

SARA

Beachley and Newport

Summer 2018

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

What is SARA?

SARA is a volunteer Search and Rescue Charity, with Lifeboat and Rescue Stations along the length of the River Severn. The teams based at Beachley (near Chepstow) and Newport work together, to perform rescues on the Usk, Ebbw and Wye as well as the Severn, and to conduct land search and rescue across Gloucestershire. Last year these teams conducted 86 different operations.

Recent Operations

June was a busy month for the Beachley and Newport teams! On 5 June, the Land Search Team was in Cirencester late at night, looking for a missing vulnerable man - he was found safe and well the next day, quite some distance away.

An immediate lifeboat launch was requested at 05:20 one morning, to assist South Wales Fire and Rescue Service with persons in the water on the River Usk at Newport. The casualties were rescued by the Fire Service boat; our crew assisted with first aid provision before handing over to the Ambulance Service. Later that same day SARA Lifeboat 1 was launched to go to the aid of a small boat which had suffered engine failure, up-river from Beachley. In fact, they managed to restart their engine; the SARA crew escorted them back to Beachley.



The following week both Beachley lifeboats were launched, again early in the morning, to attend to a yacht in St Pierre Pill. She had run aground the previous night, and was resting at about 70 degrees - the crew were concerned as to what would happen as the tide rose. The yacht did right herself as hoped, and was then able to motor back to her correct mooring. The SARA boats could then recover back to Beachley as the sun rose (see photo on the back page!).

A week after that SARA Lifeboat 1 was launched again, to recover a small craft which had been spotted drifting down the Severn. Having located her there was no sign of anyone having been on board. She was towed safely back to Beachley and handed over to Chepstow Coastguard.



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Flood Boat Operators

SARA has a standing commitment to DEFRA to make available 4 Power-Boat Flood Rescue Teams, in case of emergency anywhere in the country. As part of this commitment, and following a successful grant application, over the past few months 4 members of the Beachley & Newport Team have undertaken a week's training and qualified as 'Swiftwater and Flood Rescue Boat Operators'.

This training largely takes place in the Menai Straits, where there is regular fast-moving water, and plenty of submerged rocks and eddies to practise on!

New Crew Training

We have new crew members training for land search at Beachley, and lifeboat crew at both Beachley and Newport.



The Land Trainees have now completed their National Navigation Scheme Bronze Award; many thanks to Chepstow Garden Centre for funding the NNAS Tutor training which made this possible. They have also all now passed the newly introduced fitness test, walking 8km in the Forest of Dean whilst carrying weight.

The lifeboat trainees have been learning the boat skills they need and will soon all take their RYA PB2 tests.

Bob Refurbished

Almost a proper crew member, Beachley's rescue mannikin 'Bob' has been refurbished, thanks to Irene Fleming for winning a competition offered by the manufacturer Ruth Lee Ltd. Hopefully he has many more exciting adventures still to come!



SARA's MP Visits

SARA Beachley is in Mark Harper MP's constituency and he visited in April - along with Nick Evans from Tidenham Parish Council - enjoying a lifeboat trip as well as a briefing on our activities. For the station visit they were joined by SARA founder Jim Hewitt.



Swiftwater & Flood Rescue Boat Operator Training on the Menai Straits



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Fundraising News

Many congratulations and thanks to Mary Griffiths from Newnham, who celebrated her 100th Birthday recently. Through the generosity of her guests, £750 was raised for SARA!



Many thanks too to John Rowlands and the team at the Devauden Village Hall, for their massive £1,464 donation from recent fundraising activities for SARA. There have been many other donations received, and we are grateful to everyone concerned.

The team has been out at many events in the area over the past few months, including the Gwent Police Open Day at Croesyceiliog and supporting the 3rd Wye River Valley Festival finale at Llandogo.



During May, we were happy to help the Mayor of Coleford Nick Penny with a charity abseil, and we are delighted that SARA is now his chosen mayoral charity of the year.



School Visits

We try to visit local schools when we can, to explain the work of SARA and also to talk to the children about water safety.

In May, SARA Lifeboat 3 visited Woolaston School, once again the crew were blessed with excellent weather!



We also visited Yorkley Primary School, Class 2. We are always happy to be invited to visit schools, so if you are interested then please get in touch.

Barry ties the Knot

Barry Buxton is one of our Newport helmsmen. In June he (finally, after many months of planning!) married Emma in a lovely ceremony near Cardiff, joined by many of the SARA crew.

On their cake he looked like a lifeboat man, but it's probably just as well he didn't wear a drysuit that day himself! Many congratulations Barry & Emma.



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Please Join Us!

We are always looking for new operational crew members, both as Lifeboat Crew and Land Team Members.

In addition, our 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 helping in other ways, download and send in the Application Form from www.sara-rescue.org.uk/join-us, or for more information just contact beachley.trainingmanager@sara-rescue.org.uk



Beachley Boats Manager Ryan Hewitt receiving his 25 Years Service Award

Give Monthly Online

As a charity SARA depends on donations.

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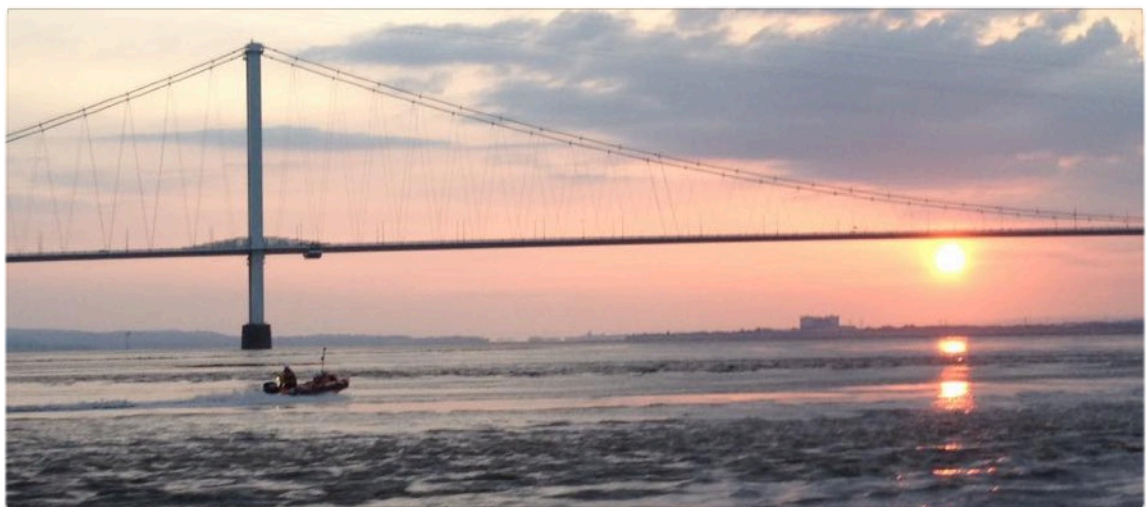
www.sara-rescue/donate

Please consider setting up a monthly donation
- you can now do that on our website!

Please don't forget to tick the 'Gift Aid' box!



Filming a short documentary piece about SARA for ITV Wales, at Newport with Trevor Fishlock



SARA Lifeboat 3 returns from an early morning callout in June

SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) is a Registered Charity in England & Wales No: 505504
Registered Address: The Lifeboat & Rescue Station, Beachley Road, Chepstow NP16 7HH
www.sara-rescue.org.uk.