

# Newbiggin Lifeboat Station

**NEWBIGGIN'S 154TH  
YEAR OF LIFESAVING**

**Lives Saved Since 1851 626 + 4  
DOGS**

**Launches Since 1851 528**

## This Month's Headlines

Weather for June 2005 Exercises  
Services

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Tractor T50

## Weather for June 2005

The month began overcast and wet but I suppose it was mild. By the 6<sup>th</sup> a fresh to strong northerly was bringing on a rough sea and much cooler conditions. The wind began to swing off the land by the 7<sup>th</sup> and we then had temperatures in the lower 70's. Very warm and hot conditions lasted for three days then reverted back to cooler and showery conditions. By the 18<sup>th</sup> it again became hot and sunny, up to the upper 70's this time and into the lower 80's by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. However by the end of the month it began to cool down to more seasonal temperatures.

## Exercises

Exercises were held on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> (Blyth Lifeboat Day ) and 21<sup>st</sup> (Boat changeover).

## Services

There were four service calls during the month with details as follows;

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2005**

At about 08.01 hours information was received at the station that the Blyth fishing boat 'The Brothers' which is skippered by

one of our helms had fouled her propeller whilst working gear east of the station. With the maroons fired the lifeboat was launched and minutes later the casualty was found near the Outer Carr rocks. The lifeboat pulled the casualty clear and the fouled propeller was cleared. As the skipper was happy to proceed the lifeboat returned back to the bay and was recovered back into her carriage.

On arriving on the beach on route to the boathouse the casualty requested lifeboat assistance again as there was vibration on his vessel. The lifeboat was pushed back into the sea and launched again, quickly locating the casualty and taking her in tow back to Blyth. Once safely moored the lifeboat returned to station and was washed down, refueled and ready for service by about 11.00 hours.

The casualty was subsequently found to have a badly damaged propeller.

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2005.**

At about 16.10 hours a small 16foot open boat with four youths on board was observed broken down and drifting in rough sea conditions. The maroons were fired and shortly afterwards the lifeboat was launched. The lifeboat was quickly on scene and took the casualty in tow back to the bay.

The lifeboat then returned to station to be washed down, refueled and made ready for service by about 18.00 hours.

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2005**

During this hot and sunny morning I had taken the opportunity to carry out some quarterly maintenance on the lifeboat tractor which involved the full removal of the winch wire, cleaning and treating the same with a preservative. The operation takes about two hours and I was just completing it when the pagers were activated for a 16 foot cabin boat broken down off Lynemouth which is 2 mile north of the station. The maroons were fired and the tractor was got ready for launch then moments later the lifeboat was underway (despite a difficult low water launch). After about 10 minutes the casualty was located and towed back to the bay.

On arriving in the bay further information was received that there was another boat in a similar location also needing help. The lifeboat at once headed north and found the 26 foot open charter fishing boat 'Braveheart' broken down. The wind had freshened significantly by now and there were ten persons on board. The tow was began south to Blyth but after a while the tow parted. The tow was reconnected and the passage south continued. Owing to the poor conditions the Helmsman on Newbiggin Lifeboat requested assistance from an offshore lifeboat and due to the position the Tynemouth Lifeboat was launched. The tow continued south to Blyth and when Tynemouth arrived on scene the tow was handed over.

The lifeboat returned to station to be refueled, washed down and made ready for service by about 15.00 hours.

### **B745 Returns**

Our station lifeboat CSMA (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) returned from Cowes by road on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2005. The lifeboats were changed over during the evening followed by a sea trial. After a couple of faults were resolved the lifeboat was put back on station at Newbiggin and the relief lifeboat returned back to Cowes.

### **Open Day 2005**

Newbiggin Lifeboat Station held their annual open day on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. The lifeboat was launched for demonstrations, the shop was open and refreshments were served in the boathouse. Despite overcast conditions it was a successful day.

### **Duke of Kent**

Newbiggin hosted a visit by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. The Duke was in the village to rededicate the Memorial Park following extensive refurbishment works. I was fortunate to be introduced to the Duke and took the opportunity to give him some information on the station as well as the Mary Joicey project.

### **T50 Summer Exhibit**

Our vintage lifeboat tractor T50 is spending the summer at the Stephenson Steam Railway Museum near North Shields. The tractor is one of the exhibits in the railway shed and features information about the work of the RNLI both nationally and at Newbiggin.

Richard Martin

30<sup>th</sup> June, 2005.