



# WATERMOUTH HARBOUR

## **NEWSLETTER FROM WATERMOUTH HARBOUR MASTER – MARCH 2026**

Hello to all our Watermouth boat owners and a very big welcome to everyone new for the 2026 season.

Well, what a fabulous season we have had with superb weather almost all year. It has been great to see how many of you have used your boats. Fishing was excellent, especially the Bass season. Let's hope we will be blessed again this season!

### **Here are a few reminders of last year's goings on –**

**SEASON LAUNCH BREAKFAST HAR-BE-QUE** – On the 27<sup>th</sup> April we had our second welcome breakfast, and again were treated to a truly lovely day, and sun burn again! Thank you to everyone who helped and made it such a super morning.

**MACKEREL FESTIVAL** – On the 24<sup>th</sup> May we had another very successful Mackerel Festival, but only at the last minute! The Mackerel had not been seen for weeks and it was becoming a bit of a worry. I was in touch with the charter boats all week hoping to maybe buy some Mackerel for the BBQ's, but no luck. On the actual day, I had a call from my boy, Lenny, working on the Carrick Lee fishing boat, saying 'they have arrived'! Sure enough, you all went out and caught your Mackerel. It was rough and not particularly nice weather either, but you did it. A super evening with 'Anchors Aweigh' singing the Mackerel back and Braunton Bait Box were our pop up tackle shop again.

**SUNSET ON THE SLIPWAY** – On the 28<sup>th</sup> June we welcomed back 'Lynmouth Shanty Band' for our mid-summer BBQ. We are so lucky to call these lovely people our friends. Yet again they did not disappoint, and this is where we started fundraising for Owen, a boat owner's son who is battling cancer at the age of two. The effort and love they put into the evening for Owen was incredible, what great fundraising.

**LITTLE SKIPPERS** – On the 26<sup>th</sup> July we had our children's event with dinghy racing, we try and do other water events, but they just want to keep racing! Ben Bengy from Ilfracombe RNLI heard that we were doing something for the children and asked if the inshore life boat could come in and show some moves and let the children see the boat, such a brilliant idea! They loved it and it was a good way to get them out of the water!

**FOLKSY THEATRE** – On the 5<sup>th</sup> August we welcomed back this amazing outdoor theatre company for the third year, and it was the best year yet! A brilliant turn out, you lot certainly know how to picnic! Teacup trialled taking orders for coffee and waffles, which went down a storm, although rather busy and we were delivering into the audience, all good fun though!

**COPPERAS RALLY** – Our Rally was planned for the 6<sup>th</sup> September, but sadly, we had to cancel. The weather was just not safe enough. This is why we are making the event the first of the year, then if cancelled, we can keep trying through the season.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY** – Well what a wet stormy day that was! Sadly had to be cancelled, look out this December!!

**OWEN** – Thank you from Owen’s family for thinking of him and being so generous with our fundraising. It was the most we had ever raised. So much love has come from Watermouth Harbour and they can’t thank you all enough. Owen is having a really tough time, how can you battle this at two years old?! He has had a few setbacks and is enduring chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy, with scans and blood tests in between. He keeps bouncing back and has just celebrated his third birthday! His cancer is in retreat at the moment with all his treatment cycles. We will look forward to seeing him at the harbour in the summer with his family, he loves the harbour.

**WORK DONE TO THE HARBOUR** – Our ongoing projects are going well, with pollarding the trees and the banks being cut back to make a much wider area for bigger yachts. The gravelled areas are the ideal area for summer storage and launching boats. The other side will be done this year for the area to be totally cleared. We didn’t get to do the water and electrics, but we have been donated an electric box from a kind boat owner, so we will be getting on with that. Teacup installed their own Eco Toilet this year, that has worked brilliantly for them and has given the boat owners the sole use of their shower and toilet facilities. The Harbour Master’s office and Boat House is having a bit of TLC at the moment.

**OUTER MOORINGS** – Watermouth is becoming even more popular for visiting yachts so I am in the process of installing more visitor moorings. As a result of this, it also means we will have more outer moorings available for Watermouth boat owners to take advantage of using these to await a tide on a short term basis. These will be included in your harbour fees but **MUST** be pre-arranged with myself in case already booked with a visitor.

**MESSAGE FROM TEACUP** – Thank you so much to all of you who supported ‘Team Teacup’ this winter. It was a trial to see how busy we would be and we couldn’t have done it without the boat owners. We will open again next winter!

**MESSAGE FROM SEAHORSE** – Pizza nights are great with you lot! Thank you again for all your support. This year we have a few special dates planned on super tide evenings and will have live music. We will send the details to boat owners first and give you first refusal for slots.

Do check out our **EVENTS 2026** and please join in as much as you can. We are really looking forward to this season and getting out on the water! See you all at the **SEASON LAUNCH BREAKFAST HAR-BE-QUE!!**

**ROB**