



ON BOARD

SPRING 2022

A WORD FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the spring edition of On Board. This is the first edition of 2022 and one which is tinged with sadness as we watch in disbelief at the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Our hearts go out to the Ukrainian people, and we hope this situation will be brought to a peaceful resolution as soon as possible.

Closer to home we had a slower than usual start to the year with a relatively quiet January and February. Trade has now picked up and we recorded a particularly busy March. This is the seasonal and cyclical nature of shipping to and from an island economy. We believe these peaks and troughs may go on for some time as we all continue to battle with the rising cost of living; and the increasing cost of core commodities for the port including animal feeds, timber and steel; and the general uncertainty in the global economy.

On a more positive note, we closed off our Community Fund early in the New Year with more than £22,000 donated to 43 different local organisations. You can read more about this on page 5 of On Board. We are delighted to still be receiving photos from organisations utilising the funds, which we are sharing on our social media pages.

This spring we have teamed up with Warrenpoint Men's Sheds and The Cabbage Patchers as part of our 'Spring into Action' initiative. We hope to brighten up the Town Dock area with large planters which we hope will attract pollinators. We are erecting birdbox feeders around the site, planting more trees and we will be organising a Big Spring Clean in May. You can read more about this in our summer issue and on our social media. Hopefully you will also be able to view our new, updated website which is due to be online in May.

Finally, we celebrated some milestone anniversaries this quarter. We will have some photographs in our summer edition, but I would like to highlight, in particular, David Clements who has been with the Port for 45 years, which is phenomenal. We also have four team members with more than 25 years' service- Ben Houston- 27 years, Ian Murphy- 27 years, Ashlene Kielt-



25 years and Andy McMahon, a casual team member who has been at the Port for 32 years.

Congratulations and thank you to these very valuable team members who have such a wealth of experience and no doubt many stories to tell. You can read more about David's story on page 8 where he reflects on the changes at the Port over the years.

David Holmes, CEO, Warrenpoint Port



MEET OUR AGENTS

Did you know that most of the freight vessels that come in and out of Warrenpoint Port are organised through Shipping Agents?

Agents are a bit like travel agents but for freight. We are lucky to have five Shipping Agent companies based at Warrenpoint Port. Here you can meet them.



AMA

We caught up with Frank Heatley and Eugene Kinney from AMA Ltd (Anley Maritime Agents).

Frank has been at Warrenpoint Port for 38 years now and is responsible for shipping many commodities as varied as granite, grain, timber, steel, ro/ro and lo/lo. Frank and Eugene see the most interesting part of the job as the satisfaction you achieve from servicing efficiently the many and varied needs of local industry. That could be road haulage, the timber industry or the steel merchants. The team at AMA also really enjoy the people side of things, dealing with people right across Ireland, the UK and internationally. It has its rewards and moments of enjoyment and satisfaction. You can also see from their photo that they enjoy the bit of craic too.



Armagh Logistics Ltd

Armagh Logistics is another name long associated with Warrenpoint Port. Established in 2002 by Noel McParland and Ann Toner, the business is now run by Noel's son John McParland. Noel had worked at the Port in various companies before establishing Armagh Logistics, with almost 60 years' onsite in total.

This family affair has now passed onto the second generation with key commodities including steel products, RDF (refuse derived fuel), SRF (solid recovered fuel), fertiliser, telegraph poles, timber, project cargo, coal and it hopes to see a return of their cruise vessel business.

John's favourite part of the role is the variety it brings and the people that you work with on a day to day basis.



Mourne Shipping Service

Mourne Shipping Service has another long history of association with Warrenpoint Port. Declan Gormley has been working at the Port since 1986. We chatted to Declan to find out more about his background and how Mourne Shipping was established.

From 1986 to 1989 Declan was working for Jenkinson Freight Ltd who were the agents for a fortnightly container service which called at ports on the Mediterranean. He then moved to Cawoods working there until 1995; predominately looking after coal vessels for Fisher Fuels in Newry and Quinn Cement [now Mannok] in Derrylin. Declan remained with Cawoods after its privatisation until 1999 before setting up Mourne Shipping Services Ltd.

