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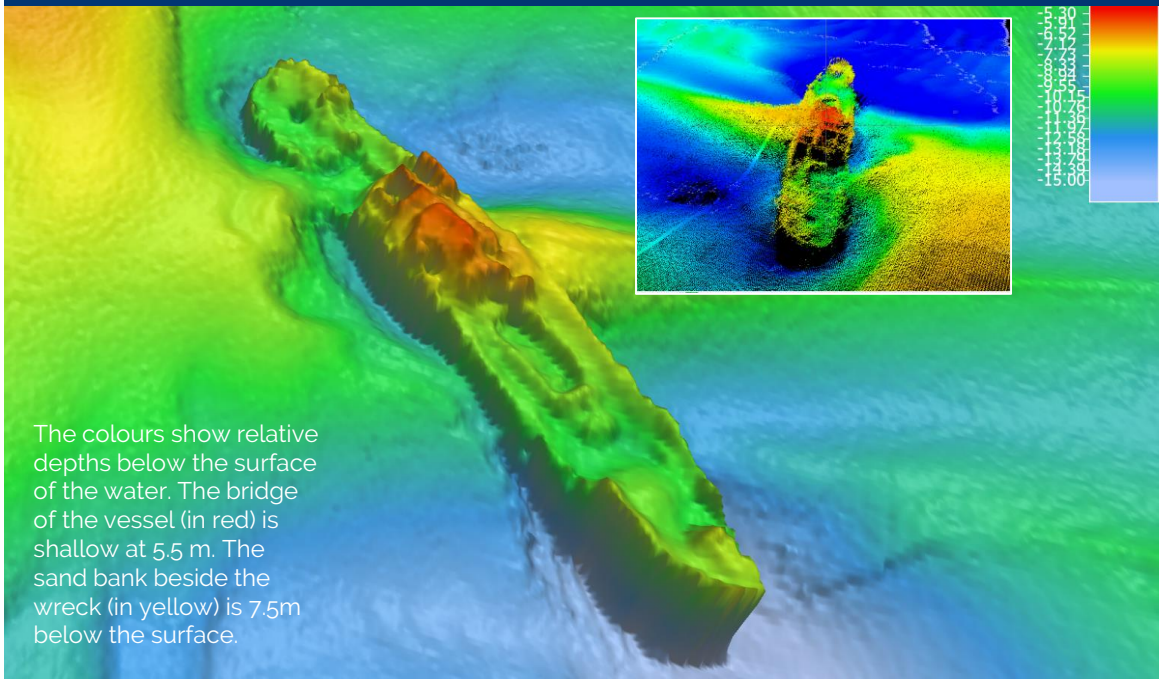
THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

Is this the 117-year-old wreckage of 'The Brunswick'?



The colours show relative depths below the surface of the water. The bridge of the vessel (in red) is shallow at 5.5 m. The sand bank beside the wreck (in yellow) is 7.5m below the surface.

Extraordinary new images have given a clear picture of a mystery wreckage discovered in the shifting sands of the Severn Estuary.

Bristol Port's hydrographic team were excited to capture these images last month during a routine survey of the Harbour Area, using their state-of-the-art vessel Isambard Brunel.

One theory was that it could be a cargo vessel called The Brunswick, which is recorded as having gone down in the same area, outside the harbour's navigation channel. The images show a vessel around 65m long by 9m wide with a bridge midships and a likely cargo hold on the foredeck.

Emily Hand from the Port's Marine Department, said: "From research, there is a chance it may have been The Brunswick, which is the same size and transited between Liverpool and Bristol. But there is no way to know for sure as many other vessels could fit the size and shape of this wreck. We have contacted Historic England to see if we can find out more about this wreck from their records."

Historic England this week confirmed that it is very likely to be the steam ship The Brunswick, which went down on Christmas Eve in 1900, sadly claiming seven lives after being caught up in dense fog.

Marine experts from the Port first saw the wreck when the dynamic Estuary environment granted a clear image during a routine survey last month.

A second site visit by the Port Marine team suggests its secrets maybe safe for sometime to come as shifting sands and sediment are close to submerging and protecting it again.

