



Penzance



Newsletter

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20 Jan 2012 *(with acknowledgements to the Cornishman)*

New vessel-tracking system



Brian Ellis, Jon Gifford, Jane Jackson

A new tracking system is now in operation in the Penzance Tower. The team at the station wanted to purchase new equipment in the memory of former Station Manager Bryan Jackson, who died last year, using donations received in lieu of flowers at his funeral. A brass plaque has also been unveiled and presented to Bryan's widow, Jane, by NCI National President Jon Gifford, dedicating the system to Bryan's memory.

Station Manager Brian Ellis commented: "The new system will be very beneficial to our station. I am sure Bryan would be proud to see us moving forwards and growing as a professional voluntary-run organisation. Also, special thanks must go to the Company, Digiboat, which donated the operating software."

The equipment allows the local watch to monitor and identify vessels in Mount's Bay transmitting on AIS, and gives details of their course and speed and other safety-related information.

17 Dec 2011

Certificates of Excellence



Peter Mitchell & Dave Pryor



With Richard Hews



With the Station Management Team

Certificates of Excellence have been awarded to two watchkeepers at Penzance NCI following an incident that occurred in May last year. The certificates, presented to David Pryor and Peter Mitchell by NCI Trustee and National PR Manager, Richard Hews, were awarded by Station Manager Brian Ellis in recognition of watch-keeping duties carried out on 24th May 2011, when the watchkeepers spotted two men fighting shortly before 10.00am in a rowing boat near Penzance harbour. They immediately reported the incident to the coastguard and the police were alerted.

One man, described as a foreign national, was subsequently arrested. The second man was recovered from the water and airlifted to hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival. The foreign national, a Lithuanian, eventually pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was jailed for six years.

Penzance Station Manager Brian Ellis commented: "David and Peter acted in the best traditions of NCI, spotting, plotting and reporting with speed and accuracy. This was watchkeeping at its best and I applaud them for their diligence and attention to detail".
