

More money for community activities

The Castle Hill Trust in Maryport provides volunteer-led community activities, such as arts and crafts sessions, a Job Seekers Club and a Friday night youth club. The Trust was awarded a grant from the Robin Rigg Community Fund to upgrade the old heating system in its grade II listed Georgian building.

Trustee, Jim O'Rourke said: "I was delighted when I heard we'd been given the grant. The improvements we've made have made the Trust a warmer, nicer place to be and significantly reduced our energy bills, giving us more to spend on new activities for the community."

A helping hand for wildlife

Friends of Harrington Nature Reserve are using their Robin Rigg Community Fund grant to improve Harrington Reservoir in Workington. Over the past decade, the reservoir has been transformed by the rapid build-up of silt from its feeder stream, the Ellerbeck. Without the work being done by the group, there's a risk that the reservoir could silt up completely. That could mean wildlife disappearing from the site and extra risk of flooding upstream.

Chair, Maureen Dolan said: "It's great to see the improvement project underway. It will make our very special place even more enjoyable for the local community and more valuable for our resident wildlife."

Understanding the environment

Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre (CBDC), based at Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in Carlisle, collates and analyses Cumbria's biological records, biodiversity and geological information. It was awarded a Robin Rigg Community Fund grant to help fund its Solway Nature Networks project, working in the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The project encourages local people to volunteer and map, identify and record the habitats and species of the Solway plain – providing valuable information that hasn't, until now, been fully recorded. The project ends with a roving exhibition of the wildlife discovered, to celebrate the hard work of the volunteers.

Manager at CBDC, Deborah Muscat said: "The grant has allowed us to recruit and train a group of volunteers to help us find out more about habitats and species in the area."

Keep in touch

You're always welcome to get in touch with us about Robin Rigg. You can email robin.rigg@eon-uk.com, call us on **01900 507 070**, or write to us at:

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Meet our new face



Mike Smith Operations Engineer

I'm from Maryport and live with my wife and two young children. I started my career as an electrician and began working at Robin Rigg when the site first opened, as an offshore service technician for eight years.

For the last three years I've been working for MHI Vestas Offshore Wind, as an Offshore Commissioning Supervisor, and more recently, as a HV (High Voltage) Specialist. Throughout this time, I've travelled Europe commissioning new offshore wind farms with the latest 8MW platform.

Outside work, I'm an avid football fan – although too old to play now, I also enjoy cycling, hiking in the Lakes and spending time with my family.

I'm fortunate enough to know a lot of the team here at Robin Rigg and am looking forward to getting to know those I don't. This is a new role for me at Robin Rigg and I'm excited about the new challenges ahead.

Round Robin Newsletter



Spring 2019



Hello from Robin Rigg

It seems like no time at all since our last update and my first day, but I've actually been with the team for nine months now. As always, there's never a dull moment at Robin Rigg and lots has happened in that time – even in our off-peak winter season.

Rock solid teamwork

2018 was a successful year thanks to the hard work of my brilliant team, with the wind farm generating more MWhrs of electricity than it was forecast to.

We continuously monitor Robin Rigg and carry out regular surveys to make sure we're operating safely and efficiently. As part of this, we carried out a busy programme of maintenance work over autumn and winter 2018, including a successful scour protection campaign with our contractor Van Oord.

The campaign involved depositing rock at four offshore wind turbine locations to protect them from erosion, using a specialist vessel. Working flexibly 24/7, my team completed this major project in around three weeks, helping us maintain our assets and complete the job safely.

My first winter season at Robin Rigg also saw us carry out our planned maintenance and servicing programme and I've quickly learned that when it comes to getting the job done, the weather is our biggest challenge. Coming from a traditional power station I took the ability to reach the point of work for granted, but it's a whole different ball game when the location is an offshore wind turbine. I have massive respect for my wind farm technicians who do this every day - when the weather allows!

Problem-solving champions

2019 is already shaping up to be another busy and exciting year with storms Freya and Gareth quickly making up for a less windy than expected January. We've also had some great news for the team with Robin Rigg crowned the worthy winner of E.ON's Global Operational Excellence Problem Solving Competition. We were up against colleagues from across E.ON but impressed the judges with the improvements we've made to our wind turbines' hydraulic system, and the cost and downtime savings delivered as a result.

