



**PETERHEAD**



**PORT AUTHORITY**

**NEWSLETTER**

ISSUE 08

NOVEMBER 2022

# Royal visitor to port HQ

**HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, enjoyed a tour of port headquarters during a visit to Peterhead this month.**

Accompanied by Alexander Manson, Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, the Duke was greeted by a guard of honour by the Peterhead Sea Cadets, and met by Peterhead Port Authority chief executive Simon Brebner, Board convenor Gavin Thain and Board member and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire James Buchan.

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He was given a tour of the control tower where all vessel movements in and out of the harbour are directed.

Afterwards, he met members of the Board and senior management. The Duke was most interested in developments within the fishing sector and in support of the energy and renewables industries.

The Duke also paid a visit to the Peterhead RNLi station and Lunar.



## Freeport bid

At the time of publication, we were awaiting an announcement by the UK and Scottish governments on the joint green freeport bid made by Peterhead Port Authority, Port of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Airport and the area's two local authorities.

Two green freeports are to be created in Scotland to promote innovation in support of the drive to net zero by 2045.

# New fisheries minister meets sector at market

New UK fisheries minister Mark Spencer paid a visit early in his tenure to Peterhead Fish Market, where he met representatives from across the industry.

He came in late September and after a tour of the sales floor he heard from the catching and processing sectors.

Afterwards, he said he recognised that the industry needed government support to continue to grow and succeed.

“It needs us to listen to issues that are being raised and for us to work with it to find solutions. While in Peterhead, I spoke to the Scottish Fishermen’s Federation, and representatives from the processing and catching sectors.



“I’ve listened carefully to the issues that were raised, including on workforce and improving the science used to inform decisions at sea.

“As I reassured them, I want to reassure the wider industry that I have taken these on board and will do what’s in my power to pave a way forward.”



*A full rainbow over the port, photographed by staff member Imogen Reid*



# Gleneagles chefs impressed by fish market

**Peterhead Port Authority was delighted to host chefs from Gleneagles Hotel, one of Scotland's and indeed the world's top hotels, at its own world class fishmarket facility in September.**

The visit was arranged by PPA Board convenor and fishing vessel skipper Gavin Thain and fellow board member Gary Bruce, lifelong friends, following a family wedding at the hotel for which lemon soles caught by Gavin and processed by another board member, Robbie Milne, were served.

Executive head chef Simon Attridge and executive sou chef Semih Osgok from Gleneagles, voted Best Hotel of 2022 by top travel industry professionals at Virtuoso, also visited local fish merchants and processors, GT Seafoods and the Old Smoke House.

Simon and Semih said they were very impressed with the quality and freshness of the fish and commented on how well run the world-class modern facilities at the port were.

Gary said: "Never did Gavin and I think that we would be able to get chefs of the highest calibre from the best hotel in the world to come and see the facilities and produce at Peterhead Port."

One of the largest fish landing ports in the UK, Peterhead lands over £200 million of fresh fish every year.



# Focus on net zero



**With carbon neutrality – or net zero as it is popularly termed – a Scottish Government goal for 2045, the port has appointed a new Head of Business Development – Energy Transition.**

Keith Mackie has joined from the Energy Transition Zone (ETZ) in Aberdeen, with a brief to develop opportunities in the areas of offshore wind, carbon capture and hydrogen.

Peterhead Port Authority has already invested in solar panels for the new fishmarket, as well as an electric roadsweeper and electric van.

And on a larger scale it supported construction of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) off Aberdeen and provides a dedicated berth for the CTV vessels operating on the Hywind floating wind turbines 18 miles off Peterhead.

But with developments in offshore wind, carbon capture and hydrogen moving to another level, and potentially all coming at similar times, Mr Mackie is determined to ensure the port is both ambitious and realistic about what it can support while sustaining its existing business in fishing, oil and gas and decommissioning.

He says: “Offshore wind is a great opportunity for Peterhead. Carbon capture is a great opportunity for Peterhead. Hydrogen is potentially a great opportunity.

“But against the background of existing activity how does it all fit together? And what can the port do within the obvious constraints of space and facilities?”

“It is important to create something that is sustainable and viable and respects the fact that more than half of the port’s income comes from fishing and that oil and gas will continue to be important for many years to come.”

One area where redevelopment could take place is at the former tanker jetty at the south side of the port. It could be upgraded to handle bulk carbon dioxide imports from industrialised regions across the UK and Europe.

The carbon would ultimately be pumped to and stored in depleted North Sea gas fields as part of the Acorn Project. Acorn, part of the Scottish Cluster, secured reserve project status in 2021 when the UK Government selected CCUS projects for a share in £1 billion of funding.





# Red Arrows

For Scottish Week in July, big crowds turned out to see the Red Arrows put on an excellent display, with the traditional flyover and a parachute jump.

Peterhead Port Authority Board member Jim Buchan, who attended with colleague Alan Gardiner, said: The Scottish Week committee certainly treated us like VIPs.

“We could actually hear the comms between the pilots and then we were blue-lighted in an ambulance from the Red Arrows display through the crowds to the links to see the Parachute Display Team.

“In all the years I’ve attended Scottish Week events I’ve never seen anything like the size of the crowd. It was a really memorable event and great to see such a turnout in Peterhead.”



Alan added: “The organisers took us aside to say how much they appreciated our support and that it would not have happened without our support.”

The port authority also sponsored the Peterhead Seafood Festival as it returned after a two-year absence at the beginning of September.

PPA chief executive Simon Brebner opened the event which showcased the country’s best seafood and local produce.