

# ANNUAL REPORT TO 31st December 2020



**Wells Harbour Commissioners**

# A Message from the Chairman

## Mel Catton



May I offer you all a warm welcome to the Port of Wells, which I believe is the Community Hub of our Town.

It is an honour and privilege to be asked to take over from our retiring Chairman Andy Frary. Andy for

the last 12 years has devoted endless support to assist Wells Harbour be in the fantastic position it is in, and must be very proud of the changes he has seen materialise. A hard act to follow, and he will be greatly missed. Thanks from us all Andy.

Of course 2020 has not been the best of years in many ways, but thanks must go to our Harbour Master Robert Smith, and his team for keeping the Port operational and dealing with all the unusual situations. Well done everyone.

I am unable to claim to be a seaman, but in my six years as a commissioner, I am somewhat astounded as to the activity, growth and improvements that have taken place in our Port in that time, and am looking forward to the many projects planned for the coming years making it even better. You can read more about these in the following pages.

Being a Fishing Port, our active and growing fishing fleet always creates interest when arriving back at the Quayside from the ever increasing visitors to our Town. To see most of the moorings in the Harbour full, in the height of the summer also indicates our Town's popularity. Also, our Outer Harbour remains active with the Wind Farm Vessels.

As many activities continue to take place in and around our Harbour, such as Sailing, Harbour Tours, Fishing Trips others, such as the Kayaking Safaris organised via our Wells Harbour Maritime Trust, play an important role as one of the many events undertaken to help and assist the younger generation gain knowledge of the water and our surrounding habitat. Our annual Triathlon held normally in September, is now recognised as one of the best, with numerous comments of support from the Competitors. This is organised and run to raise funds towards the Maritime Trust. We must not forget the involvement that the Harbour has with many of the local Charities and Organisations within the Town.

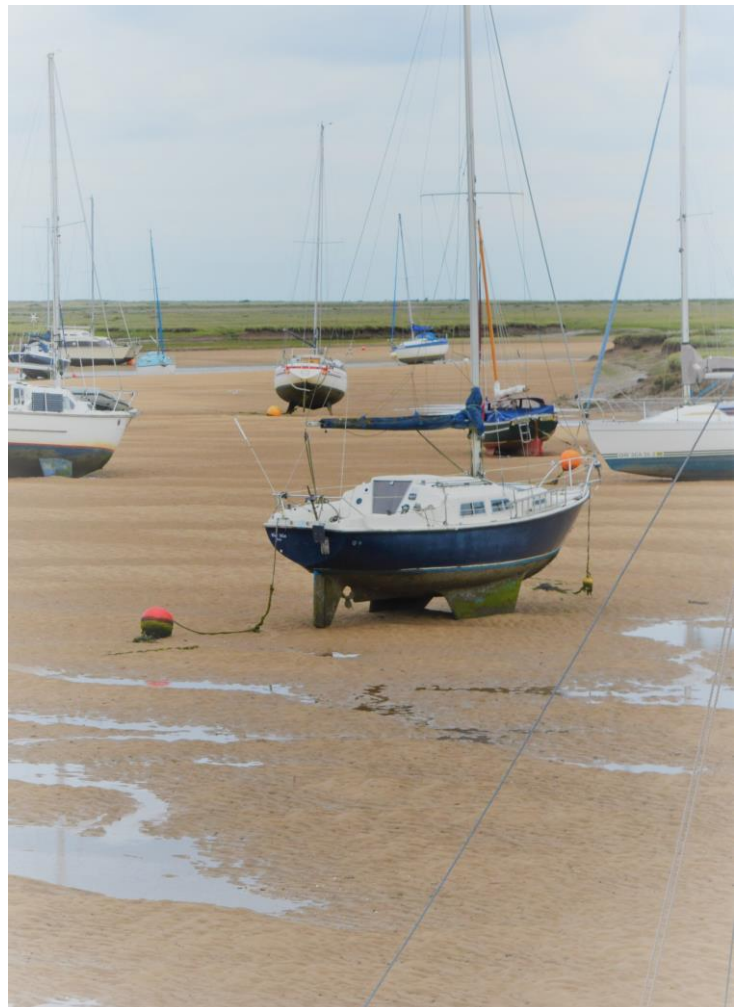
All throughout the year there is generally an Event taking place in or around the Harbour, or being planned, to which the Harbour Commissioners have always fully supported where possible. This is something we hope to continue and even improve on.

