

WAVE.



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PACIFIC ORCA STEADIES HER SEA LEGS
ONE OF THE BIGGEST WIND FARM INSTALLATION VESSELS IN THE WORLD ARRIVED AT TEESPORT THIS SUMMER

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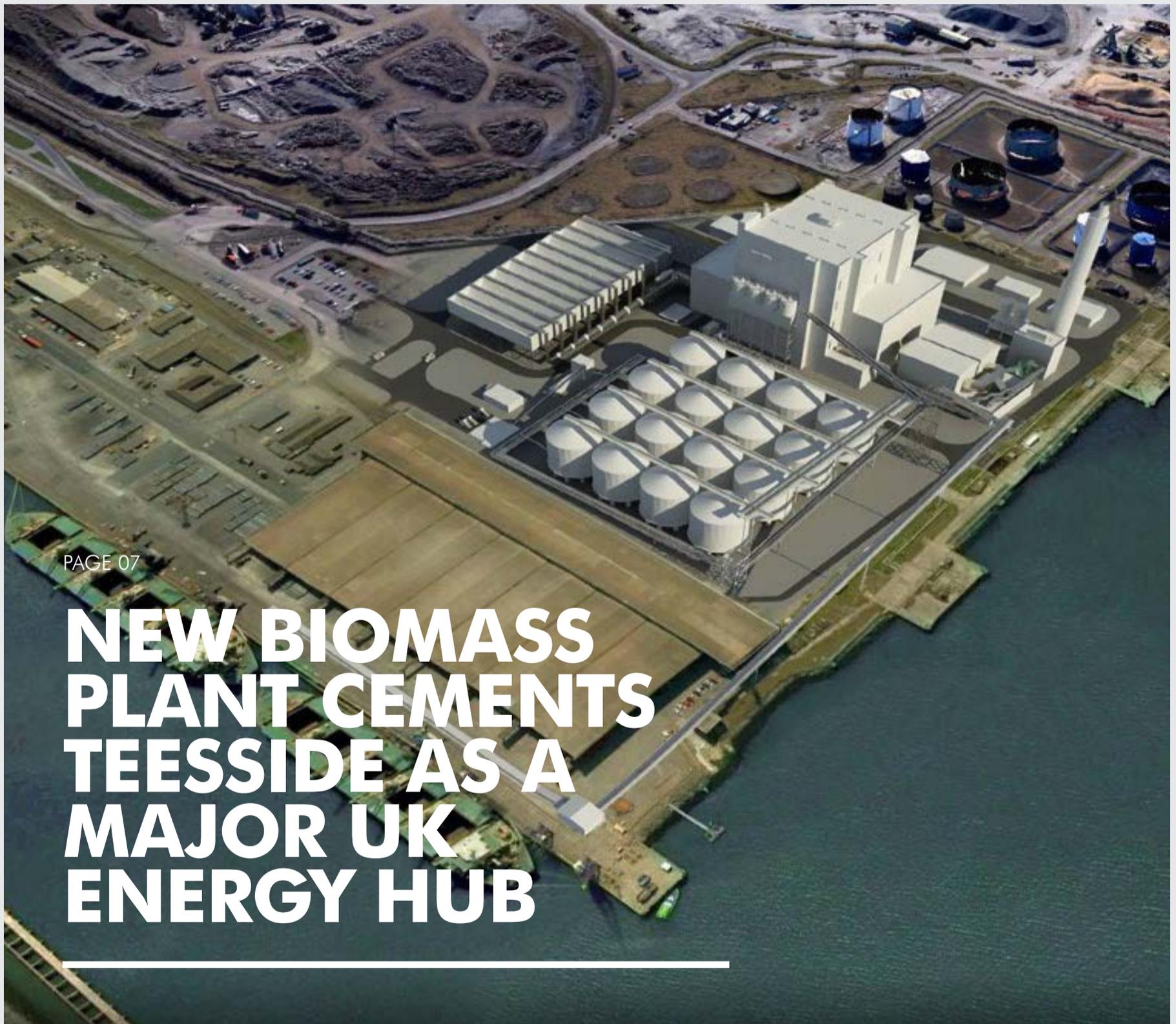
FOCUS ON IMMINGHAM
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BACKING A NATIONAL CHAMPION BOXER FIGHTING FOR HER PLACE TO COMPETE AT FUTURE OLYMPIC GAMES



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WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF WAVE.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, WE HAVE DEVELOPED NEW CUSTOMERS IN THE ENERGY AND CONTAINER SECTORS WHICH HAS BEEN HUGELY IMPORTANT TO OUR BUSINESS. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN OUR RAIL SERVICES OPERATING FROM TEESPORT GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

However work is still needed to deliver further growth and attract inward investment with lobbying for greater improvements to the North's transport infrastructure remaining a key priority for 2017.

This issue celebrates the recent news of a new biomass plant to be built at Teesport, positioning Teesside as a major UK energy hub which PD Ports plays an integral role. Read more on p8.

There are many driven and determined employees at PD Ports, none more than Nigel Morris who not only set records for being part of the first four man team to row across the North-Atlantic and in the fastest time, but also for tirelessly campaigning for his fellow Royal Navy veterans to be awarded the South Atlantic Medal for risking their lives in the Falklands 'clean-up' operation. His inspirational story can be read on p11.

In this issue we also pay tribute to Jerry DREWITT who has hung up his harbour master's hat and sailed off into retirement after 37 years, proudly handing over the River Tees as a safer, more integrated community as he explains on p6.

