



Coxswain Kieran Cotter (left), with Mr. Hugh Tully (right), of the RNLI Irish Council.

Saving Lives at Sea

Over the years the crews of Baltimore Lifeboat, have been presented with 15 awards for gallantry.

During the ceremony to mark 100 years of Baltimore Lifeboat Station, Mr. Hugh Tully, a member of the RNLI Irish Council and former Commodore of the Irish Naval Service, presented Coxswain Kieran Cotter with a 100th anniversary velum. Kieran accepted the velum on behalf of all past and present members of Baltimore RNLI.

On presenting the award Hugh recounted some of the outstanding rescues carried out by the lifeboat crew in Baltimore throughout the years. These included the Fastnet disaster of 1979 where the Baltimore RNLI rescued the crews of *Regardless* and *Marionette* in force 10 winds and 40ft seas.



Fastnet Lighthouse

Other memorable callouts included the rescue of former Taoiseach, Charles Haughey, when his yacht *Celtic Mist* sank at Mizen Head in October 1985; the callout which saw the crew battling challenging conditions when a RIB capsized and sixty bales of cocaine were left in Irish waters; and the *Rambler* rescue where seventeen crew were rescued from the upturned racing yacht.



Fifty RNLI volunteers came from 28 lifeboat stations around the Irish coast and inland to parade through Dublin City Centre to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising in 1916.

Lifeboats through the years



Rita Daphne Smyth

The Robert

Alan Massey

Images courtesy of Robbie Murphy

Baltimore Lifeboat has had a number of lifeboats in its 100 years. The 8th September 1919 saw the arrival of its first lifeboat, *The Shamrock*. A Watson Type lifeboat, it was originally named *Duke of Connaught* but due to the sensitive political situation at the time it was changed to *The Shamrock*. *The Shamrock* remained in service until 1950 when a new Watson class lifeboat *Sarah Tilson* was placed on service.

In 1978 the *Sarah Tilson* was replaced by another Watson class lifeboat called *The Robert*. In 1984, *The Robert* was replaced by an Oakley class lifeboat called *Charles Henry*. In February 1988, a new Tyne class lifeboat *Hilda Jarrett* was placed on service.

In April 2008, a second lifeboat, an inshore Atlantic 75 called *Bessie* was placed on service at the station to complement the existing all-weather lifeboat. In February 2012 a new Tamar class lifeboat *Alan Massey* replaced the *Hilda Jarrett*. In the same year inshore Atlantic 75 lifeboat B-753 *City of Bradford* replacing *Bessie*.

In July 2013 a complete refurbishment of the lifeboat house was finished, leaving the station with state-of-the-art facilities. That same year, inshore Atlantic 75 B-760 *Alice and Charles* was placed on service, replacing *City of Bradford*.

At the 100th anniversary celebration of Baltimore Lifeboat Station, on 8th September 2019, the new Atlantic 85 lifeboat *Rita Daphne Smyth* was placed in service. The new inshore lifeboat replaces the station's Atlantic 75 class lifeboat *Alice and Charles*.



The *Rita Daphne Smyth*, Baltimore Lifeboat's newest inshore lifeboat, was accepted into the care of the station by Tom Bush, Lifeboat Operations Manager and was named from the end of the slipway by Richard Bushe, former Deputy Launching Authority and Honorary Secretary of the Baltimore Lifeboat station.