



BRITISH PORTS
ASSOCIATION

Ports and their Communities



Community Outreach Report

Introduction

The British Ports Association (BPA) is the national membership body for ports and port operators across the United Kingdom. Representing organisations that handle around 86% of all UK port traffic, the BPA works with devolved government and international bodies to promote the interests of the sector. Open to all ports, terminals, and facilities regardless of size or type, the Association is committed to supporting policies that enable every port to thrive. It draws on the broad experience and expertise of its members to advance good governance, safe operations, and sustainable growth, making it the recognised voice of the UK ports industry.

Ports and their Communities highlights another important dimension of that work, the deep and enduring connections between ports and the communities they serve. While ports are essential national gateways for trade, transport, and energy, they also play a vital local role, contributing to social wellbeing, education, and environmental stewardship. This report brings together a collection of concise case studies from across the UK to illustrate how ports of all sizes are engaging with and supporting their surrounding areas.

From heritage projects and environmental initiatives to charitable partnerships and educational outreach, the examples featured in this report showcase the breadth of positive activity taking place across the sector. They demonstrate that ports are not only engines of economic activity but also active participants in local life, investing time, expertise, and resources to create lasting benefits for people and places.



The report also reflects a wider shift within the industry towards embedding community engagement in everyday operations. Many ports are taking a structured and long-term approach to social value, integrating local priorities alongside commercial and environmental objectives. This evolution underscores a growing recognition that successful, sustainable ports depend on strong relationships with their neighbours and stakeholders.

By sharing real examples of good practice, Ports and their Communities aims to celebrate what is already being achieved and inspire further collaboration across the sector. It provides a practical resource for ports seeking to enhance their own community engagement and a reminder of the vital role ports play at the heart of their regions.



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As a Trust Port, the Port of Aberdeen's purpose is to create prosperity for generations, and the local community is one of its key stakeholders. Central to this commitment is its Strategic Charity Partnerships, supPORT-all programme, and funding for ad hoc employee and community projects across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. In 2024, the port awarded over £110,000 through these programmes to a variety of organisations, aiming to build and maintain positive relationships with the local community.

The port's Strategic Charity Partnerships mark a shift from one-off donations to long-term collaborative relationships, aimed at creating sustainable social impact.

In 2024, £60,000 was awarded to four charity partners, each receiving £15,000 annually over two years:

- Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust
- CFINE (Community Food Initiatives North East)
- Aberdeen Foyer
- Denis Law Legacy Trust

CFINE used its funding to launch the **Making Food Fun** initiative, a youth-focused cooking programme based on Jamie Oliver's Ministry of Food, designed to teach essential kitchen skills in an engaging and enjoyable way. One participant said:

“I have really enjoyed the cooking course, and I feel like I can cook more at home now.”



The supPORT-all programme provides funding to charities and community groups in areas surrounding the port. In 2024, it awarded £25,000 to nine organisations for a range of initiatives, including breakfast clubs for schools, clothing packs for children, and raised garden beds for wheelchair users and less able growers. In 2025, it supports six organisations with £25,000 in funding for new community projects.



The port is committed to being an active part of the community, encouraging employees to volunteer their time to local projects. It also offers ways for the public to engage, during Aberdeen's Doors Open Days, the port welcomed over 500 visitors to South Harbour to learn more about its past history, present, and future.

The port awarded £15,000 to local charities across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, supporting initiatives that matter to the community and its employees.

Employee fundraising is backed through matched funding, including £26,000 raised for The Seafarers' Charity via the 24 Peaks Challenge and the port continues to support events like the CEO Sleepout and the Kiltwalk in 2025.



As a Trust Port, Belfast Harbour plays a vital role in the city's economic development while staying rooted in the communities it supports. Through a broad range of partnerships and initiatives, Belfast Harbour contributes to social value, sustainability, and inclusive opportunity.

Annually, Belfast Harbour invests around £320,000 back into the community, blending funding with collaboration, volunteering and innovation, and hands-on involvement.

Central to this is the annual Community Awards programme which provides financial support to grassroot community organisations, charities and not-for-profit registered in Northern Ireland. Now in its fifth year, the Belfast Harbour Community Awards provides grants of up to £5,000 to individual organisation and this year includes the addition of a new £10,000 Community Collaboration Award designed to support collaboration between two organisations working to strengthen community resilience and connections.



From the creation of inclusive green spaces through community gardens, to education and upskilling programmes that open new doors for individuals. The programmes the Belfast Harbour Community Awards support not only enhance wellbeing but also advance environmental sustainability, nurture vibrant communities and equip people of all ages with practical, employable skills.

Belfast Harbour supports three long-standing community award beneficiaries, Turnaround, IFA Foundation and Ulster Orchestra, developing further projects which have even more significant impact on communities across the city, as well as long-term relationships, such as a 15-year partnership with The King's Trust and ongoing work with Active Communities, reflecting its commitment to supporting people, protecting the environment, and expanding opportunity.

Due to the high number of quality Employability and Skills applications received, Belfast Harbour provides funding for projects supporting route maps to qualifications and employment, developing softer skills and awareness of maritime and STEM employment opportunities.

A valued partnership with Sir Thomas Lipton Foundation which continues to offer educational boat trips for local schools, has been amplified further through more targeted funding highlighting maritime employment opportunities in partnership with estate tenants such as W5 and Artemis.

Belfast Harbour continues to work with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, supporting two impactful and successful initiatives: Healthy Oceans, Healthy Minds, which connects environmental wellbeing with mental health, and a small grants scheme for grassroots environmental action across Northern Ireland.

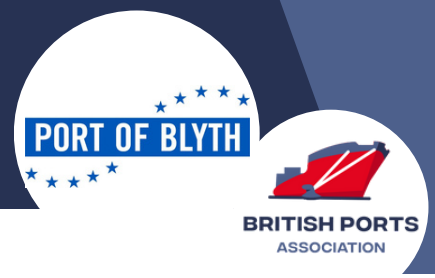


Given the ongoing challenges the Lagan Search and Rescue organisation faces with increased actual and attempted immersions in Belfast Lough, Belfast Harbour has extended the agreed five-year patronage, providing support for an additional year.

Internally, Belfast Harbour has launched an Employee Volunteering Grant Scheme, offering long term volunteers annual support for activities that support their local communities. This investment is backed by significant in-kind contributions, from mentoring to use of Harbour facilities—maximising both reach and impact.

Belfast Harbour's meaningful approach to community engagement has been rated as **"transformative"** and **"market leading"** by Business in the Community Northern Ireland.

Port of Blyth



As one of the UK's largest Trust Ports, the Port of Blyth delivers far more than just economic benefits and continues to focus on maximising support for its diverse range of stakeholders from the local community to wider regional and national organisations and interest groups each year. In 2024, the Port continued its strong commitment to community engagement through its Community Sponsorship Programme, supporting various charities, initiatives, and events that promote well-being, sustainability, maritime heritage, and local development.

