

# SNARD BOARD



SPRING 2023





# A WORD FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the spring edition of On Board with news and views from Warrenpoint Port. We have had a busy start to the year despite the many economic and political challenges. The Port has welcomed more than 270 vessels in the first four months of 2023, and we hope to see this positive trend continue. We had some exceptional cargo including a 144-tonne piece of equipment which you can read about on page 6.

We started the year by distributing the proceeds of the Warrenpoint Port Community Fundraiser which is now in its third year and has become more popular and effective each year. Full details of this are on pages 3 and 4.

We have had some new additions to our team as well and I hope you will join me in welcoming Tomasz Serwas, Aaron McQuillan and Matthew Donaghy. I hope all our new team members are well settled in at this stage and that they enjoy being part of the Port crew.

We have continued our partnership with Warrenpoint Men's Shed and Green Spaces and you can read about some of the things that they have been doing on page 9. We are, this week, working again with Warrenpoint Men's Sheds for our Annual 'Big Spring Clean Litterpick from Narrow Water to the Front Shore.

We are absolutely delighted to have hosted the Waverley this week in the glorious weather. If you didn't get down to see it, we will have plenty of pictures in the next edition.

We have also launched our cruise schedule for 2023 with three vessels due to call in the next few weeks.

We would also like to welcome Councillor Jim Brennan to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. Cllr Brennan was appointed by Department for Infrastructure in February this year.

Finally, don't forget if you are interested in attending, we will be hosting our AGM online on Monday 26th June and all are welcome.



**David Holmes CEO** 





# **COMMUNITY FUND**

Warrenpoint Port has anchored its annual Christmas Community Fundraiser as an important contributor to the local area, by raising £26,700 in 2022, which has been distributed to 60 different organisations.

The third annual fund brings the total raised and distributed to the local community to more than £60,000. The average donation is £500, with more than 60 different local groups applying and receiving funding at the end of 2022.

David Holmes, CEO, Warrenpoint Port said, "We were delighted by the interest in the 2022 fund which we distributed to the local community during the first three months of the year. The number of applications is reflective of the current economic difficulties people and groups are facing. We are delighted to try and support health and wellbeing by even making a small contribution. We couldn't do this without the generosity of our customers, stakeholders, team, and supply chain who kindly give year after year. We would like to sincerely thank them all."

















#### See below for a full list of recipients in the last three years:

- 1. Women's Aid Armagh Down
- 2. Friends Of St Dallan's
- 3. St Peter's GAA
- 4. Shine-Spina Bifida
- 5. Community Centre for Warrenpoint
- 6. Newry & Mourne MS Community Therapy
- 7. Omeath Action Volunteer Group
- 8. The Cabbage Patchers/ Green Spaces Community Growing Project
- 9. Warrenpoint Town FC
- 10. Head Injury Support
- 11. Southern Area Hospice Services
- 12. Daisy Hill Hospital
- 13. Burren Community Forum
- 14. Warrenpoint Men's Shed
- 15. Kilbroney Integrated Primary School PTA
- 16. Puzzles Playgroup
- 17. Carlingford Ford Lough Currach Club
- 18. Carrick Pre-School
- 19. Hiking Hens
- 20. John McCoy Boxing Club
- 21. Newry Rowing Club
- 22. St Bronagh's Youth Club
- 23. The Happiness Café
- 24. St Bronagh's PS
- 25. Down Right Brilliant
- 26. Newry Helping
  - The Homeless/ The Larder (Foodbank)
- 27. Clonduff Hurling

- 28. Newry Rugby Football Club
- 29. Rascal N Ruffians Play School Ballyholland
- 30. St Louis Grammar Kilkeel
- 31. Barcroft Community Association
- 32. Rostrevor Men's Shed
- 33. Point Camera Club
- 34. Caring Coins
- 35. EA-Warrenpoint Youth Service
- 36. Action Mental Health New Horizons Newry and Mourne
- 37. Air Ambulance
- 38. Ballyholland Sunshine Club
- 39. Bridge Women's Group
- 40. Burren Townland Walk & Run
- 41. Dromore Road Primary School
- 42. Homestart Newry and Mourne
- 43. MACS Supporting
- Children and Young People
- 44. Autism NI45. Rathore Parents and Friends
- 46. Rostrevor Light Orchestra
- 47. Rostrevor Tennis Club
- 48. Seaview Nursery School
- 49. Seeds of Hope
- 50. The Fisherman's Mission
- 51. Warren Art Group
- 52. Warrenpoint Pantomime