Looking forward, our Harbour has to run as a business, and I believe there are certainly some difficult and challenging times ahead for the Port in many ways, but also some exciting ones on the horizon, and I'm sure if we all approach the coming year with united enthusiasm then our great Port of Wells will continue to move forward and attain, if not even improve it even further, from what it is today.

On behalf of all the Commissioners I wish to thank our team of staff for their dedication and support given to the many changes taken place in recent times, many to the benefit of our stakeholders, thank you all.

To all who use or visit our Harbour in whatever capacity, I wish you all a safe and enjoyable 2021

**Mel Catton, Chairman**



# Welcome from Views of Harbour Master - Robert Smith MBE



Welcome from the Harbour Master The history of Wells as a trading and fishing port can be traced back to medieval times. By the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century Wells was not only a thriving fishing port but had become a major East Coast trading port. In 1663 the Wells Harbour Commissioners were

established by an Act of Parliament, the first board consisted of over 25 men, who were responsible for the complete management of the port and jurisdiction over the tidal waters inside the harbour limits.

It still surprises me today that people have heard of the Wells Harbour Commissioners but not everyone, especially the local community, are aware of the full extent and importance of their function and the key role the body has played not only in the town's history but also in the present day. Firstly and very importantly helping to maintain a haven for our fishing fleet, which has always been the back bone of the port (being designated as a fishery port), but also providing an infrastructure and the facilities for over thirty businesses working directly from or linked to the harbour, providing not only employment of around two hundred and fifty jobs in a recent study but more importantly long term career opportunities. Under the guidance of the Commissioners, myself as Harbour Master, Simon as the Harbour Administrator and all the team, will continue to support and encourage investment within the harbour estate and continue to promote the port and town to visiting seafarers.

I believe the harbour is the hub and heart of our town and community, apart from being the home of the men and women who earn their livelihoods here and all the local people who enjoy the many recreational pastimes like sailing, swimming, exploring or just messing about in boats. The harbour is also like a magnet for thousands of people who visit Wells all year round for their holidays or a day out, which all has to be managed. I would be the first to admit we don't get it right all the time and for every ten people we please we are bound to upset some but I can assure all of our town, harbour users and visitors that the Commissioners and harbour team always have your best interests at heart wherever possible and will continue to work together with you where we can to maintain and preserve our beautiful harbour and town.

2020 has proved a challenging year for all with Covid and this has also had an impact on the port with numbers on visiting yachts down considerably and many leisure users unable to use their boats or even visit the harbour. However the tide still continued to ebb and flow twice daily and the commercial side of the port carried on working as much as possible, so the harbour team carried on working as usual, I deliberately did not say normal as nothing seemed normal in 2020!! All this resulted in very few or no new projects to improve the facilities and much of the Harbour Commissioners strategy document for future improvements was put on hold, mainly because most of the country was not working and also we were mindful of spending with an uncertain future. Hopefully during this year we will start to relook at some of the projects like the jetty to the east of the main slipway but the most exciting project for me personally, which I hope will be underway early 2021, is the Lobster Hatchery at the fishing shed on the east end of the main quay. This project is being carried out solely between the Harbour Commissioners and our local fishing community. The project will see seawater tanks with filtration installed in the building to hatch baby lobsters, possibly thousands at time, the small larvae/lobsters will grow until several weeks old before being released into the sea. The project is an effort to make the fishery more sustainable in the future. Finally, I will add that our Port/Harbour is a place that creates hard work for many businesses but is a lifestyle for some that they would not change, however just as important it is a place to enjoy, have fun and relax. The Commissioners, myself and all the team are determined to protect and maintain this and I hope you all have a prosperous and safe 2021.

**Robert Smith MBE, Harbour Master**

# The Executive



**Robert Smith MBE**  
Harbour Master



**Simon Cooper**  
Harbour Administrator

## Board Members attendances 2020

There were scheduled board meetings held in the financial year.