Its long-term sponsorship with Blyth Spartans continued, with its support extending from the first team to youth development and encouraging diverse participation in grassroots football. The Port also partnered with Blyth Town Council to sponsor popular community events, such as Blyth Live, which drew over 15,000 visitors to Blyth Beach in summer 2024.



Each year, the Port supports Blyth Foodbank as part of its Christmas appeal, encouraging contributions from staff, tenants, and local businesses. In 2024, these efforts resulted in a donation of £3,472, with employees also volunteering and participating in a charity cycle in partnership with PureGym, cycling 50 miles to raise money. The Port also supported Operation Elf, donating over 100 gifts to ensure children in need in the local area had a joyful Christmas. Operation Elf remarked:

“Thanks to the generosity of organisations like the Port of Blyth, we were able to fulfil every request, making Christmas extra special for families in need.”



Beyond charity, the Port contributes to long-term employment and skills development through its role in the Energy Central Campus (ECC), a unique partnership between the Port of Blyth, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, and Northumberland County Council. ECC aims to develop the workforce needed for the growing clean energy sector by offering training, inspiration, and employment pathways to the local community. Port of Blyth Chief Executive, Martin Lawlor OBE, chairs the initiative, recognising the urgent need to address future skills shortages in the clean energy industry.



September 2024 saw the launch of the first phase of the campus, the £15 million Energy Central Learning Hub, located at the port. This facility provides a range of state-of-the-art industrial training, education, and STEM related skills facilities, and will soon house a Clean Energy focused Visitor Centre. It partners with local schools to deliver hands-on STEM engagement, inspiring students and raising awareness of career opportunities in engineering and renewable energy. One school praised the initiative, saying:

“Many children left with a stronger understanding of STEM and a new interest in engineering careers.”

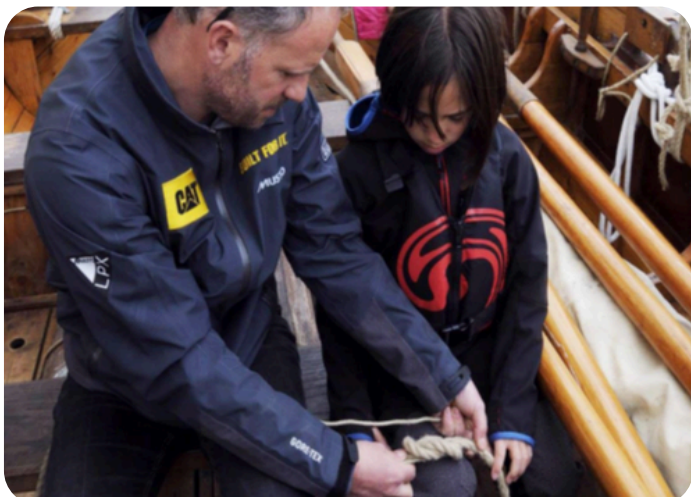
Brightlingsea Harbour



Brightlingsea Harbour and the Pioneer Sailing Trust organise five activity days annually, welcoming pupils from primary schools in the region. This project is designed to introduce young participants to Brightlingsea Harbour, the River Colne, and how to safely enjoy its facilities. Furthermore, it showcases the area's history and heritage through engaging and interactive activities.



Each day features three distinct activities managed by the Harbour staff, the Pioneer Sailing Trust, the Museum, RNLI, and other local organisations. Pupils explore local marine life through trawling and dredging, sail the Pioneer, the world's only surviving Skilling Smack, where they steer, adjust sails, and study historical excerpts, immersing themselves in the area's legacy. These experiences combine education with fun, creating unforgettable memories.



Beyond the day itself, schools participate in preparatory and follow-up sessions to enhance the learning experience. Brightlingsea Harbour subsidises the enterprise, with schools contributing only £25 per pupil to cover costs, including clothing, lifejackets, access to historic vessels, and transportation.



'Schools Week' has been running for 25 years, is cherished by participants and staff alike. Many harbour employees remember attending the event as children, while local customers often describe it as their first meaningful encounter with the harbour, fostering lifelong connections to the area.



Cattewater Harbour



Cattewater Harbour (Plymouth) is committed to supporting its local communities by working with organisations that:

- Support children and young people
- Improve health and wellbeing through water-based activities
- Help the communities around the port
- Water safety initiatives

One of the most successful community projects they support is the Promoting Children in Plymouth (PCiP) initiative. To date, Cattewater Harbour has supported PCiP with:

- **PCiP Community World Book Day:** Since 2022, the team has read to over 630 children in over 18 storytelling sessions, encouraging literacy and career aspirations. Their involvement helped raise awareness about book poverty and led to the launch of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library – Plymouth.
- **Widening Horizons:** In 2024/25, 108 local children from some of the UK's most deprived areas took part in this project, gaining exposure to maritime careers and hands-on learning experiences at the harbour.
- **Beyond the Classroom:** The partnership has provided rural residentials, farm visits, and a tall ship experience to help children and families access opportunities outside their everyday environment.
- **Superkids Extended:** This project supports young people at risk of making poor life choices, offering them guidance and work experience. Through the two years of engagement on this particular project, 18 young people have been inspired and 1 young person achieved a work experience placement with the Cattewater Harbour team.

This year, Cattewater Harbour financially committed to supporting PCiP's Family Kitchen project which supports local families in preparing, cooking, eating and spending quality time together. The ongoing support provided by the Cattewater Harbour team is enabling Promoting Children in Plymouth to move forward at pace to significantly contribute to addressing social issues and improving the prospects of disadvantaged children and young adults in Plymouth.



Kerry Bidewell, PCiP Development Manager:

“The Cattewater Harbour team are never too busy and we don't know how they do it. From Story Telling to Widening Horizons, Superkids Extended to supporting the Family Kitchen expansion, and helping PCiP deliver £25,000 of new trips and experiences to Plymouth children, they will always be the first to independently reach out and say 'How can we help?'. Their can-do attitude always inspires us!”



CLdN Ports



CLdN owns and operates ports in Purfleet (Thames) and Killingholme (Humberside). These ports employ 654 people and handle hundreds of thousands of containers, trailers and vehicles each year – all of them carried by CLdN's own fleet of roll-on / roll-off cargo ships.

In both Purfleet and Killingholme, CLdN is active in offering apprenticeships for young people in the local community. The CLdN ports are part of the "5% Club", an organisation that recognizes employers who are committed to building and developing the workforce and addressing skills shortages in a proactive and positive way. Members of the organisation aspire to achieve 5% of their workforce in earn and learn positions within 5 years of joining. The company regularly opens its doors to local schools and colleges in both ports, providing port tours and insight into the work opportunities at the terminals.