- 53. Warrenpoint Presbyterian Church Sunday School
- 54. Warrenpoint Women's Group
- 55. Accolade
- 56. People in Need
- 57. Rostrevor Christmas Lights Committee
- 58. Yellow Road Wellbeing Centre and Social Farm
- 59. Confederation of Community Groups
- 60. Kingdom Mens Shed
- 61. Southern Age Well Network
- 62. St Mark's
- 63. Anam Cara Community Counselling
- 64. Ask Autism Support Kilkeel
- 65. Burren Community Association
- 66. Daniel Gray
- 67. Lislea Community Association
- 68. PIPS Newry
- 69. Rostrevor Community Projects Initiative
- 70. SNAP
- 71. St Mary's Youth Club
- 72. Busy Bees Preschool Burren
- 73. Chilli Dippers
- 74. Little Folk Playgroup Rostrevor
- 75. Play Time Rostrevor
- 76. 12 Townlands of Christmas
- 77. Advocacy VSV
- 78. St Coleman's PS Annaclone

We could not do this without the support of our generous contributors which include the following list of businesses, WHA, its team, and a number of individuals from the Board and local community.

Nippon Gases
Forestwood
ReGen
Cronus
Ulster Bank
Combi-Lift
Seaforde Metals
Barrett Steel

Seatruck Ferries Ltd

Carson McDowell Killowen Contracts CLC

Comex McKinnon Ltd Point Shipping Mannok Holdings King Storage

MSS

Armagh Logistics

Tughans T-Met Mills Selig

**Davison Associates** 

ABL Group

Anthony D Bates Partnership Modern Tyre Services Ltd.

AMA

Barry Haulage

Cunningham Haulage King Communication Jenkins Shipping

MyIT

Scotts Fuels

PKF-FPM Accountants

Down Mussels

Brian Toase (Town Dock) Cunningham Pilots Walter Watson Steel Cloughmore Shellfish

Greencastle

G4S







# **INTERVIEW**



Health and Safety is paramount at Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. This is reflected in a 40% year on year reduction in health and safety incidences. Safety will always be a major focus for the team on both land and water as the Port delivers a safe working environment for its team and those who work in, and use, the Port facilities. The person responsible for overseeing this implementation is Health & Safety and Environment Manager, Tom Rodgers. Onboard caught up with Tom for chat about some of the key objectives and challenges in his role.

#### Tom, what does your day to day role look like?

Every day is different in my role. It really depends on what is happening on site at the time. It can range from walking the site, carrying out inspections and generally observing operations to coordinating and delivering training. We are responsible for keeping abreast of changes/updates in legislation and guidance, particularly ensuring robust adherence to the Marine Safety Code; this is alongside reviewing and updating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and risk assessments.

I am also constantly reviewing and updating health and safety policies or if there is anything on site that needs action, I could be writing a report or carrying out an investigation. It is my responsibility to collate everything from a health, safety and environment perspective and present this to management and to the Board.

While my role varies greatly from day to day, I am generally there to support the smooth operation of Port services from a health, safety, and environmental perspective.

#### What are the key objectives of your role?:

The key objective of my role is to continuously improve the safety culture of the organisation and to make sure we have a suitably trained, competent workforce who are risk aware. It is then my role to ensure activities and operations have been risk assessed to try to achieve zero negative incidents that may impact on safety, health, or the environment of the Port and the surrounding area.

### How have you delivered the reduction in incidents in recent years?

There has been a steady decline in incidents since 2019. This year, to date, there have been no lost time incidents at all. We have used a two-pronged approach to drive incidents down

through rigorous reactive reporting, especially near misseswhich are things that didn't actually happen. Investigating 'near miss' incidents and implementing remedial action helps to prevent issues. We have also had extensive team engagement with suitable training, the promotion of an active Safety Committee and regular team feedback. Safety has become everyone's responsibility.

#### What are the biggest challenges in your role?

A port environment and its dynamic nature is always going to be a challenge. For us managing third party hauliers and all the pedestrians who need to operate in close proximity to heavy plant, is always going to be the biggest risk. We recently invested significantly in our third-party health and safety induction to make sure all visitors to the Port are fully aware of the risks.

