

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea

Polmear Island strikes again. On Wednesday, 27 March both Fowey RNLI lifeboats with 9 volunteer crewmembers launched to rescue a family of four and a very scared small black dog called Derek.

At 2.15 in the afternoon on an overcast and cold afternoon a mother, her two daughters, a friend and Derek were stranded by the fast rising spring tide on Polmear Island.

Two of the crew of the in-shore lifeboat *Olive Two* took two of the young teenagers straight to Charlestown to the ambulance as one girl was very cold, wet and in a worrying condition. The third crewmember, Adam Russell, remained on the rock with the mother, the third child and Derek. They were then picked up and taken to join the girls already in Charlestown.

The mother was extremely grateful and also extremely apologetic for putting themselves unnecessarily in danger. The crew were able to reassure them that Polmear Island is deceptively dangerous and takes many people by surprise. The tide rises very fast and the rocks become incredibly slippery very quickly as the water rushes around the base of the island due to the shape of the rocks and the easterly swell.

Jan Philp a local builder and helm of the lifeboat said “All the training we do makes this sort of rescue look relatively easy and the casualties are more relaxed and not aware of how much danger they are in, which in turn makes it easier for us to help them, mind you, I don’t think Derek was that happy”. The third member of the crew, Craig Kirby a local pub landlord, had carried the scared and shivering dog to the lifeboat.

The six crewmembers on the all-weather lifeboat stood close by throughout in case urgent medical assistance was required but fortunately were not needed.

The lifeboats were accompanied throughout by the dolphin that is currently staying in the harbour area.

Both lifeboats were on station and ready for service at 3.45pm.

RNLI media contacts

For more information please contact Cath Ellis, volunteer Lifeboat Press Officer for Fowey RNLI on 07969 693218. Other RNLI media contacts include Tamsin Thomas, RNLI Public Relations Manager, on 07786 668847 or email Tamsin.Thomas@rnli.org.uk or Emma Haines, RNLI Press Officer, on 07920

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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 160 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 139,000 lives.

A charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SCO37736).
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