to the first edition of the Mariner for 2015 which promises to be a busy year on all fronts.

Last year was all but a record year for Dublin Port with cargo volumes back to 2007’s record level of 31m gross tonnes. This year has started strongly and already it looks likely that 2016 will be a record year for the Port.

It is interesting to see on the tourism and passenger side of our business that the 1.7m passengers on ferries last year was 30% more than in 2007 while the 141,000 cruise visitors was 60% higher than in 2007. Following Stena Line’s recent introduction of the magnificent Stena Superfast X on its Holyhead service, it is quite possible that Dublin Port will be bigger than either Cork or Shannon airports by the end of this year.

Our cruise season started this year with the arrival of the Azores on 15th March and is scheduled to run through to 21st December with the Marco Polo. Overall we expect 82 cruise calls this year with a further 16 cruise ships larger than we can currently handle anchoring in the bay and tendering into Dun Laoghaire.

We anticipate a decision by An Bord Pleanála on our Alexandra Basin Redevelopment Project planning application in the coming months and, subject to a hoped for positive decision, will commence rebuilding 3km of the port’s berths and deepening the entrance channel by 2.2m. This would be the biggest single project in the Port’s history and would allow us to handle larger ships of all types including the world’s largest cruise ships right up at East Link Bridge.

Finally, keep an eye out for the re-emergence in June of the Diving Bell on Sir John Rogerson’s quay which Jim Kelleher is transforming into a landmark on the campshires.

Eamonn O’Reilly, CEO

EU FUNDING

In 2014 the European Commission confirmed that it will provide grant aid of up to €2.4m in respect of the studies associated with the planning application and design costs for Alexandra Basin Redevelopment Project under the TEN-T Programme 2007-2013. We are following this up with an application for funding in respect of the substantive project under the newly launched Connecting Europe Facility 2014-2020.
In the natural world of Dublin Bay, spring is a time of change when the struggle for survival eases and the breeding season gets into full swing. Increasing daylight is the trigger for this age-old changeover. Birds like Brent Geese, that have spent the winter in Dublin Bay, feed intensively in March to build up body fat for their amazing annual migration to Arctic Canada. There they nest on remote tundra areas in 24-hour daylight. Some of the geese rely on spilt agricultural products in Dublin Port to give them the nutrition they need for the 4,000 kilometre journey.

Meanwhile, many of the Oystercatchers, that have spent the winter feeding on cockles in Sandymount Strand and around the Bull Island, head off to Scotland where some breed on sandy beaches and others on agricultural land. Other wading birds like Sanderlings, Knots, Dunlins and Godwits head north to Iceland or east to Siberia where they mix with birds from the rest of Europe. The bird-ringing programme carried out by BirdWatch Ireland, with support from Dublin Port Company, has uncovered the wide-ranging migrations of many of the familiar birds that we see every year in the Bay.

In late April, the first of the terns arrive here from their African wintering grounds to the exact places where they have nested in previous years. These small elegant seabirds breed in large noisy colonies with as many at two to three nests per square metre. In Dublin Port, they have been nesting for decades on various artificial structures and they are quite used to the busy shipping traffic that passes their colonies each day. They fly in and out of the port feeding on small fish that they catch in the shallow waters of Dublin Bay. Sand eels move into the bay to spawn in the sandy sea bed, in turn attracting larger fish like mackerel and marine mammals such as porpoises. As the sun warms the seawater microscopic plankton blooms and feeds countless marine creatures such as shellfish. This great engine of life returns each year in the waters that wash our shores.

To celebrate the rich history and environment of Dublin Bay, a major conference will be hosted by Dublin Port Company on 29th April at the Gibson Hotel, Point Village, Dublin 1. Further details and booking are available on the website www.dublinbayconference.org

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Dublin Port Company will host a major conference on 29th April on the history and environment of Dublin Bay. The conference will celebrate the 300th anniversary of the building of the Great South Wall, the beginning of the modern port. This one-day event will explore the history of the bay from maritime archaeology and historic maps to the sailing trawlers that once plied its waters.

