



Widest ever tanker sails into Bristol

Bristol Port welcomed the widest ever tanker to visit Royal Portbury Dock this month.

Bristol's lock entrance is the widest in the UK and with a beam of 40 metres the MV Amazon Falcon had to be carefully navigated through the 42.7m-wide lock. Five tugs were used to assist the 229m long vessel as it entered the dock and manoeuvred on to the berth.

The vessel delivered a cargo of 60,000 tonnes of jet fuel. The Port meets approximately a quarter of the aviation fuel needs for Heathrow Airport, and deals with a wide range of other bulk liquids, from petrol and diesel to orange juice.



Put to the test: MV Amazon Falcon occupied the full width of the Port's entrance gates, which are the largest in the UK, and required five tugs (including two from Milford Haven) to bring her safely and securely into the docks.



Booming car export trade Rolls on



Another first was achieved in the car trade last month as Bristol Port received its first four Rolls Royce vehicles (pictured above). They were exported to Port Hueneme in California, USA.

The development is a further boost to Bristol Port's Transatlantic trade and booming car export business.

As *Port News* reported last month, a new gateway had opened up to the US with the commencement of the first weekly Transatlantic shipping service from Royal Portbury Dock.

Last year the Port handled nearly 200,000 vehicles for export and a 20% increase is anticipated this year.



With many ex-military personnel in the workforce, Bristol Port was only too happy to meet a request to host 17 Port and Maritime Regiment last month after their own facilities became unavailable. Soldiers used our site to finish their Class 1 Port operators course, which Corporals must complete to be eligible for promotion to Sergeant. Phil Spark, Operations Supervisor, and a former member of the regiment, provided a tour afterwards and said: "It was great to see the soldiers I had previously taught earlier in their careers at the stage where they are ready to take the next step."



To celebrate World Environment Day on 5th June, *Port News* looks at the latest green news, achievements and tips

Beware! Bird nesting season has begun...

As part of the Port's commitment to the local environment, everyone is reminded to take extra care at this time of year to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds around the Port. Oystercatchers and Ringed Plovers are particularly fond of nesting in gravel surfaced car parks and road verges near the estuary in both Avonmouth and Portbury. It is an offence to damage or disturb an active nest. The advice is to be careful while driving, stick to the recommended routes within gravelled car parks, and keep to the perimeter of sites where possible. Known nests will be marked with bollards and signs. If you notice an unmarked nest please inform the Port's Environment Manager Anne Hayes on extension 4492.

Transformed green space for school children: a community success story



A two year community project supported by the Port to improve the green space at Shirehampton Primary School has been completed to great acclaim. Bristol Port apprentices under the leadership of Motorshop supervisor Richard Fletcher, devoted significant manpower and time to overhaul the space. "The school was so thankful to learn about the hard work that was put in, and say it has inspired children, parents and grandparents to learn more about their green space," said Richard.

New good practice guidelines released by ASERA

New good practice guidelines have been published by an organisation that promotes the protection of birds, habitats and fish in the Severn Estuary, and manages human impact and activities in the area.

Bristol Port plays a key role as vice chair of the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA). Find out more here: www.asera.org.uk



Picture of the month

A rare shot of a Cormorant eating an eel in Avonmouth Docks is our image of the month in this Environment Special edition. It was sent in by Jack Fryatt from the Marine Department.

The Severn Estuary and its rivers have the largest migratory runs of European eel in the UK and the region supports a commercial eel fishery despite worldwide declines in eel numbers over past decades. Eels are found in both Avonmouth and Royal Portbury Docks, favouring sheltered nooks and crannies, such as the sluice tunnels within the locks.



United with Manchester

Residents close to Bristol Port in Portishead came together to show solidarity with the people of Manchester, following the horrific terrorist attack after the Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena. Dozens gathered in the local park and formed a heart to mirror the 'I Love Manchester' symbol which became an image of defiance in the aftermath of the attack. The Port lowered the flag on top of St. Andrews House as a mark of respect.

In memory of Steve Wraight

Bristol Port was extremely saddened to learn that gear store manager Steve Wraight passed away, following a very short illness last week. He was 55.

Before joining the Port, Steve had travelled the world for 11 years as an able-bodied seaman, working for Bolton Steam Shipping. He joined Bristol Port in 1994 as a temporary member of staff in the dredge crew. After two years away he re-joined the company again as a Car Trade Operative in 1998. Steve worked his way up to Port Operative, then

Bravery and compassion shown by fabricators

Nick and Scott Rich came to the rescue of a teenager in distress on the M5 bridge, the Port was proud to learn. The pair, who are father and son and both of whom work as fabricators at the motorshop, were

Supervisor, before being appointed as an Operations Manager in May 2007.

