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We are on the web:-

<http://www.portishead-lifeboat.org.uk/>

The Portishead Lifeboat Trust Aims...

“To save and protect the lives of the general public in particular by the provision of a Lifeboat in the Severn Estuary centred at Portishead”

For the latest news on the boat, crew or the callouts please

see our new web site:

<http://www.portishead-lifeboat.org.uk>

The new web site has been developed and maintained thanks to Clive Scott-Green, one of the lifeboat crew members.



Life Line

NOVEMBER 2006

The Portishead Lifeboat Trust is always on the lookout for volunteers and help at fund-raising events

Should you be able to help, even for an hour, please contact Brett Higgins :-

tel 07886 644594

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Life Line

The Newsletter for Friends of The Portishead Lifeboat Trust

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THE PORTISHEAD LIFEBOAT TRUST

Extracts from the report by Chairman, Mr C.G.J.Wilson

at the Annual General Meeting held on 30th October 2006

Welcome to this, our eleventh Annual General Meeting.

Before we commence I am sure that all who are present here this evening will be aware that Mike Lindsay died recently. Mike was becoming more and more involved with the activities of The Trust and was working alongside Brett Higgins and myself in promoting the good name of the Trust and assisting in fund raising activities.

His sudden death whilst returning from our golf day event came as a shock to us all. I am confident that Mike would have increased his interest and activities within the Trust had he not been called away.

I would ask you all to be upstanding for a few moments in respect to Mike whose name will in due time be added to our remembrance board.

Thank you.

My report this evening will cover the period 1st November 2005 to 30th October 2006.

The Trust has had yet another eventful year both on and off the water. We have continued to consolidated our position within the local community and have made some inroads into the wider Bristol area particularly with regard to publicity, local awareness and most of all our fundraising activities. In order to appeal more to the Bristol community and to more accurately reflect the area of our operation within our title we have changed our fundraising and publicity title to “The Portishead and Bristol Lifeboat” which is still operated by the Portishead Lifeboat Trust.

The Lifeboat Station relocation project continues very slowly there being considerable disquiet at the costs envisaged in constructing a station on the beach outside Portishead Dock. To that end we are in negotiation with the Sailing Club with the intention of constructing the new station at Sugar Loaf.

As part of our awareness campaign our standard has been paraded in Bristol at the annual Merchant Navy Memorial Service on 2nd September and was again present at the unveiling of the seafarers' memorial on Battery Point recently.

In February of this year the Rev Philip Auden was appointed Chaplain to the Trust and has been most supportive and has shown considerable interest in our activities.

From the Treasurer's report and the Statement of Accounts you will note that the Trust was at 31st March in a healthy situation financially. Our fund raising activities since April of this year have, under the leadership of Brett Higgins, been very successful and encouraging and have consolidated and improved our financial situation.

Fund Raising

It is the life blood of the Trust and of paramount importance to the well being and survival of the Portishead & Bristol Lifeboat service.

Our fund raisers have been active in various forms throughout the year and the Trust has been represented at every major event in the Village and we continue to be very well supported by other local community organisations and personal fund raising events, all of which help to keep the Portishead Lifeboat afloat.

We receive donations from many local people, clubs and organizations. The amount of local support we receive is incredible and we are most grateful to all who assist us financially.

You will be pleased to know that Portishead and North Weston Town Council continue to support the Portishead Lifeboat Trust to the tune of £1,200 per year. Clevedon Town Council has also given us their support by way of a grant of £500 which we hope they will replicate next year. Nailsea Town Council continues to support us with an annual grant of £200 and Backwell Council have also started to give us financial assistance. Their conjoined contributions are very much appreciated not only for the hard cash but for the seal of respectability and approval that it gives for other organisations and people to benchmark against. We must thank again the Members of these Town Councils for their support.

Our recent Golf Day was most successful. All the teams turned up to a man which saved Brett and Kelvin sharing a set of clubs and not only was it a good day's golf enjoyed by all, it managed to raise over £3000 for the Trust.

Most regrettably the day was marred by the sudden and untimely demise of Mike Lindsay who had a heart attack on his way back from the event where he had been taking photographs all day. He will be greatly missed by us all.

The 2007/8 fund raising target figure is likely to be much the same as this year due to reductions in fuel usage and revised pager charges.

Brett is actively seeking more people to assist with the various fundraising initiatives that we have in mind. There is no shortage of ideas, its manpower and willingness to organise and take responsibility for any particular event that is required. If anybody can suggest any likely volunteers Brett will be delighted to make contact with them. Call Brett on 07886644594.

Thank you to all those who have given their time to make presentations to local groups particularly Dave Herbert, Tony Daw and Neil Sutor. These presentations promote awareness of the trust and there is often a follow up cheque some time after the presentation. Suffice to say these presentations all in all bring in at least £2,000 per annum and who knows what other donations come as a result of this low key awareness campaign.



A COPY OF THE PORTISHEAD LIFEBOAT TRUST'S WISH LIST AS SENT TO FATHER CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR!

