

17th August 2009

Fowey 017 2009

Five callouts in four days for Fowey's RNLI lifeboats.

As Fowey was preparing for its annual Regatta week, the volunteer crew of the RNLI lifeboats were called upon five times to help people in trouble.

At 7.07pm on Monday evening the crew of Fowey's inshore lifeboat, '*Olive Two*', launched after a request from Brixham Coastguard following a report that four kayakers were in trouble near the harbour entrance. Fortunately the kayakers were found to be safe and well near Whitehouse.

The following afternoon at 2.03pm both the inshore lifeboat and the all-weather lifeboat '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' were launched after a report of an injured person at Lantivet Bay. When the lifeboats reached the bay the local Coastguard team had located the casualty and found that she had a suspected broken ankle. The inshore lifeboat went to the beach and took the lady onboard. She was then transferred to the larger all-weather lifeboat and taken back to Fowey, where she was landed to waiting paramedics.

At 7.23 am on Wednesday morning, the inshore lifeboat was launched following a call from a visiting yacht. One of the crew on the yacht was suffering from breathing difficulties. After administering oxygen, the crew went back to the shore and picked up waiting paramedics and took them to the yacht. The casualty was then brought ashore with the paramedics and treated in the ambulance.

Later the same day, at 4.37pm the volunteer crew again launched the D-Class inshore lifeboat. A lady had fallen from Albert Quay and had suffered head injuries. When the crew reached the casualty, members of the harbour office were already in control of the situation. The lifeboat crew helped to remove nearby craft ready for the casualty to be airlifted by helicopter and taken to Derriford.

At 10.08pm on Thursday the Trent Class all-weather lifeboat was launched following a request from the coastguard to help a boat in trouble in the vicinity of Gribben Head. On reaching the scene it was found to be a 16ft boat which had engine trouble. The lifeboat set up a tow line and brought the vessel safely into Fowey.

Later this week our all-weather lifeboat will be leaving to go for a refit, which is to take place in Scotland. We have a relief Trent Class lifeboat on station here ready to take over.

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.