

### Coastal Notes 3

Stonehaven is the busiest recreational council harbour in north east Scotland, with 140 berths available, from drying moorings to berths of 3 metres depth alongside the breakwater.

July and August are the busiest months here. In July over 60 yachts visited Stonehaven, most of them travelling north to enjoy cruising in the northern isles during the relatively short summer season. Others continue round Cape Wrath or through the Caledonian Canal to the Hebrides and experience the scenic cruising grounds of the western seaboard. One such yacht was the *Karindy*, from Scarborough, which called at Stonehaven in June on passage to Orkney, Shetland, Fair Isle and Skye before journeying back through the Caledonian Canal and to Stonehaven again last week after two months in Scottish waters.

Others come from further afield, with one yacht having made the passage non stop from Sweden, a distance of over 400 miles. The owner was determined to visit Dunnottar Castle after seeing Mel Gibson's film Hamlet, part of which was filmed at the castle some years ago. Even a yacht from Basel, Switzerland, has visited Stonehaven, after crossing from that landlocked country to the sea through the European canal network. Dutch and Germans are more frequent visitors, perhaps reflecting the connection their lifeboat institutions have with Maritime Rescue Institute (MRI), which provides training for the crews of these, and other, countries.

Last week HM Coastguard requested MRI to launch one of its lifeboats to assist three girls who, having made their way to a small cove at Grim Briggs, Muchalls, found themselves cut off by a rising tide. The MRI 24 and its crew recovered the girls from the cliff foot and returned them to Stonehaven. Hamish McDonald, Director of MRI, said later "The girls were unharmed but were quite correct to call for help. We would far rather get involved at an early stage than be called out too late."

For further information about MRI and the Search and Rescue team, call 01569 765768 or visit [maritime-rescue-institute.org](http://maritime-rescue-institute.org).