Item	Cost	Funded by	State
Defibrillator	£2000	Awaiting sponsor	
2 Dry suits	£330 each	Awaiting sponsor	
Mobile phone for use in boat.	£140	Awaiting sponsor	
2 x Laptop computers (can be second-hand)	£1000	Awaiting sponsor	Used for training and presentations.
Hemet/communications system	£3500	Monies in memory of Terence Forrest	Awaiting delivery
Video camera/helmet	£1400	Canon security	Under offer
30 Polo shirts with logo	£10 each	Combined Services	In use with thanks to our sponsor
Position transponder for boat	£4000	Ultra SML and Bristol Port Company	In use with thanks to our sponsor
4 EPIRB watches for crew	£250 each	Ultra SML Technologies	In use with thanks to our sponsor
Video player	£50	Jotun Paints	In use with thanks to our sponsor
Projector	£500	Insight	In use with thanks to our sponsor
Man overboard/casualty recovery systems	£900	Sponsored by Co op	In use with thanks to our sponsor
Dehumidifier for boat-house	£3500	Golf day arranged by Capita Symonds	Awaiting delivery
2 x torches for boat-house	£110 each	Awaiting sponsor	

A TRUE FRIEND

In October The Portishead Lifeboat Trust lost a true friend and supporter, Mike Lindsay who was an accomplished photographer, and was at his happiest when accompanied by members of the trust out in the Channel photographing the various vessels as well as the Lifeboat. Those of you who have attended fund raising events this past year will have seen and appreciated Mike's photographs which can only be described as stunning. His support and enthusiasm for the trust will be sadly missed.

CALENDARS 2007

With the support of Mike Lindsay's family we have produced a limited number of 2007 calendars using many of Mike's wonderful photographs. The calendars have a nautical theme and would make an ideal Christmas present as well as supporting your own independent lifeboat.

The calendars are available from Rachel our Friends Coordinator on 07921494265

THANK YOU

It would be remiss of us not to say a special thank you to the following for their support for raising funds on behalf of The Lifeboat Trust.

- Capita Symonds who organized a corporate golf day with the Portishead Lifeboat being their chosen charity. A lot of hard work and management time went into organizing this event and all those involved did an excellent job on behalf of the trust by raising £3,500.
- We would also like to thank Gordano Services, where the management and staff made us most welcome and allowed us to hold two can rattles during the summer months.
- In closing we would also like to thank Jane Selvey and her merry band of friends who organized and supported a coffee morning and raised £235.

As the Chairman has mentioned in his annual report, it is only through the support of local companies, organizations and people in the community, that the Lifeboat is able to continue in operation.



The Portishead Lifeboat Trust would like to wish you and your families a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

The Lifeboat

The "Denbar Sage" continues to serve us well and we are pleased with her performance especially after the fitting of two new engines early in 2006.

Considerable thought and discussion took place with regard to the replacement of the two propulsion units. Following input from various quarters particularly that from Cox'ns and crew, it was decided to continue to use the Mariner outboard units. It was also decided to purchase Mariner Optimax two stroke units of increased power output, reduced fuel consumption and reduced carbon emission levels. The questions which finally had to be resolved were, how much more power should be provided and should there be a Post Immersion Restart facility fitted? Both these questions were answered and our concerns resolved after a most interesting and illuminating visit to Barras, the UK agents for Mariner. Your Trustees were anxious to increase the horse power of the drive units to enhance the towing capabilities of the Lifeboat but were not necessarily looking to increase the top speed as 34 knots was considered adequate for our purposes by all concerned. A power increase of 27% from 75 hp to 95 hp was deemed to be advantageous, however, having due regard for resale value, minimal additional cost and an acceptable weight penalty, compared against the original 75 hp units. Finally we agreed to purchase two 115 hp units (53%) with increased torque and with propellers having a more coarse pitch. After numerous trials with various propeller configurations the Lifeboat returned to station after one week of refitting work. The result, I am pleased to report, exceeded all expectations. We now have a Lifeboat capable of 40 knots in good sea conditions and one also able to meet the growing requirement for towing and recovery work.

Electronics continue to be a major cause for malfunctioning mainly due to the environment in which we operate. Our radio and intercom system has proven to be most troublesome in recent months and I am happy to report that a replacement system has been ordered which will be less prone to corrosion and damp, it being "wireless" orientated rather than the existing "cable and plug" system.

I am pleased to report that the Crew and Shore Helpers continue to keep the Lifeboat in tip top condition this indicates a pride in the vessel and in the organization we all represent.

Our equipment

Our various equipments and the boathouse are generally in very good order. The boathouse roof was treated with a bitumastic compound in 2005 but this has suffered during the recent brilliant summer and a further coating has been ordered. The inside of the roof was insulated and I am pleased to report a considerable reduction in condensation levels has been apparent to us all. A fuel store was obtained and installed at the rear of the boathouse. A Dacon Rescue Frame for the recovery on board of persons, or the deceased, has been purchased with funds provided by the Co-op Community Fund. This should greatly assist recovery and reduce the possibility of injury to both crew and casualties.