Timber, steel, scrap metal and bulk products are key commodities for Mourne Shipping Services. No two days are ever the same for Declan and that's the way he likes it. The working of the vessels and the movement of the various cargoes keep him and the team busy. The highlight for Declan is the good friendships established throughout the years with the Port employees.



Point Shipping Services Ltd.

Point Shipping Services is another well known name around the Port and the Warrenpoint area. On Board chatted to Mark O'Hare to find out more about the business.

Point Shipping Services started in 2014. It is another agent with a well-established client and vessel list. Key commodities for Point Shipping include vessels carrying grain, timber, cement, scrap metal, CO2, RDF and SRF bales, peat, fertiliser, and stone.

For Mark and the team, the most enjoyable part of the job is working with a varied range of clients, vessel owners and ship crews from a multitude of nationalities. Every day brings new issues to resolve and opportunities to develop.



Jenkins Shipping

We also got chatting to Jenkins Shipping on our rounds. We spoke to Stephen Parish, the Ship's Agent who told us that Jenkins Shipping's history at Warrenpoint Port dates back to 1979. This busy company deal with a wide range of commodities to suit its customer's needs but specialize in forestry products.

Stephen has had the same experience as the other agents with no two days being the same and each day posing its own unique challenges and opportunities. Stephen enjoys that they have the pleasure of meeting crew and operators from nationalities from across the world, sharing stories and experiences of their time in the maritime business.



COMMUNITY FUND ROUNDUP

Warrenpoint Port was delighted to put back more than £22,000 into the local community supporting 43 different organisations with everything from bike safety for nursery children and projector screens for youth clubs; through to afternoon tea for older citizens and equipment for sports clubs. We could not have done this without the support of our very generous customers, Port users, our own team. In January we hosted a thank you event with contributors and some of the recipients coming together to celebrate the success of the fund. Over the past number of weeks recipients have been sending us pictures of how they have utilised the funding.



QUARTERLY UPDATE

On January 26th Warrenpoint Port invited the locally elected representatives (MLAs/ Councillors) in the area to attend a quarterly roundup. Due to other commitment apologies were received from a number of invited attendees. Councillors Michael Ruane and Declan McAteer were in attendance.

The Councillors were given an update on Port performance for 2021. Full details of this can be found on page 7.

David Holmes CEO went on to provide an update on Brexit- with no further guidance available on the final outcome and the impact on the Port.

The Councillors were then given an update on the outcomes of the Community Christmas Campaign. Details of which can be found on page 5.

David Holmes briefed the Councillors on some of the other activities at the Port in recent months including the 12 Days of Christmas activity and the forthcoming updates to the website. The new website will be available in the coming weeks.

The team also highlighted a response to an enquiry in relation to dredging - details of which can be found on page 12.

Community Fund Recipients

Below we have published a full list of the recipients of the Warrenpoint Port Community Fund and team fundraising efforts in 2021.

- Rascal N Ruffians Play School, Ballyholland
- Autism NI
- MACS Supporting Children and Young People
- Women's Aid Armagh Down
- Southern Area Hospice Services
- Warrenpoint Men's Shed
- Caring Coins Association

- Kilbroney Integrated Primary School
- Warren Art Group
- Ballyholland Sunshine Club
- Newry & Mourne MS Community Therapy Centre Ltd
- Play Time Rostrevor
- PIN [People In Need]
- Cumann Pheadair Naofa / St Peters GAA Warrenpoint
- Newry Rugby Club
- St Louis Grammar School
- Hiking Hens
- Action Mental Health New Horizons Newry and Mourne
- Carlingford Lough Currach Club
- St Bronagh's Youth Club
- Friends of St Dallan's
- Barcroft Community Association
- Burren Townland Walk & Run
- Burren Community Forum
- Dromore Road Primary School
- Warrenpoint Presbyterian Church Sunday School
- Warrenpoint Town FC Youth
- The Gray Family
- The Cabbage Patchers
- The Happiness Cafes
- Puzzles Playgroup
- Omeath Action Volunteer Group
- Community Centre for Warrenpoint Group
- Point Camera Club
- Head Injury Support
- Clonduff Hurling
- Daisy Hill Hospital
- Lislea Drama Festival
- Newry Rowing Club
- Warrenpoint Bowling Club
- Carrick pre-school
- RNLI
- Macmillan Cancer Care

UPDATE ON TRADING



Warrenpoint Port recently released details about its performance for year ending 31st Dec. 2021.