In Purfleet, CLdN is an active supporter of the Riverview Charitable Trust. The trust provides a safe environment where residents can meet up, access new opportunities and address social, economic and personal issues. The facilities also host baby sensory classes, toddler groups and youth clubs. CLdN's support also includes monthly foodbank contributions, help in maintaining the trust grounds and support for the charity in funding apprenticeships for its own staff. CLdN also provides apprenticeship funding for the Fight for Peace charity, an organisation that supports young people to reach their full potential in communities.

CLdN recently completed a major road and roundabout investment in Purfleet to divert the large volume of lorries directly to its new entrance gate and away from residential areas.



In Killingholme, CLdN supports the Youth Horizon Zone in Grimsby with apprenticeship funding for students. The charity provides a safe, inspiring place for young people aged 8-19, and people who have additional needs up to the age of 25. CLdN is also an active supporter of two local colleges – the Grimsby Institute and Franklin College. This support includes the provision of materials and mentoring of the college students by the company's graduates.

CLdN in Killingholme is a long-standing supporter of the LIVES (Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Services) organisation which trains community members to aid the Ambulance Service in the large rural region surrounding the port.



Dart Harbour



Dart Harbour is a very busy and popular estuary, that is part of the cultural heritage of the surrounding area. As a trust port, making the harbour more accessible to all of its local stakeholders is a key part of its mission, which is why it has embraced a number of initiatives to encourage swimming, paddle sports and other low-cost ways to get afloat and explore the estuary.

Dart Harbour have worked with Friends of the Dart - a local community group to designate four additional locations on the Dart as official bathing waters, taking the total to 5, which the harbour believes is a record for an estuary of its size. This means that river users can get official information about the bathing water status, and the Environment Agency, South West Water and others are now investing to clean up the upper reaches of the river. It also installed a new swim zone outside the harbour office, surrounded by a buoyed rope, with a bathing platform, signage and safety equipment so that children can enjoy the age-old pass time of leaping off the quay.



It recently realised a fundamental problem in the town of Dartmouth, which is a town of two halves. The lower part of the town is extremely rich, whilst the upper part is one of the most deprived areas in the south west. This means that over a third of children in our local academy can't swim, and so can't safely enjoy the stunning beaches, or the fun of swimming or boating on the river. It therefore teamed up with the academy and local pool to teach every child in the town to swim - it made a 5-year commitment to fund this initiative, and hope it will make a huge difference to the town.



It is also working with local clubs and businesses to provide sailing and canoe lessons, and through its partial funding of South Devon National Landscape, it also wants to engage them on the natural environment of the estuary, and how they can help support it.

Their next project will make it much easier to get afloat on a small boat. It is investing in a new floating slipway which will supplement the current inadequate facilities, creating a huge platform to allow anyone to launch a small boat safely, including large numbers in clubs or events. When they get afloat, we're sure they will enjoy its paddle trails to explore the river fully.

Supporting the next generation to use the harbour is now at the heart of everything the harbour does.

Port of Dover



The Port of Dover is closing the gap every day by connecting trade, travel, visitors and communities locally and globally. As the UK's busiest international ferry port and a vital gateway for the movement of people and trade, Dover handles £144 billion of trade per year, 33% of UK trade in goods with the EU and welcomes over 11 million passengers.

It uses its role to support and drive the aspirations of its community in a number of ways.

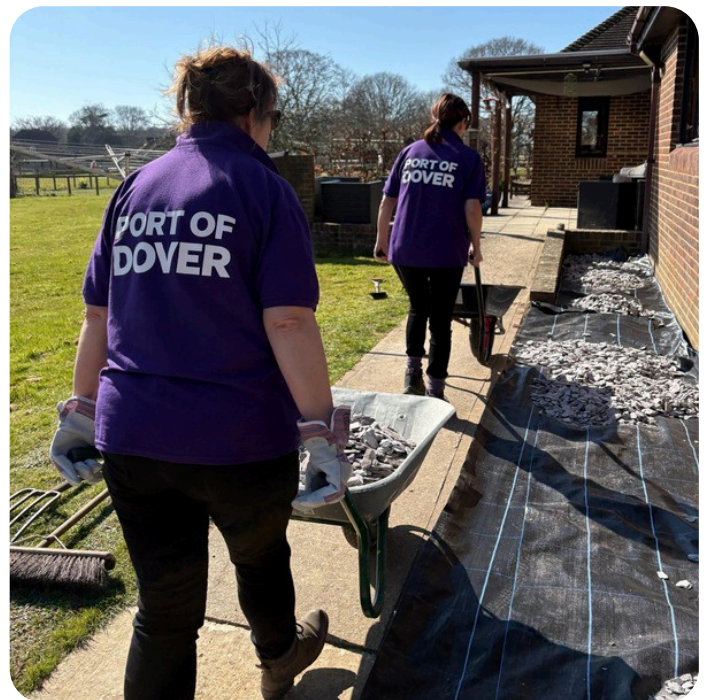
It is now celebrating 10 years of grant giving through the Port of Dover Community Fund, with over £1.3 million given to local charities and community groups since it launched, enhancing the social, cultural, and environmental life in and around Dover.



The newly established community sponsorship scheme supports the introduction of grassroots sports teams in its area and opportunities for young people who are able to compete at their top level, including for the Paralympics. The scheme also champions equality, diversity and positive mental health for under 18's with the Port having been lead sponsor for Dover Pride.

Welcoming thousands of families each year, Port of Dover's Regatta brings communities together every summer, with all funds raised going to local charities.

It is proud of its continually developing apprenticeship programme to ensure that it has a strong local talent pipeline in place. Its apprentice group is diverse with an average starting age of 24, breaking the perception that apprenticeships are only for school leavers. Together with its new Young People's Port Network and Short Straits Maritime Cluster, it is looking at new ways to champion the area's maritime identity and develop skills for the future.



Most recently it has engaged extensively with employees, local and port community, government and industry stakeholders and the public to deliver Port of Dover 2050, the Port's ambitious new master plan. It has explored a wide range of issues, but importantly this has been a future vision created by the whole community to foster mutual ambition and support future collective prosperity.



Falmouth Harbour



Falmouth Harbour, the UK's Atlantic Gateway, plays a vital role in both protecting a unique marine environment and supporting the prosperity and wellbeing of the local community. With limited resources, the Harbour team supports local groups and events that align with its values of safety, sustainability, and inclusivity.

Community involvement is central to Falmouth Harbour's operations. It regularly facilitates and sponsors key cultural and maritime events such as the Falmouth Classics Regatta, Castle to Castle Swim, and the Classic Boat Parade, working closely with local yacht clubs to ensure these events are safe and accessible.



