Beaches popular with minorities ‘need more lifeguards’

Katie Gibbons

Coastguards have called for targeted resources on beaches popular with ethnic minorities who may not be familiar with the dangers as an inquest concluded that seven men drowned by misadventure last year.

Marie Buxton, 56, tried to reach Gustavo Silva Da Cruz, 19, from Brazil, when he got into difficulty off Camber Sands, near Rye, East Sussex, on July 24, but both men died. A month later, five young friends drowned at the same beach, after they were seen playing volleyball in the sea.

Ksenegen Sathithyanathan, 18, his brother Kishan Sathithyanathan, 22, and their friends Nitharsan Ravi, 22, Inthushan Sriskantharasa, 23, and Gurushanth Srinthavarajah, 27, were all of Sri Lankan heritage and lived in London. There had been nine deaths at the beach in the four years from 2012 but lifeguards were not deployed until after the five deaths last August, despite warnings from the RNLI three years earlier.

Last night the families of some of the men blamed the absence of lifeguards for their deaths. Arumukam Sathithyana-
than, the father of the brothers, said: “These lives were lost because of the lack of lifeguards. “It’s very disappointing that they continue to deny this fact, that the lack of lifeguards and the failure to employ lifeguards caused these deaths.”

Experts have suggested that resources should be “better targeted” along the British coast to take into account the changing demographic of visitors. Research carried out by the Lifesaving Society in Ontario found that “new Ca-

nadians” — particularly those who have been living in Canada for less than five years — were at greater risk for drown-
ing when boating and swimming.

David Ball, professor of risk manage-
ment at Middlesex University, cited the Canadian study as a way of targeting re-
sources. He said there was a one-in-a-
million risk of drowning, which he classed as a “small risk.”

He said the cluster of fatalities within a month last year looked “suspicous” but “it is not totally impossible that it has happened by chance”.

Mr Ball added: “Camber Sands, from my point of view, is a very safe beach. It’s not totally safe, because there are obvi-
ous hazards, but it’s very safe and the risk is very low.”

Robert Cass, a coastal officer, said there had been a rise in the level of na-
vaters about personal safety among beachgoers at Camber in recent years.

He told the Hastings inquest that there had been an influx of people from ethnic minorities who needed to be ed-
cucated about beach safety.

The inquest heard that the five friends were all fit, healthy and compe-
tent swimmers but appeared unaware of the dangers. A local mosque’s senior corer for East Sussex, called for an urgent review into risk assess-
ment at beaches. He said it was “not known” whether deploying lifeguards would have prevented the men’s deaths.

How puppy love can turn a wolf into man’s best friend

Oliver Moody Science Correspondent

There is taking your work home with you, and then there is killing a three-day-old wolf cub to sleep in your own bed.

Scientists in Hungary who raised young wolves by hand as though they were dog puppies have discovered that the two species have much more in common than was previously believed.

In 2001 ten researchers each adopted a baby wolf. They gave them names such as Maja, Ursula and Jimmy-Joe. For three months the wolves spent every waking hour with their new own-
ers. They slept together; they were fed from bottles; they were carried around in little bags.

The results of this remarkable experi-
ment, the latest of which were pub-
lished this week in the journal Royal Society Open Science, reveal two things.

One wolves make nightmarish bumptious pets. And two: they will grow up human friends warmly even after they have reached adulthood and been released into the wild.

The study, which was carried out by Dorottya Ujfalussy and her colleagues at Eötvös Loránd University in Buda-
pest, was designed to explain what hap-
pens when humans domesticate dogs. Do we alter something fundamental in their brains? Or does every wolf al-
ways contain the possibility of a dog somewhere in its soul?

The second idea is closer to the mark. After 12 weeks of being driven around in cars, spending entire working days at the university with their human com-
panions and going for walks on a leash, the wolves were released into a wildlife sanctuary outside the capital.

For some of the scientists, this came as a bit of a relief. “In many, many ways it’s different from having a dog puppy,” Dr Ujfalussy said. “Even the sounds they make are different. Having them in your home is much more difficult than having a puppy because they are much less con-

”They are very independent in their organi-

zations and so three-di-

mensional, and so they often end up in the middle of the din-

ner table. There’s no safe place for your coffee mug.”

The researchers visited their former charges at the nature reserve several times a week. Three months later, tests showed that the wolves were much more inclined to jump up at their old friends, lick their faces and rub up against their legs than they would with a human stranger or an ac-

quaintance. The group had previously found that wolves would treat a human guardian like their mother up to the age of seven weeks or so, but the childlike attachment fades away by the time they are four months old — unlike in dogs, which generally never lose their awe-

struck admiration.

“On the other hand, they often live in packs when humans domesticated dogs. We asked the researchers whether dogs display a dependent type of at-

tachment which generally never lose their awe-

struck admiration.”

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struck admiration.

But the question remains: why do dogs display a dependent type of at-

tachment that resembles a human child, but the wolf does not? The sense of dependence and seeking of security is not there. This is the difference between dogs and wolves.”

Researchers raised the wolves like pets then released them into the wild. Weeks later they were greeted like old friends

Imam facing extradition cashed in on YouTube

A British-based imam who is said to have links to one of the Paris terrorist attackers made hundreds of pounds from YouTube videos that were al-

legedly used to radicalise jihadists for Islamic State.

Tarik Chadlioui, 43, is facing extradi-
tion to Spain on terrorism charges after he was arrested at his Birmingham home on Wednesday. The authorities in Spain say he was a “well-known” radical who recruited for Isis.

Since Mr Chadlioui joined YouTube in 2007, he has gained more than 16,000 subscribers and his videos have had 13 million views. The Google-owned company recently stopped adverts run-
ning on his channel, but it is understood that he previously earned hundreds of pounds from Western brands.

In the clips, the imam appears in do-

mestic guises, grilling meat on a barbe-
cue or splashing around in a swimming pool. In one clip, showing the cleric in a playground, he exhorts viewers in Ara-

bic: “Pray for your brothers in jail or in custody so that they will be released.”

He adds: “Do not forget to pay your sunnah” — lessons and religious speeches.” In another video, posted this month, he says: “Muslims should take up armed punishments in the secular world.”

YouTube has not taken down Mr Chadlioui’s channel or videos, but said that its moderators would look at any videos that were flagged by users for hate speech or terrorism.

Mr Chadlioui, originally from Mor-

occo, is accused of leading a terrorist cell that recruited youths in Spain to join Isis after radicalising them. He is reported to have preached at a Paris mosque attended by Omar Mostefai, who blew himself up after the Bataclan concert hall attack in which 89 people were killed in November 2015.

Benjamin Joyce, representing the Spanish government, told Westminster magistrates: “It is alleged that the re-

quested person [Mr Chadlioui] with several of his associates, together with an or-

ganisation gave support to the terrorist organisation Islamic State by means of providing moral and material aid to new members to join the organisation.”

Five other people were arrested in Europe in connection with the investi-
gation. Four are being held on Majorca and one in Germany.

The hearing continues.