

Newbiggin Lifeboat Station

**NEWBIGGIN'S 155TH
YEAR OF LIFESAVING**

Lives Saved Since 1851 640 + 4 DOGS

Launches Since 1851 544

This Month's Headlines

Weather for May 2006 Exercises

Services

Boathouse Floor LOM Retires

Weather Almanac for May 2006

Once again the month began unsettled and wet with the spell of fine weather long gone. Rough sea conditions were brought on by a fresh south easter on the second but a shift of the wind from the southwest lifted temperatures days later. The second week of the month again saw bright weather interspersed with showers and this was due to fresh / strong easterly wind. Whilst inland it was pleasant at the coast it was quite a few degrees cooler. Into the third week of the month and there was still a distinct lack of settled weather.

Exercises

Exercises were held on the 7th and 21st.

Photographs showing the exercises can be viewed on the RNLI web page and go to the Newbiggin Gallery.

Services

There was one service call during the month with details as follows;

DATE / TIME 1st May, 2006 @ 1351hours

CASUALTY Fishing Coble

Endeavor of Newbiggin

WIND & WEATHER Light Westerly

Overcast becoming bright

SEA STATE Moderate to Rough

DETAILS

The Newbiggin fishing coble Endeavor had put out earlier in the day to attend to gear off Church Point Newbiggin. During the process of fishing the coble engine warning light alerted the crew of low oil so it was stopped. Now adrift and

without oil to get the engine started again a call for assistance went out to Newbiggin Lifeboat. At about 1351 hours with the pagers activated the lifeboat was launched and with oil procured the service call was underway. Once alongside the casualty the engine oil problem was rectified but poor conditions in the bay and the sand bed breaking meant the return had to be put off until about 1600 hours. With the casualty safely escorted ashore the lifeboat was recovered, refueled and washed down ready for service by 1800 hours.

Boathouse Floor

During the first part of the month contractors working for the RNLI on a programme of boathouse floor refurbishment arrived at Newbiggin. The original concrete boathouse floor whilst serviceable had a question over it regarding health and safety issues, particularly when it was wet. The contractors began on Wednesday 3rd May to scabble off the existing surface then lay a resin bound covering. The system used at Newbiggin has the footprint of the lifeboat and tractor coloured blue whilst the walkway around is red. The works were completed by the following day with the fumes away by the weekend. For photographs of the completed work see the RNLI website in June.

LOM Retires

Our LOM (or Hon Sec) for almost 30years Stan Green retired from the post during the month. Stan has seen a lot of changes on the station probably the most notable being the withdrawal of the last Newbiggin offshore lifeboat Mary Joicey back in 1981 and the new Atlantic era which began in that year. Stan has committed a great deal of time and effort into the station and we wish him well for the future. He has been succeeded by the new LOM Les Fayers who is a keen sailor and joined the station late in 2004 to take on the role of Admin Officer.

Richard Martin

25th May, 2006.