In a year which brought exceptional challenges, not least in relation to Covid-19 and Brexit, the Port continued to experience unprecedented demand. In 2021 overall tonnage was up 12.6% compared to 2020, with vessel calls up more than 14% and containers up more than 16%.

This has come on the back of 2020 being an extraordinary year, with Covid driving a 20% reduction in volume on 2019 in the first half of the year. As restrictions eased, there was a significant, concerted effort in the second half of the year, to reduce this deficit to (-4.2%) on 2019 volume.

Warrenpoint Port now handles circa 12% of Northern Ireland's port activity, with 51% export and 49% import in 2021. This is a shift for the Port over the last two years as historically it would have been a net importer.

David Holmes, CEO Warrenpoint Port said, "2021 was another extremely challenging year. Our team were tested to the limits in terms of Covid-19 and in delivering to meet demand throughout the restrictions. We would like to thank our team for all their efforts.

"We recorded a tremendous year with Warrenpoint Port really delivering as an economic driver for the region

and offering resilience in the regional infrastructure network outside of Belfast. The Port has put more than £10m GVA back into the local economy in the last 12 months. With a recruitment drive in 2021 the fulltime team has increased to more than 70 and indirectly generates more than 400 additional jobs through Port activities."

David Holmes continued, "All commodities and formats showed strong favourable growth while support from Department of Infrastructure in 2021 allowed the Port to invest in Covid safety measures and equipment. This greatly benefited the productivity capacity at the site during the pandemic."

In 2021, the Port continued its investment in and outreach to the local community. It hosted a Big Spring Litter Pick, supported local initiatives including a water safety campaign for young people and a fundraising activity for local walking group, the Hiking Hens. The Port hosted its second annual Community Christmas Fund, raising more than £22,000 which has been distributed to 43 different local organisations. This brings the total raised over the last two years to more than £34,000. The Port continues to drive its 'open door' policy with quarterly community ezines called 'On Board' and quarterly meetings with locally elected representatives.

HISTORY



people in any role who can say they are into their 45th year with an organisation. At Warrenpoint Port we are delighted that this year David Clements, our silo manager can add that accolade to his CV as he celebrates 45 years with the Port.

The On Board team caught up with David to chat about how things have changed over the years.

"I started with the Port back in 1977. I came in as a clerk- a role which doesn't really exist anymore. I was effectively a 'junior' coming straight from school after my O-Levels. I spent a good bit of time in those early days making tea for the Chairman of the Board at the time, Archie Shields.

I joined only a few years after the Port became Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. We had a lot of guys in those early days came down from the Port in Newry to work here. Barney Maguire was the Foreman and Denis Mahon was the silo manager at the time.

I went on to work at the silo office shortly after I joined- maybe when they discovered I wasn't great at making tea!

We only had eight silos at the time, there were no sheds. I've seen major changes over the years with the introduction of dedicated silo sheds with shed 8

There are many of the team at the Port who have been there for a long time and continue to make a very valuable contribution.

There are, however, not too many

being the first grain store and then shed 4 which is multipurpose, but now only houses grain due to the volume we take in.

Back then there were no computers or mobile phones at the Port, everything was done on paper. While there was a lot more work involved in managing all the paper, things were much simpler. There were less rules or less red tape. We now have so many things to contend with and computers can only do so much. It felt less busy and pressurised years ago but maybe that was just because I was younger.

