



ON BOARD

SUMMER 2021 | EDITION 3

A WORD FROM THE CEO



Welcome to our summer edition of On Board. It has been a busy quarter as we continue to work to keep the Port Covid free and our people safe. The Port has been exceptionally busy, and I continue to thank our team who are working very hard to successfully manage current levels of demand. You will see from the Trading Update on page 6 that we have seen increases in volumes across most commodities.

This year we celebrate 50 years since the inception of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, a milestone that we are all very proud of. While the modern Port as we know it was

not completed until 1974, you will see from our history section, that recruitment started straight away in 1971. Providing local employment is something which runs through the heart of Warrenpoint Port, and we delighted to feature some of our team in On Board this month.

We were also very pleased to welcome Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon MLA and some of her team to the Port in June. You can read more about this visit on page 4 of On Board. It is important that Government Ministers can see the work ongoing on the ground to deliver ongoing service during Covid. June was a very busy month as we hosted our virtual AGM and released our Annual Report for 2020. Digital copies to download are available on our website www.warrenpointport.com.

This quarter we also hosted a litter pick outside the Port boundary in the Town vicinity of the Port site as part of the Big Spring Clean and I would like to commend all our volunteers who collected 27 bags of rubbish and a number of oversized items.

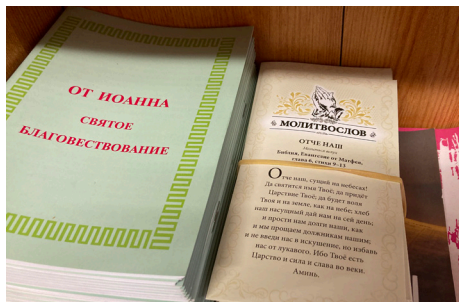
Finally, I would urge you to read our feature interview with Rev Colin Hall Thompson, the Senior Chaplain for Mission to Seafarers in Northern Ireland on page 2. We commend, and are ever grateful for the work the Mission to Seafarers organisation do for the seafarers who visit our Port facilities here in Warrenpoint.

Please continue to stay safe and I wish you and your families an enjoyable remainder of the summer.

David Holmes, CEO, Warrenpoint Port



MISSION TO SEAFARERS



The Mission to Seafarers is a global organisation working across 50 countries to support over 1.6 million seafarers across the world. Seafarers are anyone who works on board a seagoing ship. We are very lucky to have a Mission to Seafarers centre and dedicated team here at Warrenpoint who support the seafarers who arrive daily at our Port in Warrenpoint.

On Board spoke to Rev Colin Hall Thompson, the Senior Chaplain for Mission to Seafarers in Northern Ireland about the work they do in Warrenpoint and why it is so important.

The Mission to Seafarers organisation in Northern Ireland is one of the oldest in the world. It started in the UK in Bristol roughly 160 years ago and Northern Ireland followed a couple of years later. The organisation is headquartered in Belfast because that has the largest Port in Northern Ireland, but we operate across all the Ports and in fact we also look after Greenore across the Lough from Warrenpoint.

It is our role as a charitable organisation to look after the body, mind and spirit of all the seafarers who reach our shores- particularly merchant seafarers. In Warrenpoint, the Port provided us with a modular building and with grant support from shipping welfare organisations we were able to make it nice and homely.

Many seafarers are living in cramped, basic conditions for months at a time. Here just 100 yards from their ship, when they dock in Warrenpoint, they can chill out, use the WiFi and enjoy some home comforts like TV, with their feet up and a cup of tea. They may not be in Port for long so it is important that the centre was made available close to the docks.

The facilities are checked every day by our fantastic local volunteers Johann and Stuart and I come down regularly. Johann and Stuart are wonderful volunteers. I cannot thank them enough for what they do for the organisation and for our Seafarers.

The pandemic has been a real challenge because in ordinary times we were often able to go on board the ships. It was here amongst the crew in the ship's Mess that you got the real sense of what life was like on the ship and could perhaps identify where there was stress or depression and additional support required. With the restrictions we can only meet the visitors socially distanced at the centre, outside on the deck or from the gangway. It can be more difficult in these settings to gauge the real mood.

