

NEIL MAKES THE BBC WEATHER

A picture-perfect moment capturing the rising sun casting a rosy hue across the Harbour, taken by our very own Port Traffic Operative/Boatmaster, Neil Thomson, made it onto the BBC Weather on 21st April. Well done Neil, what a fantastic image to have captured!

Embracing the energy transition

Peterhead Port Authority has embarked on a major piece of work to help it best embrace the opportunities presented by the energy transition.

PETERHEAD



PORT AUTHORITY

NEWSLETTER

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Featuring

- Embracing the energy transition** 1
- Exciting net zero journey ahead for Port** 3
- Award winners** 4
- Milestone birthdays and work anniversaries** 5
- Air display sponsorship** 6
- Marina facilities upgrade** 7

With climate change driving policy change in general, and the drive to net zero in Scotland by 2045 in particular, the PPA Board and senior management want to better understand how Peterhead can be scaled up to function more efficiently as a multi-sector port.

The study, by experts at Royal HaskoningDHV, has been commissioned by PPA in conjunction with ScottishEnterprise and is supported by port-based companies ASCO and NorSea, as well as key stakeholder Storegga.

“There are a great many opportunities arising from sectors such as offshore wind, hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, alternative fuels and decommissioning,” says Keith Mackie, PPA Head of Business Development – Energy Transition.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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“This study, done in collaboration with our key stakeholders, will allow us to take best advantage of these new areas while continuing to support our existing oil and gas and fisheries activities.”

The joint review follows on from an earlier study commissioned by ASCO, the global integrated logistics and materials management company which operates and owns South Base terminal at Peterhead.

The Port has also joined a project that aims to create a hydrogen highway from Scotland to Rotterdam.

Details of the project were announced by the Net Zero Technology Centre and ERM in December 2022. It seeks to demonstrate that liquid hydrogen can be successfully transported at scale, providing an export route to the Port of Rotterdam and other European destinations.

PPA joins a diverse international consortium, including Axens, Chiyoda, EnQuest, ERM, Koole Terminals, Port of Rotterdam, Scottish Government, Shetland Islands Council, Storegga and the Net Zero Technology Centre.

The partners will work together undertaking engineering studies targeted at developing a pilot project as a precursor to large scale export.

Mr Mackie says: “We are delighted to have joined this project, which fits into our overall strategic plan of considering all energy transition opportunities from across multiple sectors.”

It was announced recently that the project had won the Stronger Together award at the Netherlands-British Chamber of Commerce Awards 2023.

On the fisheries side, there has been a strong start to 2023, with whitefish and shellfish landings by the end of February up 1,287 tonnes on 2022, reflecting the uplift in some key quotas for the fleet this year. Pelagic landings are also up by 6,496 tonnes over the same period.

Prices have been good as well, with the overall value for both whitefish and pelagic catches landed into Peterhead up 17% (£9m) by the end of February on last year.

Peter Duncan, Head of Fishing – Commercial, said: “There has been a general increase in fishing activity, and on the pelagic side more blue whiting catches.

“Weather hampered landings during March, but has improved since then with a positive impact on fishing activity.”

Port representatives attended the Skipper Expo event at P&J Live in Aberdeen in early May which attracted a big turnout of visitors. A new version of the Port’s short film about fishing has been produced and is now available to view on the website www.peterheadport.co.uk

Exciting net zero journey ahead for Port

More than 200 people attended an energy transition event hosted by Peterhead Port Authority in April in conjunction with Invest Aberdeen and the North Sea Transition Authority.

Peterhead Port: Embracing the Energy Transition Opportunity was held at the Score Group premises in the town.

PPA chief financial officer Stephen Paterson opened proceedings by noting that over well over £100 million had been invested in port infrastructure during his 30 years but the years ahead would be the most exciting.

“New prospects are arriving on the horizon for us but we expect to see decades of work in oil and gas also - it’s an energy transition not an energy switch-off.

“We recognise that the North-East of Scotland can’t do everything but we believe there’s lots we can get engaged with and will create jobs and prosperity for the next generation and those beyond.”