Brought up in London, where he went to school at Barking Abbey, Steve retained his broad cockney accent, a dedication to West Ham and passion for punk music. He was a well known and much loved member of the Port community.

He leaves behind his two daughters Michaela and Kaitlin. Details of the funeral will be circulated in due course.

David Brown, the Port's CEO, said: "We join Steve's family with our sincere thoughts at this very difficult time. He will be very much missed by us all."

travelling between Avonmouth Dock and Royal Portbury when they spotted the emergency. Their quick thinking, compassion and bravery resolved the incident.



Bristol pilots recreate gig race last seen a century ago

Bristol pilots have revived a historic race last seen off the shores of Britain at least a century ago.

Coinciding with the passage of The Matthew through Avon Gorge, a race was staged between rival crews from Clevedon Pilot gig club, each carrying a Bristol pilot. The winner was the one to get their pilot onboard the Matthew first.

On race day itself – May 31st – the gigs rowed out of Bristol and waited at Pill for The Matthew to come within striking distance (pictured *right*). As soon as it was in range, the race began in earnest and the gig 'Blackbird' lived up to her name, flying out to get pilot John Freegard aboard – just before being pipped by Tony Anderton on the 'Watch & Pray'.

Pilot gig racing is an historical throwback, with Cornish roots, to when pilots fought to be first to make it to an incoming vessel. If successful, they and their crew would get the job, and the pay, for bringing the vessel safely into port.

The last similar pilot gig race was held off the Cornish coast more than a century ago.

While in the Bristol Channel pilots never boarded ships this way (instead using sailing pilot cutters, or skiffs, and a small punt to finally put the pilot aboard) the history of the occasion was not lost on anyone – especially because May also marked the 520th anniversary of the Matthew beginning her historic voyage to the New World, piloted out of Pill by barge master James Ray.





Bristol Dockers hand over cheque to Parkinson's UK



A cheque ceremony was held this month following the charity rugby match for Barry Riggs which raised £2,040 for Parkinson's UK (reported in last month's Port News). Wayne Harvey, Maintenance

Technician, said: "It was an absolute pleasure to be able to support Parkinson's UK and make a small difference. We wish the charity good luck with raising further awareness about Parkinson's."

Port-sponsored Comets & Rockets flying high

Gordano ladies netball teams, the Comets and the Rockets, have made a winning start in the Summer league, kitted out in striking new purple gear sponsored by the Port. Anne Hayes (Environment Manager) and Emily Hand (Hydrographer) are regulars, and any ladies in the Portishead area interested can join the "Back to Netball" training sessions at 7pm on Thursdays at Gordano School Sport Hall.





Congratulations to mountaineer heroes raising £6,000 for charity

As well as supporting local charities and community projects, Bristol Port raises funds for international causes. The latest event, the 'Black Mountain Challenge', was in aid of the DEC East African Appeal.

Philip Radford, Quality Manager, his wife Liz and Antony Saville, worked tirelessly to organise a team of 50 people to trek up three mountains and enjoy the stunning scenery of the Welsh valleys. Philip said: "There are 16 million people at risk of starvation in East Africa and the head of the DEC says 800,000 children under five will die if help doesn't reach them fast. The Bristol Port community regularly come together to raise funds and we are lucky to have an amazing body of people willing to

join in, along with a very supportive management board."

The ascent more than 700m up three steep mountains, saw temperatures drop from 18 to 5 degrees as walkers were shrouded in cloud, mist and drizzle. They were expertly led by the Southmead Scouts and volunteer Mountain Leaders, while Simon and Mandy Glover, Sue Saville and family, and Dr Adam Radford manned check points to ensure as many people came down the mountain as went up! After several hours, one pair of ripped trousers, two pairs of broken boots and 533 collective miles hiked, the group descended and returned to Bristol happy in the knowledge they had raised just over £6,000.



If you would like to donate further visit www.justgiving.com/EastAfricaCrisisChallenge
And to view more pictures from the event, see www.facebook.com/officialbristolport



A day in the life of ...

Martin Greenslade, Chairman of Bristol Pilots and Senior Marine Pilot

Describe your role...

Pilots are responsible for the safe navigation of shipping visiting the Port and have a long history. As our motto says, we've been "passing the point since 1497". We operate in a challenging marine environment, and the role requires a specialised and detailed knowledge of the Port, its approaches and geographical area, as well as the prevailing tidal and weather conditions. We are also expert and highly specialised ship handlers, and must maintain national and international standards by observing, reporting and, if needs be, taking action to mitigate risk to shipping and the environment.

First thing you do every day?

