



ON BOARD

AUTUMN 2021 | EDITION 4

A WORD FROM THE CEO



Welcome to our autumn edition of 'On Board' where we bring you all the news and views from Warrenpoint Port. Time marches on but we continue to be unclear about the final out-workings of Brexit. We continue to see strong demand across all sectors, albeit less so in the last quarter.

We have added seven new members to our team and would like to welcome all of them on board. We hope they have an enjoyable and fulfilling career with Warrenpoint Port. We were also delighted to take eight of our team of casual operatives onto fixed contracts. You can read about this on page 9.

In this edition we celebrate 25 years' of Seatruck in Warrenpoint. You can read more about this in an interview with Seatruck CEO Alistair Eagles on page 2.

We are also delighted to reflect on recent investment in the Port over the past 24 months with more than £3 million invested back into the Port facilities.

On page 8 we highlight the launch of our Christmas Community Fund which has received widespread support from our team, our Port users, and our customers again this year.

This year we hope to make it even bigger and better. Thank you to those who have contributed into the fund to date including Seatruck, Cronus Logistics, Nippon Gases, ReGen, Barrett Steel and Armagh Logistics,

Carlingford Lough Commission, Seaforde Metals, Point Shipping, Mannok Holdings, Barry Haulage, King Communication, and members of our own team.

You can log onto our website for further details about how to apply. In addition to our Community Fund, we have supported Southern Area Hospice's Christmas Card appeal this year. Please check out our social media for details on where you can buy cards and support this very important local service.

We were pleased that after quite some time and effort we were finally able to bring the Greencastle Barge issue to a resolution and you can read about this on page 4.

We were deeply saddened last week to be informed of the passing of our former Board member Councillor Sean Doran who was instrumental in bringing the abandoned barge to a resolution. We offer our condolences again to Sean's family, friends and colleagues.

Finally, since it is our last publication of the year, I would like to thank you all for your support in 2021. It has been a difficult year for many people and many businesses. The Port continues to try to continuously improve not least for our team, but for our port users and in the community. We are very optimistic for the future and look forward to continuing to stay safe and trade well in 2022.

David Holmes, CEO, Warrenpoint Port



INTERVIEW



Alistair Eagles CEO Seatruck

Seatruck, one of Warrenpoint Port's key clients recently celebrated 25 years' of sailing between Heysham and Warrenpoint. In this edition we want to celebrate this fantastic milestone by profiling some of the past, present and future of Seatruck's long association with Warrenpoint and the Port.

We caught up with Alistair Eagles CEO to chat about Seatruck and its plans for the future.

Alistair, Seatruck has been sailing between Warrenpoint and Heysham for 25 years.

How did this come about?

A group of us got together to start Seatruck Ferries, some of us previously worked for another ferry operator Merchant Ferries who had left Warrenpoint the year before when they moved their operation to Dublin.

Seatruck commenced operations in 1996 with a single vessel the MV Bolero. The first week we moved just 60 trailers after a challenging start. Today we move 6,500 units per week which represents about 18% of the Irish Sea trade.

When did you get involved in the business?

I have been with Seatruck since the start, I first came to Warrenpoint in 1991 as a student placement when working for Merchant Ferries.

How important is the Warrenpoint route to your business?

Warrenpoint has always been closely associated with Seatruck, it's where we started and is a key part of our route network. Post BREXIT volumes have increased, and we are having our busiest ever year in the Port.

Has the type of cargo changed over the 25 years?

When Seatruck started the majority of freight traffic was moving driver accompanied on the short sea routes from Loch Ryan in Scotland and Holyhead in Wales. Today by far the majority of traffic is moving on a trailer only unaccompanied basis. Traffic has also migrated to longer sea crossings from Heysham and Liverpool which not only reduce road mileage but also reduce emissions. Driver shortages further add to the advantages of unaccompanied long sea routes. This is what Seatruck specialise in.

How has Seatruck been impacted by Covid-19?

During the peak of the virus freight volumes dropped by almost 50%. However, volume bounced back quickly. We have had to take measures on the ships such as not sharing cabins for drivers.

