

Beachley Lifeboat & Rescue Station

Lifeboats; Land Search; Cliff, Mud, Inland 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. Our members perform rescues on the Usk, Wye, both Avons and other rivers as well as the Severn, and from the cliffs and other areas of difficult terrain, and conduct missing person searches in support of the Police. In 2024 SARA conducted 150 different operations; a full list of our operations is maintained on our website at www.sara-rescue.org.uk/callouts.

SARA's new Search Dog Unit is coming along well, with the team training hard! Read all about it in the next issue!

Operational News

2025 has brought a steady stream of callouts for our team. So far they have not been quite as frequent as last year, though one Monday saw two lifeboat callouts within a few hours - see story inside. The lifeboat crew have been called out several times to support police incidents on one of the motorway bridges, and in one case to a lady stuck in mud on the Aust side of the Severn. These have been resolved without our help, but we are always happy to help other agencies to cover all possibilities and we are always glad when a person is found safe, or is able to get themselves out of danger.

In March we supported a major search operation in and around a river at Chippenham. That was led by Wiltshire Search and Rescue, and they asked several surrounding teams to help. Sadly the missing man was found by police divers a few days later.

The Land Search Team has been called out a few times and then quickly stood down as the missing person was found - always good news!

Then at the start of May there was a callout to an area on the edge of Gloucester which saw search teams deploying late on a Saturday evening.

With nothing found by 2am, they were stood down, and the search recommenced the following day. Wiltshire SAR supported us there, as did Glos Cave Rescue. Thankfully, during the afternoon the lady concerned was found safe, and taken to hospital by the police. A great result from a good team effort.

One of our other successes was passing the Annual Declared Lifeboat Facility visit (inspection) by HM Coastguard. This was conducted over two days, led by Matt Nicholas (MRCC Commander Milford Haven) and his colleague Dan Young. This is a major achievement for any lifeboat station, and we were delighted by their comments.



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



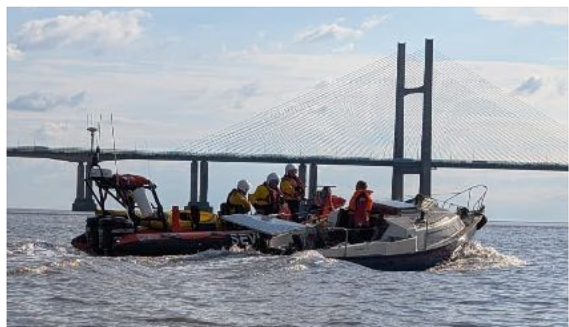
Lifeboat Callouts 12 May

Monday 12 May was one of those double-callout days for our lifeboat crew.

Around 1050, we were contacted by Gwent Police, regarding someone who might have entered the water earlier in the day. Following consultation with the Police and the Coastguard, we launched SARA Lifeboat 3 for a search in the River Wye. Nothing was found and the person was later found safe inland.

Then at around 1630, the Coastguard called again - a yacht reported being in difficulties near the M4 Second Severn Crossing, and was aground on the English Stones.

SARA Lifeboat 1 was launched, and en route spotted a drifting yellow kayak. They checked it was empty, and the Coastguard explained that it may belong to the stranded boat. So the lifeboat recovered the kayak, and went directly to the yacht - now floating and anchored.



It was decided to get the yacht to the safety of nearby St Pierre Pill, and the smaller SARA Lifeboat 3 was launched as there not enough depth for SARA 1 in the Pill.

We put a senior crew member on the yacht, the kayak onto SARA 3, and then SARA 3 shadowed the yacht in to the Pill. The lifeboats could then recover, at about 1900.

Some crew attended both - well done all!



Well done Tyler & Chris!

Over the past year, Tyler Josh Carpenter has been doing an amazing job delivering water safety talks to schools across our area. We were delighted that has been recognised by his award of the Royal Society of St George Captain Nairac Award.

This award is for those aged 21 or under from Gloucestershire, who "have demonstrated courage, determination or selflessness in supporting others or their community", and was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Edward Gillespie, at a St George's Day service. Tyler received a silver salver and a certificate.



Chris Taylor was presented with the first 'Malcolm Bradley' Award at the Beachley AGM in March. Chris joined SARA in 2000 and became operational in 2001, becoming a helm and then a coxswain.

Chris is one of the maintenance team that make sure the boats and launch tractor are available for use. This can often mean late nights or even all-nighters to repair issues, in order to make sure the boats are available for call outs.

