

20th January 2010

Fowey 001 2010

Busy Anniversary Year for Fowey RNLI lifeboats.

2009 was the sesquicentennial anniversary for Fowey's RNLI lifeboat station. During their 150th year, the station was called upon 47 times to help people in trouble on or near the sea.

The first callout of the year was on the 13th February and involved both the All-weather lifeboat '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' and the inshore lifeboat '*Olive Two*' in a joint search with HM Coastguard, the Police and the Culdrose Search and Rescue helicopter. After several hours the missing person was found safely ashore. During the year the volunteer crew responded to callouts on 10 occasions to people cut off by the tide or stuck on rocks. The most common callout was to assist people who were experiencing problems with their boats, either mechanical failure or structural. August was the busiest month with the crew being called out eighteen times in total.

The last shout of the year was on the 27th December when our relief Trent Class lifeboat '*Forward Birmingham*' was launched to assist a fishing boat which had broken down outside of the harbour. A towline was attached and the boat towed safely into Fowey.

We had a family day at Polkerris to celebrate the 150th Anniversary. Fowey RNLI Lifeboat station started its life at Polkerris so it was a fitting tribute to celebrate 150 years of saving lives there. The day was well attended with both adults and children taking part in the many organised events.

Towards the end of August our all-weather lifeboat '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' was taken to Scotland to undertake a major refit. We have had the relief Trent Class lifeboat '*Forward Birmingham*' on station to cover. Our lifeboat has recently returned from refit and will be back on station imminently.

Will Mitchell, Operations Manager for Fowey Lifeboat, said "2009 was a busy year for Fowey RNLI lifeboat Station and my thanks and appreciation must go out to all of our volunteer crew here in Fowey who give up their time to not only respond to callouts but also complete regular training. I would also like to praise the dedication of our Committee who constantly come up with ways to fundraise for the RNLI, enabling us to continue to provide this valuable service".

Keep a look out around town for posters about the many events planned for this year, including Lifeboat Day and the Ex-Lifeboat Rally.
For further details of Fowey RNLI Lifeboat station visit:

www.foweylifeboat.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- On average it costs £5,800 to launch an all weather lifeboat, such as the *Maurice and Joyce Hardy* and £2,200 to launch an inshore lifeboat like the *Olive Two*.

RNLI Media contacts

For more information please telephone Sam Ellis, RNLI Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer on 07970 092116 or samkellis@live.co.uk or Tamsin Thomas Media Relations Manager for the south on 07786 668847 or tthomas@rnli.org.uk or contact RNLI Public Relations on 01202 336789

RNLI online

For more information on the RNLI please visit www.rnli.org.uk. News releases and other media resources, including RSS feeds, downloadable photos and video, are available at the RNLI Press Centre www.rnli.org.uk/press

Key facts about the RNLI

The RNLI charity saves lives at sea. Its volunteers provide a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts. The RNLI operates over 230 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and has more than 100 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK. The RNLI is independent of Coastguard and government and depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service. Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 137,000 lives. The RNLI is a charity registered in England, Scotland and the Republic of Ireland.