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Project receives EMFF funding approval

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Update on this exciting new opportunity to gain marine skills

The Haven
Port of Wells

SPRING 2017

KEEPING PACE WITH CHANGING NEEDS

We hope you enjoyed the last edition of The Haven. In this edition we have exciting news on the Port trainee scheme which will launch in Autumn 2017.

The board is always looking at investment projects that improve the facilities offered at the Port for its users. The project to replace pontoons at Tugboat Yard has now been completed and in December 2016, the board received funding approval from the EMFF for a 35 tonne self propelled slipway hoist which will benefit the resident inshore fishing fleet. See page 2 for further details on this exciting project.

Also to fill the demand for local boat repairs and engineering, the Port will be offering this new service provision in 2017 in our own boat yard. See Page 3 for further details.

The Port’s continuing efforts to provide professional services to stakeholders and the community has been recognised by the Harbour Master receiving an MBE in the New Years honours list.

Finally make a note of our Annual Public Meeting in your diary which will be on 16th May 7pm at the Wells Community Hospital. We look forward to seeing you there.

TUGBOAT YARD PONTOONS PROVIDE SAFER ACCESS

Installation of the new pontoons at Tugboat Yard which was reported on in the last edition took only five days to complete by harbour staff using the Port’s vessels and kit. The only outside contractor used was Drake Towage of Wisbech which carried out the piling works.

The pontoons offer a fantastic new facility for the commercial angling boats who are delighted the improved access will open up their customer base by enabling them to provide trips for those less abled who were unable to access their vessels previously. The pontoons will also be home for the ex Wells Lifeboat Ernest Tom Nethercoat and the Wells Sailing Club launch Natalie Gail.

The Port is looking at the feasibility of another pontoon project during 2017 to improve access to the vessel Albatros on the quayside, but this potential project is still in it’s early stages.

We hope you agree that the Tugboat Yard project has visually enhanced the area.

GILLY HUT REOPENED FOR EASTER
Hire our eco friendly gilly (crabbing) equipment - be kind to the environment and save money!

PORT OF WELLS AGM
Join us on the 16th May at the Wells Community Hospital 7pm for our AGM, where we invite you to ask questions.

MORE KAYAK SAFARIS IN 2017
Explore the creeks in one of our guided tours. Watch our website and facebook page for details.
EMFF FUNDING APPROVED FOR NEW SLIPWAY HOIST

INVESTMENT IN LOCAL FISHING COMMUNITY

One of the strategic objectives of the Port is to invest in new infrastructure, technology, craft, equipment, quays etc whilst preserving the unique character of the harbour and balancing the needs of different harbour users. During assessment of the Port’s strategic plan, the board recognised a need of hoisting facilities for the resident inshore fishing fleet of fourteen vessels. Currently the fishing fleet have to travel a distance of up to 52NM to another port to be able to service, repair and maintain their vessels. This costs them valuable fishing time at sea as well as increased fuel consumption. So in 2016, the board considered how best to address this need and took the decision to apply for EMFF funding for a self propelled amphibious slipway hoist that would be capable of lifting their vessels for maintenance here at Wells. We were delighted to receive funding approval in December 2016.

As well as funding from the EMFF the Wells Fisherman’s Co-operative are donating £20,000 into the project, with balance paid from Port surpluses.

The project will include alterations and improvements to the East End slipway incorporating flood protection. The 35 tonne hoist should be on site by the end of June 2017. WISE Handling of Cullingworth, Bradford were successful in bidding for this project.

MBE IN NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST

HARBOUR MASTER ROBERT SMITH RECOGNISED

Robert Smith has worked at the Port for the past twenty eight years, firstly as Deputy Harbour Master and since 2000 as Harbour Master. He has been recognised in the New Years Honours List and awarded an MBE for his services to the Port and community of Wells-next-the-Sea.

Robert’s links to Wells are incredibly strong with ancestors dating back to the 1800’s, one such relative traced and recorded as an alleged smuggler at the Port. During his long career he has transformed the Port back to its roots as a working Port via proactively engaging with wind farm developers to establish an operating base in the town. This required the development of the Outer Harbour for crew transfer vessels. Aside from his Harbour Master duties, he gives his personal time as a speaker promoting the Port and donating fees to the Wells Harbour Maritime Trust, a charity he established for local young people to gain maritime skills and education.

On hearing of the news of his award Robert said

“I am immensely proud to be receiving the award, which I feel is not just for me but also for my family. It has also been a privilege to work at the Port with many amazing people and why this honour is not just for me but also for the harbour team and for everyone who has worked alongside me.”
NEW FOR 2017
PORT MARINE SERVICES

Last season there were many requests from visiting and residential boat owners for marine repairs and engineering. With so much demand and few local service providers the Port looked at how this gap in the market could be covered and whether the Port itself could improve its service offering by providing these services. With Harbour staff having the relevant experience and expertise, it was decided to offer these services in 2017, which will include engine repairs and installation, hull and decking repairs, marine electrics, servicing, pressure washing and anti-fouling. To enable these works to be undertaken, the Port was successful in obtaining planning permission at the East End for a new store to house equipment and materials and construction work is underway.

