



**Both Lifeboats, at 9.22pm on 5 February 2021**

**A pilot boat on duty east of Old Harry reported sighting what appeared to be an orange handheld flare in the vicinity of Ballard. This report was passed to the UK Coastguard, who in turn requested Swanage Coastguard volunteers and the Swanage lifeboat carry out a search of the area.**

**The all-weather lifeboat (ALB) launched and made for Ballard Point to begin a search. Realising that visibility was exceptionally clear and distances could be misjudged, the inshore lifeboat (ILB) was requested to join the search, starting at the southern end of Swanage Bay.**

**The ALB continued searching from Old Harry to the harbour entrance, the ILB concentrated inshore around Studland bay. Nothing was found.**

**Finally, the two lifeboats positioned themselves off Old Harry and fired illuminating flares, then repeated the process at Ballard Point. Again, nothing was found, and the search was called off.**



**This year, Swanage's lifeboats have responded to one incident together.**

**The Shannon class all-weather lifeboat has launched to one incident.**

**The D class inshore lifeboat has also launched on one other services.**

**This gives a total of 3 incident responded to, so far, this year**