## Board changes

### Retirements

Andy Frary December 2020  
Avril Lill December 2020

### Appointments

Sally Wynne January 2021  
Andy McCullum January 2021

Name	Jan 2020	Mar 2020	May 2020	July 2020	Sept 2020	Dec 2020
Mel Catton	p	p	p	p	p	p
Josh Danziger	p	p	p	p	p	p
Bob Ellis	p	p	p	x	p	x
Andy Frary	p	p	p	p	p	p
Nicky Groom	p	p	p	p	p	p
Denys Hickey	x	p	p	p	p	p
Avril Lill	p	p	p	p	p	x
Ashley Mullenger	p	p	x	p	p	p
Brian Riches	p	p	x	p	p	p
Chris Thomson	p	p	p	x	p	p
Kevin Theobald	p	p	p	p	x	p
Robert Smith	p	p	p	p	p	p
Simon Cooper	p	p	p	p	p	p

# 2020 Board - Wells Harbour Commissioners



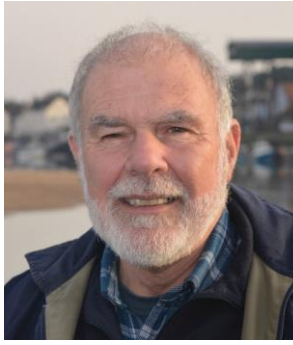
**Mel Catton** a Wells businessman and resident for 50 years and Chairman of the Carnival committee for 25 years. Mel is passionate about keeping Wells as an idyllic seaside resort recognising the need for change to allow the town to move forward.



**Denys Hickey** has over 40 yrs experience as a maritime lawyer with experience of dredging and port safety. Denys has been a senior partner in a London law firm and more recently a barrister and maritime arbitrator. Appointed Jan 2018.



**Robert Ellis** moved to Wells in 1976 as a Police Constable and Sergeant serving the community for 30 years, heavily involved in the 1978 floods and the aftermath. A member of Wells Sailing Club and recreational harbour user and boat owner since 1978.



**Brian Riches** held a project management position in the energy market prior to setting up a sea angling business in 1997 which he has now passed over to his son. Brian has a passion for fishing and enjoys being on the water. He was appointed in Jan 2017.



**Nicholas Groom** is from a long standing Wells family. Semi retired from an operations management position with a national Telecoms company. Now runs Wells Harbour Tours. Has experience of telecoms operations and construction. Appointed Jan 2018.



**Kevin Theobald** has been working in the lighting design profession for over 40 years, serving as a board member and latterly president of its representative international association. A Wells resident and leisure sailor with a keen interest in the future of the town and port. Appointed Jan 2019.



**Ashley Mullenger** is not a resident however, as Wells' only commercial fisherwoman working aboard one of the harbour fishing fleet, the vast majority of her time is spent in the harbour or out at sea. Appointed Jan 2020.



**Chris Thomson** Spent over thirty years working as a solicitor, involved in contracts, HR, governance and ethics. Lives in Wells. An MCA Boatmaster, Chris sails and works in the harbour. Appointed Jan 2017.



**Josh Danziger** lives in Burnham Overy Staithe since 2012. Retiring from a career in finance he now has more time to enjoy sailing his 37' sailing smack built in 1892, which is kept in Wells. Appointed March 2020.



**Andy McCullum** Coming from a fishing family, Andy has been fishing since leaving school. He started fishing going off Weybourne Beach with the Frary brothers, then working on boats fishing out of Wells with the "Blucher" and "Comrade" before having "Two Brothers" built and then "Nel Diana", catching crabs, lobsters and whelks. Appointed January 2021.



**Sally Wynne** is a Speech and Language Therapist, born and brought up in Wells. After bringing up their 4 children in Norwich, she and her husband have returned to Wells. She sails 12m<sup>2</sup> Sharpies as a member of Wells Sailing Club. Appointed in January 2021.

