



Ian Cormack

Life on the ocean wave

Born into a seafaring family in Whitehaven, Ian Cormack's love of the sea and his future career all stemmed from a fishing trip with his uncle when he was just eight years old. Needless to say, Ian was hooked. He's never looked back and his career is now firmly based on the water!

Ian began work as a charge hand at Sellafield, where he worked for 17 years. Here he gained valuable maritime experience which led him to join the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in 2001.

Starting as a probationary crewman, Ian's experience and knowledge of the sea shone through and he was promoted to a crew member of the 'all weather' boat, after just six months. After a further six months, Ian became the senior helmsman on the inshore lifeboat.

"I'm really proud of my achievement, being part of such an amazing group of people and such an important institution. Although I love the sea and the water, it can be a dangerous place and I've seen what it's capable of. But the experiences I've gained have stood me in good stead for any future work that I do, on or offshore." says Ian.

Ian works for a local company, Solway Maritime, which is contracted by E.ON to provide crew and maintenance of its wind farm access boat, the Solway Spirit. Ian now spends much of his time working with the team for Robin Rigg. He's responsible for the safe transfer of both passengers and stores equipment to the vessels. As Second Captain and First Mate on the Solway Spirit, Ian works 10 days on and four days off, as well as additional shift work cover.

He plays a crucial role in maintaining optimum production performance of the wind farm, with long hours a prerequisite. One bonus to the job is that, as a keen photographer, he has access to a unique location that would be the envy of many professionals.

Ian says "I've seen so much fantastic scenery from the water over the years and have also had the privilege to document the different construction phases of Robin Rigg. Being part of such a great project and being able to document it, is just brilliant."

The Round Robin

Keeping our community informed



Robin Rigg Offshore Wind Farm



→ Keep in touch

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We're generating at Robin Rigg

All 60 turbines at Robin Rigg are turning and producing power

Ian Johnson, senior project manager for E.ON is delighted. "It's such a great achievement and has been a real team effort getting to this stage. Offshore wind farm developments are complex and there are a number of factors to contend with, especially the weather. Because we select sites with the highest levels of wind, this comes with a number of challenges during construction. I'm pleased to say, however, that thanks to a great team, the site is now generating power and we're all delighted."

All 60 turbines are now generating renewable energy, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and therefore helping us to meet the climate change challenge. The wind farm is expected to generate electricity for 117,000 homes* and should offset 230,000[†] tonnes of carbon dioxide each year.

Continued overleaf

Showcase for Scotland

This is a showcase for Scotland's renewable energy ambitions and is an example of Cumbria's Energy Coast Strategy coming to life. 24km of subsea cable has been laid to bring the power ashore. The monopile foundations, upon which the turbines sit, would stretch for around 2.5km if laid end to end. There's been considerable interest in the project. It's been featured on the Discovery Channel and Mighty Ships and in publications around the world. It's even hosted visits from local communities as far away as western Canada (the Haida Nation) who are interested in their own offshore wind farm development. This is all valuable publicity for the local area.

But work does not stop here. A team of mainly local people will operate the wind farm through its operational life. A programme of environmental monitoring in the Solway Firth was started by E.ON before construction commenced and will proceed into the operational phase. E.ON will also continue to support its community commitments.

Community Fund available

The 10 year Community Fund has already begun awarding grants to local projects in Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria. The fund, which totals £1 million, is being used by local communities to improve the local environment and also increase understanding of environmental issues. E.ON continues to support work in local schools and events around the Solway Firth.

* Based on an average annual domestic household electricity consumption of 4,725 kWh (Source DECC).

† This figure is based on the Government's long term marginal plant figure of 430g CO₂/kWh. Although it's very difficult to predict the exact benefit of a wind farm development, we can be certain that over the course of its lifetime, green electricity from a wind turbine will offset large amounts of CO₂ that would have otherwise been produced if that electricity had been generated using fossil fuels, such as coal and gas.

Working together for a safer environment

Robin Rigg and Vestas take team building to the next level

On completion of Robin Rigg, E.ON and Vestas will work together to operate and maintain it. E.ON will be responsible for the safe running of the site. Vestas will be responsible for maintaining the turbines and E.ON will provide the boats for transporting personnel and be responsible for the safety of the high voltage system – sharing their knowledge with the Vestas team. In fact, the two companies share a lot of knowledge and objectives.

"Building a close relationship between E.ON and Vestas for the operational phase has been positive and I see a huge commitment to this partnership from Vestas. In the beginning it may be a hard journey, but in the long run it should be a smooth ride," says Sally Shenton, Operations Manager for Robin Rigg.