Several experts will explain how the sandy shorelines change shape and how new sand dunes and saltmarsh are formed. The estuarine life, coastal birds and marine mammals will all be profiled. The conference will end with consideration of the future for Dublin Bay, the options for management and the likely impacts of climate change. The conference at the Gibson Hotel, Point Village, Dublin 1, has a limited number of places so book early. You can get more information from the website www.dublinbayconference.org
DUBLIN PORT COMPANY ANNOUNCES CHARITY PARTNERSHIP WITH AWARE

Announcement made by Dublin footballer and Aware board member Bernard Brogan

21st January 2015, Dublin Port Company announced it has formed a new charity partnership with Aware, which this year marks 30 years of raising awareness and providing support, education and information around depression. The announcement was made by Bernard Brogan, Dublin footballer, All-Star and Aware Ambassador along with Eamonn O’Reilly, CEO, Dublin Port Company and Dominic Layden CEO, Aware as they gathered at North Wall Lighthouse to shine a light on the invaluable services that Aware provides.

The aim of the partnership is to help promote awareness of the range of vital support and education services Aware provides to people experiencing difficulties in their life. Aware will be provided with the platform to promote its services to thousands of attendees at Dublin Port’s community events and festivals throughout the year, including the June Riverfest festival which attracted over 56,000 attendees in 2014. Dublin Port also supported Aware’s fundraising ventures, with the annual Harbour2Harbour Walk on St. Patrick’s Day (Tuesday, March 17th).

For further information visit: www.aware.ie

The following vessels will be calling to Dublin Port for the first time:
- MSC Splendida
- Royal Princess
- Celebrity Silhouette
- Magellan
- Star Legend
- Britannia
- Horizon
- Saga Pearl II
- Mein Schiff 4

The “Azores”, which is the ex “Athena”, is the first call as the “Azores”.

At the moment we have 82 cruise ships confirmed with an estimated 57,000 passengers.

Dublin Port Company (DPC) have partnered with Aware for 2015, celebrating their 30th anniversary. As part of the partnership DPC sponsored the Harbour to Harbour Walk, with a ‘half way hoolie’ at berth 18 (beside the East Link bridge), walkers coming from both Howth and Dun Laoghaire were delighted to stop off for a well-earned rest, enjoy a nice cup of tea/coffee (kindly sponsored by Q Café), a sandwich and music before heading off to their final destination. The walk is 16.2 miles from harbour to harbour, 1,500 walkers signed up for the event raising much needed funds for Aware. DPC look forward to continuing their support and sponsorship with Aware through various events during 2015.

Edel Currie & Marie Currie at the ‘halfway hoolie’
DUBLIN PORT RIVERFEST

A huge array of activities is planned over the course of the weekend including the arrival of tall ships and schooners which will berth at North Wall Quay. There will be kayaking sessions which will allow you see the visiting ships from a unique angle. Dublin Bay Cruises St. Bridget will offer three trips daily out into Dublin Bay and The Jeanie Johnson will once again be offering free tours over the course of the weekend. Dublin Port Company’s Tug Boats Shackleton & Beaufort’s will perform daily Tug Boat dances, so popular last year they are back by public demand!

Not to be outdone by the water, land activities will also play an integral part to the festival, with street performers, music from shanty singers and a unique Irish/Nigerian band, face painting and carnival attractions, children’s art & circus workshops. There will be pirate re-enactments all weekend, open air food and craft markets as well as exhibitions in the CHQ Building. Customs and Excise officers will be on hand all day at Dublin Port Riverfest with their vessel the Cutter on view and they will be carrying out sniffer dog demonstrations!

The Dublin Port’s Riverfest promises to be a hive of activity, with entertainment and family fun guaranteed. This year’s pirate themed family day out promises to be bigger and better, so mark the dates in your diary and don’t miss out!

www.dublinriverfest.com

NEW PUBLIC ARTWORK LIGHTS THE WAY FOR ‘DUBLIN SHIPS’

Dublin Port ship movements feature in new digital art installation

Aodhán Ó Riordáin, TD, the Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality and Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has officially opened a new public art installation entitled ‘Dublin Ships’. Commissioned by Dublin City Council and supported by Dublin Port Company, the installation was unveiled at the Scherzer Bridges beside the Convention Centre on North Wall Quay - where the city of Dublin, the docklands and port meet.

Created by the artist Cliona Harmey, this new piece of public artwork brings to life the movements of ships entering and leaving Dublin Port daily, creating a digital log of the port’s activities in full view of the city. The artwork is generated from live electronic signals which track the arrival and departure of each ship in Dublin Port. The name of the ship is then transmitted in real-time to two large LED screens facing towards the city, and remains illuminated in black and white until the next ship either arrives in or leaves the port.

Dublin’s citizens, commuters and pedestrians can now see the newest addition to the city’s public art collection during the installation’s six month tenure. The piece was commissioned by Dublin City Council as part of the Dublin City Public Art Programme under the theme of ‘Interaction and the City’ and received funding by Dublin Port Company.