Finally I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2017.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

David Robinson
Group CEO, PD Ports



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IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET IN TOUCH ABOUT ANY OF THE STORIES FEATURED IN WAVE, PLEASE CONTACT THE PR & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

TOP AWARD FOR INVESTING IN TEESSIDE'S TEENAGERS

PD Ports has been recognised for its tireless work bringing together industry and education to raise the aspirations of young people on

Teesside by winning the Corporate Social Responsibility trophy at the SHD Logistics Awards.

The High Tide Foundation, co-founded by PD Ports in 2012, has worked with more than 4,000 young people across 35 local schools, supported by 80 private sector businesses.

“ PD Ports’ CEO, and chairman of the High Tide Foundation, David Robinson, said: “We are delighted to see the hard work of our staff who continue to

support the work of the High Tide Foundation recognised by the industry. It is incredibly rewarding to see the positive impact the Foundation is having on the young people we work with and their families.

“With more young people and businesses signed up than ever before, we are confident that we are giving young people the valuable skills and experience they need to succeed in the industry.”

“ The panel of judges said: “Of all the entries for the Corporate Social Responsibility award, PD Ports stood head and shoulders above the rest. The High Tide programme is a comprehensive solution to address a known, and in this case well-evidenced, problem. Not only did PD Ports exhibit substantial engagement of its company and staff, but it has also worked to mobilise local businesses to contribute funds and time to the initiative. Even better, the High Tide programme has delivered impact at scale reaching more than 4,000 young people and 80 teachers since its launch in 2012. Overall this is a sincere and well executed CSR programme.”



(L-R) Kirsty Teasdale, PD Ports Group HR Officer, Dannielle Young, PD Ports Marketing & Events Executive, Kathryn James of NEC Group (award sponsor), Jim French, Director of PD Ports’ portcentric logistics and awards ceremony host comedian Mark Watson.

BBC BROADCAST LIVE FROM TEESPORT

PD Ports played host to Steph McGovern and the BBC Breakfast team as she presented a report on global trade live from Teesport in October. Sean Farrington, presenter for BBC Radio 5 joined the crew to broadcast the Wake Up To Money Show throughout the morning.

The report looked at globalisation and how trade has affected the UK and in particular Teesside in recent years, analysing the challenges industries are facing and the success stories.

This was an excellent platform to showcase the North East region and the role it plays in driving forward Government’s Northern Powerhouse agenda.

David Robinson, PD Ports’ CEO talked to Steph McGovern about the growth opportunities at Teesport following continued uplift in



container volumes as well as emerging opportunities across the energy, retail and automotive sectors. Within the report he addressed the issues around skills and how we are tackling these issues through the High Tide Foundation.

Steph reported throughout the morning about the significant level of investment at Teesport that has taken place in the last decade culminating in over £1BN both through direct investment and third parties creating over 3,500 new jobs.

The immediate need for improvements to the transport infrastructure network in particular east-west links were highlighted as key priorities to the North of England with rail capacity and network improvements needing critical focus.

Lesley Batchelor from the Institute of Exports was interviewed alongside David, as well as Paul Booth, Chairman of the Tees Valley Combined Authority and representatives from the digital sector where Teesside is fast becoming a hotbed of talent.



NEWS IN TWEETS



Anna Turley
@annaturley

Great to go to @PDPorts Teesport to celebrate the launch of a new boat by @cllrsuejeffrey



Derek Slack Motors
@DerekSlackMotor

It’s great to see #businesses like @PDPorts getting involved with educating the younger generation of #Teesside.



Tees Business
@Tees_Business

“Never let it be said there are no jobs on Teesside. There are thousands” - David Robinson of @PDPorts @hightidetees dinner



Steph McGovern
@Stephbreakfast

Watching the container ships unloading at #Teesport @PDPorts -- here for @BBCBreakfast talking #globaltrade



TfN
@Transport4North

Great to see David Robinson from @PDPorts on @BBCBreakfast talking global trade and importance of better Northern east-west transport links



BBC Breakfast
@BBCBreakfast

Spot the @stephbreakfast! Steph is down by the docks in her home town of #Middlesbrough this morning



Mark Simpson
@Mark_Simpson73

Great to see PD Ports on @BBCBreakfast with @stephbreakfast



DID YOU KNOW?

A ship’s engine has one-thousand times more power than a family car.



× 1000

NEWS ROUND UP

BACK TO THE CLASSROOM FOR HIGHFLYERS

Employees have boosted their skills and career prospects while helping to grow the business after graduating with leadership qualifications.

The 'Class of 2016' was made up of 41 members of PD Ports staff who all successfully completed levels two, three or five Chartered Management Institute (CMI) diplomas in Management and Leadership.

The bespoke programmes, involving talented workers aged between 25 and 55 from across the business, were designed and delivered by Stockton Riverside College (SRC) where the graduation ceremony was held.

“Before presenting the high-achievers with their certificates, David Robinson, PD Ports' CEO, said: “We aspire and we are determined to be not just a leading company in the Tees Valley but in the UK and, in particular, the North of England. The key to being a leading company is to have the best people, and at PD Ports we have the best people.”

“What you have achieved is a fantastic piece of leadership because you are out there on the front line and you are also ambassadors of PD Ports. This is a significant investment that we believe will pay dividends for years to come.”

Staff at different stages in their careers attended college every three weeks while juggling academic assignments with their jobs and family life.

“Rachel Cawthorne, PD Ports' Senior HR Officer, who received a CMI diploma level five, said she had found the course challenging but enjoyable and it had rekindled her love of learning.”

