

Annual Newsletter from the Harbour Master Truro and Penryn

Personnel

Maritime Assistant Tom Furse left us in early December to join H M Coastguard as a Maritime Operations Officer. Tom spent two years with us as an Apprentice before being employed as a Maritime Assistant. We wish Tom well in his new career and will no doubt speak to him at Falmouth MRCC in the future.

Laid up ships

A number of vessels have been laid up this year including the following vessels:

FSL Hamburg spent about 6 weeks in lay up while a propeller blade from the controllable pitch propeller was repaired and refitted. Here is a link to a you tube site which shows videos of CP propellers in dry docks <http://youtu.be/qgSfrqAYopg>

MV Sea Breeze was abandoned off the Lizard in March and the crew rescued by Falmouth Lifeboat. She was towed to St Austell Bay by a local salvor and then directed into Fowey by the Secretary of States Representative SOSREP where her condition was stabilized. The MCA Counter Pollution and Salvage department approached the Port of Truro to allow the vessel to moor to the lay up berth in King Harry Reach while several legal issues were resolved. The vessel was towed to Truro in April and remained in the port until 2nd November. Cargo ownership had been resolved and the vessel was moved to Falmouth for the cargo to be discharged. The vessel is currently moored in Falmouth pending a final decision on a tow to a ship breakers yard.

Stena Scotia a Ro/Ro truck ferry was in hot lay up for a month this summer waiting for a suitable charter, she returned to work plying across the North Sea from Hull.

The reefer ships Summer Bay, Summer Flower, Summer Meadow and Brazilian Reefer were laid up for about 3 months. These vessels now ply their trade from South American ports carrying fruit to North America and Europe. The Southern Hemisphere fruit harvest season is approaching and the vessels have recently been reactivated and left the port.

Cargo to Lighterage Quay

Scrap metal has been our main cargo handled over the last year, approximately 10000 tonnes of scrap metal and baled cars have been exported.

We have had enquires for other cargoes including stone and aggregates but none have been fixed to date.

Renewable Energy

The Port of Truro and Penryn continue to be members of the MOR Group, MOR being short for Marine Offshore Renewables hosted at the Cornwall Marine Network. The MOR group is a collection of supply chain companies seeking to collaborate for mutual benefit in securing business for local companies in this sector.

Special Area of Conservation SAC

This year we have continued to support Lisa Rennocks at Cornwall Wildlife Trust with her project on marine alien invasive species. We have helped with the collection of samples from pontoons and other marine sites in the estuary.

Many of these species have an adverse impact on fishing and aquaculture business throughout the estuary. The alien species include Japanese seaweed, sea squirts and slipper limpets.

Projects

The team at Truro Harbour office are looking at a project to improve access to the water at Malpas, this project is in its infancy and I cannot provide any further details at the moment.

Newham BID

I attend the Newham BID management committee meetings hosted by various businesses in Newham. At the last meeting the new brand for the BID was launched. Details of the BID with new name of Newham and the Port of Truro can be found by using the link to the website <http://www.newhambid.com/>

Some of the success stories for the BID this year include resurfacing the main access route to Newham and the launch of the brand which can be used by any business within the area on their correspondence.

Kernow Tree surgery has been appointed to maintain the green areas around Newham and improve the public realm for the benefit of all the businesses there.

Water Quality

A change in the interpretation of Shellfish Waters Regulations sadly impacted on the mussel fishery which includes companies engaged in growing mussels on ropes and the local fishermen who gather mussels within the estuary. Businesses and individuals have suffered significant hardship this summer. Where possible the Port of Truro has tried to support these interests and provide information on other organisations that can help with information and advice.

The Shellfish Waters have now improved to allow harvesting but the main summer season is over and significant damage has occurred to this industry locally. The issue of water quality is not unique to the Fal and very complicated.

Events

The ports have helped facilitate a number of festivals and events throughout the year including many small craft regattas and rallies.

In Penryn the town council arranged a Quayside service and dedication of a WW1 remembrance plaque. The plaque bears the name of three soldiers from the Rifle Brigade who drowned in Penryn Harbour whilst serving at the local Garrison. The service was held at Exchequer Quay Penryn and a collection was made in aid of the RNLI.

The Falmouth to Greenwich Tall Ship Regatta was hosted in Falmouth at the end of August. While the event was hosted in Falmouth a number of staff members were involved supporting Falmouth Harbour Commissioners and A&P Falmouth Docks during this very busy period. Patrol Officer Anne Oliver volunteered as one of three chief liaison officers and was on call throughout the ships stay. Patrol Officer Nigel Knight and I took annual leave and were volunteered as Liaison Officers to a couple of ships in the fleet for the duration of their stay in port. We also assisted with marshalling and safety cover during the parade of sail. Patrol Officer Alan Jordan assisted Pier Master Ken Rees manning the Prince of Wales Pier which was used to run a ferry service to Falmouth Docks and for the many visitors to view the Tall Ships in port.

I hope you all enjoyed a Happy Christmas and I wish you all a Prosperous New Year

Mark Killingback
Harbour Master Truro and Penryn