



# ON BOARD

WINTER 2023





## A WORD FROM THE CEO

**Welcome to the final edition of On Board for 2023. It has been a challenging one, not least with the many unpredictable external economic factors impacting business but also with more localised issues including fiercely inclement weather and a localised odour from the Port in Q3 and unfortunately some local community complaints. You can read about our business update on page 6.**

Despite the many challenges however, we have continued to trade well, and we are forecasting to end the year on a solid footing. We have, just this week, launched our Annual Christmas Community Fund and we look forward to building on this in the coming weeks. We really can't thank our customers, suppliers, and stakeholders enough for supporting us year after year with this. You can read about the Fund on page 9.

We recently bid a fond farewell due to retirement to one of our team members Mary Taylor, who retired as Executive Assistant at Warrenpoint Harbour; and to Roy Teggarty, Chairperson of Carlingford Lough Commission who retired after 16 years. You can read more about Roy's retirement on pages 4 and 5. We wish Mary and Roy every health and best wishes to enjoy their respective retirements. David Clements, after more than a phenomenal 40 years, is also retiring from the business this December. See the next Onboard for an update on David's retirement.



We were thrilled this autumn to support the fundraising efforts for a statue of footballing legend Pat Jennings in Newry. This local sport's star really is a hero to many people and the Port was proud to play a small part in supporting this well-deserved statue.

We are firmly committed to continuous improvement at the Port with a relentless focus on Health and Safety. We have over recent months been carrying out a number of safety and security drills, led by our Health, Safety and Environment Manager, Tom Rodgers and Harbour Master team of Michael Young



and Micheal Murtagh. This work has been profiled on page 2. In 2024 we will be strengthening this team as we are currently engaged in a process to recruit an Environmental Officer.

While it still feels a little early, all that remains is for me, on behalf of the team here at Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (Warrenpoint Port) to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Peaceful New Year.

**David Holmes CEO**





## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

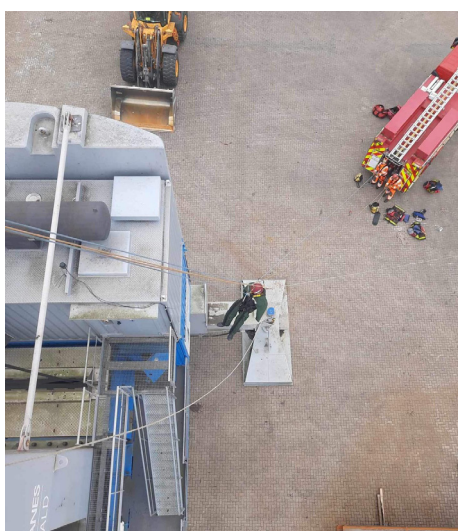
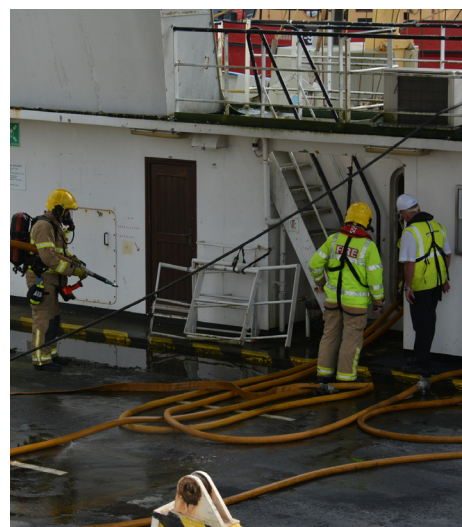
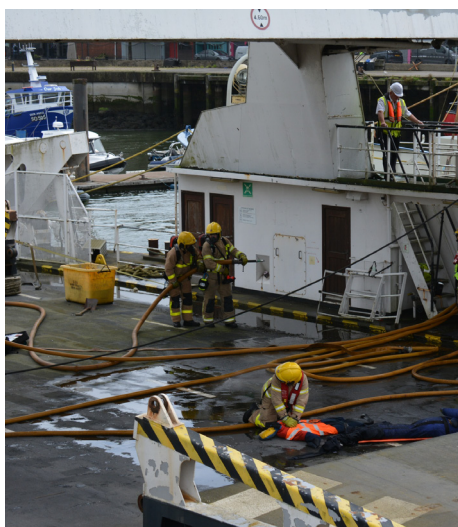
Warrenpoint Port recently undertook a major incident training exercise. This is an annual event on top of the regular drills and exercises the team undertake, to plan for various scenarios. This is good practice for the team in the unlikely event of a major emergency. This large-scale exercise also involves other organisations. Warrenpoint Port would like to thank the local NI Fire and Rescue Service for their support with these training exercises; as well as 'The Squirrels' specialist team from Urban Search and Rescue in Belfast. This major incident planning comprised of three scenarios:

1: A fire on board a boat in the dock with crew unaccounted for.

2: A scenario where an operational crane driver became unwell and required rescuing.

3: An incident of illness while working at height on a gantry walkway - this element gave the team the opportunity to test a new rescue cage that the Port had commissioned.

This type of exercise helps to validate the theory and all the months of planning that goes into putting together comprehensive scenarios. Please see some of the photos from the team involved in the scenario rehearsals.





# INTERVIEW

## Roy Teggarty CLC Chairman

The Chairperson of Carlingford Lough Commission (CLC) Roy Teggarty has recently retired after 16 years at the helm.

On Board spoke to Roy just ahead of his retirement about his role and the time ahead.

## What is Carlingford Lough Commission?

Carlingford Lough Commission is a organisation that is responsible for the navigational safety of Carlingford Lough including the maintenance of the buoys and the shipping channel.

## How long have you been in the role?

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve on the board of the Carlingford Lough Commissioners for this past 16 years, the last few as Chairman.

## How did you end up involved in CLC?

I remember the late John Fisher asking if I would like to replace Sam Knox on the board because of my connections to the sea, being Kilkeel Lifeboat Manager, Chair of the Mourne Seafarers Memorial Committee and on the board of the Northern Ireland Fishery Authority. This was along with having family links to the sea going back generations and I was happy to accept the position.

## What have been the 'ebbs' and 'flows' of your time with CLC?

Throughout my time there have been many changes and many challenges, not least from Covid 19, but also lots of successes. 'Navigating' Covid was definitely a core challenge but over the years we have had changes in personnel and changes in work patterns and agreements to work through. We have also had the challenge, which became a success, of recruiting new talent to the board. I am also particularly proud of the work we carried out with WHA on a new Port Marine Safety Management Plan during my time as Chair.

## What's the Plan for the Future of CLC?

I believe we are now in a good position going forward although with some challenges especially in relation to financing. With the new Chairman Paddy Harty at the helm and Henry McLaughlin as his vice Chairman, the Commission will no doubt thrive.

*"My thanks go to the Commissioners for their work over the years and our stakeholders for their support. I would like to especially thank WHA (Warrenpoint Harbour Authority) with whom I've worked over the years and their present CEO David Holmes, not only for his moral support but for the use of WHA facilities. I also wish Mary Taylor, Executive Assistant at WHA well in her retirement. And finally, I wish every success to the incoming administration at CLC who are in the safe hands of Paddy Harty and Henry McLaughlin."*

## Roy Teggarty, Retiring Chair of CLC

*"We would like to extend our gratitude to Roy for his work at CLC. It is a vitally important service to maintain the safety of the Lough for commercial and recreational users. We have no doubt Roy's work has contributed significantly to this over the years. WHA looks forward to continuing to support CLC under the Chairmanship of Paddy Harty and we wish Roy the very best in his retirement."*

## David Holmes, CEO Warrenpoint Harbour Authority

Roy's tenure was celebrated recently at a lunch in the Whistledown with fellow Commissioners, stakeholders, CLC staff, and Roy's wife Ann.





Paddy Harty and Henry McLaughlin incoming Chair and Vice Chair of CLC with retiring Chairman Roy Teggarty and his wife Ann.



Members of CLC (Carlingford Lough Commission) and stakeholders are pictured at Chairman Roy Teggarty's retirement lunch at the Whistledown Hotel in Warrenpoint. Front row: Kieran Grant, Paddy Harty, Roy Teggarty, Henry McLaughlin, Declan McAteer. Back row: Mark Smith, Michael Young, Harold Henning, David Holmes, Andrew Hanna and Ryan McGreevey.





