

# Newsletter

October 2014



**Shannon Foynes**  
PORT COMPANY

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter. I am delighted to state that since the last edition many of the exciting projects discussed therein have significantly progressed. A brief update follows.

On the back of strong results for last year, 2014 has seen continued headway with tonnage growth at both Limerick and Foynes for the first eight months. This growth is being achieved in an environment where we continue to strive to offer best in class service to customers by continually investing in resources and infrastructure in order to improve efficiency. For example we recently discharged an animal feeds cargo of over 11,000 tons within a twelve hour window, a discharge rate of 1000/tons per hour which was unheard of just a decade ago. In today's world offering efficient competitive services is a prerequisite for successful business. This is a continual process and as stated we are strongly focussed so that we can compete strongly for new business but there are also other requirements outside our control that need improvement, such as the N69

road upgrade, the Foynes to Limerick rail line and importantly a pro-business development planning regime. We are continuing to work with the relevant parties so that these issues are addressed.

As noted previously Limerick County Council have commenced the Foynes to Limerick Road Improvement Scheme. I understand that the Phase 1 feasibility study is now complete with the project progressing to Phase 2 Constraints Study & Route selection. This is a critical piece of infrastructure to support the port expansion plans as outlined in our port Masterplan Vision 2041. In relation to the reinstatement of the rail line for freight traffic, we continue to partner Irish Rail. We have a budget of €0.5m in place to complete all the necessary preliminary works/surveys and expect these to be complete by March 2015.

With regard to the roll out of our Investment Program, we are shortly due delivery of a €0.5m new crane for Limerick Docks and the final stage of

tender evaluation for the Phase 1 Jetty Development Program at Foynes is underway. The latter will cost well over €10m and is the largest single investment by the Port Company since the West Jetty extension in 1999. We expect to award a contract for this development this year, consisting of the construction of a retaining wall along berth six, the removal of the existing viaduct and the infilling of 14,500m<sup>2</sup> behind berth six to create substantial new open quay storage. The next phase of the Jetty Development Program consists of linking the East and West Jetties with preliminaries due to start next year with construction commencing in 2019. These projects will facilitate increased berthage, remove bottlenecks at the quay face as well as increased load-bearing capabilities allowing faster ship turnaround times and increased berth utilisation.

Our customers, new and old, continue to invest in the port which again is a welcome vote of confidence. CPL are progressing through planning for their €22m investment in a smokeless fuels manufacturing plant that will lead to the creation of over 140 permanent jobs. In addition, Argosea have received planning permission for their multi million euro 40 ft<sup>2</sup> warehouse facility and we look forward to its construction in due course.

With the rising tide of a growing economy and due to the many structural changes implemented at the Port in recent times, we are now well placed to benefit from this newfound economic buoyancy even though some testing challenges lay ahead. We look forward to addressing these and implementing the long term objectives of our Masterplan Vision 2041. Finally, I note that the dock labour force at Foynes agreed to accept the terms of a redundancy over the summer. I would like to wish them and their families well in their future.

**Pat Keating CEO**



# Marine Operations Reshuffle

## Bon Voyage

Colleagues of Tony Murphy gathered at Foynes Yacht Club on the night of Friday 04th July to celebrate Tony's retirement. Tony officially retired from SFPC on Friday 13th June after a long and distinguished career in the appointment of Assistant Harbour Master. Tony's careers spanned the changeover from Foynes Harbour Trustees to Foynes Harbour Commissioners, and the establishment of SFPC in 2000. Tony was

a familiar face at all of the terminals on the Estuary, and in particular Aughinish and Moneypoint, where his expertise, knowledge and friendly manner was appreciated by all. Tony was also a key member of the SEAPT response capabilities. Tony has had a lifelong association with the Estuary, resulting in him having great knowledge about all aspects of the Estuary. SFPC would like to take this opportunity to wish Tony,



his wife Theresa and all of his extended family a long, happy and healthy retirement.



