



New, improved Port News

Welcome to our relaunched *Port News*. Its aim is to reveal the part we all play – from the marine department and port operatives to engineers and IT – in making Bristol Port a success. As well as keeping our own teams informed, *Port News* is distributed to more than 500 subscribers via our website – including some of our key customers and suppliers, politicians and visiting VIPs. We want this newsletter to truly showcase the scope, skill and variety of our work at the Port, and our outstanding work force.

It has a new look and is divided into three distinct sections. The news pages aim to keep everyone informed on our latest developments, and the impact our work has locally, nationally and worldwide. Staff & Community pages celebrate the achievements of our team and the ways we support local communities. Finally, the notice board will flag up small but important matters that keep our Port running efficiently.

David Brown, CEO

Record month for car exports

The appeal to Britain's booming car industry of exporting worldwide via Bristol Port has fuelled a record boost in figures.

A total of 18,500 cars exported last month represents a 32% rise year-on-year. It is the Port's highest figure on record for January.

As the automotive trade teams gear up for the registration plate change on March 1, import volumes have also increased 10% year-on-year.

Tony Dent, Director of Automotive Trade, said the success could be attributed to the Port's growing success in attracting car business, and confidence in the wider economy.

Over 700,000 cars, vans and high and heavy plant have been handled in the past year. The Port prides itself on being responsive to the needs of its automotive customers, with major selling points including 500 acres for car storage, and its position as the only deep sea port in the UK with direct motorway and rail



Exports boost: a Jaguar Land Rover vehicle is loaded on to a Grimaldi Ship at Royal Portbury Dock

connections to all points of the compass.

National media reported last week that growth has been spearheaded by one of the Port's customers – Britain's biggest car-maker, Jaguar Land Rover. Toyota, Honda and GM are also showing strong export numbers.



New workhorse honours leader who transformed Bristol

A new, versatile workboat due to be delivered by Spring will further enhance the safe and efficient passage of vessels through Bristol Port. World-renowned Damen Shipbuilders, of the Netherlands, have been commissioned to build a customised Shoalbuster 2308. The multi-purpose tugboat, often described as a workhorse of the seas, is expected to arrive in March and will be used primarily for plough-dredging in the lock entrances in both docks, and general port maintenance. It joins two existing workboats, Gordano and Colliter, which are both approaching 35 years in service, to boost afloat capability and provide the modern equipment needed to maintain the dock efficiently.

The powerful, 22-ton bollard-pull workboat has been trialled extensively worldwide, and a sister vessel was used to prove the concept of plough dredging in Bristol.

The new vessel will be named Graham Robertson, in honour of one of Bristol's most



influential local leaders. Robertson was the city council chief in the 1980s, successfully helping to transform and elevate Bristol to its place today as a leading provincial city. He played

a significant role in the privatisation of the Port in 1991, later serving three successive terms as Lord Mayor and receiving an OBE. He died in 2014, aged 85.



Elite support from Commandos



A team from 3 Commando Brigade have visited the Port to gain a greater understanding of its operations and current contingency plans, and suggest how they could boost manpower in an emergency. Staff Sergeant Darren Dobson, who has more than 20 years service, said: "It was a fantastic

opportunity to have a detailed insight into how the port runs in its day to day operations. I was extremely grateful to John Chaplin's team for the excellent presentations and detailed guided tour. My whole team left with a much better understanding of port infrastructure and its capabilities."

Shipping highlights for the month ahead include:

- At least 48 car carriers into RPD including Autosun, Opal Leader and Guangzhou Highway;
- Riva discharging metals into RPD;
- Marco Polo returning from a 39-day cruise around the Amazon for a turnaround in Avonmouth;
- Arklow Rival loading grain in RPD;
- Thun Galaxy discharging petroleum into Avonmouth.





Green fingered apprentices

They are more at home handling cargo equipment or studying tides, than admiring gardens and flowers. But the apprentices of Bristol Port showed off some horticultural pedigree this month and may yet take credit for playing a small part in helping Portishead to become Britain's "best in bloom" this year.

The apprentices, along with training instructor Colin Smith, were sent to the rescue at short notice to help the Portishead in Bloom team with loading and unloading soil from a lorry into the local town garden.