What are the plans for the future?

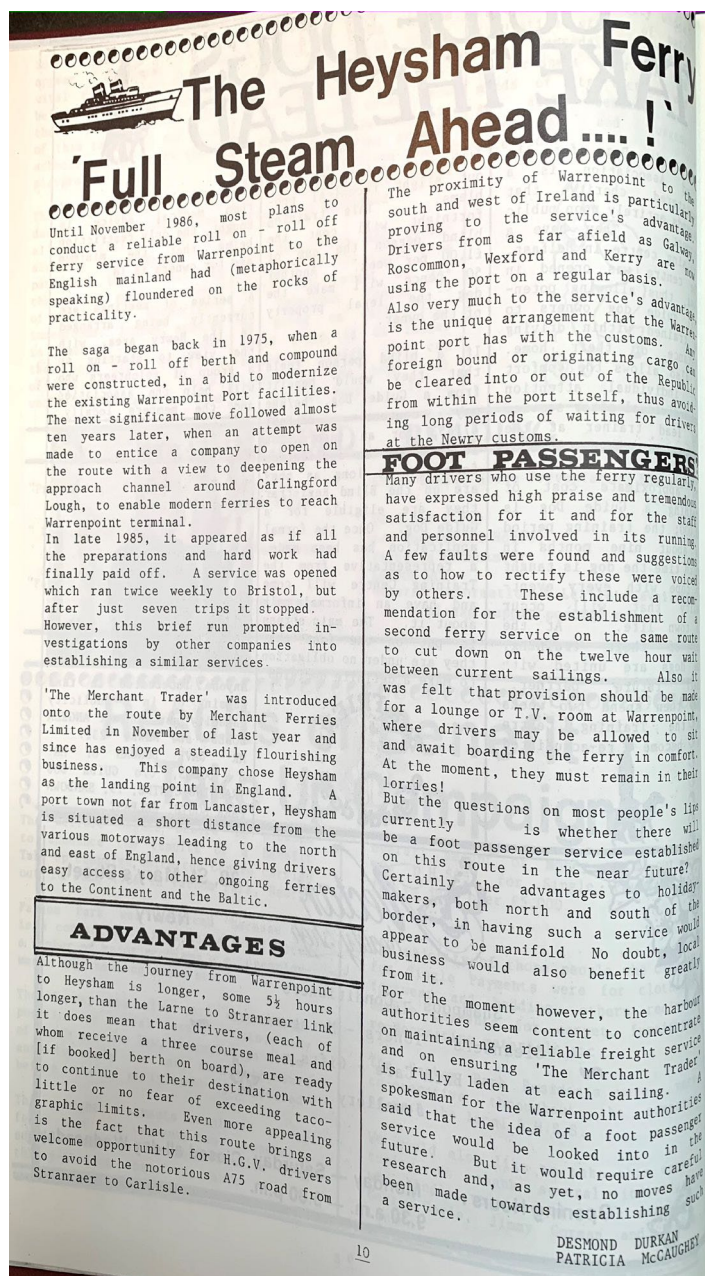
To develop and further grow our 'freight only' model. Watch this space!



HISTORY

In keeping with our theme of celebrating 25 years of Seatruck we were delighted to come across this piece, thanks to local historian Michael McKeown in the magazine 'Brass Tacks'.

This outlines the history of the first sailing of Seatruck.



INVESTMENT

As we approach the end of 2021 the Port has been reflecting of the level of investment in the organisation over the last couple of years. A number of the commitments outlined in the Port Masterplan have now been realised despite the challenges of Brexit and Covid. We are delighted that three years' into the Masterplan we have realised the goal to restructure the site creating more than six acres of additional space by better utilising the former Gilbert Ash' site and disposing of redundant buildings. We have created a new internal road layout which is safer and also supports a more efficient use of space. We have created a new administrative space on the edge of Warrenpoint Square at the Town Dock offices.

The Port has also invested in a new site safety system which will streamline safe access to the site and to services including the weighbridge. The Port has also, with support from Department of Infrastructure, delivered Covid recovery measures with investment in new machinery including a new Reach Stacker and a new Volvo Shovel.

