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Weather Station Update 29.12.15

Apologies to all our weather station viewers for the recent lack of wind information. Our Weather Station is currently operating normally after recent storm damage.

One Hundred Years of Watchkeeping

Prawle Point Coastwatch in the news.

<http://www.kingsbridge-today.co.uk/article.cfm?id=101513>

2015 Recruitment

We are recruiting new watchkeepers. Our training course starts in October. If you would like to join us as a watchkeeper please let Andy Thomson, our Station Manager, know (01548 531666 or prawlepoint@nci.org.uk). If you would like to learn more about watchkeeping come and see us on our stands at Frogmore Regatta (Sunday 16 August) or the Kingsbridge Show (Saturday 5 September).

Car Boot Sale Sunday 28.06.15

Springfield Farm Shop - off A379 between East Charleton and Frogmore.

Gates open to sellers from 08:30 - £5 per pitch. Buyers from 09:00 - 13:00. All proceeds go to NCI Station funds.

Webcam & Weather Station Update 16.05.15

Our Weather Station is now operating normally. Our Webcam is also running including a new view to the East of Prawle Point. Click on the Webcam link above to see the two views.

Webcam Update 08.05.15

Our existing webcam is due to be repaired this coming Thursday 14 May. At the same time we will be improving the service to include an East facing camera showing sea conditions across Lannacombe Bay and around Start Point.

Declared Facility Status 08.03.15

On Sunday we underwent our annual assessment by an NCI Assessor. This included an exercise with both RNLI Salcombe lifeboats. The station has retained its DFS status as part of the Search and Rescue network.

Coastwatch VHF Channel 65 01.10.14

To All Mariners - we are now listening on VHF channel 65 which is a dedicated Coastwatch channel. For local sea and weather conditions, radio and AIS checks, please call us on VHF 65.

Declared Facility Status

On Sunday 23 March 2014 we underwent our annual assessment by an NCI Assessor accompanied by a representative of the Coastguard. This included an exercise with RNLI Salcombe lifeboats. The station has retained its DFS status as part of the Search and Rescue network.

Weather Station Update 10.03.14

Our weather station has been so battered by the storms that we have had to send it off for repair. We have a temporary replacement in place which allows us to record the weather but unfortunately is not connected to the web. If you want weather information for the Prawle area please ring us on 01548 511259.

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Weather Station Update 12.02.14

We have been experiencing problems with our weather station. Apologies to all those who have tried to see it in the last few days. It is now back on the air. We need to carry out some maintenance work on it in the near future (weather permitting!) but hopefully any further disruptions will be short lived.

07.09.13 KINGSBRIDGE SHOW

We will be at the Kingsbridge Show. Come and visit our stand to find out what we do and how you can help us.

17.04.13 - GREAT SOUTH WEST WALK: TORCROSS TO EAST PORTLEMOUTH

On Wednesday 17th April, NCI Prawle Point watchkeepers, took part in the section of the Great South West Walk from Torcross to East Portlemouth, along with leader Ken Carter and fifteen other walkers. The group was spared the arduous two mile detour around the cliff fall west of Lannacombe, thanks to the kindness of the landowner who allowed access across his garden. At the Prawle Point Coastwatch Station, the walkers were welcomed into the Visitor Centre for refreshments.

Later in the walk, at a point overlooking Mill Bay the walkers met artist Dave Crocker who is undertaking a project to paint 365 pictures of the South West Coastal Path with part of the proceeds going to the Association.

The Great South West Walk, which celebrates the Association's 40th anniversary, has, through commercial sponsorship, already achieved its £250,000 target to finance improvements to the coast path and now aims to widen its programme. Walkers in relays are completing the 630 miles of the South West Coast Path. There are separate walks along the north and south coast and one of a pair of red boots is being carried on each walk. The two boots will be reunited when walkers on the final leg of the walks meet at Land's End on 7th May.

PRAWLE FAIR - come and see our stand - 2pm to 5pm on Sunday 26 May - the village green East Prawle. For more information see <http://www.prawlefair.co.uk/>.

01.04.13

The new touchscreen information kiosk is now fully operational in the Visitor Centre adjacent to the Lookout. It is loaded with an amazing variety of information including current weather and tides, a 'live' chart identifying current ship movements, videos about the NCI and Salcombe lifeboats, including some dramatic wrecks and rescues, pictorial displays on local and natural history and information about South Devon AONB. The new kiosk provides yet another reason for visiting Prawle Point, but with so much to take in you'll need to allow plenty of time when you get there!

22.03.13

Last Sunday, in order to maintain its position as part of the local Search and Rescue (SAR) Service, the Prawle Point NCI station underwent an annual assessment for what is known as Declared Facility Status (DFS). The Assessor - a member of the national NCI Assessment Team, supported by a liaison officer from HM Coastguard - thoroughly tested the responsiveness and expertise of six of the station's watchkeepers with technical questions, practical exercises and emergency scenarios. The station's operating procedures, equipment, documentation and training arrangements were also the subject of rigorous scrutiny.