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Royal Navy warship hosts major businesses in the West

Bristol Port was one of a select group of regional businesses given rare access to the Royal Navy's top frigate this month.

HMS Somerset berthed at Avonmouth and held a special event for business leaders to demonstrate its capabilities. The Type 23 Frigate has been protecting UK interests globally for more than 20 years and in 2016 was named the Royal Navy's top frigate after it played a key role in an operation which seized the largest haul of illegal drugs in the UK. As part of HMS Somerset's security patrols she has also been required to escort Russian vessels in UK waters twice in the past year.

Commander Tim Berry said the Port visit felt like a homecoming. "It was especially poignant being so close to the county that gives the ship its name and also where I call home, having been raised in South Somerset," he said. "I feel incredibly honoured to be part of the heritage that Somerset has forged with the Royal Navy and was pleased to welcome our affiliates, and show my team the best this wonderful county has to offer."

David Brown, CEO, was joined by other key business leaders, including Chris Milton, Offtrade and Export Sales Director for Thatchers Cider.

HMS Somerset berthed at Avonmouth Docks during its visit in which it hosted regional leaders

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The Port's 'fastest boat on wheels' raises £2,000

The British Grand Prix at Silverstone may have been touted as the blue riband motorsport event of last weekend. But a team from Bristol Port, and a 4,000-strong crowd, would insist the real action was at Portishead, with the first ever Soapbox Race in the region.

Eighty teams took part, raising funds for St. Peters Hospice. The Port was a sponsor and the machine entered by the team was a sight to behold. Known as 'Wraight's Mate', the soapbox blended scrap metal, plywood and a quad bike into something resembling a tugboat. And it wasn't just the vehicle that looked sharp. The lead driver was Port apprentice Connor Collins, dressed as Olive Oyl. He was supported by Popeye and his sailors, otherwise known as Joseph Williams (apprentice), Derek Healey (Motorshop manager), Glenn Callaghan (Assistant Motorshop manager) and Jon Genge (Finance).

Next page: Wraight's Mate in the making

After a blistering test run, the time for the first heat suffered due to a brake issue. However the Port's brilliant motorshop team worked hard in the pits to elevate them into the top ten.

Going to press, final heat times were to be announced. But the Port was proud to win the 'Official Best Dressed' award on the day and also surely boast the fastest boat on wheels! The biggest prize for all, was the knowledge that over £2,000 was raised for the hospice by the Port.

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It's alive! The story behind the Frankenstein soapbox

How scrap metal, a quad bike, plywood and teamwork put the Port on the streets of Portishead

Derek Healy, Motorshop manager, tells how old junk was turned into a new fundraising opportunity.

"The initial design plan was to create a cart that looked a bit like a Tugboat so it would correlate with it being a Bristol Port team behind it. The Tug itself is a bit of a Frankenstein's monster! We were donated a dead quad bike that we used for the front and rear axle, the chassis is made from completely donated steel and welded in house by Burgess Marine. With the body, it is made from plywood which was kindly donated by International Plywood. All other parts have been donated or come from recycled material from around the Port, so it has cost a grand total of £0.00 to build but has now raised over £2,000 so far!"

The tug is called 'Wraights Mate' in tribute to late colleague Steve Wraight. All funds raised from the event go to St. Peters Hospice. To donate, please visit https://www.portisheadsoapbox.co.uk/single-post/2017/03/27/St-Peters-Hospice---Our-2017-charity

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Haven Master Jerry Stanford makes an official presentation to Paul Robertson.

Official commissioning of versatile new workboat

The commissioning of a new multi-purpose workboat, the Graham Robertson, was marked with a special ceremony last month attended by the son of the late council leader.

The workboat, a customised Shoalbuster 2308S, will be used primarily for dredging in the lock entrances, further enhancing the Port's in house fleet which ensure safe and efficient passage of ships through both docks.

It is named after Graham Robertson, OBE, who as leader of the city council in the 1980s and later the Lord Mayor, was one of Bristol's most influential figures.

Managing Director Sir David Ord and Chairman Terence Mordaunt attended the ceremony and made a poignant speech about how Graham recognised the benefit in making Bristol Port a privately run enterprise, especially to boost a number of jobs to Bristol.