## BUSINESS UPDATE

### SPS - Sanitary and Phytosanitary Facilities

Local residents may have noticed the removal of the former Aylesfort House by DEFRA (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) as part of its preparatory works for the permanent SPS Facility. It is expected that work will commence on this facility in Spring 2024. Any enquiries at this stage should be directed to [ni-spsfacilitiesproject@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ni-spsfacilitiesproject@defra.gov.uk).

### Business

Despite the many challenges Warrenpoint Harbour has had a solid year to date. We continue to have steady import and export levels with close to 50- 50 split on these. This year to date we have processed more than 700 vessels through the Port. Over the summer we also welcomed four cruise ships, including the first public opportunity to sail on board the world's oldest seafaring paddle steamer, the Waverley. We hope to continue to support this tourism business as we move into 2024 and beyond.

### Community Complaints

We have been very aware of reports of a localised intermittent odour at various times since late summer. We have commissioned an Independent Environment Investigation - currently ongoing - to fully review this. The results of that report will be publicly shared. We hosted our first residential neighbour visitor during November. Our door is open for any neighbours who wish to discuss this with us.







## TEAM ACTIVITIES



### WorldSkills

The team at Warrenpoint Port are very proud of Jack Campbell, who has just completed his first year Level 6 Mechatronics Degree at @UU. Jack has been with Warrenpoint Port throughout his Higher-Level Apprenticeship and now his degree. Jack is a great example of the Port's commitment to personal and professional development.

Jack qualified from NI to the UK finals for automation/ mechatronics as part of the WorldSkills UK National Finals which was held in Manchester in November. Jack won a bronze medal in his category. Jack is pictured being presented with a gift from the Port from Conor Tinnelly to mark his achievements to date. Well done Jack!



### Day at the Races

Our Portlife Committee, largely funded by the Port, are at the heart of the Warrenpoint Port team, organising health and wellbeing activities and social events for all the staff. Recently they organised a day at Down Royal Races. It was a great day out for all those who attended. Pictured are members of the Portlife committee at the races (l-r) Marty Curran, Ryan McIlroy, Ian Murphy, Aislin Gebaska, Gareth McCormick, and Seamus Fitzpatrick.



### Hospice Christmas Cards

Warrenpoint Port are proud sponsors once again of the Southern Area Hospice Christmas Card Appeal sponsoring two designs. Pictured are members of our Portlife Committee Marty, Ian, Gareth, Shea and Aislin with Alison Donaghy from SAH. Packs of Christmas Cards are available to buy now from our Town Dock Office or via contacting Southern Area Hospice.



### Twelve Days of Christmas

The team at Warrenpoint Port are gearing up for a festive December with 12 Days of Christmas activity planned through the employee led Port Life Committee. Throughout the 12 Days the team will engage in both charitable works as well as festive fun. The festive fun will also support local businesses with food treats supplied locally.



### Coffee Morning

Warrenpoint Port recently hosted a coffee morning for the team to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Some of our fantastic team baked and we also had some treats from the local bakeries. Thanks to the generosity of our team £310.27 was raised, which was matched by Warrenpoint Port. We look forward to presenting £620.54 to Macmillan in the coming weeks to support their vital work.





## THE PORT IN THE COMMUNITY



### Carlingford Lough Currach Club Open Day

Warrenpoint Port recently supported the Carlingford Lough Currach Club Open Day through its Community Fund. Kieran Grant, Financial Director Warrenpoint Port attended the event and is pictured with members of Carlingford Lough Currach Club welcoming anyone who wanted to go out on the Lough in a Currach.



### St. Louis Visit

In October we welcomed students from St Louis Grammar School Kilkeel to the Port. The young people did a tour of the estate before boarding Seatruck Ferries Ltd.

Thank you to the Seatruck team for supporting the visit and showing the students around the ship.

WHA has a close association with the school. Former St Louis student and Deputy Harbour Engineer at WHA, James Cunningham gave a presentation about Warrenpoint Port and Micheal White (son of our Mechanical Supervisor Raymond) and teacher at St Louis, organised the visit.



