

15<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Fowey 009 2010

## **Busy week for Fowey RNLI lifeboats.**

**In the past week Fowey RNLI lifeboats have answered five callouts to people in trouble either on the water or on the rocks.**

Last Sunday afternoon, the 8<sup>th</sup> August, both the Trent class all-weather lifeboat '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' and the D class inshore lifeboat '*Olive Two*' were making their way to Mevagissey for a helicopter exercise as part of Mevagissey Lifeboat day. While on passage Brixham Coastguard tasked the Inshore Lifeboat to search for a 19ft motor boat drifting due to engine failure. The position given was just off Fowey. The volunteer crew on the lifeboat immediately responded and headed back towards Fowey. The motorboat was eventually found five miles offshore and the crew quickly set up a tow line and began towing the boat back to Fowey. Meanwhile the ALB was completing the exercise with a search and rescue helicopter from Culdrose, near Mevagissey harbour, when it was requested to return to Fowey after reports that a vessel in the harbour was on fire. Upon reaching Fowey the crew were informed that a harbour patrol boat was in attendance and that their assistance was no longer required. The ALB then went out to meet the ILB with the motor boat under tow and escort them into Fowey.

Three days later, at 3.14pm on Wednesday, the All-weather lifeboat was again launched following a request from Brixham Coastguard. A 6m motor boat on a fishing trip was taking in water and had seven people on board. The volunteer crew located the motor boat making its way slowly back into Fowey. A harbour patrol boat was also in attendance and took four of the passengers on board. Meanwhile an RNLI crewman was transferred onto the boat and managed to temporarily plug the hole. The lifeboat then escorted the boat into Brazen Island where it was immediately taken out of the water.

Later the same afternoon at 4.11pm the Inshore Lifeboat was launched after a 999 call had reported six people stranded on the rocks near Readymoney Cove. The lifeboat crew quickly located the group which included three children and began to help them into the boat. Three people were landed ashore on the beach and the lifeboat went back for the others. One child was then transferred onto the boat but the remaining adults decided to swim ashore rather than be helped by the lifeboat.

On Friday afternoon at 4.03pm, the All-weather lifeboat was again launched. A 19ft yacht was in trouble five miles south of Polperro after their rudder had been broken. The volunteer crew aboard the lifeboat quickly located the yacht. A tow line was set up and the lifeboat towed the yacht safely into Fowey.

Coxswain Jonathan Pritchard said "for the last three years this has been our busiest week of the year, and this was no exception. This week illustrates the commitment of the volunteer crew who drop everything to respond to a shout. We are now in Regatta week and we will be ready to answer any callouts, however I would encourage everyone to check the tide times before climbing around the rocks and

before taking their boats out to spend five minutes having a final check on their equipment. The RNLI Sea Safety boat will be out on the river during Regatta week and the crew onboard are available for free advice on equipment and safety gear. If you would like to speak to them either flag the boat down or call in to the Boathouse to make an appointment”.

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**

For more information please telephone Sam Ellis, RNLI Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer on 07970 092116 or [samkellis@live.co.uk](mailto:samkellis@live.co.uk) or Tamsin Thomas Media Relations Manager for the south on 07786 668847 or [tthomas@rnli.org.uk](mailto: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](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.