

Queen's first ever Coastguard visit - to MRCC Falmouth

Her Majesty The Queen made her first-ever visit to a Coastguard station last month when she toured the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre at Falmouth accompanied by His Highness, Prince Philip.

The Queen was met by Chief Coastguard Derek Ancona, and both Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were introduced to Jane Ancona, the Regional Controller, Deputy Regional Controller, District Controller and Royal Navy SAR helicopter from Cudrose and transfer to Falmouth NMI lifeboat assisted by Falmouth inshore lifeboat (ILB) and Falmouth general purpose boat (GPB). This was followed by a very smooth and professional rescue of a person from the base of a cliff by Falmouth Auxiliary Coastguard cliff team under the direction of Sector Officer Taff Davies.

The Chief Coastguard then invited the Royal party to watch a SAR demonstration off Penderennis Point involving the rescue of a person in the water by a Royal Navy SAR helicopter from Falmouth and transfer to Falmouth NMI lifeboat assisted by Falmouth inshore lifeboat (ILB) and Falmouth general purpose boat (GPB). This was followed by a very smooth and professional rescue of a person from the base of a cliff by Falmouth Auxiliary Coastguard cliff team under the direction of Sector Officer Taff Davies.

The demonstration ended with a fly past by the Royal Navy SAR helicopter, Falmouth lifeboat and Falmouth ILB and GPB. After signing the visitors book, Her Majesty and Prince Philip met the Falmouth Auxiliary cliff team and the families of Regular and Auxiliary staff who were lining the route as the Royal party made their way back to the awaiting cars.

The Senior Watch Officer, Bob Hurrell, explained his role within the operations room to Her Majesty while the other watchkeepers were introduced to Prince Philip. This was followed by an explanation from Station Officer Jim Houston MBE of MRCC Falmouth's role within the

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(Below) The Queen talks to Auxiliary Falmouth Auxiliary Coastguard cliff Julie Fletcher who was rescued by

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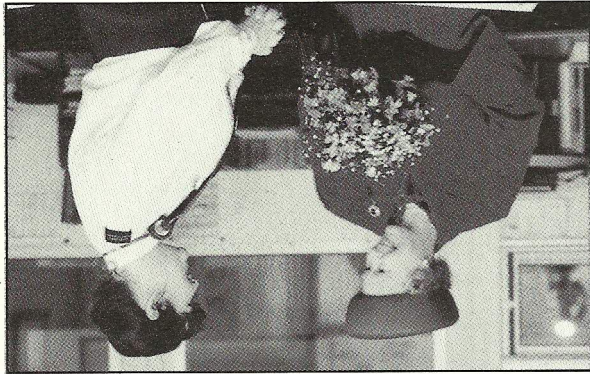
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Her Majesty talks to Auxiliary Sharon Williams about work in the operations room.



(Above) Chief Coastguard Derek Ancona explains SAR operations to Her Majesty.