

For immediate posting
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Severn Area Rescue Association drops anchor in Tewkesbury

The Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) is pleased to announce the acquisition of a unit at Basepoint Tewkesbury, which will serve as a station for the next two years. After over a year of searching for a building suitable to use as a base, Basepoint have kindly stepped in and offered a unit rent free, which will be used not only to house the team's vehicle and boat, but also as an office. Sarah Kneath, Station Chairman, had this to say:



"Without this generous offer from Basepoint, Tewkesbury SARA would be a lot further away from becoming an operational rescue station and huge thanks must go to Kate Harrison, manager, for arranging this."

SARA Tewkesbury would also like to thank Cheltenham College for allowing them to use their boathouse in Lower Lode Lane as a temporary base until a more permanent home was found.

SARA's Tewkesbury station was formed just over a year ago, and supports SARA's other three stations, in Sharpness, Beachley and Wyre Forest. Once up and running, SARA Tewkesbury will serve as a stand-alone station operating within the Tewkesbury area, as well as continuing to provide assistance where needed further afield.

SARA's membership is made up entirely from volunteers, with no paid staff. As a registered charity (no. 505504), all funding is raised by way of donations. The need for SARA is increasing with more callouts evident year on year. The variety and range of callouts is also increasing. Typical incidents involve boats or persons in difficulty in one of the rivers covered, but also the search for missing persons, animal rescue and flood relief are becoming common.

Recent collections at Morrisons Tewkesbury and Tewkesbury High Street yielded £632.46 and £498.56 respectively, and everybody at SARA Tewkesbury would like to thank the public for their generous support.

SARA Tewkesbury will be holding an open day on Saturday 31st October, which will be open to everybody to come and meet the crew. Further details will be announced nearer the time.

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