David Duguid MP spoke about the fact that Peterhead had changed with the times and embraced the opportunities coming its way.

He believed that we had the skills and opportunities to embrace the transition and lead the way - creating valuable jobs for the region.

“Peterhead Port not only sits at the heart of the community - not forgetting the importance of the fishing industry - but is in a great position to be a key part of the energy transition and its journey.”

He praised the PPA event at Score Group and said the area needed to push forward into the future of solar, wind, hydrogen, CCUS and other opportunities.

“We need to maintain and grow our market share in this energy transition; it can bring vast jobs and prosperity to the region.”

Phil Milton, CEO of decommissioning specialist Well-Safe Solutions, said the business had grown from six staff members when it launched in 2017 to almost 400 today.

He praised the facilities at Peterhead Port and said it could benefit hugely from some of the reverse engineering the decommissioning sector would create in the coming decades.

“We are at the heart of the energy transition - we are there for the decommissioning of wells. We also see opportunity in carbon capture and storage; new wells need to be drilled and old wells repurposed. It’s where we see our business going in terms of our business and the capability to do that.

“And we are bringing new talent into the industry.”

He said £2bn was expected to be spent on decommissioning in the next year and 48% will be spent on well decommissioning.

“Peterhead can be a big part of that decom phase. It’s a huge opportunity.”

Ian Davidson, Score Group commercial director, said the company had been investing heavily in the next generation of people within the sector who would lead the charge.

“We have 350 apprentices worldwide and most of them are in Peterhead - we are investing in young people on an industrial scale.

“The average age of a Score person is 32 years old - there’s loads of young faces in our business who are the future of the sector.”



Darren McClements is presented with his award by Peter Duncan, Head of Fishing, PPA, with host Stephen Buchanan looking on.

Award winners

It was a good night for Peterhead at the recent annual *Fishing News* awards ceremony in Aberdeen. Peterhead Port Authority sponsored the Over 10M Fisherman of the Year category, which was won by Darren McClements, skipper of the prawn trawler *Golden Ray* that fishes out of Portavogie in Northern Ireland.

And the town's very own 18-year-old Harvey Buchan won the Young Fisherman of the Year award, sponsored by Seafish. Harvey works on the trawler *Favonious PD 17* and hopes to be a skipper one day. PPA is a proud sponsor of the awards.



Harvey Buchan receiving his award from Lynn Gilmore of Seafish.

Milestone birthdays and work anniversaries



March and April witnessed some milestone celebrations here at Peterhead Port.

They kicked off with Peter Duncan, our Head of Fishing – Commercial, who turned 50 at the beginning of March. Staff had a little get together and cake to mark the special occasion.

Peter joined Peterhead Port Authority on 1st May 2019 after moving on from a career at North East Scotland College where he was lecturing in Nautical Science.

He initially accepted the role of Business Development Manager before transitioning on to Head of Fishing – Commercial within his first year, which he “thoroughly enjoys”.

“I have responsibility for commercial fishing business concerns. I liaise with stakeholders to identify their business needs and to ensure that they receive the highest level of service from Peterhead Port Authority. I have responsibility for the operation of the Fishing Business Unit which includes Peterhead Fish Market. I ensure that the fish market operates in an efficient manner and is in a position to maintain the highest level of service to our stakeholders that is expected from the UK’s premier fishing port.”

And on his milestone birthday: “It doesn’t hurt.”

A month later, on 1st April, our Chief Financial Officer Stephen Paterson notched up 30 years of service.

Following completion of a degree in Mathematics at Aberdeen University, Stephen qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte in Aberdeen in 1991.

He was seconded to Peterhead Bay Authority for a six-month period to oversee financial matters for the construction of Princess Royal Jetty and Peterhead Bay Marina. Following this period, a permanent position was offered in April 1993 as Commercial Manager and he was promoted to Chief Financial Officer in 2006 on the merger of the two harbour authorities to form Peterhead Port Authority.