Portishead in Bloom's team are regular gold medal winners in the popular horticultural competition and have been selected this year to take part in the 'Champion of Champions' class in the national competition.

Derwyn Silk, who made the call to the Port, extended his thanks to the "excellent workers" who put in a long day of soil shifting.



He added: "All members of Portishead in Bloom were impressed by the staff and there were many comments from them and the general public on how well they were turned out and the politeness shown by all of them."

City of Sport

Bristol is celebrating being awarded the title of European City of Sport 2017. The honour recognises the city's thriving club sports scene – enjoyed by many Bristol Port staff and contractors both as participants and supporters – and organisers have set a target to make the city the most active in the UK. Inspired by the challenge, there are plans for a Port football team and running club.

The award is the latest success for the Bristol Partnership for Sport and Active Recreation (now rebranded Active Bristol) which is working with communities, including Avonmouth, to promote the health benefits of regular exercise.

- In the spirit of taking on sporting events, Katherine Lovell, from the Commercial team, will run the Paris Marathon on April 9th. She aims to raise £1,000 for Cancer Research UK. To sponsor her please visit: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Katherine-Lovell



Employees clock up quarter of a century at the docks

The Port prides itself on the loyalty of its workers, and relies daily on the experience of these stalwarts, some of whom started their careers even before Royal Portbury Dock was opened in 1977. Amongst some of the longest serving employees are seven men celebrating a quarter of a century at the Port this month.

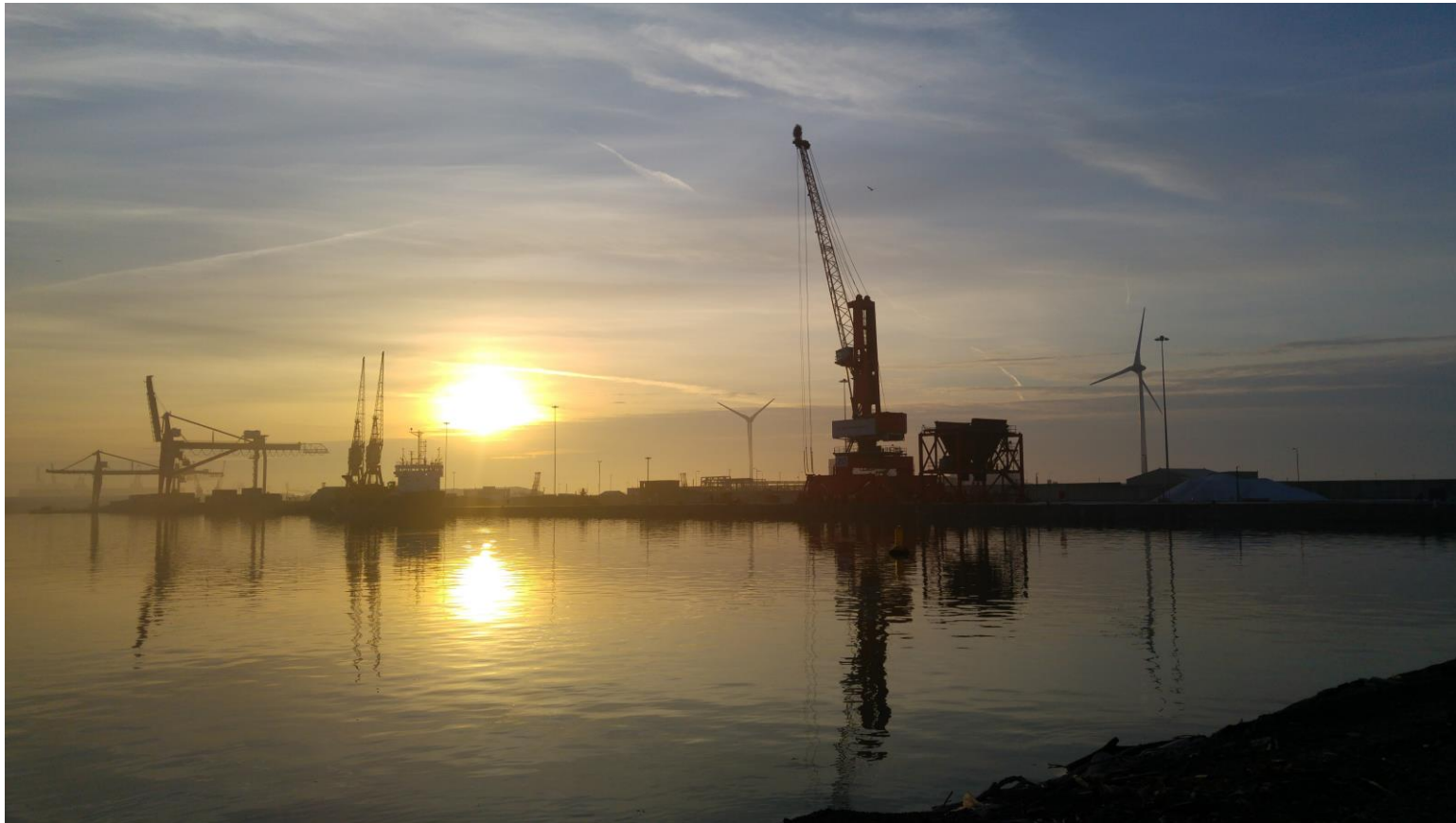
Kevin Bryant, Darren Chilcott, Wayne Harvey, Jerry Male, Lee Reynolds, Clive Sheppard and Duncan Williams started together in February 1992, and have played varied and vital roles in the transformation of operations over 25 years. Kieron Flower, Personnel Director, said: "It is a pleasure to be able to recognise the contributions made by all these employees. We appreciate and value the loyalty and commitment shown by not only these individuals but many of their colleagues."