The Vestas team at Robin Rigg is made up of 17 people and they've recently moved into the operations facility at the Port of Worthington. The benefits of this are mutual, as they share not only the building, but also tasks, boats,

and other resources to keep costs down. Similar rules across the team increase safety for all employees.

Jason Halsey, Vestas OffShore Operations Manager, says, "The Vestas Robin Rigg Operations and Maintenance team and the whole of Vestas Offshore are looking forward to developing a close working relationship with the E.ON Robin Rigg team. We're all in the unique position of being part of a win/win partnership - all Vestas site personnel realise they're also stakeholders in this project going forward and are keen to make Robin Rigg the number one offshore wind farm. By cooperating on a number of operational readiness tasks, we (Vestas & EON) are all in a position to 'hit the ground running' when the operations phase begins."

Vestas is a Danish company and they have a strong UK workforce with a base in Warrington and most of the Vestas team based at Robin Rigg were recruited from the area.

Vestas fact file

- 1898 Vestas began in a small farming town in Denmark
- 1979 Vestas began manufacturing wind turbines
- 1995 Vestas installed the first offshore wind turbines
- 2002 Vestas launch the V90 3.0MW turbine



Elizabeth introduces a local child to Tiddles the Tiger and the world of Fluffville

Energy has a new educational home in Fluffville

In May 2009, E.ON provided joint funding to the Solway Heritage to ensure the continuation of the ECO-schools project. Now, almost one year on, we look at the amazing work the funding has provided.

Tiddles the Tiger and the animated world of Fluffville might not be the first place you'd look for a school's educational programme, but that's exactly where you'll find Elizabeth Gunby's 'Guide to Energy'.

Employed by the Solway Heritage in September 2009 as an ECO-schools coordinator, Elizabeth decided to use her existing illustrations to help young children understand energy, how it works and the importance of generating from a mix of sources. She also gives them tips for energy efficiency in the home.

Elizabeth Gunby says, "Tiddles the Tiger has been a character in my world for many years, so when I was offered this role, he seemed to be the perfect partner. Helping children to understand more about energy is essential."

The project is scheduled to visit 120 schools in the Dumfries and Galloway region over a two year period. Elizabeth has already visited around 45 schools in the last six months, with many more already booked for the near future.

Emma Steele at E.ON, who runs the Robin Rigg Community Programme commented, "We're really proud to have helped fund such a great educational programme in the region. Already in the first year, Elizabeth has made excellent progress in getting the teachers and children on board. It's a fantastic achievement."

As a result of the project, Dumfries and Galloway Council has commissioned the production of an educational book, 'Fluffville Saves Energy'. This will be free to all primary schools within the region and available in all local libraries.



Tall ship's treat for two

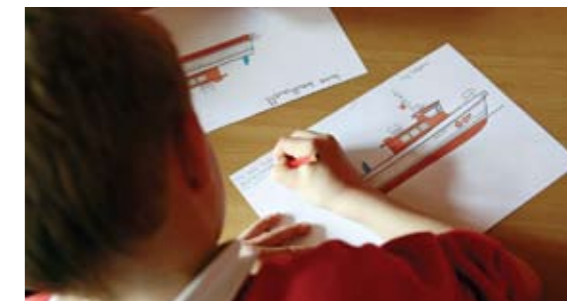
Thanks to a donation from Robin Rigg, two users of the Copeland Occupational and Social Centre (COSC) – a day centre for people with disabilities in Maryport Cumbria – will enjoy a trip around the Riveria on a tall ship which has been modified to allow disabled people to sail.

Sally Shenton, Operations Manager at Robin Rigg, presented a cheque for £1,500 to Bob Beck, Maryport Coastguard Station Manager, who's organised the trip with the Jubilee Sailing Trust. Bob will also attend as a helper, to enable local Maryport resident Mary Brady, 56, to join the Jubilee Sailing Trust on an adventure of a lifetime.

Mary has arthritis and can only walk with the aid of sticks. "I'm in pain all the time and this is a chance to do something I've never done before" she said.

Also accompanying Mary, will be Steve Whitehead a former marine engineer who has Multiple Sclerosis. As the father of two, Steve is now in a wheelchair and has lost some of his sight. He never thought he'd be able to go on a ship again, but thanks to Bob Beck and the help of E.ON, he'll soon be taking to the seas once more!

The group will also be accompanied by Louise Dobson, a care assistant from COSC. The ship is due to set sail in April 2010.



Funding in your area

For further information on the funds available within your area and on how to apply, please visit either of the websites below:

solwayheritage.co.uk
cumbriafoundation.org



Robin Rigg Operations and Maintenance building, Port of Worthington