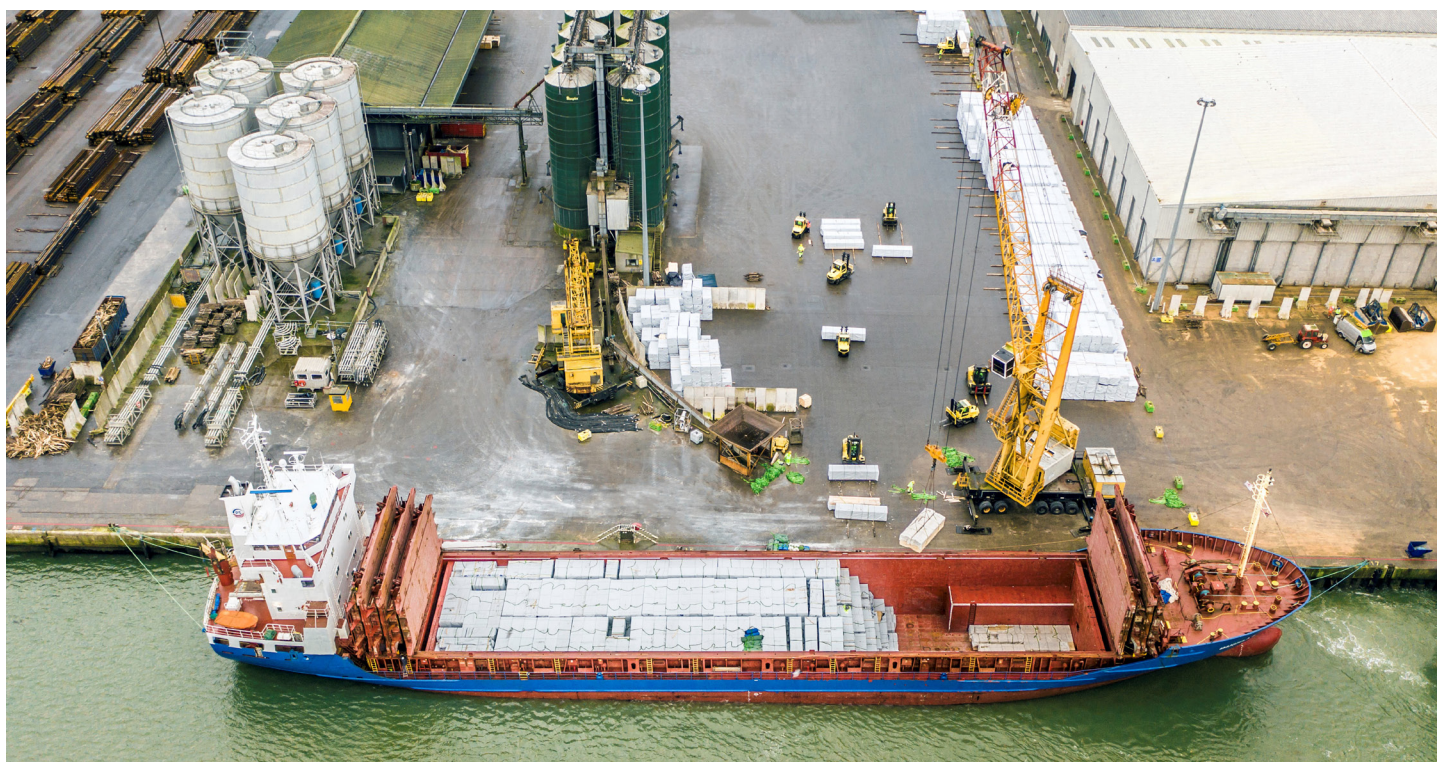
Computers were a natural progression but one of the most positive steps for me to watch over the years, was the increase in machinery. There was a time when the Port only had two big Liebherr cranes on rails and two fixed cranes for the daily coal boats that came in. There was one small hydraulic crane to work the grain boat and a small mobile crane, that was really it. Now we have reach stackers nearly as big as those early cranes. The machinery and its capability is phenomenal.

Another big change that I have seen is the size of the vessels. It used to be the norm to see small 1,000 tonne coal boats and up to 3,000 tonne container boats in the Port. We can now accommodate vessels up to 13,000 tonne which is a big difference, more than four times the size of the largest ones forty years ago.

