



Courtesy of Bristow Helicopters

Augusta Westland 189

Change up in the sky

Bristow Helicopters Ltd, along with the Maritime and Coastal Agency (MCA), held a meeting at Newquay Airport to present their vision of the way forward now that the U.K. Search and Rescue (SAR) contract has been awarded to them. Once the changeover rolls out they will provide twenty four hour cover, three hundred and sixty five days of the year until 2026.

The presentation was attended by Rob Clements, Dart Lifeboat Operations Manager and Les English, Deputy Launching Authority, as well as representatives from other RNLI stations in the South West, the MCA, the Fire and Ambulance services, the Police, Hospitals, Mountain Rescue teams, Cliff and Cave Rescue and several other organisations. All were seeking reassurance that the excellent cover provided by the Coastguard Sikorsky helicopters from Portland and the RN Sea Kings, predominantly from Culdrose, will be maintained, if not improved on. The RAF has been providing SAR cover for seventy years and the Royal Navy for sixty.

They were told that Bristow will be operating from ten bases and that the crews will respond to SAR requests from the MCA within a maximum of 15 minutes by day and within 45 minutes after 10pm. This is the same as the current contract. Due to the increased speed of the new helicopters being used the average response time to arrive at each incident will reduce from twenty three minutes to nineteen.

In Dartmouth we will mainly be covered from the new Bristow bases to be built at Newquay, Lee-on-Solent and St Athan, near Cardiff airport. In the event of a very major incident, such as the flash flooding at Boscastle ten years ago, the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre or its Maritime equivalent can order a "storm response" and up to 7

helicopters will be on scene within ninety minutes.

There will be a managed process of transfer of Service personnel from military bases. In that way the skill sets and local knowledge, as well as the RAF and RN Search and Rescue heritage, will be maintained. Continuity of the SAR service is paramount as the Bristow training schedule is rolled out and the military bases change their roles.

The new base at Newquay will have two Sikorsky S92 helicopters and there will be two Augusta Westland AW189 helicopters at the other two stations that will be covering us at Lee on Solent and St Athan, near Cardiff airport.

Bristow already operate five hundred and fifty helicopters in twenty two countries and carry out SAR operations worldwide. The Company currently provide UK SAR cover from Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis and Sumburgh in the Shetland Isles.

Continued on page 3







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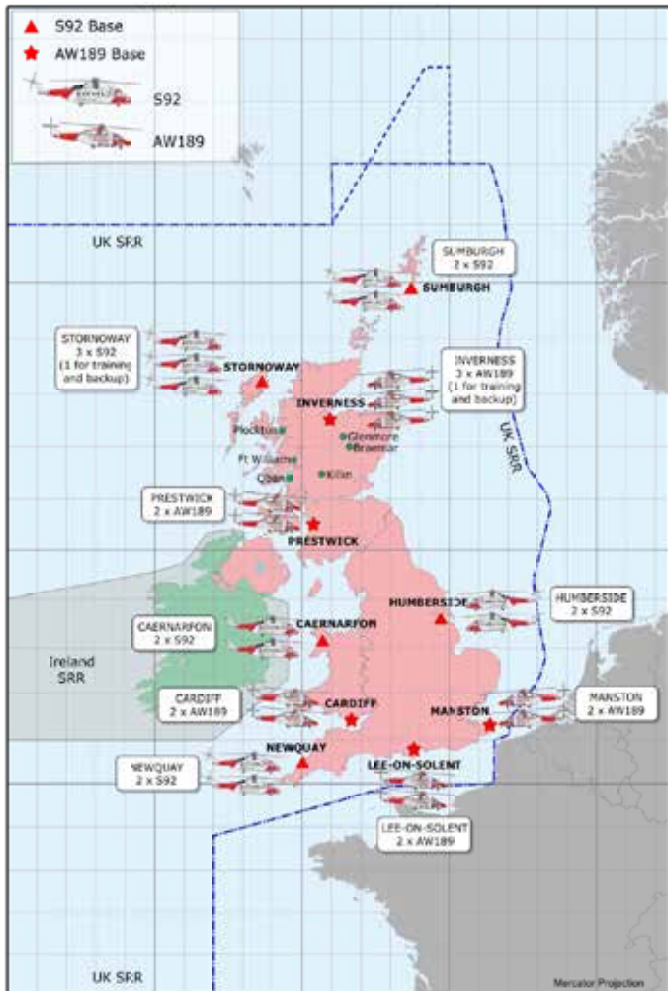
Launches since August 2014

