

PORT
of
TYNE

TYNE CRIER

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ISSUE 08



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BUSIEST TYNE IN A DECADE

Keen ship spotters will have noticed that the Port of Tyne has been exceptionally busy of late. At one point recently there was a ship on every berth and in some cases more than two, making it our busiest time this century.

In 2010, the total shipping movements at the Port went up by 3% to 4,308, showing that we have had a very buoyant recovery in trade volumes. The upward trend also seems to be continuing according to the figures so far for 2011: from April to May we recorded some 720 vessel movements on the Tyne, which amounts to one ship every hour over that month and a staggering 100% increase on normal river traffic levels.

Harbour Master Mike Nicholson said: "This is the busiest I have ever seen the river in the eight years I have been at the Port of Tyne. We've carefully checked the records as far back as January 2000 and it's busier than any month since before the Millennium."

The surge in river traffic is down to a combination of factors. As well as increased trade levels generally, the capital investment we've made in a major dredging programme has also resulted in soaring river traffic levels since April. There have been big increases in scrap, steel, grain and biomass bulk cargoes, car volumes have risen by 48% and containers have jumped up by 54% on last year's levels.

"WE RECORDED ONE VESSEL EVERY HOUR, EVERY DAY, THROUGH APRIL AND MAY."

The outlook for the rest of the year is also looking rosy. We're expecting to see further upward trends in energy products, including coal and biomass and containerised goods, such as car parts for Nissan's Sunderland production plant are also set to rise.

So expect busy times ahead – plus a few more full houses at the Port this year! ■



WELCOME...

...to the first edition of the new look *Tyne Crier*. We've filled it full of news and stories to keep you well informed, but please let us know what you think and if you have any suggestions for what you'd like to read about. Enjoy!

Andrew Moffat
Chief Executive Officer

DAY IN THE LIFE OF... FRED PERRY



Fred Perry joined the Port of Tyne in 1982 after leaving the army. He started his career as an HGB and JCB driver and has worked his way up to the role of Cargo Supervisor, which he has held for six years. In his time at the Port he's seen it all, as he explains below...

"Starting as a driver helped me to understand the demands and pressures of getting goods on and off the ships and the challenges this can hold. I think this makes me a better supervisor because I know what the lads need to do to get the job done."

"Communication is key to working here, no matter what role you play. A big part of my job is ensuring good communication between the ship's crew and the cargo team on the ground. Your role within the big picture is important and you can never lose sight of the vastness of what's going on. I don't think you ever get totally used to the scale of the operation here at the Port, but it's getting the little things done right in such a big operation really helps the big picture stuff work, like our reputation for being the best."

"THE TEAM ALWAYS PUTS THEMSELVES FORWARD TO HELP GET A JOB DONE ON TIME."

"A good team around you is also really important. Everyday is a different challenge and everyone has to dive in and get on with it. We have a good range of characters in our team so there is always the right person for the job. The team will always put themselves forward to help get a job done on time. Everyone understands the repercussions of falling behind when we work to such a stringent timeframe. We never lose sight of that."

"At the end of the day, having faced all the challenges, my wife Paula picks me up and makes my tea while I look after the allotment." ■



GAINING GROUND

Infilling river berths to turn them into new land may seem to be a strange initiative for a Port which relies on shipping traffic for its livelihood, but with the trends for larger ships and the extra space needed for our operations, it's the smart thing to do for the future.

With the current trend towards the larger panamax-sized vessels, the berths at Tyne Dock have been underutilised for some time. Infilling the dock is going to create an extra 14 acres of land for Port operations that will provide us – and our customers – with even more opportunities and greater flexibility.

Tyne Dock was officially closed in August 2009, after 150 years of operation. The infill process started shortly after and the first stage involved using the spoil created by the construction of the second Tyne Tunnel to reclaim almost 11 acres of land from basin one.

Approximately 50% of basin two has also been infilled and three further acres will be created when basin three, including land from the baffle wall to the old dock gates, is filled in. This will require a total of 57,000 cubic metres of material, which has been imported to the site by our earthworks contractor, Sirius Remediation Ltd.

Sirius will continue importing as much material as possible through the summer of this year, including rubble excavated from the construction of the new facilities being built for the 2012 Olympics. This re-use of existing construction waste is by far the most

environmentally-friendly and cost-effective way of filling the dock, even accounting for the transport of the rubble from further afield. Further infill material is going to be needed to achieve the maximum possible land reclamation and we anticipate that the project will be completed towards the end of the year.

Other key milestones in the project include the removal of the western

dock gates, which is scheduled to happen in July, and the work to demolish the former timber protection jetties and the northern section of the North West Quay.

By 2012, we hope to be able to start putting our new 14 acres of land to good use, as it will allow us to rethink our operations to make better use of the land we have available, as well as being a catalyst for future expansion. ■



FAST FACTS

1,224,000

TONNES OF MATERIAL USED TO FILL TYNE DOCK

181

EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF OLYMPIC-SIZED SWIMMING POOLS THIS WOULD FILL

150

YEARS SINCE TYNE DOCK FIRST OPENED

14

ACRES OF USEABLE LAND RECLAIMED BY 2012

DIGGING DEEP: A NEW ERA FOR PORT OF TYNE



You can expect to see bigger ships than ever berthing at Riverside Quay following the completion of a major dredging operation to deepen the river.

