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# FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS NEWSLETTER

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## **TRAFALGAR RE-ENACTMENT RECEIVES ROYAL APPROVAL**

Falmouth Harbour was centre stage in the celebrations of the bi-centennial of the Battle of Trafalgar. Among the many events staged to mark the event as part of the Sea Britain Programme was a re-enactment of the landing of the despatch in Falmouth sending the news to the Admiralty. Her Royal Highness Princess Anne was invited to witness the landing of the despatch which was carried to Falmouth aboard the sail training vessel LORD NELSON and brought ashore at Fish Strand Quay in a replica of the cutter from HMS VICTORY.

## **SHIP TO SHIP TRANSFER CONSULTATION ONGOING**

Discussions are ongoing with stakeholders about the possibility of commencing ship to ship transfer operations of crude oil in Falmouth Bay. Fender Care who are interested in conducting operations gave a presentation to the Special Area of Conservation Management Forum in July and a further presentation is planned for members of Carrick District Council at their October meeting. The required amendment to the statutory oil pollution plan is also in the process of being consulted with relevant authorities.

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## **CRUISE SHIP PROJECT RE- ENERGISED**

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners arranged a strategy briefing on board the Cruise Ship STAR PRINCESS inviting MPs, representatives of local authorities and tourism interests for a presentation about the port and current issues. The presentation was well received and a new initiative to try to take forward plans for a deep water cruise ship berth was discussed.



Andrew Bell Presents a Plaque to Commodore Cesare Ditel

## **NEW COMMISSIONERS WANTED**

Advertisements will be placed in the press shortly advertising for new harbour commissioners. Under the terms of the new Harbour Revision Order, Commissioners are appointed for a 3 yearly term on a rolling basis. There will be three vacancies advertised in November for appointments commencing in January 2006.

## **CUSTOMER QUESTIONNAIRE CIRCULATED**

A Questionnaire designed by the Consultative Committee is being circulated to customers this winter. The Questionnaire is designed to get customer input aimed at developing appropriate facilities and identifying problem areas.

## **NEW PILOT BOAT ORDERED**

Falmouth Harbour Commissioners have ordered a new pilot boat from VT Halmatic to be built at their Portchester Facility. The new vessel will be 16m long and of GRP construction and will replace the ageing L K MITCHELL which was ordered for the Port by Trinity House in 1977. At a cost of over £700,000 the new boat is the largest ever purchase by the Commissioners. It is due to be delivered next summer.

## **ZONING PLAN A SUCCESS**

The creation of a new speed restricted zone off the beaches has worked successfully for the second year. Buoys have been laid off Gyllingvase and Castle beaches to provide a speed limited area for the protection of bathers. The beach lifeguards have worked closely with the Commissioners harbour patrol craft to enforce the speed limits which have been generally well respected by harbour users.

## **FALMOUTH WEEK ENDS WITH A BANG**

The firework display at the end of Falmouth Week was hailed as one of the best in recent years. It was organised by the Falmouth Week Shoreside Committee and largely sponsored by FHC. "The display was very well received and we were delighted to be the main sponsor" said chief executive Mark Sansom who also praised the conduct of spectators afloat. "We were very pleased with the assistance from members of the public watching from their own boats who co-operated superbly helping us to keep the fall out area clear."

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH POLICE AIDS ENFORCEMENT**

A new initiative to work closely with the police in enforcement matters has paid dividends. Deputy Harbour Master Mark Killingback has forged close working ties with PC Andy Hocking in Falmouth resulting in additional staff training and assistance with statement taking and interviewing under caution using police facilities. Mark is delighted with the results of the co-operation "it has made a real difference to our investigations and improved our ability to take enforcement action when needed" he said.



Mark Killingback Deputy Harbour Master with PC Andy Hocking

## **WELCOME LEON**

Leon Kemp is the latest recruit to the FHC team. He was selected from over fifty applicants to fill a vacancy arising after boatman Matt Fortune decided to leave. Leon has a wealth of experience on the water gained from the inshore fishing industry. He also has many years experience as a retained firefighter.

## **FUEL BARGE HAS SUCCESSFUL YEAR**

Fuel sales from the FHC fuel barge have been up considerably on 2004. Between May and August the barge dispensed 137,908 litres of diesel and 46,400 litres of petrol representing increases of 23% and 12% on the same period last year. Leisure Services Manager Barry Buist said "we have certainly be kept busy, it has been a challenge to keep up with demand at times".