

Dear Harbour Users,

Well, they say time goes faster the older you get! I can't believe we are here again already but, as we draw a line under 2024, we take this opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year and look ahead to the exciting developments planned for 2025. It has been another busy year for our team at Fowey Harbour, marked by a mix of challenges and achievements across all areas of harbour activity.

Infrastructure improvements have been a major focus this year. The long-overdue refurbishment of the Brazen Island workshop has been completed, transforming it into a modern, functional space that is already proving invaluable for maintaining our fleet and facilities. Meanwhile, the Harbour Office received a fresh coat of paint, the Old Station Yard car park was resurfaced to enhance safety and accessibility, and tree works and replanting at Penmarlam have improved the landscape for leisure users. Over at Whitehouse, we celebrated the restoration of the century-old tidal paddling pool and the transformation of the disused toilet block into the Red Rocket Takeaway, complete with a seating platform offering spectacular views of the harbour. Following its 'soft' opening this summer, we eagerly anticipate its 'grand opening' in April ahead of the 2025 season. With the successful devolution of Caffa Mill and Whitehouse to FHC ownership, we are advancing revitalisation plans at Caffa Mill and, despite funding delays, remain optimistic about proceeding with the new pontoon in the short term. Consultations on the Harbour Revision Order, which includes revised harbour limits and modernised powers for managing the Harbour, have now closed. We look forward to continuing to implement changes as part of our ongoing commitment to creating safe, enjoyable, and accessible spaces for all.

Commercial trade faced challenges this year, with aggregate and clay exports again falling below expectations. To address this, we are actively exploring opportunities to diversify cargoes and strengthen future operations. On a brighter note, our marine services team has been highly active, supporting KML with barge towage work in Par and continuing tug operations in Plymouth and Falmouth. The cruise sector had another strong season, welcoming 13 cruise liner calls, including two short-notice visits by *Maud* and *Seabourne Venture* in April, diverted to Fowey due to bad weather elsewhere. Iconic ships such as *Scenic Eclipse* and *Spirit of Adventure*, along with the historic *Waverley* paddle steamer, captured the imagination of locals and visitors alike. These visits generated an estimated £500,000 for the local economy and further reinforced Fowey's reputation as a premium destination. This was wonderfully acknowledged when Fowey was named Global Cruise Destination of the Year at the SeaTrade Cruise Awards – a fantastic recognition of the hard work by our team and community in delivering exceptional experiences for passengers and operators. Looking ahead, we have developed a new passenger guide and updated our cruise map to enhance the visitor experience, with plans in place to improve accessibility and upgrade facilities at key transfer points.

Despite a wet Easter delaying the launch of many resident boats, visitor numbers stabilised at pre-Covid levels, with almost 4,500 visiting pleasure craft enjoying the estuary. Following extensive consultation, a General Direction on swimming was issued in June, further improving safety measures within the estuary. New marker buoys for swim zones and a new swimming pontoon were installed, enhancing both safety and enjoyment for water users. In an important safety improvement, all outboard powered harbour patrol boats have been upgraded with remote 'kill cords' which replaces the actual cord with a Bluetooth link allowing crew greater freedom to move around the boat whilst keeping them safe in the event of them falling overboard.

Environmental stewardship remains a cornerstone of our work at Fowey Harbour. This year, we will take a significant step forward with the ZEVI Project, trialling electric-powered work boats as part of our commitment to reducing the harbour's environmental footprint. This trial complements the ongoing ZENOW Project, with plans to expand marine electric charging infrastructure in the future. Progress also continues under the Electric Seaway Project, with air quality sensors now installed at key locations around the harbour. These will provide invaluable data to help us understand the environmental impact

of transitioning to electric vessel infrastructure. Meanwhile, beach litter surveys conducted by the Marine Conservation Society reminded us of the persistent challenge of plastic waste along our coastline. These findings have underscored the importance of our awareness initiatives and the ongoing effort to manage waste responsibly. We also participated in a new Citizen Science Crab Project, engaging the local community in monitoring estuary biodiversity and supporting conservation efforts. As we look to 2025, we remain committed to protecting and enhancing the estuary for everyone to enjoy.

Community events brought plenty of energy to the harbour this year. Regatta Week was, as always, a highlight, with its mix of thrilling sailing races and activities for all ages both on and off the water. Lifeboat Week, celebrating the RNLI's 200th anniversary, was another standout, with dazzling fireworks, live music, and displays showcasing the vital work of all those involved with Fowey's lifeboats. Our youth engagement initiatives continue to thrive, with paddle sports and sailing programmes inspiring more local children and families to get involved. The ProBleu project has also been a great success, engaging school groups and encouraging the next generation to explore opportunities on the water and in maritime careers. Another highlight was our Open Day in September 2024, which attracted over 400 visitors, providing an invaluable opportunity for the community to engage with the harbour team and learn more about our operations and initiatives. We're excited to expand these efforts further in the year ahead.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible Fowey Harbour Team, whose dedication and hard work keep everything running smoothly and usually with a smile! To all our harbour users, thank you for your continued support and for being part of our vibrant community. As always, please make sure your safety equipment is in good working order ahead of the new season. Any changes to vessels or moorings must be approved to ensure safety and prevent congestion.

General Information

Please make sure the details we hold for you and your boat are correct it is essential that we have up to date address and telephone details. You can use your customer portal to pay invoices online, manage your account and update your contact preferences. Details of how to log-in and your unique renewal code can be found on your invoice.

Moorings are allocated by vessel size, type and length overall and our approval must be sought before any change in boat on any mooring, including pontoons and frapes. You risk being found liable for any damage resulting if you are oversize. 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 always have adequate fendering arrangements in place, responsibility for the safety of the vessel always lies with the owner.

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 also recommend noting serial numbers, marking and ensuring sufficient security of your boats and engines as a deterrent to marine crime.

Before the season starts, make sure to check that your safety equipment and lifejackets are in good order and that flares are in date. The RNLI's sea safety team are also available to offer further advice and guidance.

We hope you have found this newsletter informative and useful; more information is available on our website:

www.foweyharbour.co.uk

I wish you a safe and enjoyable time afloat in 2025.

Paul Thomas, Harbour Master