The berth on the south bank of the Tyne and the main river channel are both being deepened by almost one metre, creating 13 metres of deep water at the berth and a depth of 10 metres in the channel. This will make the river deeper than ever before and will set a new depth record for the Port of Tyne.

The dredging is a key part of a £4m investment programme to improve the Port's infrastructure. Works that have already been undertaken as part of the programme include the recent engineering work to strengthen Riverside Quay.

Ten weeks of almost constant dredging by a powerful Trailing Suction Hopper vessel will remove around 700,000 cubic metres (one million tonnes) of silt from the river – enough to fill the Albert Hall nine times over or to completely fill St. James' Park. Once the work is completed, the Port will be able to accommodate 80% of the world's bulk carrier fleet. This includes the Panamax bulk cargo vessels that can carry around 6,000 tonnes more cargo on each visit, placing Port of Tyne in the 'Premier League' of the UK's deepest Ports.

The last time the Port of Tyne undertook a major dredging campaign was in 2007, removing some 300,000 cubic metres of sand, silt, clay and rock in the process. Prior to this the river had remained relatively unchanged since 1961, so the

present dredging operation is the largest in 50 years.

However, dredging the Tyne is a never-ending task. During the 19th century, the Tyne Improvement Commissioners removed over 60 million tonnes of sediment from the river between 1838 and 1900, which as well as deepening the river, also straightened it and removed whole islands to make it more suitable for shipping. Ever since then the Tyne has required constant dredging and as recently as the 1970s the Port of Tyne operated its own fleet of dredgers and hoppers. The Port's last grab dredger was sold in 2010 to a developing port in Africa, but a new £1.1m new plough dredger is due to arrive in August and this will help to maintain the river depths on a daily basis. ■

FAST FACTS

700,000

CUBIC METRES (1M TONNES) OF SILT REMOVED – ENOUGH TO FILL ST JAMES' PARK

80%

OF THE WORLD'S BULK CARRIER FLEET CAN BE ACCOMMODATED ONCE WORK IS COMPLETE

£4M

INVESTMENT PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE THE PORT'S INFRASTRUCTURE

10

WEEKS OF CONSTANT DREDGING



RECENT VISITORS TO THE PORT OF TYNE



THERESA VILLIERS
Shadow Secretary of State for Transport



MICHAEL HESELTINE*
Chair of the Regional Growth Fund



CHI ONWURAH
MP for Newcastle Central



MARY GLENDON
MP for North Tyneside

*Martin Argles/Guardian News & Media Ltd.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY/

HERE...

...at the Port of Tyne, we're very proud to support our local communities. We believe that as well as the great impact we have on the region's economy, it is essential that we play our part in the social and cultural development of the North East too.

We do this by actively supporting community projects as well as sponsoring arts and sporting events that benefit the wider community. Here's just a selection of the events and activities that the Port and its employees have been involved in over recent months.

NOT JUST FOR NANAS!

Many of you may have seen previous reports about the success of **The Materialists**, a group of enthusiastic knitters and textile artists who first came together for the successful 'A coat for a boat' project sponsored by the Port of Tyne.

The Port's sponsorship relationship with the group has continued to be a great success. Earlier this year The Customs House unveiled their latest exhibition supported by Port of Tyne,

A *Grand Tour*, featuring a collection of pieces replicating famous artworks across history, from Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* and Andy Warhol's *Marilyns* to an eight foot knitted totem pole, formed entirely of knitting, embroidery, stitching and crochet.

With over 10,000 people visiting the exhibition at The Customs House, the group were asked to take their show to a major exhibition in London. Port of Tyne came to the rescue yet again, both by sponsoring the exhibition and getting the exhibits down to Olympia with help from the Port of Tyne logistics division. The group has now attracted interest in their work from even further afield and an exhibition planned of the woolly masterpieces in New York in 2012. ■



SONGS FROM THE SHIPYARDS

In partnership with Tyneside Cinema, Port of Tyne sponsored a one-off event combining music and film by acclaimed filmmaker **Richard Fenwick**, and the Northumberland-based Mercury Prize nominated group, **'The Unthanks'**.

The project involved reworking a wealth of archive film footage held at the British Film Institute covering shipbuilding on the Tyne from 1900 to the modern day. The resulting

50-minute film was shown accompanied by music specially arranged for the film by *The Unthanks*, based on traditional folk and shipyard songs. It is hoped that the show will tour to other venues in the future, with the additional possibility of showcasing the material on the web.

Mark Dobson, Tyneside Cinema Chief Executive said: "We are extremely grateful to Port of Tyne for their imagination and support of arts and culture. Port of Tyne is a fabulous example of a business that really cares about its place and its community demonstrated through the creation of this unique work that will celebrate and share for years to come, the shipbuilding heritage of the Tyne and the other great rivers of the north." ■

SOUTH TYNESIDE'S GOT TALENT

The nominees for the title of **Young Performer of the Year** took to the stage at the Customs House on 14 June, with a show to rival Britain's *Got Talent*.

The evening was sponsored by Port of Tyne as part of its sponsorship of this year's Pride of South Tyneside awards which take place on 14 July.

