



Summer 2017



SARA

Beachley and Newport

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

Operational Activities

Thankfully the fairly frantic pace of operational callouts at the start of 2017 did not continue into the summer, and became more sustainable. In May, the Land Search team spent a wet evening at the Woodchester Estate near Stroud - following which the missing person was found alive and well in the small hours of the morning. As the team was driving out over the Severn Bridge there was a lifeboat callout to an operation on the M4 bridge, though this was rapidly stood down. There have also been a few callouts which were resolved before the search teams were deployed, in the majority of cases all was well, though one sadly involved the recovery of a body from a Sharpness boat team on the Severn, and our thoughts are with the person's friends and family. On the lifeboat side the crews have rescued a small boat with engine failure and supported the re-floating of a vessel aground, as well as conducting a number of searches on the Usk and Severn.



It has been a productive few months for training. Operational training for new lifeboat crew, and new land search team members has continued. Several recent joiners have qualified as Swift Water & Flood Rescue Technicians (to be 'SRT crew') and we have one more 'Advanced SRT'. We have had our first SRT Training evening at the Cardiff International White Water Centre, with hopefully more to come. Training in 'Casualty Care' is now gathering pace, and is intended to lead to a substantial increase in the number of crew qualified to the Mountain Rescue standard of CasCare.

In August the pagers started to go off more frequently, with two callouts on consecutive days with multiple stations and both water & land assets deployed - see story inside!

In a busy two weeks at the end of June we held both the Beachley Station Open Day & the Great SARA Duck Race in Chepstow. These followed their traditional formats and we were lucky with the weather, so we were able to show our equipment and capabilities to many members of the public. We are grateful to Basepoint Chepstow for sponsoring the Duck Race this year. And as a result of the lifeboat demonstration at the Open Day we also now have a great video of our flagship Lifeboat SARA 1, filmed from a drone. This currently has pride of place on the Facebook page!



Cymru Kitchens



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

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Callout August

The week of 7 August was a busy one for the SARA Beachley & Newport Stations.

The Swift Water Rescue ('SRT') team from SARA Beachley was called out to Newport on the Tuesday evening, to support the SARA Newport Lifeboat and SRT Teams on a Police and Fire & Rescue Service operation searching for a number of missing children in the River Ebbw near Tredegar Park. Both the SARA Newport boats were launched as part of the search, as well as Fire Service boats. For a while the worst was feared but it was subsequently determined that all the children were safe and well.

The following afternoon the Land Search Team was called out. The SARA Sharpness Crew had been called out earlier; they launched their smaller boats for a missing person search around Arlingham. Following consultation with the Police, the search effort was later switched to the land side, and the SARA Tewkesbury and Beachley Land Search Teams were called out. Thankfully again the missing person was subsequently located by the Police and all teams stood down.

And then on Sunday there were two callouts to persons in the river or in the mud in Newport, but both were rapidly resolved by the Fire Service whilst the SARA Teams were being deployed. A number of our volunteers were involved in two or more of the operations that week!

Fundraising

In July we have had special cause to be very grateful to our friends in the community for their support in raising funds for us. The Serenata Ladies Choir held a concert in our benefit in Caldicot, and shortly afterwards the Tesco Chepstow staff organised a fundraising event over two days.

The Coventry Building Society in Chepstow is raising funds all year, and held a summer raffle and tea party. They have also awarded us a 'Community Grant' for over £950, which has just enabled us to purchase a new set of ropes and other equipment specific for water rescue.



Tea & Cake with the Mayor of Chepstow at the Coventry Building Society

We are also grateful to Misty Windows Ltd, and the Woodman Inn Parkend, DIY Light Fantastic, and BevComm Ltd, for funding the replacement windows in the Mess Room at Beachley. The result is a much more pleasant environment for the crew, and greater visibility over the Severn.



A School Visit to Woodcroft Primary School, with Landrover Mobile 10 and SARA Lifeboat 3

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HART Training

This Spring we continued to run our series of training days for HART (Hazardous Area Response Team) paramedics from South Western Ambulance Service.

The Beachley lifeboat crews set up some casualty scenarios which were only accessible by lifeboat, such as on Charleston Rock. The paramedics were landed and then performed initial treatment on the seaweed covered rocks.

We then recovered the casualty back to the slipway, whilst the paramedics attended to them. We also gave the HART team general training and experience in operating with inshore lifeboats.



Skilful Searching

Part of the training in skilful searching, which all the land search trainees go through, involves understanding the effect of 'Saccadic masking'. Kathy Donaldson, Beachley Land Search Manager, explains:

“Saccadic masking, also known as (visual) saccadic suppression, is the phenomenon in visual perception where the brain selectively blocks visual processing during eye movements in such a way that neither the motion of the eye (and subsequent motion blur of the image) nor the gap in visual perception is noticeable.

“The effect is that each one of us loses 40 minutes of every day, during which our eyes see but our brains can't process. In land search, we have to slow down our head and eye movements so that we can actually see what we are looking at, and do our best not to miss that vital clue which will help us to find the missing person.”



Land Search Training near Tintern

Event Safety Cover

The spring and summer months are always busy with providing safety cover – we have recently been at the Devauden Races, the Monmouth Aquathlon and The Tintern Trot, and will shortly be covering the Severn Bridge Half Marathon and the Monmouth Raft Race.

These events usually provide a good opportunity to practice teamwork in the field, working in some areas where we have had callouts and hopefully we don't need to practice our first aid skills. They are also a great opportunity to meet people, and explain all about SARA.



Keeping cool at the Monmouth Challenge Aquathlon

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Mobile 2 Replacement

Our Land Search Team needs a new vehicle! Our team is getting busier all the time, and the team's landrover, known as 'Mobile 2', is now over 20 years old and no longer fit for its role.

Can you help us to raise the money we need? Please help us with this appeal. We'd love to hear your ideas - please message us through our Facebook page or email us using beachley.fundraiser@sara-rescue.org.uk.

You can make a direct donation on the VirginMoneyGiving website, please see our Facebook page for details.



STOP PRESS: Cliff Rescue

As this newsletter was going to press, the team was called out to assist with a cliff rescue at Ban-y-Gor Rocks, Lancut. A young climber had been injured by a falling rock, and with our help he was winched up into a Coastguard helicopter to taken to Bristol Children's Hospital.



The winchman explains what will happen next!

Give Monthly @ Just Giving

As a charity SARA depends on donations.

To donate to SARA, please visit:
www.justgiving.com/sara-rescue/Donate

Please consider setting up a monthly donation - you can do that on Just Giving!

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

Recruiting

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 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

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.