Haven Master Jerry Stanford made an official presentation to Graham's son Paul, before taking everyone on board for a tour of the vessel.

The workboat joins Gordano and Colliter, to boost afloat capability and provide the modern equipment required to maintain the dock efficiently.

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Grain operations impress global experts

The scale of the Port's grain exports and the quality of value-added services including blending and milling were admired by international delegates this month.

The 21st International Farm Management (IFMA) Congress, which includes experts from USA and Australia, began their month long tour of key UK sites at Royal Portbury Dock. The visit was arranged by IFMA committee member Richard Cooksley, who made a welcome return having spent 12 years as Agriculture Bulk Shed (ABS) Managing Director. The congress were impressed by the scale of the bulk sheds and details of how Bristol Port has achieved a record 718,000 tonnes of grain exports in the last year.

One export destination is Japan, and earlier in July the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food visited the Port as part of a discovery tour about the UK supply chain. Dignitaries reported back their admiration for the scale of operations and the services such as blending and milling.

Read more: this month's 'Day in the Life' talks to James Reeson, ABS Trade Manager

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Columbus tours around the world

Bristol Port attended Cruise and Maritime Voyages naming ceremony for their new flagship, Columbus, last month at the London Cruise Terminal in Tilbury.

The cruiser, which can carry up to 1,400 people, has an exciting year ahead as she sails to Cuba, Central America and the Caribbean. At the start of 2018, in the true tradition of her name, Columbus sets off on an around-the-world trip. She is the latest addition to the CMV fleet, which also includes MS Marco Polo and MV Magellan, both of which sail from Bristol Port in coming months.

Chris Coates, Commercial Director at CMV, said: "When we introduced Magellan to our fleet two years ago, I said it would be a game changer for us. Indeed it has been, and now we begin a new chapter as we proudly introduce our new flagship Columbus."

Customers and suppliers thanked for support

The annual customer event at Bath Races took place last month and gave the Port an opportunity to thank suppliers and customers for their support in 2017.

It was a lower key event after last year's 25th anniversary celebrations, but the atmosphere proved Bristol Port still has a lot to celebrate looking ahead to the future.

The Port's Martin Downey with Nicola Walker from Cronus Logistics

Rescue mission for stricken Peregrine chick

The Port helped to support the release of a Peregrine Chick back into the wild after if was found injured under the M5 bridge. A search located the bird's nest on the other side of the bridge, past the rail line, on Port land. After being treated by a vet, the Port's ornithologist, who conducts surveys in the docks, helped with the release of the bird.

Picture of the month

This month's image was sent in by Police Constable Eddie Weeks.

The unfiltered image was captured on one of Eddie's shifts at 04:55am. "This was taken near berth 7 and was just before an electrical storm. I couldn't believe the colour of the sky so had to take a picture," Eddie said.

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Splashing out: new suits

There's nothing like the great outdoors, and thanks to the Port, children from Avonmouth Primary School can now explore it in all weather conditions. The Port has donated colourful splash suits to the school which got the thumbs up from these children. Lucy Salahi-Ali, who is Mum to three year old Amir, said "The suits not only look great but mean they can go out and explore, which is much better than being stuck inside a classroom. Amir loves wearing his!"

Apprentices of the future?

Pupils from Shirehampton Primary School were treated to a behind the scenes tour to discover the wide range of jobs at the Port. The children (and teachers) were amazed to learn about Port operative careers but also roles as car mechanics, nurses, accountants, web developers and engineers. Polly Barnes, the organiser of the 'My Future, My Choice' initiative taking schools out to look at different industries said: "It was an inspirational tour - the children definitely got a lot from the day.'"

Port's goals for food bank

Bristol Port took part in an annual charity football tournament last weekend for companies involved in the motor trade. Organised by Chris Chaney of Gefco 4PL, who are responsible for the Vauxhall car imports into the Port, the event was played in Luton and featured 12 teams, with funds raised going to the local food bank. Veteran striker John Aldom rolled back the years with some classy goals for the Port team, who competed well but did not make the finals. The tournament was won by STVA, who beat BCA in the final.