The Port is supporting the Young Performers category, which encourages kids of all ages to showcase their singing, dancing and instrumental talents. The show featured young people aged 7-21 tackling a variety of styles and artforms, from George Formby's *When I'm Cleaning Windows* to Rihanna's *Unfaithful*.

The winner of the Young Performer's title will be revealed at the awards evening on the 14 July, which will also feature a host of other ordinary people who do extraordinary things within their local community. Full coverage of the Pride of South Tyneside awards will be in the Shields Gazette. ■

Pictured below: James Bassett aged 7; Charlotte Rowe aged 15 & Sarah Ryan aged 18



HELP WANTED

7-10 JULY

South Tyneside Council are looking for ten plucky volunteers to lend a hand during this year's Mouth of the Tyne Festival, running from 7-10 July.

The volunteers are needed on 9 July to work with the group *Close Act* as part of the Festival Parade. The parade leaves Gypsies Green stadium and travels along Sea Road to Harbour Drive, finishing with a spectacular firework display. Volunteers need to be willing to take part in the parade and will be provided with both costume and make-up by *Close Act*.

Two volunteers are specifically required to help the two fire performers. The job involves carrying an iron bucket filled with a little sand to take the burnt fire sticks. You'll need to be pretty fit to keep up with the fire performers, who will be doing lots of running around!

Eight more volunteers are needed to help with the three mobile floats, helping push them over speed humps.

To take part, you'd need to be at Gypsies Green Stadium at 6pm and, as the parade doesn't finish until 11pm, you'd also need to help take the equipment back to Gypsies Green, so would probably not get away until midnight.

Volunteers who've taken part in the past have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, so if you're interested in getting involved just contact the Marketing and Communications department and we'll put you in touch with the parade organisers at South Tyneside Council.



MAPPING THE TYNE... IN YOUR OWN WORDS



THE LATE SHOWS

Celebrating its fifth birthday in May 2011, **The Late Shows** was back to give people their annual dose of after-dark access to Newcastle-Gateshead's most popular museums and cultural venues. And this year a record 46 venues opened their doors from 7pm until late to revellers on this legendary culture crawl.

As dusk fell, people were given glow sticks and a map of all the venues to encourage them to visit as many places as possible. A new addition to the line up for 2011 was the Swing Bridge, where exclusive tours quickly became one of the event's success stories, with eager visitors snapping up the chance to see the magnificent mechanics of the motor room.

Carol Bell, Head of Culture and Major Events at NewcastleGateshead Initiative said: "The Late Shows' real strength lies in the excellent collaboration of all the partners involved, so we were delighted to be able to include the Port of Tyne this year. The visits to the Swing Bridge proved so popular that places were snapped up straight away. The bridge remains an iconic link between NewcastleGateshead and was a great addition to this year's venues". ■

Over the last 500 years, countless maps have been drawn of the Tyne and the communities lining its banks – many of them beautiful, all of them interesting. But the most fascinating of all could soon be created – by you!

Michael Chaplin, the Port's writer-in-residence, is busy working on a new project called *Mapping Tyne* – the creation of 'personal memory maps' by individuals, groups and families, creating a graphic, easy-to-use and fun way to collect experiences and memories of the river.

Michael has already held *Mapping Tyne* sessions with retired members of staff and is keen to work with current staff too. As he says: "The people who know the river best and perhaps care for it most work for the Port – and I'm sure they have a wealth of brilliant stories which should be shared and preserved for posterity".

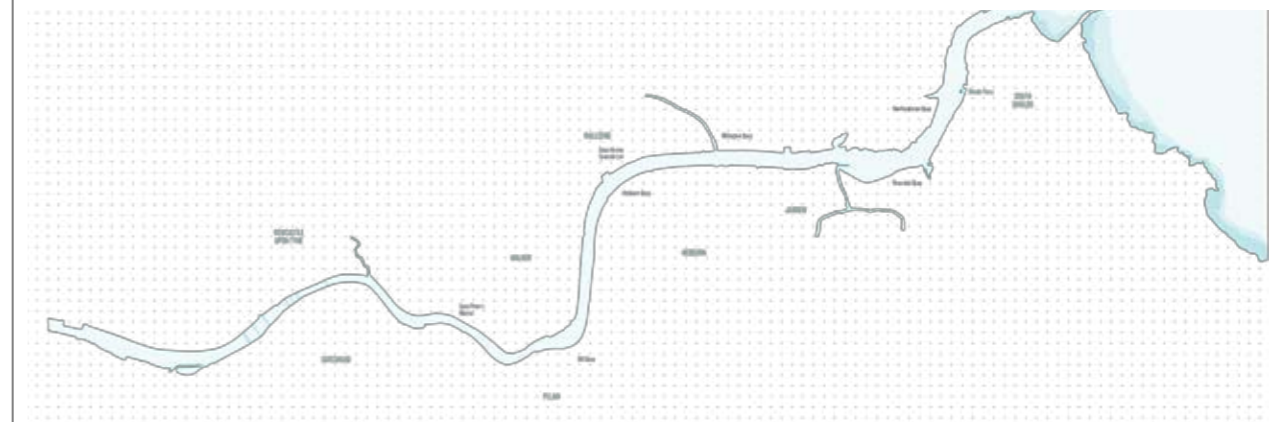
Groups or individuals can share their experiences on special maps of the outline of the river, with space to note down special memories or anecdotes. Retired Docks Manager Dave McKay

remembered his crane-driver father making friends with a cook on a Fred Olsen ferry who then kept the family supplied with wonderful goodies in the days of rationing. Retired cleaner Norma Spink recalled the visit of a Venezuelan Navy ship for a refit – when it left, hearts were broken, but the birth rate in South Shields returned to normal.