After a 'pilot order' has been made by the ship-owners agent, we make our way, well in advance, to our outpost in Barry and are then transferred to the ship by the Pilot Cutter – the Bristol Interceptor. We embark the vessel by a rope pilot ladder. The first thing we do is to discuss the passage plan with the Captain.

The best thing about your job?

The satisfaction of being part of a team responsible for safely conning a merchant ship into Port, in one of the more challenging marine environments of the world.



And your least favourite thing?

Facing the rough weather aboard the Bristol Interceptor in the middle of winter, in the dark and stormy Severn Estuary. Then to be faced with climbing up to nine metres up a rope ladder on to a wet deck.

Most amusing thing that's happened on the job?

I always recall a pilot with a wicked sense of humour offering sweets to a fully Japanese-manned car ship. Too polite to turn down the

offer each of them unknowingly popped a Fisherman's Friend into their mouths. It's an acquired taste! Watching each face turn puce and sheepishly making their excuses to send the 'sweet' into the Channel was amusing and memorable to say the least!

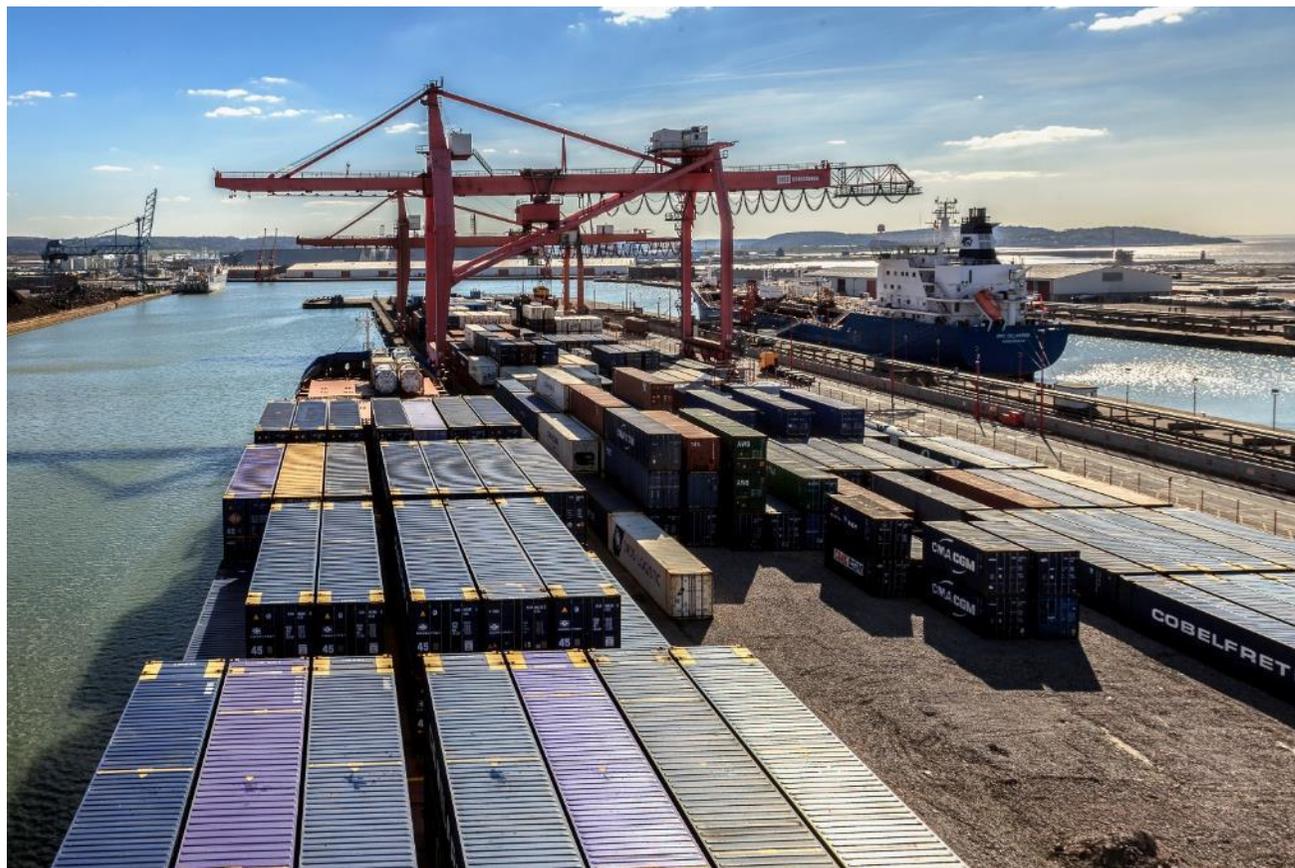
What did you want to do as a child?

