## Bromley, West Wickham and Hayes Branch of the RNLI

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is the charity that saves lives at sea around the coasts of the United Kingdom and provides lifeguards on many of our beaches.

The 24-hour search and rescue operates from 238 lifeboat stations around the UK and Ireland with a fleet of over 400 lifeboats from large all-weather lifeboats to smaller inshore vessels.





There are four lifeboat stations on the River Thames at Teddington Lock, Chiswick, Tower (this is located on the Victoria Embankment near Waterloo Bridge, only 10 minutes' walk from Charing Cross Station), and Gravesend.

The Tower Lifeboat Station is the busiest lifeboat station in the United Kingdom and the statistics as at 23 August 2021 were as follows:

- Call outs since January 2002 8,802
- Total lives saved 345
- Call outs this year 353
- Lives saved this year -16

It cost £139.2 million to run the lifesaving service in 2020 - all funded by voluntary contributions. Keeping a modern fleet of lifeboats ever-ready to go to the rescue is an expensive business with the costs of the lifeboats and crew kit, running the lifeguard service and campaigning for water safety.

The Bromley, West Wickham and Hayes Branch is a fund-raising branch organising local collections, and fund-raising events ranging from concerts to the Thames Path Walk.

If you would like to get involved, <u>visit Bromley West Wickham and Hayes Fundraising Branch</u> or call 07928 538750.