It's hoped that the project will inspire people to reconnect with the river that remains at the heart of our collective existence. Various local schools are also working on *Mapping Tyne* projects with the aim of getting the whole family involved.

Eventually Michael hopes to create a book or exhibition from the stories he finds. Michael will also soon be walking the 40-mile length of the Tyne from piers to the Port's boundary stone and back, joined by our Chief Executive Andrew Moffat and others.

If you'd like to take part in a Mapping Tyne session please contact michael.chaplin@portoftyne.co.uk or just call him on 07770 957279. ■



EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Watch out for... the Annual Port of Tyne Reflect Competition launch in late July

Thursday 7- Sunday 10 July

Mouth of Tyne Festival

Thursday 14 July

Pride of South Tyneside Awards

Sunday 24 July

Great Tyne Row

Saturday 13- Sunday 14 August

Bridges Festival

Sunday 18 September

River Tyne Swim

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE/

HOW ARE WE DOING? QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE

Last year, we launched a profit share scheme for all employees so that anyone who works for the Port of Tyne has the opportunity to share in the performance of the business.

As part of the scheme, we asked for ideas to help improve efficiency and profitability. We also said that we would share information with you about how the business is performing at regular intervals throughout the year. We started this communication with our annual 'Insight' events for staff, which were attended by 90% of our 450-strong workforce. At the event, we shared information about our overall performance in 2010 and looked at the outlook for 2011. If you weren't able to make it, you can find details of all our financial performance information in our annual review which is available on the internet at www.portofTyne.co.uk

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

How are we doing so far this year? We've now passed the end of the first quarter of the 2011 financial year and our performance to date is shown in the following table.

You can see that from January – March 2011 we turned over £0.9m less than we had expected in our budget forecasts. However this has been primarily caused by the timing of the payments we receive through our 'take or pay' contracts for coal. When we handle coal we get paid for it at the time we handle it. However, if no coal cargoes are handled, we still receive income under our 'take or pay' contracts, we just don't receive the income until the end of the year. This means that any shortfall in turnover in the first quarter of 2011 will either be made up as handling income later in the year as cargoes are handled or else we'll get the balance as 'take or pay' income in December.

Taking this into account, our financial performance at the end of March 2011 was broadly in line with our budget, both in total and for the major income and cost lines shown here. For the full year of 2011 we currently expect to achieve our EBITDA target of £14.8m and our Profit before Tax of £8.4m, which will be nearly double our results in 2010.

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

Improving our profitability means that we will generate more cash from our operations. However to continue to be profitable in the future, we need to make sure we are using our cash wisely by investing in the Port's infrastructure, enabling us to take advantage of new business opportunities.

We are currently forecasting to spend £12.4m on capital investment in 2011 which is higher than originally

proposed in our 2011 budget. This is because we are bringing forward some of the expenditure we had planned for 2012, including the investment in new biomass hoppers and a second gantry crane for the container compound. With the business opportunities presented by the increased demand for biomass and the potential for offshore wind turbine manufacturing infrastructure, we may also need to make further investment this year to make sure we're ready to take advantage of these opportunities as they arise.

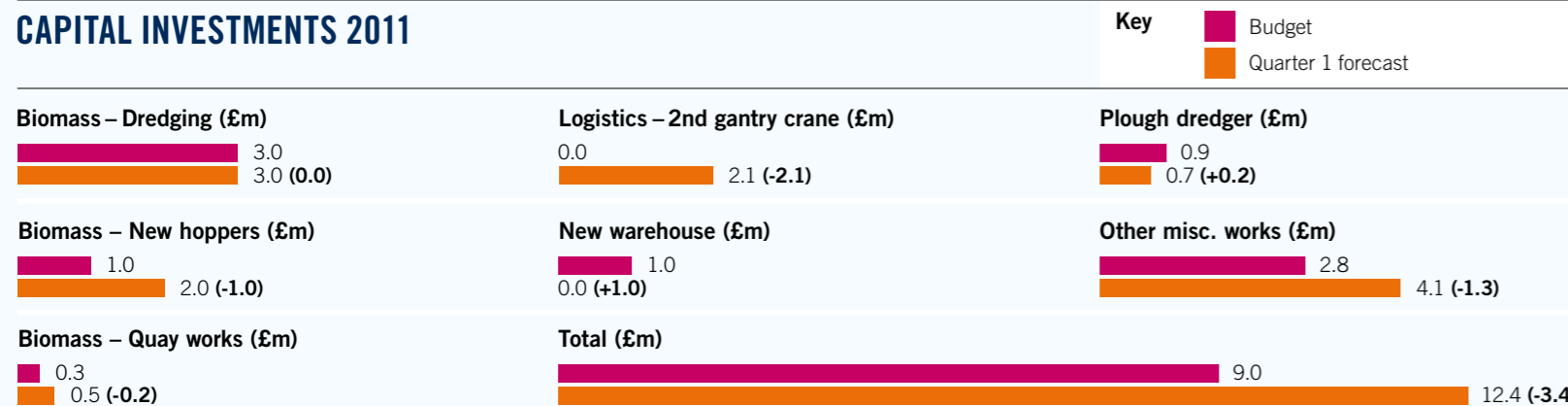
The chart below shows where we are planning to invest our profits over the next 12 months.

