
FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 14

FEBRUARY 2006

Pilot Boat Name Chosen

The next Falmouth Pilot Boat will bear the name ARROW. The name has been used once before for a 67 ft sailing pilot cutter that was built near Flushing in 1862. The original ARROW cost just over £800. The new pilot vessel under construction will cost over £700,000. It is expected that the new vessel will be delivered in September.



Construction work begins on the new hull inspected by Andrew Bell, Mark Killingback and David Roberts

Ship to Ship Transfer Consultations Continue

The Commissioners are continuing to consult with local authorities and others before making a decision as to whether to permit ship to ship transfers of crude oil in Falmouth Bay. Fender Care Marine who have made the proposal have made presentations to Carrick District Council, Kerrier District Council and the Special Area of Conservation Management

Forum. The amended oil pollution response plan has been sent for consultation to Cornwall County Council, English Nature, DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

Cruise Project Makes Progress

The bid to improve facilities for cruise ships visiting Falmouth is making progress. The Commissioners have been represented at a number of meetings with Local Authorities, Government Office for the South West and the Regional Development Agency to examine ways of funding the £10m project to provide a deeper approach channel and improved berth infrastructure. Whilst no definite plans have been agreed, the signs are increasingly hopeful that the scheme can become a reality.

Falmouth Week Fireworks Sponsorship Agreed

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners will again be sponsoring the fireworks display that marks the end of Falmouth Regatta Week following the success of last year's event. Chairman Andrew Bell said "we are delighted to sponsor the display again this year. Falmouth Week brings substantial benefits to the Town and the fireworks provide a fitting finale".

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AIS provides a window to the world

AIS (Automatic Identification of Ships) has allowed shipping activity in Falmouth Bay to be monitored from the Harbour Office. A special radio receiver was fitted at Pendennis Castle to give extensive coverage of the Falmouth Bay and Approaches last August. This has been followed by the acquisition of charting software that allows accurate ship data to be shown on an electronic chart.

Yacht Haven Wireless Hot Spot

Another technology improvement has brought a new facility to visiting yachts staying on the visitors yacht haven this summer. A Wireless Hot spot has been installed offering customers the chance to surf the net or collect their e-mails using a laptop computer on their own boats.

Welcome to Sue.

The Commissioners latest member of staff is Sue Cocks who has taken over from Josie Madison as our Leisure Services Accounts Officer. Sue will be based in the main Harbour Office with responsibility for customer accounts.

Ben's Big Match

Ben Killingback, son of our Deputy Harbour Master achieved fulfilment of his dreams when he was selected to be a mascot for Gloucester Rugby Club for their European Challenge Cup clash with Bayonne Ben enjoyed VIP treatment all day and is pictured here with England star Mike Tindall



Public Meeting

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners public meeting will be held at the Maritime Museum in the Lecture Theatre on Wednesday 5th April at 7.30 pm.

Winter maintenance

FHC maintenance staff have been busy braving the cold weather to undertake all the necessary mooring maintenance. Among the projects achieved this winter has been a complete replacement of the chain for the King Charles Quay outhauls.

Web site update.

The Commissioners have asked Slightly Different to undertake a major overhaul of their web site. A recent survey showed that 40% of respondents were making use of the site and the new project aims to improve the quantity and relevance of the information provided as well as its user friendliness.

Port Marine Safety Code Audit

Nicholsons Risk Management undertook an audit of the Commissioners Safety Management system in December to confirm that it complied with the standards required by the Port Marine Safety Code.

Commissioner Appointments

Three vacancies were advertised in the latest round of commissioner appointments and interviews took place in December. Andrew Bell and Mike Reynolds were re-appointed and Dr Karen Sumser Lupson was selected to fill the remaining vacancy. Dr Sumser Lupson works for the University of Plymouth and specialises in maritime studies.

Inter Celtic Watersports Festival

Cornwall will be hosting the Inter Celtic Watersports Festival in July. It is expected that the Festival will attract up to 700 competitors representing 10 different regions. The events scheduled to be held in the Fal area include Keel boat match racing, dinghy sailing, windsurfing and kayaking.