



THE LOOKOUT

News from NCI Worms Head Lookout Station · Summer 2026 Newsletter · Registered Charity No. 1159975

A Busy Fortnight on the Watch

Two strandings, a wrecked-boat report, a search for two missing swimmers, and a serious fall — all inside eighteen days.



Horton and Port Eynon RNLI launch to reach visitors caught out by the tide, August 2026.

Even deep into August, the watch never really lets up. In the first eighteen days of the month alone, our volunteers were involved in two strandings, one report of a wrecked boat, a search for two missing swimmers, and a serious fall on the causeway that needed a Coastguard helicopter.

On the 9th, six people were caught out as the causeway began to flood. Three waded back — something we'd strongly urge against — while the other three turned out to be fishermen who hadn't told us they planned to stay out on the island. Two days later, a lady's fall on the causeway needed a Coastguard helicopter from Newquay to fly her to hospital.

The 13th brought two incidents in one day: five people stranded on the island were safely brought back by Horton and Port Eynon RNLI, and a report of a wrecked boat turned out to be an earlier casualty from Mumbles. On the 15th we searched for two missing swimmers off Rhossili beach — both were found safe on the beach a short time later.

“We've still got 14 days left this month — fingers crossed for 14 quiet ones.”

— Watchkeeper's log, 18 August

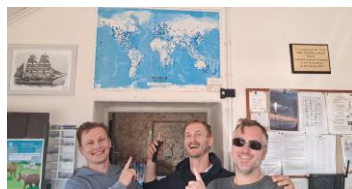
It's exactly this kind of watch that the causeway crossing times in the hut window and on this website are there to prevent.

Also on Watch This Summer

14 Aug — RNLI Called Out (Again). Yet another reminder to check the causeway times before you cross — they're posted in the hut window and at the top of the path down, and published every Saturday on our Facebook page.



The wrecked boat, first reported at Mumbles, spotted from the hut on our own causeway rocks.



Andrei, Vadim, and a friend, from Samara in south-east Russia.



Neil (a station manager from another NCI station) and our own Brian.



Our old neighbour, moved into Swansea Dry Dock for restoration.

13 Aug — The Mumbles Boat Turns Up

A reminder that an incident further up the coast doesn't always stay there — this one drifted all the way from Mumbles to wash up on Worms Head.

7 Aug — A New Dot on the Visitors Map

We don't get many visitors from that far east, so there was plenty of room on the map for them.

24 Jul — Wales Drowning Prevention Strategy

Our coastal water safety lead Brian, joined by Neil, attended the launch of Water Safety Wales' 2026–2030 strategy, Towards Zero Drownings — see the Water Safety Code overleaf.

17 Jul — The Helwick Lightvessel on the Move

She used to mark the edge of the Helwick sandbank, four miles south of us, and has spent years since slowly rotting in Swansea Marina. Now moved into dry dock, hopefully to be restored.

“Check the causeway times before you cross.”

— In the hut window and in our Causeway Tracker.

Royal Recognition



HRH The Princess Royal meets NCI Worms Head volunteers, February 2024.

NCI Worms Head has stood watch over Rhossili Bay since 2007. In February 2024, HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the National Coastwatch Institution, visited the station to see the watch in action and meet our volunteers — and in 2025 the crew received a Certificate of Merit. None of it would be possible without unpaid volunteers giving their time, 365 days a year, weather and safety permitting.

A Piece of History — The Samuel's Anchor

Visitors to the hut often ask about the rusted anchor embedded in the causeway rocks. It's from the Samuel, a Norwegian collier that was carrying 100 tons of coal from Cardiff to Santos, Brazil, when she was driven ashore and wrecked in a fierce gale in 1884.



The Samuel's anchor, still embedded in the causeway rocks today. Photo: Martin Jones.

Her cargo of coal was sold off to local farmers, who cut a track out to the wreck to reach it — coal that kept them, and the wider village, warm for winters afterwards. Look closely at the rocks around the anchor today, and you can still see flecks of coal caught among them.

How You Can Help

Follow the Watch

See what we've been called out to in our Lookout Log, and send us your wildlife sightings, at nciwormshead.org. Or follow NCI Worm's Head on Facebook.

Donate or Shop

One-off gifts at nciwormshead.org/donate, or pick up a calendar, beanie or fridge magnet at the lookout.

Out and About: Gower Show



The crew at this year's Gower Show, spreading the water safety message.

This summer the crew took our water safety message to the Gower Show, meeting visitors and talking to them about the causeway crossing and how to stay safe on our coastline — a great chance to reach people who might never otherwise find their way to the lookout.

Always Follow the Water Safety Code

Always follow the

WATER SAFETY CODE

Whenever you are around water:



STOP AND THINK
Take time to assess your surroundings. Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.



STAY TOGETHER
When around water always go with friends or family. Swim at a lifeguarded venue.



CALL 999
If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard. Don't enter the water to rescue.



FLOAT
Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help. Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.



ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY

SCAN ME for more water safety information and advice



Wales loses one person to drowning every week. Whenever you're near the water: Stop and Think — look for the dangers. Stay Together — don't go near water alone. If you get into trouble, Float on your back and call for help. And in an emergency, Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

Become a Watchkeeper

No experience needed — full training given. Most volunteers do 2–4 watches a month. Call in for a taster visit, or ring 07392 327216.

Get the App

A free, install-free Causeway Tracker for your phone that keeps working even with patchy signal. nciwormshead.org/get-the-app

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