



# Festive Greetings from the Salcombe Harbour Team



South Hams District Council

Another year has almost passed by, and we are already in the throes of winter, albeit currently a mild one. After what has been a decidedly unsettled season, with July and August plagued by windy weekends, we hope everyone has made the most of getting afloat, when the weather has allowed, to enjoy our fantastic harbour and travel further afield.



## Harbour Workshop



As you may have noticed over the past few years, a new harbour building has emerged on Batson Boatpark which we are in the process of moving into. This is the new Harbour Workshop to replace our present workshop facility on Island Street. The new building is a vast improvement in terms of improving our operational efficiency and health and safety, with it now being located close to the rest of our plant and shared assets. It has been designed to facilitate future changes in the types of boats, tasks and the services we operate.

This is not a replacement for the Harbour Office or the Boatpark Office so please continue to visit or contact these public facing facilities for all your normal harbour dealings, information and advice.

## Recent Projects



While we try to make regular improvements to the facilities we offer, you may have noticed some new facilities to support local sailing. In the spring we installed a new pontoon in the west Bag which has subsequently allowed a yawl dock to be installed. This has had a dramatic effect on the numbers of Salcombe Yawls racing due to the ease and accessibility of the deep water berths. This has had positive knock on effect for affiliated businesses and charities. Secondly, we have renovated one of our existing event pontoons to provide a deep water storage area for a local sailing school to store and operate their sailing dinghies from, without tidal restrictions. This not only helps to facilitate schools, groups and individuals in terms of education and qualification but also the wider community, in gaining greater awareness of the marine sector and the opportunities available as part of the "Wind Project".





## Staff structure / patrol

The harbours previous external security contract ended April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Subsequently this patrol has been facilitated in house by the Senior Moorings Officer and a newly appointed Moorings Officer. We have conducted daily, or twice daily patrol shifts this season in addition to the normal staffing rotas, partly focussing on high water tidal access up the creeks. Not only does this cover an element of security but also allows our experienced staff to observe and monitor the quieter areas of the harbour more regularly, improve stakeholder engagement, resolve problems, provide education, manage events and enforce byelaws such as speeding. We are also directing efforts and funding into educational initiatives and making improvements to the harbours CCTV. So far this appears to have successfully accomplished a wider variety of taskings whilst improving our resilience and flexibility in house.

The revenue previously generated for this service was charged against resident moorings. Going forward the Harbour Board feels that this revenue would be better apportioned to those whom it benefits, that being all craft/the wider harbour users. It is therefore fairer to incorporate within Harbour Dues, paid by all, instead of select facilities.



## Speeding Prosecution



On November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023, Newton Abbot Magistrates Court handed down a significant penalty to a local man who breached South Hams District Council / Salcombe Harbour Authority speed limits in his 5m Rib. The Court found the defendant guilty of all charges and was fined the maximum amount possible on 2 charges, this, along with all costs, totalled £3,965. The prosecution also resulted in the individual being issued a criminal record. The charges included breaches of Byelaws 43, 45 and 54 relating to failing to navigate with care, excessive speed and not affording the Harbour Master the

opportunity to establish the facts. Where it appears that the Harbour byelaws or Harbour Directions may have been contravened, the Harbour Authority has the various ways it can reprimand an individual or boat including suspending or withdrawing the use of harbour facilities, which have an immediate and long lasting effect on the offender enjoying the harbour in future, this however was not applicable in this case.

While we try to educate harbour users, this offence is a flagrant breach of byelaws such that public safety and wellbeing has been put at risk, even following intervention by our Duty Boatman. We welcome responsible boat users however this individual showed no regard for the safety of himself or others and caused disruption, discomfort and nuisance to a busy harbour full of other boats and water users looking to enjoy a relaxing evening in our beautiful surroundings.

Finally, I personally would like to thank all of our staff and families for continuing to support and deliver the best service we can offer, while operating in challenging and diverse conditions.

We wish everyone a very festive Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

**Cameron Sims-Stirling**  
**Salcombe Harbour Master**

