



NATIONAL COASTWATCH – PADSTOW

Padstow Newsletter

Charity No 1159975

Patrons: Mrs Prideaux-Brune and Rick Stein CBE — National Patron: HRH Princess Anne

WINTER 2025

ISSUE 40

NCI PADSTOW STATION DETAILS

LOCATION

Lat: 50°34.060'N
Long: 004°56.893'W
NGR: SW914784

CONTACT DETAILS

Tel: 01841 705008
email: padstow@nci.org.uk
VHF: CH65
Call
sign: Padstow NCI

What3words location:
[found.dumplings.lists](https://www.what3words.com/found.dumplings.lists)

COASTWATCH HOURS

Nov–Feb: 09:00–15:00
Mar & Oct: 09:00–16:00
Apr & Sep: 09:00–17:00
May–Aug: 09:00–18:00

NEW RECRUITS

If you are interested in joining us as a watchkeeper please contact our Station Manager, Richard Cole, on 07718 588940 or email at: padstow@nci.org.uk

Watch the NCI video at:

<https://youtu.be/VVDggtS4CDs>



EYES ALONG THE COAST

WEBSITE

www.ncipadstow.org.uk

CHANGE OF STATION MANAGER

At our AGM on Thursday 20th November, Richard Cole was voted in as the new Station Manager of NCI Padstow. He succeeds Peter Goodman who has stood down after nearly 8 years in the role. Richard has been Deputy Station Manager for the last year as well as being Building Officer and Quartermaster. We all wish Richard the best for his term of office.

We have been involved in many incidents during the year and you can read about a selection of these (see page 2).

We are keenly developing relationships with other organisations involved in water safety and during the year have taken part in a joint exercise with RNLI Rock (see page 3).

Fundraising is an essential part of running a station like ours and we are having to look at new ways of raising money (see page 3).

Big improvements have been made to our station equipment and



New Station Manager Richard Cole and past Station Manager Peter Goodman at the handover during the AGM

infrastructure during the year (see page 3).

From all at NCI Padstow we wish you a Happy New Year.

VISIT TO FALMOUTH COAST GUARD



Part of the NCI Padstow visiting group with FCG Liaison Officer, Lucy Draycott

In April, several visits were made to Falmouth Coastguard Station where we were made very welcome by the new NCI Liaison Officer, Lucy Draycott. Lucy gave us an updated briefing on how the relationship between FCG and the NCI

has developed into an integral part of the coastal rescue services.

We were shown around the operations centre and Lucy gave us the detailed explanation of how the station operates. We were also able to talk to several of the coastguards on watch that day who were very generous with their time.

Of particular interest to us was the unequivocal instructions of how we should treat 'incidents', which left us with a clear and concise procedure that we should adopt when these occur. It was reassuring to hear that if we have any concerns about potential or existing incidents we should not hesitate to involve Falmouth Coastguard.

NEW MEMBER FOCUS



Gillian Lovegrove

My career started in 1960 with the Royal Air Force where I spent nearly 13 years as a Photographic Interpreter and then an Air Traffic Controller. I married Geoff, a navigator, in 1972. On his posting to Canada in 1973, I resigned my commission to accompany him.

We spent the next 19 years travelling and bringing up three children. Three of those years were spent living aboard our 30ft catamaran, travelling from Christchurch to Cyprus, during a break in Geoff's RAF service. We home-schooled the children who were 9, 8 and 3.

On our return in 1987 we settled in Cornwall and Geoff rejoined the RAF. Five years later I also rejoined, this time the Royal Auxiliary Air Force as an Operations Officer.

We both retired in 2003 and took to the water again. We navigated calmer waters as we travelled the UK Inland Waterways on a 58ft narrowboat. After 18 years of life in the slow lane it all ended in 2021 when Geoff was taken seriously ill and spent 6 months in hospital.