Operations

Since this time last year The Portishead and Bristol Lifeboat has been launched on operational service on 20 occasions and assistance has been rendered to 25 persons. This is another fine record and one of which the Trust in general and the Crew in particular can be justly proud. Once again the frequency of calls increased during the summer period mainly due to the seasonal increase in craft and persons using the new marina facility.

The Portishead & Bristol Lifeboat has now been in operational service for 132 months. During this time we have been called away on operational service on 197 occasions, saved 7 lives and have rendered assistance to 263 persons.

I would here reiterate what I have reported on previous occasions. We count a life saved as one which would almost certainly have been lost had we not attended the casualty in a timely manner. Of those persons assisted some would have, and others could have, become more serious cases had we not responded promptly or if assistance had been sought or sent from further a field.

Training

Training has continued most successfully throughout the year and has followed a comprehensive schedule designed to bring the new influx of volunteers up to the standard required by the Trust and at the same time to increase the knowledge and experience of our existing crew members. This will, I hope, continue for the foreseeable future. Training has been organised by Justin Olver assisted by Adam Forrest, Dave Hodges and other experienced members of the crew. A particular thank you to all those who have been instrumental in the training sessions.

Of the twelve trainees who joined the training and familiarisation programme last October five eventually passed their RYA level two assessments in September of this year and now enjoy Enrolled Crew Members status.

All our Cox'ns holds the Advanced RYA Power Boat qualification. We now have a total call out crew of :-

- 23 plus
- 2 shore helpers and
- 4 DLA's.

Our establishment is currently as follows:-

1 Launch Authority	4 Deputy Launch Authorities	4 Senior Cox'ns	5 Cox'ns
14 Enrolled Crew members	2 Shore helpers	0 Trainees	

At time of writing we have no trainees as such but a further intake is envisaged within the next few weeks.

0 Crew members hold RYA Power Boat Level 1
11 Crew members hold RYA Power Boat Level 2
12 Crew members hold RYA Power Boat Advanced

At this juncture I must again thank the Training Team and all their "co-opted assistants" for their hard work this year. Thank you and well done.

We remain indebted to Dr Tarleton and to Mr Tudball for their medical and ophthalmic support and advice. We are also most grateful for the help and assistance given to us by our Chaplain who I know has already been of assistance to some of our members

Deputy Launch Authorities.

I must again thank the DLA s for their devotion to the cause. They operate a rota almost independently when it comes to Bank Holidays etc mainly orchestrated by Bob Crane and we have not been without DLA cover at any time throughout the year. They play a major role in the operational efficiency of the Portishead Lifeboat and are fine representatives of the Trustees when requests to launch are made. We thank them for their continued support, expertise and enthusiasm.

Trustees

During the year all the Trustees have worked to maintain the standards and the well-being of the Trust. Their support for the Trust this year has been fantastic and I thank them all very much.

Soon after the last AGM our secretary melted away to an undisclosed location believed to be a Pixey Dell in Cornwall and I regret that due to his unavailability and his inability to provide administrative support from a distance, it was decided that we should find a replacement. I am pleased to report that Peter's place has been ably filled from within the Trust by Neil Sutor.

Your Treasurer, who would normally have presented his report a little later, has worked unceasingly for the Trust again this year and we are most appreciative of what he does and how he manages to continue to fit it all into his busy work and social schedule..... Thank you John.

David Herbert our Operations Director has again worked unceasingly for the well being of the Trust and deserves special praise for his dedication.

Justin Olver having changed career direction continues to lead a strong and experienced training team and we are grateful to him for his dogged determination to keep the Objectives of the Trust to the fore.

The Future

We intend to continue to operate as per our present system which has proved to be most satisfactory.

We have recently been granted an extension to our planning permission at Sugar Loaf and our lease with the Sailing Club has also been extended until December 2011. To this end we are in negotiation with YANSEC to supply funding to extend the existing slipway by a further 60 feet. This will increase our launching window to approx 90% and enable us to affect launches during periods around low water.

During the introduction I mentioned that we are in negotiation with the Sailing Club with a view to constructing the Lifeboat Station at Sugar Loaf. Numerous persons and official bodies have stated that the proposed cost of construction of the new station at the end of Pier Road is very high if not excessively so. Your Trustees share this view and to that end we have commenced negotiation with the Sailing Club to occupy the boat compound adjacent to the existing boat house.

To that end we have suspended the major works fund raising task awaiting the outcome of deliberations with the sailing club and North Somerset planners.

We will be applying to vary the conditions (i.e. change the expiry date) of planning consent for the station at Pier Road in order to keep the option open for the future.

Finale

I would take this opportunity to thank the whole team for their support throughout the year all of whom have assisted in progressing the aims and aspirations of The Portishead Lifeboat Trust, and thank you the friends of The Portishead Lifeboat Trust.

Colin Wilson (Chairman)