



Spring 2017



SARA

Beachley and Newport

Lifeboats; Land Search; Cliff, Mud, Mountain, Swift Water and Flood Rescue

Operational Activities

In April the SARA Land Search Teams were seen in action on BBC TV, as the Beachley and Tewkesbury Teams joined the search for Hazel Denham near Stroud. Elderly Hazel was found safe and relatively well, considering she had been out for 3 nights. Hazel is one of four 'missing persons', not all of them elderly, who have been found and rescued on land searches which SARA Beachley has been a part of, already this year. The recent BBC Series 'Reported Missing' gives a very good idea of how these searches work and develop, and where specialist volunteer search teams fit into the overall (and very considerable) effort coordinated by the Police.



The Beachley lifeboats have also been active. One busy week in April saw two different rescues make the local headlines, including a rare joint operation with a large RNLI lifeboat - see story on the next page.

On other occasions both the Beachley and the Newport lifeboats have been launched to support police operations on the bridges across the Severn, the Wye and the Usk. In all cases the boats have remained at standby, and been able to return to their bases once the situations had been resolved. Typically these callouts happen after dark, and we are proud that we were able to launch quickly, at all times of day.

Station News

The training for new land search crew continued through the early part of the year, covering skills such as a river bank searching, shown below. The course culminated in a pair of 'Final Exercises' - one by day and a second by night. Congratulations to Derrick Williams and Munro Moffat who are now waiting for first shout!



Richard Dainty has been leading continuation water rescue ('SRT') training, including practicing the team in the use of the new Rescue

Platforms. They are great for accessing areas such as weirs, and for transporting kit and people, but they are not easy to manoeuvre!



Back in Beachley Station, the long-overdue redecoration of the Crew Room has begun, led by Ryan Hewitt. And it has been the season for AGMs and Elections. We now have a new Committee, and a new Chairman - for full details of the committee read on!

The SARA Newsletter is sponsored by Cymru Kitchens www.cymrukitchens.com

beachley.fundraiser@sara-rescue.org.uk

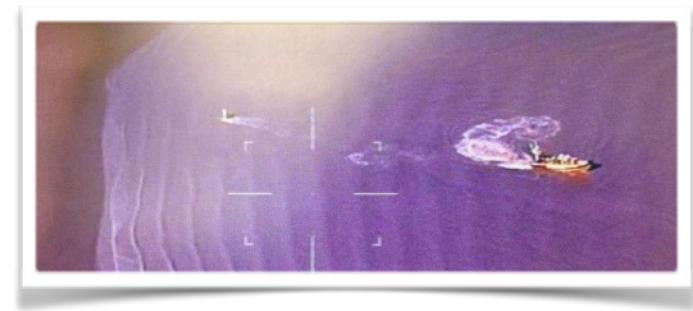
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Contributions for next issue by 1 July

Barges and JetSkis

The first week of April saw two very different lifeboat operations.

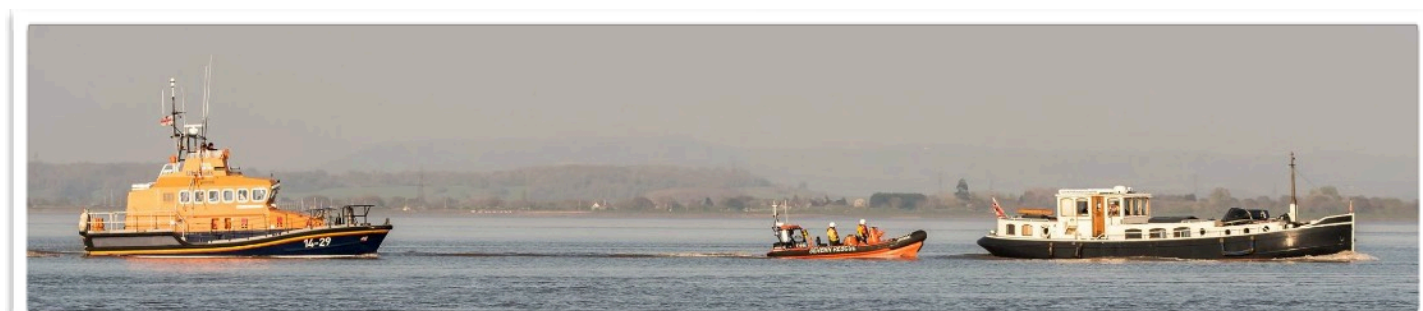
The two SARA lifeboats were launched on a Sunday afternoon, to go to the aid of two Jet-skiers from Worcester who had run aground on the infamous Bedwin Sands approximately 1 Km away from the shore. By the time the SARA lifeboats reached them the tide had fallen to such a level that one of the rescue crew had to swim to the sand-bar and then walk over a kilometre to reach them - a moment captured (and tweeted) by a police helicopter.



The lifeboat crew advised the stranded men to leave their jet-skis; The men, however, refused the advice and chose to remain, so the lifeboats returned to base, refuelled and relaunched much later, eventually escorting them back to Beachley just before 9:00pm.

A few days later to go to the aid of a converted 20-metre barge, the 'Stanton Rose'. She had suffered engine failure and was drifting, so had dropped anchor roughly opposite Oldbury. The Coastguard had also called in the powerful All-Weather Lifeboat from RNLI Barry Dock.

Working together, the RNLI boat was able to take the weight of the barge off the anchor chain, so that the SARA crew aboard the Stanton Rose, who had repaired the engine, were able to disconnect and release the chain. It was attached to a buoy – to be collected at a later date. The Stanton Rose was then able to make its way towards its home at Portishead.