In February 2024, the Harbour sponsored The Ravens, a youth football team under the Falmouth Community Youth Football Club, funding training jackets in support of their ethos of inclusive, developmental sport for all. That same year, the Harbour supported the opening of Falmouth's free, wheelchair-accessible skatepark by donating a tree to enhance the surrounding green space. It also sponsored the Cornish Seal Sanctuary, which cared for 63 rescued seal pups during the 2023/24 season—an initiative closely aligned with Falmouth Harbour's marine conservation goals.



Environmental and safety priorities are reflected in the creation of a new Vessel Restriction Zone off Gyllyngvase Beach to protect swimmers and water users. Looking ahead to 2025, Falmouth Harbour is supporting Wild Kernow by funding artificial nesting platforms to help reintroduce ospreys to the area.

Falmouth Harbour also invests in the next generation of marine professionals by offering work experience placements. In 2024, students from Penryn, Isles of Scilly, Callywith College, Camborne College, and the University of Exeter completed placements on topics ranging from waste and nature recovery to business sustainability and circular economy research.



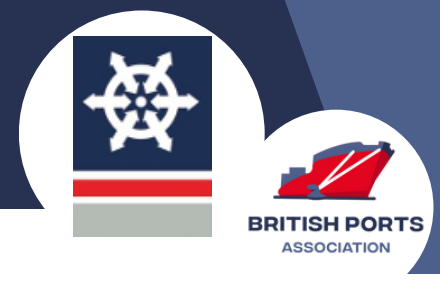
Falmouth Skatepark Project

2.9K likes • 3.2K followers

All of this is underpinned by a commitment to social sustainability, as outlined in Falmouth Harbour's Sustainability Plan. Key goals include improving employee wellbeing, enhancing local infrastructure, and maintaining a safe, thriving harbour for all. Progress includes appointing a new Designated Person for safety, advancing marine infrastructure planning, and contributing to Cornwall's "Motion for the Ocean" initiative.

Despite limited resources, Falmouth Harbour continues to demonstrate how a small team can have a wide-reaching impact by placing people, nature, and future generations at the heart of everything it does.

Forth Ports



Since 2016, the Port of Tilbury has played a pivotal role in supporting the Tilbury on the Thames Trust, forming a partnership that promotes community engagement, heritage, and culture. This collaboration has produced a series of impactful projects, redefining the role of a corporate port operator in enriching community well-being and regeneration.

A notable initiative is the veteran support programme, which helps ex-military personnel transition to civilian life. Through bursaries and training schemes, the programme equips veterans with skills to re-enter the workforce. This long-term commitment to employability and skills is a key feature of the Port's social contribution strategy.

Another major programme, Start Thurrock, was supported financially and practically by the Port. It enabled the launch of a creative placemaking initiative focused on art and cultural inclusion. Activities include workshops, creative commissions, and community exhibitions, all designed to connect people with the history and identity of Tilbury.

The Port has also been instrumental in preserving local heritage through the restoration and public use of the Grade II-listed Cruise Terminal. By working with the Trust, the Port has helped transform this historic structure into a cultural venue for performances, exhibitions, and education. Events like the "Tilbury Carnival" and heritage open days now attract diverse audiences, creating community cohesion.



At the Port of Tilbury, support for the Orsett Show (one of the UK's oldest agricultural events) reflects a commitment to celebrating Essex's rural identity and promoting regional development.

Forth Ports builds similar relationships through regular open days across its sites in England and Scotland. These events offer guided tours, exhibits, and interactive experiences that connect communities with maritime heritage and industry. They also inspire young people to explore careers in logistics and transport.

At Tilbury, port employees serve as school governors, supporting local education through strategic advice, fundraising, and linking schools with industry. This strengthens learning and local opportunity.



In Scotland, the Leith Community Fund, established by Forth Ports and the Leith Trust, supports grassroots initiatives tackling isolation and promoting youth engagement. Funded projects include Capital Theatres, which introduced families to live performance, and the Water of Leith Conservation Trust, which engaged volunteers in environmental restoration and skills development.

Forth Ports also refurbished the Leith's Victoria Swing Bridge, this was celebrated through community-led events and public art, symbolises how ports can champion regeneration and civic pride.

Fowey Harbour



Fowey Harbour Commissioners (FHC) is the statutory port authority for Fowey Harbour on the south coast of Cornwall. The port manages commercial and leisure activity on the estuary, balancing cargo operations, cruise visits, fishing, and tourism with environmental protection and community access. In 2023, FHC launched the Fowey Youth Engagement Initiative in response to a decline in youth participation in watersports. The programme has since evolved into a coordinated effort, uniting clubs, schools, and community groups to reconnect young people with their local environment and maritime community, regardless of background or financial barriers.

By 2024, the initiative had engaged over 500 young people across paddleboarding, kayaking, sailing, powerboating, and offshore sailing – many for the very first time. Most sessions were offered free or at a reduced cost, with schools integrating activities into enrichment weeks and clubs offering taster events, family memberships, and holiday provision. Seven schools engaged in sessions delivered by local clubs and providers, including a local sailing training vessel which alone supported 127 young people across 529 berth days. School visits on marine careers and water safety were also led by Fowey Harbour staff. Participation in the junior regatta rose from 3–4 in previous years to 30 in 2024 – a tenfold increase.



The initiative is backed by significant funding from FHC, alongside support from local organisations and trusts, and coordinated via the Fowey Port User Group. A phased development plan is in place, with goals including youth leadership training, shared safeguarding procedures, and a dedicated webpage on the Fowey Harbour site.

The initiative has strengthened community collaboration, improved access and affordability, and built long-term momentum. Clubs are reporting increased demand and better retention among young people, with feedback from schools and parents highlighting stronger confidence, local pride, and connection to the water, alongside strengthened links between clubs, schools, and volunteer groups.

Fowey's approach shows how a small port, with limited resources but strong local networks, can create lasting impact – and place young people at the heart of harbour life.



Port of Inverness

Port of
INVERNESS



BRITISH PORTS
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As a Trust Port situated at the heart of the Highland Capital of Inverness, the Port of Inverness is an independent statutory body with no external shareholders. Operated for the benefit of its stakeholders, any surpluses generated are reinvested in the business.

As a founding member of the Inverness and Cromarty Green Freeport, Port of Inverness will be at the heart of the drive towards energy security, the transition to net-zero as well as potentially creating up to 11,000 highly skilled jobs throughout the Highlands.



The Port is bounded on one side by the community of Merkinch, which is consistently ranked as one of the most deprived areas in Scotland. Challenges facing the community include lower employment rates, increased anti-social behaviour and shorter life expectancy.

The team at Port has therefore chosen to focus their community outreach activities on small projects which will make a difference to the health and wellbeing of young people in Merkinch and nearby surrounding areas.

An example is the Port's sponsorship of Merkinch Primary School's Year 7 Outward Bound residential course. Jillian Keen, the school's headteacher, said: "Each year we work hard to remove as many barriers as possible to allow our P7 children to attend a residential experience with the Outward Bound Trust.

