

A TRIUMPHANT RETURN

A 100-year-old RNLI motor lifeboat – which featured in a famous Gold Medal rescue – has returned to the station where she spent her entire service with the RNLI.

Charterhouse, named after the public school whose pupils and old boys funded her, served at Fishguard from 1909 to 1932 and is now to be restored to her former glory. It is hoped she will become the centrepiece of a new marina at the port.

After being sold out of RNLI service she was converted to a yacht and in 1946 came into the ownership of the Lomas family, who has now donated her to the Fishguard and Goodwick community.

A special committee, which includes past and present RNLI lifeboat crew members, was formed to bring her back to the area and will now oversee her restoration and raise funds for the project.

In 1920, under the command of Coxswain John

Howells, *Charterhouse* rescued seven crew members from the Dutch schooner *Hermina*, which had been swept under cliffs at Needle Rock.

Coxswain Howells was awarded an RNLI Gold Medal for this outstanding rescue, Second Coxswain Tom Davies, Mechanic Bob Simpson and Lifeboatman Tom Holmes received Silver Medals, and Bronze Medals were awarded to Lifeboatmen J Duffin, W Devereux, J Gardiner, J Rourke, AM Mason, T Perkins, W Thomas, R Veal and P Whelan.

Among those at Fishguard harbour, when *Charterhouse* returned by road from north Wales, was Rhian Peters with the Bronze Medal awarded to her grandfather, Lifeboatman Tom Perkins.

Committee member Phil Davies has written a book about the *Charterhouse* and a website has been set up at charterhousereturns.com. Our picture shows the motor lifeboat at Fishguard harbour in 1909.