I still felt energetic and a chance meeting with a friend, Peter Frost, an NCI watchkeeper, attracted my interest. A visit with him to the lookout made me decide to join in November 2023. After a few months of tutelage from my mentor I passed my assessment and became a qualified watchkeeper.

I also do the accounts for my son and play regular bridge.

I have a great love of the sea and great respect for the dangers it poses. I feel the job that we do contributes to the safety of those

SELECTED LOCAL INCIDENTS IN 2025

On 8th March a kite-surfer was observed to be in possible difficulty on the rocks off Tregirls during an offshore wind. Kite-surfer seen climbing rocks by watchkeeper using camera. FCG informed and asked that we monitor the situation. Visual contact lost so watchkeeper walked down to investigate and located kite-surfer who was fine, but grateful that someone was watching over him.

On 28th March FCG called to say that an EPIRB device had activated in the Rock area and that a helicopter and lifeboat had been tasked to search for the source. We were asked to do a visual reconnaissance. In fact, Padstow Harbour Master had the HEX number and was able to contact the owner of the EPIRB and all was OK. Helicopter, lifeboat and ourselves were stood down.

On 11th May call received from FCG saying they had received a report of an 'inflatable' in the Camel Estuary, with possible person hanging on. Our visual search spotted an object which turned out to be a tied together collection of partially inflated, party balloons. FCG informed and incident closed.

On 26th May HMCG rang to say a surfer appeared to be in difficulty in water off Greenaway Beach. We scanned the area and spotted surfer who seemed competent in difficult conditions. Surfer safely made shore and HMCG informed.

On 29th May phone call received from Member of Public to say they could see a 'tiring' wingfoiler. We rang Padstow Harbour Master RIB 'Stepper Point', who approached wingfoiler and took him on board. HMCG informed of incident. Wingfoiler was safely taken onboard Stepper Point.

On 21st June Pan Pan heard in lookout – yacht 'Robin' reporting engine failure and asking for a tow. HMCG rang to ask if we could see yacht 'Robin' but, due to heavy mist we could not locate it. After HMCG broadcast a Pan Pan, FV Razorbill responded and towed yacht into estuary where Stepper Point RIB took over and yacht towed into Padstow Harbour.

On 2nd July we noted a capsized small catamaran off Daymer Bay. Two young crew were struggling to right the boat. Observed crew managing to right the boat. HMCG then rang to say an MoP had also reported the incident. HMCG informed all OK with catamaran.

On 14th August We heard HMCG calling

Rescue Helicopter 924 reporting on a 999 call regarding a surfboard seen in the sea off Butter Hole. We took the mobile radio down to Butter Hole. HMCG informed nothing was observed in the sea. Rescue 924 arrived and was searching the sea between Butter Hole and Gunver Head. Padstow CRT joined the search at Butter Hole. Eventually, three surfboards were spotted. One surfboard was recovered. Other two surfboards not recovered as they were too close to cliffs in prevailing sea conditions to be retrieved. As no persons were reported missing it was assumed boards were swept off a Newquay beach by the tide.

On 20th August we received a call from HMCG saying a MoP had noticed a wing-surfer in difficulty in the water off Harbour Cove. We located a grey sail hydrofoil wing-surfer, who appeared to be a novice. HMCG requested we keep monitoring the situation. Harbour Patrol vessel, Stepper Point, also monitoring situation. We observed wing-surfer safely ashore and informed HMCG.

On 24th October we noticed a wingfoiler in trouble. We called HMCG and informed them of wingsurfer description. HMCG confirmed Rock ILB to launch. HMCG rang to confirm an MoP had also contacted them regarding wing-surfer. We heard conversation between HMCG and Rock ILB. Rock ILB rang us to check which wing-surfer was in trouble, and current location. Rang Rock ILB boathouse to confirm wing-surfer now OK. Rang HMCG to inform them of the situation.

