

July 2007

Serving Glasgow and its waterways

Glasgow's Lifeboat

Newsletter of the Glasgow Humane Society

Charity no SC001178



Riverwatchers network is valuable

The value of the riverwatcher network was put to good use recently. The alarm was raised early in the morning by a riverwatcher commuting to work. He called the Society House where Officers were informed of an Accident at Polmadie Bridge. A JCB digger had been driven down the river banking crashing through a fence and into the water. Officers and volunteers rushed to the scene to offer what assistance they could. When life is at stake every second counts and this was proved with the speedy response time of the Lifeboat. On arrival at the scene Fire and Rescue and Police were also in attendance. It was quickly established by Society Officers that the JCB had been driven into the water early in the morning some time before 6am. Officers established to the best of their ability from the surface that there was no one in the cab. A search of the river upstream and downstream was carried out with documentation from the JCB recovered. Back at the scene the Police underwater unit were preparing to carry out a search of the cab. This accident illustrates the importance of the Riverwatcher system and how it can provoke a rapid response from the Lifeboat. The Society Officers

assisted with the removal of the JCB from the river. It was thought to have been vandalised and deliberately crashed into the river.



Lifeboat to the Rescue

Rescue, Recovery and Accident Prevention were all put into action when an incident unfolded in front of Society Officers. One sunny afternoon Officers Parsonage and McGowan were returning to Society House when a commotion was heard coming from the river and then a large splash. Officer McGowan noticed a man standing up on the parapet of the St Andrews Bridge. As the officers rushed down to the lifeboat they noticed a person already in the water with just the top of his head showing.

Launching the lifeboat in great haste to save a fellow citizen the officers were put into a difficult situation with one person already in the water and another about to jump. After alerting Police Force Control and CCTV to their situation the Society Officers pleaded with the people on the bridge to remove themselves and assisted the person in the water successfully up the riverbank. As Police cars speedily arrived north and southside the casualties then ran off to a waiting car and quickly left the scene.

This incident all seems to have been a prank that was not in the best interests of public safety. If it had not been for the presence of Society Officers an innocent bystander may have put their life at risk to save someone who was not in distress and the man in the water was so tired and cold that he may not have made the banking.

[Training the city](#)

Society Officers, Lifeguards and Officials have all been helping with the organisation of courses designed to train members of the public in water safety. The Society has been working its way along riverbank establishments such as restaurants, hotels, pubs and offices. The first person on the scene of an accident is usually a member of the public, who undoubtedly will risk their life to help a person in need. The original ideals of the Society were to provide equipment and assistance for person in distress in the waterways of Glasgow. By training people in water rescue we are not necessarily turning them into lifeguards but trying to protect their life. If a person can rescue someone from land without going into the water, they have taken a step in the right direction. Most people who try to carry out a rescue themselves become a casualty too; it is well documented in the 200 years of Society records that rescuers often become the victims of Glasgow waterways. The most recent training session involved 20 personnel from the Gala

Riverboat Casino in the use of Gladston B line throw bags and Glasgow City Council lifebelts.

[Glasgow Lifeguards Launched](#)

This New Year saw the launching of a new communication tool for our volunteer sections. The introduction of an email address dedicated solely for the volunteers of the society has brought immediate communication. The new additional Society email address

glasgowlifeguards@yahoo.co.uk compliments the existing email communication

glasgowlifeboat@yahoo.co.uk.

The additional email address has been used recently to inform all volunteer Lifeguards and Riverwatchers alike of a missing person in the Strathclyde Park area. The system now allows the Society to rapidly communicate with all volunteers; it has also been put to use organising personnel for event safety cover and missing person searches. Hopefully the new email address will be a useful tool providing better communication with volunteers who provide an essential backup to the Society Officers.



Lifeguards Log on

Why don't you

www.glasgowhumanesociety.org

Our City - Our River - Our Lifeboat
"Preventing Accidents.....Saving Lives"



[Event Safety Cover](#)

Safety cover at events around Glasgow's waterways is becoming an increasingly important part of the Society work, utilising the network of Volunteer Lifeguards and Riverwatchers. Recently the Society has provided safety cover at the County Grand Orange Lodge juveniles' parade, Oxford River Festival and Clydesdale Rowing Clubs' 150th Regatta.

[Lifeboat Contact Details](#)

LIFEBOAT Glasgow Humane Society

Glasgow Humane Society House

Glasgow Green G40 1BA

Tel - 0141 429 2492

[Oxford River Festival](#)

Society Officers and Lifeguards were the guests in Oxford of "Go with the flow". Originally the Society was invited to perform lifesaving demonstrations but as always the call of duty is never far away when the Society is on the water. The involvement of so many beginner and novice water sports enthusiasts meant that the Society lifeboats were incorporated into event safety cover duty. On the day over ten persons were rescued and numerous others assisted. The whole weekend was a useful learning curve, as well as meeting old friends and new ones too, whilst spreading the Glasgow water safety message to a new audience.



[Clydesdale 150th Regatta](#)

The services of the Society were called upon again to help provide safety cover at this very prestigious event, which incorporated the annual Glasgow Edinburgh Universities Regatta. There were six Lifeboats patrolling at all times along with riverwatchers patrolling the banks. One very notable part of the day was when a young female sculler capsized on the home straight. Society Lifeguard Ian Brown raced to the scene, whilst Officers Parsonage and McGowan launched another Lifeboat from the Lifeboat Station to assist in the Rescue.

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Lifeguard Brown must be congratulated for this excellent rescue – his first - and it goes to prove that all the training he has received was eventually put to good use.



[Join Glasgow's Lifeboat](#)

You can make an ideal volunteer; could you bring ready trained expertise to the waterways of Glasgow. If you have spare time and would like to expand your knowledge of waterway safety and help serve your City why not get in touch and arrange an induction at our Glasgow Green Lifeboat Station.

Volunteer contact details: Antony D. Coia (Senior Lifeguard)

glasgowlifeguards@yahoo.co.uk

C/o Culture and Sport Tollcross Park Leisure Centre

350 Wellshot Road Glasgow G32 7QR

Home Tel - 0141 558 3084