Overall, if we invest wisely in the infrastructure that is going to bring us more business in the future, we'll be well on the way to creating a secure and prosperous Port of Tyne. ■

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT QUARTER 1



CAPITAL INVESTMENTS 2011



90%
OF STAFF ATTENDED
INSIGHT TO
FIND OUT ABOUT
OUR PERFORMANCE

£14.8M
IS OUR EBITDA
TARGET FOR 2011 –
WHICH WE ARE ON
TRACK TO MEET

INSIGHT – NINE OUT OF TEN ATTENDANCE

A record 90% of all Port of Tyne employees attended this year's internal 'Insight' events, a 4% increase on 2010 levels.

These annual events, held this year at the Customs House and Bede's World, are designed to let people know about the Port's performance over the past 12 months and provide a great opportunity to find out how we're doing across all our different

business areas. They also give an indication of what we can expect during 2011 and beyond, with information on planned investment and opportunities for future growth.

This year, the Port was able to report a significant return to growth in 2010. Turnover increased to £45.5m and a record level of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) was reported, increasing by 45% to £9.6m. Cash flow from our operating activities more than doubled to £8.9m and profit before tax was double that of the previous year, rising to £4.4m. The economic impact of the Port on the region has also increased to £421m, underlining how important the Port is for the business life of the local community. ■



FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO COULDN'T MAKE IT TO THE EVENT, A DVD OF THE FILM AND PRESENTATIONS WILL BE COMING YOUR WAY SOON...

TALKING PORTS

The 15th annual Coast Link conference took place in Liverpool from the 15-16 June, with representatives from the ports and shipping industry meeting to debate the key issues affecting the competitiveness of the industry in the current economic climate.

Our Logistics Commercial team went along to take part in a programme of events covering a range of topics, including the viability of short sea and feeder services to the Northwest, the transfer of volumes from road and rail through Continental Ports and how the Government's environmental targets can be met by changing approaches to transport in the UK.

Key note speaker at the conference was UK Shipping Minister Mike Penning, who went along to meet with delegates from Ports across the country to help him understand from first hand the key issues impacting on the competitiveness of the industry in the economic downturn. ■



PUTTING THE PORT OF TYNE ON SHOW



In April this year, the Port of Tyne headed off to Multimodal, the UK's biggest transport fair that's held every year at the NEC in Birmingham.

Businesses from all over the world come to find out the latest news and developments in transport and logistics, and this year was no exception as Port of Tyne joined 205 exhibiting companies from over 33

counties. Over 4,000 visitors in manufacturing, retail, wholesale, distribution, import and export passed through the exhibition over the five day fair, creating lots of opportunities for the Port to get together with leading brands such as Coca Cola, Jaguar Land Rover, BAE, Kimberly Clark and Kellogg's, as well as a whole host of small to medium sized shippers who all benefit from having their supply chain in one place.

Having a strong Port of Tyne presence at Multimodal is essential to help us get in front of potential new customers as well as cementing our reputation as one of the major UK players in the transport and logistics supply chain. We fielded a strong team at Multimodal, including Gill Scott, Sue Duffell, Carolyn Cormier, Tracey Younger, Graeme Hardie, John Tye, Andy Foulds, Alasdair Kerr, Richard Newton and Ian Gibson with Andrew Moffat and Susan Wear also visiting.

Another way of getting Port of Tyne noticed was our eye-catching exhibition stand. On this occasion the logistics challenge was how to suspend a 40-tonne container 8m up in the air! The solution was to create a life-size replica out of foamex board, but it undoubtedly did the trick in making the Port of Tyne stand one of the most noticed in the exhibition.

Another draw for visitors to the exhibition were some of the Port's customers who shared the stand with us. Tetley Tea brought along their tea folk – Gaffer even made an appearance on the stand (the card board cut out version) and, of course Tetley Tea was served to visitors.

Other customers joining us on stand were Campbell's shortbread and JML, who also provided promotional items to give away to stand visitors, as well as sharing their positive experiences of being a Port of Tyne customer. ■

ENVIRONMENT/



HANDLING A NEW CARGO

The Port of Tyne has been handling cargoes of biomass – wood pellets – for storage and transportation since late 2010. This relatively new fuel source is part of the drive to reduce the UK's dependence on carbon-based fuels such as oil and gas and is a key pillar of the government's renewable energy strategy.

However, we operate at the heart of our local community, so it is vital that we make sure that our cargo operations don't have a negative impact on residents and businesses in the vicinity of the Port. That's why we're investing over £2m in two new purpose-built hoppers for offloading the biomass, which are expected to be installed by the end of this year.

