

Police praise actions of boatman in East Lothian



Police in East Lothian have praised the actions of a boatman, who helped rescue a kayaker in Dunbar.

Members of the public raised the alarm at around 10.45am yesterday (Sunday) after they witnessed one-person canoe experiencing difficulty just off the shore at Skateraw Old Harbour.

A small boat, which was skippered by 58-year-old Brian Ball, was on the water during this time and heard the emergency radio message issued by HM Coastguard.

The boat called Dignity reached the kayaker prior to the arrival of the RNLI and Mr Ball rescued the male from the water before bringing him back to shore.

He was then airlifted to Border General Hospital and treated for hypothermia before later being released.

Officers will now submit a meritorious recommendation in relation to Mr Ball's action.

Sergeant Stuart Higginbottom said: "The male, who is an experienced kayaker, experienced difficulty and ended up in the water, which was extremely cold.

"Thanks to the quick response of Brian Ball, tragedy was averted and the male is now recovering in hospital.

"Brian's actions are commendable and we are delighted to nominate him for a meritorious award."