*Mick Kennelly making a presentation to Tony Murphy on the occasion of his retirement*



*Carmel McAvinue, Anne Behan, Patricia McCormack, Elaine O'Sullivan, Tony Murphy, Patricia McGreal, Evelyn Adams & Aoife Lenihan*



*Paul Flynn, John Carlton and Ed Stanley*



*Ger Reidy and Martin Geoghegan*



*Hugh Conlon, Tony Murphy, Mick Kennelly and Aoife Lenihan*



## Welcome on Board

Dave Jones, a native of Limerick City, joined the Port Services Department of SFPC on Tuesday 05th August in the newly created appointment of Berthing Master. Dave brings extensive experience to the role, being a qualified Chief Officer (unlimited) and having

most recently served with Holland America Line (HAL). Previously, he has served with both Chevron and Bergesen Worldwide. Dave was a Training and SMS Officer with HAL. This experience, allied to his previous tanker experience, will prove of

great benefit to SFPC into the future. Dave will shortly join the Marine Operations on-call roster, and will become a familiar presence at all terminals on the Estuary. SFPC welcomes Dave to the team and wish him a long and successful career.

## Historical Letters go on display at the Foynes Aviation & Maritime Museum – May 2014



L-R : Michael Collins (Chairman SFPC), Patrick O'Donovan TD, Margaret O'Shaughnessy (Manager Foynes Aviation & Maritime Museum), Sean Liston (Archivist), Pat Keating (CEO SFPC), Barry O'Kelly (Foynes Aviation & Maritime Museum), Minister Jimmy Deenihan and Martin Geoghegan (Compliance Officer SFPC).

A gold mine of historic documents was discovered in a safe in the offices of the Shannon Foynes Port Company. It includes 20 items, including correspondence from Davitt, Parnell, Henry Grattan, Redmond brothers John and William and MP John Deasy. They cover many topics including Major William Redmond's account of hardships and losses while serving with the 16th (Irish) Division of the British Expeditionary Force in France during World War One. The collection also includes a mounted photograph of Parnell with a label bearing his autograph and a financial order signed by Henry Grattan.

Another correspondence is a facsimile of a 'Portion of Mr Parnell's Famous Manifesto to the Irish People. The collection was launched by Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Jimmy Deenihan.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETITION

SFPC is pleased to announce its inaugural competition for secondary schools. The purpose of the competition, which we expect to host annually in the future, is to foster greater awareness amongst students of their local region, particularly on the businesses and resources which play an important role in its development. 28 teams from schools bordering the Shannon Estuary have to date expressed interest in the competition.

This competition will be of particular interest to Transition Years, as the format is designed to facilitate creativity, teamwork and public presentations. The theme chosen for our first competition is "**The importance of Ports in the Mid-West Region**" which is designed to introduce the schools in the region to the Port Company as well as to allow them to develop an understanding

of ports and their function in modern economies. The broad theme allows for students to approach the issue from a number of perspectives, which could include business, geography, environmental science or economics. A panel of judges will adjudicate on the submissions. The top five entries will be asked to make a public presentation of their project at a Gala event, to which all entrants will be invited with the winners receiving prizes for their school and team.

Closing date for receipt of projects is 28th November 2014. The top five entries will be asked to make a public presentation of their project at a Gala event in early January 2015 to which all entrants will be invited.

## Foynes Air Show 2014

Crowds gathered to view the spectacular air show to mark the 75th Anniversary of the first ever transatlantic commercial flight to Foynes. Congratulations to all involved in making the weekend such a success, it was a great boost for the region.



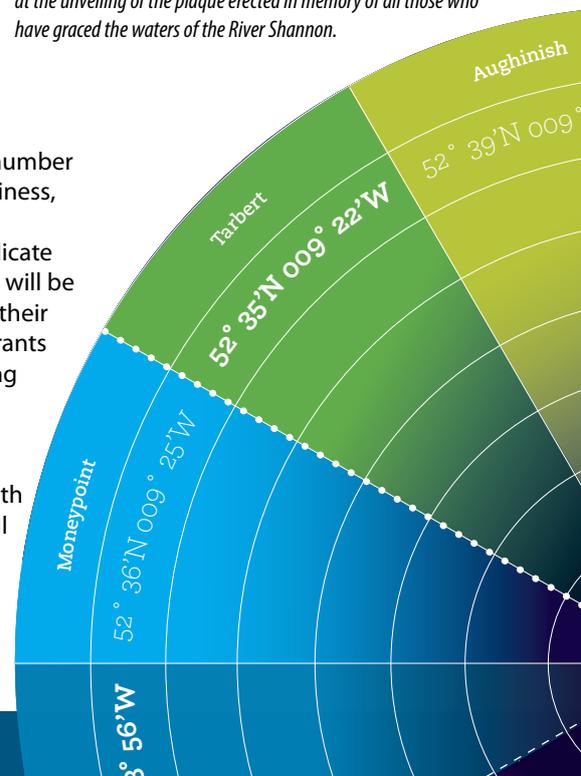
Pat & Evelyn Keating welcome An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to Foynes during the 75th Anniversary Celebrations this summer.