This builds our children's resilience and broadens their life experiences. Children and families talk about the benefits for many years after the trip". Future outreach activities with the school include a joint Port/Scottish Fire & Rescue Service water safety awareness programme.

The Port also sponsors the Company Programme of Young Enterprise Scotland Highland and Moray, where S5 & S6 students develop their knowledge in business and entrepreneurship through setting up and running a business, introducing young people to the realities of the world of work. For the last 7 years, Port CEO, Sinclair Browne has mentored teams from Fortrose Academy through this programme with the current team representing the Highlands at the Scottish Area Finals in Glasgow.



In 2025 the Port launched its Community Charity Fund, inviting funding applications from community youth groups for small projects that will support activities in the neighbourhoods around the Port. Applications have been strong with the range of projects supported in the first round including Sea Cadets RIB maintenance, extramural visits for neurodivergent school pupils, climbing equipment for a life skills development charity and new equipment for children's sports groups.

The Port of London Authority (PLA), the UK's largest port, oversees 95 miles of the tidal Thames, with a primary responsibility for safety of river users. As a trust port, it reinvests all the money it makes back into the tidal Thames region – caring for the river, its natural environment and stakeholders, and supporting the communities who live and work along it.

At the heart of its work is the Thames Vision strategy, a comprehensive framework guiding programmes that promote the river's role for people and the environment. This strategy underpins a wide range of initiatives, from sustainability to culture, growth to wellbeing.

The PLA funds and supports programmes including the Black Swimming Association, SwimSafe, and Bridge Watch. These initiatives equip young people and local volunteers with vital water safety knowledge and skills, encouraging community-led responsibility for public safety along the river.



Environmental stewardship is another key priority of the PLA. Through initiatives such as the Environment Fund Grant Programme and the Clean Thames Challenge, the PLA works to improve water and air quality, enhance biodiversity, and reduce carbon emissions. A long-standing partnership with the environmental charity Thames21 has helped mobilise volunteers to clean the foreshore and create new wildlife habitats.

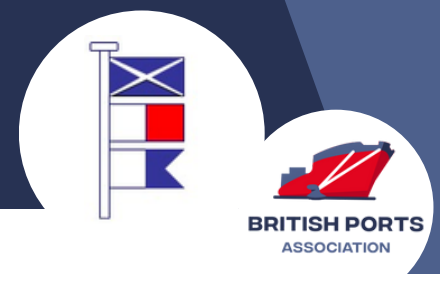
Inclusive access to the river's cultural and recreational opportunities is essential to the Thames Vision strategy. The PLA's Active Thames programme champions diversity and wellbeing by supporting underrepresented communities to engage in watersports and river-based leisure activities. By encouraging more people to enjoy the river as a blue space, the programme boosts physical and mental health while strengthening community connections. Now in its fourth year, Active Thames has provided over £560,000 to 63 community and sports groups.



An enduring commitment to cultural and educational outreach has also seen the PLA's support for the Thames Festival Trust's flagship programmes, Totally Thames and Thames Lens, and funding for heritage projects that inspire young people from some of London's most deprived boroughs to connect with the river and explore future career paths. Since 2008, the PLA has also backed the Thames Explorer Trust, fostering a deeper awareness among school children from Kew to Southend of the Thames' historical and economic importance.

Through these integrated efforts, the Port of London Authority demonstrates how a port can act as a catalyst for positive change, championing safety, sustainability, culture, and community along one of the UK's most iconic waterways.

Mallaig Harbour



Mallaig Harbour Authority is a Trust Port, located geographically at the heart of the community. Operations at the Harbour touch on every part of the community, and the Authority is always mindful of the impact that any development will have on the wider community. The Harbour Authority writes a monthly column for the local newspaper, 'West Word', which keeps the community informed of progress in and around the Harbour.



Mallaig Harbour Authority provides community funding each year to a number of projects and has recently formalised the process by which this is done. The Authority has an ongoing partnership with Mallaig FC, the local football team, who play in the Skye and Lochalsh League. Being based in the West Highlands, and playing in the Skye and Lochalsh League means that the teams (Under 16's, Under 18's, and Adult) have to travel frequently to matches, more often than not having to make use of the ferry from Mallaig to Armadale. Sponsorship such as that from Mallaig Harbour Authority means that the football team can keep costs for players to a minimum, and can run football training for the teams mentioned above, as well as for High School aged girls. Mallaig is a small community and there is a true 'team spirit' to the football team, with whole families being involved in the logistics of running the various teams.

The Harbour Authority was also instrumental in the establishment of the 'Mallaig and District Men's Shed', providing meeting space for the group, and ultimately a workshop space for the 'Shed', initially rent free until the organisation was fully established. The Mallaig and District Men's Shed is part of the wider 'Men's Shed' movement,

providing a safe and welcoming space where Men can come together to work on practical projects for the benefit of their communities, or just to share a cup of tea and some chat. The Men's Shed in Mallaig was started up by a group of Men who had strong connections to the Harbour; most had worked in or around the Harbour at some point throughout their lives, whether connected to fishing, boatbuilding, the ferries or ancillary services around the Harbour. They recognised that they had useful skills to pass on to the community, and that the community was missing a dedicated space for Men. Since its establishment, members from the Men's Shed have worked on a number of projects, including regular maintenance of wooden benches throughout the village for the local Community Council; providing 'berth reserved' signs for Mallaig Harbour Authority's yachting pontoons; and working with another local Charity, the Road to the Isles Facilities Group, to improve and maintain the facilities that they provide to locals and visitors to the area. Mallaig Harbour Authority has recently approved £500 of funding for the Men's Shed to purchase tools and equipment. The shed has another benefit, in repurposing some of the waste wood generated around the Harbour!

Another project Mallaig Harbour Authority has supported this year is an exhibition of drawings of people who work on or around the Harbour, which is being shown at Mallaig Heritage Centre from April to December 2025. Dating back to the 1990s, the drawings have all been done by a local Artist, Rob Fairley. They provide an interesting record of the Harbour, as well as being incredibly lifelike.



Port of Milford Haven



The Port of Milford Haven, the UK's leading energy port, plays a central role in South-West Wales' economy and community life. As a trust port, it reinvests profits to maintain operations and support major regeneration projects such as Milford Waterfront, Pembroke Dock Marine, and the Celtic Freeport, generating jobs and fostering regional growth.

In 2023, its community investment totalled over £500,000, centred on three key themes:

1. A Safe, Inclusive and Enjoyable Waterway

As custodians of the Waterway, the Port works to ensure it is safe and accessible for all. Safety campaigns, such as anti-tombstoning initiatives, are complemented by practical measures like improved pontoon access. Through a partnership with Windswept and Blue Horizons Surf School, over 200 children from coastal schools received water safety training, including emergency procedures and sea survival techniques. The Port also funded inclusive boat trips, making the Waterway more accessible to people with mobility challenges.



