

"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring."

~ Lilly Pulitzer

Spring 2013

### **Spring 2013**

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter.

As suggested by our most apt 'seasonal quotation' above, the weather is hardly spring like, (here in the West Country at least), with some biting cold winds and frequent heavy snow falls of late.

John has been very busy with expert opinion work including asbestos related claims, personal injury claims, damage to a large yacht and alleged short loading of cargo.

Keith has had a variety of extensive attendances for cargo damages, including steel coils and grain. Elsewhere he has also been deeply involved in developing Port Operation Manual Procedures (writing manuals) for various clients.

Richard too has been kept busy with a variety of work, including investigations into the sinking of a fishing vessel in Brixham, yet another allision of a vessel (tanker) with a jetty in Milford Haven. He has also been offshore in the North Sea sector, carrying out tank condition surveys onboard an FPSO....read on....

Peter Heaton, (one of our many valued sub-contractors who provides us with essential additional manpower as/when required at very busy times) has carried out port captaincy work onboard a car carrier, in both Zeebrugge and Malmö.

### **Bridgwater Port Operations**

We are slowly gearing up for an increase of shipping into Bridgwater, expected when the Hinkley Point nuclear power station gets the go ahead.....We have to be ready with sufficient pilots trained and confident to accept ships as well as tugs / barge combinations to Dunball and Comwich wharves.



**Pilots - Keith & his trainee... boarding @ Dunball**

In fact, we have already sourced one new candidate who is also being trained up as a surveyor....more to follow later....

### **Gardener's corner**

John's peach tree has blossom coming which is a cause for concern with the recent cold weather. He has not taken to standing out at night with a hairdryer yet. A dose of last year's chilli sherry might be tried, that warms from within (for the tree of course).

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### Offshore

As mentioned in our Winter newsletter, we were required to provide vital manpower for a major pipelaying project offshore from the United Arab Emirates.

We are now pleased to report that we have successfully completed this demanding project in providing a Warranty Surveyor, for over one month (from early Dec '12 through to early Jan '13) which was completed, (by Peter Green this time, being yet another one of our intrepid band of sub-contractors) both on schedule and to the entire satisfaction of our client.

Richard also had an interesting stint offshore, (albeit much nearer to home) when he carried out structural integrity inspections of ballast and cargo oil tanks onboard an FPSO in the North Sea, for an oil-major client. This was done under the most arduous of circumstances but once again was completed to the entire satisfaction of our clients, from whom we received high praise.

We were pleased to note that all Richard's Offshore Safety Training came in useful and that the vessel took very good care of him indeed, both in respect to their tank entry procedures and also in providing him with all the necessary PPE as can clearly be seen in the photo below:- (Note - 'Ex' means rated as Intrinsically Safe)

#### Hard Hat

**Safety Goggles** (or over glasses)

**Respirator Mask**

**Safety Harness**

'Ex' **Personal Alert Meter** (O2, LEL, CO & H2S)

**Safety Boots** (or safety wellingtons where reqd)

**Boilersuit** (& disposable oversuit where reqd)

**Under-Gloves** (latex - to allow note writing)

**Work-Gloves** (heavy duty over gloves as reqd)

'Ex' **Torch** (always on despite other lighting)

'Ex' **Camera** (carried used where reqd)

'Ex' **Radio** (communication to stand-by man)

**Escape Air Set** (attached to waistband belt)

**Ear Plugs, Rags, Notebooks & Pencils** were also carried and most importantly **Lighting &**

**Ventilation** was (continuously) provided throughout the entire tank entry.



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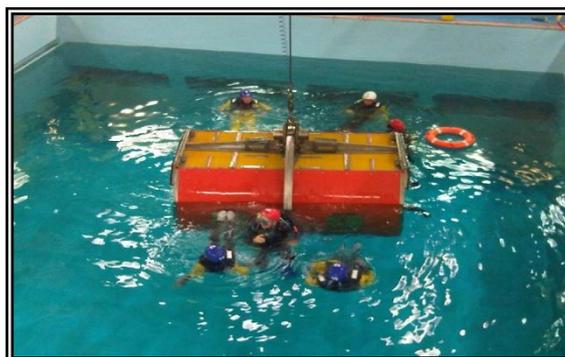
### Offshore Safety Training - Jargon

To enable company employees (surveyors) to travel/work offshore, they have to follow the strict offshore industry guidelines of training courses and certification as accredited by **OPITO** (the Offshore Petroleum Industry Training Organisation), the jargon of which is briefly explained herein, for the benefit of those readers who may not be entirely familiar with the various acronyms used.

#### **BOSIET** (Basic Offshore Safety Induction & Emergency Training Course):-

The three day **BOSIET** course covers elementary fire fighting and basic first aid, but additionally incorporates **HUET** - Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (shown in progress in the photo opposite) as well as **EBS** - Emergency Breathing System training.

Upon completion of this initial training course a **BOSIET** certificate is issued which is valid for four years.



#### **MIST** (Minimum Industry Safety Training Course):-

The two day **MIST** course covers an elementary introduction to the hazardous offshore environment, including but not limited to:- working safely, risk assessment, permit to work systems, control and substances hazardous to health (COSHH), manual handling, mechanical lifting, and working at height etc.

Upon completion of the course a **MIST** certificate is issued which is valid for four years.

When both of the above are completed our surveyors may travel offshore by helicopter and work on an offshore installation.

Each surveyor will also be issued with a **VANTAGE** card, (usually arranged by the party for whom offshore attendance is required in the first instance) and will be collected at the Heliport upon the surveyor's first deployment offshore.

The **VANTAGE** card registers all the surveyor's details, including such vital information as employer, next of kin and all relevant contact details etc.

Before the expiry date of their initial **BOSIET** (which is four years from its date of issue), each surveyor must revalidate their **OPITO** accredited certification by attending a two day renewal (refresher) course now known as a **FOET** (Further Offshore Emergency Training) – which again covers the same elements as per the original **BOSIET**, including **HUET** & **EBS**. Upon completion of the course a **FOET** certificate is issued which is valid for a further four years.

To travel/work offshore – it is also mandatory for all our surveyors to hold a valid **Offshore Medical Certificate**, issued by an approved physician in accordance with the **Oil and Gas Medical Guidelines** (previously **UKOOA**).

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