NCI Gwennap Head – Incidents and News 2015

On 4th April a cliff climber fell into the sea. This incident was reported to us by another but seperate climber. Watchkeeper Ian Wright immediately informed Falmouth Coastguard who tasked the two Sennen lifeboats and a Navy helicopter (Rescue 193). The casualty managed to scramble onto the rocks both wet and shocked. He eventual reported to the station and spoke direct to Falmouth Coastguard. A happy end but it could have been worse.

A 96 sq. ft. wooden box was spotted on 4th June and reported to Falmouth Coastguard as a hazard to shipping.

RMV Scillonian III, the Penzance - Isles of Scilly ferry, reported flotsam to the south of the Runnelstone reef/buoy on 9th June. An initial search by a local fishing charter boat and local trawler failed to find anything. The search was then joined by both Penlee and Sennen Cove all-weather lifeboats. Eventually all were stood down, the only thing being found was a jettisoned wellington boot. Clearly it is better to be safe than sorry.

We held our annual exercise with Sennen Cove Lifeboat on 4th July. The sea was rough and a strong wind produced a lot of troubled water in front of the watch. 3 tasks were undertaken, all involving a dan buoy "casualty" being thrown overboard. The lifeboat then retired for 20 minutes each time which allowed the "casualty" to drift. Recoveries were successful each time although we experienced some difficulty in ensuring the dan buoy was kept in sight. Our thanks to all involved at RNLI Sennen Cove for their contribution in keeping our skills up to date.

During the summer we again saw filming for the BBC Poldark series on the headland. The finished productions are always a very good advert for West Cornwall.

Falmouth Coastguard were informed 4 times of vessels not obeying Rule 10 of the Traffic Separation Scheme between Lands End and the Isles of Scilly.

4200 watchkeeping hours logged 15,400 vessels of which 13,000 were commercial. It is pleasing to report no serious incidents during the year in the area we monitor.