“The course has given me a different perspective of showing me how to do my job and it has given me a better insight into different sides of the business as well as interacting with people from different departments to really understand how they operate.”

“Phil Cook, Principal at SRC told the 'Class of 2016': “We are proud and humbled to have you in our lecture theatre in order for PD Ports to consolidate and build a business that's absolutely critical to the area.”



PD PORTS CLINCHES LONG-TERM CONTRACT WITH MAJOR CUSTOMER

PD Ports has significantly increased the warehouse capacity of its largest customer by volume at Felixstowe as part of a long-term deal.

Both reeled and palletised paper weighing up to five tonnes are unpacked, stored and packed by PD Ports for clients on behalf of Burhill before being separately distributed by road haulage across the UK and Europe.

Burhill is one of the leading UK freight-forwarders and warehousing providers in the forestry products industry.

The businesses have worked together for 10 years and this contract is a continuation of a very successful relationship.

PD Ports manages the shunting service from the dock, devanning, storage and repacking of goods into vehicles for Burhill which has increased its warehouse demands on site from 130,000 sq.ft. to 190,000 sq.ft. today involving more than 7,000 containers each year.

PD Ports is the largest single warehouse provider at the Port of Felixstowe.

“Frans Calje, PD Ports' MD Unitised, said: “We have built up a successful working relationship over the years, this contract will strengthen our businesses while continuing to improve efficiencies and reduce supply chain costs.”

“I look forward to working with Burhill to continue the journey we have enjoyed together so far.”



TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

PD Ports has agreed a ground-breaking new partnership with three of the North of England's main ports to create jobs and boost exports.

The formation of a Northern Ports Association, also made up of Liverpool (Peel Ports), Humber (ABP), Teesport (PD Ports) and Tyne (Port of Tyne) is a recommendation in IPPR North's Northern Ports report, which highlighted the domination of southern ports and the problems this creates in transporting imports and exports across the UK.

At present, 60 per cent of freight destined for the North is delivered to southern ports - leading to unnecessary motorway traffic, delays, pollution and inefficiency.

The Association was launched in Parliament with the four ports signing a Memorandum of Understanding to take forward the commitment with speakers including Transport Minister John Hayes; Chair of the Commons Transport select committee Louise Ellman MP, and former Deputy Prime Minister Lord Prescott.

“ Ed Cox, Director of IPPR North, said: “Post-Brexit, the Northern Powerhouse agenda is more important than ever.

“Far from the powerhouse being a Whitehall-led scheme, Northern businesses are leading the charge and creating much-needed jobs and prosperity.

“For just £100 million, the government could open-up east-west port connections and create a gateway to a global North. This is exactly the kind of ‘shovel-ready’ project Government is looking to be eyeing-up ahead of the Autumn Statement.”

“ Geoff Lippitt, PD Ports’ Business Development Director, said: “The launch of the Northern Ports Association is incredibly positive, it will unite us in developing a stronger, more progressive and prosperous Northern economy linked to international trade.

“The commitment of the major Northern ports to collaborate and seek out ways to work together delivering solutions to challenges facing the industry such as trans-Pennine connectivity and the skills agenda will benefit us all.

“We are in changing and uncertain economic times therefore it’s important that the North and Northern ports are seen as a progressive body to drive through that change. We at PD Ports have always been at the forefront of

developing economic growth through our investments and this complements what we are already achieving locally, regionally and nationally.” **W**



STEERING TRANSPORT BUSINESS TOWARDS FURTHER GROWTH

Russell Spink joined his family’s haulage firm as a teenager and was instrumental in building up Middlesbrough-based AV Dawson’s transport division, so Russell brings a wealth of experience to the role of Transport General Manager at PD Ports.

From WG Spink & Co based in North Yorkshire, he spent 15 years at AV Dawson using his expertise to expand its fleet.

AT PD PORTS HIS FOCUS WILL BE ON DRIVING THE TRANSPORT BUSINESS FORWARD TO GIVE ADDED VALUE SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS BOTH LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

“ Commenting on his new position, Russell said: “I am eager to enhance our transport offering and capabilities as part of our wider portcentric logistics division strategy working closely together with the container terminals, warehousing and forwarding services.”

“Being a good communicator is an important part of the job, I am really up for the challenge and look forward helping the business expand even further.” **W**



DID YOU KNOW?

Around 95% of Britain’s economic activity depends on the oceans. Every year Britain imports goods worth £524 billion.
from royalnavy.mod.uk



95%



PACIFIC ORCA STEADIES HER SEA LEGS

ONE OF THE BIGGEST WIND FARM INSTALLATION VESSELS IN THE WORLD, PACIFIC ORCA, WAS WELCOMED TO TEESPORT THIS SUMMER.

Measuring a massive 161m long and 49m wide, she was berthed at Number One Quay for several weeks while being fitted with a pile gripper that had been constructed on site.

Pacific Orca was the second supersized vessel to sail into Teesport in only a few weeks following a visit by the Jumbo Javelin, a heavy lift vessel with two 900 tonne cranes. It was involved in moving wind turbine transition pieces by overside transfer.

Following her inaugural visit to Teesport, the self-elevating Pacific Orca sailed down the East Coast to the English Channel. Owned by Swire Pacific Offshore, she was engaged to work on the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm project located 13km due south of Brighton, where she helped position wind turbine piles into the seabed.

With a load-bearing capacity of 12.8 tonnes, it can withstand extreme weather conditions and be floated up to 56ft above the surface of the water using its six jack-up legs each measuring 345ft in length.

