

Spotlight on Eastbourne RNLI



Hello, I'm Bob Jeffery.

I am proud to be part of the lifeboat crew. My main role is volunteer press officer for the station. I'm also a member of the Sea Safety team who visit people on their own boats to advise on safety issues. I've sailed for many years, including crossing the Atlantic a few years ago and own a 32ft yacht berthed in Sovereign Harbour.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a charitable organisation founded in 1824 by Sir William Hillary and is funded entirely from voluntary contributions. It is a totally independent organisation, free from Government control or influence. All this is worth re-emphasising because of late a lot of media attention has been focused on the news that the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA), which is Government controlled, is being re-organised with the possible closure of a number of local Coastguard stations. It is the MCA which co-ordinates rescues at sea and requests the launch of an RNLI lifeboat when necessary. This review should in no way impact on the work of the RNLI. We will continue to follow our mission statement of saving lives at sea regardless of where the information of people in danger comes from.

Eastbourne is one of the busiest coastal stations among the 235 situated nationwide. There has been a lifeboat in Eastbourne since 1822, two years before the RNLI was founded. There are currently two boats serving Eastbourne, an all-weather Mersey class lifeboat (ALB) which is moored in the outer harbour, and a D-Class

inshore lifeboat (ILB) housed in a separate boathouse at Fishermans Green. Crewed by volunteers who are on call 24/7 for 365 days a year, these boats cover an area between Cooden Beach and the Belle Tout lighthouse west of Beachy Head, and as far offshore as is necessary, even to the French coast if needed.



Last year we launched 112 times and rescued 118 people. Already this year we have launched to over 100 incidents ranging from people trapped by the rising tide, medical evacuations from commercial shipping many miles out to sea, mechanical failures of local pleasure craft and the odd dog which has got out of its depth. Due largely to Eastbourne's high profile within the RNLI and to estimated future life saving requirements in our area, we are due to have our current ALB upgraded to the latest vessel in the RNLI fleet, the Tamar. Costing £2.7 million this is a magnificent piece of equipment and with a speed of 25 knots will mean we can get to where we are needed much quicker. The build is well under way and we expect our new boat, to be named 'Diamond Jubilee' to be on station this time next year. Not only is the ALB being upgraded but we have now taken delivery of a new inshore lifeboat to replace 'Joan and Ted Wiseman 50' which has been on station since 2003. Funding for the new boat, 'Laurence & Percy Hobbs' came from a legacy left by Louise Hobbs.

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Your local NHW Scheme Co-ordinator is:

Autumn 2011

Issue 41

EASTBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

Eastbourne Neighbourhood Watch Association encouraging the Community to work together to fight crime in close co-operation with the Police, Crime Reduction Partnership and supported by Eastbourne Borough Council

DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM? CAB CAN HELP!



Eastbourne Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is a registered charity, run by volunteers plus a small team of paid staff. We receive funding from EBC plus grants and donations from other sources. Our highly trained volunteers help clients by advising on subjects including debt, benefits, employment, consumer, immigration, housing, relationships, utilities etc. CAB gives free, confidential and impartial advice to anyone regardless of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or anything else. We give most of our advice by phone during opening hours. Mornings are busier than afternoons, so callers may get a voice mail asking them to ring back. If you still have difficulty, write to us and we will call you back. Anyone having difficulty using a phone can visit us in person. We aim to offer an e mail service in the near future. When you get through a Gateway Assessor will ask questions about your enquiry, then decide the best course of action. This may involve an adviser calling you back for full advice, an appointment in the Bureau or referral to a specialist. If we cannot answer your query we will direct you to someone who can. They may suggest the website www.adviceguide.org.uk which has basic advice and information on most subjects. We can provide advice on Debt for clients eligible for legal aid. Ex-armed forces personnel can receive advice on Debt and Benefits issues from a caseworker funded by the RBL and RAFBF. We have employment advisers who can deal with complex matters including representation at tribunals. We have 75 volunteers covering all aspects of our work. As well as giving advice, we aim to influence

social policy to improve the services, rules and legislation affecting people's lives. If an adviser finds a situation difficult to resolve because of a bureaucratic or legal system, they make an anonymous report which is either considered locally or forwarded to Citizens Advice central office and used as evidence to present to policy makers.

We are trying to raise funds for the Bureau to maintain the opening hours next year when our funding for legal aid will be cut. We are also talking with Hastings CAB to possibly amalgamate to help secure our futures in both towns. Demand for our services is increasing and resources are limited. In 2010 - 11 we dealt with over 10,000 enquiries! New volunteers are always welcome and we have an application form on our website. Advisers undergo training for between 6-9 months; Gateway Assessors become active after about 8 weeks. We are looking to develop volunteer roles for form filling, administration, researching, IT support, statistics and fundraising. Volunteering can be a good way to keep your skills up-to-date and get experience to add to your CV.

Our opening hours are: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 4pm, Tuesday & Friday 10am to 1pm Tel: 01323 417177.

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Contact: www.eastbournenp.org Tel: 01323 507665 email: jprollison@btinternet.com

Neighbourhood Watch Gets Things Done!