Fundraising

Like any charity, SARA depends on donations to maintain the service we provide. We were grateful to the team at 3 Hill Street Lydney (formerly the British Legion Club) for a donation following one of their weekend Meat Draws. Ian Roberts was on hand to receive a presentation cheque



The Coventry Building Society in Chepstow has chosen SARA as their charity of the year, and kicked off a series of fundraising events and collections with a display in the branch together with a selection of home-made cakes. They have already conducted a raffle for SARA and there are other plans in the pipeline



The SARA teams have also been out operating collections. As well as providing useful income these are a great way for us to meet the communities we serve, and to raise awareness about what we do.



Richard Dainty and Barry Buxton, at Tesco in Risca

New Station Committee

The recent Station elections have seen a new Chairman, as well as a few other new faces, as Mervyn Fleming decided to step down after 10 years in the role. The new Committee comprises

Chairman:	Ian Roberts
Station Manager	Ron Harris
Secretary:	Sue Roberts
Treasurer	Virginia Lyall
Land Search Manager:	Kathy Donaldson
Boat Manager	Ryan Hewitt
SRT Manager:	Rich Dainty
Rope Rescue Manager	Mark Carwardine
Fundraising & PR Manager	Richard Newhouse
Training Manager:	Toity Deave
Communications Mgr	Haydn Lyall
First Aid Manager	Malcolm Bradley

Many thanks to outgoing Training Manager Dave Brown, and Fundraising Mgr Lou Brown, as well as to Mervyn. More on Merv in the next issue!

The Duck Race

The annual Chepstow Great SARA Duck Race will be taking place on Saturday 1 July, with a Lifeboat Rescue Display on the River. Tickets are now on sale at the Ferry Inn, The Boat Inn and at the Coventry Building Society.

The Great SARA Duck Race
and Lifeboat Rescue Display
Saturday 1st July 2017
The Boat Inn Chepstow
Duck Race: A48 Bridge to the Old Town Bridge
Alongside the Chepstow harbour wall

Kindly Supported By
Over 1,000 Ducks!
BASEPOINT business centres

Exhibition Opens 11:00
Lifeboat Display 12:30
Duck Race Begins 1:15

SARA
Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA): Registered Charity No. 505504
www.sara-rescue.org.uk, latest news on Facebook & Twitter
Registered Office: The Lifeboat & Rescue Station, Beachley, Chepstow, NP16 7HH
Lifeboat and Rescue Stations at Beachley, Sharpness, Newport, Tewkesbury & Wyre Forest

SEVERN RESCUE

THE 'DUCKS' ARE PLASTIC. Please note no real ducks are harmed during the race.

Sunday 18 June: Station Open Day and Chepstow 950 Picnic

The Annual Station Open Day is on Sunday 18 June. This is a great opportunity for visitors of all ages to come and look around the Lifeboat and Rescue Station, and meet many of the crew.

That same day is one of the big celebrations for Chepstow's 950-year anniversary, at Chepstow Castle. SARA will also have display there, with a dramatic rope rescue demonstration off the Castle wall.

Severn Area Rescue Association
Open Day **Sunday 18th June**
11am - 3pm
Beachley Lifeboat & Rescue Station
Beachley Chepstow NP16 7HH
Past the Barracks Under the Severn Bridge

Your local Lifeboat, Land and Mountain Search and Rescue Team

Station Tours every 30 minutes
Lifeboat Launch and Rescue Demonstration 1.30pm

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SEVERN RESCUE

Looking Ahead

As well as the events above, there are plenty of other opportunities to meet & support SARA!

- Sat 27 May: Caerleon Fun Day and Severn Beach Community Day
- Sat 24 & Sun 25 Jun: Lydney Harbour Festival
- Sun 2 July: Monmouth Challenge Aquathlon
- Thurs 6 July: The Tintern Trot (running race)
- Sat 8 July: Devauden Village Fete
- Sat 13 Aug: Caldicot 999 Day

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Recruiting

We are always looking for new crew members, especially to join as Lifeboat crew. .

Fundraisers help to raise the essential money, which is needed to keep the Station operational. Other Supporters have skills such as administration and vehicle mechanics, which are essential to keeping the operation going.

Whether you are thinking about training to become operational crew, or to help in other ways, download and send-in the Application Form from www.sara-rescue.org.uk/join-us, or contact beachley.trainingmanager@sara-rescue.org.uk for more information.

Thanks to our Donors

Our collecting tins continue to bring in a steady flow of necessary funding toward our operational costs.

We are very grateful to all who have contributed toward our vital work

Cymru Kitchens



We are grateful to Cymru Kitchens, based in Newport, for sponsoring this year's Newsletters.

Designing rooms for modern living
www.cymrukitchens.com

Give Monthly @ Just Giving

As a charity SARA depends on donations.

To donate to SARA, please visit:

www.justgiving.com/sara-rescue/Donate

Don't forget to tick the 'Gift Aid' box so that we can claim an additional 25% of your gift back from the tax-man

And Finally

Many congratulations to Newport crewman Dan Watts and his new wife Amy!

They were married on Easter Monday 17 April in Llanhamlach Church, near Brecon with a reception at Peterstone court. No paggers were allowed!



Today, I was part of a team saving someone's life...

- Lifeboat Crew
- Shore Crew
- Mountain Rescue Team
- Comms Officer
- Incident Controller
- Administrator
- Fundraiser
- Rope Technician
- Mechanic
- Station Technician
- Swift Water Technician
- Medic
- Trainer

What will you do tomorrow? 