



ON BOARD

AUTUMN 2022

A WORD FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the Autumn edition of On Board. Such a lot has happened since our last edition. We have welcomed three cruise ships and a fabulous Tall Ship to the Port. We had a fantastic family day for our team, awards for our long service employees, and great success with an award shortlist for our Engineering Higher Level Apprentice, Jack Campbell.

While we were a little quieter than last year over the last couple of months, in terms of tonnage we delivered a throughput of 2.6 million tonnes and more than 690 vessels through the Port, by the end of September. It is however, difficult to predict where the economy is going with the current global and local economic volatility; the lack of certainty in relation to Brexit; the cost of living crisis; and warnings about an impending recession. We are trying to be cautiously optimistic that trade volumes will hold up.

We welcomed the news that Seatruck has been acquired by CLdN, a large global player who recognise the importance of the Irish Sea network. We are delighted that Alistair Eagles and the team from Seatruck will remain in place as will the Seatruck brand, which has been synonymous with Warrenpoint for more than 20 years.

We were disappointed that Cronus have pulled out of the LOLO service due to changes in their business operational model; but it does leave the opportunity open for us to pursue a similar type of service from or for another provider in the near future.

We are waiting on an update from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in relation to the Port's application for Phase 1 of a Port Decarbonisation Strategy. If successful, it is hoped that this will become a catalyst for environmental change and further growth in the local economy.

We are looking forward to opening up our Christmas Community Fund in November and to working closely with customers, stakeholders and the local community in making this a success in the year ahead.



I hope you enjoy the edition of On Board and as ever, our door is always open. You can contact the Port via onboard@warrenpointharbour.co.uk.



THREE VESSELS CRUISE INTO WARRENPOINT

Over the summer months we were delighted to welcome three cruise ships to Warrenpoint, The World Navigator, The Azamara Pursuit, and the World Explorer.

The Azamara Pursuit is amongst the largest class of cruise ship to dock in Warrenpoint.

While the weather wasn't pleasant for the arrival of the World Navigator the other vessels got lovely weather

and many passengers chose to visit the town, with locals laying out the red carpet for our international visitors.

The passengers and crew were entertained by Irish Dancing displays from a number of local schools including the Warrenpoint based, McAvoy School of Irish Dancing.

**Tuesday
28th June**

Tuesday 28th June: World Navigator is a small, luxury expedition ship from Florida-based 'Atlas Ocean Voyages.' It was launched in August 2021 and has an onboard capacity of 196 passengers and 127 crew.



**Friday
5th August**

Friday 5th August: At 180m in length, the Azamara is the largest ever cruise ship to dock in Warrenpoint. The ship has a capacity of over 700 passengers and more than 400 crew; and the local community were out in force to welcome them.

The Azamara Pursuit, while on its first visit to Warrenpoint, has a connection with the locality. Back in 2018 it was the largest ship of its kind in many years, to have a refit in Belfast; carried out by Newry headquartered outfitting firm MJM Marine.

At that time the Azamara brand was owned by Royal Caribbean. It was subsequently acquired in 2021 by Sycamore Partners, a private equity firm based in New York.

**Thursday
18th August**

Thursday 18th August: Warrenpoint Port welcomed its third and final cruise ship call of the season. The World Voyager is a world-class ship with a capacity of 200 passengers and 109 crew.



Pictured (LtoR) Leo McParland, Hamilton Shipping, Mark Kelly, President WBR Chamber, Captain Toledo, Azamara Pursuit, Councillor Michael Savage, Chairman NMD Council and Dr Gerard O'Hare, Chairman, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority





GRACE O MALLEY WELCOMED TO WARRENPOINT

On Friday 12th August Warrenpoint Port welcomed the Grace O Malley Tall Ship to Warrenpoint. The ship was brought in to support the newly established Lough Side Festival in Warrenpoint. The sun was shining and the atmosphere was buzzing down at the Town Dock, with the Grace O Malley in place from Friday 12th August until Tuesday 16th August.

The Grace O Malley currently known as the Lady Ellen, is a 164ft long schooner purchased in Sweden over the summer by the Atlantic Youth Trust Charity. It was purchased to introduce young people across the island of Ireland to the opportunity to sail aboard a Tall Ship and potentially explore a career in the maritime sector.