I harboured hopes of playing for Liverpool only to be curtailed harshly by a lack of talent! It wasn't until I attended a Merchant Navy Open Day that I even thought of a life at sea.

Editor's note: Martin's son Ben Greenslade also works at the Port, joining as an apprentice in February 2016.

- Read more about Bristol Pilots at their new website www.bristolpilots.co.uk.





- Containers discharged and loaded at RPD and Avonmouth including MSC Koroni and Pohorje
- Pelicana discharging Forest Products
- Weaver Arrow discharging general cargo in RPD
- At least 40 car carriers into RPD including Grand Napoli, Grand Portugalo and Michigan Highway
- Arklow Rover discharging wood pellet into Avonmouth
- Evert Prahm discharging fertiliser into Avonmouth



Jeff's IT Corner

The ransomware attack that affected the NHS and organisations worldwide was a reminder recently of the vigilance required to protect the Port's IT systems. Jeff Usher from IT will be hosting a guest column each month to keep our readers up to speed



Next month:
Jeff's Top Tips

Over the last year, the IT Department has looked at all aspects of computer, user and cyber security, with an aim of achieving a Government benchmark called "Cyber Essentials".

This credential proves to businesses that we have taken the necessary steps to shield and protect our systems from viruses, malware and cyber-attacks, and I am delighted to announce that we have now passed the certification process, and are fully compliant with the Cyber Essentials benchmark.

What does this mean for you? Well you may have noticed over the last year more annoying

pop-ups than usual when running programs, more prompts asking you to restart your PC to install updates, and more secure passwords to have to think about. Also, all PCs have been upgraded to the Windows 10 operating system. This has all been part of the process of making our systems more secure as we go about our daily business.

But this is just the beginning. The NHS ransomware attack is a reminder of how vigilant we must all remain on our computers.

Over the coming months more measures will be introduced to further safeguard and protect

the business from such threats. Some of these may have a direct impact on how you use your computer but they are being introduced to further enhance security over and above the minimum levels required for Government certification.

Our aim is to introduce these extra measures with the least impact upon you as possible. Some things you won't even notice! Others will be more visible.

Please understand why we have to do this and bear with us as we make these important changes.



As part of the Port's commitment to achieving the highest levels of health and safety, Port News will be featuring a dedicated monthly section with the latest news, advice and reminders on how we can all make our working environment safer and more secure.

Three Top Tips:



Unprotected dock edges are a necessary hazard in a busy dock. Protect yourself and others from serious incidents by following safety instructions and reporting unsafe behaviour.

Three tips to stay safe

- 1) Where possible, always avoid driving, walking or working on unprotected dock edges.
- 2) Follow the safety instructions and risk assessment; remembering that it may vary from one area to the next
- 3) Do not interfere with or misuse safety equipment such as life belts, dock ladders or chains.

Loose lifting equipment

Please note that the inspection colour is BLUE. All equipment that has this colour is safe to use and has been inspected by competent persons. Any equipment which is not the correct colour must be withdrawn from use immediately and returned to the gear store.

Put your best foot forward

A PPE update. After successful trials a selection of rigger, ankle, Chelsea boots and car trainers are available. Please speak with your manager for further information.



Phil Salmon clocks up 39 years' service at the Port

The Port prides itself on the loyalty of its workers, and relies daily on the experience and expertise of stalwarts who have committed to many years service at the docks.

Congratulations go this month to Phil Salmon, who celebrates 39 years service..

Phil started as a young man in 1978 – the year after Royal Portbury Dock was opened – in the electrical engineering department as an electrician's mate.

He transferred to operations when the Bristol Port Company took over the site in 1991. Since then he has become an instructor for five years and specialises in cranes and Cargo handlers, Mantsinen, Sennebogen and, Gottwald Jib cranes.



Coming soon ... Docks Heritage Weekend

Bristol Port is again sponsoring The Docks Heritage Weekend at MShed on Sept 30th and Oct 1st. We are looking for any volunteers to help promote the Port and showcase your roles. Please contact katherine.lovell@bristolport.co.uk Further details will be made available in due course.

Rowing regatta challenge

The Port is entering a team in a 'Corporate Rowing Regatta' in September, organised by City of Bristol Rowing Club. Billed as an opportunity to improve fitness, learn a new skill, build a motivated team or just to have fun on the water, entrants will receive a four-week rowing course, with coached sessions from experienced rowers. Anyone interested in joining the Port's team or sponsoring them should email martin.downey@bristolport.co.uk

Keep improving Port News

From your feedback we are encouraged to hear the new *Port News* is being well received. Help us to continue to make it better by contributing to the newsletter. Please contact Katherine.lovell@bristolport.co.uk or call 0117 982 0000