Even before these new hoppers are installed, we have been making a number of major modifications to improve the processes and reduce the problem of dust, and we are continually looking to improve how we handle and store wood pellets. Measures taken so far include high power dust extraction machines which were installed in June, slowing down the pace of handling processes to minimise dust disturbance and damping down operations to reduce dust emissions. To date, the measures we have taken have significantly reduced the instances of emissions of dust both for neighbouring residents and on the site. Everyone working in the vicinity when this cargo is being handled at Riverside Quay has received comprehensive training in the appropriate personal safety and

protection gear and all personnel are required to adhere to the guidelines.

To keep track of the issues, we have been maintaining 24/7 on-site monitoring of the biomass facility and air quality monitoring is undertaken continuously with daily tests checking for visible dust in the streets close to the Port. Our neighbours have access to a 24 hour contact number to report any dust problems and the cargo supervisors are empowered to stop operations if they feel there might be a problem. We are working with the regulatory bodies including the Health and Safety Executive and South Tyneside Council Environmental Health department and a residents' group has been established. To date there have been no instances of exceeding the national guidelines.

“WE HAVE MADE GOOD PROGRESS SO FAR AND REDUCED THE POSSIBILITY OF DUST EMISSIONS.”

“We have made good progress so far and reduced the possibility of dust emissions,” said Brian Reeve, Chief Technical Officer. “But ultimately it's the new hoppers which will make the difference and allow us to process this cargo very efficiently. These hoppers are enormous structures with their own in-built dust extraction



systems to capture any dust created as the pellets are offloaded.”

The cargoes of wood pellets, which come in to the North East primarily from North America and Canada, are offloaded and then transferred to our huge on-site biomass storage facility which is equivalent to two Wembley-sized football pitches. The biomass is then transported by rail direct to Drax Power station in Yorkshire where it is used to generate power for the National Grid.

With many more power generating companies looking to make use of this valuable renewable energy source, biomass is an important new cargo for the Port of Tyne. It is undoubtedly going to play a big part in our future business, so making sure we have the equipment and process in place to handle biomass fuels safely and efficiently is vital to our success. ■



FAST FACTS

2M
INVESTED IN TWO NEW PURPOSE-BUILT HOPPERS

24/7
CONTACT NUMBER FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

60
TONNES OF BIOMASS PELLETS PER SHIPMENT

14,645M²
TOTAL AREA OF THE BIOMASS STORAGE SHED – WHICH IS EQUIVALENT TO TWO WEMBLEY PITCHES

HEALTH & SAFETY/

LEARNING FROM A NEAR MISS...



In early February this year, high winds blew off an empty container that had been stacked on top of two others, landing it on two parked cars outside the container terminal fence.

Fortunately no-one was hurt, though the cars and fencing were extensively damaged. Obviously there could have been even more serious consequences and as always there was an immediate investigation into what had gone wrong, including researching operations at other distribution centres.

From the lessons learned there have been a number of actions taken to prevent this type of accident happening again.

Training on procedures, and communications on changes in procedures, for both new and existing employees have been improved and reinforced across the business area and a new terminal operatives' manual is being produced.

New arrangements to secure containers stacked at height are now in place.

Monitoring equipment to provide alerts when adverse weather conditions are expected has been installed, and the layout of the terminal is being reviewed to take into account prevailing winds.

A review of lifting equipment and IT systems to automate the location and stacking process, reducing the possibility of human error, is underway.

“As you can imagine this was a very extensive review of the incident and our processes and procedures,” said Director of Logistics, Ian Gibson. “I am satisfied that we have learned lessons from it and taken action to improve our training, communications and operational procedures.

“We sought ideas from other organisations, but what we have ended up with is I think a model for best practice anywhere and we will continue to keep it active and under review.” ■

OTHER NEWS/



The Ports' Engineering Department are replacing 114m² of timber decking on the upriver section of the Swing Bridge to allow safe access to the workshop buildings. The work involves stripping off old decking, carrying out a full inspection of the support timbers and pile caps and renewing as required. The works also include the installation of a safety handrail and mesh guardrail system to ensure the area is safe for members of the public visiting the Swing Bridge. ■

WATCHING YOUR BACK

World famous weightlifting champion Precious McKenzie made a recent return visit to the Port for his popular back care training sessions.



The South African-born weightlifter won Commonwealth titles representing both England and New Zealand and has also won several World power lifting and Masters World power lifting titles. His diminutive stature of 1.45m (4'9") made him a distinctive figure at any competition.

Now a private consultant in the field of back injury prevention, Precious is the New Zealand Safety Council's Manual Handling Advisor and runs courses in New Zealand, Australia, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and USA.



“MY AIM IS TO EXPLAIN WHY WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR BACKS BY EXPLAINING THE WORKINGS OF THE ANATOMY...”

“One back injury is one too many”, says Precious, “My aim is to explain why we need to take care of our backs by explaining the workings of the anatomy, especially the spinal column, and how it reacts to different workplace postures. The three main themes of my seminars are information, participation and humour.” ■

IF YOU MISSED PRECIOUS' SESSIONS AND WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PROTECTING YOUR BACK PLEASE CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCES.

