

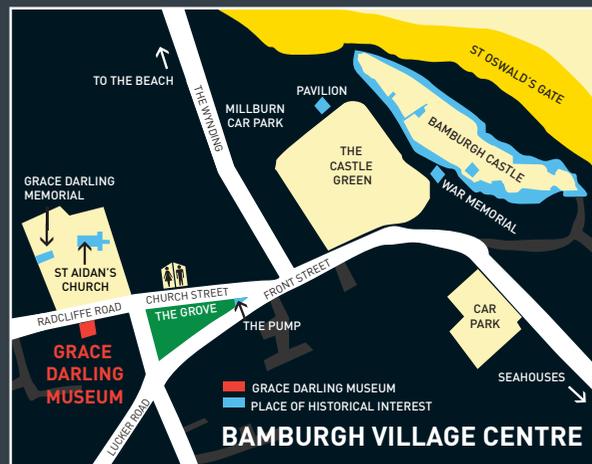
About the RNLI

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is the charity that saves lives at sea. It provides, on call, a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service around the UK and Republic of Ireland, and a seasonal lifeguard service.

Since the RNLI was founded in 1824, lifeboat crews and lifeguards have saved more than 140,000 lives.

When Grace Darling helped rescue nine people, she showed the values that our lifesavers uphold to this day: courage, selflessness, being trustworthy and dependable.

Visit us



RNLI Grace Darling Museum

Radcliffe Road
Bamburgh
Northumberland
NE69 7AE

Tel: 01668 214910
Website: RNLI.org/GraceDarling
Email: AskGraceDarling@rnli.org.uk

How to find us: In the village, opposite St Aidan's Church and a short walk from the castle. The large car park is opposite the castle, with public toilets near the museum.

Opening times:

Easter to September
Monday–Sunday, 10am–5pm (last entry 4.15pm)

October to Easter
Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–4pm (last entry 3.30pm)

Please check with the museum for Bank Holiday opening times, group visits or to hire our Lantern Room, which is available for research and meetings.

A version of this leaflet with a larger font is available on our website.



Lifeboats

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736).
Charity number CHY 2678 in the Republic of Ireland



Assisted by a grant from
the Northern Rock Foundation
The Foyle Foundation

SAP: HER005

THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

GRACE DARLING MUSEUM

BAMBURGH, NORTHUMBERLAND



Grace Darling by Thomas Brooks, c1866. Image: RNLI

FREE ENTRY



Welcome to the RNLI Grace Darling Museum

In the true spirit of the lifeboat service, Grace Horsley Darling (1815–42) risked her life to rescue others from certain death in a terrible storm. Grace's heroism earned her the first RNLI Medal for Gallantry to be awarded to a woman. Grace died of consumption only 4 years later but her fame lives on. The museum tells the story of the fearless girl who became a reluctant celebrity.

The original Grace Darling Museum opened on this site in 1938. Over 75 years later, the building was completely redeveloped using external funding. The stylish, environmentally friendly new building retains the intimacy of the old museum, and has facilities for school visits, exhibitions and events.

The museum illustrates Grace's upbringing and life in the lighthouse, the events of the rescue and her subsequent fame. Grace's story is told through personal items, including letters, family portraits and the famous coble. The museum also features atmospheric audio-visual interpretation and a stunning model of the Longstone Lighthouse.

National heroine, Northumbrian icon

Grace Darling saw the *SS Forfarshire*, an early paddle steamer, wrecked on Big Harcar Rock. The lighthouse keeper's daughter vowed to help. Grace and her father rowed out to sea in their small open boat, or coble, to rescue nine survivors clinging onto the rock. Grace held the coble steady in the raging seas while William helped the passengers. Soon news of Grace's deed spread nationwide and her name became associated with courage and humanity.

Grace and her father demonstrated the same qualities as lifeboat crews today: they risked their lives to save others in the face of great danger. Over 175 years later, a lifeboat named *Grace Darling* operates at nearby Seahouses Lifeboat Station.



Image: *The Rescue of the Forfarshire*, after FS Lowther, c1840



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