Over the course of the weekend the ship was open, whilst moored, free of charge to walk around and experience life on board. From Friday 12th August more than 2,000 people visited the ship. Warrenpoint Port also hosted a Family Day as a thank you to its team and their families on Sunday 14th August.



QUARTERLY UPDATE

Each Quarter Warrenpoint Port meets collectively with the local elected representatives. This did not happen over the summer as Warrenpoint Port was working on an application form for the UK wide Levelling Up Fund. If successful, this would see Warrenpoint Port delivering a significant decarbonisation project at the Port. Warrenpoint Port hopes to hear back from the fund towards the end of the autumn and will advise whether it has been successful or not. During the summer Warrenpoint Port delivered individual party and group briefings to help inform and support the Levelling Up proposal.

Pictured at several of the meetings that took place are:

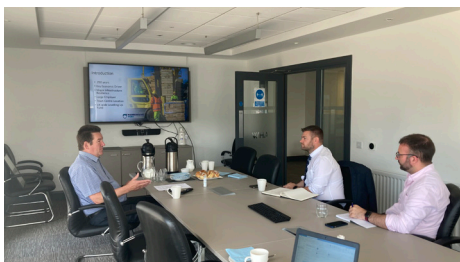
Conor Murphy MLA, Mickey Brady, MP, Sinead Ennis, MLA and Liz Kimmins MLA Sinn Fein

Diane Forsythe, MLA and Cllr Glyn Hanna, DUP

Colin McGrath, MLA SDLP



All local Councillors and elected representatives were invited to be briefed on the proposal. In total from across the political, business, and local civic community more than 30 letters of support for the project were delivered.



UPDATE ON TRADING



We are all very aware of the current difficult trading conditions. The cost of living crisis has bitten for many families and the war in Ukraine continues to disrupt global supply chains. Despite this trade at Warrenpoint Port has remained steady but with a few changes.

In early summer our daily LoLo service ceased with Cronus choosing to consolidate its activities in GB; however we welcomed the news in September that Seatruck had been purchased by CLdN.

Trade up to end September had held up well with a naturally quieter period over the summer months. Some of the most notable loads included large wind turbines, which local people will have spotted stacked along the Port wall. These turbines were destined for the Republic of Ireland. The Port also embarked on its first export of stone, a relatively new commodity at the Port, whilst the Port also introduced its new service to Pelagic Fishing vessels.

Over the summer the Port welcomed three cruise ships and hope that a small number of cruise vessels will

become a regular feature on the summer schedule at Warrenpoint. These vessels support the local tourism sector, not only with visitors disembarking and spending time in the local area but also local tourism, with people coming out to watch them arrive and depart.

Did you Know?

Warrenpoint Port is a Trust Port continually reinvesting back into the business for the development, maintenance, and improvement of the Port.

What is a Trust Port?

Trust Ports are independent commercial entities created and governed by statute.

Trust Port are independent and required to deliver their own profitable enterprise for investment and sustainability.

In Northern Ireland Belfast, Foyle and Warrenpoint are all Trust Ports. This means there are no dividends or shareholders. Any profit must be reinvested back into the Port.

HISTORY

Thank you to Anne and the team at Carlingford Lough and The Cooley Peninsula Facebook page for providing the content for this edition's history section. The Carlingford Lough and Cooley Peninsula Facebook page recently profiled the Leading Lights and had come across some interesting information in relation to the history of these important structures.

Thank you to the team for sourcing and sharing this.

'Newry River Range Front' and 'Newry River Range Rear' - or Newry River Range Leading Lights as they are known are situated along the shore at Omeath, opposite Narrow Water Castle and Keep, just before Ferry Wood.

Both lights are the property of the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and were erected during the late 1880s by Allan MacDonnell, engineer of the Newry Navigation Company.

'The Rule of the Land: Walking Ireland's Border' by Garrett Carr has this interesting information about the lighthouses:

(<https://www.amazon.com/Rule-Land-Walking.../dp/0571313353>)

"Another designer might place them left and right of the canal's entrance: beacons were commonly arranged like this, like goalposts. But Mac Donnell thought there was a better way. Goalposts, even when placed close together, can be approached from any angle along a wide arc. Mac Donnell will position the towers so the canal will be approached one way, the fastest way, the safest way, the best way.

Learning that Allan Mac Donnell was an engineer and inventor reminds us that the evocation of monastic history is only the outer style of these lighthouses. Primarily, they were sensible technology. Travelling up

the lough from the sea, a pilot steers so as to keep both lights aligned straight ahead. The tower further back has been built taller to enable this. Following this line of sight leads the vessel straight into the canal system.

