

Newbiggin Lifeboat Station

**NEWBIGGIN'S 159TH
YEAR OF LIFESAVING**

**Lives Saved Since 1851 695 + 6 DOGS + Bunch of
Balloons
Launches Since 1851 590**

This Month's Headlines

Weather for January 2010
Exercises Service and much more

Weather Almanac for January 2010

January was to be a proper winter with an icy grip from the beginning of the year which was to last for most of the month. There were no notable mild days and the snow returned with force on the 30th with some 150mm at the coast.

Exercises

Exercises were held on the 3rd, 17th and 27th (Inspector). Photographs showing the exercises can be viewed on the RNLI web page and go to the Newbiggin Gallery.

Services

There were two service calls during the month.

Lifeboat Call Out 01/2010 - Incident on the Shore 06/01/2010

'Newbiggin Lifeboat volunteers were scrambled in horrendous blizzard weather tonight to stand by offshore during a shore incident at nearby cliffs.

The call for assistance came in at 1736hrs local and within minutes Newbiggin's Atlantic 75 class lifeboat 'CSMA 75th Anniversary' was launched on service with three crew on board. The lifeboat was on scene shortly afterwards and stood by whilst other shore rescue units attended to the situation. Newbiggin Lifeboat was joined by Amble RNLI ALB who also stood by as a further support vessel. During that time at sea both lifeboat endured rough sea conditions, blizzards and extreme cold. After some two hours the lifeboats were stood down to return to their respective stations in the continuing blizzard conditions.

The lifeboat was then recovered, refuelled and washed down ready for service'.

Lifeboat Call Out 02/2010 - Person in Distress 31/01/2010

Volunteers from Newbiggin RNLI Lifeboat Station were woken from their beds at 0212 hours today following reports of a person on the nearby cliffs in a distressed state. Police and Coastguard were on scene with the lifeboat asked to standby should its services be required. The crew and shore team quickly kitted up with the lifeboat brought out of the boathouse and onto the beach. The weather was bitterly cold and there was a thick covering of snow everywhere which accentuated the cold.

After about an hour the incident was closed and all the gear was returned to the boathouse with the volunteers back home before 04.00 hours.

SOS Day - 'Sizzle our Sausages' success

Volunteers at Newbiggin RNLI Lifeboat Station celebrated a fantastic SOS evening of fundraising tonight with over £400 raised during the 'Sizzling of the Sausages'.

The bitterly cold conditions did nothing to deter the crowds who turned out to support the winter's night event in our boathouse. The boathouse was decked out with stalls and dining tables for the event which were manned by the Newbiggin volunteers. Crewmember Gary Oliver took the lead organising the hot barbecue food, a particular favourite for all those wanting to get out of the cold. The Newbiggin Ladies Lifeboat Guild also provided an array of other stalls with hot drinks, raffles, tombola, gifts and souvenirs. Firemen from the local Fire Station also were on hand at the event to promote their free smoke alarm initiative in the community.

Lifeboat crewmember Gary Oliver, who came up with the fundraising sizzle, said 'we have had a great night here despite the bitter cold. Everyone has enjoyed themselves and once again the dedicated Newbiggin fundraisers have done their best to support the RNLI SOS day raising over £400 in the process. Can I also add a big thank you to the many local shops and businesses who donated so generously the many items on the stalls.'

Rio Tinto Alcan Donation for Newbiggin RNLI

Newbiggin RNLI Lifeboat Station received an unexpected donation from a local aluminum smelter recently following works in connection with a safety initiative.

Rio Tinto Alcan operates an aluminum smelter complex on the North East Coast on Northumberland, approximately 20 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne. Part of the complex is a coal fired power station which supplies electricity for the smelting process.

Each of the power stations electricity generating units undergo regular overhauls to ensure that they operate without fail. During one of these overhauls during the latter part of 2009 the contractors who took part agreed to donate money to local charities as part of the Rio Tinto Alcan safety initiative. One of the benefactors from the proceeds was Newbiggin RNLI Lifeboat Station which is only 3 mile from the complex with Branch Chairman Stan Green been presented with a cheque for £3370.

Richard Martin
31/01/2010