2. A Sustainable and Resilient Environment

Environmental protection remains a core focus. The Port supports the national species restoration project Natur am Byth!, which deployed 20,000 native oysters and installed "oyster hotels" to improve biodiversity. It also contributed to the SWEPT citizen science initiative, a coastal otter survey, and helped plant 600 trees as part of the Pembroke River Restoration Project. Accessibility at Milford Waterfront is being addressed through the "Open To All" project, with plans in place to make public spaces more welcoming to all users.



3. A Vibrant and Prosperous Community

Supporting the wellbeing and aspirations of local people is central to the Port's ethos. It is a long-term sponsor of Milford Youth Matters, backing programmes that provide sports, education, and meals for young people. Other supported initiatives include the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, mental health awareness events with Megan's Starr Foundation, and confidence-building workshops in partnership with the Torch Theatre.



In education, the Port launched the SPARC Alliance, aimed at inspiring Year 8 girls to explore careers in renewables and construction. It also funded Tomorrow's Changemakers, an experiential sustainability programme reaching 800 secondary students.

As the Port looks to 2025, its focus remains on delivering measurable, lasting benefits for the communities of Pembrokeshire and beyond.



Montrose Port



Montrose Port Authority (MPA) is a trust port on Scotland's northeast coast, serving vital roles in transport, logistics, and the energy sector. As the world's largest chain and anchor port, it supports operations in the North Sea and beyond.

As a trust port, MPA reinvests profits into community initiatives and infrastructure. Its Community Benefit Fund has donated over £430,000 across four years to more than 70 local organisations, reflecting a strong commitment to social value.

A major beneficiary is Montrose Community Trust (MCT), a local charity using sport to address social isolation, poverty, and mental health. MPA contributes £10,000 annually to support initiatives such as Festive Friends and Mission Christmas, which bring meals, gifts, and companionship to over 100 residents each year. Other supported programmes include Free Kicks (sport and nutrition for children) and The Changing Room, a mental health initiative for men.



MPA also supports the Montrose Playhouse, a cinema and arts hub, enabling inclusive screenings for families, the elderly, and people with additional needs. In education, MPA funds school cinema trips, sports teams, garden projects, and winter support for Ferryden Primary.



Additional partnerships include a £20,000 donation to Guide Dogs Scotland for training visually impaired assistance dogs and support for DEBRAFEEST, raising £30,000 annually for those with Epidermolysis Bullosa.

As a base for major offshore wind farms like Seagreen and Inch Cape, MPA delivers direct community benefit: £250,000 to local councils and a £400,000 STEM fund supporting skills development. MPA is also developing a new Renewables Skills Academy in partnership with Angus Council and Dundee & Angus College.



In 2024, Montrose became the UK's first port to provide shore power for energy vessels, cutting over 560 tonnes of CO₂ through a £1 million investment with Norwegian firm Plug. This reduces emissions and improves air quality for the local community.

Through these combined efforts, MPA is building a stronger, more inclusive and sustainable future for the region.



Port of Mostyn



The Port of Mostyn recently acquired an adjoining industrial property which, during its operational years, maintained its own fully equipped fire engine and crew for on-site safety. When manufacturing activities at the property ceased two years ago, the fire engine became surplus to operational requirements. Recognising its potential value, the Port sought to ensure that the vehicle could continue to serve a worthwhile purpose.

The fire engine, a fully operational Volvo appliance manufactured in neighbouring Sweden, remains in excellent working order. With Volvo's extensive European network, spare parts will be readily available to support its continued service life. Believing it could make a real difference in war-torn Ukraine, the Port contacted the Bournemouth-based charity Ukraine Relief, which supports humanitarian and emergency service needs across the country. The charity was delighted to accept the vehicle as a donation.

Earlier this month, Mr Karol Swiacki, Founder of Ukraine Relief, and Trustee Alastair Young visited the Port of Mostyn to inspect the fire engine and finalise arrangements for its onward delivery. The fire engine will be transported to the charity's logistics centre in Przemyśl, located on the Polish-Ukrainian border. From there, it will be handed over to a Ukrainian fire crew for operational use in the city of Kryvyi Rih, where emergency services continue to face significant challenges as a result of ongoing conflict.



The Port of Mostyn has committed to delivering the fire engine to another UK port to support its onward journey. However, the charity has appealed for assistance from within the wider maritime and logistics community. A contribution of services from a UK or European port, shipping company or road haulage firm to help complete the transport chain to Przemyśl would be invaluable.

This initiative reflects the Port of Mostyn's commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts and fostering international cooperation. By facilitating the donation of essential equipment to those most in need, the Port continues to demonstrate how the UK ports industry can play a meaningful role beyond its core commercial operations, contributing positively to global resilience and community welfare.



PD Ports is one of the UK's major port groups, operating 11 locations nationwide, including Teesport, Port of Hartlepool, Felixstowe and a Humber cluster.

The company's community connections aim to improve education and career aspiration for young people in largely socio-economically deprived areas. We also strive to become a better employer through partnership programmes to improve our understanding of neurodivergence and support those struggling with addiction.



Daisy Chain

A two-year partnership with autism charity Daisy Chain sees our two organisations share mutual support with the joint aim of improving and empowering the lives of neurodivergent people. While PD Ports provides financial support and hands-on volunteering from our employees, Daisy Chain offers expertise to help the company improve employment and recruitment practices to ensure neurodivergent people feel supported in the workplace and remove some of the barriers to people applying for roles.

Recovery Connections

A long-standing partnership between PD Ports and Teesside-based addiction support charity Recovery Connections provides on-going support and well-being guidance for employees, and their family members, across our wider group.

While PD Ports has a zero-tolerance approach to drug and alcohol use at work, we recognise employees and their families may struggle with substance misuse.

A Recovery Connections employee is permanently based at Teesport, offering a safe space for people to share their concerns and seek help. The partnership is the first of its kind for both organisations and aims to help people without stigma or discrimination.

High Tide Foundation

PD Ports was a founding member of the High Tide Foundation, set up to deliver meaningful work experience and career programmes to young people across Teesside.

The independent charity offers work placements and careers programmes that directly connect young people with employers from a diverse range of industries.

PD Ports regularly welcomes groups of young people to our port and river facilities, with a growing number of young people who have gone on to study or take roles within the maritime industry because of their experiences, including with us at PD Ports.

Teesport Explorers

Teesport Explorers is PD Ports' own initiative that aims to tackle skills gaps, challenge stereotypes and raise aspirations among primary school children.

The programme offers pupils in year 5 and 6 the chance to visit Teesport and see the careers potentially on offer, with employees from across the group volunteering to speak with the children to highlight the diverse roles available in the industry.