A Trust Port must invest all its profits back into the organisation. There are no shareholders or owners. We are proud of the investment that the Port has made in the site, and we hope to continue to grow and realise additional investment in the months and years ahead.



ABANDONED STEEL BARGE SUCCESSFULLY REMOVED FROM GREENCASTLE



An abandoned steel barge which had been part of a marine survey project up to ten years ago has been dismantled and removed from a local beauty spot at Greencastle, County Down.

The barge was brought to the attention of several organisations including Warrenpoint Port and The Carlingford Lough Commission (CLC) by local Councillor Sean Doran RIP, to see if anything could be done.

There were a number of concerns about its location including that it blocked farmers entry to their land and that it could cut loose from its moorings and cause a shipping hazard in the Lough.

The biggest concern, however, was that the barge changed its position every high tide and was destroying the area and impacting on the natural habitat of small sea creatures. People had also been spotted diving off it

over the summer, putting themselves at risk of serious injury.

Several concerned organisations came together to identify the ownership and seek to have the barge removed. Over a period of several months, negotiations led by Warrenpoint Port were undertaken when the actual ownership could not be established. Eventually it was agreed that in the local interest, the various bodies would contribute into a fund to pay for it to be dismantled.

David Holmes, CEO Warrenpoint Port said, "We were delighted to help bring resolution to this abandoned barge. This was brought to our attention last year by Cllr Doran and we were surprised it had been abandoned there for so long. While it does not fall directly under our remit, we have a responsibility as a conservator of the Lough. Our team secured it in the short term, but we were concerned about the potential long term ecological damage and potential safety risk. We worked

together with CLC and Greenore Port to secure a contractor who could safely dismantle the barge in a way that would not impact on the local environment.

"The work took approximately ten days with supervision to ensure that there was no environmental damage. Equipment was kept at hand in case of any pollution risk. The barge, however, was dismantled without incident.

"We would like to thank all those involved in bringing this to a safe and hazard free conclusion. It shows the value of local people and organisations working together to protect our area, our businesses, and our people."

Roy Teggarty, Chairman CLC added, "CLC is delighted to be involved in the removal of this barge and provided the space to allow this to happen."

QUARTERLY UPDATE

Warrenpoint Port endeavours to host a quarterly update with all locally elected representatives. The aim of this is to update them on what is happening at the Port in case they have any queries for constituents. It is also an opportunity for representatives to feed back to the Port anything of relevance in the local community.

This quarter due to the inability to reach a quorum of attendees, the Port issued a written update to elected representatives. Details of which are outlined below. It is hoped that the group will be able to meet in person or virtually again before the end of the calendar year.

The Port highlighted its recent work in the community:

- Hosted Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning on 24th September.
- The team also supported Ulster Bank Warrenpoint's effort for the same organisation.
- Supported the Hiking Hens recently with their Charity Challenge for Southern Area Hospice Services.
- Sponsored Southern Area Hospice Services Christmas Card appeal. The cards will be available to buy from November, directly supporting the work of SAHS.
- Along with our customer Seatruck, sponsored the Education Authority's Summer Splash activities to teach young people about water safety.
- Brought the abandoned steel barge at Greencastle to a resolution.
- The CEO recently visited the Lower Shore in Omeath to observe the screening of the CO2 plant and the new gabions. We will continue to keep an open and clear line of communication with our neighbours across the Lough.

Community- looking forward:

We have initiated a project to establish pollination friendly spaces around the Town Dock. We are hoping, with the support of Men's Sheds, Cabbage Patchers and Head Injury Support, to build large planters which we will place around the Town Dock and plant out (at the appropriate times) with pollinator friendly planting.

We also highlighted the launch of the Community Christmas Fund.

Port Operations:

Concerns:

We have had one enquiry recently in relation to dust. This was not followed through by the local resident, but we will continue to answer any questions issued directly from identifiable members of the public and elected representatives.





UPDATE ON TRADING



It has been another extremely busy quarter for the Port. Despite the rising cost of commodities, we continue to see growth and demand in both the import and export sectors. The RoRo 'unaccompanied loads' service continues to trade well but it is not experiencing as high a level of demand as it had in the first half of the year.

