



Fowey Harbour Newsletter 2020

Dear Harbour Users

Well, what can we say to sum up 2020? Never mind the Spanish Inquisition – nobody expected that! The word unprecedented has probably been overused, but it completely sums up the year we have all had. We had just completed our winter programme of checking and servicing all the moorings in the harbour and were ready to start launching boats when Lockdown 1 was imposed. It was truly surreal to see an empty harbour in April, May and June particularly when the weather was superb. That the lockdown was observed so well by the Fowey harbour users speaks volumes for our community and I salute and thank you all for your exemplary attitude, something not always enjoyed by other ports.

On 4 July, the Government lifted lockdown and access to the water was allowed; what a shock to the system! Our best preparations were overwhelmed by the demand for our services and the level of activity afloat. Released from their 'captivity' people flocked to the water, we saw a surge in the use of kayaks and Stand Up Paddle boards (SUP); on one day I counted 44 SUPs from my office window at one time! The hiatus soon passed, and we settled back to a more normal pattern of activity in August although the streets and car parks remained very busy. Thanks to the excellent work of POFROC and the Yacht and Sailing Clubs, some racing was achieved and a very scaled down Regatta was able to be held. This was a morale-boosting sight and, I hope, a reminder of what we can look forward to next year.

Commercial activity has been below levels forecast and this was compounded by the impact of Covid 19. This will reduce the conservancy income for the port which goes toward the costs of dredging and maintaining Aids to Navigation. The future of the ports' tugs remains secure at present due to the work they are undertaking in neighbouring ports. This vital income ensures we retain a tug available in Fowey.

We have often referred to the work being done to find alternative cargos to move through the Port and we are delighted to report news of a new agreement to supply aggregate from Cornwall to the London area to support building work. We expect this new venture to gather pace during 2021 and are committed to supporting this initiative.

The effort to improve facilities available to visiting and resident leisure boats in the harbour has continued. At Penmarlam there has been investment in an extended and improved shore linked pontoon with electrical plug-in facilities for resident boats. This investment should be ready for the 2021 season. We continue to try to improve the facilities for our customers on site with further road improvements and greater car parking options high on the agenda.

A particular problem this year, especially during July, was congestion on the inside of pontoons. I have asked the team to be stricter in enforcing the rules next year. There are a few people who are using the pontoon as a permanent mooring for their boat and it is not a tender at all! – be warned we will be policing this firmly next summer. I have included a set of the rules for the use of shore linked pontoons at the bottom of this newsletter.

General Information

Please remember that our approval must be sought before any change in boat on a particular mooring. Moorings are allocated by vessel size / type and length and includes any protruding equipment; you risk being found liable for any damage resulting if you are oversize and remember this also includes frapes and pontoons as well as moorings. We do our very best to ensure boats do not come into contact with each other but without the right information from you, spacing and swinging room is sometimes insufficient and vessels can come into contact. Please also ensure you have adequate fendering arrangements in place.

Most of our customers now receive invoices by e-mail, this is appreciated as part of our drive to help the environment and keep our overheads down. Please make sure the details we hold for you are correct, if not, then let us know!

Now is the time of year to check that your lifejackets and flares are all in date. Why not invite a friend to cast an eye over your boat to check your safety equipment. There is nothing like a fresh pair of eyes to spot something you may have grown accustomed to. The RNLI sea safety team are also available to offer further advice and guidance.

As part of the terms and conditions of taking a mooring, you undertake to ensure your vessel has adequate insurance cover (including wreck removal). We will continue to request proof of insurance from a small number of customers annually to ensure compliance.

We hope you have found this newsletter informative and useful. We are here to help so please feel free to contact us if you have any specific queries or require any further information. Don't forget you can get more information from our website www.foweyharbour.co.uk

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable time afloat in 2021.

Paul Thomas
Harbour Master
For and on behalf of the Fowey Harbour Commissioners

THE USE OF SHORE LINKED PONTOONS

SHORE LINKED PONTOONS ARE FOR SHORT STAY ONLY:

VESSELS OVER 5M IN LENGTH MAY USE THE SEAWARD SIDE FOR A MAXIMUM OF TWO HOURS

VESSELS UNDER 5M MAY USE THE INSIDE OF THESE PONTOONS FOR A MAXIMUM OF 6 HOURS

TENDERS DISPLAYING A TENDER STICKER MAY MOOR OVERNIGHT BUT MUST BE TENDED TO IN A 48 HOUR PERIOD

NO VESSEL OVER 3.65M IN LENGTH WILL BE ISSUED A TENDER BERTH

CUSTOMERS WISHING TO APPLY FOR TENDER BERTHS MUST HAVE A FACILITY WITH FOWEY HARBOUR WHICH IS CONTROLLED BY THE COMMISSIONERS

ALL VESSELS MUST DISPLAY A CURRENT LICENCE STICKER AND CRAFT NAME EXCEPT TENDERS FROM VISITING CRAFT

VESSELS WILL BE REMOVED AND A FEE CHARGED (£70) IF THE ABOVE TIME LIMITS ARE EXCEEDED

LINE/ROD FISHING OFF PONTOONS IS PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES

CRAB LINE FISHING IS PERMITTED BUT MAY BE RESTRICTED FOR OPERATIONAL NEEDS

PRAMS, PUSHCHAIRS, BICYCLES AND SKATEBOARDS PROHIBITED

HIRE BOATS MAY BE LEFT OVERNIGHT WITH THE PERMISSIONS OF THE HARBOUR MASTER/HARBOUR PATROL BUT ARE LIABLE TO PAY THE NIGHTLY VISITORS RATE

FISHING VESSELS AND COMMERCIALY OPERATED VESSELS ARE PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES EXCEPT WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE HARBOUR MASTER

FOWEY HARBOUR RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE VESSELS OR PERSONS CONTRAVENING THESE RULES