Peterhead Port



Located in the North East of Scotland, with our established infrastructure, our commitment to delivering real-world growth opportunities, and our heritage as a diverse trust port, we have the capacity, the know-how, the drive and the natural advantage to serve as the North Sea's conduit to success.

A key component of our trust port ethos relates to our community involvement. In any year, we support a wide variety of charities, both national and locally based who provide a tangible difference to our stakeholder community.

Since 2013, Peterhead Port has provided financial support to the Trainee Deckhand course at the Scottish Maritime Academy, part of North East Scotland College (NESCOL). Without this support, the course would not be commercially viable. The course gives students the necessary qualifications for a deckhand job on vessels in the Merchant Navy sector, from fishing vessels to offshore standby vessels to wind farm support vessels. The Academy runs courses three times per year with between 30-40 individuals completing the course per annum. That's over 400 students that the port has helped to step onto their maritime career ladder.



Peterhead Port Authority has also supported the Peterhead fisherman's benevolent fund, also known as the "sample fund" for the last 10 years. This fund provides vital financial support to retired fishermen and their families on an annual basis.

Since 2006, Peterhead Port Authority has funded the annual Red Arrows display which is the finale of Peterhead Scottish Week. This is a week-long local gala showcasing the best of the local community involving many groups, charities and social organisations and attracts many thousands of visitors to the town.



The port also sponsors our local football team, Peterhead FC, currently sitting at the top of the Scottish league two division. Sponsorship commenced in 2022 and provides the opportunity for local charities and members from our stakeholder community to attend home games throughout the season.



Furthermore, we provide maintenance and replacement of defibrillators around the town, regular financial and staff donation support to local food and toy banks, continued support to the Peterhead Area Community Trust which is regenerating public parks and recreational spaces and are regularly supporting initiatives from Clan and Macmillan cancer support charities. Finally, we regularly support Shirleys Space – a mental health charity based in the Northeast of Scotland offering vulnerable individuals suffering from mental health issues the opportunity to speak to trained volunteers when they need it most.

Poole Harbour



Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) are closely involved in the life of the harbour and its many communities. Alongside our statutory role, we work hard to build and maintain strong relationships with local stakeholders, from boat operators and yacht clubs to charities and schools. We chair several groups that support safe, sustainable and collaborative use of the harbour. These include the Passenger Boat Operators Group, Watersports Operators Group, Mooring and Boatyard Operators Group, and the PWC (Personal Watercraft) Group. Each one brings people together to share updates, raise concerns and help shape how the harbour is managed.

We also lead the Decarbonisation Steering Group, working with our key partners to reduce emissions and prepare the port for a cleaner future. As chair of the Poole Harbour Aquatic Management Plan Steering Group, we help coordinate action to protect the marine environment. Our chairing of the Poole Yachting Association supports joined-up planning between clubs, especially around events and safety.



PHC attends every yacht club's annual reception and takes part in Harbour Watch meetings. We also give annual talks to the Poole Bay Small Boat Angling Club and the Poole and District Commercial Fishermen's Association.

We are proud to support a wide range of community causes. We work with Lewis-Manning Hospice Care on 'Candles on the Quay' and coffee mornings. We support sailor Pip Hare, the Bournemouth Youth Marching Band, and Young Enterprise.



We offer discounted berthing to local groups including Poole Sea Cadets, Poole Sea Scouts, KnotiCat (accessible trips), and Dolphin III (free trips for disabled passengers). We also support visiting youth sail training charities such as Ocean Youth Trust, Tall Ships Youth Trust, Sea Cadets Offshore, Rona Sailing Trust and Wetwheels.

In 2024, PHC hosted or supported the RNLI Lifeboat Festival, Poole Regatta, the Small Ships Race (UK Sail Training), and several community events at Town Quay.

Looking ahead, our Masterplan project, the Marine Centre Regeneration Project, will build on the strengths of the harbour at Poole Quay Boat Haven, creating new spaces that support marine activity, enhance sustainability, and offer more opportunities for the wider community.

Our work with local communities helps build trust, encourage collaboration, and support a shared sense of responsibility. By staying connected and involved, we help strengthen the links between the port, the harbour, and the people who live and work around them.



As a municipal port, Portsmouth International Port is owned by the local authority and, by extension, the people of the city, so they are at the heart of everything we do.

From educational initiatives to introducing shore power to improve local air quality, we put the our neighbours first, and this will be reflected in our forthcoming ESG strategy.

In 2023 we held our second Community Open Day, which gave residents a behind-the-scenes look at what happens at their local port. More than 1,800 people, including hundreds of children under 12, got to enter our terminal and the restricted area to take a tour of the berths, board a vessel, hear from port staff including the harbour master, and watch a water display by performed by tugs.



Of those surveyed after the event, 90% said they would attend another event. We now plan to hold another open day during our 50th anniversary in 2026.

This kind of engagement – increasing local knowledge of what happens at the port and understanding of how it contributes to the city – is extremely valuable to the port to ensure we maintain our licence to operate from our most important stakeholders, our community.

As well as being good neighbours, we also want to use our staff's expert knowledge and influence to help support our community and develop future generations of maritime professionals. We have a number of initiatives to help us meet these aims.



Children attending SEND schools and adult education have opportunities to visit the port and experience the working environment and find out what it's like travelling through a port. We're currently also working on a scheme to provide work experience for SEND adults to work with some of our service providers.

Educationally, we also work with the Jon Eggings Trust on their Blue Skies programme to support visits for students who have additions educational needs, including boat building and cargo loading experiences, and emergency planning. Last year, we helps our first primary school STEM day, welcoming 400 children to learn about careers in the industry, and we host work placements for children aged 13 to 18 who have an interest in maritime; some of those who have joined us have gone on to cadetships.

We're constantly evolving our programme of engagement and looking for new ways to support our stakeholders and the wider industry.

Since 1760 Shoreham Port has operated as a Trust Port. With all profits continually reinvested to benefit users of the Port and local communities we play a vital role in the regional economy. The Port is a diverse and complex ecosystem, we facilitate cargo, leisure and fishing marine traffic through efficient berthing, discharge, storage and logistics services. These are complemented by an extensive commercial property portfolio made up of over 170 businesses, Port Kitchen, our café provides a focal point for the estate. Shoreham Port is recognised throughout the sector as a pioneer in sustainability and has been a certified EcoPort for eleven years.

As trusted custodians, we actively engage with communities, listening to diverse stakeholders through events like our Annual Public Meeting, Sustainability Week, heritage talks and Port tours. Alongside this, the Port has formed strategic partnerships with organisations to continually benefit our local communities.