“David Robinson, PD Ports’ CEO, said: “Attracting a vessel as renowned as Pacific Orca illustrates the first-class facilities Teesport has to offer.

“Pacific Orca is a sight to behold. Our Number One Quay has only just been declared open for business and one of the biggest wind farm installation vessels in the world has berthed there already.” 

DEDICATED HARBOUR MASTER RETIRES



HARBOUR MASTER JERRY DREWITT HAS RETIRED AS PROUD CUSTODIAN OF THE RIVER TEES AFTER 37 YEARS, BUT HIS LOVE OF THE SEA AND ITS CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY BEGAN AS AN 18-YEAR-OLD APPRENTICE.

As a boy living in Maidstone, Kent, Jerry grew up wanting to be a draughtsman, as he was good at maths and technical drawing. But before he left school he picked up a careers pamphlet for BP which was running a new apprenticeship in Nautical Science based at South Shields Marine School paying £240 a year. Jerry signed up.

"I came from the south, the Garden of England, which is not very industrial and can remember looking out of the train window as it rattled along at the shipyards on the River Tyne. It was a grey rainy day and looked horrendous and I thought what they say about the North is absolutely true."

As his nautical science apprenticeship involved stints of six months at college followed by six months at sea, his first voyage was on a crude oil tanker, but it wasn't just navigating the vessel

that was involved, it was also bridge watches, scrubbing the decks, looking after the cargo and mooring the vessel. "The aim was that we got a good grounding so that when we became navigational officers we knew exactly what we were talking about."

Jerry spent 10 years with BP in the Merchant Navy before coming ashore to work for BP Oil at Hound Point on the Forth near Edinburgh and then moving on to PD Ports two years later.

He feared he'd blown his chances at PD Ports soon after stepping foot inside Queen's Square headquarters, unbeknownst to Jerry he'd parked in the Personnel Director's space – and he was doing the interview.

"It was not a good first impression," Jerry recalls with a smile, but with his wealth of experience he was taken on in 1979 as one of two Assistant Harbour Masters.

When Middlesbrough Dock closed, he spent two years in the Conservancy Department – where his dredging calculations are used to this day – before coming back to the Harbour Master's office at Teesport and spending 13 years in the VTS (Vessel Traffic Services) operations room before securing promotion to Deputy Harbour Master in 1994 and Harbour Master in 1997.

"We've always had radar, but not computers in VTS, everything was written down in books, carbon copies were made and notes were typed up and passed to people. We also spoke to people face-to-face more – we always had ships' agents and Customs' officers coming in to get information which was really useful whereas now it's largely done by email."

Technology may have changed but the physical landscape of the river has ebbed and flowed at a steady pace. "From a river perspective, the amount of traffic and the amount of cargo over the years has gone down but the ships are a lot bigger now. We used to have many more small tankers moving up and down. If you look at the physical make-up of the river, it has not changed much and the berths are much the same," he explained.

"One of the best things about this river is the mix of cargoes: whereas lots of ports tend to focus on one product we don't, and while other ports just deal with containers we have gas, oil, barges and the dry docks too. Ports are a long term investment.

"Looking after the environmental aspect of the river has also been very important to us, especially after the oil pollution and waste regulations and as far as I am aware we are the only port authority in the country that has its own oil pollution response team," said Jerry, who will be remaining on the Board of INCA (Industry Nature Conservation Association) and facilitating oil pollution exercises and other conservancy work around the country. Indeed, Jerry feels particularly – but self effacingly – proud of this port's unique achievement in the field of oil pollution response and was also the first cargo port in the United Kingdom to remove ships' waste from vessels by means of a barge, a system which encourages correct environmental disposal.

"I've always loved the sea and working near the sea as that's what I've done since I was young. The Tees is a particularly friendly river, there's an awful lot of team work that goes on and that's what makes the job so good – you have to have fun at work or you would be miserable. You have to make people smile and also make them think. What I'm going to miss most are the people," added Jerry, who is looking forward to spending time with his family, including visits to children living in Scotland and Canada, and a cruise in the Norwegian Fjords, combining his love of the outdoors with that of photography.

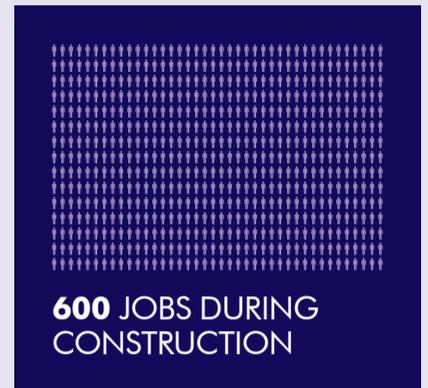
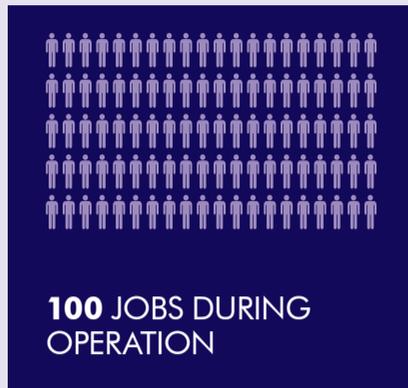
Jerry reflected: "The role of the harbour master is to look after the river, not the commercial aspects. Our job is to make sure ships can come in and are safe. You look at it as a caretaker – you look after things and then somebody else takes over – you are just a custodian."

