



Mundesley

“Eyes along the coast”



National Coastwatch - Mundesley

Mundesley Museum
Beach Road
Mundesley
Norfolk
NR11 8BG

For more info visit - www.nci.org.uk

National Coastwatch Mundesley is part of the
National Coastwatch Institution
(Registered Charity No: 1159975)



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A voluntary service, on watch for your safety on the sea and along our coastline since 1994. National Coastwatch undertakes a voluntary role to provide a network of Coastal Lookout Stations around the shores of the United Kingdom.

◆ National Coastwatch provide a watchful pair of eyes and a timely exchange of accurate information, prior to and during Search and Rescue (SAR) operations on the coastline and offshore.

◆ When a watchkeeper sees, or is informed of a person, animal or craft in difficulty or distress, then he or she will pass as much information as they are able to Humber Coastguard and will then assist as required, in the co-ordination of any Search and Rescue activity.

◆ Since 1994 NCI has opened or re-opened over 60 Lookout Stations around the UK coast, these are manned entirely by unpaid volunteers.

◆ More stations are opening each year with, currently, over 2,800 volunteers keeping watch; more are in training.

◆ Stations are equipped with telescopes, binoculars, radar, telephone, weather instrumentation and emergency VHF radio channels for communicating with seafarers.

◆ Local fundraising relies on the goodwill of local people - through store collections, businesses and assistance from other sources who wish to support this important work.

◆ The funds raised cover supplying and maintaining all equipment to the station running.

◆ Volunteer watchkeepers do not expect to be reimbursed for any expenses for corporate clothing or for getting to or from the station.

Visit nci.org.uk home page to find out locations of stations, number of volunteers and accumulated number of incidents.

National Coastwatch - Mundesley

By 1994 nearly all the Coastguard lookout stations had been shut, just a forgotten footnote to our maritime history.

However, in response, groups of volunteers in Norfolk and other areas of the UK began re-opening old coastguard stations as lookouts. These volunteers believed, and today's volunteers still believe, that there is no substitute for a 'visual' lookout at sea and along the coastline.

The chill wind of neglect had blown through many of the coastal Lookout Stations. Some had been sold as holiday homes or seaside cafes and had sadly passed out of community use. There remained a few still intact, including the one at Mundesley. The building is nearly 100 years old. Since 1995 used by Mundesley Parish Council as a Maritime Museum.

Since opening, the Parish Council has allowed National Coastwatch - Mundesley to use the lookout room on the first floor, for the purpose for which it was originally built.

The group currently has around 30 watchkeepers who give their time voluntarily, usually 2 to 3 hours every week. They come from many backgrounds and occupations, the majority having no previous involvement in maritime matters.

Our aim is to provide a watchful pair of eyes, where there would otherwise be none. For 9 hours of every day throughout the spring and summer and 6 hours per day throughout the autumn and winter, our volunteers keep a visual lookout over 180 square miles of the inshore waters of the North Sea, along the beach, shoreline, cliff-top and promenade. Watchkeepers remain vigilant at all times and are trained how to respond in an emergency, report to the HM Coastguard who then co-ordinate the Search and Rescue services. An accurate log of all activities is kept along with local sea and weather conditions, which are passed on to the Coastguard and to any sea and shore users requesting them.

National Coastwatch - Mundesley works closely with UK Coastguard and has a "Declared Facility Status", enabling us to be an integral part of the Search and Rescue operation. To be able to be a 'Declared Facility Status' every Lookout Station has to undergo an annual audit.

National Coastwatch - Mundesley was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2009.



June 2025

Funding

Each Lookout Station is responsible for fund raising to cover its own running costs, equipment purchases, maintenance, utilities, licence fees, equipment insurance, for training members to nationally recognised standards and for providing members public liability insurance through the national office of the National Coastwatch Institution.

Through the years National Coastwatch - Mundesley has raised its income throughout the year at various superstores throughout North Norfolk. These collections are undertaken by watchkeepers who do this in addition to their normal duties. The sums collected are usually just enough to cover the day-to-day expenses of the station.

Any additional money raised and donated through special projects is used for the repair and replacement of existing equipment, for the purchase of any further items of specialist equipment and for training members.

Donations from individuals, companies and groups wishing to raise funds to support us is always welcome.

To donate please go to:

<https://www.nci.org.uk/station/mundesley/>

For information on how you can financially help NCI Mundesley please contact the Treasurer, email: mundesley.treasurer@nci.org.uk

Would you like to join us?

No previous experience is necessary to become a watchkeeper. You will be given all the training needed, learning at your own speed. If you decide to join us as a member, you will become an important part of the national Search and Rescue operation, and a vital link in the security of our coastline through contact with HM Coastguard. You will be joining a dedicated band of volunteers who will be delighted to welcome you.

Initially you will be invited to join an experienced watchkeeper to have a look at what happens during a normal watch of 2-3 hours. If, then, you are still interested, you will be able to attend on a more regular basis with an experienced watchkeeper to begin your training. You will be given an Induction and Training Manual to help you understand the role and to work through a programme at your own speed. Station training sessions are held regularly, where you will learn and practice techniques. You will also meet other team members, as all are encouraged to attend these training sessions.

When you feel ready to be assessed, you can become a watchkeeper in your own right. If at any time during this period you decide that Coastwatch is not for you, then of course you are free to leave.

For further details and a chat about the job please contact the Station on 01263 722399 during opening time 10am to 4pm seven days a week or email: mundesley@nci.org.uk