

Joint Exercise helps the RNLI prepare for the summer



Photo by NIGEL MILLARD RNLI

The RNLI lifeguards in the South Hams are on duty at Blackpool Sands, Slapton and Torcross, Thurlestone, Hope Cove, Bantham, Burgh Island and Challaborough. So far this season they have had to deal with one Heart Attack, two spinal injuries and a variety of minor First Aid matters.

The two lifeguards at Blackpool Sands, Jon Parlby and Matt Allen, had just signed off at 6pm when two inexperienced kayakers were reported as having been seen 45 minutes earlier paddling out to sea. They had not told anyone where they were going or when they would be back. They had no means of communication.

Having efficiently established the facts the lifeguards radioed "Exercise Control" who requested that they search their immediate foreshore and tasked the Dart Inshore Lifeboat to attend. On their way round to the beach the lifeboat was given instructions to carry out an expanding square search and given the co-ordinates of the starting position to enter into their sat-nav.

The ILB found one kayaker who had been in the water for 20 minutes and was already becoming hypothermic

in spite of wearing a wetsuit. He was transported back to Blackpool Sands and landed under the direction of the lifeguards who then used their training and equipment to treat him on the beach. He was then carried by a joint team of RNLI lifeguards and ILB crew to the waiting St. John's Ambulance.

For the purposes of the exercise the ILB crew then changed over and the new crew were tasked with finding the second kayaker. They took Matt, one of the beach lifeguards, with them. Chris Tracey had managed to hide his considerable bulk behind the rocks on Redlap Cove, with only one, broken, foot showing. He was spotted by the ILB crew on their second pass and Matt demonstrated a "tube rescue" which is how the lifeguards extract casualties from the shore to a boat.

It had been hoped that a RN helicopter from Culdrose would have lifted the casualty from the ILB but unfortunately at the last minute the helicopter was not available. It would have been a fascinating backdrop for the wedding party at the Venus Cafe but the wedding speeches would have been totally inaudible!

Support this lifeboat station

The last edition of Dart D Tales highlighted the new RNLI DVD "Serious Fun". Dart is so far the only lifeboat station in the country to have one of the chapters devoted entirely to a local station. It gives an opportunity to link your national membership to this lifeboat station.

It is also possible to become a Friend of Dart Lifeboat. You will receive this newsletter three times a year as well as notification by Email of recent launches and future events. You can receive news of large local events not previously highlighted in the newsletter by post if you wish.

Please see the enclosed application form to enable you to show your support using either of these routes. If you have any queries please contact Bob Hattersley, Membership Secretary.



Photo by JOHN FENTON

Rob Clements, Lifeboat Operations Manager, trials the new siren

Sirenaid on the Park.

Traditionally the lifeboat crew would be called out by hearing the crack of the maroons. They had the added advantage of warning people on or around the launching site that it would imminently be needed for emergency purposes. The RNLI reluctantly withdrew maroons from routine use for Health and Safety reasons, although they can still be used in exceptional circumstances, such as a total breakdown in the pager and mobile phone system.

The Dart lifeboat station is trialling a hand cranked siren which will only be used if the route to the launching slip, or the launching slip itself, is seen to be congested, such as during Regatta.

Before the older generation grab their tin hats and make for the shelters please be reassured that the siren will only be used for emergency launches and never during unsocial hours.