No.	Date	Assisted	Location / Search area.	Description
220	29/07/14 Tuesday 10:10pm	1 adult	Hackney Creek Nr Stoke Gabriel River Dart	Medical evacuation of missing person. Having previously searched for 3 hrs. with no sighting of the missing person, the lifeboat was requested to re-launch to assist HM Coastguard Search and Rescue teams and the Dartmoor Search and Rescue team (DSRT) to evacuate the casualty, who had been found in dense undergrowth in the Hackney Creek area. Due to the remote and inaccessible nature of the location the lifeboat was used to evacuate the casualty, along with 2 Drs. from the DSRT. The lifeboat crew used their new RNLI fold up stretcher. The lifeboat then returned to collect more CG and DSRT members and returned them to the Higher Ferry slipway.
				
222	27/08/14 Wednesday 5:22pm		Warren Cove Start Bay	Out of control car goes over cliff. The RNLI lifeboat was tasked by the Coastguard, following a report that a Land Rover had gone backwards over the 70 metre (230 foot) cliff at Warren Cove, Little Dartmouth. Two holidaymakers had been fishing off the point with their sons. They took the vehicle down to the cliff top but lost control on the steep slope on the way back up. The boys were not in the vehicle and the adults got out before the vehicle was lost over the cliff. The car came to rest 50feet above the waterline. The lifeboat crew checked the scene from the water and, having been informed by the Police and Coastguard that no casualties were involved, returned to station.
				 Landrover at foot of Warren Cove <small>Photo by Andy Carter</small>
223	28/08/14 Thursday 3:07pm	1 adult	Checkstone buoy Dart estuary	Casualty with head injury after yacht collision. A crewman was injured during a collision between 2 yachts racing in Start Bay. He was given immediate First Aid on board and transferred to the RIB <i>Northern Exposure</i> for transport ashore. The Dart lifeboat was diverted from training to attend and put a crewman on the RIB to assess the casualty. The lifeboat then escorted the RIB up-river having radioed for the rowers racing in the river to keep clear. The casualty was landed and transferred to an Ambulance at the new Regatta rendezvous at Sandquay.
224	28/08/14 Thursday 3:45pm	8 adults	2 miles south of the Castle Ledge buoy Start Bay	Dismasted racing yacht. The inshore lifeboat was tasked by the Coastguard to assist a dismasted yacht that had been racing in Start Bay. There were eight on board and none of them were injured. After assisting the yacht with their rigging the J109 was escorted back to her mooring at Sandquay.
				 <small>Photo by Dart RNLI Crew</small>
225	30/08/14 Saturday 3:13pm	1 adult	0.5 miles south east of the Dancing Beggars Start Bay	Yachtsman with hand injuries. A crewman on the 32ft. yacht <i>Tokolosh 2</i> injured both hands in a block. The Coastguard asked the RNLI lifeboat to attend and they launched with their Paramedic crewman on board. The paramedic boarded the yacht between the Castles and assessed and bandaged the casualty. He was then transferred in the lifeboat to Sandquay where he was handed over to the care of an Emergency Care Practitioner.
				 <small>Photo by Dart RNLI Crew</small>

A full account of all launches, with photographs, video if available and positional maps, can be found on the Dart RNLI station web site whose address is at the foot of the page.

You can receive a Tweet when we launch, and follow the position of the lifeboat as the call out unfolds.

Details of our last two hundred and twenty seven launches, recent and forthcoming events, a photo gallery as well as updated details of the team members can be found on the local RNLI web site. Notices are also posted on the Notice Boards on the outside the Lifeboat Station and in front of the toilets on the North Embankment.



Courtesy of Bristow Helicopters

The bases will be opened in a phased approach starting in April 2015. St Athan, near Cardiff airport, is expected to open on 1 October 2015, Newquay in January 2016 and Lee on Solent in April 2017. The flight crews will be trained at the Bristow Aberdeen Simulation Hall where, as part of the training, the crews are trained to escape from a fully submerged helicopter. There will be a preparatory three month training schedule at each base before its opening and this will include training with the organisations such as the RNLI crews that they will be covering. The Government contract also requires fifty hours of ongoing training to be provided monthly by each base. Training techniques will be developed to deal with the varying requirements of the larger aircraft and their greater downdraft. Each helicopter will carry a pilot, co-pilot, winch operator and winchman paramedic.