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Port contributes to Summer Fest success

The Port was proud to play its part in another highlight in the local calendar, the Summer Fest at Avonmouth Community Centre, on Saturday July 22.

More than 250 locals attended and showcasing the Port was Police Constable Tony Moore, whose vehicle, complete with Port Police livery, was the centre of much attention.

Tony said: "It was a great day, lots of community fun with activities for everyone. The children loved exploring the police car, touching the sirens and asking what each button did. They were fascinated by the bullet proof vests, handcuffs and batons."

Unexpected visitors taking an interest in the Port Police included a trio of dogs dressed up in mock jail outfits saying 'Guilty'.

The event also featured a large paper model of Avonmouth village and the Port created by the Forgotten Landscape group who celebrate the heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels.

Goram 'giant' fair returns

Get your diary out and put The Goram Fair in it! This year's event will be held on Saturday 9th September at Blaise Castle Estate.

Last year saw Bristol Port join in with the game 'It's a Knock Out' and the fun continues this year with craft workshops, trails, a vintage funfair, gourmet food, pony rides and a chance to meet the giant.

The Goram Fair, named after the mythical giant Goram, was a local fixture from 1954-1996. But having disappeared in recent years, organiser Darren Moore reintroduced it to bring the community back together for a celebration. As planning for the day comes together, Darren and the team are looking for volunteers to help on the day. If you would like to help, please contact darren@goramevents.co.uk

GORAM 2017 Fair
BLAISE CASTLE HOUSE MUSEUM
BRISTOL • BS10 7QS

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Jeff's IT Corner

Responding to the top queries we receive on a daily basis

Why is my computer going slow?

Over the course of a day's work you may find you have quite a few programs open. For instance, Outlook, Word, Ops Database, and PDF reader. There are many other programs running behind the scenes including system processes and antivirus software. There's only so much that can fit in the memory before things start to slow the PC down and even sometimes cause it to crash, so remember to close programs you are not using, and reboot the PC occasionally to clear down the memory being used. This will help.

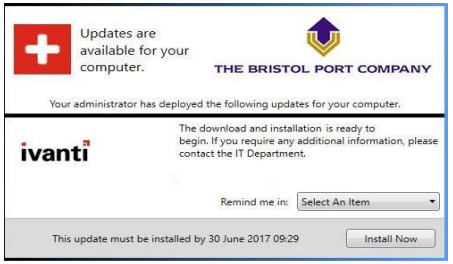
Why won't my new password be accepted?

We apply simple but effective rules to ensure that passwords are sufficiently complex to secure the business. The rules are:

- Your password must be at least 8 characters long;
- Your password must contain at least one UPPERCASE letter, number or symbol;
- You can't use any part of your name in the password;
- You can't re-use any of your last three passwords.

Why do I keep getting asked to download Windows updates?

As the recent ransomware attacks you've seen in the news make clear, PCs need to have the latest security patches applied to protect them from hackers. There are regular Windows update cycles and you should get a pop-up notification when your PC is ready to reboot after the updates have been installed. Please do not ignore the notifications, which look like this:



Port News | The Shipping Forecast
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- Discharging and loading containers into RPD and Avonmouth including MSC Koroni
- Bro Deliverer discharging petroleum products in Avonmouth
- Weaver Arrow discharging general cargo into RPD
- At least 25 car carriers into RPD including Iris Leader, Theben and Tiger
- Ionik Unicorn discharging animal feed into RPD
- Hosanger discharging forest products into RPD

Port News | A Day in the Life
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THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

A day in the life of...

James Reeson, Agriculture Bulk Shed Trade Manager

Describe your role?
My role is to manage all aspects of our feed and grain imports and exports.

What's the first thing you do every day?
I check vehicle numbers across all our sites, making sure that vehicle loading has started efficiently.

How long is a standard day?
About 9 hours.

What is the best thing about your job?
The diversity. Every day is different. One day I can be working out how I am going to fit shipments in, the next I might be showing a Farm Management Association our processes.. Either way it keeps me on my toes.

And your least favourite thing about your job?
Dealing with heated cargo. The lingering aroma doesn't go down well with the family.

