
FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS NEWSLETTER

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ROYAL VISIT A GREAT SUCCESS

On 1st May Her Majesty the Queen commenced her Golden Jubilee tour in Falmouth. After visiting the Maritime Museum the Queen named and then embarked in the new Falmouth Lifeboat Richard Cox Scott. The lifeboat took her on a short passage between the Maritime Museum pontoons and Prince of Wales Pier giving her the opportunity to receive three cheers from HMS CORNWALL and inspect the cadets manning the yards on the STA Brig PRINCE WILLIAM. The boat trip was a great success encouraging a large number of well wishers to get afloat and reportedly greatly enjoyed by the Royal party. HMS CORNWALL easily broke the record for the largest vessel to berth between the Frigate and Caldy moorings which were specially adapted to accept her.



Photo - David Barnicoat

FALMOUTH LIFEBOAT AND ESCORTS EN ROUTE TO
PRINCE OF WALES PIER

HARBOUR REVISION ORDER PUBLISHED ON WEB SITE

After some months of delay in the "system" our proposed Harbour Revision Order emerged with some further minor amendments. These have now been incorporated into a final draft which is published in full on our web site. The next stage will be to formally advertise the Order and to submit it to the Department of Transport for approval.

STRATEGY DOCUMENT 2002/3 AVAILABLE

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners have published their Strategy document detailing their plans for the next year and giving a report of activities in 2001. The Document is published in full on our web site and copies are available free from the Harbour Office. The Document was launched at our second public meeting at the end of March which was, unfortunately, not as well attended as the previous one held in 2001.

OIL POLLUTION TECHNIQUES DEMONSTRATED

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners staff took part in a demonstration of a revolutionary method aimed at deploying long lengths of boom in a tideway to deflect oil spills. Supported by staff from Falmouth Docks, Falmouth Oil Services and Carrick District Council as well as Sub Marine Services

Deputy Harbour Master Mark Killingback and his crew successfully laid the necessary mooring chains to support the boom despite a near gale South Westerly wind. In the event, bad weather prevented the boom being deployed but the demonstration which was watched by a number of key observers including a delegation from France was well received. It is hoped that the project will now be extended to other sites.

RADAR TRIAL TAKES PLACE

A trial commissioned to determine the value of a radar monitoring system for Falmouth Bay and Carrick Roads took place on 2nd and 3rd of July. A radar scanner for the trial was loaned by Transas Ltd and was sited temporarily at the Coastguard building on Pendennis Headland. The Radar picture was transmitted using a radio link and overlaid onto an electronic chart on board MV MORVEN operated by Marico Marine which was chartered for the demonstration. The trial allowed Harbour Commissioners, port operations personnel including pilots and boat crews as well as representatives from government agencies to assess the capabilities and usefulness of a high tech monitoring system.

REPORTER ATTENDS BOARD MEETING

Falmouth Packet reporter Kelly Geraty became the first newspaper reporter to attend a Commissioners Board meeting when she attended the March Meeting (and AGM) of the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners. Chairman Paul Bickford welcomed Kelly to the Meeting stating that this step illustrated the Commissioners determination to act in an open and accountable way in their management of the Harbour.

44 Arwenack St, Falmouth, TR11 3JQ
01326 312285
www.falmouthport.co.uk

RADICAL REVISION OF HARBOUR CHARGES

The Harbour Commissioners have undertaken a radical review of the basis on which Harbour Dues are levied within the Port. Acting on guidance from the Department of Transport, the Board consulted commercial users on proposals that abolished existing discounts, reduced the general rate of charges and provided a specially reduced rate for vessels staying for less than 24 hours within the Port. The proposals have been generally well received and the new charging structure will come into effect from the 1st July.

CRUISE BOOM FOR FALMOUTH

Falmouth has gone from strength to strength as a cruise call destination. Building upon a successful season last year A & P Falmouth have secured a contract with Travelscope for 12 turnaround visits for the 550 berth Van Gogh. Key to the success of cruise marketing has been the setting up of Destination South West which obtained objective one and objective two funding matched by contributions from the private sector including Falmouth Harbour Commissioners to employ a full time cruise co-ordinator for South West Ports.



Royal Princess alongside County Wharf

There are 25 Cruise Calls expected in 2002 which follows an unprecedented 22 Calls in 2001. The outlook for 2003 is expected to be even better with more than 30 calls anticipated.