The AW189 is configured to carry six casualties as well as two stretchers. The larger Sikorsky S92 can rescue twenty one casualties and has a range of 268 nautical miles. Both carry dual hoists in case one fails, de-icing equipment and the latest in thermal imaging equipment. The night vision goggles used by the crew are up to military standards.

It will be sad not to see the trusty Royal Navy Sea Kings overhead but times change and we have been promised an even better Search and Rescue provision for the future.



Sikorsky S92

Courtesy of Bristow Helicopters

Big Sick Little Sick

Developed by the staff at the RNLI Training College in Poole under the leadership of Paul Savage, OBE, this immediate care package has been cascaded out over the last few years to all lifeboat crews around the country and the Republic of Ireland. This modern concept enables the crew to reach a fast diagnosis of a casualty at the scene, be it at sea or on the coast. The aid-memoir, on easy to read laminated flow charts, has been well designed, simplified and reduced down to a step-by-step protocol. These are designed to reduce the pressure on the crew who, with well-practiced but limited knowledge of diagnosing illness and injury, can co-ordinate a medical rescue as a team effort. This in turn allows for the operator to be able to assess the patient by using the colour coordinated guide to steer them to a provisional diagnosis within the first few minutes of contact.

Steve Wallis, RNLI medically trained but with no background First Aid knowledge, can be seen in a video on the Dart RNLI web site using the cards. In launch 185 during Regatta last year he had to assess a lady who was no longer responding to her medication. The cards were again used by the lifeboat crew for the assessment of a yacht crewman with a severe scalp injury on August 28 this year.

In simpler terms, "Is the patient 'Big Sick' and has a life threatening illness or severe injury?" "Big Sick casualties are liable to die due to lack of oxygen or blood circulation. Such casualties are "time critical" and have to be acted upon quickly.

'Little Sick' casualties involve possible minor illness or trauma that will not have a major effect on the vital systems that maintain life. This does not mean that the initial diagnosis cannot escalate to the higher priority with time so the rechecking of the flow chart and patient assessment is repeated at a regular basis whilst in the care of the lifeboat crew until the patient can be passed on to a definitive care service such as the Ambulance service or a helicopter paramedic.

The system has been evolving over the years as new ideas and added skills are brought to the front line of lifeboat work. Reviews of the practices in the last year have brought in new systems and drugs that have up-graded the skill level of the crews involved. These have now brought the lifeboat medic trained crew members in line with the existing emergency services and this process will carry on evolving to even higher standards of emergency



RNLI Casualty Care Card

Photo by John Fenton



Haydn Glanvill
RNLI Paramedic on the RNLI Dart lifeboat
Paramedic with the Western Ambulance Service

Mike Felton, Patron of the RNLI Dart Lifeboat

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Mike Felton, after a short illness, in the early hours of Tuesday 11th November 2014. All our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife Babs and their family in this sad time.

The family business, headed by Mike, was a patron of the Dart Lifeboat and the donor of our lifeboat D702 'Spirit of the Dart'. Mike never stopped promoting and supporting the lifeboat in so many ways, both large and small.

Dart Lifeboat and the RNLI have lost a great friend. We are stunned and saddened by his passing.



Mike Felton onboard his boat during a photoshoot in May 2012

Photo by John Fenton

Their visit to HMS Triumph

Les and Linda Hurst, Martin and Jilly Judd and Ray Barton with partner Helen Rees presented the plaque of HMS Triumph, a Royal Navy Trafalgar Class Nuclear Submarine to the landlord, Kevin John, of the Ship in Dock pub in Dartmouth.

Kevin, who is on the Dart lifeboat crew, was an organiser of the Dart RNLI Gala Dinner earlier in the year and the plaque now has pride of place above the bar.

The three couples were the successful bidders for 'Lunch onboard a Nuclear Submarine' which had been arranged by Commodore Jake Moores.

They declared their visit and lunch onboard the submarine as she lay alongside in Devonport, as being "Fantastic. The visit of a lifetime and something that money could not normally buy."



