
FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS NEWSLETTER

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QUEENS WHARF REBUILT

Only nine months after it was devastated by fire, the Queens Wharf has been completely rebuilt. The remains of the original timber wharf have been cut off at sea level and a new concrete and piled structure erected to take its place.



Construction Works at Queens Wharf -

For more on this story see our Website

NEW CONTRACT FOR PILOTAGE SERVICES AGREED

On the 1st September Falmouth Pilots Partnership and Falmouth Harbour Commissioners entered into a new 5 year contract to provide pilotage services for the Falmouth Pilotage Area. The new contract takes the requirements of the Port Marine Safety Code fully into account and includes development of some working practices and procedures.

PORT HANDBOOK LAUNCHED

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners collaborated with the Ports of Truro and Penryn together with A & P Falmouth to produce a new port handbook. The publication was funded largely by advertisements from businesses in the Ports and includes a comprehensive guide to the Ports and their services. In his foreword to the Handbook Andy Brigden Chief Maritime Officer of Carrick District Council highlighted the proud history of the Estuary's Ports and their current ability to provide the full range of services required by modern shipping operations.

Copies of the Port Handbook can be downloaded from the Website

HARBOUR REVISION ORDER DELAYED

The Falmouth Harbour Revision Order 2003 has been further delayed in its passage through the Department for Transport raising concerns that it may not be passed this year. "In practical terms this is not disastrous" explained Mark Sansom Chief Executive "as most of the changes relate to commissioner appointments and we have received full co-operation from the existing appointing bodies. Having said that, we are keen to get the Order through as it contains measures that will update our financial powers and after nearly 3 years of trying we certainly look forward to finally getting it through the process".

OIL SPILL RESPONSE TESTED

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners had to implement the Fal Estuary Pollution Response Plan in September after a spill from the tanker Brabourne in Carrick Roads. Response assets were mobilised from Falmouth Docks, Falmouth Oil Services and Carrick District Council in addition to our own craft, equipment and personnel. The rapid response was successful in recovering much of the 0.5 t of heavy fuel oil that had been spilt although ongoing cleaning operations for oiled craft were required for some days. Harbour Master Mark Sansom who co-ordinated the initial response said "The response to the spill was quick and effective which reinforces the value of the regular response exercises that we have held".

NEW FUEL BARGE ARRIVES

Motor boat owners will be pleased to note the arrival of a purpose built refuelling facility for the Visitors Yacht Haven. The Barge has been built to the highest standards to ensure safety and pollution prevention and will be open fully from the start of next season.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS TO BE AVAILABLE ON LINE

Work is nearly completed on a re-vamp of the Commissioners' Web Site which will provide an updating list of expected shipping movements for the first time. The Commissioners have collaborated with Penryn Based web site designers Slightly Different and hope that having movements information available on line will assist other harbour users such as sailing clubs with planning their events. It is hoped that the new facility will be available from 1st November.

MAERL STUDY REPORT EXPECTED SOON

A report by Consultants Posford Haskoning into the extent of the maerl reserves in the Fal Estuary together with an assessment as to the effect of dredging on the communities inhabiting the maerl is expected shortly. The Study has been commissioned after consultation with DEFRA and English Nature and was paid for by the Commissioners with support from the Ports of Truro and Penryn. The report will be used to ensure that future maerl extraction can be managed appropriately.

KRUZENSTERN VISIT A GREAT SUCCESS



Photo by David Barnicoat

Falmouth Tall Ships Association hailed the visit of the Russian Barque KRUZENSTERN in July as a great success. In their newsletter, the Association praised all those involved with the visit and were happy to report that the visit had raised some £4000 towards the running costs of the vessel.

More News?

Photo News by David Barnicoat giving more details on some of these stories and some other items is available via the web site.

www.falmouthport.co.uk

PHOTO NEWS by David Barnicoat



Kruzenshtern's four day visit to Falmouth has been judged as an outstanding success according to the Falmouth Tallships Association chairman Mike Rangepcroft and Captain Gennady Kolomenski the Russian barque's master.

" Nearly 3,500 people visited the Kruzenshtern during her stay in port. This enabled our association to cover all the ship's port costs, send cadets on various excursions and more importantly make a generous donation to the ship to ensure that this fine vessel is kept afloat for all to see." said Mike.

John Hick and Mike Rangepcroft, who were the main architects behind the 1998 Tallships Race from Falmouth said: "We would like thank all of our sponsors, Friends of the FTA, the docks and the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners for their help."

FTA liaison officer Anne Oliver, who knows the Kruzenshtern better than most having sailed on the barque, took 50 cadets to Flambards theme park and a small contingent to the National Maritime Museum Cornwall.

"The Russian cadets have a particular liking to Cornish ice cream. We arranged for 300 tubs to be put on the ship and our visit to Flambards included a trip to a local ice cream parlour." said Anne.

