male – ken.male@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
- Instagram @hengistburyheadnci

And, of course, by keeping up to date from our website.....

<https://hhnci.org.uk>

NCI Hengistbury Head is one of 60 NCI Stations around the UK keeping "Eyes along the coast".

Current Station opening hours 8.00am-5.00pm