

# Community investment

## Funding updates

Provided by RWE Renewables, the Robin Rigg Fund is available to community groups and organisations in the eligible geographical Solway area .

Groups that are undertaking activities that contribute to the reduction of the effects of climate change or otherwise benefit the local community can apply for a grant of up to £15,000

Projects funded in 2024 include:

- The Henry Raeburn Exhibition in Kirkcudbright
- The Crichton Carbon Centre to run a climate change schools programme
- Funding the Silloth Vintage Rally
- Purchase of a vertical screen with planters for the Grow Well Community Garden in Workington

Full details of the Robin Rigg Community Fund including a downloadable application form can be found on the Solway Firth Partnership website [www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/robin-rigg-community-fund/](http://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk/robin-rigg-community-fund/)

**The deadline for applications to the Robin Rigg Community Fund is 12 noon on Monday 11 November 2024.**



## WWT Caerlaverock

WWT Caerlaverock reported the successful completion of their project to build rafts for breeding Black-headed Gulls (See photo above). Unfortunately the gulls have not cooperated and there's been no breeding activity to report yet.

Colvend and Southwick Community Council purchased a new marquee for community events using a grant from Robin Rigg Community Fund. The new marquee was launched at the Colvend Family Gala last summer where it was used as a sunshade, though in 2024 it kept the rain out.



## Solway Sea Cadets

In 2023, the fund supported the Maryport and Solway Sea Cadets with a grant towards the replacement of the outboard motor for their Safety Boat RIB. The Safety Boat supports the unit's Summer Sailing programme during which young people can learn to sail, paddleboard, row, canoe and kayak.

The work of the Maryport Sea Cadets unit was recognised when the Unit Volunteers were awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service in the King's Birthday Honours in November 2023. The fund is providing a further grant in 2024 to upgrade storage facilities for the kayaks and other equipment that the unit uses in its work with young people.



## Kirkcudbright Book Week

Kirkcudbright Book Week Society held its second ever event in 2023, supported in part by a grant from the Robin Rigg Community Fund. The event included talks, recitals, workshops and meet-the-author events. More than 300 people of all ages attended events at venues across the town during the week.

# RWE

# Robin Rigg Newsletter

Autumn 2024

## Welcome

Michael Edwards | General Manager

Now in its 15th year of operation, maintenance of Robin Rigg is a high priority, enabling the continued generation of green electricity to the local network. This has meant that over the summer, the team has been busy with in-depth inspections across the wind farm, identifying potential defects and continuing the maintenance programme.

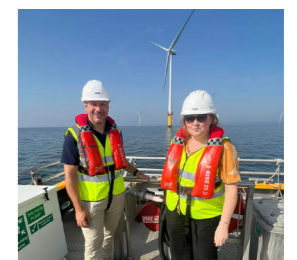
Over the coming winter months we will have time to plan our maintenance programme for spring and summer 2025 and ensure our health, safety and wellbeing training is up-to-date whilst going about our daily activities.

Robin Rigg continues to support local groups, young people and good causes via our community funds and we are nurturing local talent where we can, creating jobs for local people. You can read more about our successes in both areas in this newsletter.

I hope you find this an interesting read and thank you for your on-going interest in what is going on with Robin Rigg Wind Farm. For more information on the wind farm visit: [uk.rwe.com/locations/robin-rigg-east-and-west-offshore-wind-farm/](http://uk.rwe.com/locations/robin-rigg-east-and-west-offshore-wind-farm/)

Emma Harper MSP, enjoyed her first visit to an offshore wind farm and described it as a fascinating learning experience, seeing first-hand and close up how the turbines work.

Back at base, I spent time with her discussing all things offshore including construction, operations and maintenance but particularly focusing on jobs, supply chain and community investment.



# Recent maintenance works



## Exchanging major components

Despite a rigorous maintenance timetable, occasionally a major component failure is unavoidable. Recently, we carried out a multi-component exchange on three turbines utilising the Ziton Wind, a 55metre, four-legged jack up crane vessel (pictured above). You maybe saw the action from the shore!