#### What initiatives are you most proud of?

The establishment of the dedicated Safety Committee is definitely a highlight. This team has been growing in maturity and proving to be very productive in the past 18-24 months. The increasing level of employee engagement is something that makes me really proud of my colleagues and my workplace. On a very practical level the greater level of segregation and in particular the creation of defined pedestrian walkways right across the site has been a major undertaking and a great initiative.

## What do you enjoy in your down time when you aren't working at the Port?

I enjoy spending time with my family- a nice meal and glass of wine with my wife or going to concerts and the rugby. I love taking long walks with my dog and listening to music. I even occasionally strum a few tunes myself on the guitar.





# **NEWS UPDATES**





#### **Waverley**

The World's last seagoing paddle steamer 'Waverley' set sail for its first Carlingford Lough sunset cruise from Warrenpoint Harbour on Tuesday 30th May. Waverley gave 600 people the unique opportunity to step aboard for an evening cruise, sailing out of Carlingford Lough and steaming along the coastline passing Kilkeel Bay to Russell's Point. The event sold out in just over 24 hours and was hugely popular. Guests were treated to fantastic weather and a blues band on board, as part of the International Blues on the Bay Festival. Check out social media and the next edition of On Board for photos from the event.



#### **144 Tonne Tandem Lift**

Recently the Port team undertook a complex project lift for a 144-tonne piece of equipment arriving from Europe, for a major manufacturing employer in Northern Ireland.

This technically challenging lift involving two cranes required the precise coordination and expertise of our crane drivers, hatch men and supervisors.

Well done to all our team on this successful piece of work which was a fascinating start to the year.

#### **Unsuccessful LUF Bid**

Despite the best efforts of the team and significant local stakeholder and political support, the Port was unsuccessful in its recent Levelling Up Fund Bid. The Port had bid for £13 million for phase one of a major decarbonisation project. The Port will continue to look for avenues to support these objectives to become a catalyst for decarbonisation and to seek new, more efficient ways to power the Port into the future.





# **BUSINESS UPDATE**

Warrenpoint Harbour Authority is committed to ongoing engagement with a range of stakeholders from local to national issues. We are open to hosting and facilitating meetings with organisations and individuals who wish to find out more about the Port or to facilitate us in some of our key objectives including:-decarbonisation; seeking clarity on the Windsor Framework; obtaining updates on national infrastructure projects and community issues.

Pictured during recent visits are:

1. Sue Gray in her former role as overseer of the Levelling Up Fund, which Warrenpoint Harbour Authority was unsuccessful in obtaining for a major decarbonisation project at the Port. Sue Gray is pictured with members of Sinn Fein who facilitated the visit and members of the Port management team.

- 2. Delegation from Fine Gael interested in finding out more about Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and the Windsor Framework.
- 3. We hosted the US consul General Paul Nairan who was able to find out more about President Biden's connections to the area, ahead of his recent visit.

We also recently hosted Nichola Mallon and Jayne Currie from Logistics UK for an update on the landscape for local hauliers and customers of Warrenpoint Port; and a Delegation from UK Mission to EU interested in finding out more about Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and the Windsor Framework.











# **TEAM ACTIVITIES**



#### **International Women's Day**

Warrenpoint Port was delighted to mark International Women's Day with some of our female team, our customers and one of our team member's daughters attending Newry Chamber's event at Killeavy Castle. Pictured are attendees from the Port Niamh McKeown from Armagh Logistics, Judith Barry, Barry Haulage, Aislin Gebska at Warrenpoint Port, Ashlene Kielty, Warrenpoint Port and Danielle Hamilton, who's father, Brendan works at the Port.



#### **Easter Bunny**

We had a number of team events over the last couple of months including a coffee morning for Pancake Day and a visit from the Easter Bunny.



#### **Thank you from SAH**

We recently hosted Southern Area Hospice on site to say thankyou for supporting their Christmas Cards Appeal. We are delighted to announce that we will be supporting the initiative again in 2023.



#### **Congratulations Conor**

Newry Chamber left a gift of a bottle of local whiskey to say thank you for hosting the Chamber members visit to the Port. We asked our team for nominations for team members who regularly go above and beyond. We had so many nominations that we had to put the names in a 'hat'. Conor Tinnelly was the winner. Well done Conor.



#### **New Team Members**

Welcome to our new team members Tomasz Serwas, Aaron McQuillan, Matthew Donaghy who joined our Port Operations team recently. You are very welcome to the team.