# Summary of results

## For the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
<b>Income Statement</b>		
Turnover	1,236,802	1,461,071
Cost of Sales	(576,691)	(794,847)
Gross excess of income over expenditure	660,111	666,224
Overhead expenses	(759,000)	(756,809)
Other operating income	238,173	223,634
Interest receivable and similar charges	2,135	4,387
Excess of income over expenditure before taxation	141,419	137,436
Taxation of ordinary activities	(39,759)	(29,182)
Excess of income over expenditure for the year	101,660	108,254
<b>Balance Sheet</b>		
Fixed Assets	1,532,878	1,596,229
Current Assets	1,581,570	1,528,378
Creditors - amounts within one year	(210,785)	(245,723)
Net Current assets	1,370,785	1,282,655
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	2,903,663	2,878,884
Provisions	(60,286)	(64,416)
Net Assets	2,843,377	2,814,468
<b>Reserves</b>		
Accumulated fund	1,825,919	1,699,428
Grant Reserve	299,364	308,185
Grant Reserve - Slipway Hoist	97,232	111,123
Capital Reserve - Shellfish facility	304,446	311,695
Capital Reserve	300,108	370,830
Capital Reserve - The Lifeboat Horse Sculpture	10,457	13,207
Capital Reserve - Lobster Reserve	5,851	-
Total Reserves	2,843,377	2,814,468
<b>Note</b> assets above include:		
Investment by Scira into Outer Harbour and channel and Inner Harbour		
Spend to 31 December 2020		
Cost brought forward	1,943,555	1,951,172
Capital equipment disposed in year	(1,425)	(7,617)
	1,942,130	1,943,553
Less Depreciation brought forward	(1,594,167)	(1,522,152)
Less amounts depreciated in year	(47,855)	(78,886)
Less depreciation on disposal	-	(6,871)
Total Included in Assets	300,108	335,644

WHC are a non-profit making organisation whose excess of income over expenditure is ploughed back into the Harbour for the good of the stakeholders

# Ports Good Governance Guidance

Wells Harbour Commissioners (WHC) is a Trust Port, an independent statutory body run for the benefit of stakeholders and the local community.

WHC aims to run the harbour in accordance with standards and practices set out in the Department for Transport's document Ports Good Governance Guidance (March 2018).

Ports Good Governance Guidance states that "a trust port is a valuable asset presently safeguarded by the existing board, whose duty it is to hand it on in the same or better condition to succeeding generations."

Ports Good Governance guidance also sets out a trust ports commercial accountability. It stresses the importance of monitoring performance and consultation with stakeholders, and sets out a management framework and standards compatible with good governance.

Finally, it publishes a framework setting out the guiding principles for appointment to the Board of Commissioners and the standards to which the Board should adhere.

The Department for Transport actively monitors compliance with these standards but interested

parties should play their part in bringing to the Department's attention any examples of unaccountable behaviour. Section 3.46 of Ports Good Governance Guidance sets out how stakeholders can complain about governance issues or other matters arising from a ports activities.

In the first instance, please raise the matter with the Harbourmaster and/or the WHC Board. We will endeavour to provide a written response within four weeks setting out whether we consider the complaint justified and details of any remedial action we intend to take. Where the complainant does not believe the response is reasonable in addressing the grounds of his or her concern, the matter can be reported to the Department for Transport.

However, please note that the Department for Transport has no role in reviewing the commercial decisions or activities of a trust port or in intervening in essentially localised disputes. Its interest is in ensuring that a trust board is governed well and does not take decisions in an arbitrary or unaccountable manner.



# PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE- Compliance

The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) applies to all harbour authorities in the UK that have statutory powers and duties. The PMSC has been developed to improve safety in UK Ports and to enable harbour authorities to manage their marine operations to nationally agreed standards. It provides the standard against which policies, procedures and the performance of harbour authorities can be measured. It describes the role of board members, officers and key personnel in relation to safety of navigation and summarises the main statutory duties and powers of harbour authorities.

In order to comply with the PMSC, the duty holder on behalf of the harbour authority must:

1. Review and be aware of their existing powers based on local and national legislation
2. Comply with the duties and powers under existing legislation as appropriate
3. Ensure all risks are formally assessed and as low as reasonably practicable in accordance with good practice
4. Operate an effective marine safety management system (SMS)
5. Use competent people (i.e. trained, qualified and experienced) in positions of responsibility for safety of navigation
6. Monitor, review and audit the marine SMS on a regular basis - an independent designated person has a key role in providing assurance for the duty holder
7. Publish a safety plan showing how the standard in the PMSC will be met and a report assessing the performance against the plan
8. Comply with directions from the General Lighthouse Authorities and supply information and returns as required

Wells Harbour Commissioners SMS includes a calendar of safety topics with defined areas of responsibility. A Commissioner is allocated responsibility for ensuring all aspects of health & safety under the SMS are checked and signed off and this is reported at the full meetings of Commissioners.

Wells Harbour Commissioners had an independent review of the PMSC and SMS in March 2018.