Further details on the project: www.dublinships.ie
DUBLIN PORT COMPANY RAISES VICTORIAN ERA DIVING BELL TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH FIRST INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE PROJECT

Have you ever passed by the odd looking, bell-shaped, red metal structure standing tall on Sir John Rogerson’s Quay and wondered what it is? You could be forgiven for thinking it is a modern art sculpture or misplaced mound of metal. It is in fact an ingenious feat of Irish engineering that was essential in building Dublin’s quay walls for 87 years. This is Dublin Port’s “Diving Bell”.

Dublin Port Company have announced a new project that will shed light on this important artefact and will transform the Diving Bell into a new interpretive exhibition that explains its origin and history.

The Diving Bell was designed by the port engineer Bindon Blood Stoney (1828 to 1907) and built by Grendon and Co., Drogheda. It was delivered to the Port in 1866, entered service in 1871 and was used in the building of the Port’s quay walls until 1958. Stoney was a prodigious engineer and among his achievements were the building of the Boyne Viaduct in Drogheda, the construction of O’Connell Bridge and the building of many of the Port’s quay walls including Sir John Rogerson’s Quay and North Wall Quay Extension.

The Diving Bell was used in the building of the Port’s quay walls from the Victorian era right up until almost the 1960’s. It was a ground-breaking piece of engineering innovation in its day.

Its lower section was hollow and bottomless, providing just enough room for six men to work at a time. Once lowered into position on the riverbed, the crew entered through an access funnel from the surface and compressed air was fed in from an adjacent barge. The men inside the bell worked on the river bed exposed at their feet, excavating the site where a massive concrete block would later go; all the excavated soil was stashed in trays hanging inside the bell, and brought up when the bell was lifted.

The project, which commenced in February and opens in mid-June 2015, will elevate the 13m tall, 90 tonne Diving Bell onto a two metre steel structure, creating a ramped public access route underneath. A water feature will also be installed beneath the structure accompanied by a series of interpretative panels explaining the historical, social and engineering significance of the Diving Bell. The new exhibition will be illuminated at night time using energy efficient LED lighting.

The project has been designed with the expertise of a range of people including the architect Sean O’Laoire, the sculptor Vivienne Roche, Tom Cosgrave (professor of engineering at...
AIVP CONFERENCE

Is an International Ports & City conference being hosted jointly by DPC and DCC in Dublin Castle, this is the first time an AIVP conference will be held in Ireland. The conference will be based on a “Working Waterfront”; a City-Port mix in progress, which will commence with a Welcome Reception in the Oak Room of the Mansion House on Wednesday 27th May. The Lord Mayor will be in attendance to greet participants.

On Thursday afternoon Junior Minister for the Environment Paudie Coffey will officially launch the conference in Dublin Castle. Claire Byrne will be MC for the duration of the conference. Participants will attend The Admiral’s Ball on Thursday evening in the Round Room of the Mansion House. On Friday morning a ‘technical tour’ of Dublin Port and Bay will take place on board the St. Bridget. The conference will finish on Friday 29th May. AIVP participants will attend a Cultural Day on Saturday, taking in Powerscourt, The Guinness Storehouse & Dublin Port Riverfest.

Pat Ward, Head of Corporate Services, “is looking forward to welcoming the speakers and participants to Dublin for the first AIVP conference to be held in Ireland.”

For further information see: www.aivp.org/dublin/en

BLAST FROM THE PAST...

HARBOUR POLICE - 17/04/1980

Eamonn O’Reilly, Sean O’Laoire, Dolores Wilson & Betty Ashe

the University of Limerick) and Mary Mulvihill of Ingenious Ireland.

This is the first project in Dublin Port’s plan to create a ‘distributed museum’ of attractions across the Dublin docklands and into Dublin Port to preserve the port’s industrial heritage and history.

Weslin Construction Ltd. has been appointed to carry out the project, which will be completed by mid-June 2015, when the newly reconfigured Diving Bell will open again to the city.

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RECENT APPOINTMENTS:
Garrett Dorman, Projects Manager
Padraig Maloney, Projects Coordinator
Finbar Harding, Marine Operative
Catherine Lynch, PA to CEO

RECENT RETIREMENTS:
Thomas O’Reilly, Marine Operative
Elizabeth Whelan, PA to CEO

EDITOR:
The next newsletter is due in July, should you have any comments/ideas please forward to:
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www.dublinport.ie
www.dublinportblog.com