Michael Collins, Chairman Shannon Foynes Port Company, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny at Deputy Patrick O'Donovan at the 75th Anniversary Air Show.



L-R : Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Minister Michael Noonan, Minister Jimmy Deenihan, Deputy Patrick O'Donovan & An Taoiseach Enda Kenny at the unveiling of the plaque erected in memory of all those who have graced the waters of the River Shannon.

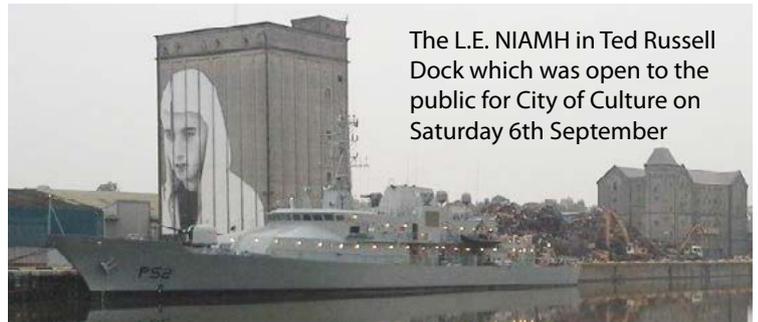


Shannon Foynes Port Company proud to be associated with Limerick City of Culture 2014

Street art give Ranks Silo a face lift



Joe Caslin's art project "Our Nation's Sons" was installed on the side of the iconic Ranks building at Ted Russell Dock. The project is based on re-installing young men back into society. The project team transferred Caslin's sketch onto paper and then pasted it onto Ranks, where it might remain for three to 12 months.



The L.E. NIAMH in Ted Russell Dock which was open to the public for City of Culture on Saturday 6th September



85 year old Giant Granny arrives in Limerick Docks on her recent visit to Limerick as part of the City of Culture activities. The French Puppet Theatre Royal de Luxe escorted Granny on a three day journey through the City.

SFPC bid Bon Voyage to Paul Dunton, LRQA Auditor

Paul has been visiting SFPC for over 10 years and will retire in December 2014. SFPC wish to acknowledge his contribution to the Company and wish Paul & his wife Mary a long and a happy retirement.



Carmel McAvinue & Paul Dunton on a winning streak at Limerick Racecourse.

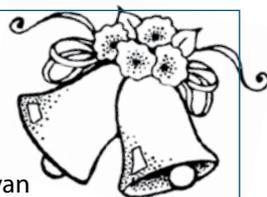


Brian McMahon Exhibition at Sailor's Home, O'Curry Street.

Real Hallucinations, a 110 showcase of work by artist Brian McMahon was recently displayed in the Sailor's Home building in O'Curry Street, Limerick. The 1859 Limerick Ship Owners building was recently renovated by Shannon Foynes Port Company, an ideal location for the exhibition.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Alma Moran & Evan Egan who were married on 20th June and to Pat & Yvonne Ryan who were married on 19th July.



Deepest Sympathy

SFPC extend their deepest sympathy to the family of the Late Bill Davoren, former Chairman of Limerick Harbour Commissioners. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilís.



SFPC Annual Coffee Morning in aid of Milford Hospice

took place in Mill House on Thursday 18th September. Many thanks to all who called for the cuppa & chat and generously donated to this worthy cause.



Special thanks to all our sponsors who support us every year. It was great to catch up with some old pals, welcome some new ones and not forgetting our special visitor from the Banner County. Thanks to all who rolled up their sleeves & put on the aprons, the baking standard was second to none! We would have given "The Great Irish Bakeoff" a run for their money. See you all again at the same place next year.