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Comedians Simon Day and John Thomson join RNLI Fowey lifeboat crew (for a day)

Comedians Simon Day and John Thomson joined the RNLI Fowey volunteer lifeboat crew on an exercise on 15 October, which was filmed for a new series about Britain to be broadcast on HISTORY™ early next year.

After meeting Fowey volunteer crew members and donning full RNLI kit, the duo (best known for *The Fast Show* and *Cold Feet*) took part in a training exercise. The scenario involved the all-weather lifeboat, *Maurice and Joyce Hardy*, and her crew going out to sea to 'rescue' an injured yachtswoman – complete with realistic make-up – who had a head injury from being hit by the yacht's boom.

Nick Beard, RNLI Fowey Volunteer Coxswain, said: "It was great to meet Simon Day and John Thomson, and to give them an insight into the training that RNLI volunteers go through to help them save lives at sea. They took a really active role on the exercise and were a welcome addition to the Fowey crew. Also a big thanks to the Fowey Maritime Centre for providing a yacht and crew for the exercise."

The HISTORY series 'No County for Old Men' – being made by production company ALASKA – is a travelogue of Britain as seen through its counties. The RNLI Fowey exercise was filmed for the Cornwall episode.

The lifeboat crew that took part were Volunteer Coxswain Nick Beard, Carl Gudmunsen, Paul Gamble, Malcolm Richardson, Bob Harris, Christian Philp, Mark Strudwick and Dean Pearce. The 'injured' yachtswoman was Sam Ellis, Fowey station's volunteer lifeboat press officer. RNLI Fowey's D class inshore lifeboat, *Olive Two*, also took part in the exercise with crew members Lewis Bingley and Jan Philp.

Ends

Picture caption: Simon Day and John Thomson join RNLI Fowey crew for the day.
Credit RNLI.

Notes to editors

There have been RNLI lifeboats in the Fowey area for more than 150 years.

Last year the volunteer crew of the Fowey lifeboats (Trent class all-weather lifeboat and D class inshore lifeboat) launched to 38 incidents and rescued 41 people. The volunteers spent 52 hours at sea in 2010 dealing with emergency incidents. This does not include the many hours they spent training.

In 2009 they launched 44 times and rescued 28 people and in 2008 they launched 47 times and rescued 62.

RNLI media contacts

For more information please contact Sam Ellis, RNLI Fowey Volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer on 079700 92116. Or Tamsin Thomas, RNLI Divisional Media Relations Manager on 07786 668847 or tamsin.thomas@rnli.org.uk

Notes to Editors

The RNLI is the charity that 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 150 lifeguard units on beaches around the UK.

Since the RNLI was founded in 1824 its lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved over 139,000 lives

The RNLI depends on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service.

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