

APPLEDORE INSTOW FERRY LTD

OPERATIONS REPORT 2025

This year was another busy year, a little up on 2024, by about 3%.

As you will see from the attached sheet, we carried a total of 25466 two legged passengers, of which 4566 were children and 463 free. We also carried 2267 dogs, and 253 bikes. The total number of passengers since the ferry started in 2011 is 298479. We will reach the 300000 mark early next year.

We lost a total of 54 days, 32 due to tide/time restrictions (41 in 2024) and 22 due to adverse weather (29 in 2024).

The Zettle card payment system was taken into use late in 2022 and continues to operate almost without fault. Pretty well all fares were paid via card, with only £9 being taken in cash! A sign we are moving to a cashless society??

Both vessels largely performed well during the season, following MCA/TDC licence renewal after self survey, but a fuel starvation problem with Sheila M occurred twice, and was swiftly dealt with by Peter Short of Instow Marine Services. This ultimately resulted in the purchase and fitting of a new 100hp engine in August.

In late September our vessel Tessa M suffered damage to the starboard rails and gantry when blown onto a moored vessel – a report was submitted to TDC/MCA.

Over the last 2 years we have attempted to increase our qualified Skipper group, ideally for two new skippers to join the team, and it seems that we may have achieved our aim. Nigel Davies joined the skipper team early in the year, and has proved himself as a very competent skipper. We have the potential of another one joining the team next year. Paul Gyurgyak continues to help us when required, for which we are very grateful.

All skippers from 2024 renewed licences for 2025,

On the subject of skippers, Dane was forced to stand down as skipper later in the year, following a replacement hip. We all wish him a speedy 'return to duty!!' I would like to thank all skippers for filling the void left by Dane this year, thank you.

Once again, a successful year made possible by the continued dedication, professionalism and hard work by all volunteers, whether onshore or onboard, for which I thank you. Particular thanks go to Sheila, for taking on all aspects of the rota (except skippers), Dane, for the skipper's rota and John Stenton for the monthly timetables and updating of the 'A' boards on both sides of the river. Without all of you, there would be no ferry, and I thank you all. Well done, and here's to another busy and successful season in 2025.

As you will know by now, I have moved away from North Devon, which makes it difficult for me to continue as Operations Director, (and, indeed, as skipper). This post has now been handed, temporarily, to Sara Mendosa, who will liase between skippers and the Ferry Board. Thank you, Sara, for stepping in.

Chris Northrop.