What we do know is that as an island economy, without these people we would struggle to survive and thrive. The work of seafarers who bring product to and from these shores cannot be underestimated. We believe that this deserves to be recognised and rewarded with a little taste of home when they arrive into ports like Warrenpoint.



Mission to Seafarers Facilities at Warrenpoint Port



Mission to Seafarers Facilities at Warrenpoint Port



Rev Colin Hall Thompson, the Senior Chaplain for Mission to Seafarers in Northern Ireland pictured with Warrenpoint Port volunteers Johan and Stuart.

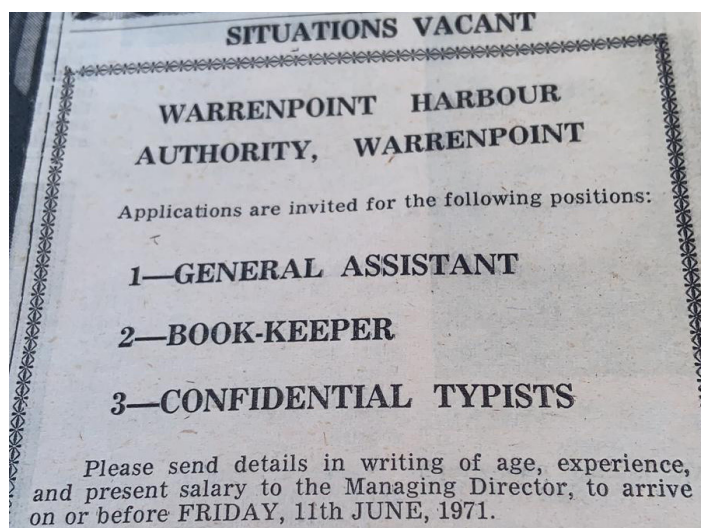
HISTORY

This year the Port is marking 50 years since the inception of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. The original Port of Warrenpoint, consisting of a wet dock and piers, was constructed in the late 1770's by Roger Hall, Robert Ross and Isaac Corry with the assistance of £500 of public funds. In 1919 the heirs of Roger Hall sold the Port to John Kelly and Sons for the sum of £16,000. John Kelly continued to operate the Port until 1971 when it was sold to Warrenpoint Harbour Authority for £369,000.

Warrenpoint was deemed a 'Trust Port' by legislation in 1971 with the existing Port completed in 1974 when it covered 28 acres. Since then, the port has expanded to its current size of approximately 60 acres.

Trust Ports are not owned by Government but operate autonomously and with a high degree of Public Accountability and a strong Public Interest ethos. The Port is required to operate in a commercial manner and is an independent statutory body governed by its own legislation. It has no shareholders so all the profits go back into the organisation.

We were going through the archives when we discovered this recruitment advert from 1971 which must have been for some of the earliest roles at the Port.



Heatwave

In the first six months of this year we have had extreme heat and extreme cold. Our team are out working regardless of the weather. When it was extremely cold back at the start of the year we provided breakfast for our team. This month it was ice-cream that was required. We were delighted to welcome our neighbours the Genoa last week, with a well-earned treat to cool down.





WARRENPOINT PORT

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VISIT FROM THE INFRASTRUCTURE MINISTER

Warrenpoint Port Welcomes Minister

Warrenpoint Port was delighted to welcome Minister for Infrastructure Nichola Mallon MLA to the Port at the end of June for a visit.

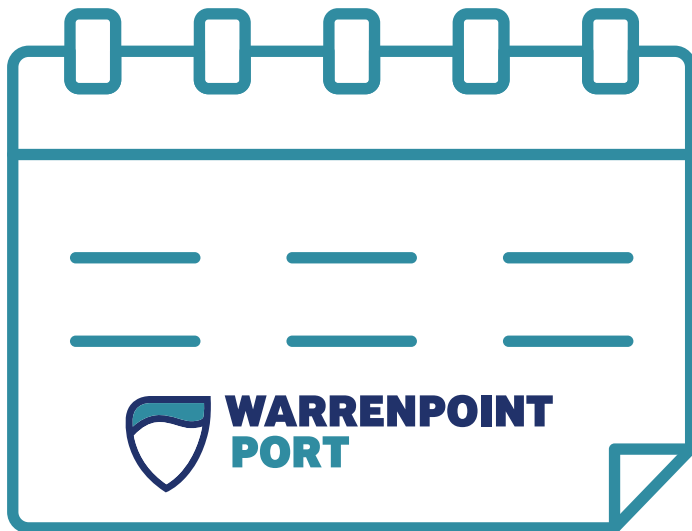
The Minister was taken on a tour of the Port facilities, met with members of the team, and went for a marine-focused short sail on Carlingford Lough. The team briefed the Minister on recent upgrades to the site and future plans.

