

Ice Plant is fully operational

Stornoway Port Authority are pleased to confirm that the new Ice Plant has been fully commissioned in the Harbour and is now supplying the fishing fleet. The ice production facility, which was prefabricated and installed by Dutch company Recom Ice system, can produce up to 15 tons of ice per day and store up to a maximum of 20 tons.

Ice is fundamental to the fishing industry, preserving the catch until landings. The ice plant will help improve the quality of the local catch and the increased output and storage will ensure that ice is always available locally.

Chief Executive of the Port Authority Alex MacLeod said: "The authority are delighted the ice plant is operating and supplying what is essential for the local fishing fleet. We know what an important commodity this is for

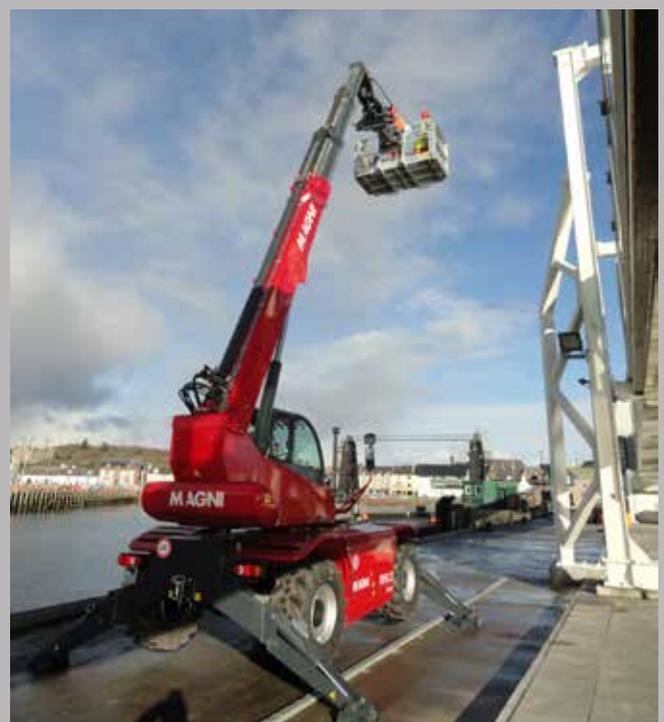


2016 - Record Cruise Season

Stornoway looks set to have its busiest ever cruise season with 70 visits booked for 2016. The amount of cruise calls and passengers, the largest ship to have visited the port and the maximum gross tonnage will all be greater than any other year in Stornoway Harbour.

New telehandler for harbour

A Magni RTH 5.21s telehandler has been purchased for material handling and routine maintenance around the port. The Magni is equipped with a man platform, reaches 21 metres making it ideal for the upkeep of the passenger access system.



Record Cruise Season

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Cruise statistics were not as good as expected with the bad weather endured last year - particularly at the beginning of the season where the port lost 5 larger vessels visiting due to a storm hitting the island in May. Even with the inevitable cancellations due to bad weather at sea, Stornoway Port Authority have forecasted to have at least 10,000 more passengers in 2016, bringing numbers to over 25,000 coming ashore.

The port will be visited by P&O cruises' Azura with a gross tonnage of 115,055, 290 metres in length and a maximum passenger capacity of 3,096 passengers on the 22nd June; followed by Cunards' 2010,

5 star luxury Queen Elizabeth on her maiden voyage to Stornoway anchoring on the 29th June.

The first ship, Azores is expected on the 15th March and the last one is scheduled for the 23rd September. There will be 18 cruise visits in June and the same amount July – the island is set to have a record breaking number of summer visitors in 2016.



New telehandler – continued from the front page

This will save the port time, money and manpower. The new cherry picker is also being used for pier and property maintenance, mast lifts, access to ships for repairs and lifting equipment/cargo off vessels.

It has a maximum lift capacity of 5 tonnes and it's colour is Ferrari Red – Magni have a license from Ferrari to use their colour!



The telehandler pictured above is lifting engine out of leisure vessel "Blue Star"

Ice Plant

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fishermen and for a wide variety of other users and we are glad to be able to provide this to the community.”

Secretary to the Western Isles Fishermen’s Association Duncan MacInnes commented: “WIFA welcome the arrival of the new ice plant, as it will enable both the catching and processing sectors of the industry to improve the quality of their catch and be able to better manage landings in the future. Profitability should increase for fishing vessels as they can stay fishing at sea for longer periods, instead of having to steam long distances to land on a daily basis due to lack of ice, in particular, during the warmer summer months.”

The project has been part funded by the European Fisheries Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.



Above: The 3 storey ice plant on Esplanade Quay

Left - Ted (right) and Colin taking delivery of ice on board the FV Prevail

Sammy the Seal



Sammy was recognisable by the scar on his nose



Stornoway Port Authority recently put a picture of the resident harbour seal on it's facebook page which created a many individuals reminiscing about the "Sammy the seal". Morris MacLeod remembers...

"In 1996 when the old pontoons opened I bought a boat, the Blue Star and in fact this was the first boat to berth at the pontoons. I was doing a lot of day trips and fishing. I quickly developed a rapport with a male seal who frequented the harbour in those days. On my return I would start whistling if he was around and he would follow me right in to the berth and I would hand feed him fish.

He would actually come up on the pontoon and take the fish out of my hand.

On one occasion I was asked to take three German medical consultants to the Shaints. On the way back I stopped and caught some fish telling the Germans that an old friend liked fish but did



not say it was "Sammy". When I stopped in the inner harbour and started feeding "Sammy" the visitors could not believe it. I sold the Blue Star in 2001 but seven years later bought the Selene. On returning to Stornoway after a seven year gap I spotted a seal and started whistling my old tune and blow me it was my old friend. He followed me in just like old times and from then on I made sure I always had a fish or two to feed him. Sadly from 2010 he vanished and I assume he died of old age.

Attached are two shots of the seal from 2009 following me in. If you look closely at his nose you will see white pigmentation from a scar. That was how I was able to identify him."