

1964

The NCI Newhaven lookout building was originally constructed in 1964 for the Coastguard to replace a small lookout in Newhaven Fort. When fully operational it was manned by a rostered team of 6 full-time coastguards and 12 auxiliary volunteers.



1990s

In the mid-1990s, following a series of cutbacks by the Government, the Coastguard was forced to vacate the building. It remained disused until **2002** when it was decided the building was unsafe and should be demolished.



In **2003** the NCI decided to take it over and, following negotiations with Lewes District Council helped by the Castle Hill Group, acquired a 20 year lease on the building. The station opened on the 5th June **2004** with 12 watchkeepers, all ex-coastguard officers.

A photo taken just after the original opening

By **2005** the number of volunteers had increased to 40 and, thanks to our various recruiting exercises and the training team's efforts, we now maintain an average crew number of 70. Over the last 16 years over 200 volunteers have served with our station from all walks of life.

The NCI Newhaven 15th anniversary photo taken with the station surrounded by scaffolding, and a temporary sign, during replacement of the balcony in **2019**



Major works to the building over the years included a new staircase to replace the 3 vertical ladders which formed the original access!



2020

In September 2020 NCI Newhaven received a visit from our Royal Patron, HRH The Princess Royal to help us celebrate our pandemic-delayed 15th anniversary.

2022

In this year we celebrated Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee by lighting a beacon on Castle Hill below our Lookout, surrounded by our members and friends and members of the local community.



In **2023** Newhaven NCI were awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service for keeping watch along our coastline and inshore waters to ensure public safety. Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life. This was the first year of the KAVS presented by King Charles III. We were presented with the award by the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, and two members of our team were invited to Buckingham Palace.



In **2024** NCI celebrated its 30 year anniversary by holding a flag relay around all the stations in the country. We all moved the flag around the country by various means of transports. NCI Shoreham presented it to us via a military vehicle convoy, and we passed it on to NCI Folkestone with a mixture of boat, feet, car, train and cycle.



Also in **2024** we undertook a major refurbishment of our Lookout, to ensure we have the latest in equipment to maintain our 'Eyes Along The Coast'. The combined support from sponsors, with hard work from members and friends made it a memorable time and we are now blessed with a highly equipped, versatile and ever-ready facility!