A NHW Deputy Co-ordinator noticed a ladder against the window of his neighbour's flat, which was unoccupied. The Police arrived very quickly after his '999' call, removed the ladder, gained entry to the flat, and found the would-be burglar hiding behind a sofa! He is now back in prison, from which he had just been released on licence. **A fair 'cop'!**

An elderly resident contacted NHW, concerned that she had agreed to a telephoned offer to service her vacuum cleaner at her home for £20, only to be presented with a bill of £80 when the job was done. She felt intimidated, so paid up, but then felt she needed to tell someone. She was put in touch with Trading Standards, who are now looking into the business ethics of the company, with the lady's co-operation. **A 'clean sweep'!**

A member phoned his Ward Co-ordinator, upset that local youths were playing football in a banned area, causing damage, including to his property. He felt that the Housing Association in whose property the youths lived, should be notified but did not know which one was the landlord. NHW found out for him, and the Association are now working with local Police to stop this behaviour. **A winning goal!**

Worried about something in your area?

Ring John & Pam on 507665 or Alf on 507639.

We are here to help!

Light Up and Lock Up!

How good is your security? Why make it easy for a burglar when you can make it difficult! With just a few inexpensive security aids you can make your home a safer haven for the Winter. Neighbourhood Watch can supply a wide range of items at low prices, delivered free to your door in Eastbourne. A **Time Switch** is easily set, to activate your lights when you are out. **Prikka Strip** can be easily fixed to your fence or wall, is totally legal, and will give a would-be intruder a nasty shock if they try to take hold to climb into your garden. We also have **front door and shed alarms**, easy to install, but not obvious to would-be intruders! Have you invisibly marked all precious property contents with your Post Code? For a few pence we can supply a special **marking pen**, invisible to the naked eye, but detectable by Police with a special device, so that any stolen items which are recovered can be returned to their owners. **So if you have any security concerns, please contact us and we will do our best to help. 01323 507665.**

Living in Sovereign or Langney?

Do you live in one or other of these areas?

Would you like to use a SMALL amount of time to make a HUGE difference to your community? We are looking for someone to help distribute some newsletters each quarter, and spread the word about NHW, so that others can enjoy the same benefits of membership as you do!

For a friendly chat ring John or Pam on 01323 507665

A snap shot of PCSO Brett Williams Continued

12.40pm Back on the streets, after a quick snack at the station, conducting a high visibility patrol. I get a call on my radio from the control room – a report of an abandoned car within the area. I make my way and discover it is a stolen car. I arrange for it to be recovered so a Forensic Investigator can analyse any evidence.

2.00pm I'm making another visit to a victim of crime and this time it's in the industrial estate as there's been a burglary in one of the factories. I speak with the owner of the business and arrange to come back and do a site visit to discuss and provide any crime prevention possibilities that can make the site more secure.

2.30pm I set off on my bike again to do more high visible patrols in Hampden Park area
3.40pm I head to the infants school - we receive many complaints about dangerous parking near the school. I attend to make sure the area is safe for when the children are leaving school and this is an ideal opportunity to talk to local parents and children and find out about any new issues or problems.

4.00pm I'm back on the streets again and I focus my patrols on the areas we call 'hotspots', which are areas which have the most problems with anti-social behaviour. I sit in one of the parks and update my notebook for the visits I have completed today. Whilst sitting in the park I see three young looking lads in the park, one of whom is smoking. I don't believe he is old enough to smoke so I ask him for identification - he doesn't have any and admits he is only 14, so I confiscate his cigarettes. I take his name, date of birth and address to complete a Stop Form which details to him the reason as to why I have stopped him.

4.30pm I arrive back at the station and ensure that any paperwork I have completed is handed in and update what I have done today on the computer.

5.00pm It's time to go home and relax, so I'm ready to come back again tomorrow for another varied day.



**EASTBOURNE
COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

Riot Free Eastbourne

Following the outbreak of disturbances across many areas of England in early August Sussex Police and the Community Safety Partnership were quick to release information to the community that there was no likelihood of similar disturbances occurring in Eastbourne.

Police shifts were extended and additional Officers were on patrol to ensure that any intelligence was immediately picked up and concerns were calmed. District Commander Chief Insp Jayne Dando provided updates through the Partnership with details of how the police operation was unfolding.

Chief Constable Martin Richards said, "The period of disturbances saw Sussex Police, members of the public, partner agencies and organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch pulling together, offering reassurance and ensuring that our communities remain peaceful."

STOP PRESS ! INSURANCE DISCOUNT

Towergate Insurance is offering all Neighbourhood Watch Members a **15% Discount** on their Home Insurance. Call: **0844 346 325** (Weekdays 9am - 6pm) for further details and terms and conditions. Offer is available until 31 December 2011.

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**EASTBOURNE
COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP**

Overall crime in 2010/11 has reduced by 18% compared to 2007/8
Burglary of homes, criminal damage, shoplifting and anti-social behaviour have seen major reductions in the last 12 months

Our priorities for 2011 - 2014 include:

- Alcohol related crime and disorder including street drinking, violent crime in a public place, young people drinking & serious sexual offences
- Anti-social behaviour including criminal damage and arson
- Reduce re-offending
- Develop effective Neighbourhood Management schemes in a number of areas.

Working to make Eastbourne an even safer place to live, work and visit.
www.eastbourne.gov.uk/crime