Mac Donnell's lighthouses on Carlingford Lough are hardly famous but they have survived, and are his only remaining statement. They still fulfil their role, but these lighthouses also have a sculptural quality that, I think, is sweetened by knowing a little bit about Mac Donnell. The trajectory of his life suggests ambition arranged, like these lighthouses, in a westerly direction. Russia, Ireland, America. It is as if MacDonnell put a coded message into these towers. Go West. They certainly advise us to keep moving."



GENERAL NEWS



Warrenpoint Port Welcomes Seatruck Acquisition Announcement

Seatruck Ferries recently announced that, subject to regulatory approval from the Irish competition authorities, it is to be acquired from Clipper Group by CLdN.

CLdN, headquartered in Luxembourg is one of Europe's leading multimodal logistics providers with three divisions: CLdN RoRo, CLdN Cargo and CLdN Ports.

Seatruck operates a daily RoRo (roll on roll off) ferry service from Warrenpoint to Heysham, specialising in primarily unaccompanied loads. This model increases efficiency both from an environmental and an operational perspective. Seatruck, operational since 1996, was acquired by Clipper in 2002. It currently owns eight purpose-built RoRo vessels of which six are operating on the Irish Sea and two are on charter.

David Holmes, CEO Warrenpoint Port said, "We would like to congratulate the Seatruck team on their acquisition. CLdN is a leading name in the maritime sector, and it is fantastic to now have the brand operational in Warrenpoint. We are delighted to say that for service users, it will be 'business as usual'. Nothing will change, the Seatruck brand will be retained, and the team will continue to be led by Alistair Eagles."

David continued, "Seatruck has been operational at Warrenpoint Port for 20 years', providing a vital service for Irish Sea traffic. In more recent years, with increasing costs, the unaccompanied trailer model, has become particularly attractive for haulage companies and logistics providers. We look forward to continuing to drive growth and to building on the strong foundations of our relationship with Seatruck, under their new ownership."



Spring into Action Initiative

We were delighted to deliver our Spring into Action Initiative in 2022. This involved a 'Big Spring Clean Litterpick, where our team litter picked from Narrow Water down to the Front Shore. We introduced new bird feeders on site which will be perfect for the winter and we planted more trees onsite. This also included a fabulous community collaboration with Warrenpoint Men's Shed Men's Shed, The Cabbage Patchers and Moygannon Nurseries Garden Centre on our new planters for pollinators project at the Town Dock. Members of the Port team met with members of Warrenpoint Men's Shed, who then designed and built the new planters at the Town Dock from wood provided by the Port.

These fantastic planters were put in place, lined, and prepped for the amazing Cabbage Patchers in collaboration with Moygannon Nurseries, who selected the plants then came in to plant them out.

The volunteers from Cabbage Patchers were joined by volunteers from the Port to fill the planters and create a stunning dockside garden for the summer. We would like to thank Warrenpoint Men's Shed, The Cabbage Patchers and Moygannon Nurseries for this collaboration which not only brightened up the Town Dock but also provided a pollinator space for local bumble bees. We look forward to continuing this collaboration and building on it in the years ahead with our Spring into Action Initiative.





RECENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Port hasn't received any community questions recently apart from a series of questions they are working through with RARE- Rostrevor Area Respecting the Environment.

AGM

The Port held its Annual General Meeting on Monday 27th June 2022. The meeting was held virtually to allow as many people as possible to attend.

The meeting was well attended by customers, members of the local community, Port users, stakeholders, and staff.

The meeting opened with a review of the year ending 2021 by Chairperson of the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, Dr Gerard O'Hare, CBE DL FRICS followed by an update from David Holmes, CEO, Warrenpoint Port.

The event also reviewed the Port's contribution to the local community and gave attendees an opportunity to post questions in advance.

During the meeting Chair of the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority Board, Dr Gerard O'Hare said, "We are all too aware of the challenges of the last two years for society and business. 2021 was no exception for the Port.

"Despite these many challenges and uncertainties, I am delighted to report that Warrenpoint Harbour has delivered a robust performance in 2021. The Port experienced its busiest year to date in terms of tonnage at 3,751,963 tonnes up from 3,327,891 in 2020. This is an uplift of 12.7%. Much of this is driven by an increase in the total number of vessel calls, which were up 14.4% on 2020.

