



**RNLI PRESS RELEASE**

**REPORT No: 6/99**

**Fifth Service of the year to Holy Island Causeway.**

At 7.53pm on Thursday 6 May, 1999, Tyne Tees Coastguard requested immediate launch of the Seahouses Inshore Lifeboat, to go to the aid of two persons reported trapped in the Refuge Box on Holy Island Causeway. A member of the public had reported seeing a white Micra car stationary by the refuge box, with the hazard warning lights flashing, and assumed that it had become stranded by the tide. Visibility was poor at the time, with quite thick patchy mist. Due to the poor weather conditions, and in the interests of safety and expediency, the Inshore Lifeboat was taken by road to the scene. On joining Coastguard crews at the causeway, no trace of the vehicle could be found. Coastguard units then located the vehicle back on Holy Island, containing a local couple from Belford. They were safe and well, having returned to the island to await the tide receding after driving onto the causeway, where they realised that the water was too deep to cross safely.

On this occasion the Lifeboat was able to return to station without even getting wet ! The incident has been recorded as a "False Alarm with Good Intent". The occupants of the car had no idea that they had sparked off a rescue alert. We are also quite satisfied that the person reporting the incident, had acted responsibly and in good faith.

*[Safe Causeway Crossing Times were from 9.34am to 5.47pm, and from 9.55pm till 6.01am Friday 7/5/99.]*

Ends.



Seahouses Lifeboat Crew.