Construction of the new plough dredger remains ahead of schedule at Mustang Marine in Pembroke Docks, Wales. Sea trials are planned for the end of July to early August and if all goes well the new boat is expected to be delivered to the Tyne by the end of August. ■

Aircraft wings for the Airbus A319 were shipped to the Port from China for ongoing transportation to Wales for assembly. ■

P&O Maritime Services currently operate a cable installation vessel on the river, and have now signed a long term agreement to provide cable laying services for Offshore Marine Management. This will help to strengthen the Port's reputation as a centre for offshore industries. ■

VMS are temporarily storing hundreds of massive road signs at the Port until they reach their final destination along the M25 and M62. ■

STAFF NEWS/

60 SECONDS WITH... ALAN BROWN



What is your role at the Port of Tyne?
I work as a maintenance electrician, which means I pretty much fix anything that breaks down at the Port! I've worked here almost three years.

Likes about job?

There is a good crew of lads in the maintenance team, so that helps you get through the more difficult days.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

Unsurprisingly enough – an electrician.

So some might say you've already achieved your dream?

I guess so. Originally I wanted to be a house basher – a domestic electrician – but I applied for the wrong job! That's how I ended up in industrial work. I'm glad though, because now I'm trained in both I have the full range of skills and experience.

What is your:

Proudest moment?

My two boys are my proudest moment. They are 21 and 17.

Karaoke classic?

Depends how much I've had to drink.

Hidden talents?

None. What you see is what you get – a talent in itself for some.

Sun up or sun down?

Sun down – relaxing time.

How do you relax?

Just being at home, enjoying a drink and playing with my dog Archie. He's a 'sit on your knee and chill-out' kind of dog, so we are well suited.

If you could go back in time to witness a moment in history what would it be?

2000 – millennium.

What's been your 15 mins of fame?

It started 10 mins ago!

What sound or noise do you love?

The sound of nature. In the early hours of the morning at the Port, before all the hustle and bustle starts, you can hear the seagulls, spot a few otters, or hear the swans waking up.

It's great. But you have to be here at stupid o'clock to enjoy it.

Burning ambitions?

I'm quite happy with what I've got thanks.

Favourite tippie?

Anything! G&T.

What are you most looking forward to in the future?

I'm looking forward to married life! I've been with Lisa for six years and we recently got married. We flew to Cyprus for the wedding and had a big knees-up when we got back. Everyone at the Port was invited and it was a night to remember that's for sure! ■

Find out how Alan got on at his wedding party in the next edition of Tyne Crier.

DOING IT FOR CHARITY



RED NOSE DAY

2011 was the first time that Port of Tyne staff members have supported Red Nose Day so no one knew quite what to expect.

But with limitless enthusiasm and a low embarrassment threshold, employees all across the Port, from the Swing Bridge to the International Passenger Terminal set the bar high.

Many thanks go to everyone who got stuck in, helping to raise a whopping £3276.10. This sum has been match-funded by Port of Tyne so that in total we have donated an incredible £6552.20 to Comic Relief to help transform lives across the UK and Africa.

Over 250 red noses were sold and our Distribution trucks even wore car noses as they travelled up and down the UK. But the prize for the biggest nose of all goes to the Swing Bridge, which sported a massive six metre diameter nose that could be seen for miles around Tyneside. ■



JAPAN DAY

Following the devastation of the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March, businesses across the region pulled together to help the relief effort of the Japanese Red Cross after an appeal by Nissan.

Since the disaster began, the Japanese Red Cross has been providing people in need with first aid and emergency healthcare, as well as distributing relief items.

Port of Tyne was only too happy to help by organising a 'bring-a-pound-to-work' day, placing collection buckets in visible areas across the site. Over £285 was collected and donated to Nissan's appeal. ■



RAISING FUNDS FOR CHARITY

Keeping fit or just because you fancy a challenge – if you're running the Great North Run this year we want to hear from you!

As you will know from the last edition of Tyne Crier Jim Barker, Security Officer hasn't missed a race yet, completing the most famous half marathon in the world a staggering thirty times. Putting on his running shoes and joining Jim this year is Ian Blake, IT Manager, who is already a champion fundraiser from his fundraising for the Grace House hospice appeal.

Returning to running is Kevin Emmett, Head of Infrastructure Developments who last ran the Great North Run in 1982 and 1983. Kevin hopes to be back on form this year and for extra encouragement will be running with his son Liam (14).

Alasdair Kerr, Commercial Manager in Port Services is walking the Yorkshire 3 Peak Challenge in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. The 25-hour walk covers the three highest peaks in Yorkshire and Ali is aiming to finish within 12 hours.

If you would like to sponsor Jim, Ian, Kevin and Ali, please get in contact with them – all donations will be gratefully received! ■

AMOUNT RAISED/

£3,276.10

RAISED BY STAFF ON RED NOSE DAY

£6,552.20

DONATED IN TOTAL ON RED NOSE DAY

£285

RAISED FOR THE JAPANESE RED CROSS

NEW STARTERS

So far in 2011, Port of Tyne has welcomed 27 new members of staff, so give a warm welcome to:

Kate Stewart
Personal Assistant to Chief Executive Officer

Adam Hinde
Electrical Craftsman

Gavin Baker
Jason Fereday
Robert Willis
Michael Middleton
Mechanical Craftsmen

David Appleby
Seasonal Pier Attendant (North Pier)

Richard Rickaby
Seasonal Pier Attendant (South Pier)

Mick Smith
Seasonal Cruise Coordinator

Marvyn Lawlor
Michael Roberts
Daniel Smedley
Stuart Watts
Neil Patterson
Warehouse Operatives

Neil Howland
Mark Wilson
Liam Fauldner
Terminal Operatives

Bob Lillie
Neil Ironside
Michael Crane
Mark Blackburn
Alan Wilkinson
LGV Drivers – Containers

Jim Ridley
Jeff Leighton
David Knox
LGV Drivers – Distribution

Steven McQueen
Lee Johnston
Transport Co-ordinators

STAFF BENEFITS FOR YOU

2 FOR 1 AT TYNESIDE CINEMA

Every Thursday Port of Tyne staff receive 2 for 1 entry to Tyneside Cinema in Newcastle city centre.