The Chairman on behalf of Wells Harbour Commissioners being the PMSC duty holder for the Port of Wells. considered all the requirements of the PMSC, including reviewing the risk assessment and SMS and has certified that the Port of Wells meets the standards required by the PMSC.

## STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION

Since 2010, Wells Harbour Commissioners as part of their open and accountable policy and practices publish all plans and reports of meetings on their website. The website is regularly updated. Website address :[www.portofwells.co.uk](http://www.portofwells.co.uk)

In addition Wells Harbour Commissioners has a facebook page : Port of Wells and the Harbour Master can be followed on Twitter.

The Port publishes an annual brochure, The Haven newsletters and as well as the annual public meeting, which now also includes a Harbour User Advisory Committee meeting.

Members of the public can report incidents and make suggestions by e-mail to [harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk](mailto:harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk), by phone or direct to the Harbour Office. All suggestions and complaints are entered in the incidents/suggestions book and are reviewed by the Harbour Master.

Harbour Office,  
Old Lifeboat House  
West Quay  
Wells-next-the-sea  
NR23 1AT

Telephone: 01328 711646  
Email: [harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk](mailto:harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk)

# The work of the Commissioners 2020

## Introduction

The work of the Wells Harbour Commissioners (WHC) is regulated by Central Government.

Full details of the appointments and management structure can be found in the publication

Good governance guidance for statutory harbour authorities operating ports in England and Wales - Published 5 March 2018 Department for Transport

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/good-governance-guidance-for-ports>). WHC aims to conform to the governance as set out by the Government. Reports of the bi-monthly meetings of the Commissioners in 2020 can be found on the Harbour Website -- [www.portofwells.co.uk](http://www.portofwells.co.uk)

## Annual Meetings

The Commissioners usually hold an annual public meeting to report on their work. However, with the COVID restrictions being in force, it was decided to postpone given the circumstances. Details about the financial performance and works undertaken by the commissioners can be found in this brochure as well as the Annual Report & Accounts which is published on the Harbour Website -- [www.portofwells.co.uk](http://www.portofwells.co.uk). The date of the 2021 meeting is yet to be decided due to the ongoing Social Distancing requirements that currently remain in force and which impacts the ability to hold public gatherings of any size.

## Harbour Commissioners

It should be noted that all Commissioners are volunteers and receive no payment for their work. The revenue from the services offered by the port is used entirely to finance the port's management and development.

## Appointments

There were 2 new appointments made in January following the retirement of Andy Frary and resignation of Avril Lill. Andy McCallum and Sally Wynne were appointed in January's meeting.

## Retirements

Andy Frary retired at the end of 2020 after completing 12 years as a Commissioner and Chairman for the last 6 years. Avril Lill resigned after completing her 3 years term due to growing demands of running her business.

## Commissioner Portfolios

To enable more proactive involvement in Port Operations, Commissioners have been assigned individual specialised portfolios:

- Mel Catton - Chairman and HR
- Kevin Theobald - Vessels and Plant
- tbc- Port Strategy
- Robert Ellis - Health and Safety
- Nicholas Groom - Harbour Services
- Denys Hickey - Legal
- Josh Danziger -Coastal Change
- Ashley Mullenger - Heritage & Community
- Brian Riches - Channel & Buoys
- Chris Thomson - Estates and Events
- Andy and Sally were yet to be appointed portfolios at the time of writing.

## Beach Patrol

The beach patrol was postponed for the season due to the COVID social distancing measures in force throughout the period. The patrol advises the public regarding safety matters, swimming, keeping off the berms and buoys and assists with the public cut off by the tide. We expect to recommence running beach patrol in 2021 subject to any COVID social distancing measures in force at that time.

## Gilly Hut

The Gilly Hut was unfortunately also a victim of the COVID social distancing and lockdown measures. The Gilly Hut hires out eco friendly gillying (crabbing) equipment with the aim of reducing plastics in the harbour and to help prevent wildlife entanglement from the monofilament line.

