

Dear Members,

At the AGM there was a request to move towards more regular communication (say every 4-6 weeks) to replace the three times per annum newsletter. This missive comes by way of a quick catch up and then we will change to a simpler, shorter, more regular format. But what to call this? You could come up with catchy suggestions but for the interim period I will use the heading



## 'Calling All Stations'

So here we go!

### First, Let's Catch Up!

#### Splosh! 2026

Following last year's successful Junior Splosh we returned to our pool-based adult session in February. It took place in the safe and warm setting of Eastbourne College swimming pool.



With Eastbourne RNLI crew to demonstrate and guide our members and the RNLI Water Safety Team to check the fitting of life jackets plus give advice before entering the water, our water safety session provided 14 of our members with the opportunity to experience entering the water, having their lifejackets inflate and swim in them. They then watched a life raft inflate before trying to right it, get in and paddle it about. They also saw exactly what is provided in a life raft. Other activities included how to use a throw line and, after removing their life

jackets, practising "Float to Live".

Everyone agreed it was a most worthwhile exercise and thanked all of the RNLI team. If you want to see more photos of the session then check out our gallery on the website:

<https://shbha.co.uk/gallery/>

Our next Splosh is scheduled for February 2028 but **do you want another Junior Splosh in 2027?** Please let us know if you have young crew aged between 8 and 15 who would like to do the session.



#### Premier's Safety Day 2026 - Spillages

Members had the opportunity to find out more about the spillages that happen on the harbour. Dan Heckford gave a talk on the various levels of action that could be taken depending on the amount of fuel or oil that was spreading.

He then gave a most interesting demonstration using various mini bottle of liquids to show how they reacted once on the water. Some clumped, some spread very quickly. He used a mini fan to demonstrate the impact of the wind on each substance.



We were then able to watch the work boat and some staff demonstrating how they would deploy a boom around the leak once identified. (In this case a demo boat on the charter pontoon)



If you spot something on the surface contact the marina office asap so that they can assess the action that needs to be taken.

## Ladies Day

In the next session in a series held during the down time 25/26 the Ladies went aboard a vessel to **practice lassoing and catching cleats**. Prior to the activity Mark Sawyer ran through a few bits of theory and as usual shared his experience giving valuable tips as to how to succeed when crewing and deploying ropes. We then spilt into two groups and Alan Simister took his group off to his boat where he threw like the professional, he is.



Just like this....and its easy!

Various types of throw bags were deployed for the other group to demonstrate how to rescue someone. The groups then changed activities.

“Practice makes perfect!” was the motto of the day



**NB We will be repeating this exercise for the men who would like the same opportunity in the down season 26-27.**

The Association held another successful **Boat Jumble** at the end of March:

Supported by Tate Marine and Boatshed Eastbourne members brought along their surplus items to make some money whilst others searched for a bargain at a knock down price.



On offer was free refreshments with donations invited to be passed onto the lifeboat team for their crew fund.

Also in attendance was the Water Safety Team checking lifejackets. Several people took advantage of this free service to learn more about their life saving equipment.

### *The next boat jumble will be held in the Autumn*

Tim Kingston from Boatshed and Helm and Mechanic on Brighton's lifeboat gave a **talk on what to expect when you make an emergency call and how to help if you need to be towed by the RNLI.**



During the talk he illustrated the points made by photos taken during actual shouts. Dave Needham from Eastbourne's crew also contributed some rescue stories.



Let's hope we never suffer from Survivor Syndrome!

The **AGM** took place mid April and the committee were voted to continue with their good work. A new Treasurer, Carole Barnes was appointed to take care of the financial side of the Association.



### **DSC Radio Calling**

Having to make a DSC call in an emergency can be stressful. Would you know what to do? You might well have the certificate if you're the Skipper but your crew may be the ones to have to make the call. Members attending the DSC Course were lucky to have the opportunity to make dummy calls to familiarise themselves with the process.

Those attending were split into two groups and both groups took turns to use the radios and also learn more about the phonetic alphabet.





Great fun was had to practice all aspects of both activities and give confidence in case this was ever needed to be actioned for real.

Several handy handouts were shared to keep by the helm.....Just in case!

**And now.....**

## What' Been Going On????

- ✚ The pontoon washing project has nearly been completed. Unfortunately, the scrubber piece of equipment broke down and is awaiting a part.
- ✚ All of the necessary changes to the pontoon safety boxes have been made.
- ✚ The sluice room has had a lick of paint and the soap dispenser filled. More regular cleaning will also take place.
- ✚ The replacement of a ram in lock two and some cabling in lock one has been completed.
- ✚ The lighting around the locks and 7 of the 8 barriers are planned to be replaced in June.
- ✚ We are still trying to get a fitting for the fuel bay pay station. In most kinds of weather and time of day it is extremely difficult to see the text and buttons. The marina is also considering the possibility of pay by phone in the future.
- ✚ Queries about the structural integrity of the lock nearest the office have seen it confirmed as sound. The wooden framing on the gates was displaced by a vessel and looks 'wonky'. Structural inspections are done by experts annually.
- ✚ **AND** the central facilities are due a mega upgrade! Not only redecoration but more furniture and a Wi-Fi hub will be in place in the entrance and new worktops and fittings will spruce up the wash areas. The vending machine has temporarily taken a back seat but may appear in an upgraded laundrette if money allows.
- ✚ We have asked for more booster Wi-Fi poles around the harbour so keep sending reports if you regularly have no signal.
- ✚ Shoreline should be on site soon to complete snagging and add additional lighting in a few noted areas of darkness. Due to light pollution regulations the shield fitted inside some pods cannot be removed.

**Be Aware!** Dredging is due to take place any day now. Please refer to the NTM that has been sent to members



**and**

If you venture to parking area behind the stores on the Crumbles to be near the boat yard **BEWARE!**

These signs threaten a £100 fine if you do not have the correct sticker. We were not warned about this but they are mainly very obvious and not hidden in the trees like this one!



## Coming Up!

During the Summer we usually knock off for a few weeks to allow for some cruising or just enjoying your boat locally. In the background we will be still meeting with the Management team and working on the Autumn, Winter and Spring programme. All is not lost though as there are a variety of events planned on the harbour.

## Premier's Berth Holder Party Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> (Details from the Office)

**WetWheels Pirate Day** This year two WetWheels boats will be in Eastbourne across 2 weeks, joining together with other boats for their amazing Pirates Day – back to its usual slot of **Saturday 18th July**. We can't guarantee that Pirates Day may not lead to some friendly competition and that water pistols may have been stashed onboard. Visit their website for more information. <https://wetwheelsfoundation.org/experience/eastbourne-outreach/>

## Berth Holder BBQ on the West Harbour terrace

**ON YOUR MARKS!.....for the**



## DIY BBQ Saturday 1st August

ON THE WEST HARBOUR TERRACE - the USUAL SPOT

**The charcoal will be lit between 3.00-6.00pm**

**BRING YOUR OWN FOOD, DRINK, CHAIRS etc**  
and if you fancy winning the competition, bring along  
your best dressed fender!!!



Airbourne will be taking place again this year.

✓ **Our course programme will restart in September**



## And if you're really looking forward to Christmas time!!



You will be able to participate in the Winterland experience planned from 21st Nov to 2nd January. On the banana land (between the hoist and the waterfront restaurants) there will be an ice rink for which the marina have negotiated a 10% discount for our members. Alongside will be a vintage fairground. Additional Christmassy activities will include choirs, a Christmas market and a Sovereign Shines Competition.