Pictured are members of the senior management team with Minister Nichola Mallon MLA, including (lto r) Eoin O Mahony, Head of Engineering & Estates, David Holmes, CEO, with Dr Gerard O Hare CBE DL, Chair of the Warrenpoint Port Board, Micheal Murtagh, Deputy Harbour Master, Kerri Farrell, Project Manager and Kieran Grant, Finance Director, Warrenpoint Port.





QUARTERLY UPDATE



On 30th April Warrenpoint Port hosted its quarterly update with elected representatives. Due to other diary commitments only Glyn Hanna and Declan McAteer were in attendance.

David Holmes CEO updated the attendees on the visual softening at the C02 Plant.

David advised that installation of further screening, which was delayed due to Covid restrictions, would recommence on 10th May. Plantation at riverside is a challenge but it is being aided by using gabions. He also updated that an additional 200+ trees have been planted in 2021.

A discussion ensued about the impact of Brexit on the Port. David remarked that volumes in Q1 were buoyant. The extra RORO volume is largely due to displaced cargo

from Dublin to avoid delays due to paperwork. He said that businesses are working to avoid risk/friction/hassle. Unless the Protocol changes the volume of paperwork will exponentially increase when final implementation of the protocol happens.

The meeting discussed recent queries in relation to dust and noise, both of which had been responded to via the 'On Board' email. David also advised that the Port took part in recent promotional activity in association with Southern Regional College to promote apprenticeship opportunities at the Port.

On updating in relation to the Board, David commented that the new Chairman commenced in February and has already made a very significant contribution to the Port.

The appointment process for two new Board Members is underway and preparations are being made for a virtual AGM in June. There is no alternative under Covid-19 restrictions. (The virtual AGM has since taken place).

Glyn Hanna said he found the second edition of OnBoard ezine very informative.

David said that Port attended a consultation in relation to proposed road changes in Warrenpoint. Declan McAteer advised that this scheme, which he reluctantly supported, has now gone to public consultation.

Declan McAteer said that the tree/shrub planting is encouraging. He also advised that a local said that there is more emphasis in Warrenpoint on the Port than tourism. David indicated that it was the intention to change the mindset that the town is dominated by the Port.

A discussion took place on a Walking Tour which Declan is involved in, and he requested that the Port would support this with information on the history of the Harbour. David welcomed this and offered the Town Dock boardroom as a venue for meeting to show slides/videos. He also said that the Town Dock quay area could be used as a meeting point. Kieran Grant said that there are historical engineering drawings which may be of interest to the groups.

Glyn Hanna suggested that the history of the Port could be promoted as a project for schools.

The meeting concluded at this point, and it was agreed that the next meeting would be held at the end of July.



UPDATE ON TRADING

It is safe to say that the first half of 2021 has been as challenging as 2020. The pandemic is still very much with us and continues to impact day to day business as we seek to keep Warrenpoint Port Covid free. There is still much uncertainty also as to Brexit alignment.

The pent-up demand generated by the pandemic and businesses realigning due to Brexit has led to significant increases across nearly all import and export commodities in this last 6 months. Timber, steel, and scrap have all shot up in price. Warrenpoint Port has held its handling prices despite this escalation, committed as it is to supporting the economy. Volumes of timber and steel processed through the Port have almost doubled year on year.

Soaring volume has challenged the team daily in terms of capacity planning and delivery, but our team has worked phenomenally hard to deliver successfully for all our customers new and existing. We would like

to commend our team for their continued efforts as frontline workers.

