**Hayling Island Community First Responders**

**Present**

**999 Awareness Day 2017 Saturday 19th August**

**1000hrs till 1600hrs.**

999 Awareness Day took place on Saturday 19th August on a somewhat blustery day.

The event was held at the Ferry Boat Inn and Beach café car parks.

Both the 1952 Leyland open top vintage bus and the single deck 1944 Bedford OWB ran a service along the ferry road from beachlands to the ferry reviving memories of 60 years ago when regular such services ran along the route. The buses are part of the fleet of vehicles preserved by the City of Portsmouth Preserved Passenger Transport Department, being crewed and maintained by volunteers. All fuel for the buses was kindly sponsored by Daren Ford and their Jet fuel suppliers

The event featured static exhibits by the Ambulance, Police, Fire, RNLI and support Emergency Services, Red Cross along with the Hayling Lions, Red Cross, 3rd Platoon B Company Army Cadets and HMS King Alfred who were on hand providing static stands to engage the public with demonstrations of their skills

The Fort Cumberland Guard and Militia took up their position on the sea wall with their 19th century cannon and fired 4 salvoes during the day as part of the marine and Sunset ceremony scenarios. Looking impressive in their period uniforms of the Royal Marines 1830’s, the Guard are the only approved ‘private army’ in the UK and had to get special permission from Buckingham Palace when seeking to be formed 54 years ago.

Hampshire police marine unit RIB swept in at speed in an attempt to stop the Hayling Ferry “Pride of Hayling” which had been hijacked by desperate Southampton Football supporters. The action drama at sea had the Guard fire their cannon and fire and smoke erupted on the ferry after which the Portsmouth RNLI, SAR flight and the Rosie K, the latter normally cruising sedately with passengers to see the seals in the upper Langstone waters, raced in to pick up survivors, while the Serve-On Swift Water Rescue team took casualties from the RNLI and with the South Central Ambulance Crews transported the patients up the beach & dealt with the casualties. A special thank you to Baker Trayte Marine and skipper Colin and his crew of the Pride of Hayling for allowing the vessel to come out of service and be hijacked.

Fire and rescue personnel from Hayling Island’s Hampshire Fire & Rescue units were on hand to undertake several live action vehicle fires and a roll over with person trapped response and rescues together with the South Central Ambulance Service and Police support teams. The car for the scenario, although made sterile with all fuel and electrics removed by Beach Road Garage, appeared in such perfect condition some members of the public thought that the vehicle must have been used in mistake for a car that was written off !!.

Photos show Mayor Cllr Elaine Shimbart and her consort, presenting a donation of equipment on behalf of the UK’s oldest and largest supplier of fire equipment Angus Fire, to the A & T Adventures Dakar Challenge who are taking the Saxon fire engine to the Gambia to be donated to a rural fire department.

The Duraline fire hose and foam compound manufactured by Angus in its Yorkshire factory is of the same high quality as supplied to the UK’s newest aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth.

Peter Halkyard the Hayling CFR co-ordinator, is seen along with the mayor, her consort, SCAS 999 Ted and the leaders of A & T Adentures.

The whole event was free for the public to attend and meet the emergency services who safeguard us 24hrs a day and enable the supporting charities to raise funds for their essential activities.

The ceremony of Sunset and the lowering of navel flags was led by the Denmead Brass Band supported by the Hampshire (Havant) Police cadets, Hayling 3rd platoon Army cadets and HMS King Alfred. M’s Jess Fitzjohn an outstanding teenage vocalist sang abide with Me, Thine be the Glory and Rule Britannia

Jess Fitzjohn started singing when she attended Oaklands secondary school,  she is currently attending Oaklands 6th form college, Waterlooville where she is studying English, music and drama A levels. Jess specialises in musical theatre/opera at drama school/university and is hoping to continue with her studies at drama school or conservatoire. Jess has recently achieved grade 8 in singing exam and is currently working towards her diploma.

If you are a member of a business or group that deals with emergencies and would like to participate or help sponsor the 2018 event please contact the event director: Richard Coates on mobile: 07818 427175 Tel: 02392 464391 email: rcoatesfire@btinternet.com

**Press release for Hayling Islander - immediate**

Tuesday 22nd August 2017