

19th June 2010

Fowey 008 2010

## **Six Ex RNLI Lifeboats arrive in Fowey for a successful rally.**

**On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Berrills Yard in Fowey became home to six ex-lifeboats, all of which have seen active service for the RNLI at various stations around the country.**

The restored lifeboats were moored at Berrills Yard near Fowey's present RNLI lifeboat the '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*', and were open to the public between 11.00am and 4.00pm. The oldest lifeboat present was '*Ryder*' who is 108 years old and is a 35ft self-righting row boat with sails. '*Ryder*' served from 1902 until 1930 in Looe and is still based in the area. Also present was the '*Michael Stevens*' which was built in 1939 and was one of the *Little Ships* which took part in the Dunkirk rescue on June 1<sup>st</sup> 1940. She was then stationed mainly at Lowestoft until 1975. Other ex RNLI lifeboats present were: '*Oniros*', a Watson class lifeboat built in 1938; '*Douglas Currie*', a Mark 2 Solent Class lifeboat built in 1973; and the '*Frank Spiller Locke*', a Barnett Class lifeboat built in 1957.

Throughout the afternoon members of the public were able to take boat trips around the harbour on the '*William Cantrell Ashley*' which is a restored Liverpool class lifeboat built in 1949. She served in Clovelly from 1950 to 1969.

At 4.30pm there was a procession through the harbour of all of the Ex-Lifeboats together with Fowey's own Lifeboats, the Trent Class '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' and the D Class '*Olive Two*'. Fowey RNLI would like to thank Fowey Harbour Commissioners for facilitating the day.

Today was the first event in charge for Fowey's new Coxswain, Jonathan Pritchard, and Mechanic, Carl Gudmunsen. This follows the retirement of our last coxswain, Keith Stuart, who had been in charge since 1989. Jonathan has been serving on the crew for 22 years, the last 15 of which he has been Deputy 2<sup>nd</sup> Coxswain and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mechanic. He has taken up the post of Retained Coxswain in addition to his job as Tugmaster in Fowey. Carl has been serving on the crew for 17 years and is the fourth generation from his family to be an RNLI volunteer crewman. He has moved to the post of full time Mechanic from his previous role as Divisional Technician for the RNLI in the South Division.

Jonathon says "I am extremely proud to take up such an important role in the station and am looking forward to leading such a dedicated crew".

For more information on Fowey RNLI lifeboats and details of any recent shouts log on to: [www.foweylifeboat.co.uk](http://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**

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## **RNLI online**

For more information on the RNLI please visit [www.rnli.org.uk](http://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](http://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.