

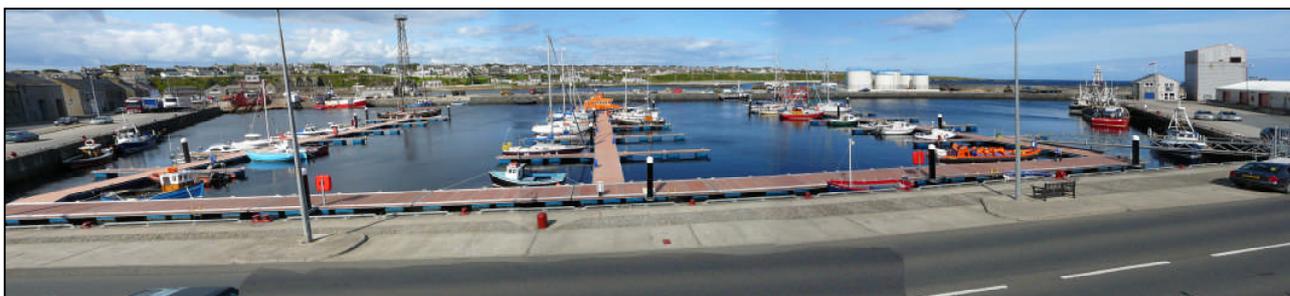


Harbour News

Issue 4 December 2010

MARINA SUCCESS CONTINUES

The amazing growth in visitor numbers to the Marina continued this summer with 290 vessels coming in between April and October. This reflects both the general increase in marine leisure and also our own work in promoting the marina through our membership of sailnorthscotland.co.uk, urging sailors to 'Follow the Viking Trail'. As part of the new Association we attended the Gothenburg Boat Show back in February and had a huge amount of interest from the Scandinavians, which we hope will be reflected in our 2011 business, as most yachtsmen tend to plan at least a year ahead. Also during the summer we had visits from two journalists working for Danish and Norwegian sailing magazines, who also visited our partners, Inverness, Orkney, and Shetland Marinas to acquaint themselves of all our facilities and local attractions, and their articles should be published over there this winter, and help spread the word.



Forty five of our seventy berths were permanently occupied this summer, and several new enquiries have already been received for 2011. We reserve ten berths for summer visitors, but one evening in July we had fourteen on berth, with the total for the season being two hundred and ninety, up almost fifty percent on 2009. See our stats below. This brings welcome revenue for us, but equally it brought nearly eight hundred visitors to the town, spending money (estimated £30k), on fuel, repairs, food, refreshments, visitor attractions, you name it.



UK	202	Sweden	5	Finland	2
Netherlands	27	Poland	4	Belgium	1
Germany	13	Ireland	4	Czechoslovakia	1
Norway	11	Denmark	3	Canada	1
France	7	USA	3	No Info	6
777 Crew spent 462 days in port				Total Vessels	290

THE WORLD

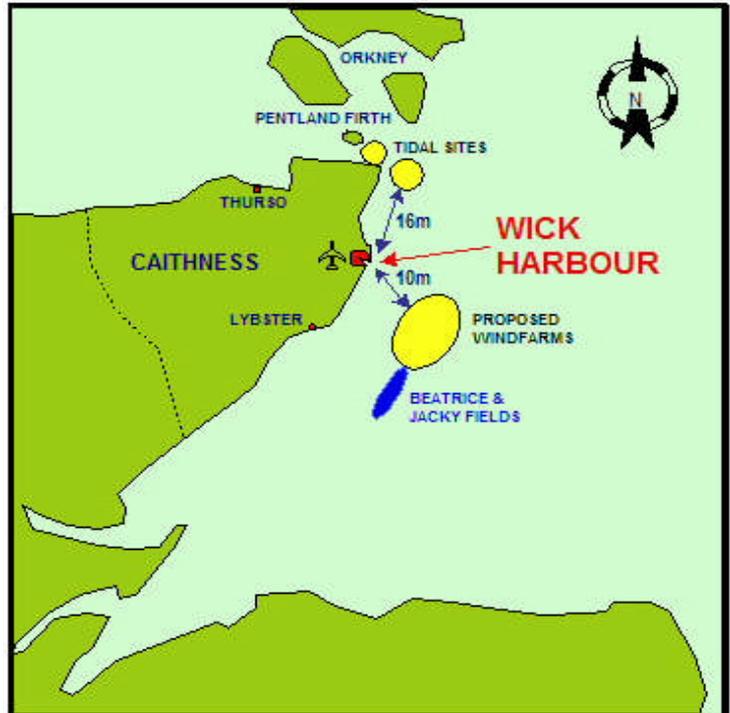
Yes, The World is coming to Wick! All being well the huge liner and its residents, en route to Lerwick, should be anchored off Wick overnight next June, with people coming ashore in tenders to shop, visit attractions, and go on bus trips. This is great news indeed, and may herald another opportunity for future business. More details will emerge nearer the time.



MARINE RENEWABLES and OFFSHORE WIND

Momentum is now building in this sector with the recent awards of site leases in the Pentland Firth to Wave and Tidal developers, but unfortunately Tocardo, who rent the Dry Dock site, missed out this time. They are however, still actively involved, and intend to pursue further opportunities for their Marine Current Turbines.

More interesting are the proposals by two developers to install, from 2014, up to four hundred offshore wind turbines north of the Beatrice and Jacky Fields, coming to within ten miles of Wick. Turbine manufacture is likely to happen in larger more established sites such as Nigg, Methil, Arnish, etc, but we are actively pursuing both consortia for us to be considered as an Operations and Maintenance Base, given our proximity and existing facilities, and Wick Airport. O & M is carried out by smaller vessels (12-25m), and frequently by small helicopter. A survey vessel has been based in Wick all summer working on the windfarm sites.



CARGOES

General business has been bolstered recently with two shipments of steel pipe for Subsea 7, with a few more still to come for the current contract. Large towheads are due for delivery in January, and further good news is that two further pipeline contracts ensure continuity through till 2012. Pipeline launches also generate shipping business with tugs and workboats.

Several local onshore windfarms are in the final stages of preparation, some already with Planning Consent, and these should bring us turbine imports in late 2011/12.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

In order to pursue these Renewables opportunities and to further enhance our facilities we have already commissioned a Feasibility Study, sponsored by the NDA, to look at improved access, water depths, quay space, etc, in the River Basin. This will be researched by our Engineers over the next few months and we expect the full Report late Spring 2011. Government funding for Port Infrastructure improvements is now emerging, and we will be keeping a close watch on developments.

BOARD MEMBERS

Every October two vacancies arise and are advertised in the Press under the statutory rotational arrangements. This year Bob Silverwood replaced David Steven, and John Sutherland was reappointed. We thank David for his input over the last three years, and welcome Bob to the team.

STAFF

Unfortunately, back in March, due to financial pressures, we had to make three staff redundant. This was done only after serious examination of other options, but at the end of the day we were left with no choice. Our thanks and appreciation are due to Jane Henderson, Kevin McAlpine, and Davie Dunnett, who were all trusted and hard working employees and friends. Hopefully, in the near future when business recovers, we can start to rebuild our workforce.

THE FLAGGIE

Storms in October and November took their toll on the North Cardinal Mark in the Bay, the "Flaggie", which had only been replaced two years ago. A temporary replacement is being arranged until a more permanent solution is found, and a formal 'Notice to Mariners' has been published to warn of the danger.

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to all friends and customers.