

Ports of Truro and Penryn Harbour Masters Newsletter

Dear Mooring Holder/Harbour User

I hope that 2013 has been a successful year for you all in pursuit of your business or leisure. We have enjoyed much better summer weather this year which has reflected in an up turn in leisure visitors to the ports.

Laid up Shipping

It has been a very quiet year for laid up shipping enquires our only visitor this year has been the very grand charter yacht Dona Amelia. One of the world's most iconic gentleman's motor yachts she has been laid up alongside Windsor Castle until the charter market improves. Famed in the yachting industry for her classic looks and maintaining original 1928 engines – as well as her starring role in the Abba-inspired hit film Mamma Mia! – The Dona Amelia provides a beautiful spectacle as visitors sail past her at Tolverne. The Dona Amelia was launched from the Krupp Germania Weft Yard near Kiel in 1928, the second motor yacht built here to a design by the American firm of Cox and Stevens and at 71m she is slightly smaller than her older sister, 'Talitha G' which many river users may remember from the late 1980s and early 1990s when she was laid up in the river as the 'Jezebel'.

The large ro/ro vessel 'Norman Trader' left the Port of Truro in May with a new owner and name 'Stena Alegra'. After a major refit in Poland she is now trading in the Baltic between Poland and Sweden.

Commercial Shipping and Business

The main activity on Lighterage Quay has been the export of scrap metal to Europe. The daily rate for scrap metal has been quite volatile in the last year a symptom of the current world wide economy. Despite this volatile market there have been nine loads of scrap exported from the port of Truro this year.

Cement imports have been temporarily suspended whilst a suitable self discharging ship is found to import cement to Truro. The Cementina which visited the Port of Truro many times has now been broken up in Belgium.

Last January the warehouse on Lighterage Quay was leased to industrial services and counter pollution contractor Braemar Howells Ltd. Some of you may have noticed significant activity during a counter pollution exercise and open day in September. Several sections of inflatable boom were deployed across the river including shore sealing boom and a section of fence boom. This exercise was our annual oil pollution clean up and prevention practice which is a statutory requirement.

Leisure and Commercial Moorings

The moorings continue to be much in demand with waiting lists still in place although waiting times for tidal and summer only moorings are much reduced.

The Harbours Board have completed the annual review of fees and charges and recommended an increase to full tide managed moorings by 10% due to an increase in material costs for the provision of these facilities. Also the historical fishermen's free moorings have been reviewed and notice given that in 2015 they will become subject to our standard charge.

At the request of stakeholders in Penryn the slipway and hard standing at Church Beach, Penryn will be refurbished once the Cornwall Council procurement process has been completed.

Fal Estuary Marine Safety Committee (FEMSEC)

I represent the ports of Truro and Penryn on the FEMSEC committee which meets to promote improvements in marine safety awareness. In response to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch safety bulletin no 1 of 2013 committee members decided to promulgate the safety advice in response to the tragic incident on the Camel Estuary in the spring. It was a dramatic reminder why we should wear a kill cord and life jacket when afloat at all times. Here is a link to the safety bulletin:

http://www.maib.gov.uk/publications/safety_bulletins/safety_bulletin_2013/safety_bulletin_1_2013.cfm

Another important marine safety system is the use of the HM Coastguard CG 66 form. Please find included with this letter a guide on how to complete a CG 66 registration for your vessel. Here is an extract from the MCA guidance on the use of the CG 66 data.

'If you are at sea and get into difficulty and you are unable to raise assistance, is there anyone ashore who knows what to do if you fail to return at your estimated time?

Would a friend or relative know who to contact? Would they have sufficient detail about your vessel and your likely whereabouts to be able to assist the Coastguard to locate you?

Would it not be a comfort to know that when you set out, the Coastguard has the details of your vessel on a database that is accessible to all Coastguard Co-ordination Centres throughout the UK so that they have the information they need to mount a search and rescue operation should you get into difficulty? '

I encourage all boat owners to register their boat details to help the coastguards to locate your vessels if you are reported overdue or missing.

Some of the events held in the ports during 2013

The Fal River Festival

Penryn Quay side service with collection for the RNLI

The Firefly SW Championship, International C class regatta (formerly known as the Little Americas cup) and the International 14 Championship all based at Restronguet Sailing Club.

Creek safari swim down the Fal

Truro Canoe marathon starting from Malpas

Various Gig rowing events

Penryn Arts Festival on Church beach slipway

Penryn River Revels based at Jubilee Wharf

News for 2014

I would like to wish local lad Tom Phipps and his crew Zennor Pascoe every success in their quest to qualify for the next Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in a catamaran class the Nacra 17. Tom and Zennor are training hard in all weathers out in the Carrick Roads to qualify as a mixed crew in a new Olympic sailing class.

I have very fond memories of sailing in command of the STA topsail schooner Sir Winston Churchill in the Baltic Race in 2000 and therefore greatly looking forward to the arrival of the tall ship fleet into Falmouth next summer for the Falmouth to Royal Greenwich Regatta 2014.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and safe sailing for 2014.

Mark Killingback

Harbour Master Truro and Penryn

December 2013