Most interesting thing that has happened in your role?
Seeing grain exports in the year 2015 and 2016 through RPD reach a record 718,000 tonnes, and with that seeing our team performing exceptionally well to handle such a large increase.. I was also pleased with the successful introduction of the largest single blender in the UK to G Warehouse at Avonmouth Dock.

Who has been your inspiration since working at Bristol Port?
In my first few weeks with the company as a 20 year old, I was shown around the stores by our Dutch operations manager Alexander Van Der Hieden.. Seeing him run up stacks of feed in his suit (with PPE on) was kind of concerning, certainly for his dry cleaners. However his passion and enthusiasm for the operation rubbed off and gave me basis to succeed in the future.

What did you want to do when you were a child?
I wanted to be an accountant. I didn't really know what direction to take but believed a good living could be made in this area.

Port News | Health and Safety
July 2017
THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

Fire Safety Tips

The terrible tragedy at Grenfell Tower in London has given everyone cause to reflect on their fire safety procedures, Here is a reminder of what to do in case of a fire on the Port Estate or any Port buildings.

- Proceed to the designated fire exits when hearing the fire alarm, only using stairs and never elevators. If you discover the fire make sure you sound the alarm and call 999 as you continue to exit the building.
- As you leave the building close all windows and doors behind you as this will prevent the fire from spreading quickly. When opening a closed door, check its temperature by placing the back of your hand against it. Do not open a door which feels hot – it may have a fire behind it, and the flames will quickly enter the room you are in. Warn others you see and help them exit elsewhere as long as this does not pose an immediate threat to you.
- If there is a large amount of smoke, stay close to the ground. Smoke rises meaning the air is cleaner close to the floor. By placing a wet cloth over your mouth you can restrict your intake of smoke as it will act as a filter. In all situations stay calm and act fast.
- Once out, proceed to the designated assembly point which should be at least 20m away from the burning building. Take a register or a head count to make sure no one is missing. If you do have a missing person under no circumstances should you re-enter a burning building, wait for help to arrive.
- Evacuation is always necessary. If a fire is close to your building, still evacuate as fire can spread very quickly if it is not controlled. Once evacuated stay out of the building in the designated safe zone until the fire brigade give you the all clear to re-enter.

Commitment to safety and welfare

The Welfare Committee had its first ever meeting this month and began its work to assess all the Port's Welfare facilities, and prioritise any actions, to achieve high standards over the coming months.

The Port also successfully hosted the SevernNet Health and Safety peer-to-peer group this month.

Loose lifting equipment

Please note that the inspection colour is ORANGE. 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.

Port News | Careers
July 2017

THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

We are searching for apprentices!

If you're keen to learn and ambitious to build a great future, these exciting opportunities are perfect for you...

Engineering Apprenticeship

Bristol Port are looking for people interested in undertaking a four-year apprenticeship in either Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering with one of the UK's most technologically-advanced ports.

Successful applicants will gain a variety of new skills and follow a sponsored programme leading to a City and Guilds qualification, which will include attendance at College. A minimum of five GCSEs at Grade C or above are required, two of which should be in Maths and English.

Candidates will be expected to start at the end of August 2017, in order to commence academic training in September.

You will start on a basic salary of £11,053 per annum (approximately £212 per week), which will rise annually on an incremental scale.

You should be physically fit and have a good head for heights. A flexible approach to work is important – you will be expected to work shifts as you gain experience.

Port Operations Apprenticeship

You will develop a solid foundation for a career that could see you quickly rise up the ranks, just as long as you're willing to put in the hard work. In fact, many of our operations managers started off as apprentices.

And of course, as you progress, so will your earnings. You'll start on a basic of £12,700 pa, which will rise to over £26,000 once you've successfully completed the two-year apprenticeship and one-year training programme.

With strong numeracy and literacy skills, you should be physically fit, have a good head for heights and a full driving licence. A flexible approach to work is important too, as you'll be working shifts including regular weekends and nights.

So if you're ready to take the first step towards a terrific future, we're waiting to hear from you.

To apply please contact our reception desk on 0117 982 0000 during office hours, or e-mail personnel@bristolport.co.uk and ask for an application form.