



On Watch 42



June & July 2008

Editor: Mike Newbold

Hi Watch! – 42 issues and still going strong!

The newsletter of NCI Skegness

Goodbye Ingoldmells Point...

On Wednesday 21st May 2008 at 15.00hrs NCI Ingoldmells Point were given immediate notice to quit their watchtower as the beach owner, Lee Whittaker of Coastal Land Limited, informed the Station Manager that 'The building was in imminent danger of collapse'.



On reflection, we are absolutely sure it has nothing to do with the fact that the beach owners under the name of **The Smugglers Bar and Grill** at an address in Welton le Marsh, had recently been granted full planning permission by East Lindsey District Council to develop the site, nor the fact that as tenants we just might be in the way of any easy progress in the development of the proposed magnificent (?) structure. It was very interesting to note that Ingoldmells Council ensured that National Coastwatch were allocated two parking spaces in the application, and the application attracted over 13 objections from local people, and

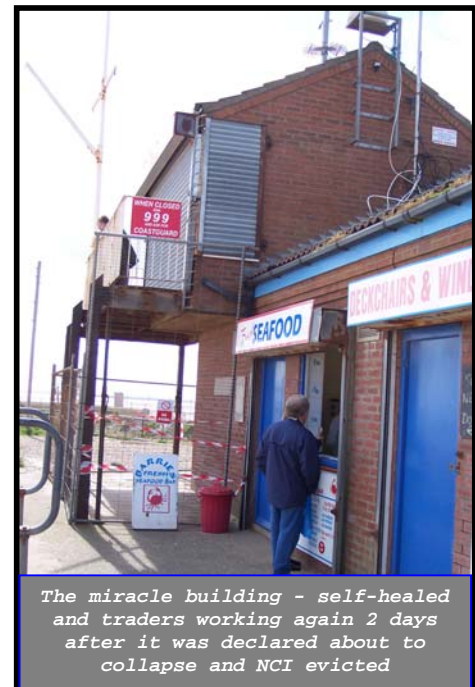
no legal notice of application was posted in the area, nor did we, as tenants receive any notification, formal or otherwise, regarding the redevelopment application by Smugglers Bar and Grill.

What rather difficult to understand is that whilst NCI were instructed and forced to immediately evacuate the 'dangerous structure' (*Their words - not ours!*) and remove all our equipment with 24 hours under direct threat of the building being demolished the next day (*Thursday 22nd May*) with the equipment still in it, the Seafood trader directly under our watchtower was still open for business two days later - in a building that was (apparently) about to collapse (*See photograph right*). Someone also (apparently) forgot to warn both East Lindsey District Council and the general public as both the Gentlemen's, Ladies and disabled toilets were still being used on and after the unfortunate news, and are still in regular use today! The roof of the Gents toilet is a 5 ton slab of concrete which formed the floor of our watchtower, supported by metals RSJ's that are/were the subject of the 'imminent danger of collapse' panic.

Sadly the tiled roof was removed from the watchtower on the morning of 25th May, and the brickwork unceremoniously demolished two days later; but the toilets are still open for business as usual, and a new trader has now moved in to the Sea food shop right under the condemned building: Mr Whittaker must be the luckiest man alive, owning a self healing building - See miracles do happen!

However some of our valued equipment including CCTV cameras, antennas, mounting poles and other items were removed and taken by Mr Whittaker's and are still in his possession. He is demanding 72 hours formal notice lodged in writing through his solicitors for us to reclaim our own property. This is illegal as he is depriving us of the free possession of our own chattels.

A letter was sent from NCI Solicitors instructing the buildings owners NOT to demolish as it was now subject of legal action. This was, as expected, totally ignored as was most points of the law in this case.



The miracle building - self-healed and traders working again 2 days after it was declared about to collapse and NCI evicted

This unsavoury enforced illegal eviction is now subject to further legal action, and the subject of great displeasure of many local traders and residents of Ingoldmells.

Much support has come since the shock illegal enforcement - the Ingoldmells Residents Action Group has declared the abhorrence for such underhanded actions, and many individual calls have been also been received, and letters appeared in the papers. One call has informed us of the Beach Owners intention to provide a Lost Children office staffed by local OAP's (CRB cleared of course ??????)

Upon receiving the dreaded call to evacuate Ingoldmells, a few calls inflicting the sad news to team members were made and many of the team worked hard and long, both on the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday safely stripping out all our equipment and taking it all to their own homes for safety. This was undoubtedly the lowest ebb of NCI Ingoldmells - we literally had lost everything overnight.

- however -

Hello Skegness



Following the devastating news, a call was made by Station Manager Mike Newbold to our NCI Chairman Jon Gifford. His rapid personal intervention with East Lindsey District Council secured our immediate tenancy at the top floor of the old HM Coastguard tower at Winthorpe.

A second miracle occurred that week - we were given a new home - purpose built ex- HM Coastguard Tower at Winthorpe Avenue, Seathorne,

Skegness. Lease acquired from East Lindsey District Council within just 3 days of our eviction from that other place, thanks to the personal intervention and negotiations of NCI Chairman Jon Gifford. It is hard to know where to begin in thanking such a dedicated Chairman and such a devoted Coastwatch Team.

The keys were in our possession on Monday morning, and again a massive team effort swung into action to refit our new home. Equipment recently ferreted away for anticipated long term storage miraculously appeared again and installation and fitting-out began. Painting, drills, cranes lifting fridges, members clambering over the roof fitting antennas, cables being run, back up power systems, weather sensors, new electrical trunking and cabling, all paperwork reconfigured to NCI SKEGNESS, AIS reinstalled and reconfigured (no thanks to BT Open Reach for delaying transfer of the Broadband line for 12 days) - total and absolute well-coordinated mayhem.

