



From: Captain Paul Fronteras MN Marine Pilot (Retd)

Maritime Volunteer Service

Charity number: 1048454

ice Michael of Kent, GCVO
Hon President: Countess Mountbatten of Burma CBE CD JP DL

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Taw & Torridge Unit

To serve the Community First years Report

The Taw and Torridge is now over a year old and therefore I feel you should have this report.

The M.V.S is an organisation to bring together those of us who have an interest in, and want to foster interest and awareness of our maritime heritage, skills and future.

The entry is open to all whatever background they may have and advancement in the organisation is by merit, experience and qualification.

The first object of the M.V.S. is the dissemination of maritime skills and knowledge having particular regard to safety on and near the water.

Whilst the M.V.S. will run "formal" courses leading to recognised qualifications much knowledge and experience is shared between members informally.

As the organisation has a ready made "workforce", many of them highly experienced or qualified, equipped to a greater or lesser degree the M.V.S. holds itself ready to assist any organisation with marine related tasks, examples of which may be:-

To provide back up to the emergency services on or off the water in times of flood or other disaster, recovery in situations where our equipment may be more suitable to the conditions, to provide personnel for crowd control, control centre's or communications etc.. Our likely response times preclude us from being considered a front line emergency service nor could we, or would we wish to, compete with the "Blue Light" services.

Monitor leisure activities on and near the water, where necessary offering safety advice, local knowledge etc. (as this unit has done on **Appledore Quay**, supported by Coastguard and the R.N.L.I. We have been asked to extend our activities in this field this year.)

We can undertake odd jobs on the water, surveys (navigation, Bouyage, wildlife, banks and seawalls "what have you"), obstruction clearance, towing or any of a host of tasks that may crop up on the water.

Provide safety cover for waterborne events

Website: www.ttef.org.uk/mvs
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Devon C.C. gave us a grant to obtain our first boat with the above activities in the local communities in mind.

We have a second boat (5.2m Dory, Work boat standard) with the help of Bideford Bridge Trust.

Last year we provided the following services:-

1. Supplied a Safety Boat at Roadford Lake for Dragon Boat Racing and a crew for a second Safety Boat also helped the Torridge Gig Club to control the traffic for launching of their new gig.
2. Attended Appledore Slipway for Torridge District Council for the season.
3. Had a stand with boat at Barnstaple New Bridge day, Instow Show and Ilfracombe Safety Show which was possibly the best day for weather last summer.
4. We also took part in the Devon Maritime Forum in Barnstaple.
5. All members took part in a First Aid Course which was run twice in the year by the St John's Ambulance Brigade .
6. Five members took the RYA marine diesel course and passed.
7. One member was offered a Trinity House Scholarship, but as she has now gone to Banger University is to reapply in 2010.
8. All members trained on the boat as much as possible in the summer when tides were suitable and also launching from Instow beach at Low Water training.
9. A combined meeting was held at the North Devon Yacht Club with a demonstration on Flares by the Coastguard which was also the Christmas Party for members.
10. We have been asked by Braunton Marsh Inspectors in the coming summer if we can aid them patrolling the beach

For the first few meeting the "Kathleen and May" was used and since March the Sea Cadet HQ in Victoria Park has been used as our meeting place. However we have to move out of the Sea Cadets HQ at Easter as the Air Cadets will be there as well.

We have been offered a "Portakabin" as our base but need to find somewhere to site it, so if anyone can suggest a site we would be grateful.

We are always looking for new members.

Please contact me if you require further information.

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