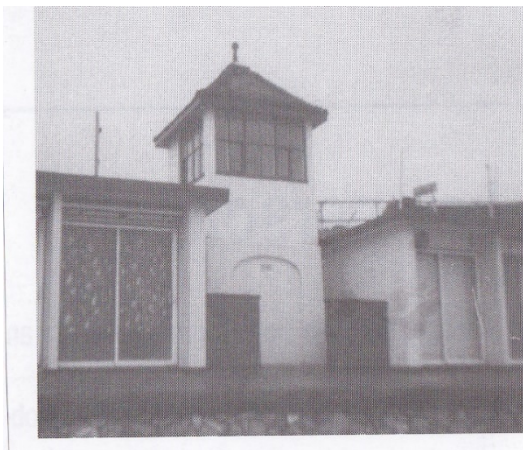


The History of NCI Teignmouth



The Old Coastguard Lookout (which remains as Teignmouth's postal address to this day) is known to have been built in 1931 as a Coastguard Lookout. An offcut of wood signed and dated by the carpenters working on the original building was found in the rafters of the original building when it was demolished prior to the re-build in 2015.



It is unclear when its use as a Coastguard station ended, but the building lay empty for several years, was let out as a beach hut and latterly used by the local café as a storeroom. The Station Manager from the neighbouring NCI Exmouth station spotted the building in March 2003 and thought that it would be an ideal position for a new NCI station. The owner of the local café was happy to give up his use of the lookout as a storeroom and negotiations commenced with Teignbridge District Council, who owned the building and the site.

The lease was signed in April the following year. During the intervening period John Langford, the NCI Exmouth Station Manager, worked tirelessly amongst the shops and businesses in Teignmouth to raise funds, as rent would become due as soon as the lease was signed. 2 public meetings held in February and March of 2004 saw the formation of Teignmouth station with 9 volunteers.

Once access was gained to the building it was realised that the floor was riddled with woodworm and needed replacing to prevent anyone's rapid descent into the cellar! The work to replace the floor was carried out by the council. A start up grant of £250, along with a £250 loan, was received from national NCI funds and with the support of the tradespeople and residents of Teignmouth the lookout was equipped and ready to be operational on the 1st August 2004.



In June 2005 agreement was received from the Council that the existing small-paned windows could be replaced with large double-glazed ones, which greatly enhanced the vision and the official opening of the station took place on 30th April 2005, performed by the then-Mayor of Teignmouth, Councillor Mary Strudwick. Teignmouth's Declared Facility Status was achieved in May 2007.

By 2010 it was becoming clear that the 'limited' space in the lookout was becoming a problem as more equipment was installed. The building was also cold and damp with a heater having to be left on overnight in wet weather to prevent paperwork getting damp. Various options for building on neighbouring sites came to nothing and in June 2013 planning permission was received for the plans drawn up to rebuild the existing lookout. This would more than double the internal 'footprint' of the lookout.

The design was to elevate the building by some 6ft and cantilever it over the base of the existing building, the beach chalets and café below. The building, and interior, were designed by one of our watchkeepers, Graham Wilks.



During the re-build the station camped out in a Porta Cabin on the sea wall. That 'camp' was rudely interrupted by the making of the film 'Spirit of Endeavour' where the sea front was transformed into a 1940's scene, and a Porta Cabin in view would have spoiled the effect! The local yacht club came up trumps and allowed us to move into their clubhouse for the duration of the filming.

Watches in the new lookout commenced on Sunday the 5th July 2015, with the official opening being performed on the 20th September by Admiral Sir James Burrell-Nugent, High Sherriff of Devon.