Within a week NCI Skegness was born and watches recommenced to a much delighted H M Coastguard at Great Yarmouth (We were a bit chuffed too !)

As a shock to the system, sleepless nights, anxiety and worry I cannot really recommend it, however, as a team building exercise - brilliant - and what a team! Almost everyone paid some part. Well done all.

A few new rules;

- 1) Smokers - don't throw your cigarette ends over the balcony. Complaints have been received
- 2) All crews are expected to keep the watchroom tidy - vacuum cleaner the floor one a day please.
- 3) The computer is there for NCI business only - NOT for personal use or surfing.
- 4) All rubbish to be removed each evening, not left overnight.
- 5) Galley to be left clean and tidy - all cups cleaned and put away
- 6) PAY FOR YOUR TEA AND COFFEE (there are many thirsty, but forgetful, folk amongst us!)
- 7) Leave the watchroom as you would expect to find it.

COLLECTIONS - HELP!

With our ever increasing running costs, it really is more important than ever that those who have not regularly collected funds for their team PLEASE make an extra personal effort and not continue to leave it to the faithful few. The recent Hildreds Collection raised £600 collected by just 8 of the team - a long and hard day that could have been made much, much easier with a little more support and help. The Morrison's collection last Saturday was supported by just 5 very dedicated members raising a magnificent £500. If I care enough about our team to give some of my time just 12 days after a heart attack to collect for NCI Skegness, surely you can help, even just an hour or so?? If we do not maintain a regular income, we cannot exist or even sustain our existing level of service - IT COSTS MONEY. Please help - even a few hours - we need YOUR help and support. A little more effort by all would be greatly appreciated. If help is not forthcoming, we must seriously consider a membership subscription or consider the alternative?

WEB SITE: The new NCI web site goes live on 1st July - see it on www.nci.org.uk

RADAR - Following negotiations with East Lindsey District Councillor John Byford we have recently been granted £2100 to purchase a new colour Radar. This has now been installed, please treat it with respect and only push buttons if you know what you are doing, thank you. The old unit will be donated to a newly opened station as is customary in NCI.

RECRUITMENT

Congratulations and thanks to **Paul Fretwell** for volunteering to take the position of Recruitment Officer. A revised **RECRUITMENT PROCEDURE** has now been introduced, and is posted in the Station Operations Manual: Would ALL Watchkeepers read this and make themselves aware of the procedures that will now be followed to ensure ALL NEW APPLICANTS are given our very best attention and encouragement to progress to full membership. A stock of Membership enquiry packs are available at the station for those expressing interest in membership of NCI and, and these should be offered to all enquirers and the **tear off slip on front of the pack completed** and left at the station for **PAUL FRETWELL** to follow-up. This is essential so that we maximise all enquiries. Many thanks for your kind cooperation.

THANK YOU ALL - I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who sent both cards and good wishes, and for the lovely basket of fruit following my recent heart attack, and for the delightful flowers for Jacqui. It really is most gratifying to know that there are so many true friends out there. Thank you all for the support you have and are giving to Roger as he stepped very competently into the breach in my enforced absence. As Arnie says - "I'll be back" *Mike Newbold Station Manager*

WATCH ROTA - is available on line at :-

THIS MONTH : <http://www.skegness-computers.co.uk/coastwatch/first.html>

NEXTMONTH : <http://www.skegness-computers.co.uk/coastwatch/second.html>

THIRD MONTH : <http://www.skegness-computers.co.uk/coastwatch/third.html>

OUR DIARY 2008 -put it in yours!

Jul 9th - TEAM MEETING - Crown Hotel, Drummond Road, Skegness
Jul 16th - Management Meeting - Cygnus Tea Rooms, Mumby
Jul 27th - **Jolly Fisherman's Party in the Park** Skegness 10.00am to 5.00pm
Aug 13th - **999 Show Skegness** - volunteers required to man our stand.
Aug 13th - TEAM MEETING - Crown Hotel, Drummond Road, Skegness
Sept 10th - TEAM MEETING - Crown Hotel, Drummond Road, Skegness
Sept 20th - **COLLECTION and tombola** at Co-Op Skegness
Oct 11th - **COLLECTION and tombola** at Hildreds centre Skegness
Oct 4th - LONDON - Joint manager meeting
Oct 15th - TEAM MEETING - Crown Hotel, Drummond Road, Skegness
Nov 29th - **COLLECTION and Tombola** : Morrison's Skegness
Dec 13th - **COLLECTION and tombola** at Co-Op Skegness

NEXT TEAM MEETING: WEDNESDAY 9th July 2008

POSTITON	HOLDER	POSITION	HOLDER
Station Manager	<i>Mike Newbold</i>	Press and Publicity	<i>Keith Arthey</i>
Deputy Station Manager	<i>Roger Gilburd</i>	Beach Safety coordinator	<i>Carl Short</i>
And Hon Treasurer		Charity Collecting boxes	
Deputy Station Manager	<i>Simon Walker</i>	Quartermaster	<i>Bill Isherwood</i>
-Training & IT			
Recruitment Coordinator	<i>Paul Fretwell</i>	Flag master	<i>Chris Lines</i>
Watch Rota Coordinator	<i>Seamus O'Dowd</i>	Chart Master	<i>Bill Isherwood</i>
Hon Team Secretary	<i>Pauline Arthey</i>	Almoner & tea room prop	<i>Eileen Gilburd</i>
IT Team	<i>Simon Walker, Seamus O'Dowd, Keith Arthey</i>	Station Management Team	<i>Bill Isherwood</i>
		Representatives	