On 28th October HMCG called after a MoP reported foil-surfer in difficulty. We observed two wind-surfers who appeared to be in trouble, one had an orange sail and one had a green sail. We contacted Harbour Patrol RIB 'Stepper Point' who agreed to investigate. HMCG rang to say another call had come from MoP. Stepper Point at scene. Surfer with green sail beached near rocks south of Greenaway beach, helped by a MoP. Stepper Point now alongside surfer with orange sail. Surfer brought on board and taken to Daymer beach. HMCG informed.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



NCI Padstow watchkeepers at Padstow Harbour

On Sunday 10th November the annual remembrance parade took place, starting at the harbour in Padstow.

The March, led by the Royal Legion, proceeded to St Petroc's Church for the remembrance service. Unfortunately, rain prevented the traditional march to the War Memorial.

Nine watch-keepers joined Station Manager Peter Goodman for this important occasion. This was Peter's last Remembrance Day as Station Manager and Richard Cole will represent the station next year.

FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

Padstow NCI is run entirely by volunteers and we simply could not do our job without the support of the public, charitable trusts and organisations that give generously to help us keep watch over our coastline. Whether it be cash in the collecting boxes that our Fundraising Officer Andy Parkinson and his team have placed around the area, or in our organised collections at local supermarkets, or by donations from local businesses and individuals making long-term commitments. We are very grateful to all our supporters. We also encourage regular supporters to become a "Friend of NCI Padstow". If you would like to become an FOP please see the application form on our website:

www.ncipadstow.org.uk/friends.html

WEBSITE

www.ncipadstow.org.uk

RNLI ROCK – JOINT EXERCISE

Earlier in the year, five groups of watchkeepers visited the RNLI station at Rock and were hosted by Bryan Bartlett and crew members, who showed us around and explained how the station operated. As a consequence it was agreed to create closer ties between our two organisations including attending each other's training sessions and carrying out joint exercises.

After discussions between Bryan and our Training Officer, Ian Morris, it was agreed to hold a joint training exercise whereby NCI Padstow would attempt to 'conn-on' the Rock RNLI ILB to a realistic dummy casualty. So, on 23rd November, the exercise took place. 8 practice runs with 2 RNLI crews and 2 NCI watchkeeper teams were carried out, with different methods to direct the ILB successfully onto the live casualty. The sea conditions were moderate in parts of the estuary and rough on and beyond the Doom



Rock ILB in sight of dummy casualty, bottom left



Rock ILB alongside dummy casualty, just above engine cowling

Bar with a falling tide. Our watchkeepers were surprised at the speed of the partially submerged dummy – in excess of 3 knots, even against the wind. Valuable lessons were learned by both parties which are being addressed to make further training exercises more efficient.

NEW FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

As with most other charities, tried and trusted methods of raising funds, such as supermarket collections and collection boxes at commercial premises, are not realising the returns they used to. So, our fundraising team have had to look at other opportunities and this year we were successful in augmenting our income by two interesting ventures. In August a group of watchkeepers stationed themselves at the traffic lights on the bridge between Wadebridge and Rock with collection boxes. The total collected during the day came to £1,112.



Tracey Kingdon, (far right), together with her team and Andy Parkinson, (third from left)

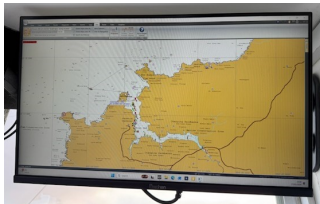
Andy Parkinson, our Fundraising Officer, was approached by Tracey Kingdon, head of Rick Stein's supply division, to make a presentation to their team as they wanted to support a local charity by doing a sponsored walk from Boscastle to Padstow. As a result of a further meeting we were chosen as the recipient charity. The walk took place through October and at least one NCI Padstow watchkeeper joined Tracey and her team for each leg. The target for the team was £300, but at the time of writing we had received over £400.