In 2024 the team were delighted to announce a new partnership with The Girls' Network. As founding members of the Diversity in Maritime Network, the Port places particular focus supporting underrepresented groups, a value shared with the charity. The Girls' Network works to inspire and empower 14-19 year old girls by building their confidence, self-esteem and aspirations. Through 121 mentoring, access to a network of role models and workshops on life skills new opportunities are enabled. The charity believes that no girls should have their futures limited by their gender, sex, ethnicity, background or parental income and they should be supported to realise their ambitions, to discover their self-worth, and to develop their capacity to shape their world and their futures.

Proud to be supporting



Following mentoring and safeguarding training, female colleagues at the Port began mentoring girls from the Shoreham area through The Girls' Network. Through 121 sessions, our colleagues are helping these young women build confidence and explore their goals for the future. We are thrilled to expand this effort through an official community partnership, enabling our colleagues to continue working with their mentees while also creating new mentoring opportunities for others at the Port. Additionally, we are proud to provide financial support to The Girls' Network, contributing to their vital work in empowering young women.

The Port of Tyne is one of the UK's major deep-sea ports, delivering bespoke solutions for the green energy sector and supporting world leaders in advanced manufacturing and the automotive transition. We also handle specialised bulk and containerised products alongside delivery logistics, as well as welcoming growing numbers of passengers via our International Passenger Terminal.

We invest at least 1% of our profit annually in registered charities and not-for-profit organisations delivering positive change in the North East region. Through our partnership with the Community Foundation North East, we work with grassroots organisations led by local people who know their communities and have the vision to change them for the better.

Last year we were privileged to work with a diverse range of inspiring organisations, focused on supporting children and young people, improving health and well-being and strengthening local communities. Two examples of the many organisations we supported are below.

East End Youth and Community Centre

The East End Youth and Community Centre seeks to enhance the quality of life for communities in North Tyneside and the surrounding area. A grant from the Port of Tyne Community Action Fund provided much needed funding for the Centre's Holiday Club which delivers a range of physical activities, cooking and arts and crafts projects. 425 children were able to benefit from the activities provided during school holidays, when some children feel particularly isolated.



Action Station South Tyneside

Action Station South Tyneside was founded in 1998 by local residents, community groups and churches to support the residents of South Tyneside. It provides a place for people to access services and opportunities which will enhance their life chances and wellbeing.

A grant from the Port of Tyne allowed a number of groups to operate including the Men's Pie Club and the Chatty Café. 43 individuals regularly attended the Men's Pie Club whilst the Chatty Café had a footfall of more than 494 attendances. Both groups have provided life enhancing opportunities for people who would not usually come together and engage with others.



Since its foundation the Port of Tyne Community Action Fund has made grants of over half a million pounds to local community organisations.

By empowering and enhancing the communities we serve, we're helping to build a thriving North East for generations to come.



Warrenpoint Port



Beyond the docks and cargo, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority (WHA) is deeply committed to community impact and social responsibility. This dedication is evident through our Community Fund, our newly established Community Forum, and our growing focus on education, skills development, and apprenticeships.

2024 marked a major milestone for WHA — the fourth anniversary of our Community Fund, which was created to support grassroots initiatives and local organisations. Last year, WHA awarded £34,000 to over 64 charitable and voluntary groups, delivering vital community services and meaningful programmes. From environmental projects to sports teams, food banks to arts organisations — our support is as diverse as our community and could not be achieved without the much-needed generosity of our stakeholders.

Over the last four years, the fund has distributed over £90,000 to 81 different organisations, creating a legacy of impact and connection.

WHA Spokesperson:

We're proud that the Fund has become a vital source of support for organisations that are truly making a difference. It's about enabling good people to do great things.



The Community Forum: A Voice for All

In June 2024, WHA launched the Community Forum — a dedicated group representing voices from local businesses, organisations and residents. Its purpose is to build transparency, ensure engagement, and guide the Port's future strategy with local input. The Forum is made up of 3 Port Staff, 4 Local Residents, 3 Local Business Representatives (including the Warrenpoint Chamber of Commerce), 2 Harbour Tenants, 2 Education & Skills Leaders and 3 Councillor WHA Board Members.

Together, they meet regularly to collaborate and advise on projects and priorities across four key pillars:

1. Environment & Sustainability
2. Community
3. Education & Skills Development
4. Jobs & Economic Contribution

It's great to be part of something that brings so many perspectives to the table. We're not just consulted — we're helping shape the Port's direction.



Investing in Young People: Apprenticeships and Skills

WHA is also firmly committed to education and youth development. For several years, we've partnered with local colleges to support Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) awareness days, showcasing opportunities for local students to explore maritime, engineering, and trade-related careers.

We've welcomed apprentices into key areas such as accountancy, engineering, and electrical work — many of whom are now full-time employees at Warrenpoint Port.

We don't just offer apprenticeships — we offer careers. Our goal is to grow talent locally and keep it here.



Whitehaven Harbour



Whitehaven Harbour is a Trust Port in Cumbria, on the North West coast of England. It is managed and maintained by Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners and is a safe haven with 400 berths. Marina services are provided by Whitehaven Marina Limited and a small active fishing fleet is supported through Whitehaven Fishermen's Co-operative.

The Commissioners have diversified activities over the years to introduce festivals and community events around the harbour. One of these is Harbour Fest, which is run in partnership with local arts charity Rosehill, and 2025 will be its fourth year. It showcases live music, street theatre, community stalls and craft activities, among others. It's free for all to attend and held on the open-access harbour, tackling many traditional barriers to engagement and attracting thousands of visitors, in turn supporting town centre businesses and the wider economy.



WHC also host Dream Placement students every February, through a dedicated programme delivered by the Centre for Leadership Performance. This helps students learn about the history of the harbour, safety procedures, teamwork and leadership, and aims to inspire the next generation. In turn, students can offer insight into how WHC can engage more with young people.



The Rum Story, which sits under WHC's ownership, is a visitor attraction that explores the history of rum and the influential Jefferson family, whose business operated in Whitehaven since the 1700s. Vital to the community, it hosts local events, supports education, and fosters social value by bringing people together. It also contributes to local employment and boosts tourism in a deprived area.

Over the next five years, The Rum Story Re-imagined Project, in partnership with Anti Racist Cumbria, will enhance the attraction, ensuring it remains a meaningful and inclusive space for all.



Meanwhile, summer 2025 sees the opening of The Edge, Cumbria's Coastal Activities Centre, made possible through funding from the Sellafield Ltd SiX – Social Impact, Multiplied programme and Coastal Communities Fund. It features community spaces, a meeting room, changing facilities, public toilets, a café and 16 en-suite hotel rooms with harbour views.

The Edge will be a hub for outdoors enthusiasts, community organisations, arts and cultural groups, and more, from locals to visitors alike. It has already supported local employment through early jobs and commissioning of suppliers. Managed by West Cumbrian hospitality specialists Osprey, The Edge aims to provide lasting employment opportunities and build a legacy of community engagement.



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