



Embargoed until 00.01 22 June 2020
PRESS RELEASE – 22 JUNE 2020

Tilbury on the Thames Trust and The Port of Tilbury release visual celebration to mark Windrush Day 2020

On the 22 June, the Tilbury on the Thames Trust in partnership with Port of Tilbury usually hold a celebration in the London Cruise Terminal to mark national Windrush Day where 72 years ago, the port played a significant role for the Windrush generation as their arrival point into the UK from their long voyages. This year, the COVID-19 restrictions mean that no events can take place, but both the Tilbury on the Thames Trust and the port wanted to mark the day.

A short video has been created that celebrates the contribution - to the NHS especially - of the Windrush generation and the role of the Port of Tilbury in their arrival in the UK aboard the Empire Windrush into Tilbury 72 years ago on 22nd June 1948. Watch the video here: <https://vimeo.com/430006408/b304efefec>

(Credit: The Port of Tilbury)

Commenting on Windrush Day, **Stuart Wallace, Chair of Tilbury on the Thames Trust and Chief Operating Officer at Forth Ports** said: *“We are proud of the part the Port of Tilbury played when the SS Empire Windrush arrived in our port 72 years ago. It is so important to remember the positive impact the Windrush generation played then and now in our local and national culture as well as the role in the beginning of our much-valued NHS which also celebrates its 72nd anniversary this year.*

At the port we will continue to hold events and create educational opportunities for the community for Windrush Day. Although we cannot have a celebration together today as we usually do, we hope we can gather for Windrush Day 2021 here at the port where it all began.”

Thurrock MP Jackie Doyle Price said: *“Tilbury is at the heart of Britain’s maritime heritage. On June 22nd we celebrate the arrival of the Empire Windrush, a landmark event in our nation’s story. In this year as we fight the COVID-19 epidemic, we remember that the Windrush arrived in the same year that the NHS was born and that throughout its history migrant workers have played a massive contribution to our health service. Thank you to all our key workers for keeping our country going throughout lockdown. And thank you to the Windrush generation who have contributed so much to our nation and its culture.”*

Thurrock is proud of its connections with the Empire Windrush. A major celebration was held at the Port of Tilbury in 2018 to mark the 70th Anniversary of its arrival. A summer carnival was held in Tilbury on 20 July 2019 inspired by the local heritage of the area and the role of Tilbury with the Empire Windrush, as well as drawing on the style of the Notting Hill carnival. The project engaged with the local schools and residents of Tilbury, in a programme of educational workshops.

22 June 2020

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Notes:

About the Tilbury on the Thames Trust:

The Tilbury on the Thames Trust was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in February 2016. The Trust is governed by a board of 6 trustees drawn from the Port of Tilbury and the local community, bringing considerable expertise in skills and training, regeneration and local community knowledge to this project. This board has approved a vision statement which is to blend community and commercial uses at the Grade II* Cruise Terminal complex in Tilbury as part of a wider ambition to restore heritage, generate training opportunities and connect the Port of Tilbury to the communities of the Thames Gateway. www.tott.org.uk

About Forth Ports / Port of Tilbury:

Forth Ports Limited owns and operates Tilbury, alongside seven other commercial ports on the Firth of Forth and the Firth of Tay: Grangemouth, Dundee, Leith, Rosyth, Methil, Burntisland and Kirkcaldy.

The Port of Tilbury is the number one UK port for forestry products, construction materials, paper, grain, recyclables and warehousing space. The port has a strong market presence in bulk commodities, ro-ro, cars and cruise vessels. The port's London Container Terminal handles a mix of short and deep-sea services, is the UK's number four port for containers and has the greatest reefer (refrigerated container) point connectivity in Europe. Tilbury's strategic location makes it a natural point for distribution, with nearly 20 million people living within 75 miles. Serving the UK's market, the port offers customers excellent transport links to and from the UK's capital and across the South East where over 50% of the population live and work. The port is a diverse multi-modal hub, covering around 1,000 acres (850 acres and the London Distribution Park, in addition to the Tilbury2 site) and is well positioned to access the M25 orbital motorway and the rest of the UK's national motorway network. In addition, there are direct rail connections within the port and dedicated barge facilities.
www.forthports.co.uk www.tilbury2.co.uk @forthports