Launches since April 2009



Cartoon by JAMIES FENTON

No	Date	Day	Assisted	Location	Description
26 3/09	9/4/09 00:28 hrs	Thurs	Assisted 1 adult 2 children	Middleback shoal, Stoke Gabriel, River Dart 050deg 23.777N 003deg 37.696W	Called to rescue a family on a 29ft yacht moored over the shoal. As the tide ebbed she grounded and listed to 45 degrees. The family were transferred to the Dittisham pontoon and brought to the Lifeboat Station by the Coastguard team.
27 4/09	10/4/09 23:05 hrs	Fri	0	Search River Dart Dartmouth to Totnes 050deg 23.5050N 003deg 34.825W	The police requested a search for an 18 foot cabin cruiser reported to have left Galmpton, but not to have arrived in Totnes. The mobile coastguard team found the two occupants asleep onboard at Totnes
28 5/09	13/4/09 13:12 hrs	Mon	8	Duncannon Reach River Dart 050deg 24.165N 003deg 37.996W	A rowing eight from Nottingham University hit a submerged object, holing their boat in several places. Two crewmen swam ashore to raise the alarm. Two boats from the DHNA and the ILB attended. The crew were transferred by the ILB to the launches and the ILB then towed the skiff back to Totnes.
29 6/09	8/5/09 04:15 hrs	Fri	0	Noss Marina 050deg 21.922N 003deg 34.670W	An Emergency Position Indicating Beacon (EPIRB) self activated on a yacht moored alongside the marina. The marina staff were notified and contacted the owner.
30 7/09	20/6/09 18:35 hrs	Sat	0	Homestone Bouy River Dart Estuary 050deg 19.928N 003deg 33.755W	A 19ft dory with 5 onboard ran out of fuel and let off flares to attract attention. The dive boat Falcon was the first to reach them and took them in tow. The ILB was escorting the tow home when they were diverted to their next task.
31 8/09	20/6/09 19:35 hrs	Sat	2	Off Kingswear Castle River Dart Estuary 050deg 20.146N 003deg 33.529W	A 24ft yacht on passage from Salcombe had dropped anchor in the estuary. The anchor was fouled on the sea bed and they were unable to start their engine. The yacht was freed and towed to a berth on the Town pontoon.

Canoe racing at Tuckenhay

A team representing the Dart lifeboat came second this year during the afternoon of Canadian canoe racing organised by Phil Sheardown of Canoe Adventures. This was the 7th year of the competition held at the Maltsters, Tuckenhay and was our best result so far.

It was a great afternoon in the sun for supporters of the eight teams with a BBQ, Raffle and stalls. It happily coincided with the Maltsters Beer Festival! The event raised £492 for the RNLI and a similar amount went to the charity supporting the children from Chernobyl.

There has been a tradition for supporters of Dart lifeboat to supplement the crew on the day and this year we were joined by Phil Langman and Martin Rae. Martin was due to join the Dartmouth Police Station as a PC the following day. Help was needed as the event was on the same day as the twenty four hour sailing race in Peterborough and of course sufficient members of the crew had to be available to man the lifeboat in the event of a shout.

The Dart lifeboat team were beaten in the Final by Stoke Up who had won the event for the previous two years, in



Photo by CLARE STRUDWICK

spite of the fact that, in a previous heat, Dart had produced the fastest time of the day.

Stoke Up all come from the village of Stoke Gabriel but rumour has it they practice!

Of the faces visible:- Helm from Canoe Adventures, Yorkie, Wes, Buster, Mark, Steve and Lee

Emails to the Editor

Hi John,

I have enclosed a photo taken at the 24 hour non-stop sailing race organised by the Peterborough RNLI Fundraising team. The race took place at Ferry Meadows Country Park in Peterborough where we camped by the 10 acre lake. We put RNLI flags and bunting round our area and were the first RNLI team to enter in 11 years. It was started with a flyby by the Battle of Britain flight. The Dartmouth contingent consisted of Kev Murphy, Chris Tracey, Squiff Howitt and I. We had a great time and finished 6th overall out of 13 teams, despite the fact that the boat, a Comet Trio, was very slow. We joined up with another team which made us up to 8 people. This meant we had three 2 hour sessions each, which included going all through the night. The estimate of the funds raised for the RNLI is in excess of £4000.

Regards Pete (Callis)

p.s. The D class lifeboat "Peterborough Beer Festival II" was paid for by the same FR team and was the Dartmouth lifeboat for four months until we received our new boat "Spirit of the Dart" in July 2008.



Pete Callis, Chris Tracey, Kevin Murphy & Squiff Howitt

Photo supplied by PETE CALLIS

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www.dartmouth-lifeboat.org.uk

Future events

Dart Lifeboat Week

Saturday 1st August.

RNLI Flag Day in Dartmouth.

Wednesday 5th August.

A self guided, 2hr walk exploring the mysteries of Dartmouth.

Entry at Dartmouth Yacht Club, South Embankment.

10:00 – 16:00.