HMS Triumph plaque presentation (Kevin John, centre)

Photo by Jake Moores

The plaque had been presented to them by the Captain of Triumph, Commander David Filtness, in recognition of the money that they bid for the

privilege. The money went directly to the Dart Branch of the RNLI and helped to swell the total raised on the night to in excess of £13,000.

All Change

This winter edition of Dart D'Tales is full of change. Not only have our colleagues at the Brixham Coastguard Maritime Rescue centre moved away to Fareham and Falmouth, but, by July 2017, the MOD will have handed over all their SAR support to Bristow Helicopters.

Locally the greatest change will be the planning and opening of the new RNLI Visitor Centre on Dartmouth's South Embankment. The crew have been trained to use the upgraded RNLI Casualty Care Cards and finally, Tony Rendle, my ex Assistant Lifeboat Press Officer has moved away to Newlyn to take up the role of Mechanic at the Penlee lifeboat station.

John Fenton. Editor.

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- Riverside Restaurant with views over the Dart and Kingswear beyond
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- Menus now available for the Festive Period
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- Private party bookings available for all special occasions

Dartmouth Visitor Centre Update

We are all very proud that Dartmouth has been chosen as the home for the RNLI's new Visitor Centre which is to be the first of its kind in the UK and their flagship centre. We are sure that it will make a great addition to the existing attractions in the town and be somewhere that visitors and residents will have fun visiting. They will gain more knowledge about both the RNLI and the wonderful town of Dartmouth. We have secured the lease on the Old Post Office on the Embankment which will be the perfect venue.

I am delighted and very proud to have been asked to be the local Project Manager and then Manager once the Visitor Centre is open. Although I am fairly new to the area, I have been a visitor for 30 years and have now achieved a long term ambition, along with my husband, to be living in one of the loveliest corners of the South West. I also always planned to be involved with The RNLI; a charity I have supported for many years and which has volunteer crew men and women who risk so much for no return.

It is still early days in the completion of the Visitor Centre. The RNLI Head Office are currently working with contractors to agree quotes for the structural and building work. Nothing has yet been agreed but they do have a "preferred bidder" who is a local company.

We will, very soon, be putting some advertising in the windows of the building so that passers by can see that a Visitor Centre is coming to Dartmouth.

We are hopeful that the fitting out of the interior can start in mid to late November and Head Office are in the process of viewing creative design proposals and plan to choose a company



Photo by John Fenton

Ed Featherstone and Tracey Lomas outside the site of the new visitor centre

who will begin creative construction in January or February. This is the time that the initial launch promotions will start and will include a recruitment drive for volunteers, so watch this space if you would like to join the team.

We are hoping to be open to visitors in time for Easter but this will depend on how the building work and fitting out goes. However, from March, we will be holding open evenings for local businesses, including hotels and restaurants. We are very keen to show what the Visitor Centre will have to offer and for business owners to spread the word. We will also be holding evenings for volunteers and supporters to give us a chance to meet up and to introduce them to all the attractions and shop that we will be working in. I am

particularly looking forward to spending time with the volunteers I will be working with and will be making these evenings a regular event.

A formal opening will be arranged with, hopefully, a VIP guest of honour, but this will be after we initially open for business.

I will keep you up to date with our progress, but in the mean time, if you would like to join my team of volunteers, whether it be on a regular basis or just as an occasional helper, please email me at traceylucas61@gmail.com

**Tracey Lucas,
Vice Chairman
& Visitor Centre
Manager
RNLI Dart**






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Move to Full Timer

Having begun my RNLI association with the crew at Penlee, the opportunity to apply for the position of full time mechanic was too good a chance to miss. Once selected for interview the next few weeks were spent reading as much as possible; everything from learning about basic diesel engines and RNLI mission statements, to "rule of the road".

The interview went as well as I could have hoped for and I was offered the job the same day, with an agreed start date.

The first day in April this year was not the most exciting start, with an introduction to writing risk assessments. However the next three weeks were spent at other stations getting me back into the swing of things, asking as many questions as possible and trying to make the most of being able to make any mistakes away from station!