## Capital Expenditure/Projects

### 2020 completed

- Little tern artificial nesting pontoon
- Extended quayside railing to end of car parking spaces.
- Replacement diesel barge pump and hose work
- New William-T trailer

- Channel straightening along beach bank.
  - Website upgrade
  - CCTV & Security Gates installed for the Harbour estate and Pontoons respectively
  - Purchase on land at East End.
  - Commissioner research into Flood effects and possible defence solutions
- Planned for 2021

- Flood wall and landscaping of land west of Harbour Office
  - Extension to Little Tern artificial nesting pontoon
  - Create memorial seating with anchor
  - Install sympathetic lighting on quay to reduce light pollution
  - Introduce recycling bins for harbour use.
  - Maritime Trail interpretation boards
  - Pursue the project of the possibility of a managed retreat at the East End providing future flood defences
- Future expenditure under consideration
- Create a new wooden jetty adjacent to main slipway
  - Reinstatement of wooden jetty near Shipwrights
  - Jetty/ pontoons at the Skredge and/or Shipwrights
  - Archive historic documents for public viewing
  - Resurface quayside car park
  - Look at railings for Tug Boat Yard
  - Cycle racks for car park

### Environment

The Port met with Natural England regarding the proposal to exclude access to the Salt marshes within our harbour limits as defined in the Wells Harbour Revision Order 1994.

The meeting was to obtain clarity that restricted access would not impact our rights or affect our access or the access we currently grant to others or may wish to grant in the future. Initially the harbour had not been consulted but we have been provided with assurance that it is business as usual.

The Harbour has been working with local retail owners who sell single use plastic crabbing items to see what can be done about reducing plastics in the harbour. Shop owners are coming up with ideas on a return and resell system and are working with suppliers to look at biodegradable reels.

We are delighted that the shop owners have taken onboard our concerns and are thinking about alternatives. Drop nets in particular cause not only damage to wildlife through entanglement they are also a major nuisance for boat owners both leisure and commercial as they get caught around props. Please respect our beautiful harbour, we would prefer that you avoid buying single use plastics and drop nets.

A “Billy the Gilly” booklet has been designed by a local artist which is available to provide information to the public on handling, care and general information on the shore crabs.

### Navigation and Channel

The Port was inspected by Trinity House and passed its annual inspection and audit.

### Dredging

The Outer Harbour basin was comprehensively dredged to re-instate the previous depth of the harbour at low water.

### Port Safety

Health and safety inspections have been regularly undertaken and all H&S issues have been addressed. The Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Safety Management System (SMS) was independently audited in March 2018. The next audit will be in 2021.

### Public Relations

WHMT once again had organised the North Norfolk Triathlon to raise funds for the charity. The event though had to be cancelled amid concerns of competitors and spectators being unable to socially distance given the number of people that typically congregate. All competitors were fully refunded and it is hoped the event can return in 2021.

WHC worked with the Wells Christmas tide committee to organise and build a Crab & Lobster pot Christmas tree which turned into a great success and was a very popular addition.

In addition, WHC communicates via:

- Published Harbour Minutes
- Published Annual report & Accounts
- Website news page
- Harbour brochure and flyers
- Facebook and Twitter
- Stakeholder meetings i.e. AGM
- Events

## Outer Harbour

Three to four vessels worked from the Outer Harbour supporting O&M activity at the wind farm in 2020. Other survey vessels used the Outer Harbour also. All the vessels call Wells Harbour on VHF channel 12 before departure and on arrival at the leading buoy to gain clearance for transit.

The Port dredger Kari Hege works approximately 5 days per week, weather permitting, from number 13 buoy out to the entrance maintaining the channel. Dredging notices are placed on the website to notify harbour users of where the dredger is working on a weekly basis.

## Administration

The Port provides advice and assistance to Burnham Overy Trust on the management of their navigational buoys at Burnham Overy.

## Harbour Website

The website is regularly updated with news, navigation updates, reports of the meetings of the Harbour Commissioners and views of the public in the Visitors' Book. The website has proven to be very popular worldwide and now incorporates links to facebook and twitter.

## Facebook and Twitter

The Port has a Facebook page which can be accessed via the website. This is a public page and stakeholders do not need to have an account to view the page. Also from the website stakeholders can follow the Harbour Master on Twitter.

## The Haven

The Port's bi-annual newsletter brings updates to Wells residents and other local villages. The Autumn edition was cancelled given the inability to circulate the edition. Crossing the Bar - Tales of Wells Harbour Out now is Crossing the Bar - Tales of Wells Harbour written by Robert Smith and published by the Port. All profits from the book benefits the Wells Harbour Maritime Trust and other local charities.

