

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners

Welcome!



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our September newsletter, which you may notice has been given

a re-vamp, as Mary Stribley, our Commercial Shipping Accounts Officer, has taken over as our Newsletter Editor-in-Chief.

It has been a busy summer for us all at FHC and not without its difficulties.

The serious fire on board our Pilot Boat Arrow was a terrible blow and tested our resilience to the full, as the LK Mitchell was having its annual refit at the time.

I cannot commend enough the cheerful enthusiasm of all our staff and the support and helpfulness from our key contractors that helped us overcome a number of difficulties and kept the show on the road.

Likewise, it has been a real pleasure to see the high level of co-operation displayed by all those using the harbour that helped make this summer's events such a huge success.

**Mark Sansom
Harbour Master**

Timely action averted disaster

THE fire on the Arrow in July was potentially serious, but due to the actions of all staff and services, it was dealt with in a most effective and timely manner.

The exemplary handling of the situation by Mike Tuffery, Allen Stevens, Nick Martin and Alex Head quickly put out the fire, while the boat was anchored promptly to ensure that it did not drift into danger.

FHC's Board commended the professionalism of the crew and members of the Falmouth Pilots' Partnership. Will Davies' contribution in raising the standard of crew training was also recognised.

Eyes to the skies at Falmouth

THE exhilarating sight of the spectacular Red Arrows wowed crowds once again during this year's Henri Lloyd Falmouth Week.

The RAF's world-famous aerobatics team was back on August 11 for the second

year in Falmouth's inner harbour.

An estimated 25,000 people flocked to the town and took up positions along the waterfront to watch the awesome display.

Harbour Master Mark Sansom said, "We are proud

to sponsor the Red Arrows and to bring that extra special something to Henri Lloyd Falmouth Week once again.

"The sight of them performing so close to the water is something to remember."

FHC has supported Henri Lloyd Falmouth Week for many years, regularly sponsoring the spectacular firework display.

"The Red Arrows really bring something special to Falmouth"

*David Ellis
Chairman*

Captain Sansom said, "The Red Arrows are so busy and have such an intense schedule so we were all delighted when they confirmed.

"The great thing about it is that everyone can enjoy it; be it racers or non-racers, visitors or locals. It is great to have something that has such a wide appeal."



Above: Those magnificent men (and woman) in their flying machines!

You will probably have already met our three new members of staff. Here they tell us a few key facts about themselves:

Duncan Paul: A master mariner with command experience on a variety of vessels. I am a father of two teenage boys; originally from Scotland, I have lived in Cornwall since age fourteen.

Sophie Mitchell: I have more than 10 years' local authority experience. My last role before joining FHC was as a Programme Support Officer for Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service.

Luke Wills: I grew up in Falmouth, working as a boatman for RCYC and FHC and then for MTS as coxswain/deckhand on a range of tugs and crew tenders all over Europe. I'm a helmsman on the local inshore lifeboat.

New faces at FHC!



L-R: Sophie, Luke and Duncan on board the LK Mitchell

NEWSLETTER

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Oil spill disaster dress rehearsal

JOURNALISM students from University College Falmouth took part in a mock press conference with

FHC commissioners at the Maritime Museum in May as part of an emergency planning table-top exercise.

A day on the ocean wave!

I was greeted on LK Mitchell by Mike Tuffery and Allen Stevens supporting duty pilot Dave Pickston.

The day was sunny, calm and perfect for a trip in a pilot boat.

A look of dismay crossed the faces of the crew. "Typical – take a commissioner out and you get perfect weather – they'll think we have it easy!"

I watched as the team swung into action, and had a great day out, thanks to the pilot boat crew

and of course the pilot, who all displayed significant skill and professionalism throughout the day.

Thanks also to the weather – I'm sure it's not such a great job at 0300 hrs in a Force 8 easterly.

Now it's back to the day job, which seems fairly dull by comparison.

Thanks guys, I really enjoyed it.

**Richard Reed
Commissioner**

With the environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico very much in mind, the press conference was seen by the degree students as a timely reminder of how a similar scenario in Falmouth Bay would be cleaned up.

Course leader Anna Kiernan said, "The students asked some really good questions and a couple really went for the jugular!"

This is the 2nd year running that FHC have held this event.

On course for SW Marine Resource Management

FHC, in conjunction with Liverpool Pilots, offered a course in Marine Resource Management in May 2010.

The course proved to be very popular, with several Falmouth pilots attending, as well as pilots from Plymouth and Fowey. Assistant Harbour Master (Ops) Will Davies also attended.

Owing to the level of interest shown, and the limit on numbers for each course, FHC expect another course to be held soon.

Mark K heads for Truro

Deputy Harbour Master Mark Killingback has left FHC to take the post of Harbour Master at Truro.

Mark said he was looking forward to the new challenges that face him at Truro, and we wish him well in his new appointment!

Did you know . . . ? The Lady of the Lamp, Florence Nightingale, visited Falmouth in 1910 and stayed at the Greenbank Hotel. Her name can still be viewed in the register at the hotel today.

Diving the deep

THE legacy of the Packet Ships is all around us here in Falmouth.

Since those days, leisure boating has also put Falmouth on the map, but it is still the commercial side to port life that continues to support our region and keep Falmouth a vibrant place to live.

Today port business at Falmouth is mostly bunkering activities (ship re-fuelling), bringing many ships to the bay where they drop their anchors and refuel.

Concerns about the impact of anchors on the environment and

the loss of fishing pots in the bay made local news this year.

To help us get a better picture of the impacts of ships in the bay, we recently funded an investigation undertaken by a group of University of Plymouth Marine Biology students and their Marine Biologist academic.

In June this year they dived popular anchoring sites, taking core samples and pictures of the seabed in the bay, where much of it is made up of important maerl habitat (also known as calcified seaweed).

Led by student Joe Newton, laboratory work on the samples is currently underway and we look forward to getting the results.

What is Portonovo?

FHC are excited to announce that we are the UK Lead Partner port involved in an innovative EU-funded project called Portonovo.

Managed by Dr Karen Sumser-Lupson, we work with universities and ports across Europe in a combined effort to improve Falmouth's water quality.

So far this project has bought FHC two environmental monitoring buoys and enabled us to undertake a comprehensive hydrographic survey of the seabed in much of the estuary.

We now have more detailed information about Falmouth's physical environment than ever before, and world-class experts helping us improve our environmental performance every step of the way.

One such expert is hydrographer Matt Le Maitre, who has recently joined FHC for the autumn as a

hydrographic surveyor and tidal modeller of Falmouth.

Matt has used two data telemetry buoys to conduct long-term observations of surface current vectors, creating a new surface current database for the Fal Estuary. These observations have showed a significant difference to Admiralty predicted currents with a general increase in current speeds at all locations.



Matt Le Maitre, pictured with one of the monitoring buoys

Do you have any stories or suggestions for our newsletter . . . ?

If you have an interesting story or idea for the newsletter, please email it to

csao@falmouthport.co.uk

and you may find it in the next issue!

The diving party: Marine Biologist Dr Jason Hall-Spencer (left) with student Joe Newton out in the bay.



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