To discuss your requirements you can call us at the Harbour Office for a detailed quote.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS
TWO NEW COMMISSIONERS JOIN THE BOARD EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2017

Chris Thomson has used the harbour for over ten years as a windsurfer, kayaker and sailor. Chris has a legal background involved in contracts, risk management, HR, governance and ethics.

Brian Riches held a project management position in the energy market prior to setting up a sea angling business in 1997 which has now passed to his son. He has a passion for fishing.

NORTH NORFOLK TRIATHLON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

10TH NORTH NORFOLK TRIATHLON 10TH SEPTEMBER 10AM

The ever popular North Norfolk Triathlon returns to the quayside at Wells 10th September. Places are filling fast so if you wish to enter please do so now online at https://register.primoevents.com/ps/event/NorthNorfolkTriathlon20172016

We are always looking for volunteers to help marshal this event whether it be at the quayside or on the cycle or run routes. If you are able to help out we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Harbour Office 01328 711646. By way of thanks the Harbour Master will take you on a tour of the harbour by boat!

PORT OF WELLS AGM

16TH MAY 7PM
WELLS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Please join us for our Annual Public Meeting on Tuesday May 16th. The format will be similar to previous years where we invite you to send your questions in advance by 5th May to the Harbour Office or by email to harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk. This format allows for a variety of questions to be asked and we find works well where people are reluctant to speak out on the night. An open session will be permitted at the end of the meeting lasting 15 minutes. The Annual Report, Accounts and Strategy document will be available for download from our website and available for viewing at the library or the local council office from 12th April or can be obtained from the Harbour office after that date for a fee of £5.

EX RNLI TALUS 103
TRACTOR PURCHASED FOR NAVIGATIONAL AID MAINTENANCE

From time to time the Port has to enlist the assistance of the Wells RNLI Talus to move navigational buoys at the channel entrance when the Port’s own tractor is not powerful enough. Talus tractors are being decommissioned by the RNLI and the Wells RNLI tractor will soon become unavailable.

The Harbour Commissioners decided to take the opportunity to purchase the ex RNLI Scarborough Talus 103. The acquisition now makes the Port totally independent in the maintenance of our navigational aids whilst working in a very hostile environment of seawater and beach conditions.

The Talus can drive and winch simultaneously to recover the buoy sinkers. The driver has a waterproof protective cockpit and in the event of mechanical failure the ability to “batten” down and abandon on the sea bed in up to 9m of water.
As announced in the last edition of The Haven, the Port of Wells, through its pivotal part in the community, will be introducing a trainee scheme in the Autumn of 2017.

This scheme will offer substantial training, typically around 24-36 months, depending on experience and qualifications. The position will be on a short term employment contract and on final successful completion the trainee will have obtained recognised qualifications to take them forward in their career. At the end of the fixed term, the trainee may or may not be offered full time employment. The successful trainee will gain:

**SKILLS**
- Vessel handling, berthing & towage
- First aid and survival skills
- Vessel fire prevention & firefighting
- Buoy deployment and Maintenance
- Basic navigation, use of aids
- Understanding tidal flows
- Rope work, anchoring and mooring
- VHF use and radio communications
- Port Operations
- Health and Safety and security
- Manual Handling
- Oil spill equipment handling
- Oil emergency response
- Conservation of marine environment
- Maintenance of harbour estate

**KNOWLEDGE**
- Maintenance of marine equipment
- Maintenance of vessels
- Hydrography, conservancy
- Dredging operations
- Electronic navigational aids
- AIS, CCTV systems and operation
- Marine meteorology
- Port Infrastructure
- Vessel movements and operations
- Vessel hull construction and repairs
- Vessel propulsion & manoeuvring
- Port responsibilities
- Statutory powers & duties
- Boat yard operations

We will be looking for individuals who strive to achieve the best results whilst maintaining a positive attitude and approach to their work at all times, taking responsibility for their own and others health & safety and well being, who demonstrate integrity, credibility and honesty and that embody the organisation’s values taking ownership for their performance, training, work ethic and self-development.

If you would like to be considered please register an interest by emailing harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk or call the Harbour Office on 01328 711646

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**TEAM NEWS**

February 2017, Deputy Harbour Master Simon Blakeley completed the IDG Harbour Master and Port Marine Safety Code course in Southampton as part of his career progression training.

Deputy Harbour Master Fred Whitaker will be attending a week course at Lowestoft College on the use and treatment of GRP in the maintenance of GRP vessels as part of the Port’s new Marine services offering.

Graham Riseborough, the Port’s driver and Maintenance Operative, attended his periodic Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) training.

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**PORT VACANCIES**

**BEACH PATROL**
Summer season 2017, 6 hours per day, flexible working.

**QUAYSIDE CLEANER**
4 hours/week winter, 7 hours/week summer, early mornings

**GILLY HUT ATTENDANT**
Summer season, job share, flexible working.

Contact the Harbour Office