
FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS NEWSLETTER

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New Web Site Goes Live

The new Falmouth Harbour Commissioners website was launched in February, and is expected to be a great new resource for our stakeholders. Split into commercial and leisure sections, the site is easier to navigate, and more informative than the previous website. It is also designed to be updated by FHC staff, rather than external contractors, which means that the website can be updated immediately with news and events.

Moorings Officer Lloyd Pond has been in charge of managing the project and collating the material from the old website. He has also written and researched the history of the harbour, which can be found on the new site. Just go to www.falmouthport.co.uk.

Chairman to Stand Down at AGM

After three years of service, Andrew Bell has decided to step down as Chairman of Falmouth Harbour Commissioners, with effect from the AGM in March.

“My appointment as a Commissioner completes at the end of the year and I have decided not to re-apply for selection. It therefore seems appropriate to hand over the baton at the AGM,” said Andrew. “I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the board, particularly my term as chairman. I feel I can look back with great satisfaction on the

Commissioners’ achievements during this time.”



Above: Andrew Bell with Lady Mary Holborow at the naming ceremony for the ‘Arrow’.

Commissioner Selected to Serve Further Term

Three of our commissioners concluded their allotted terms with us at the end of 2007. However, we are pleased to announce that all three will continue to serve FHC following reappointment.

Both David Ellis and Peter Fish concluded their first three terms and were re-appointed by the board. Peter Morgan, who had already completed two terms, re-applied for the post and was successfully reappointed for a further three years.

Barry Gets New Right Hand Man

There is a new face in our Leisure Services department! Martyn Rosevear was appointed as the new Leisure Services Facilities Officer in January, and will have the day to day running responsibility of the Quays, Yacht Haven and Boat Park alongside our Leisure Services Manager, Barry Buist.

Having worked as boathouse manager for a large hotel complex, Martyn brings plenty of experience to the role. Barry said: "the Facilities Officer position is an important role and Martyn will be responsible for the smooth running of many of our leisure facilities, as well as the supervision of our seasonal staff." No doubt regular visitors to our leisure facilities will soon become acquainted with Martyn during this coming season.

Sarah's Post Gets Off to Busy Start

Sarah Leverton, who was appointed as Administration Assistant in September, has had a busy start to her new post. Part of her job has been the processing of the commercial shipping movements prior to invoicing and her appointment has coincided with a three fold increase in bunker traffic. As if that wasn't enough, a new movements management computer system has been acquired and Sarah has been responsible for its integration and the training of other operators.

Bunkering Boom Goes On

The boom in Falmouth's commercial shipping looks set to continue, with over 100 vessels per month visiting the port since August 2007. The increase is due to new regulations for low sulphur fuel to be used in the English Channel.

The increase in business, whilst welcome, has placed considerable demands on the pilotage service, and posts for craft operators and a trainee pilot have been advertised as a result. There has also been corresponding increases in the financial and administration workload, which has provided numerous challenges for Lesley Allan in her first year as Finance and Administration Manager. Lesley has been

greatly assisted in this respect by Leisure Services Accounts Officer, Sue Cocks.

Pilotage Anniversary

2008 marks the 200th anniversary of Falmouth as a Compulsory Pilotage District.

The Board of Trade decreed that Falmouth was to become a Compulsory Pilotage District in 1808, and the first pilots licence was issued on 22nd December 1808 to 38-year-old Henry Vincent of St.Mawes. Interestingly, Captain Vincent was a forbearer of Mrs. Anne Sowden, wife of ex-Falmouth Pilot and former Chairman of Falmouth Harbour Commissioners, Captain Frank Sowden (deceased).

Queues For Moorings Breaks Record

It seems as though the demand for swinging moorings is greater than ever, judging by the queue formed outside the Harbour Office on 22nd January. Amazingly, 130 people queued patiently outside our offices in Arwenack Street in order to put their name on the waiting list for moorings. Even more astounding is that a queue is believed to have started at midnight, with more people joining throughout the night in order to get their names down on the list.

Leisure Services Manager Barry Buist explained: "Whilst we in no way encourage people to stand in line during the early hours, the queue reflects just how sought after good value facilities for boats are. We believe that opening the list on an advertised date is the fairest and most transparent system for dealing with the demand."

A further measure of the popularity of the facilities was that all 22 moorings allocated were accepted- another first!

Date Fixed for Public Meeting

The annual public meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th April in the learning centre at the National Maritime Museum. A report will be given on the years activities and future plans and questions will be taken.