He played a key role in the specification and management of the extension of the station, and almost single handedly created the balcony and fire escape. He was also a key part of the team that created the launch tractor and adapted SARA 1's launch trailer.



Congratulations Tyler and Chris!

In other Training

Our team trains most Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Recent training has included a couple of visits, firstly to the Coastguard helicopter base at St Athan. It is important that we are familiar with our local search and rescue helicopter, and some of the land search team practiced getting a stretcher winched into the helicopter, without it spinning uncontrollably.



Not to be outdone, some of the lifeboat team visited RNLI Port Talbot, which operates a D-Class lifeboat not dissimilar to SARA Lifeboat 3. Launching off a lovely sandy beach is very different to launching on our slipway, and tricky in a storm!!



Closer to home, one of our in-house instructors has run a Flood Rescue Boat Operator Course. The highlight of these is always putting up a ladder from a boat floating in moving water, and getting a 'volunteer' to climb up and down!



The Golf Day

On Wed 17 Sept, we are again hosting a Golf Day at the prestigious St Pierre Old Course outside Chepstow, as part of our fundraising for the new Launch Tractor and its garage.

It's for teams of 4 with great prizes for the best individual and best team rounds. There are other fun competitions to enter and prizes to be won, eg hole in one, nearest the pin and the longest drive. There is a post-match meal, as well as coffee & bacon roll on arrival.

It's great value at £70 / person – £280 / team.

Reserve your place now by contacting mary.miller@sara-rescue.org.uk or calling 0787941359.



Wednesday 17th September 2025

4 BALL COMPETITION AT ST. PIERRE OLD COURSE, CHEPSTOW

- Welcome coffee, bacon roll and post round meal
- Teams of 4 with great prizes for best individual and team rounds
- Fantastic value at only £70/person or £280/team
- Nearest the pin, hole in one and other fun competitions

NOW BOOKING



https://registeronfuse.com/ga/166975/GolfDay2025?ref=linkfromSARABeam&utm_source=facebook



The Cause

£40,000 is needed to fund the construction of a new building to house the new launch tractor for the Beachley station. This is essential to enable SARA to continue its work keeping people safe on the Severn Estuary and Tidal Wye.

More information at www.sara-rescue.org.uk and <https://www.sara-rescue.org.uk/bit-shed/>
SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) Registered Charity CIO in England & Wales No: 1193634 HQ: The Lifeboat & Rescue Station, Beachley Road, Chepstow NP16 7HH
Contact: mary.miller@sara-rescue.org.uk



A Monthly Donation?

SARA depends on donations. A small monthly donation would help us immensely.

Just email info@sara-rescue.org.uk to request a standing order form.

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



Join us in June!

Join us for a wonderful musical night out!

SARA
Severn Area Rescue Association

MIDSUMMER Ceilidh

IN AID OF THE NEW HOME FOR THE NEW LAUNCH TRACTOR APPEAL

Join us for a foot stomping, rollicking great night out to mark the longest day of 2025! Featuring Cat's Claw, one of South Wales' leading ceilidh bands, this will be an evening of fantastic traditional music and dancing with a cold platter supper from Poppy & Fig.

STARTING AT 7:00 PM
ON 20TH JUNE 2025

POPPY & FIG

AT THE DRILL HALL CHEPSTOW £25/pp

Cat's Claw Ceilidh Band

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
<https://register.anyhuse.com/as/event/AMidsummerCeilidhinaidofournewLaunchtractorHome>
SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) Registered Charity CIO in England & Wales No: 1193634 HQ: The Lifeboat & Rescue Station, Beachley Road, Chepstow NP16 7HH

Proceeds to go towards the launch tractor shed.
Details online, at, www.sara-rescue.org.uk

And (or!) come and abseil St Mary's Monmouth!

SEVERN AREA RESCUE ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISING

ST. MARY'S CHURCH Monmouth

JUNE 28TH 10 AM - 4 PM

TICKETS ONLY

FUNDRAISING ABSEIL

£40pp

ryan.games@sara-rescue.org.uk

Proceeds towards Water Rescue Equipment
Contact ryan.games@sara-rescue.org.uk

Thank You!

Thank you to the Chepstow Branch of the Monmouthshire Building Society, for supporting us through their Branch Sponsorship scheme. We were delighted that they visited Beachley to present a cheque to replace 2 handheld VHF radios and a first aid training bag.



And thank you to all our supporters who have visited our stands at a Tesco collection, Magor May Fayre, the David Broom Centre or any of the other places and events we have attended. Your support is very much appreciated!



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