Once on station the job started for real. May and June were quiet for us and it allowed me time to get to know both the Severn All Weather Lifeboat and our B class Atlantic 75. I had to pass assessments and then attended the RNLI Management, Command & Communication Course which took place over a week in Poole at the Lifeboat College.

During July and August however things got busy. There were plenty of "shouts," along with my first inspection, another first aid course, as well as fundraising events.

At the time of writing we are currently on 43 shouts for 2014 for both boats, which have ranged from the Brixham sailing trawler *Provident*, to lone kayakers. There have been searches for overdue sailing dinghies, along with broken down boats requiring a tow.

It may sound like something of a cliché but no two days are the same. Some days I spend my whole day working on the all-weather boat. The *Ivan Ellen* is magnificent and has become my pride and joy. Every day she is washed and the brass is cleaned regularly to show her to the public in the best possible condition.

Following every shout or exercise there is the mandatory paperwork, which for me includes writing a press release for the RNLI's news centre, (Just like being on Dart!) But of course that has to take place once the boat has been checked, refuelled and signed off ready for service once more.

With summer drawing to a close, it has



Photo by Nigel Millard



Photo by Tony Rendle

The *Provident* Brixham sailing trawler with steering problems in Mounts Bay

been a hectic five months in the job. It has been unbelievably rewarding, fun and at times challenging!

Over the next few months I have more courses booked, ranging from Flood Rescue to DC Electrics, with three more assessments due on the Inshore Lifeboat. This will enable me to re-qualify as a helmsman on the Atlantic 75. She is a dream to drive, but getting back to hugging the coast at up to 30 knots will

Penlee Severn Class in rough weather photographed from RNAS Culdrose helicopter

take some getting used to again!

There are some massive differences between the job of full time Mechanic and the role of volunteer. There is one thing that does not change however and that is the support that is given by the crew's family. As station mechanic I get two weekends a month off duty – if I can get cover! For the family this means days out without dad, who cannot leave Newlyn and making sure childcare is sorted, just in case the pager goes off.

Joined Penlee lifeboat as a volunteer in Nov 2004. Moved to Dart in Sept 2007 and became Dart Assistant Press Officer in Oct 2012 until he left in Ap. 2014. He returned to Penlee as the full time Station Mechanic.



Photo by Vicki Hart

Tony Rendle, Mechanic on the RNLI Penlee Lifeboat

Chairman's Corner: with photo's from the Fete

As I look back on our fundraising activities for the last 12 months I am amazed at how much we have managed to achieve. The highlights must include the Gala Dinner at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club with David Dimbleby and the Annual

and John Butler, and to all of our "Friends" and supporters who have helped at events and encouraged all their friends and family to come along too. It has all been great fun. Then there are all of you who read Dart D'Tales and the monthly updates who decide to run a fundraising event and give the proceeds to RNLI Dart Lifeboat. I am amazed at the groundswell of support in the local community for "our" lifeboat.

Of course the most significant development this year has been the decision to lease the "Old Post Office" in South Embankment from Scorer Properties. This will be a game changer for education, information and public awareness of the fine work done by our lifeboat and the whole of the RNLI. More of that elsewhere.

Why not join our group of "Friends" for £5 per year or encourage others to



Ed Featherstone, Chairman

Below Monty Halls, BBC presenter and Dart Lifeboat Shore Crew

Photo by Paul Weedon



Cllr Hilary Bastone



Nigel Way, owner of the Royal Castle Hotel



Captain of Britannia Royal Naval College Henry Duffy RN

Fete in Royal Avenue Gardens, joined by Totnes Boating Association, Nigel Way of the Royal Castle Hotel, Councillor Hilary Bastone, Captain Henry Duffy and our very own Monty Halls.

Not far behind was the talk by Captain Duffy at the Dartmouth Yacht Club on the subject of "The future of Britannia Royal Naval College." Yes, it is safe you will all be pleased to know! Many thanks once again to Dartmouth Yacht Club which never fails to answer the call for a venue and whose staff and members make us feel so welcome.

Finally a big thank you to my Committee, joined recently by Paul Manley

join you. If you are looking for more of a challenge and you have time and skills to offer, you can become a volunteer and join the committee. Whilst there are no current vacancies for officers of the Committee at the moment, we will almost certainly be seeking a new Membership Secretary and a Treasurer in the next year. Our current Membership Secretary, Bob Hattersley, has been working for Dart Lifeboat since before the decision to erect the new boathouse and is ready to move on. Ian McMaster was our first Treasurer and returned temporarily to the job at very short notice about a year ago. Both have

worked tirelessly. If you feel you could take up the challenge then I would like to hear from you.

