

SEASIDE RESCUE



St Agnes Helmsman Gavin Forehead was expecting a routine exercise when he launched with his lifeboat crew on 16 October. When they returned just over an hour later, they had saved two lives.

Gavin, Helmsman Rory Bushe and Crew Member James Watkins were on exercise when they were contacted by the Coastguard about an incident in the St Agnes area. Large waves had pushed a 12-year-old girl and a man and their surfboards into a cave and when the lifeboat arrived, Gavin and his crew found them clinging to a rock. Showing an excellent piece of seamanship, Gavin span the boat around then entered the cave, positioning the lifeboat 1 metre away from the rock.



Gavin told the girl to jump. But as she did so, she missed the lifeboat and disappeared beneath the water. Rory and James reached over the side and pulled her aboard. After battling back through heavy surf the lifeboat landed the casualties at Chapel Porth beach. A rescue helicopter took them to hospital.

Chy Start-Walter, the 12-year-old girl rescued by the St Agnes crew, was quick to thank Gavin, Rory and James for their lifesaving work. Chy's mother Sharon says: 'When I thanked Gavin, he was so modest. He just said "That's okay, it's what we do".'

Lifeboat training Inspector Howard Ramm says: "Forehead's actions were an example of a helmsman completely in control of the situation."

'There is no doubt the actions of all concerned saved the lives of a young girl and a family friend.'