In order to provide a stable platform for lifting, the Ziton Wind deploys a crane, with boom reaching over 100m above sea level. Access to the blade bearing can only be achieved by firstly removing the affected blade, lowering it to the vessel deck, removing the old bearing from the nacelle and replacing it with a new one.

A reverse lift of the blade then completes the task with all 178 bolts holding the blade tightened in readiness for recommissioning, and all completed withing 12 hours. The whole campaign was completed with 5 days offshore.

## Emergency gearbox repair

Not all maintenance follows the annual plan and sometimes an unexpected equipment failure means that we have to move fast.

Following a gearbox failure on one of the turbines earlier this year, we had to act quickly to set up an emergency repair. The gearbox on each turbine is split up into three sections. In this case, one section had a broken tooth on the high speed pinion.

Luckily, we were able to exchange the broken tooth using our in-house engineering expertise and without replacing the full gearbox.

After the broken tooth was replaced onshore, we were able to reverse the procedure and have the turbine operating as normal within a few days.



**137,000**

Homes powered



**58**

Turbines



**22**

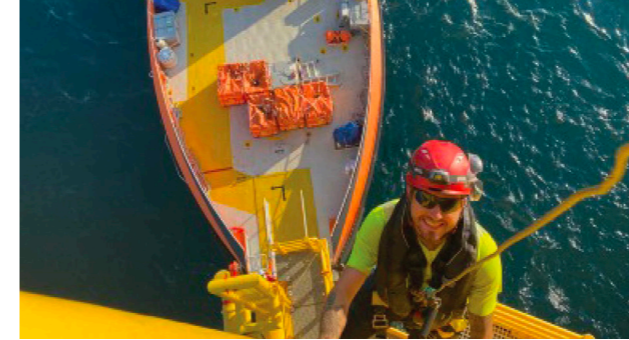
Employees



**£1 million**

Community benefit fund over 15 years

# Robin Rigg people



## Declan Birkett

Following a Diploma in Welding & Fabricating at Lakes College, and a short spell working elsewhere, Cockermouth resident, 27-year old Declan Birkett, joined Robin Rigg in January as an Offshore Wind Turbine Technician and is loving the challenges that working on an operational wind farm brings.



## Colin Teasdale

Another Workington local, Colin Teasdale, has been the Logistics Coordinator in the equipment store at Robin Rigg for 12 years. His role is crucial to the success of the turbine maintenance team.

With vessels leaving to go out to the array early, it's Colin's job to ensure that all the parts, tools and other equipment the technicians might need offshore is ready for loading by 6am each morning. Maintenance is a 24-hour, seven days a week operation, so his days are long, only ending when all the vessels have returned to base, all the parts are offloaded and the next day's parts and equipment requirements are pulled together ready for their early morning vessel upload.

Colin loves working as part of the Robin Rigg team, with everyone pulling together to ensure that maintenance work is done efficiently and effectively.



## C2C Challenge

The idea to ride the coast to coast (C2C) had been knocking round in the Robin Rigg team for a while. With the O&M facility situated right on the coast in Workington, it seemed an obvious team building, fund raising activity.

Amazingly, we had 19 volunteers with very mixed experiences and abilities of riding a bike sign up for the challenge and through the spring and summer training slowly ramped up until in September 2023 we set off from Robin Rigg heading east.

Our ride took us over the formidable Hartside Pass and the weather wasn't very kind to us but everyone persevered until we all made it to Tynemouth in Northumberland. We had a few punctures, a few mechanical issues, a few tears but most importantly a lot of laughs and raised a handsome sum for our chosen charity Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA).



## James Price

Workington-based James Price joined the RWE Apprenticeship Scheme as he was super keen to work for a green industry that helps the planet. He also loves that he's getting hands on training for a job that he can have for life. Being based locally at Robin Rigg is important to him as he can keep in contact with family and friends and in a place he can still enjoy his biking.