Following our win, we were invited to present our project to the E.ON Supervisory Board in Germany, which is a rare honour. I'm so proud of everyone involved, but in reality, this is the mindset the Robin Rigg team brings to work every day.

The team grew again in January as we welcomed Mike Smith onboard – I'll let him introduce himself later in the newsletter.

Finally, you may have seen an announcement in the media that E.ON and another top German utility company, RWE, have agreed an asset swap deal, including E.ON's renewable assets. The deal depends on the necessary regulatory approvals, so until then it's business as usual at Robin Rigg.

I look forward to giving you an update on how the deal is going in the next newsletter, together with a round-up of the projects we've got planned.

Thank you for your interest in Robin Rigg and enjoy catching up with more of our news...

Kerry McCole
Robin Rigg Plant Manager

Working with our community

'The Secret Coast' reopen to visitors

The Secret Coast Information Centre in Colvend has been given a new lease of life, thanks to the help of volunteers and £500 from the Robin Rigg Community Benefit Fund. The centre was originally converted from an old disused petrol station kiosk and has been in need of care and attention for several years, following an electrical fire. Colvend Community Council has now been able to completely renovate the building, repairing and redecorating both inside and out. There are also new displays, videos and information boards, including a children's display corner with a gallery of over 30 pictures of the area, created by local primary school children. The new-look centre is already proving popular with tourists and there's been a huge increase in visitor numbers. Well done to everyone involved.

Robin Rigg contributes £22,000 to help children stay active

We're proud to have been involved in the Colvend Recreation Field project to improve play and exercise facilities for children in the area, funded by the Robin Rigg Community Benefit Fund, the Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme and the Stewartry Area Committee of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

The £50,000 improvement project, started in 2018, has seen the playing field at Colvend Primary School transformed to include a multisport playing surface and a new running track with a special safety surface and access ramp.

The project came about after a study in 2015 by the Dumfries and Galloway public health team, found that local primary aged children weren't getting the recommended amount of daily exercise. This was backed up in 2017, with a survey by Colvend and Southwick Community Council showing overwhelming local support for better play and exercise facilities.

The Community Council worked closely with Colvend Primary School and its Parent Council to develop plans for the new Recreation Field. The improved facilities mean the children can now enjoy a range of sports on their doorstep, including running, football, netball, lacrosse and tennis.

The Recreation Field also includes a multi-purpose building, used as a sports pavilion, an outdoor classroom and a community facility for local people, as well as new roll-top fencing and improved access points.

The project is a great example of community involvement with all kinds of local people and businesses pitching in to help. From removing fences and clearing stones from the new football pitch, to providing construction materials, legal support and landscaping advice.

The new Recreation Field is on track to launch with an official opening this spring, with the finishing touches including new multisports equipment, terraced seating and a new planting scheme.

New HQ for local scout group

The 1st Seaton Scout Group meets three times a week and includes more than a hundred Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers. The group has been hard at work fundraising for a new HQ, which will be built on the site of their current HQ near the village hall. At the moment, they have very little in the way of facilities, with a leaky roof, uneven floor, old heating system, no insulation and no disabled access. The group's Robin Rigg Community Fund Grant will be used to buy a heating system for their new HQ and plans are already well underway.

Fundraiser, Ken Thompson said: "Our new environmentally and socially sustainable HQ won't just provide first class scouting facilities accessible to all, it will also be a valuable resource for the whole community to use and enjoy."

Bringing isolated people together

People living in Blindcrake, near Cockermouth, are scattered over a large area with limited access to services, so they're particularly vulnerable to rural isolation, especially those without transport. The only public space in the parish is Blindcrake Village Hall, but the old building was badly in need of renovation. To help, the hall was recently awarded a grant from the Robin Rigg Community Fund, which will go towards fully refurbishing and refitting the space.

Treasurer, Rosalind Berry said: "The village hall is a valued amenity, allowing the community to put on events and bring local people together in a relaxed, informal setting. The grant means the hall will be more sustainable, economical, comfortable and welcoming."



The Colvend Recreation Field project transformed the playing field at Colvend Primary School