

21st June 2009

Fowey 012 2009 FN

Lifeboats update

There was a great turnout for the Ex-Lifeboat rally on Saturday 20th June, with nine restored lifeboats making the journey to Fowey. In total, over 100 people went for a trip through the harbour on the 'William Cantrell Ashley', which served for 19 years in Clovelly. Once again the 'Ryder' could be seen rowing through the harbour. Among the other ex-lifeboats moored at Berrills Yard pontoon was the spectacular sight of the 60ft wooden Barnett Class lifeboat, the 'William and Kate Johnston' built in 1923 and the 'Michael Stephens' which famously took part in the Dunkirk rescues in June 1940. All of the boats were open to the public between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

Throughout the afternoon there was a barbeque and stands from the Missions to Seaman, National Coastwatch Institution and HM Coastguard. There was also a Flare demonstration by the local RNLI Sea Safety team.

At 1.50pm everyone was reminded of the continued bravery of the RNLI volunteer crew, when both of our present lifeboats were sent out on a shout to assist a vessel which was taking in water, just south of Gribben Head. When the lifeboats arrived on scene in addition to the stricken vessel they found that one of its crew members was in a poor state of health and first aid treatment was delivered by one of the RNLI crew. The boat was repaired and escorted into Fowey where the sick crewmember was landed to the waiting paramedics.

At 4.30pm, the owners of the ex-lifeboats were all presented with a brass plaque commemorating their participation in the rally. All of the lifeboats, both old and new, then left the pontoon and formed a procession through the harbour.

The following day, just as most people were finishing their Fathers Day lunch, the crew were again called upon to aid a vessel with engine problems. Both lifeboats reached the boat a few miles out of Fowey, within minutes. One of the crew was transferred onto the boat and fixed the problem. The boat was then able to return to Fowey under its own power.

Lifeboat Week 2009

This years Lifeboat week will start on the 19th July with Songs of Praise on Town Quay at 6.00pm, followed by a performance by the Polperro Fishermans Choir. In the event of inclement weather these events will take place in the Church. The annual RNLI Pennant Race will be on Wednesday 22nd July. Instead of the usual door to door collections, this year we will be towing a D Class inshore lifeboat, similar to our own 'Olive Two', around the streets of Fowey to receive donations. This will be taking place on the evenings of Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th July. Please look out for it.

Lifeboat Day will be on Saturday 25th July, with stalls on Town Quay and a barbeque at Berrils Yard. There will also be a helicopter rescue display in the harbour, involving both of our lifeboats. Please lookout for posters confirming times. If anyone would like to donate produce or plants for the stalls, please contact Mick Land on 832722 or just bring them to Town Quay on the 25th.

Finally we would like to thank Graham and Tracey A'lee for recently organising a fantastic water treasure hunt which was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants.

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