### Our Lady's

Warrenpoint Port also supported the recent careers fieldtrip activities for Our Lady's Grammar School. Students from Third Year visited the Port and Seatruck to find out more about careers in shipping and logistics.



### Meeting with New US Consulate

Through his role with Newry Chamber Kieran Grant, Finance Director recently met with the new U.S. Consul General James Applegate on a visit to Newry. Mr Applegate took up his duties as U.S. Consul General in Belfast in August 2023. Prior to moving to Northern Ireland, James served as the Director for Europe and Asia Programmes in the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL). He is pictured with representatives from Newry Chamber, Newry BID and local elected representatives.



### St Mark's Visit

Tom Rodgers, Health, Safety and Environment Manager at Warrenpoint Port delivered a talk to Year 14 Business Studies Students at St. Mark's High School Warrenpoint in October. The students were completing a module on 'Understanding Health and Safety in the Business Workplace' as part of their Cambridge Technical Business Qualification. Thank you St Mark's pupils and staff for inviting Tom to speak to you.





## CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY FUND

### **‘Tis the Season’ for the Warrenpoint Harbour Christmas Community Fund**

The fourth annual ‘Warrenpoint Harbour Christmas Community Fund’ is now open for community groups, organisations, and charities to apply for funding to support the health, wellbeing, and environment of the local area.

Over the past three years the Harbour Community Fund has put £60,762.00 back into the local community, supporting 78 different individual organisations with 123 different projects.

David Holmes, CEO Warrenpoint Harbour said, “Our communities have been impacted by Brexit; Covid; a Cost-of-Living crisis; the lack of an Executive which has impacted funding; and now more recently, localised flooding that has impacted homes and businesses within our hinterland.

“We absolutely understand the many challenges that groups and charities are facing as we head towards 2024. We remain very proud of our place in the local community and the value the Community Fund has added to the local charity, social and community sector.

#### **“Last year examples included:**

- £1,000 bought Christmas meat packs for 20 families living in fear who were being supported through Women’s Aid Armagh Down;
- £800 bought a fill of oil for the Newry and Mourne Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre;
- £500 bought Cycle Lessons for children with Down Syndrome
- while £250 bought 10 Counselling sessions for people with suicidal thoughts in our local community.

“These are just some of the 61 projects we were able to support last year. We are working hard to ensure we can support as many causes as possible again this year.

“We could not continue to do this without the support of our customers, suppliers, and stakeholders, who regularly generously donate to the fund. We hope to have a final total available for the fund in the coming weeks and will be posting regular updates on our social channels.”

The Fund opened on Wednesday 29th November and will remain open until Friday 15th December 2023. To apply the recipient organisation must be based within a 15 miles radius of the Port and the project supported should promote the health, wellbeing, and environment of local people. The maximum request is £500 unless by exception, and subject to affordability; and the aim is to support as many people as possible. Application forms and further details are available by logging onto [www.WarrenpointHarbour.co.uk](http://www.WarrenpointHarbour.co.uk) . If you require additional information, please call Warrenpoint Harbour on +44 28 417 73558.



Michael Young, Harbour Master; Aislin Gebaska, HR Officer; and Danny Talbot, Executive Assistant, Warrenpoint Harbour are pictured getting into the Christmas Spirit to launch the Warrenpoint Harbour Christmas Community Fund.





# WARRENPOINT PORT

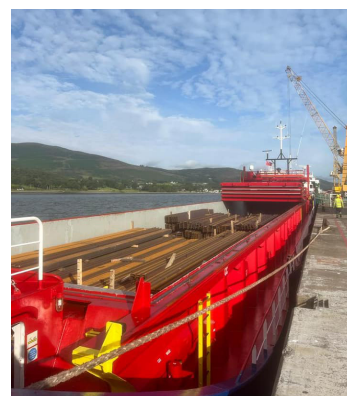
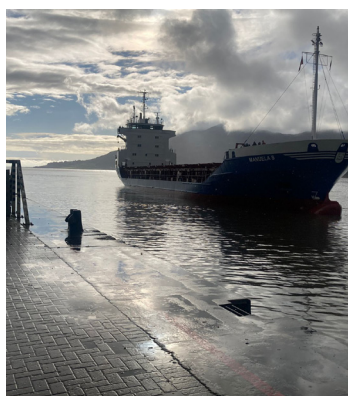
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## THROUGH THE PORTHOLE