Ed Featherstone, RNLI Fundraising Branch

Photos by John Fenton

Local Dart RNLI contacts

President

Robin Shiffner. Tel 01803 835853

Chairman Lifeboat Management Team

Jake Moores Tel 01803 833036

Lifeboat Operations Manager

Rob Clements. Mobile 07917 514 948

Treasurer Operations Team

Paul Weedon. Tel 01803 833812

Sea Safety Officer

John Yunnie. Mobile 07768 007 365

Chairman Fundraising Branch

Ed Featherstone

01803 835328. Mobile 07889 953974

Email ed.featherstone@btinternet.com

Vice Chairman & Visitor Centre Manager

Tracey Lucas. Mobile 07850 578127

Secretary Fundraising Branch

Clare Thorp. Tel 01803 832123

Box Secretary

Gordon Pepperell. Mobile 07791 448391

Treasurer Fundraising Branch

Ian McMaster Mobile 07957 856063

Events Secretary

Alan Makepeace 01803 770775

Local Membership Secretary

Bob Hattersley. Tel 01803 832182

Boathouse Manager

Bob Thomas. Mobile 07980 099 932

Administrator, Press Officer & Education Volunteer.

Editor Dart D'Tales and web site.

John Fenton. Tel 01803 770761

Lifeboat Visits Officer

Kevin Murphy. Mob 07890 809106

or by the "Contact us" link on the web site

Dart Lifeboat Station

Coronation Park, North Embankment,
DARTMOUTH, TQ6 9RR. 01803 839224

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

Please send your views to John
Fenton using the 'Contact Us' facility
on the web site.

Future Events

Tuesday 25 Nov

Coffee Morning Royal Castle Hotel.
10.00 to 11.30. Mobile Shop & Raffle.

Wednesday 26 November

Talk by Monty Halls "Lost Worlds
and Sunken Cities"
Dartmouth Yacht Club 19.00.

Saturday 29 November

Royal Dart Yacht Club Christmas
Charity Fair.
10.00 to 14.00. Mobile Shop.

Friday 5 December

Souvenir and Christmas Card Stall
in Dartmouth Market.

2015

14-22 February

RNLI Dart SOS Week

Saturday 14 February

Sink Our Ship. 12.00 to 14.00. at
the Boat Float. Join us for fun and
frolics with the lifeboat and crew.

Thursday 19 February

Quiz Supper at the Brill Plaice, Stoke Fleming.

Delicious supper with a fun quiz
and raffle to blow the winter blues
away.

More details later.

Saturday 21 February

Sainsburys Collection.

Help us to raise cash for RNLI Dart
lifeboat with the lifeboat and crew.
More details later.

Late March

Visitor Centre. Unofficial opening.
(TBC)

Thursday 30 April

Visitor Centre. Official opening.
(TBC)

Thursday 30 April

AGM at Dartmouth Yacht Club.
19.00.

Every month an Email is sent out to
those who have requested it, giving
news of the previous month's
operational activity of the lifeboat
crew and listing any forthcoming
events. The above list is not final
and the Email is the best way to
keep up to date. If you would like to
receive this Email please contact
John Fenton or use the "Contact
us" page on the station web site.
This is also the route to use if you
wish to discontinue receiving the
Emails.

Further information on all these future events and reports of past events
can be found on the Events section of the station web site.

RNLI Lifeguard cover in the South Hams

In 2015 the RNLI lifeguards, along with local RNLI Educational volunteers, plan to
offer Beach safety talks to all our local schools.

RNLI lifeguard cover 2015

Easter

3, 4, 5 & 6 April

Bantham beach

Full Season

2 May – 27 Sept

Bantham & Sedgwell Cove

Main Season

16 May – 27 Sept

Challaborough

Peak Season

4 July - 6 Sept

Burgh Island, Thurlestone, Hope Cove,
Blackpool Sands & Slapton Sands



Photo by John Fenton

RNLI Lifeguard Chris Rampling
on Blackpool Sands

If there is no flag there is
no lifeguard on duty.