

Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol & Rescue Service



Felixstowe Town Council Report 2019

Our main aim for 2019 was to bring our new boat 'Last Order's' into service before the end of the season. This of course comes with huge expense, with the total project costing upwards of £80,000. This has obviously placed a large strain on our finances, but thankfully, and in part due to the ongoing support of Felixstowe Town Council, we are happy to say that she was launched into service late summer 2019, and happily she was involved with saving 4 lives already before the end of the season. This is a remarkable statistic, and your contribution should not be underestimated, not just for our service but the people (and animals) that are rescued, and their families and friends.

Of course, having a second boat does give us some comfort in knowing that we should be able to cover more hours on the water. Invariably things happen, either mechanical, technical or otherwise, that will mean that a boat must be out of the water for a period. But now with the second boat we have that safety net and should be able to cover those weekends/events where it may not have been possible before. The downside is that there is extra expense that goes with the upkeep of two boats, such as insurance (£4000+ per year), servicing of the boat and trailer, and fuel. So funds are more crucial now than ever before.

2019 Season Statistics

- **6 lives saved, 4 requiring medical attention, 2 to A&E.**
- **72 incidents and 33 casualties, with a total of 267 persons & 5 dogs involved.**
- **Tasked by HM Coastguard 27 times, 6 times by National Coastwatch Institution, 8 by Harbour Authorities, 10 by Police and 4 by UK Border Force.**
- **Our two boats covered a distance of 3405 miles on patrols, incidents & rescues.**
- **Our volunteers gave a total of 1305 hours of their time to the community on patrols, that doesn't include time for training, visits to organisations, youth groups or schools for talks on beach/sea safety, fundraising & admin.**

We also had our official opening of our base in 2019, attended by the Mayor, High Sheriff of Suffolk as well as many other important figures and supporters. It's thanks to East of England Co-Op that we have this base and their support in other areas is

crucial. This gives us a great base where we can safely house our equipment, as well as conduct classroom training and social gatherings. We also had an open weekend at the end of Feb 2020 for the public to come and visit the base and see what we do. As well as having a good base, we have also seen increased numbers of volunteers. So these two important factors give us a good standing for the future, we are now working harder to try and find more sponsors to help us financially, the only part of the jigsaw missing.

We will continue to carry out sea safety sessions at schools and clubs, as well as promote & provide our services at local events such as Felixstowe Carnival, Ipswich Maritime Festival, the Woodbridge Regatta and the Christmas day swim. We have also extended our online presence/social media coverage to try and reach new audiences/sponsors, as well as promoting our supporters.

Our big aim for 2020 is to try and find enough sponsors to help us build some funds to eventually be in a position to purchase the vital life saving equipment that our crews wear while on patrol, such as dry suits, life jackets, helmets, VHF radios, safety knives etc. It is estimated that the total cost would be around £30,000 to buy the basic essential kit, that our volunteers currently have to purchase themselves (which leads to the exclusion of certain demographics, which we of course we want to include in future). The hunt is on-going for finances for this project.

Thank you from everyone at Felixstowe Coast patrol for your support, it is much appreciated, and very much needed to help us continue to serve our local community, promote sea safety and ultimately to save lives.



Opening of Guardian Base and naming of Last Order's – 2019



Volunteer and last Order's helping with the filming of a Channel 4 documentary about being lost at sea – 2019



Felixstowe carnival – 2019



Last order's assisting Suffolk Police while on patrol - 2019