I spent a little bit of time working the weighbridge at one stage but then settled back in my preferred space- the silo; where I became the silo manager, responsible for managing and weighing all the product that comes in and out of the sheds. I still enjoy coming to work every day and hope I will for some time to come.

Change and progress are good things and I hope to continue to see and be part of much more of it here at the Port in the future.

PORT RECORDS LARGEST EVER TIMBER CONSIGNMENT



As the Port approached the New Year, the team closed off 2021 on a real high note with the largest volume of timber ever recorded in one shipment to Warrenpoint.

The vessel – the ‘Manuela S’ was managed by Mourne Shipping Services on behalf of their customer Forestwood. Forestwood, one of the Port’s longest established customers has been using Warrenpoint since 1990 and for more than 30 years has managed their business through Mourne Shipping Services. You can find out more about Mourne Shipping Service in the feature on Warrenpoint Port’s Shipping Agents on page 4.

The Manuela S originated in Brake in Germany and sailed to Warrenpoint Port on 27th December 2021. The Manuela S was carrying a phenomenal 7500 cbm of timber on board. While this was not the biggest ship to ever dock in Warrenpoint, it was the largest by volume.

One cubic metre is measured as one metre wide by one metre long by one metre high. If you imagine that a standard three-

bedroom semi-detached house is 120 sq. metres when you convert cubic metres to square metres, this would be enough timber to fill in the region of 32 and a half semi-detached houses.

Warrenpoint Port is cited as the busiest timber Port in Northern Ireland and with capacity for volume like this, it is easy to see why.

Ireland does grow some of its own timber, but the Director of Forest Industries Ireland said in August 2021 that the Department of Agriculture in Republic of Ireland was not issuing enough licences for the planting and felling of trees. This may be driving an increase in the requirement for additional imported timber, as well as pent up demand post Covid.

Well done to the Port team who had the task of unloading this extremely impressive vessel.



GENERAL NEWS



Portlife

Warrenpoint Port has recently introduced 'Portlife' – a new concept for all the activities aimed at continuously improving the team experience at the Port. There are many initiatives ongoing including in the areas of health, safety, environment and wellbeing and new initiatives regularly being introduced.

To support the launch of Port Life a new service was recently introduced and celebrated with a team healthy breakfast. Spectrum.Life is a new Employee Assistance Programme delivered in association with 'Incorporate Benefits'. Spectrum.Life provides confidential well-being support services to all team members, their partners/spouse and dependent children over 16 still living at home. It is hoped that the team and their families may avail of these valuable support services going forward.

Port Nets a New Service

Warrenpoint Port has launched a new service to support large fishing vessels to manage the inspection and repair of their nets.

Due to the expanse of the quayside at Warrenpoint Port, pelagic fishing vessels (pelagic fish are species which live and feed away from the bottom of the sea) can, by arrangement, berth at the Port to roll out their nets for inspection or repair.

David Holmes, CEO Warrenpoint Port said, "We are delighted to offer this service to the many vessels which fish in and around the eastern seaboard. We have up to 100m of quayside space available at Warrenpoint Port. This provides ample space for most vessels to carry out inspections, repairs, and maintenance on their nets."

"Fishermen who currently work with Warrenpoint Port have been telling us that very few fishing ports have the capacity to offer this service, so this should be a useful addition for the industry."

To book space or find out more information about this service, please contact Warrenpoint Port on info@warrenpointharbour.co.uk or call +44 28 41773381.





MEET THE TEAM

Warrenpoint Port is committed to offering career opportunities and advancement to the team. In this edition of On Board we speak to Deputy Harbour Master Micheal Murtagh about how he worked his way from a 'casual' up to his current role in the space of six years.

Micheal, how long have you been with the Port.

I joined the team at Warrenpoint Port in 2016 as a casual member of Port Control. I had worked in security and defence for the previous 23 years- almost since leaving school. While I wanted a change I didn't want to move too far from the security sector. Port Control seemed like a good place to start.