#### **Spring Concert**

Representatives from Warrenpoint Port were invited to the Rostrevor Light Orchestra Spring Concert in St Mary, Star of the Sea Church Rostrevor on Sunday 14th May. It was a fantastic event and a credit to all involved. The orchestra used funding from the Community Fund to pay for a rehearsal space in the lead up to the concert.





# THE PORT IN THE COMMUNITY

#### **Elected Representatives Meeting**

We host a quarterly elected representatives meeting to update and discuss community issues locally. We had a great turnout at the last meeting with a number of Councillors and MLAs joining in person and Cllr Karen McKevitt joining online.







#### **The Port in the Community**

We are delighted to continue our relationship with Warrenpoint Men's Shed and local group Green Spaces Community Growing Project.

Recently we donated timber to both organisations, high visibility tops to Men's Shed and bark, compost, trowels, and mugs to Green Spaces. We are looking forward to seeing our Town Dock garden in full bloom very soon.

These two great organisations are amongst the many groups who do fantastic work in the local community. We, at the Port would like to thank all our local community volunteers who work together to make our area a better place to live and work.





# **SEAVIEW VISITS THE PORT**

We were delighted to welcome Seaview Nursery for their annual visit to the Port and trip onto the Seatruck. We had almost 80 very important little people at the visit, and it was a pleasure to show them around. These children see the Seatruck almost every day, so it is important that they know and understand why it Why it moves goods in and out of Warrenpoint. Thank you so much to the Seatruck team, our own team, and the staff at Seaview for supporting and facilitating this visit.













# THROUGH THE PORTHOLE





#### **New Combilifts**

Warrenpoint Port recently took delivery of the final of its three new 16 tonne, sideloading Combilifts.

At an investment of approx. £0.75m, the new Combilifts will not only be more efficient, but they will significantly support the drive towards the ongoing and continuous improvement in health and safety at the Port.

The new Combilifts allowing loads to be carried on the bed of the actual forklift, reducing the associated health and safety risk of otherwise carrying loads at height.

Warrenpoint Port is delighted to be able to offer its existing and future customers this improved steel handling capability and a reliable means to protecting future steel handling at the Port.



#### **Women's Aid Armagh Down 40th Anniversary Launch**

David Holmes, CEO was delighted to attend one of our charity partner's 'Women's Aid Armagh Down's' 40th Anniversary launch breakfast. David was amongst several local business supporters invited, including our customers Re-Gen. At the event and in our ongoing engagement with Women's Aid Armagh Down more and more horrifying statistics come to light. This includes the fact that in Northern Ireland the PSNI are called to a domestic violence incident on average every 16 minutes with a shocking 17 women murdered in NI since March 2020. Warrenpoint Port is proud to continue to work with Women's Aid Armagh Down to raise awareness of the scourge of domestic violence in our local community.



#### **Board Strategy Day**

The Warrenpoint Port Board recently held a strategy away day to review and discuss the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority strategy.

Separately the team at Warrenpoint would like to congratulate board member Richard Johnston on his new role within The Executive Office. Richard spent almost 10 years in University of Ulster before moving to The Executive Office earlier this year.





# PORT ROUNDUP



#### **Newry Chamber Visit**

Warrenpoint Port recently hosted a visit from members of Newry Chamber. The visitors were given an overview of the Port over breakfast before boarding the Seatruck Precision for a guided tour of the ship. Thank you to the Seatruck team who helped to facilitate and manage this visit.



#### **New board member for Warrenpoint Harbour Authority**

In February Department for Infrastructure announced that, following a selection process, NMD District Councillor Jim Brennan has been appointed to the Board of Warrenpoint Harbour Authority. The appointment was made in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland's Code of Practice. The Harbour Authority Board has a Chair, two Executive Members, and seven Non-Executive Directors. This figure includes three councillors from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Councillors are appointed to the Board in line with the Warrenpoint Harbour Authority Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 and can only serve as a Board Member if they remain a member of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

The appointment is up to a maximum of four years.

Councillor Brennan is a full-time member of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council and represents the Slieve Croob Ward. He is a member of the Council's Active Healthy Communities Committee and the Audit Committee. He holds no other Public Appointment positions.



#### **AGM**

Warrenpoint Harbour Authority's AGM will take place on Monday 26th June at 1pm. Further details about attending the AGM will be announced in the coming weeks.



#### **Cruise Season**

Warrenpoint Port is looking forward to another exciting cruise schedule for summer 2023. Further details are now available on the Warrenpoint Port website and exact arrival and departure times will be shared on the Port's social channels ahead of each cruise call.