The Seatruck service celebrated 25 years on the Heysham to Warrenpoint route recently and we will have marked this in 'On Board'.

We have had an increase in demand for employees. We recently embarked on a recruitment campaign which

culminated in an extremely successful recruitment evening. We took on seven new employees and moved eight of our casual pool of operatives to fixed contacts. This will support Port operations going forward. We also worked with Union representatives to agree new terms and conditions for our team.

We were delighted to be informed by the Department for Infrastructure of two new appointments of non-executive Directors to the Board of Warrenpoint Port. Richard Johnston, Economist has been reappointed for a second term and Fiona Hanna, a Chartered Accountant has been appointed for her first term in office. I am sure you will join us in welcoming them to the Board.

BOARD UPDATE

Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon recently announced the appointment of two Non Executive Members to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (WHA).

Minister Mallon said “I am pleased to announce a first term appointment for Fiona Hanna and a second term appointment for Richard Johnston.

“The Port has ambitious development plans which will provide support as it recovers from the pandemic and takes advantage new of opportunities, as well as supporting the local economy and providing opportunities for growth. The Port will also have a focus on working with stakeholders and partners in bringing forward important strategic projects such as the Narrow Water Bridge and the Southern Relief Road. I am confident that the experience Fiona and Richard bring, will be of considerable value to the Board in the years ahead”.

The appointments took effect from 1 August 2021 and will be for a maximum of four years.

The appointments have been made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland’s Code of Practice.



Richard Johnston is an Economist who has held a wide range of roles in the public, private, academic and charitable sectors. Richard’s work focuses on growing the economy, boosting competitiveness and the inclusion of all groups throughout NI. He is currently a member of the Department for Economy’s Ministerial Economic Advisory Group, a Trustee of the Inspire Business Centre and he was a member of the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Infrastructure. These positions are not remunerated. Richard was first appointed to the WHA in November 2016.



Fiona Hanna is a Chartered Accountant with a range of experience across finance and business including a number of positions as an independent advisor and a nonexecutive director. Currently Fiona’s primary role is jointly running an arable farming enterprise in South County Down, managing this alongside her advisory portfolio. Fiona is a Board Member of Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute and a member of the Northern Ireland Food Advisory Committee of the Food Standards Agency.

The Board, Management and Team at Warrenpoint Port were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Councillor Sean Doran.

Sean was an esteemed member of our Harbour Authority Board from 2015-2020 and a member of the Carlingford Lough Commission. Sean was the driver behind the project to remove the abandoned steel barge at Greencastle earlier this year.



Participants on the Summer Splash Programme.

SUMMER SPLASH ACTIVITY

Warrenpoint Port and its customer Seatruck Ferries Ltd were delighted to sponsor and support the local youth initiative - 'Summer Splash'. This was a respect the water summer intervention programme. The young people got to learn about water safety, took part in a beach clean and water based activities as well as a graffiti art project on the breakwater. Our Finance Manager, local lady, Sharon Davis coordinated our involvement; and our Harbourmaster facilitated some of the activities. Well done to all involved and the young people who took part.

PORT ON POINT FOR SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FUND

This week Warrenpoint Port launched its second annual Community Christmas Fund to support local causes. The fund has already this year raised more than £10,000 through the generosity of port users, agents, and customers.

Last year the fund aimed to spread festive cheer in the local community in the midst of the pandemic. This year, it is hoped that the fund will go to support local charities and organisations to improve the health, wellbeing, or environment of people, animals, or a location, within a 15-mile radius of the Port.

David Holmes, CEO Warrenpoint Port said, "We are delighted to once again be hosting a community fund this Christmas. We are not through this pandemic yet and many people are still suffering the effects of Covid-19.

"We hope that as many organisations as possible will apply for the funding and that we will be able to help as many causes as possible. Last year we were able to support 23 organisations, as diverse as playgroups, charities, sporting organisations and community groups.

