



All-Weather Lifeboat, at 4.10pm on September 21 2020

Not much more than 12 hours after the previous dramatic rescue, the Swanage all-weather Shannon class lifeboat (ALB) was called again – in what transpired to be a related incident.

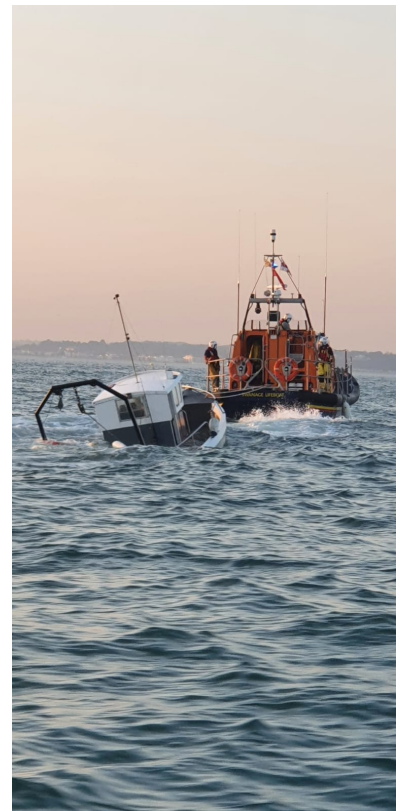
A passing boat had reported coming across a partially submerged yacht and the Swanage volunteers were tasked to investigate, at a position roughly 5nm south of Hengistbury Head.

The vessel was found drifting quite rapidly back towards Swanage, only about 18” of the bow was above the water. The suspicion was that this vessel was the fishing boat from last night’s incident, which was now a significant hazard to shipping.

The volunteer crew managed to get a towline attached and attempted a slow tow – this was successful and much more of the vessel became visible allowing a positive identification to eventually be made.

Various options were then discussed, and a plan made to attempt to hand the vessel over to a tug from Poole Harbour. A rendezvous was plotted close to Hook Sands in shallow water and several attempts were made by the tug to connect to the stricken fishing boat and crane it clear of the water. This was eventually successful and the full extent of the damage to the boat became clear.

The hazard to shipping now clear and the risk of pollution minimised allowed the UK coastguard to release the lifeboat and it returned to station.



This year, Swanage’s lifeboats have responded to 15 incidents together.

The Shannon class all-weather lifeboat has also launched to 26 incidents.

The D class inshore lifeboat has additionally launched to 16 other services.

This gives a total of 57 incidents responded to, so far, this year

