

# Shoreham Port – bucking the trend?

PICTURE: LIZ FINLAYSON



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rodney Lunn, Chief executive of Shoreham Port, Howard Johns from Southern Solar, Will Cottrell from Brighton Energy Cooperative and MP Mike Weatherley

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**DESPITE** a difficult start to 2014, Shoreham Port enjoyed one of its best ever years importing vast quantities of timber and steel – plus a number of more unusual shipments.

Timber from Sweden, Finland and Latvia amounted to 327,000 cubic metres and steel imports at 82,500 tonnes made it a record year.

Meanwhile the new Reigate to Croydon water main, all 15 miles of it, was delivered to the Port in four shipments and laid out on the quayside.

The first shipment of pulp from Sweden was welcomed at the beginning of this month.

Pulp, which comes from softwood such as spruce, pine and fir, and hardwoods like eucalyptus, aspen and birch, is used in papermaking, textiles, food and pharmaceuticals.

One thousand tonnes will be delivered into Shoreham every six to eight weeks.

With challenging weather conditions and a dry cargo crucial, a quick and efficient discharge was required.

Alan Motterham, commercial and operations director, said “We are pleased to have been awarded this contract. It adds to our portfolio of cargo handled by our highly skilled stevedoring team.

“The team’s expertise ensured the cargo was successfully dispatched whilst working around some unpredictable weather. We look forward to seeing other new cargoes enter throughout 2014.”

Also at Shoreham Port – and in spite of the weather – a £250,000 solar scheme was launched.

Brighton Energy Coop’s solar project has already started generating clean, green energy.

The 1,000-panels were funded entirely by members of the public and switched on by MP for Hove, Mike Weatherley.

There are 1,200 solar panels at the

port with another 800 planned this year to cut energy and reduce carbon emissions.

The scheme on the roof at Shed 10 will generate enough electricity to power offices, a repair workshop and other port operations.

It is the first of a three-phase £700,000 project that when finished will generate more than 500 kilowatts (kWp) of renewable solar energy.

Phase two will involve a 200kWp £240,000 array on Shed 3A at Shoreham Port.

Will Cottrell, director of Brighton Energy Coop, said: “The completion of this latest array is further proof that our model for creating renewable energy schemes in the city is an exciting alternative to more traditional ways of doing things. With the obvious benefits to local businesses and organisations, communities and individuals we are confident we are on the right track.”

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