"We cannot host a fund like this without the generous support of our Port stakeholders. We would particularly like to thank those who have contributed into the fund to date including Seatruck, Cronus Logistics,

Nippon Gases, ReGen, Barrett Steel and Armagh Logistics, Carlingford Lough Commission, Seaforde Metals, Point Shipping, Mannok Holdings, Barry Haulage, King Communication and members of our own team."

David Holmes continued, "It has been a difficult year for many people. Our team has gone above and beyond as frontline workers in a particularly busy year for the Port. We are delighted that we have an opportunity to give back to the community where most of our team live. If we can even make a small difference to the organisations trying to improve our health, wellbeing, and environment locally, we will be delighted."

Applications for the Community Fund are now open via warrenpointport.com. The Fund will close on Friday 10th December with the announcement of recipients made during the week commencing 13th December 2021. To apply you must complete the short application form outlining how much your organisation would like to apply for up to £500, (although projects over this amount will be considered); and how your project will help to improve the health, wellbeing, or environment of people, animals, or a location, within a 15-mile radius of the Port. All funds must be utilised by 31st January 2022.

If you do not have access to online to apply, you can call 028 41773381 for a paper application form.



Members of the Warrenpoint Port team are pictured getting into the festive spirit at the launch of the Community Christmas Fund.



MEET OUR TEAM

We have recently had a number of new people join our team and we would like to formally introduce them. Welcome to the team John Heeney, John Baird, Mark Murphy, Joshua Collins, Jonathan Martin, Martynas Valantinas and Mark Sloan. We were also delighted to move eight of our pool of casual operatives who play an important role in the port, to fixed contracts. Congratulations to Paddy Savage, Ryan McIlroy, Robin Ward, Michael Carr, Albert Swierczynski, Gary Davis, Seamus Fitzpatrick and Shane Higgins .



John Heeney



John Baird



Mark Murphy



Joshua Collins



Jonathan Martin



Seamus Fitzpatrick

RECENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

RDF

In October Warrenpoint Port was made aware of reports on social media in relation to the RDF (refuse derived fuel) and SRF (solids recovered fuel) currently queuing for shipping to their recycling destinations stored at the site.

RDF and SRF are made from non-organic waste diverted from local landfill sites and used to generate electricity, heat and other forms of energy in place of fossil fuels.

The level of RDF and SRF held on site is tightly controlled by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and subject to fluctuation. At all times the quantity must be within the prescribed licenced limits, and it is subject to routine statutory agency inspection. We carried out a visual site inspection at the time and we were satisfied with the condition.

Warrenpoint Port contacted our tenant Regen to pass on the specific questions we had received and Regen has responded to these.

Vessel in the Lough

While there were no enquiries about it, Warrenpoint Port thought it was important to let people know why there was a vessel anchored in the Lough earlier this month for a couple of nights. Did you know that there are a number of safe anchorage points in the Lough to use when the Port is busy or when a vessel has to be moved to make way for other Port traffic?

This particular vessel was berthed in Warrenpoint Port but it has had some technical difficulties, so it needed to be moved to a suitable location for maintenance and possibly repair. While awaiting instruction on its berthing schedule, it sat at a safe anchorage point in the Lough with the agreement of the Vessel Master and the Harbour Master. This allows for continued flow of other vessels to the Port. It was towed as a precaution after a couple of days and is currently in the process of undergoing maintenance in Dun Laoghaire Port.

The Gut

A complaint was made to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in relation to the area known as 'The Gut' - close to Narrow Water Keep. The complainant was concerned that there was a depositing of waste material at the area. This was taken very seriously by Warrenpoint Port, and we immediately complied with the requirement for investigation by Officers from the NIEA ECU.

Please see below the response from NIEA which thankfully reported nothing of concern.

"During a number of site inspections by ECU Officers noted that there was some waste in the form of construction and demolition waste, however this was relatively minor and there was no evidence of any serious or organised waste offending having been carried out on the site.

"The redevelopment of the site by WHA and the construction of the "bund" at the eastern end of the Gut was found to have been carried out by the developers in compliance with the planning application granted at that time.