In that respect Jerry has achieved his ambition: he hands on the river as a safer, more integrated community. Paul Brooks will now take on the role of Harbour Master. **w**

NEW BIOMASS PLANT CEMENTS TEESSIDE AS A MAJOR UK ENERGY HUB

TEESSIDE HAS ALWAYS BEEN SYNONYMOUS WITH INDUSTRIAL
INGENUITY – HOME OF THE RAILWAY AND ESTON'S IRON ORE,
IT IS NOW MAKING A NAME FOR ITSELF AS A MAJOR UK ENERGY
HUB WITH PD PORTS PLAYING A PIVOTAL ROLE.





From Semcorp at Redcar to JDR Cables in Hartlepool, the area boasts businesses which individually are leaders in their fields but collaboratively wields a huge amount of power – literally.

Groundwork has already started on MGT Teesside’s £650 million Tees Renewable Plant, one of the biggest biomass projects of its kind in the world which will see imported wood chippings shipped to Teesport from sustainable forests, and transformed into enough energy to fuel 600,000 homes.

It will benefit from PD Ports’ Number One Quay being directly adjacent to the project site, good access to the National Grid, a highly skilled local workforce and the presence of existing road and rail links.

“David Robinson, PD Ports’ CEO, said: “This is excellent news for Teesside and gives substantial impetus to the long-term economic activity in the area as well as positioning the region as a major energy hub, creating hundreds of jobs and many more in the wider supply chain.

“Attracting such a significant UK energy infrastructure project to Teesport further complements recent investments made by PD Ports including the decision to redevelop our Number One Quay last year.”

“MGT Teesside’s CEO, Ben Elsworth commented: “Teesside was always going to be the home of this plant because of the fantastic workforce and how well established the area is for things like the process sector.

“It’s the infrastructure and the people that brought us here.” **W**

HOW WILL MGT TEESSIDE POWER ITS PLANT?

1

MGT Teesside use co-products from timberland that is primarily for growing saw-timber. It uses the parts of the tree that are too small for timber, and chips from the saw-milling process. On average the biomass is worth less than 7% of the total harvest value.

2

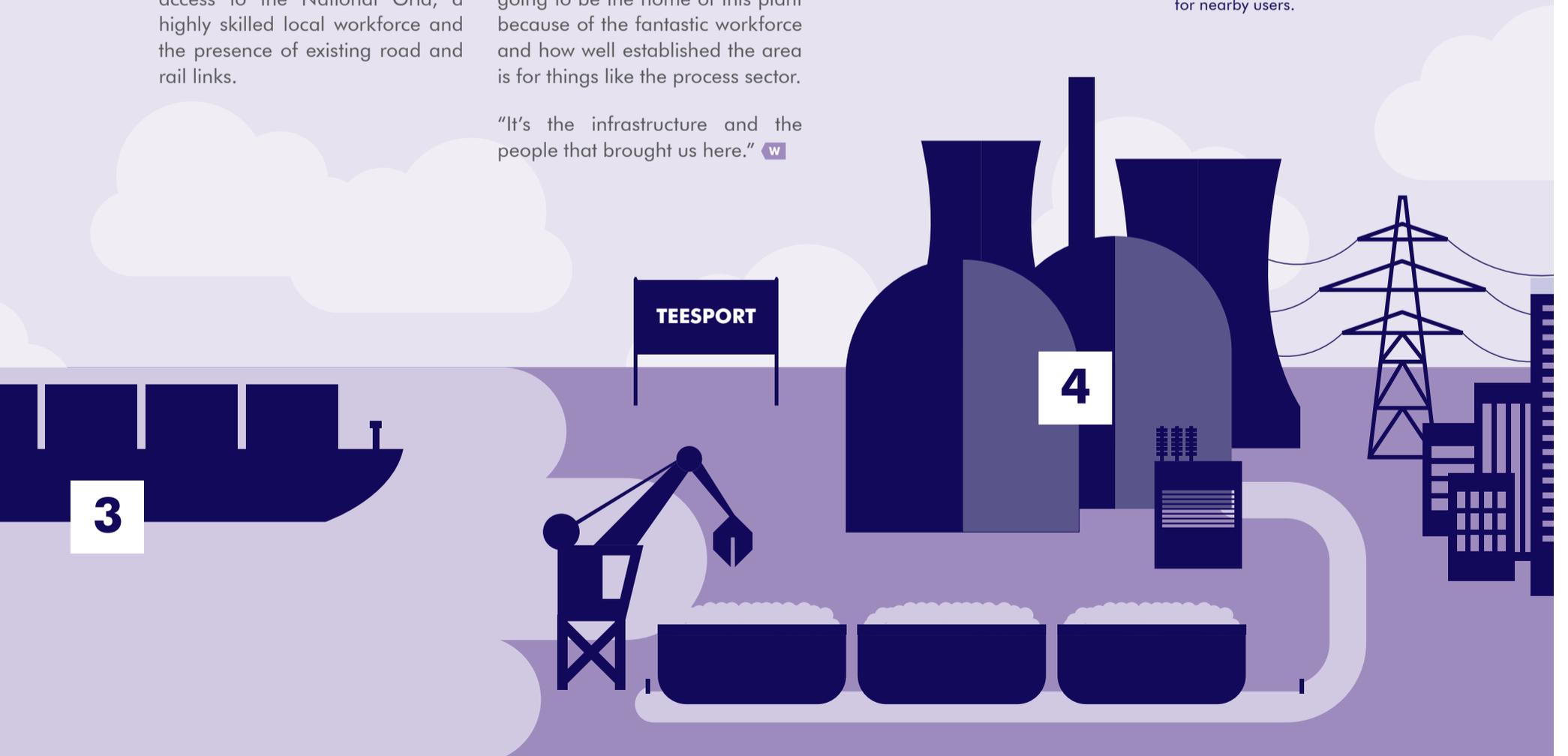
This material is then taken to the chipping plant to be made into small chips or wood pellets ready for transport.