I enjoyed the casual role, but I applied for a Port Control Supervisor post when the opportunity arose. I got that job and worked hard at it. I showed that I was hungry and keen for more responsibility, so I eventually got the chance to go for the Deputy Harbour Master position.

What does a Deputy Harbour Master role entail?

It's a busy, challenging but enjoyable role. No two days are ever the same and I think you will hear that from most of the people who work at the Port. My role basically involves responsibility for the entire Port security system as I am the Port Facility Security Officer for Warrenpoint Port and must ensure that the Port remains compliant with the International Ship and Port Facility Code (ISPS Code). We are answerable to the Department of Transport UK Maritime Security Division. I also am part of the team that ensures that we remain compliant with the Port Marine Safety Code which is governed by various marine legislation.

There is a significant amount of administration involved in making sure we are compliant with all the relevant codes, rules, procedures, and legislation.

I am also the Line Manager for the Port Control Team so I am responsible for that team of people. It is important that I meet their training requirements and other people management functions to support my team. My role sits under the Harbour Master so there are other duties which fall out of this position.

What are the most rewarding and most challenging aspect of the role?

They are probably two in the same. While I am from a security background, I had not worked in the maritime sector so there was and still is a lot to learn. I really enjoy soaking up all this

knowledge and getting an in-depth knowledge of my sector. This too is probably the most challenging aspect of the role. It is a very intense continuous personal development, so I am constantly doing training and courses to ensure that Warrenpoint Port is at the forefront of the industry in terms of maritime security and Port Control.

What is the route to becoming a Harbour Master?

Many people who become Harbour Masters have been at sea, so a typical route would be via a 'sea time' route either on fishing or commercial vessels or standby type roles. I didn't come through this traditional route however, so I would say that it is a role that is opening up to more people. You do need to be willing to learn and to go on a journey of continuous professional and personal development as it is such an ever-changing land and seascape.

I think there is a fantastic opportunity in the shipping industry. We have more than 70 people directly employed here and in the region of another 400 jobs supported through Warrenpoint Port. Shipping is not going anywhere for an island economy, so it is a good industry to work in with job security. There is also an opportunity for career progression with my own story being a prime example.

What innovations or changes do you see ahead in the shipping industry?

There are major opportunities ahead in the shipping industry. There are obvious challenges- Brexit, the situation in Ukraine, Covid still remains an issue as well as the rising cost of energy and commodities.

There are significant opportunities to reduce carbon emissions – looking at solar power, wind power and shore side power for vessels. We have already started our journey by starting to improve our fleet and our move towards electric vehicles. This however will take time. There are also challenges for initiatives such as offshore wind farms which in theory are a fantastic solution; in practice there is a lot of work to do with something like this from a maritime safety perspective and making them fit with shipping routes etc. I am however, very optimistic about the future and Warrenpoint Port's continuing role in helping make the maritime industry greener and safer.



RECENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dredging:

In January we received an enquiry in relation to dredging at the front shore. The following response was issued:

Warrenpoint Port has been requested by the Council to undertake maintenance of the pontoon area whilst the pontoon is out of the water being repaired.

There is also some maintenance dredging required in the Town Dock (in addition to main commercial berths) for the pleasure craft (regular users and visitors) in the Marina. The access and egress to the Marina area was shortly going to impact the ability of pleasure craft to berth there and thus impact on the tourism potential of the area.

The Port has maintenance dredging plant on site for its own regular dredging requirements. By undertaking this work for the Council, it offered ratepayers a significant saving, compared to the Council procuring the work itself.

Whilst maintenance dredging does not require a formal EIA process under the EIA Directive; in advance of permitting the maintenance activity under its own Harbour Act, the Port undertakes a number of processes and mitigation measures including sediment testing, a review of historical depths, limiting work to three hours per day at the breakwater, and environmental assessments including a Marine Conservation Zone Assessment.

As per usual practice all these activities have been undertaken and all work was completed in January.

Dust:

On Thursday 3rd February the Port had an issue with one of its hoses when a standard consignment of cement dust was

being discharged. An amount of dust was extracted unnecessarily during the shutdown process as it is a pressurized process. The hose was immediately replaced.