Over the weekend thousands of people, tourists and locals went to the docks to see this majestic sailing ship from a bygone era. Kruzenshtern put to sea on Sunday for seven hours to allow the liner Van Gogh to berth. Packet shipping correspondent and local pilot David Barnicoat piloted the ship during her cruise offshore. Also onboard were some members of the FTA committee who all described the day as "truly wonderful".



Hundreds of people lined the Castle Drive and Pendennis Point on Tuesday morning when Kruzenshtern was piloted between Black Rock and Pendennis Point by pilot David Barnicoat. Sounding farewell on Kruzenshtern's powerful siren Captain Gennady Kolomenski told David that " the visit to Falmouth was fantastic. He wished to thank the FTA and the people of Falmouth for making him and his crew most welcome. And we will return to Falmouth again soon."



Tidal constraints forced the liner Royal Princess to anchor in the Roads on her latest Round Britain cruise. The 45,000 ton luxury cruise ship made history when she became the largest passenger liner ever to moor in the Cross Channel anchorage this week. With local pilots Gordon Kent and Phil Bush aboard the 230 metre long liner dropped two anchors in the Cross Channel anchorage and then lines were run to the number five mooring buoy.

P&O Princess Cruises proved how important Falmouth has become as a cruise call destination on their Round Britain cruises by spending thousands of pounds on pilotage, tugs and port dues by mooring the Royal Princess in the Cross Channel anchorage for a ten hour stay.

In what can only be described as idyllic weather conditions Royal Princess looked stunning from the Roseland peninsula.

Finding a suitable vantage point to take photographs just south of St Just in Roseland I pulled into a lay-by.



Minutes later a people carrier arrived carrying American passengers from the liner who were being taken on a guided tour of the area by local tour guide Yannik Knutton.

"Isn't this fantastic. Cornwall is so beautiful. We come from Las Vegas" said one lady passenger.

2004 will see the Royal Princess making five cruise calls at Falmouth and the 109,000 ton Grand Princess will anchor in the bay.



A&P Falmouth will berth the first ship on the newly-built Queens wharf early this month after the official handover tomorrow from Plymouth-based civil engineers SeaStructures.

A&P Falmouth managing director Peter Child said: "We are delighted to be commissioning the new wharf. Obviously, the loss of the original Queens wharf in January came as a major blow to the company. Logistically, it's been a nightmare for all concerned trying to operate a shiprepair facility, accommodating

cruise liners and cargo work. But we have circumnavigated the problem without too many disruptions."

The main construction work on the €4 million Queens jetty was completed on Monday when the final section of concrete wharf decking was poured onto the pre-cast deck slabs. The 195 metre long and 18 metre wide jetty supported by 128 steel piles is fendered using modern rubber fendering. If funds become available for dredging in the future the new wharf is designed to support dredging to a depth of nine metres alongside.

Services to the new wharf, electricity, oxyacetylene and compressed air systems are in the process of being tested before the final handover tomorrow.

This is the first major investment of its type in nearly 50 years and a positive sign to the port clearly demonstrating that the A&P group is fully committed to carry on its shiprepair business here. The County and Duchy wharves built in 1957 were the last berths built, becoming the mainstay of the docks in recent years as the old timber jetties were gradually condemned.

On October 3, the Queens wharf will be officially named but Mr Child declined to name the person who will perform the opening ceremony.

A&P Falmouth managing director Peter Child has confirmed that Mr Mike Ridley, Fleet Director of P&O Ferries Dover has been invited by the A&P Group to officially open the €4 million Queens wharf on October 17.

P&O Ferries and A&P Falmouth have enjoyed a strong association for many years with Britain's biggest ferry company using A&P's Falmouth, Tyne, Dover and Southampton yards to repair and refit their ferries. The main construction work on the wharf finished last week. Now Plymouth-based SeaStructures are finishing off fitting ladders, lighting, and fendering. Project director Jeremy Ions said: "We're delighted - we've still got a little work to finish off over the next couple of weeks, anchor drilling for some of the piles - but all of the main construction work is complete and the services in place.

"It's been a very good job and very hands-on - we've done the majority of the work ourselves. In addition, it's all been carried out safely and the contract was for 5th September so we're absolutely on target. "

SeaStructures chairman Peter Adams added: "We're very pleased to have been associated with the project and delighted to be able to hand Queen's Wharf back to A&P on the date that we promised."



The 353,000 ton tanker Front Chief loaded a massive 3,500 tonnes of bunker fuel oil in Falmouth bay earlier this week in an around the clock operation requiring two bunkering ships. The Brabourne, the port's new bunkering vessel was joined by the Whitchampion a brand new ship built in Turkey for Humber-based John H Whitaker (Tankers) Ltd.

Falmouth Oil Services had the Front Chief and the Panama flagged tanker Teseo stemmed for a total of 6,000 tonnes of bunkers but the Teseo was delayed in Belfast and is expected to arrive today.

Front Chief sailed for Sullom Voe, Shetland Islands, to load 311,000 tonnes of crude oil for the US Gulf. Her physical dimensions are impressive. She is 334 metres in length , 58 metres breadth with a loaded draft of 23 metres. From the keel to the masthead is 68 metres.