3

Vessels are then filled with the material and it is transported to Teesport where it is offloaded directly onto conveyor belts which link straight into the power plant.

4

At the factory the wood pellet/chip is hammered to dust and burnt to create energy. The Tees Renewable Energy Plant will produce 2.3 TWh of low carbon electricity every year. Enough to power 600,000 homes, as well as supplying heat for nearby users.



FOCUS ON IMMINGHAM

AS THE LARGEST GENERAL AND PROJECT STEVEDORE AT THE PORT OF IMMINGHAM, PD PORTS HAS THE EXPERTISE TO HANDLE COMPLEX CARGOES DESTINED FOR UK AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

With 535,000 sq.ft. of covered warehousing, the PD Ports facility at Immingham offers a number of site services including the handling of petroleum coke, an oil refinery bi-product, which is stored at Immingham, then put into containers and shipped to China and India.

Situated on the south bank of the Humber, Immingham is positioned in the heart of the UK with Humberside Airport nearby and excellent road links connecting the A180 to the M180, M62 and M11.

There are 24 experienced PD Ports stevedores working at the Immingham site which specialises in steel loading, project cargo and heavy lifting. A recent contract involved the transportation of scaffold boards that arrived by vessel in containers.

“ Paul McGrath, Director, Port & Site Services on the Humber, said: “What sets us apart is having the capabilities and the stevedoring skills to handle complex, specialist cargoes. The vision is to build a bigger platform within the Immingham area to offer complete supply chain solutions that give customers added value.” [W](#)



PORT CHIEF TAKES TEESSIDE'S TOP TITLE

PD PORTS' CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DAVID ROBINSON IS CROWNED TEESSIDE'S BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR 2016.

The judges cited David's win to the huge challenges he has overcome in his role as Chief Executive and the significant success he has led the business to achieve. David was acknowledged for his contribution to the Tees Valley LEP and his achievement with the formation of a Northern Ports Association. The judges described David's personal contribution to the High Tide Foundation and Business in The Community as phenomenal.

The North East Business Executive Awards, organised by the Chronicle in Newcastle and its sister paper, the Gazette in Middlesbrough, honours the top business bosses in the Durham & Wearside, Teesside and Tyneside & Northumberland regions.

With a career in the maritime sector spanning 22 years, David has used his experience and expertise to diversify operations and promote continued investment across the business. At Teesport, almost £1 billion of investment has been attracted and secured both by PD Ports and third parties over the last 10 years to underpin growth and development.

During his time as CEO at PD Ports, David has attracted investment from some of the UK's largest retailers including ASDA and Tesco, led a significant expansion programme of Teesport Container Terminal, as well as playing a pivotal role in securing the Tees Renewable Energy Plant build at Teesport. David has been integral in the company winning a number of awards for operational excellence and community support over the past 10 years including Asda's Carrier of the Year award - the first port ever to win the accolade.

TODAY, TEESPORT IS A NATIONAL ASSET FOR TRADE, SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL AND COASTAL MOVEMENT OF GOODS IN AND OUT OF THE NORTH OF THE UK. ; AFFIRMING THE PORT'S POSITION AS A KEY DRIVER AND ENABLER OF THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE STRATEGY.

“ Much of Mr Robinson's success can be attributed to his ability to connect with and empower his workforce: “The success of our business is down to our people, their skills and leadership qualities.

“We aspire and we are determined to be not just a leading company in the Tees Valley but in the UK and, in particular, the North of England. One of the key ways to be a leading company is to have the best people, and I believe we have the very best of people at PD Ports. Together we are committed to driving further economic growth in the Tees Valley and the wider North.”

As well as focusing on business, David is committed to supporting the local community co-founding the High Tide Foundation in 2012 which aims to raise aspirations of young people on Teesside and increase employment opportunities. So far, more than 80 companies have become members supporting 34 schools and over 4,000 young people have got involved. [w](#)



MAKING HISTORY WITH HIS BAND OF BROTHERS

HE MADE HISTORY WHEN HE ROWED ACROSS THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND AGAIN WHEN HE FOUGHT TO SECURE SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDALS FOR THOUSANDS OF FORMER SOLDIERS WHO HAD TO 'CLEAN-UP' THE FALKLANDS AFTER THE WAR.

To describe PD Ports' Bulks Shift Manager Nigel Morris as "determined" is an understatement.

Every morning as dawn broke, the world's first four-man rowing team would listen to Winston Churchill's rousing 'We Shall Fight on the Beaches' speech, and almost a decade later Nigel was being recognised with fellow veterans at Downing Street by then Prime Minister David Cameron after taking on the Government and winning.

The epic rowers smashed the Atlantic record of 55 days set in 1896 by 16 days, but it took 32 years for the Government to publically acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by the Royal Navy after the conflict against Argentina.

While Team GB has excelled in rowing at the Rio Olympics, winning more medals than ever before pushing themselves to the limit for 10 minutes, the Vivaldi Atlantic Four had to endure 39 days, 22 hours, nine minutes and 30 gruelling seconds.