To claim this offer, all you need to do is present your Port of Tyne security pass at the box office. For information on what's currently showing please visit www.tynesidecinema.co.uk.

DISCOUNT AT BALTIC

Port of Tyne staff receive a 12.5% discount at the BALTIC restaurant SIX and the cafe.

Present your Port security pass to make the most of this offer.

ORANGE WEDNESDAYS

Staff with company phones are reminded about Orange Wednesdays.

2 for 1 cinema tickets and 2 for 1 pizza's at Pizza Express. Just text 'film' to 241.

CRICKET TICKETS UP FOR GRABS

Six pairs of tickets to watch Durham play at the Riverside in the Port's exclusive box.

There are six pairs of tickets up for grabs for each of two matches on Sunday 17 July and Sunday 31 July. In addition there are four ground admission tickets available in July, August and September.

All tickets are on a first come, first served basis. Only one pair of tickets per person.

To find out more check out the notice boards and the intranet and to reserve a ticket please contact the marketing team at events@portoftyne.co.uk or call 0191 455 2671

WATCH ALADDIN IN PANTO

Get in to the Christmas spirit early and book your tickets to see Aladdin at The Customs House on 10 December at 6.30pm.

As sponsor Port of Tyne has a special performance taking over the whole theatre it's a great night out so why not come along with your family or colleagues.

Tickets are £9 for adults and children's tickets are FREE. With only 435 tickets available, demand is expected to be very high, so please book your tickets as soon as possible by contacting jean.dodds@portoftyne.co.uk with a deposit of only £5 per adult to secure your tickets.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONGRATULATIONS

to Peter Bisset in Finance who got married to Viki on 20 April at Lake Bled in Slovenia.



A NEW ARRIVAL

for Paul Breheny in Logistics. He, wife Caroline and daughter Lori are celebrating the arrival of baby Alex Breheny, born 7lbs 3oz on 9 May.

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS...

GO APE

31 JULY

Three hours of exhilarating tree-top adventure, set in the beautiful Northumberland countryside at Matfen Hall.

10-17 yrs £10
Members 18yrs+ £15
Non-members 18yrs+ £30

Call Lynn on extension 8158.

BEER & CURRY NIGHT AT THE RACES

26 AUG

Win your fortune and wine and dine at Newcastle Racecourse from 5pm.

Members £13
Guests £23

Call Vera on extension 7408.

GREASE

26 OCT

Award winning musical at the Sunderland Empire.

Members £20
Guests £35

Call Vera on extension 7408.

CONTACT

Tyne Crier is your magazine and we want to make sure it's full of the right information to keep you informed about the issues that are important to you.

We know from the employee survey that you think Tyne Crier is an important communication tool, so please get in touch with any comments you have, any information you want to see included and any news you want to publicise.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Lisa Donohoe
T. 0191 440 7463
lisa.donohoe@portoftyne.co.uk

PORT IN PICTURES/



ROUND THE BEND/ THE BOLDON EAST CURVE REOPENED IN MAY SAVING TWO HOURS ON TRAIN TIMES LEAVING THE PORT THANKS TO A £1.6M UPGRADE BY NETWORK RAIL



CRUISING TO SUCCESS/ CRUISE SEASON GETS UNDERWAY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE ATHENA ON THE 12 MAY. WE'RE EXPECTING MORE CRUISE CALLS IN JULY



BE PREPARED/ WITH DFDS, NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE, WE HELD A SIMULATED EXERCISE WHICH WAS A HUGE SUCCESS IN TESTING OUR RESPONSE



BRIGHT NEW CARS/ FEBRUARY SAW THE FIRST EVER SHIPMENT OF NISSAN'S ELECTRIC BATTERY CAR – THE LEAF



BACK IN THE SWING/ THE SWING BRIDGE IS BACK IN WORKING ORDER FOLLOWING THE REPLACEMENT OF HYDRAULIC RAMS WHICH WERE BROKEN IN THE FREEZING WINTER



RESCUE OPERATION/ PORT OF TYNE CAME TO THE RESCUE OF THE CLONLEE IN MARCH, THE CONTAINER SHIP WAS GROUNDING AT LITTLE HAVEN BEACH DUE TO POWER FAILURE



NEW DESTINATIONS TO PLACES YOU CAN'T SPELL/ CONTAINER CONNECTIONS OPERATED BY UNIFEEDER TO GDANSK, GDYINA & HAMBURG OPENED IN MARCH



CLEAN TYNE/ THE CLEAN TYNE PROJECT REMOVED 245 TONNES OF DEBRIS LAST YEAR AND ALMOST 99% OF IT WAS RECYCLED