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An important part of the annual assessment is a joint exercise with the station's SAR partners. The object of this year's exercise, which was undertaken with the crews of the Salcombe All-Weather and Inshore Lifeboats, was to guide the lifeboats to 'a person' spotted in the water by the NCI watchkeepers. A dummy, with the delightful name of 'Dead Fred', was dropped overboard a mile or so away from the lifeboat assigned to its recovery and the duty watchkeepers then gave constant position updates and course corrections over the radio to guide or 'con' the boat safely towards the target. Four separate rescue runs were undertaken and, on one of these, the two lifeboats, starting from different positions, were guided simultaneously. Even with the advantage of an elevated position up on the Point, the sun's rays made it difficult on occasion for the watchkeepers to spot the target and keep it 'eyeballed', but fortunately in each case an efficient recovery was made.

The Assessor's conclusion was that the station 'not only passed but excelled'. Continued DFS status was accordingly confirmed. Thanks to the commitment and hard work of the watchkeeping team, the station is in a good state of readiness for the busy boating season ahead.

08.03.13

In addition to keeping watch up at 'the Point', Coastwatch members take part in a variety of activities 'off-station'. On February 28 a group were set to visit Salcombe Lifeboat Station to be shown round Baltic Exchange III by members of its crew. On March 7 and 15 visits are being made to Brixham Coastguard where our newer members will see how the Coastguard co-ordinate rescue operations and, on March 12, an officer of the UK Borders Agency will attend our monthly meeting.

Monthly meetings are held at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month in Charleton Village Hall and, apart from the March and October training meetings, they are open to all. Our guest speakers cover a variety of topics, so do come along if you are interested in any of the following. There's no charge! April 9 - Battle of Trafalgar: Philip Evans; May 14 - tba; June 11 - Art of Photography: Rev. David Sherwood; July 9 - A Trek to Everest Base Camp: Norman Maudsley; Sept 10 - Penlee Lifeboat Disaster: Mac McLaren.

On April 17 a team from Prawle Point NCI will take part in the SW Coast Path Association's Great South West Walk between Torcross and East Portlemouth. We will also be 'manning' our display at Prawle Fair (May 26) Kingsbridge Fair (July 27), Frogmore Regatta (August 18), the Friends of Prawle Point Cream Teas event at East Prawle (August 21) and at Kingsbridge Show (Sept 7) and, in August, you can expect to see us outside the town's supermarkets with our collecting boxes.

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13.11.12



Roger Barrett receives recognition of his invaluable services to NCI Prawle Point from Coastwatch President, Jon Gifford during the 2012 AGM when Roger retired after 5 years as Station Manager.

Roger remains a watchkeeper and committee member, so his valuable experience and advice are still available to us.

02.06.12

NCI Prawle Point wins Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

On June 2nd it was officially announced that National Coastwatch Prawle Point had won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This news, kept secret by order for over a month, could then be divulged to all the watchkeepers at Prawle Point by Station Manager, Roger Barrett who described it as "a splendid achievement and great honour for which we can all feel enormously proud". Click Press Release for full story about this magnificent achievement.

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05.01.12

Prawle Point watchkeepers have been congratulating Honorary President, Jon Gifford on being awarded the OBE for services to maritime safety. Jon began his long and rewarding association with NCI as a volunteer watchkeeper at the Prawle Point Station in 1999 soon after the initial opening. His management and organisational skills together with exceptional abilities in leadership and motivation lead to his rapid rise through local and national levels to become Chairman of NCI in 2002- a full-time occupation undertaken with tireless energy and enthusiasm. At that time, watchkeepers numbered around 700 manning 23 lookout stations but, thanks to Jon's personal drive and commitment, there are now some 2000 volunteers operating 46 stations in England and Wales. Such an achievement involved many miles of travelling in search of prospective new stations followed by legal negotiations, fund-raising, recruitment and training of personnel all fired by Jon's passionate belief in the necessity of visual watch along the coast. His wife, Rosemary has been an unfailing support throughout these twelve years. Simultaneously he has devoted much time toward strengthening links with HM Coastguard, the RNLI and the UK Border Agency as well as the National Trust, Councils and landowners of adopted lookout sites.

All this time Jon continues to serve as Chairman on the Prawle Point committee of management but last April he stepped down from the position of National Chairman to become Honorary President of the Charity giving him more time to resume duties as a watchkeeper at his home station of Prawle Point. He has been welcomed back with much affection and pride.

June 13th 2011

New book published as part of the Visitor Centre Refurbishment Project

The South Devon coast between Start Point and Salcombe Bar, with Prawle Point, the county's southernmost extremity, at its centre, is well known for its impressive scenery, geology and wildlife. It can also lay claim to a rich and eventful past.

In a new book, published as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Prawle Point Visitor Centre refurbishment project, Roger Barrett, local historian and Station Manager at the Prawle Point Lookout, describes how people have sought, over the centuries, to defend this coast against the threat of invasion, piracy and smuggling, wrest a living from its shores and safeguard the lives of those in peril on the sea.