"Turnover increased significantly to £7,054,640 up from £5,889,863 in 2020, an increase of 19.8%. Whilst some of this increase was driven by Covid catch-up, it may also have been driven by capitalising on some elements of Brexit.

"Given the Covid pressures of social distancing and self-isolation, delivering such a strong performance was a challenge for the Operational teams, but one which they dealt with admirably. We would like to again record our thanks to all the team at Warrenpoint Harbour for their efforts."

In closing the meeting Dr O'Hare said, "Whilst we remain cautiously optimistic, to date 2022 has proven to be challenging. Faced with rising inflation, the situation in Ukraine, the continuing uncertainty over Brexit and the general notion of an impending recession, as with all businesses it is difficult to forecast the overall economic outcome for 2022."

THROUGH THE PORTHOLE



RNLI

We were delighted to recently welcome Coast Guard Officer, Garry Young for RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Association) to Warrenpoint Port, to receive funding that had been collected as part of the Warrenpoint Port Community Fund. Overall, a total of £700 was raised through a combination of collections from the yacht's lifting out, sales of our Tide Tables booklet and a contribution from the Port. Thank you RNLI for all the work you do.



Seaview Nursery

Many thanks to Seaview Nursery School, who very kindly gifted us a voucher, as a 'Thank You' for their visit to the Port and the Seatruck Ferry. We raffled the voucher amongst the team, as a token of appreciation, and Ian Murphy was the lucky winner! Ian is pictured here receiving the voucher from our Silo Manager, David Clements. Ian and David are two very valued members of the team, who between them, have worked at the Port for 72 years, which is amazing.



Women in Business

Ashlene Kielty and Emma Holmes (no relation to the CEO) from Warrenpoint Port recently attended a Women in Business networking event in Newry. It is important for our team to get out and about. Both ladies thoroughly enjoyed the morning.



Sharon's Departure

Recently we wished our friend and colleague Sharon Davis all the best as she left the Port after nearly 25 years' to move to a new role. We wish you the best of luck from the team at Warrenpoint Port.



World Mental Health Day

To mark World Mental Health Day, Warrenpoint Port hosted a healthy Breakfast for the team. Colleagues were encouraged to eat together and chat. Pictured during the breakfast is Gerard Gollogly and Geoff Pue. The Port Life team has also introduced Pilates at the Port and regular walking events as part of its health and wellbeing initiatives.



PORT ROUNDUP



Apprentice Success

We are very proud of our apprenticeship opportunities and our HLA (Higher Level Apprentice) team. Recently we had two fantastic successes in our apprenticeship team with Higher Level Engineering Apprentice Jack Campbell shortlisted in the Newry Chamber 'Team and Employee Awards 2022' for Best Higher Level Apprentice; and we welcomed a new Higher Level Accountancy Apprentice Emma Holmes (no relation to the CEO) to the team.

Emma is pictured being welcomed to the team by Chair of Warrenpoint Port Board, Dr Gerard O Hare CBE DL while Jack is pictured enjoying a night out at the Team and Employee Awards supported by his engineering department colleagues.



Long Service

Over the summer the team at Warrenpoint Port acknowledged the long service of our highly valued colleagues.

We are very lucky at Warrenpoint Port that many of our team choose to stay with us throughout their career.

At a recent team lunch our CEO David Holmes presented tokens of appreciation to David Clements who has been with the Port for 45 years, which is phenomenal; and to four team members with more than 25 years' service- Ben Houston- 27 years, Ian Murphy- 27 years, Ashlene Kieilty 25 years (not pictured) and Andy McMahon, a casual team member who has been at the Port for 32 years. Thank you to all our team.



Warrenpoint Welcomes Waverley

In October Warrenpoint Port was delighted to welcome The Paddle Steamer 'Waverley' on her journey back to her home port of Glasgow. It was fantastic to see this historic vessel sailing up the Lough.

Waverley is the world's last seagoing paddle steamer, having first launched in 1946. In 1974, at the end of her working life, she was famously gifted for £1 to the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society. Waverley Steam Navigation Co. Ltd., a charity registered in Scotland, was set up to own and operate the ship. Waverley then began a second career as one of the UK's best-loved tourist attractions.

She was certainly an attraction on Carlingford Lough and, hopefully we will see her back in Warrenpoint again some time.