## BPA

The Commissioners are members of the BPA. Staff Appraisals and Training  
WHC is committed to the training of its employees to maximise their full potential with role succession at the forefront.

The board feels it has a pivotal part to play in the community and is committed to the education and training of its employees and local young people and considers this vital to the success of the Port's future.

## Boat Store

East End continues to be a great asset to the Port and to stakeholders and was at full capacity in the Winter season 2020.

## Slipway Hoist

The self propelled slipway hoist delivered in June 2018 has proved to be a valuable addition to the Harbour as it frequently used lifting fishing vessels for maintenance and repair and well as some of the larger private vessels.

## Car Park

There continues to be much social media debate about the parking enforcement regulations on the quayside car park. Wells Harbour Commissioners did announce the changes ahead of the installation of the cameras and provided signage at the entrance and throughout the car park to ensure it was clear on the charging policy. All the commissioners expect is for people to purchase a valid ticket at the machines, we are a business just like any other and we rely on the income from the car park to pay for the upkeep of equipment, moorings and plant that maintains our beautiful harbour. The majority of complaints are from people stating that they have never bothered to buy a ticket when stopping for fish and chips, despite very clear signs requiring them to do so. They are outraged to now find themselves with a parking charge for not having purchased a ticket. We have never operated a "free" car park to purchase fish and chips and it is not free after 6pm. Our charges run from 8am to midnight, however if you arrive after 6pm the charge is reduced to £1, so please remember to purchase a valid ticket at the machine.

## Facilities Barge

The facilities barge was closed for the season as it was impossible to open and ensure users would be able to socially distance given its size and design. Should social distancing restrictions remain in force for the 2021 season it might still have to be closed however WHC is looking at solutions to see if a 'traffic light' system could be introduced.

## Port Charges

The board of Wells Harbour Commissioners, took the decision to increase the majority of charges and fees by 3% for 2020. However, given the economic environment and the rate of inflation being substantially lower, the WHC have decided to only make changes to visitor tariffs, storage and some Commercial fees.

## GDPR

The Port instructed an external consultant to assist with compliance to the new GDPR regulations. Privacy statements for staff and visitors and a data protection statement for the website have been produced.

## Visiting vessels

The port welcomes over 300 visiting vessels each year and receives frequent compliments on the facilities and welcome the port provides them.

## Quay Events

The Port has an Events Policy for all outside organisations and groups wishing to use the quay for events. Compliance and agreement to this policy in writing is required before an event can go ahead. There will be fees for use of the quay to commercial organisations run for profit.

## New RNLI Boathouse

The Port was consulted regarding the plans for the new RNLI boathouse required to house the new Shannon lifeboat. The new slipway will run the length of the groyne. There are no confirmed plans for the current lifeboat house, however, it plays an important role protecting the spit which will be important going forward. Further details can be found in this brochure in the RNLI article.

**Coastwatch** also have plans to extend their lookout and they have contributed an article in this brochure which outlines their plans.

## Wells Harbour Maritime Trust (WHMT)

All serving Commissioners are Trustees. All profits from the North Norfolk Triathlon go to WHMT. For 2020 no activities were undertaken due to restrictions in place and the WHC considering these events to be non-essential. The plan for 2021 is to resurrect these activities and allow Janice, the events organiser, to regain the momentum lost in 2020. The Trust will provide grants on an individual basis:-

- For a sailing course at beginner or intermediate or advanced standard at local approved sailing schools.
- A sail training vessel for a week's experience at sea. The Trust will make a contribution (direct to the sail training agency) of an amount of money at the discretion of the trustees.
- On maritime courses to extend their maritime skills such as a Sea Survival course. The Trust will make a contribution (paid directly by the WHMT to the training agency) of an amount of money at the discretion of the trustees
- On swimming courses so that young people can learn to swim or teach with confidence. The Trust will make a contribution (directly to the swim school) per applicant to cover the costs for an appropriate swimming course (number of sessions at discretion of the Trustees).

The Trust does not cover travelling or meal costs.

**This is a great opportunity to learn or develop a new skill so why not apply?**

Contact the Harbour Office for an application form:-

The Harbour Office, West Quay, Wells-next-the-Sea, NR23 1AT

Phone: 01328 711646

Email: [harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk](mailto:harbouroffice@wellsharbour.co.uk)

WHMT would like to thank all supporters of the Trust for their kind donations during the course of the year.

