



RNLI PRESS RELEASE

REPORT No: 11/99

Hungarians stranded on Holy Island Causeway.

At 1.10pm on Sunday 11th July, 1999, two Hungarian tourists driving a fairly new BMW Z3 sports car, tried to cross the Holy Island Causeway outside of the safe crossing times. They became stranded in quite deep water, and made their way to the refuge box, and used the emergency telephone to call the emergency services. They were wet, and could speak only a limited amount of English. Tyne Tees Coastguard requested the launch of the Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat, which proceeded by sea under the command of Helmsman Stephen Priestley, arriving some twenty minutes later. The driver, Rita Reiter, from Srekesfehervak, Kossuth, Hungary and her male partner were rescued from the Refuge Box by the lifeboat, and landed safely where they were met by local Coastguards and Police. They were taken by the Police to the nearby Plough Hotel to recover from their experience. They did not require medical attention. The couple had been staying in Edinburgh, and arrangements were made with a local farmer to tow their car off when the tide receded. It is likely to be severely damaged as the result of the effect of sea water on the engine and electricals.

Safe Crossing time for the Causeway was 04.45 -11.49, and then 17.27 - 00.20hr. Sea conditions were choppy, with a south easterly breeze, and fine visibility. This was the sixth call to the Causeway this year for the Seahouses Crew.

3.50pm 11/07/99.

Ends.

Seahouses Lifeboat Crew.

