



# Fowey Harbour Newsletter 2021

Dear Harbour Users

What a year! It has been another extremely busy season with locals and visitors taking to the water to enjoy our beautiful estuary, and what better place for a 'staycation' than Fowey. Demand for resident berths and facilities continued to be very high and visitor numbers were strong with yachtsmen cruising the Southwest rather than heading across the Channel. Added to this we saw large numbers of casual users launching their craft to enjoy the harbour for the day. Whilst stand up paddleboards (SUPs), kayaks, canoes and other small craft allow a wider sector of people to 'get afloat', the potential for lack of experience and local knowledge is of concern to us as a Harbour Authority. We have a responsibility to all those using the Harbour to ensure they receive appropriate safety advice. With the high numbers of these craft on the water, we were unable to keep track of who was afloat and where and were unable to link drifting or beached craft with their owners to check all was well before a SAR effort was launched. The tragic deaths of four people paddle boarding on the River Cleddau in Pembrokeshire in November this year, underlined this risk.

In response to this, FHC have developed a safety campaign directly aimed at paddle sports users which will require registration before using the river. In return, we will provide safety information specific to their activity and the licence sticker will allow the identification of their kit if it is found unattended. Harbour dues collected from this activity will be used to support a safety officer on the river in the future.

The effort to improve facilities available to visiting and resident leisure boats in the harbour continues. At Penmarlam, the extension of the shore linked pontoon has provided extra resident berths which have all been occupied this season. Improved access and car parking at the site has also been very well received.

Fowey continues to be a popular destination for visiting clubs and rallies and it was lovely to welcome back many of our 'regulars' this year. Fowey Regatta went ahead and thanks to the efforts of POFROC, there was a full programme of sailing enjoyed by both the participants and spectators.

Commercial activity has been generally good this year, despite the demand for shipping reaching record levels. Exports of china clay have met forecast and the much-anticipated aggregate cargoes have boosted trade with around 150,000 tonnes exported from Fowey to London this year to support building and infrastructure projects. With significant investments being made to support this product by project partners, we have high hopes that the aggregate trade will continue to grow in the coming years.

Our tugs continue to operate both in Fowey and in the neighbouring ports of Plymouth and Falmouth keeping our crews busy day and night.

Our dredger 'Lantic Bay' has spent most of this year having a major overhaul. Areas of her hull steel that were thinning have been replaced, a bow thruster fitted and a new excavator sited forward. She will be ready to restart work in January focussing on areas in Pont, Mixtow and Polruan in particular.

Many of you will have noticed the high number of cruise visits this year, in fact there were a record-breaking 24 this year! With Covid restrictions still limiting the itineraries of the ships to domestic cruises for UK nationals only, we saw repeat visits from the smaller ships and of course we welcomed the Golden Horizon for the first time too, her scale and grandeur being watched by many onlookers. We currently have a very healthy 16 calls booked for 2022 and hope they will proceed without interruption.

You will notice an increase in fees on your invoice for next season. Although we have tried to keep price increases to a minimum, the sharp increase in the cost of materials is more than we can absorb. In particular the price of mooring chain, fuel and transport costs have increased significantly, a trend being seen across many aspects of our lives.

We are looking ahead to 2022 with anticipation of another busy summer. We hope that the devolution process for Whitehouse and Caffa Mill will be completed so that we can take ownership and start to address the safety concerns we have at these sites. We will be working with our partners on the Town Team to make more of these important community spaces.

### **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 oversized 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 ensure you always 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! You can use your customer portal to pay invoices online, update your contact preferences and register your paddle sports craft. Details of how to log-in and your unique renewal code can be found on your invoice.

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.

There have unfortunately been a few instances of marine crime this year. We encourage you to take photos of your boats, outboards and other equipment and note any serial numbers. This information is very important when logging the crime and will help reunite you with your property if it is located.

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.

**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 also get more information from our website [www.foweyharbour.co.uk](http://www.foweyharbour.co.uk)**

**Wishing you a safe and enjoyable time afloat in 2022.**

Paul Thomas  
Harbour Master