

27th July 2009

Fowey 015 2009

Successful Lifeboat Day for Fowey RNLI

A large crowd filled Town Quay in Fowey, at midday on Saturday for a helicopter rescue demonstration by both of Fowey's RNLI lifeboats and a rescue helicopter from Culdrose.

During the morning various stalls were on the quay, and the all-weather lifeboat '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' was moored alongside the quay and open to the public. Fowey's inshore lifeboat '*Olive Two*' had been sent by the coastguard to investigate a report of a small boat on the rocks near Lansallos. The crew identified the boat and informed the coastguard of the owners name. Once it was established that the owner was safe and well, the volunteer crew towed the boat back into Fowey. The inshore lifeboat was then released ready for the display at midday.

Two of the volunteer crew were dropped into the harbour just off Town quay. They each set off an orange smoke flare to identify to the helicopter pilot, their positions. The pilot lowered one of his crew down on the winch and hoisted up both of the lifeboat crew. The Trent class all-weather lifeboat then manoeuvred into position in opposite town quay and one crew member, Jonathon Barker, was lowered onto the deck. The second lifeboat crewmember, Jan Philp, was then lowered onto the inshore lifeboat.



The display finished with both the lifeboats cruising past Town Quay. The helicopter flew above them and did a bow to the crowd on the quay. Lifeboat day finished with a barbeque at Berrils yard.

The all-weather lifeboat had been called out at 5.15am on Wednesday morning to a yacht with engine failure to the east of Fowey. The volunteer crew found the yacht which had suffered from a broken boom, ripped sail and engine failure and had four people on board. A towline was attached and the yacht was towed safely into Fowey. Keith Stewart, Coxswain of Fowey lifeboat, said "the yacht and her crew were very fortunate that we got to them when we did. With the southerly wind which was blowing that morning, they were only a matter of minutes away from being stranded on the rocks".

For further details of the Fowey Lifeboat station visit:



www.foweylifeboat.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- On average it costs £5,800 to launch an all weather lifeboat, such as the *Maurice and Joyce Hardy* and £2,200 to launch an inshore lifeboat like the *Olive Two*.

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.