The Port has also continued to deliver in the community, organising a Big Spring Clean Litter pick and continues to build on its 'On Board' community engagement campaign.

In June the team at Warrenpoint Port hosted its AGM and released its Annual Report before hosting a visit from Minister for Department of Infrastructure Nichola Mallon. The Minister was taken on a tour of the Port facilities, met [socially distanced] with members of the team. Minister Mallon went for a short sail on Carlingford Lough where marine considerations were also discussed. The team briefed the Minister on recent upgrades to the site and future plans and aspirations.

These are uncertain times, but we trust that the Port family can be kept safe as Covid 19 readies itself for the autumn and winter. We hope that the NI Protocol and specifically its impact on Ports is clarified; and that Warrenpoint Port can look forward to continuing buoyant volumes.

WELL DONE TEAM

Well done to our Port Control Team members Declan Carroll and Maynard Hanna who went above and beyond their duties recently. They were presented with vouchers for local restaurant 'Raymie's Seafood Grill'.





BOARD UPDATE



The last approved Board meeting took place virtually on Tuesday 25th May 2021. In attendance was: Dr G O' Hare (Chairman), D Holmes (Chief Executive), K Grant (Finance Director), G Donaghy, D Gray, G Hanna & R Johnston. E O'Mahony and T Rodgers from the senior management team were also in attendance. There were apologies recorded from C Mason and K McKevitt.

During the meeting there was an update from the Chairman on matters arising including the new appointments to the Board. He advised that it was expected the Minister would announce appointments in July.

The Chairman also advised on the final review of the Annual Report for 2020 and the AGM which would take place virtually on 22nd June.

During the Meeting the CEO provided an update on trading during which he noted an improvement year to date on performance compared to the previous year (which included the first quarter of the pandemic).

T Rodgers from the Senior Management team presented an update to the board on Health, Safety and Environment at the Port. During this presentation he also noted that preventative maintenance software is now up and running and additional resource had been brought in to support the H&S team during the recent Capex Programme.

E O Mahony from the Senior Management team presented an update to the Board on the recent Capital Expenditure programme including highlighting plant & equipment purchases and infrastructure improvements.

The Financial Director presented an update on the most recent accounting status. This included a request to the Board to approve the audited accounts for 2020 before being brought forward to the Annual General Meeting.

Updates were also provided on communication and ongoing discussions with DAERA in relation to the SPS Centre. This checking facility continues to be facilitated at a temporary site at the Port.

The meeting concluded at this point with no AOB for discussion.



Q&A WITH THE CEO

Warrenpoint Port CEO David Holmes will be in post for two years in August 2021. It has been two of the most challenging years in the Port's recent history with Covid-19 and Brexit amongst other issues. David recently spoke to Export & Freight magazine about his time to date, as CEO. We have carried some of the interview below and the remainder can be found in Export and Freight Magazine.

The past year has been a difficult one, not least because of the pandemic, so what have been the challenges and how have you overcome them?

The challenges of the past year have certainly not been confined to a Port environment. We thought at the start of 2020 that Brexit would be our priority. We were spending a significant proportion of time on preparations for this and the impact it may have on our customers. As the pandemic took hold, we had to switch our focus to protect our people and keep the Port Covid free, without impacting on operational activity.

As we started to get an understanding what a Covid world looked like, we could not take our eye off Brexit. Dealing with these two major disruptive forces along with day-to-day operations certainly has been a challenge. By mid-year however, we had started to turn things around and I must commend our team who have worked exceptionally hard over the past 12 months. We ended up having a strong year despite the challenges, which helps to demonstrate the resilience and agility of the business.

What is the year ahead looking like? What challenges do you expect?

We are very optimistic about the year ahead. The Port is absolutely open for business. We are hoping to build on a Covid recovery to deliver steady growth this year. Brexit continues to dominate the news as we still do not have final agreement on the implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol. We know Brexit will continue to occupy our time in the months ahead. We also are mindful that Covid has not gone away. We will continue to implement safe working practices to try to keep the Port Covid free. Overall, however, the outlook is good, and we are tentatively looking forward with confidence to a strong year.

