
FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8

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FIRE DEVASTATES QUEENS JETTY

The New Year got off to the worst possible start for A & P when fire destroyed Queens Jetty in the early hours of 8th January. The operational consequences are likely to be severe as the Jetty was in frequent use and was relied upon as a berth for vessels awaiting dry docks or other port services. The Berth is likely to be out of action for at least 12 months whilst the difficult process of re-building is addressed.

FULL PROGRAMME FOR TALL SHIPS VISITS

The newly formed Falmouth Tall Ships Association has started well with a number of confirmed visits by the worlds largest tall ships confirmed for 2003. A full programme of visits can be found on our web site.



SED OV moored at buoys in Falmouth Harbour
Photo - David Barnicoat

MAJOR RE-VAMP OF WEB SITE PLANNED

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners Web Site is being substantially improved by local web site designers Slightly Different. Additional features are being added to the site and it is hoped that these will eventually include live shipping movements details as well as improved public notices and safety information. Chairman of the Commissioners Paul Bickford said "we increasingly see the web site as our shop window and have a long term strategy to develop it to provide maximum assistance and convenience to our customers". The re-vamped site will also include a news section with newsletters press releases and photos.

FULL SCALE BOOMING OF PERCUIL ACHIEVED

An innovative new scheme for using pre-positioned moorings to deploy an Oil Pollution Boom was successfully trialled in October. The exercise was sponsored by Cornwall County Council and involved all the local harbour authorities as well as local marine contractors. The boom was supplied by Oil Spill Response Ltd who were so impressed with the scheme that they featured it in their own newsletter describing it as a good example of pre-planning.

DATE OF PUBLIC MEETING

ANNOUNCED

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners will hold their 2003 public meeting at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall on the Evening of Thursday 27th March. The meeting will be in the Learning Centre. The Commissioners will describe their plans for the coming year and issue their annual report for the 2002. The session will then be open for questions.

MAERL STUDY SCHEDULED FOR 2003

Consultants Posford Haskoning have been appointed to specify a study aimed at quantifying the remaining stocks of calcified seaweed remaining within the Estuary and study its bio-diversity. The survey should be undertaken in the spring or early summer and the results will be used to manage a reduction of the extraction activities in future years to ensure that the maerl habitat is preserved.

HARBOUR REVISION ORDER SUBMITTED

The Falmouth Harbour Revision Order 2003 looks set to hit the statute books at long last. The Order will give effect to constitutional changes required by the Trust Port Review as well as update the Commissioners powers in respect of its financial management.

OFFICE TO CLOSE FOR MAINTENANCE

The Harbour Office will be closed for two weeks during March whilst complete electrical rewiring is undertaken. This work follows the replacement of the roof carried out during 2002 and aims to extend the useful life of the building. Temporary facilities will be set up during this period but please bear with us if our service is not up to its usual standard.

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BOARD WELCOMES NEW

COMMISSIONER

Ian Pike Managing Director of A & P Falmouth Ltd has been selected to replace Mike Reynolds as a Harbour Commissioner from 1st January. Andrew Bell was re-selected to serve a further term on the Board. The appointments were made after the vacancies were advertised in the local press. There was a high quality field of applicants making the selection process a difficult one. Welcoming Ian to the Board and Andrew's reappointment, Chairman Paul Bickford said "we are delighted to have the opportunity to appoint such well qualified candidates to the Board. It is very heartening to have had such competition for these vacancies. It shows that the local population are interested in the running of the Trust and willing to become involved."



Ian Pike

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ZONING ACTIVITY

Some new proposals aimed at improving the way that the Harbour is regulated are being developed. It is planned to consult widely among Harbour users before making any changes and this process will begin with the proposals being considered by the Consultative Committee at their next meeting in March. It is then planned to publish the proposals to allow further public response before the Board makes a final decision in time for implementation this Summer.