They wrestled skyscraper high waves, weathered the eye of a 100 mile wide hurricane and skillfully navigated treacherous waters that have swallowed up vessels including the 'unsinkable' Titanic and the fishing boat that inspired The Perfect Storm, claiming many lives.



While his brother-in-law, George Rock, had dreamt of attempting to cross the sea since he was a boy, it was the immense physical challenge that appealed to Nigel.

MORE MEN HAVE WALKED ON THE MOON THAN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THIS NORTH ATLANTIC FEAT SINCE RECORDS BEGAN.

Two audacious Norwegian fishermen, George Harbo and Frank Samuelsen were the first in 1896 which was equaled in 1969 but Nigel's journey was far from plain sailing.

Their crew that took part in the first attempt on the Skandia Atlantic Spirit in 2002 had to be rescued more than halfway into their 2,100 mile crossing when the rudder was ripped off by 60 foot waves.

Despite the obvious devastation, valuable lessons were learnt and Nigel and George's wives knew they would try again before they'd even reached dry land.

A redesign of the boat was needed so it could right itself and while the first was made of carbon fibre, the second was constructed with biaxial core laminate, therefore more easily repairable.

Its length was shortened and to address the vital issue of the broken rudder, Nigel turned to PD Ports' naval



architect, Andrew Ridley, who invented a rudder which could be steered, ingeniously, either by hand or by foot. And it worked.

Leaving St Johns, Newfoundland in Canada on May 31, 2005 the former military men Nigel, George, Rob Munslow and Steve Dawson rowed relentlessly two hours on, two hours off until arriving victorious in Falmouth, a gruelling 39 days later.

The route was 2,100 miles as the crow flies but they actually rowed 2,395 miles due to the storms.

Crowned the first four-man team and the fastest people to ever row the North Atlantic, the weather-beaten quartet was invited to Buckingham Palace a week later and shook blistered hands with the Queen and Prince Phillip.

Their majestic 29-foot boat, called Naturally Best, went into the Hartlepool Maritime Museum so the public who



had been captured by their story could marvel at it for themselves and her crew was presented with the Guinness Book of Records.

“The fact that more people have walked on the moon than do what we did proves that if it was easy everyone would do it,” Nigel said.

“We did not fail in 2002, we learned from it and everything came together in 2005. As a team it was all about having a dream. You have to crack on with whatever you want to do and see it through to the end.

“We had rowed 1,200 of those miles before so we knew what to expect which was a good thing and a bad thing. Our military background helped as did our fantastic support network; I would say our strength was 40 per cent physical and 60 per cent mental.

“It’s an emotional thing when you get in the boat because you know you are going into something with an uncertain outcome. You can hope for the best but we knew that, no matter how well prepared we were, we would only get across if the sea let us.”

The importance of his band of brothers at sea whether as a rower or in his former life in the Royal Navy is obvious. Nigel made waves in the North Atlantic but also in the South Atlantic

by campaigning for fellow Falklands veterans, like himself, to receive the recognition they deserved.

For decades, the only ones who could claim the South Atlantic Medal were those who had been on the islands up to July 12, 1982. However, in 2014 a long-awaited independent review ruled that time should be extended by three months to October 21, 1982.

Although the war was over, the danger was not. They had to deal with landmines and the graves of the war dead as part of Operation Corporate – codename for the South Atlantic Conflict.

Nigel produced first-hand accounts of what they had witnessed and helped gather a thorough and detailed body of evidence including Government documents which had previously been confidential and withheld from public view under the ‘30-year rule’.

As a direct result of the report he helped produce, 10,000 people got the recognition they deserved. “This was about taking on the Government and the MoD, little did they know that we would be able to get the then PM Margaret Thatcher’s personal and top secret papers 33 years later.

“This was the biggest medal review ever undertaken since the Second World War by Sir John Holmes, which included Bomber Command and the Arctic Convoy men.”

Along with several former comrades he was presented with his medal at a reception held at Downing Street, another ambitious challenge completed. Nigel has been flown around the world to share his incredible adventure and motivate others, one person his story inspired was gold medal winning rower, James Cracknell, who subsequently took part in an organised race across the Mid-Atlantic with TV presenter Ben Fogle.

Nigel added: “I enjoyed watching the Olympics rowers this year, Team GB had self-belief and determination just like we did – the difference between an Olympian and us is the fact that our lives depended on each other and we were the only people to get ourselves home.

“The biggest achievement we had was being able to step off the boat as firm friends and knowing we didn’t let each other down. But this is all down to the can do attitude and a black sense of humour.”



DID YOU KNOW?

There are more than 17 million shipping containers in circulation globally which in total make around 200 million trips each year.



PD PORTS THROWS WEIGHT BEHIND TEENAGE BOXING TALENT

PD PORTS IS BACKING A NATIONAL CHAMPION BOXER WHO IS FIGHTING FOR A PLACE TO COMPETE AT A FUTURE OLYMPIC GAMES BY SPONSORING HER FOR FIVE YEARS.



Macy Kilkeny now trains regularly with the GB boxing team at its base in Sheffield as part of its development squad which nurtures future medal-winning talent and has already represented England.

The determined 16-year-old, whose dad Jason is a training instructor at PD Ports' bulk terminal at Teesport, has been given £10,000, spread out over five years, to help pay for her international travel, specialist support and kit costs.

“She is driven and she’s very competitive but she also works incredibly hard at the technique,” said Jason, a former boxer himself, who is proud that his younger daughters, Jocelyn, 10, and Eden, seven, are following in their big sister’s footsteps. “We are very grateful to receive this funding as it means we can really plan ahead, she never asks for anything but now we can buy her what she needs to help fulfil her ambition.”