A further source of valuable alternative income was opened up by our approach to The Cornwall Community Hub who advise charities like ourselves on how to approach local funding organisations. As a result we were able to secure a £1,000 loan to cover station expenses for a year from Trenouth Solar Energy. There are also other opportunities from this resource for us to explore.

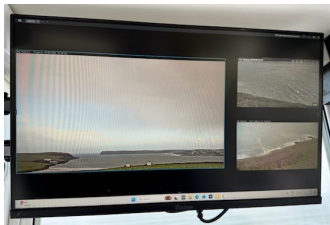
LOOKOUT NEWS

Our Engineering Officer, Mike Clatworthy, and his support staff of John Argent, Keith Barber and Mike Grimson have been very busy sorting out equipment and wiring in the lookout.

With the help of Rock Marine, the 12 volt wiring was replaced and Mike and John also updated the 13 amp wiring.



AIS screen



Screen showing all three estuary cameras

We have installed 2 x 24" monitors above the front windows of the lookout. One shows our new AIS system which, unlike our old 'Marine Traffic' AIS, shows ships in 'real time'. The other is used for the three cameras we have around the estuary. Both are run off new mini-computers, installed out of sight. The cameras are now controlled by new software which, for the first time, gives us rapid access and consistency in performance. The wifi system our cameras use is also due to be upgraded very soon which should improve performance further. Thanks go to Jatta Construction for helping us with our cameras and bandwidth.

Our radio performance has, for some while, been erratic, but now, with the help of Martin Smith (NCI Communications Officer), this has been addressed along with the installation of two new aerials.

Follow us:

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Message us on 'X':
@NCIPadstow

STATION EVENTS

SUMMER PARTY

Our third summer party, was again at the home of Mo and Derek Read overlooking Trevone beach. Unlike previous years the weather was not as kind, but thanks to the efforts of watchkeepers Steve Buckingham and Nigel Gatehouse, who supplied and erected two sturdy gazebos, we were able to keep dry.

This year Station Manager, Peter Goodman presented a 10-year long-service award to Andy Parkinson and 5-year awards to Gary Bass, Paul Le Couteur Bisson and Neil Lindsay.

Our grateful thanks again to Derek and Mo for letting us use their seaside home and also for providing the food.



Andy Parkinson: 10 years



Paul Le Couteur Bisson: 5 years



Gary Bass: 5 years



Neil Lindsay: 5 years

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM was held on 20th November at the Roslyn Centre in Wadebridge.

Station Manager, Peter Goodman, reported on the year's events and notable highlights and developments. Peter also gave thanks to all members of the committees who had served with him over the years and all those others who helped in the running of the station.

With the exception of Peter Goodman, all the committee members were happy to continue in their roles and were voted in 'en bloc'. Peter has stood down as Station Manager having served 8 years in the position, and passed on the 'reigns' to Richard Cole.

Peter's last role was to present Dave Bartlett with his Veteran's epaulettes as Dave is standing down from regular watchkeeping.

ANNUAL LUNCH

We enjoyed yet another splendid lunch was provided by Richard Smith and his team at Rock Sailing Club on 26th November. 56 watchkeepers and partners attended and enjoyed an excellent roast and dessert.

Station Manager Richard Cole made a speech in which he stated how proud and honoured he was to be the new Station Manager of NCI Padstow. He also thanked Peter Goodman for his time as Station Manager and announced that a generous collection had been made for Peter with regards to his input into the station over the last 8 years.

This event is always well-attended and has become a much-anticipated get-together.

STRANGER ON THE SHORE?



'Legend of Loch Ness' in Padstow Harbour

Our Water Safety Officer, James Askham, spotted this unlikely visitor, moored in Padstow Harbour.

Back in November we were asked to keep a lookout for a flamingo that had escaped from Flambards Theme Park located on the outskirts of Helston and, in the past, other missing animals. However, we weren't aware that 'Nessie' had moved south to the Camel Estuary!