With the wind direction and speed at that time, we believe some of the dust was carried outside of the perimeter of the Port.

When alerted by one of our neighbours, our team visited the nearby streets and spoke to some of the residents on both Thursday and Friday and into the following week. We have apologised for any inconvenience caused to our neighbours. The Port is working on continuously improving being a good neighbour. Our door is always open however, you can contact us on onboard@warrenpointharbour.co.uk.

The Gut

The Port has noticed some interest on social media in relation to the area at Narrow Water known as The Gut. The Port meets quarterly with elected representatives to discuss any concerns or issues they may have. This invitation has often been extended to elected representatives outside of the District Electoral Area and the door remains open to this discussion.

It is Warrenpoint Port's desire to have the area known as The Gut to be nurtured as an area to promote biodiversity. There are no current plans to bring this space back into use for Port activities. The Port however, is currently engaging with the Narrow Water Bridge project team about the requirements for the construction and operation of the Bridge and how this infrastructure will integrate into the existing landscape on the Warrenpoint side of the Lough and in particular at The Gut.

THROUGH THE PORTHOLE



Happy Heart's on Valentine's Day

This Valentine's Day there were some lovely, sweet treats for the team at the Port but there was a more serious side to the day. There was an occupational health nurse on site for the day for any of the team who wanted to get their blood pressure checked. Our nurse was kept fairly busy!



Happy Planting at St Mark's

Warrenpoint Port recently donated multipurpose compost bags to the Horticulture Department at St Mark's High School. The compost will be used coming into the planting season for the germination of seeds and the production of hanging baskets and containers.

Picture left to right: Cavan Murtagh Warrenpoint Port with students, Jordan McPolin, Sean Crawford and Darren Loy and Conor Tinnelly, Warrenpoint Port.



National Apprenticeship Week

During National Apprenticeship Week in February we introduced our youngest apprentice Cavan Murtagh, who is an electrical apprentice at the Port.

Cavan is 16 and started his apprenticeship with the Port in September 2021. He goes to Southern Regional College one day per week and works at the Port, four days. Cavan is a great team player. He is keen to learn 'on the job' and enjoys that every day is different. Outside of his work Cavan plays basketball for Newry Basketball Club and football for Glenn GAC. Cavan is doing a great job. We are all very proud of how much he has progressed already.



Curragh Club Open Day

In January the Curragh Club hosted an Open day for people of all ages and abilities to have a go at trying to row a Currach boat on Carlingford Lough. This event was hosted free of charge with the support of Warrenpoint Port Community Fund.

Sharon Davis and Pearse Boyle from Warrenpoint Port went along to the session which was well supported. Congratulations to all involved in the Currach Club, the Port is proud to support your efforts.



PORT ROUNDUP



Warrenpoint Bowling Club

Warrenpoint Port is delighted to be supporting Warrenpoint Bowling Club as they take on role of President Club for the 2022 season. Warrenpoint President Thomas Hanna, will throughout the season be representing the NIBA (North of Ireland Bowling Association) at all their functions, cup matches, finals and visiting the various clubs. The Club the club hosted an opening ceremony for the season in April and a Charity Open Day in May. We wish the committee and members every success in the President year.



Mental Health First Aiders

Warrenpoint Port is committed to continuously improving the employee experience at the Port. Recently we have welcomed our eighth trained mental health first aider to the team. These people are trained to support any colleagues who may need emotional support. Well done to all the team, this is a great addition to all those who work at the Port.

Congratulations to all eight of our Mental Health First Aiders, pictured here: Kerri Farrell, Pearse Boyle, Paddy Savage, Ryan McIlroy, Gareth McCormick, Aislin Gebska, Ian Murphy and Raymond White.



International Women's Day

Warrenpoint Port was delighted to support a number of local International Women's Day events in March. We want to break the bias that women do not work in shipping and to encourage more women into the industry. As part of this initiative, we invited a number of daughters of people associated with the Port to these events. The young women came away feeling empowered and inspired.