Life-saving techniques for handling abandoned ships and lessons in fire-fighting at sea were part of a refresher course this month for the Port's Marine Department.

Ten team members were put through their paces in realistic scenarios, run by Compass Sea School, an accredited MCA training centre.

Under new international legislation (known as the 2010 STCW Manila amendments) crews must undertake refreshers in Fire Prevention, Fire Fighting and Sea Survival Techniques every five years. Emily Hand, Hydrographic Surveyor at the Port, said it was "fantastic to know we meet all the national seafaring requirements."



Picture of the month

Sunset at the Port, sent in by Gerard Robinson, Senior Oil Basin Controller.

If you have any images, stories or news you would like included, or if you would like to feature or nominate someone for next month's new 'Day in the Life' series telling our everyday stories, please contact Katherine.lovell@bristolport.co.uk or call 0117 982 0000



Exams success

The professionalism of the Port's accounts department received a further boost last month as a member of the team gained the prestigious chartered accountant qualification.

Alex Babbage, Reporting and Ledger Accountant, successfully completed his final Chartered Institute of Management Accountancy exams, follows a demanding 30 months of studying whilst working full time. Alex manages accounts, liaises with auditors and produces financial reports for the Port.

New team leader

The apprentice programme is a source of continued pride, and none more so than when talented young staff climb the career ladder. A recent promotion to celebrate is David Hopton, recently appointed as Electrical Team Leader in the Ops Engineering department, having started as an apprentice in 2002.

New staff

Bristol Port was pleased to welcome four new part time car trade operatives in January: Dimo Rusev, Marilyn McFarlane, Rafal Naborczyk and Krysztof Kowarczyk.

The Port would also like to welcome three more new faces: Jack Shields, Electrical Supervisor; Cory Richards, Warehouse Operative, and Adam Sell, Motor Fitter.



Loose lifting equipment

Please note that as of January 16th 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.

Recycling

A reminder to help Bristol Port do its bit for the environment by recycling whenever you can, and ensure you do it properly. Most everyday items that can be recycled – check the handy guide below:

Mixed Paper and Cardboard

Cardboard, magazines (without clear wrappers)
Newspapers and pamphlets
Office paper and junk mail/envelopes

Plastics

Coloured and clear household bottles
Drinks bottles (milk, water, fizzy drinks)

Metals

Drinks cans
Food cans

All items must be loose in the bin or contained within a clear recycling bag, available from Central Stores.