

6th June 2011

Fowey 003 2011

Successful Lifeboat Day at Polkerris during a busy year for Fowey RNLI Lifeboats.

Fowey RNLI lifeboat station hosted a family fun day last Monday on Polkerris beach. Although the day dawned cloudy, the skies cleared and the beach began to fill with locals and holidaymakers. Both the Trent Class *Maurice and Joyce Hardy* and the D Class *Olive Two* lifeboats were in the bay with the addition of a capsized training D Class inshore lifeboat.

There was a sandcastle completion in full swing on the beach, which was judged by 'Captain Jack Sparrow' and lifeboat crew member Dean Pearce. The winning design was a large fort built by three young boys from Surrey. The Tug of War competition began with lifeboat crew members triumphing over some of the local men. There were refreshments on the beach including a bar-b-que.



The highlights of the afternoon were the demonstrations by the volunteer lifeboat crew and local HM Coastguard cliff rescue team. Members of the inshore lifeboat crew demonstrated how to right a capsized D Class lifeboat several times. The D class lifeboat completed a rescue demonstration with the Cliff Rescue team and successfully transferred the casualty over to the larger all weather lifeboat. It was then the turn of the volunteer crew on the Trent Class *Maurice and Joyce Hardy* to demonstrate transferring casualties from the shore to the lifeboat using a Breeches Buoy. The lines were attached to the end of the quay and two crewmembers transferred to the lifeboat.

Shortly after the demonstrations the inshore lifeboat *Olive Two* was tasked by Brixham Coastguard to respond to reports of an inflatable drifting out to sea off Charlestown. The volunteer crew immediately sped across the bay, located and recovered the inflatable. The owners were found and it was ascertained that no-one was in danger.

Second Coxswain Nick Beard who was on duty on Monday says 'it has been a great day and I am pleased with how all of the demonstrations went. We devote a lot of time to training and it is great to be able to show the public some of the skills we have. The D Class being tasked on a callout also highlights how we are on call twenty four hours a day, every day of the year, and have to drop whatever we may be doing to respond.'

2011 has been a busy year so far for the volunteer lifeboat crew at Fowey's RNLI station as they have responded to 25 callouts so far, this compared to a total of 38 during the whole of 2010. They have varied in nature this year and have included several missing persons searches and calls to broken down vessels. Last Wednesday, 1st June, the crew responded to a call at 5.50pm to help a fishing vessel whose nets had become entangled around their propellers. The fishing boat was approximately 30 miles south of Looe and had to be towed back in to safety, which took several hours.

We shall be hosting several ex-lifeboats in Fowey again on Saturday 25th June, look out for posters around town for timings of when the boats will be open to the public

For more information on Fowey RNLI lifeboats and details of any recent shouts log on to: www.foweylifeboat.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- In 2009 the RNLI launched 9,223 times and rescued 8,223 people, an average of 22 per day.
- The RNLI is an independent charity funded entirely by voluntary donations, not HM Government.

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.