

14th June 2010

Fowey 007 2010

Trio of rescues in four days for Fowey Lifeboat.

The first of the weekends callouts was on Thursday evening at 4.55pm, when the volunteer crew at Fowey's RNLI Lifeboat Station launched the all-weather lifeboat 'Maurice and Joyce Hardy' following a request from the Coastguard at Brixham.

A 32ft yacht had become disabled after a rope had become tangled around its propeller. The crew quickly made their way out of Fowey harbour and located the yacht. A towline was attached and she was guided safely back into the harbour and alongside a pontoon.

On Saturday morning at 10.53am the volunteer crew again responded to an urgent callout from the Coastguard. There had been a report of a person overboard from a yacht south of Looe Island. The volunteer crew quickly launched the Trent class all weather lifeboat and proceeded to the scene where they were joined by their colleagues from Looe RNLI Lifeboat Station. Upon reaching the scene it was found that the casualty had been recovered back onto the yacht but was in immediate need of medical attention. The Coastguard Helicopter was quickly on scene and the casualty was airlifted directly to Derriford Hospital. The remaining crew on the yacht were taken into Looe where they were landed to the care of waiting Paramedics to be treated for shock. RNLI crewmembers then brought the yacht safely into port, escorted by the lifeboat.

The third callout of the weekend came on Sunday evening at 8.22pm when a motor cruiser had struck something under the water which resulted in the boat being holed below the waterline. The volunteer crew launched the inshore lifeboat 'Olive Two' and proceeded up the river towards the boat. The all weather lifeboat was then launched bringing the salvage pump to the scene. Upon reaching the casualty the pump was transferred to the boat and the inshore lifeboat rafted alongside. However it was found that the damage was too great and the crew of the inshore lifeboat quickly took the damaged motor cruiser to Golant and beached her up the slip.

Jonathon Pritchard, Coxswain of Fowey RNLI Lifeboat says "this has been a busy weekend with a variety of callouts. I am very pleased with the speed of response and actions of my crew who are putting all of the constant training we complete into action. This weekend you can meet crewmembers from Fowey RNLI lifeboat station at two places. There will be crew at Eden at the 999 day, and in Fowey at the ex-lifeboat rally. Feel free to talk to them and ask any questions".

Ex-lifeboat rally in Fowey.

On Saturday 19th June Fowey will become home to several ex-lifeboats, all of which have seen active service for the RNLI at various stations around the country.

The boats will be moored at Berrils yard near Fowey's present RNLI lifeboat the 'Maurice and Joyce Hardy', and will be open to the public between 11.00am and 4.00pm. At the top of the pontoon there will be a barbeque and refreshments, a National Coastwatch Institution display and RNLI crewmembers.

We are hoping to have as many as ten ex-lifeboats for the rally however this will be weather dependant for their journeys to Fowey. Last year saw nine restored lifeboats make the journey, including the 'Michael Stevens', which was involved in the Dunkirk evacuations. Weather permitting a trip on one of the ex-lifeboats in the harbour will be available.

At 4.30pm there will be a procession of all of the Ex-Lifeboats through Fowey Harbour which can be seen from Town Quay.

Fowey RNLI would like to thank Fowey Harbour Commissioners for facilitating the day.

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.