

25th October 2009

Fowey 019 2009

Two shouts in a week for Fowey RNLI lifeboats.

After a quiet end of season, the volunteer crew of Fowey's RNLI lifeboats have been called upon twice within seven days.

At 4.04pm on Saturday the 17th October, the crew of Fowey's inshore lifeboat, '*Olive Two*', launched following a request from Brixham Coastguard. They had received a report that several ten year old children were trapped on the rocks off Porthpean beach. It was a warm, sunny afternoon and high spring tides had trapped the children who had been rock-pooling off the Beach. Although the Inshore Lifeboat crew had the lifeboat in the water and underway within a few minutes, when they reached the beach, the children had already been aided ashore. A diver in the water had swum to them and helped them safely back to the beach.

Exactly a week later, at 12.03pm on Saturday the 24th, the all-weather lifeboat, '*Forward Birmingham*', was launched to a yacht which was reportedly taking on water. The yacht was a few miles south of Gribben Head and had four persons onboard. One of the volunteer crew transferred onboard the yacht where it was found that the water was actually leaking from the freshwater storage onboard and was not an ingress of seawater. The Trent Class lifeboat escorted the yacht and its crew safely into Fowey.

Will Mitchell, Operations Manager for Fowey Lifeboat, said "although these two incidents were the first callouts for over a month, the crew have been training regularly and have recently undertaken divisional inspections. You never know when their services will be required and we are proud of the quick reaction we have from all of our volunteer crew at any time of the day or night".

Our Trent Class lifeboat, '*Maurice and Joyce Hardy*' is presently in Scotland in refit and should be returning towards the end of the year. In the meantime we have the identical all-weather lifeboat, the '*Forward Birmingham*' on station in Fowey to cover.

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.