Friday 7th August.

RNLI Fete in the Royal Avenue Gardens.

27th, 28th, 29th August.

Dartmouth Regatta.

The lifeboat station will be open to visitors. Come and see the ILB and the lifesaving equipment.

RNLI souvenirs will be on sale during Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Regatta Saturday 29th August.

Provisionally at midday there will be an exercise with Dart ILB and a SAR Sea King from Culdrose

At 1pm the ILB will pick up some of the Black Knight Army parachute display team from the river.

Thursday 24th September.

“Sounds of Summer” concert by Choir 86 in Dartmouth Guildhall.

Tickets at the door. 19:30.

Cost £6

Tuesday 13th October.

Illustrated talk by John Risdon on the Mariner’s way.

Dartmouth Yacht Club. 19:30.

Cost £5

Thursday 19th November.

Skittles evening.

Dartmouth Yacht Club.

Do you have an idea for a feature article? Got something to say? Please send your views to John Fenton

Dart Lifejacket Clinic



PHOTO BY JOHN YUNNIE

Lt to Rt Chris Robinson from Shipmates, Ian & Steve from Ocean Safety and Martin Jones RNLI SSO

On Saturday 6th June Dart Lifeboat Sea Safety Team held its first Lifejacket Clinic at the boathouse. The weather was atrocious; the heavens opened and for most of the afternoon there was torrential rain. Such conditions did not deter attendance. Boat owners seeking help and advice brought 84 lifejackets.

On hand were the experts to inspect and test lifejackets, suggest remedies and carry out simple repairs.

Should complete replacements be necessary Chris and Lindy Robinson from Shipmates Chandlery had brought an impressive display of Lifejackets that are available on the market. Chris and Lindy have considerable experience in the marketing and design of lifejackets and proved a real asset to the event.

Ian and Steve from the Lee Mill firm of “Ocean Safety” were kept busy all day inspecting jackets and correcting faults.

Of those presented 15% were found to be beyond repair or inappropriate and requiring replacement. Many others had minor defects. Out of date cartridges and loose gas bottles were the most common faults found.

Martin Jones, from the Plymouth RNLI Sea Safety Team, presented general Sea Safety advice and a lifejacket demonstration ably assisted by our own Sea Safety representatives John Yunnie and Dai Richards. Dai is available locally to give presentations on Lifejackets and can be contacted through the Dart lifeboat station.

Teas, cakes and souvenirs were on sale to make it an enjoyable time.

Despite the rain the day proved to be of immense value to those attending and one we will certainly repeat.

Waterborne activities are great fun:- more so if done safely!

Rob Clements

Third party events.

These events are organised by those who wish to support us, but are not members of the local RNLI fundraising team. Posters can be produced by the Fundraising team and keep the corporate RNLI image. Contacting Anna Perry, Events Co-ordinator, on 01803 832393 early in the planning stage should help to avoid date clashes, both with our own events as well as those of other organisations in the Town.

Dart RNLI contacts

Lifeboat Operations Manager.

Rob Clements. Mobile 07917 514 948

Chairman Management Team.

Robin Shiffner. Tel 01803 835853

Chairman Fundraising Team.

Harry Escott. Tel 01803 834296

Secretary Fundraising Team.

Clare Thorp. Tel 01803 832123

Treasurer Fundraising Team.

Colin Myers. Tel 01803 832674

Local Membership Secretary.

Bob Hattersley. Tel 01803 832182

Souvenir Secretary.

Mrs. Jo Escott. Tel 01803 834296

Event Co-ordinator.

Anna Perry. Tel 01803 832393

Boathouse Manager.

Bob Thomas. Mobile 07980 099 932

Administrator and Press Officer.

Editor Dart D Tales and website.

John Fenton Tel. 01803 770761

Dart Lifeboat Station.

Tel. 01803 839224

Please do not ring this number if you think a launch is in progress.

Details of our thirty one Launches, recent and forthcoming events, as well as information on the new IB1 D class lifeboat can be found on the local RNLI web site. Notices are also posted on the Notice Boards in front of the toilets on North Embankment and on the Lifeboat Station.

www.dartmouth-lifeboat.org.uk