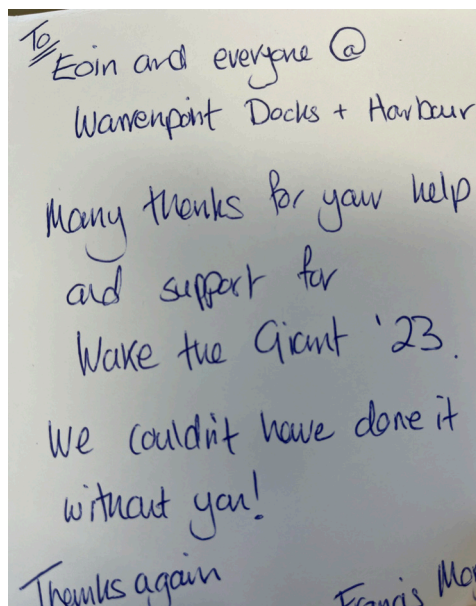
### Recent Cargo

Check out some of the recent ships and fishing vessels to call at Warrenpoint Port.



### Acknowledgements

We were delighted to receive a number of acknowledgements recently for Port activity including from NMD Council for supporting Fionn's Journey for the Wake the Giant Festival; Southern Area Hospice for the Christmas Card Appeal; and Our Lady's Grammar for their recent visit.



17th November 2023

Dear Kieran,

We can't say thank you enough!

Please accept our sincerest thank you for your support with our Charity Christmas Card Campaign. Through your very generous sponsorship of £750 you have ensured that the Hospice can keep costs down with this campaign, and that as much money as possible goes directly towards patients. On behalf of our patients, their families and everyone here at Hospice, I want to thank you for your kindness and support.

We value you as a member of our Hospice community and truly appreciate your donation, which will make a real difference in the lives of those we care for. It is because of the support and kindness of people like you that we can continue to provide the best possible care to our patients and their families. We often receive handwritten cards expressing heartfelt thanks for the care and support received and we would like to share one of these thanks with you...

"Thank you so much for the care and attention that our mother received during her time with you. The patience and the dignified care that you showed to her as well as the support and compassion that you showed to us - we will never forget it. We really don't know how you do it every day, but you were all born to do these jobs. Our prayers were answered when we heard that our mum could spend her last weeks in your care, she deserved to be looked after by the best, and she was. Thank you all so much. Keep up your wonderful work."

This is Hospice care and what you are helping us to provide. Thank you for caring and for making a real difference in the lives of local people. We hope that you will continue to be a part of our Hospice community, whose mission is to provide compassionate care to those in need.

Thank you once again for all that you do to support our work, we can only care because people like you do.

Sending you our thanks and very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Rowntree  
Fundraising Officer  
Southern Area Hospice Services

Dignity In Caring





# PORT ROUNDUP



## Probus

At the end of September Warrenpoint Port welcomed members of the local Probus group to the Town Dock office to find out more about the work we do. Probus Club members meet monthly, to enjoy the company of like-minded fellow retirees and listen to guest speakers. Thank you for visiting the Port.



## Sean McCourt Kelly

Warrenpoint Port hosted local memorabilia enthusiast Sean McCourt-Kelly who is 16 at the Town Dock office recently. Sean is from Armagh and has a real interest in international and local politics, and current affairs as well as collecting memorabilia with logos and branding.

Sean has met an impressive list of dignitaries, businesses and organisations through his hobby. Sean had written to David Holmes, CEO, to ask if he could visit the Port.

David hosted Sean and his mum Annie to talk about Warrenpoint Harbour Authority history and activities as well as the Port brand and to see a selection of the memorabilia Sean has built up over the years.



## Luke's Loop

Congratulations to Maria, Biddy, the Hiking Hens and all those involved in the Luke's Loop event. It was a privilege for Warrenpoint Port to support these important fundraising efforts in the local community, in September.



## Warrenpoint Town FC

Warrenpoint is delighted to once again show support for Warrenpoint Town FC with a new sign at the Milltown Football Stadium in Warrenpoint.