

BALTIMORE LIFEBOAT

Celebrating 100 Years



Tamar Class lifeboat, *Alan Massey*, passing underneath the Beacon, at the mouth of Baltimore Harbour.



Images courtesy of Robbie Murphy

Baltimore Lifeboat has been crewed by local volunteers for the last 100 years.

One hundred years ago, on 8th September 1919, the RNLI put the first lifeboat into service at Baltimore, Co Cork. It was the fourth lifeboat station in County Cork. Since then, Baltimore RNLI lifeboats have launched more than 940 times and their crews have rescued 867 people including 280 lives saved.

Six years previously, on 26th May 1913, the first official meeting of the Baltimore Branch of the RNLI took place in The Coastguard Station in Baltimore. The newly formed branch was set up to control and govern the new station, including locating a site for the slip and boat house, finding the best type of boat for the area and defining the area in which the lifeboat would work.

Baltimore Lifeboat station is located near Bull Point, in Baltimore. The all-weather lifeboats used to be housed inside the station but when the Tamar Class lifeboat *Alan Massey* arrived in 2012, it was too big to be housed inside so since then it has been moored at a specially constructed pen on the east side of the station. In 2013, the station underwent a major refurbishment and was fitted with state-of-the-art facilities. The Inshore Atlantic lifeboat is now housed in the station and launched down the slipway.

To learn more about Baltimore Lifeboat and the RNLI visit: www.rnli.org

On Call 24 hours a day

The RNLI provides a volunteer on call 24-hour lifeboat service to cover search and rescue up to 100 nautical miles off the coast of Ireland. The crews are made up of volunteers from all walks of life that give up their time and comfort to carry out rescues and train for them, in difficult and often dangerous conditions.

The Baltimore Station, provides a service in the waters between Galley Head and Mizen Head, encompassing the Island communities of Cape Clear, Sherkin, Heir and Long Islands and the well known and loved Fastnet Lighthouse.

Search and rescue operations are directed through the Irish Coast Guard service. They are often carried out with the support of the Coast Guard Sikorski helicopters based at Shannon & Waterford, Cliff Rescue based at Toe Head, Glandore and Goleen and adjacent RNLI Lifeboat Stations at Union Hall, Courtmacsherry and Castletownbere.



Baltimore Lifeboat on trials with the Irish Coast Guard helicopter, with Baltimore Lifeboat station in the background.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) is a charity that saves lives at sea. There are 233 Lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland, 55 of which are based on the island of Ireland.