I understand there has been some disquiet about the presence of the new CO2 facility at the Port; how are you addressing that?

We totally understand that people may have concerns about a new facility like this, particularly in relation to the visual aspect. We have been engaging constructively with the operator and our neighbours to work through these concerns. A port by its very nature is an industrial zone. We understand that this is sometimes at odds with our surroundings in an area of outstanding natural beauty. A centralised CO2 terminal – that uses recovered CO2 - on the island of Ireland however brings benefits, including reducing over 1000 road imports per year, saving more than 450,000 road miles; and improves the security of supply for a natural food preservative and essential key ingredient for our food and beverage industry. We have a strategic goal to visually enhance this installation with tree planting which is well underway. Tasteful screening is to be deployed in the interim as the trees grow.

On the wider front, how important is it to keep the local community 'on board' going forward?

Being a good corporate citizen is very important to me and our team here at the Port. We are very mindful of the beautiful place where we work and most of our team live. It is important for us to make a valuable contribution into the local community. We have introduced a number of measures recently including a quarterly magazine, face to face [virtual] scheduled updates with elected representatives and an annual Community fund to support this commitment. We had a fantastic Christmas initiative which supported 23 different organisations in our locality. This was supported by the Port's key customers for which the Port remains very grateful. It is a journey of continuous improvement, and we look forward to building on this in the months and years ahead.

MEET OUR TEAM

Many of our team live and work locally and this is something that is very important to the Port. We have a team who are proud to be from or live in this area and to work for the Port. In each edition of On Board we introduce our readers to members of our team. This quarter we caught up with Dermot Keenan who is a Port Operative and Paddy Savage who is a Casual Port Worker.



Name: Dermot Keenan

Job Title: Port Operative

I've been with the Port now for more than 14 years. I previously worked for Jenkin Shipping when they were in the Port. They moved most of their operation to Belfast, and I went with them for a time but came back then to work directly for Port. With 13/14 years' service with Jenkins before joining the Port, I've effectively spent most of my career working at this site. I started off as a casual, and then moved to a permanent role when I joined Warrenpoint Port. It's the variety that suits me as I am not doing the same thing every day. Over the last couple of years, I have been driving the cranes on a more frequent basis and I am skilled up in all levels of machinery right up to the 16 tonne forklifts.

A typical day could involve anything from moving timber to operating a crane or discharging timber, steel or grain boats. I started off as a checker for the container ships and I sometimes fill in doing this role when required. I enjoy coming to work. The boys here are great; it's a good team to work in and everyone looks out for each other.

I'm from the Warrenpoint Road but I now live in Newry which is still only ten minutes away from the Port. Outside of work I enjoy taking my young boy to football training but with two children and daddy's taxi permanently on duty there's not time for much else.



Name: Paddy Savage

Job Title: Casual Port Worker

I'm from Belfast originally but I have lived in Warrenpoint for more than 20 years', so this really feels like home. It's a great place to live and work. I enjoy socializing outside of work and there are plenty of opportunities to do that in the town. I live five minutes' walk from work which also means a lot.

I am a Casual Port Worker but in reality, I've been working for the Port almost fulltime for 10 years. It's a great place to work. There's very few workplaces where you can really have the craic with your colleagues while you work and everyone is willing to help each other out.

There's no real typical day because it depends on what is due in or out of Port; and I really enjoy the variety. On any given day I could be doing a Banksman role which is directing the crane drivers in and out of the ships; loading and unloading cargo or driving the forklifts, bobcats or other machinery.

RECENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

There were a number of questions submitted in advance of and during the AGM. Answers to all of these questions are available on the website www.warrenpointport.com. Here is a selection of the questions received:

Can the Harbour Authority can give any assurances on water quality in Carlingford Lough?

The short answer is that- no we can't because it doesn't fall directly within our remit. We carry out daily visual inspections; we are a first responder to potential incidents and can quickly isolate an area if required and we also report incidents.

For example, we have recently reported on several occasions what we believe to be inappropriate sewage flowing from the town into the Lough.

We ensure that all our vessels adhere to the Port Marine Safety code, and we would inflict heavy penalties if we thought that any of our customer vessels were not adhering to the code in relation to the discharge of waste for example.