Away from work Stephen’s personal interests include tending an extensive collection of cacti and succulent plants, gardening, coastal walks and involvement in local church. Stephen is married with two children and has always resided in the North East of Scotland.

“My role includes responsibility for overseeing the finance, accounting, commercial and marketing functions and contributing to general management and strategy issues. I have been involved with planning and delivering

infrastructure investment exceeding £100m to ensure the business meets the evolving needs of its users and maximises its contribution to the local economy and stakeholders. It is estimated that port activity supports up to 10,000 jobs, so it is a great privilege and responsibility to be involved in the management of the port.”

And on 30 years at the Port: “There is always a new project or challenge to keep things interesting, but the scale and variety of opportunities in the near future associated with energy transition makes this one of the most exciting times in the last 30 years for the business. I’m looking forward to playing a part in this new evolution and hope to be around long enough to see some of these prospects start operations.”



Celebrations continued a few days later marking the special occasion of our Facilities Manager Jim Dixon's 50th birthday.



Jim, another dedicated, hardworking and valuable member of the team, joined Peterhead Port Authority nearly 16 years ago, on 23rd July 2007. He started off his career here as Maintenance Joiner progressing quickly within a few weeks to Assistant Ship Repair Foreman before being promoted to full time Ship Repair Foreman. Jim then further progressed to Assistant Harbour Engineer before a further promotion to his current role as Port Facilities Manager.

He said: "I have seen a lot of changes and developments at the Port over the 16 years I have been here, and it has been a privilege to have been part of the journey."

And on his birthday: "It's just another day to me."

The last, but not least, of the celebrations was for our VTS Operator / Port Controller George Youngson's 75th birthday in the middle of April where staff got together to mark the special occasion with some more cake.



George, another long serving, dedicated and valuable member of the team, has been with us at Peterhead Port Authority since 5th January 2004. He started out as a Boatmen on the Flying Scud before moving onto the Pilot Boat. He was there for only a few months before becoming a VTS Operator / Port Controller where he has continued to work ever since.

George said: "I've been at the Port now for nearly 20 years. Back when I started you had to work your way up through the positions, that's just how it was done. You started on the Flying Scud before moving onto the Pilot Boat and then you had the opportunity from there to become a VTS Operator / Port Controller. I can honestly say, I loved my job back then just as much as I do now. Working here at the port never gets boring, that's the beauty of the job, every day is different, some days can be challenging but it's always interesting and you can't ask for more than that."

And on his birthday: "Birthdays are only a number however I've had a great 75 years and I'm lucky to have spent 53 wonderful years (this year) married to my best friend and wife Isobel. Here's to many more wonderful years to come."

Air display sponsorship

The Port is delighted once again to be a sponsor of the Royal Air Force display at Scottish Week.

This year will mark the 10th anniversary of the appearance of the Red Arrows at the event, and promises to be a blockbuster show with a Spitfire, Hurricane, Lancaster and Typhoon also set to fly over the town as well as the returning RAF Falcons.

It is 55 years since the RAF's first public display in Peterhead during Scottish Week in 1968.





*From left:
marina managers
Ian Wilson and
Keith Bristol with
senior port engineer
Ian Downie.*

Marina facilities upgrade

The toilet and shower facilities at Peterhead Bay Marina have undergone a major refurbishment.



The whole block has been modernised, with new facilities replacing the rather dated old ones.

There is now full access for disabled people, with a disabled toilet and shower cubicle, as well as baby changing facilities, four unisex toilets and four showers, six hand basins, three hand dryers and three hairdryers. New, modern laundry facilities have also been introduced.

Marina manager Keith Bristol said: “I think this refurbishment will make using the marina an easy experience for disabled as well as able-bodied people – one of the best around if early feedback is anything to go by.

“The local sailing club is already using the facilities and are informing people about our disabled hoist and changing room, which will make it much easier to help disabled users in and out of their boats.”

Ian Downie, PPA senior port engineer, said: “The entire block has been modernised, bringing it up to date with high quality, 21st century facilities that make it more accessible and comfortable for all users.”