As well as training six days a week at East Middlesbrough Amateur Boxing Club Macy from Middlesbrough also juggles college and a Saturday job along with spending time with her friends.

“What this sponsorship means is that I am guaranteed to be able to go to different competitions so I can focus my training with them in mind,” she explained.

Macy has fought hard to achieve success in and out of the boxing ring, she suffers from asthma and surpassed academic expectations at school, leaving with 11 GCSEs and now is working towards becoming a sports therapist.

“What I love most about boxing is the feeling of achievement, the nerves are excited nerves,” said the winner of the junior ABA title and CYP championship. “I also enjoy travelling to different places and meeting new people, it’s all part of the experience.”

“It has been hard fitting everything in but boxing helped take my mind off my exams and it keeps me on my toes.”

Mr. Kilkeny had initially approached PD Ports for a nominal donation as part of its staff support scheme. Macy will be supporting the High Tide Foundation, co-founded by PD Ports in 2012, using her determination and self-belief to inspire and raise aspirations of other teenagers in the area.

“Continuous engagement with young people across Teesside is incredibly important to our business. As one of Teesside’s largest employers we believe we have an important role to play in promoting Teesport and the wider industrial landscape that together can create life changing employment opportunities.

“Macy is a great role model for other young people in the region. Her attitude and commitment complements our core values at PD Ports and we are looking forward to being part of her inspirational journey.”

HIGH TIDE FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BALL

THE HIGH TIDE FOUNDATION CELEBRATED ITS SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT ON SEPTEMBER 27 IN WYNYARD HALL'S LUXURIOUS GRAND MARQUEE.

The evening shone with the great and good of Teesside as 400 guests turned out to celebrate the work the charity is doing in the region. With more than 80 members and engagement with more than 4000 young people, High Tide strives to increase innovative industry-led programmes, as well as offering unique work experience and genuine life-changing opportunities. Hosted by Kim Inglis, the evening raised over £17,000.



PD PORTS NURTURES GRASS ROOTS TALENT TO STIMULATE BUSINESS GROWTH



LOTS OF COMPANIES SAY THAT THEIR EMPLOYEES ARE THEIR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE, BUT AT PD PORTS WE GENUINELY MEAN IT AND HAVE THE EVIDENCE TO BACK IT UP.

From teens to the long-term unemployed, PD Ports has worked tirelessly to break down barriers and promote the breadth of real job opportunities on their doorstep.

When David Robinson was appointed CEO a decade ago, he developed strong links with Business in the Community to push the ethos of corporate social responsibility.

As a major employer in Teesside - an area that regularly tops social deprivation league tables - he was determined to give people opportunities as they had started to feel that there wasn't any hope.

“We wanted to show young people that there were jobs at the port, in the supply chain and beyond- they did not have to spend their life on benefits, there was another way,” explained David Wilson, PD Ports' HR Development Manager.

One of the most successful initiatives has been the Cadetship programme run through the High Tide Foundation charity, which PD Ports co-founded five years ago.

It introduces 13 and 14-year-olds to the world of logistics by following the journey

of a mobile phone, from where it's made in Taiwan to a vessel that has to cross the waters of East Africa, through the Suez Canal and arriving at Teesport before it's transferred to the 325,000 sq.ft. Asda warehouse on site and then finally being delivered to a local retailer.

Employees from pilots to the harbour master as well as connected local businesses tell the teenagers how their role fits into the jigsaw puzzle and give them a steer to what they should study before they choose their GCSE subject options and, those that are interested, keep in touch about future prospects.

Since it was launched more than 4,000 young people have worked with the High Tide Foundation and 80 local companies are signed up as members keen to help the next generation of potential employees prosper.

PD Ports has a proud history of offering apprenticeships as a means of recruiting new talent that can be trained to fill its niche jobs roles demanding specialist skills that are scarce in the market place - around 45 per cent of the workforce in engineering have come through apprenticeships alone.

To support long-term unemployed, a ground-breaking initiative was launched four years ago with Frankie Wales of Redcar Development Trust to establish a new apprenticeship programme in dock operations lasting 18 months. It started with 13 apprentices, followed by a second cohort of eight and there are plans to hold a third scheme as the programme has been such a successful recruitment drive.

Mr Wilson said: “We want to offer a career as opposed to a job, we want to be in a position where if an employee wants to work in a different department and retrain, we can support them with that. It's not just about moving someone to another area of the business, but giving them the underpinning skills to do their role successfully. If they are the right fit and have something about them that they want to develop we can provide the training to make their careers a success.”

One employee who has grasped the opportunities presented by PD Ports with both hands is Mia MacDonald who joined the company at 17 as an apprentice in the Conservancy department located near the Transporter Bridge and now, at

19, is part-way through a degree (which is being fully-funded by the firm) to become a qualified hydrographic surveyor.

A typical morning involves her sailing along the River Tees using sophisticated multibeam software to accurately plot crucial information about what's lying on the bottom of the river bed.

“Then afternoons are often spent processing, printing and plotting the surveys before they are given to the harbour master. Big obstructions on the river bed could have serious consequences for vessels if they are not recorded properly as they would be unaware of the potential dangers,” she explained.

“One of the best things about being an apprentice has been the valuable hands on experience in a working environment, you are gaining the input of everyone else in the job which I don't think you get if you are just learning from a curriculum.

“I really enjoy what I'm doing and I could not have wished to work with nicer people, it has also made me realise how incredibly important the port is to the area.” **W**