

23rd August 2009

Fowey 018 2009

## Regatta week callouts for Fowey's RNLI Lifeboats.

**As Fowey harbour filled up with boats of varying shapes and sizes for the Annual Regatta, the volunteer crew of the towns' two lifeboats were called out to people in distress four times.**

At 8.23pm on Tuesday evening the crew of Fowey's inshore lifeboat, '*Olive Two*', launched following a request from Brixham Coastguard after they received a report that two people were trapped in the mud near St Winnow. Unfortunately due to a falling tide, the crew could only get to within approximately 150 ft of the stranded boat and its' two crew. They established voice contact and ascertained that both people were well. The lifeboat crew then stayed with them until the rescue helicopter from Culdrose arrived and airlifted the two people to safety.

Almost exactly six hours later, at 2.34 am on Wednesday morning, the volunteer crew were again called upon. A yacht just outside of Fowey Harbour reported that they had an engine fire. The all-weather lifeboat, '*Forward Birmingham*', proceeded straight out to the yacht, accompanied by the other emergency services. One of the volunteer crew transferred onboard the yacht where it was found that they had an exhaust problem causing carbon monoxide to enter the cabin. A towline was attached and the Trent Class lifeboat towed them safely into Fowey, where the Fire brigade cleared the cabin and waiting paramedics checked the yachts crew.

The week continued to be busy with the crew being paged for a further callout at 1.00pm on Thursday afternoon. The Trent class all-weather lifeboat launched to a yacht which had suffered a broken mast whilst just outside the harbour. The yacht had power and was making its way back into Fowey, so the lifeboat escorted them back onto Berrils yard pontoon. Just as they were arriving back onto the pontoon, Brixham Coastguard requested the services of both lifeboats, so the '*Forward Birmingham*' turned around and proceeded straight back out to sea. She was shortly joined by the inshore D-Class lifeboat, '*Olive Two*'. The callout was following a report to the coastguard that there was a canoeist in trouble in the breaking seas near Lantivet Bay, to the east of Polruan. Upon reaching the bay, the crew of the D-Class lifeboat went in close to search for the canoeist. He was found safe and well on the beach, having capsized in the surf.

Will Mitchell, Operations Manager for Fowey Lifeboat, said "these incidents highlight the great commitment of our volunteer crew. They responded to callouts at various times of the day and night, during a week which is traditionally very busy for everyone who lives and works in Fowey".

On Friday afternoon, our Trent Class lifeboat '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' left on passage to Scotland for a major refit. During this period, we have the Trent Class

'Forward Birmingham' on station to ensure there will be no disruption to our cover from Fowey. We expect our lifeboat back on station towards the end of the year.

For further details of the Fowey Lifeboat station visit:

[www.foweylifeboat.co.uk](http://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](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.