The ultimate responsibility falls to DAERA. They currently have four water monitoring buoys in the Lough and the Loughs Agency are constantly out on the water monitoring and inspecting.

We are usually informed of any issues by DAERA or Newry Mourne and Down Council.

We meet regularly with commercial and recreational fishermen and town dock users to remind them of our collective responsibilities to the Lough so; while we can't give any direct assurances as we do not have the authority to do so; we would always encourage anyone who has particular concerns to let us know via the onboard email so we can pass them on to relevant agencies.

How many telecommunications masts are situated on or around the Port (within 1mile) that are part of the planned 5G infrastructure network and where are they situated?

The Port does not have this information as it does not know what the telecommunications infrastructure is

within one mile of the Port. What it does know is that the Port has one mast on site which has been there for around 20 years and enables most of the people in Warrenpoint to avail of Northern network phone signal instead of Southern signal and higher charges from across the Lough.

Is the Port in any consultation in relation to establishing a SMR (Small Nuclear Reactor Plant) in Warrenpoint or in its surrounds? If so, with whom, what has been proposed and what has been agreed and how has any impact assessment been carried out?

Direct answer from Chairman during the AGM- 'I can answer this one very quickly to say that I (Dr Gerard O Hare) am born and reared in this area. I look at this Lough every day and I see it as a fabulous resource in my home area.

'The nuclear industry is just not something that would ever be investigated for the Port while I am Chairman. I hope that Keep It Green and any other bodies that wish to raise the potential for nuclear industry activity in the Port, will categorically hear on record today from the Port that it is not even within the Port's current or future considerations, nor will it ever be while I am Chairman and David Holmes is CEO.'

Does the port have a Flight Restriction Zone when it comes to Drones?

Yes, anyone wishing to operate a drone over the Port needs to request permission and provide a drone operator's licence if approved.



THROUGH THE PORT HOLE



Visual Softening

Further screening has been undertaken at the C02 terminal with gabions now in place on the Lough side to further soften the visual aspect.



Tree Planting

In 2021 to date we have planted an additional 100 trees at the Port. Pictured our members of our team planting the trees.



New Contracts

We would like to congratulate team members Mark Smith (left) and James Cunningham (right) on their permanent appointments with the Port. Mark joined the Port as a Higher-Level Apprenticeship Accountancy student and he now has a permanent role as an Accounts Technician. James joined the Port as an Engineering Placement Student, and he has now been appointed as a Junior Harbour Engineer. Congratulations Mark and James from all your colleagues and best of luck in your new careers here at the Port.



Seatruck

Check out this stunning picture by Jason Ruddy of Seatruck Precision arriving into Warrenpoint during the recent spell of good weather.



New Reach Stacker

The Port recently took delivery of its New Reach Stacker. This vital piece of Port plant lifts containers on and off of lorries and stacks them four containers high. They can transport containers short distances, very quickly and stack them in rows. Do you know that a Reach Stacker has a load capacity of up to 45 tons?

Our team are delighted with this new piece of plant which will support container vessel work at the Port.

PORT ROUND UP

New Website

The Port has responded to community feedback to say our website is difficult to navigate. We are now engaged in a programme of designing and building a new website. We look forward to taking this live in the coming weeks.

Remembering Our Colleague Kevin

On Friday 16th July colleagues gathered to remember and mark the 2nd anniversary of our esteemed colleague Kevin McGeough RIP. A minute's silence was held, and flowers were laid at Kevin's tree at the entrance to the Port. Kevin will never be forgotten by his friends and team mates here at Warrenpoint Port.

Maritime Safety Week

From 5-9th July we marked Maritime Safety Week at the port with a variety of safety reminders and updates including having our Speed monitoring team out on site.

International Seafarers Day

On 25th June we marked International Seafarers Day paying tribute to approximately 1.6m seafarers across the world including those who visit Warrenpoint Port. See page 2 for more information about Seafarers.

Litter pick

As part of the 'Big Spring Clean' the team at the Port carried out a litter pick from Narrow Water down to the front shore. 27 bags of rubbish and a number of oversized items were collected. Thank you to all our team who took part.