"Having looked at the photographic material provided to the ECU and carried out an assessment on the proportionality of carrying out an intrusive survey of the site and potential impact on both the local environment and birdlife, by such a survey; it has been decided that there will be no further action on the part of the ECU and the complaints will be closed."



THROUGH THE PORTHOLE



Refer a Friend Scheme

Do you know that if you work at Warrenpoint Port you can 'Introduce Family/Friend' for a role and if they stay for six months, you will be rewarded?

Check out our latest recipients: Ian Murphy who helped to recruit Darren Murphy and Robin Ward who helped to recruit Michael Carr. Welcome to the team!



Seatruck Imagery

Local photographer Jason Ruddy continues to take the most stunning photos of the Seatruck sailing up and down the Lough. We couldn't help but share another one.



Farewell Captain Steve

The team at Warrenpoint Port was saddened to learn that Capt. Steve Cheeseman from Seatruck Ferries is moving on to a new role in the coming weeks. Captain Steve's photos, videos and posts of his almost daily voyage on Carlingford Lough have been a source of great enjoyment for many of us in the Port and locally. We wanted to mark the occasion by getting one of Capt. Steve's own stunning images of Haulbowline Lighthouse printed and framed so he will never forget Carlingford Lough. The Harbour Master, Michael Young, Deputy Master Micheal Murtagh and Finance Manager Sharon Davis from Warrenpoint Port went on board Seatruck to make the presentation.



Tommy Retirement

The entire team at Warrenpoint Port would like to wish our valued colleague Tommy Keenan all the very best on his retirement. Tommy has been an important part of the team for over 15 years and he will be greatly missed by all his colleagues. Tommy is pictured with CEO David Holmes after being presented with a gift on behalf of the team. Enjoy your retirement Tommy!

PORT ROUNDUP



New Terms and Conditions

The Team at Warrenpoint Port was pleased to work together with its employees to agree new 'Terms and Conditions' for the team. These, it is hoped will offer an opportunity for higher rates of pay for team members while making the Port more agile with flexibility on working hours and shift patterns. Paramount in this is the Port's ability and commitment to deliver on its world class service concept.



Southern Area Hospice Christmas Cards

Warrenpoint Port is a sponsor of this year's Southern Area Hospice's Christmas Card Campaign. Southern Area Hospice touches so many of our lives and it is great to be able to support the vital work of the Hospice, through this important campaign. If you would like to purchase Hospice charity cards please go to the Southern Area Hospice website. Pictured are Warrenpoint Port team members Sam Stoop, Gerard Poland, Ashlene Patterson and Ross Patterson at the Christmas Cards campaign launch.



MacMillan Coffee Morning

In September the Warrenpoint Port team was delighted to support the 'Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning 2021'. All colleagues and Port Users were provided with breakfast baps during their morning break. As we can't yet gather as a full team, the breakfasts were distributed across the canteens and breakout areas. The CEO also provided everyone with cakes and buns to take home to enjoy with their families.

Donation boxes were left in each canteen, and with the Port doubling the collection, over a £1000 will be going directly to Macmillan.



Hiking Hens

Warrenpoint Port was delighted to support Warrenpoint Port was absolutely delighted to support the Hiking Hens with their charity challenge recently. This fabulous group of female hill walkers and hikers organised a 'Hen Hike' challenge in aid of Southern Area Hospice. The walk which took place on Sunday 19th September took the ladies on the Mourne Way from Spelga Dam to Kilbroney Park in Rostrevor. Warrenpoint Port provided well deserved medals for each of the walkers. The Port's Project Manager Kerri Farrell was on hand to present the medal and congratulate each of the walkers. Well done Hiking Hens from all at Warrenpoint Port.



Christmas at the Port

We may be curtailed in terms of ability to celebrate this Christmas with the ongoing threat of Covid -19. This however, won't stop the Port team from adding a bit of festive cheer. The famous waving Santa will be in place from the end of November, and he may have a few friends joining him this year. Keep your eyes peeled...The Port team will also be hosting 12 Days of Christmas with 12 days of fun, socially distanced activities and events for the team in the run up to Christmas.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and healthy Christmas from all the team at Warrenpoint Port.