

DART TALES

RNLI
Lifeboats

NEWS FROM THE RNLI LIFEBOAT TEAM IN DARTMOUTH

ATLANTIC 75 UPDATE.

During the week after Regatta, the Aquadock from RNLI Loch Ness was brought to Dartmouth by lorry and reassembled ashore. A newly designed central groove to support the keel of the B class was built into the dock and external railings fitted. The dock was then attached to the outer side of the low water landing pontoon where it will remain for the duration of the two year trial.

The Atlantic 75 from Salcombe, B-794, has been sent to the RNLI Inshore Lifeboat Centre at East Cowes to have a Kevlar reinforcement moulded to the underside of the hull. This is standard practice for all the B class lifeboats using an Aquadock and no longer being launched using a tractor and trailer kept in a lifeboat station.

The Dart volunteer lifeboat crew



Chris Tracey at the helm of B-775 with Dave Jackman, RNLI South Division Coastal Infrastructure Engineer on the newly built RNLI Dart Aquadock.

Photo: Andy Kyle

began by training twice a night in groups of three on Plymouth's ex Atlantic 75, B775. She arrived on 31 July to give the Dart helms experience in handling the new class of lifeboat and will be replaced by the

ex Salcombe boat as soon as she is ready.

B-775 made her first official appearance to the public with a drive past after the joint Dart and Salcombe exercise on Regatta Saturday.

SAVING LIVES AT SEA.

The series featuring RNLI lifeboat and lifeguard rescues continues on BBC2 on Tuesday evenings at 8pm. The night time rescue of an elderly man who fell into the Dart whilst boarding his boat was shown in episode 2. Unfortunately many people missed it as the second episode was shown on the Thursday evening following the first Tuesday film. It can still be seen on BBC iPlayer, catch up. There is a further episode, featuring the Dart lifeboat crew and the RNLI lifeguards at Blackpool Sands, towards the end of the series.



September 1st, RNLI Demonstration, Dartmouth Regatta.

Photo: Lynne Tracey



FISH SUPPER.

The extra expense of training the Dart volunteers to operate the B class lifeboat has added to the station's operating costs this year. Normally the amount raised by the Dart Fundraising Branch covers the operating costs of the station, but will not do so this year. Contributions to the RNLI, and being channelled through the Dart Branch, come from many sources. The Fete this year and the Flag day were very successful, although both brought in slightly less than in 2017.

Donations do not only depend on activities being organised by the local Branch. The central RNLI website, www.rnli.org.uk has many suggestions for how supporters can help, including an A to Z guide with ideas for fundraising. Could you host an RNLI Fish Supper this October? The idea is simple: cook up a storm with a fish-themed supper to raise vital funds for our

lifesavers. You can host a supper for as many people as you like and you don't have to be a master chef to take part. Your menu can be as simple as fish finger sandwiches or a warming fish pie.

The RNLI relies on the generosity of the public to fund its lifesaving services, and the charity's volunteer lifeboat crew members often sacrifice their precious meal times at a moment's notice, answering the call of their pagers to save lives at sea.

Any money raised by yourself, or donated by your guests, can be sent directly to the RNLI or channelled through our Branch Fundraising Treasurer, Lizzie Helyer, Eight Bells, South Embankment, Dartmouth, TQ6 9BB.

RESCUE OF THE MONTH. AUGUST 2018.

The Dart D class inshore lifeboat and the Coastguard helicopter from

Newquay responded to a call from a 14 metre fishing boat to a crewman in severe chest pain. It was late afternoon on Friday 9 August. Two casualty-trained Dart RNLI lifeboat crew boarded, assessed and treated the crewman two miles off Dartmouth. The Coastguard Paramedic was winched down 10 minutes later. The fishing boat had been instructed by radio to turn and motor into the wind but it was still a very difficult landing for the paramedic due to all the fishing gear on the deck. In view of the difficulty of transferring the casualty to either the lifeboat or the helicopter it was decided to land him at Kingswear ferry pontoon where he could be taken to Torbay Hospital by ambulance.

Lifeboat crew: Kevin Murphy, helmsman; Chris Tracey and Katy Locke, crew.

RNLI DARTMOUTH REGATTA EXERCISE.

The Tamar class all weather lifeboat from Salcombe demonstrated her firefighting capabilities as well as deploying a smaller Y class lifeboat from a compartment in her stern. The Y boat and the Dart D class inshore lifeboats worked together to rescue casualties in the water before a large crowd on the South Embankment, many of whom went on to visit the Tamar lifeboat as she lay alongside the Town pontoon.

News, details of launches, photographs and videos can be found on the Dart station website. www.dartlifeboat.org.uk or the station Facebook page www.facebook.com/dartnrnllifeboat

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