



Winter 2025

# London Array Newsletter

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## Welcome

James Vause | General Manager

**Welcome to the first in what will be a bi-annual London Array newsletter to introduce our activities offshore, onshore and out in the community**

Our focus during the winter is to stay onshore and let the higher winds provide maximum energy generation. During the winter period, the offshore team usually only visit turbines if there is a problem or fault as the sea conditions can be very challenging.

We had an excellent 2024 maintenance period, completing all planned offshore work in good time and safely. For those that aren't aware, London Array was the biggest offshore wind farm in the world when it became operational in 2013, and although there are wind farms that generate more power now, we are still one of the largest Offshore Windfarms with 175 Wind Turbines. London Array is now categorised as mid-life for an operational asset. Our maintenance strategy through 2024 and into 2025 focuses on Asset Integrity Management and more information on our activities can be found below.

I am delighted that we are now working with the Kent Community Foundation who have taken over the administration and distribution of the £40,000 annual London Array Community Fund on behalf of the wind farm. This fund is a voluntary commitment, created by London Array, to make a real difference to our local community. A panel including wind farm staff met to assess projects, presented by Kent Community Foundation and award grants. I am delighted that the monies are going to support local charities that in turn support the needs of local people. More information about the fund and how to apply is further on in the newsletter.

Finally, in 2024, London Array was proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements and honours bestowed on two team members, Kev Clark and Mark Grambrill, who both voluntarily serve with coastal rescue teams. You can read more about their outstanding achievements.

I hope you enjoy this first edition of the London Array newsletter. More information about the wind farm itself can be found on our website via the link is on the last page.





# Recent maintenance works



# London Array people

Kev Clark & Mark Gambrill



“When I’m not on shift at London Array, I’m on the pager for the Dover RNLI lifeboat, covering the busiest ocean shipping lane in the world.”

Kev Clark | Offshore Technician

## London Array Asset Integrity Management

**First operational in 2013, London Array is now categorised as mid-life for an operational asset.**

Our maintenance strategy through 2024 and into 2025 focuses on Asset Integrity Management and the activities we are undertaken are described below. This work will be carried out by the London Array team from our Operations & Maintenance base in Dock Road, Ramsgate.

### Fatigue and Wear

Components are subject to ongoing stress from wind loads, leading to fatigue and wear in blades, gearboxes, and other critical parts.

### Environmental Degradation

Exposure to harsh weather conditions, especially in offshore environments, can cause corrosion and damage to structures and equipment.

### Changing Performance

Original equipment may degrade, leading to reduced efficiency and increased downtime.

### Evolving Standards

New technologies and best practices emerge, requiring potential upgrades and adjustments to maintenance strategies

The team at London Array continue to do an amazing job mitigating the above challenges by:

### Proactive Maintenance

Regular inspections, condition monitoring, and preventative maintenance to identify and address potential issues early on.

### Data Analysis

Utilizing data and other monitoring tools to track performance trends and identify anomalies.

### Risk Assessment

Conducting regular risk assessments to identify potential hazards and prioritize maintenance activities.

### Life Cycle Management

Planning for component replacements and upgrades as the wind farm ages

In 2024, London Array was proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements and honours bestowed on two team members who both voluntarily serve with coastal rescue teams.

### Kev Clark

Offshore technician, Kev Clark, who plays a vital role as a volunteers with the Dover RNLI due to his advanced first aid training, was invited to Buckingham Palace on 23 May 2024, to be honoured by members of the Royal Family in recognition of the work he and his RNLI team do in the English Channel.

One such harrowing rescue Kev participated in can be seen on the BBC Series: Saving Lives at Sea Series 9, Episode 7.

### Mark Gambrill

On 27 September 2024, Mark Gambrill was recognised for his outstanding service to the Coastguard service was presented with the King’s Coronation Medal, celebrating his 40 years of dedication to the Margate Coastguard Rescue Team. HM Coastguard play a key role with shoreline based searches for missing and vulnerable people. Mark, a trained cliff rescue technician, makes use of his advance first aid training and casualty care and works alongside the RNLI with the team on call 24/7.

London Array extends congratulations to both them and sends thanks to all our emergency services for their unwavering dedication and service.



### Watch here

Saving Lives at Sea Series 9, Episode 7





# Taking our *We Care* initiative into the local community



## Beach clean

The London Array Health, Safety & Environment (HSE) Committee were delighted to get peer recognition at the Global Offshore Wind Awards in London in October 2024, where they scooped an Highly Commended Award their health, safety and well-being work.

Supporting the RWE We Care Initiative work of the onsite HSE manager, the committee is made up of volunteers, that meet monthly to discuss all levels of employee engagement in HSE initiatives.

But it is the additional work of the committee, improving the quality of the working life of colleagues and our local community, that is inspiring and exciting.

To celebrate World Environment Day 2024, the team spent their lunch hour collecting rubbish from along the local beaches in Ramsgate and around the harbour resulting in five sacks of rubbish.



## Christmas parcels

For Christmas 2024, the HSE Committee chose to support the Salvation Army's request for sleeping bags, torches, coats, scarves, gloves; along with food items to be distributed locally. The support from London Array staff was incredible and we collected over 37 sleeping bags, 20 coats and numerous gloves and scarves and the crate for food was bursting.

Via the London Array Community Fund, we were delighted to provide financial support to the Salvation Army who work diligently in Ramsgate with a portion of the £4,000 funding distributed by Kent Community Fund on our behalf in December.



# 3000

Almost 600 harbour and 3,000 grey seals now call the Thames Estuary home

## Monitoring local seal population Successful collaboration with Zoological Society of London

In Autumn 2024, London Array colleagues hosted the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to carry out its annual survey of seals on both the Kentish Knock and Long Sands sandbanks, both located within the wind farm area.

Two species of seal are resident in the UK, both of which are found in the Greater Thames Estuary – the harbour (or common) seal and the grey seal.

Our operations team provided a vessel to the ZSL team who have been undertaking an annual survey of the harbour and grey seal populations in the River Thames since 2013. Only seals on the sandbanks are recorded – those in the water are disregarded for the purposes of the survey. The survey is strategically conducted within a two-hour window on either side of low tide when the sandbanks are exposed, offering an ideal setting for observing the seals as they rest.

It's important to note that only seals resting on the sandbanks are recorded, while those in the water are excluded from the count. Almost 600 harbour and 3,000 grey seals now call the Thames Estuary home, according to the 2024 survey.





# Virtual work experience in renewables for school pupils

In early 2024, RWE launched Springpod, an online, interactive, experiential, learning programme that enables young people aged 13+ to enjoy virtual work experience.

Springpod demonstrates how to harness wind power to generate sustainable electricity and improve our environmental footprint. It will introduce you to careers and pathways in our dynamic industry so that you can get your foot in the door and make a real difference.

You'll explore the innovative world of offshore wind - from creating offshore wind farms to environmental factors and cutting-edge engineering projects taking the offshore wind sector by storm. Plus, you'll be able to find out about the various careers and pathways into this exciting sector. You'll also complete a series of quizzes and fun activities to help build your understanding, finishing the programme with a downloadable portfolio of your work.

It's free to register and worth a look if working you think working on an offshore wind farm like London Array could be something you would like to do.

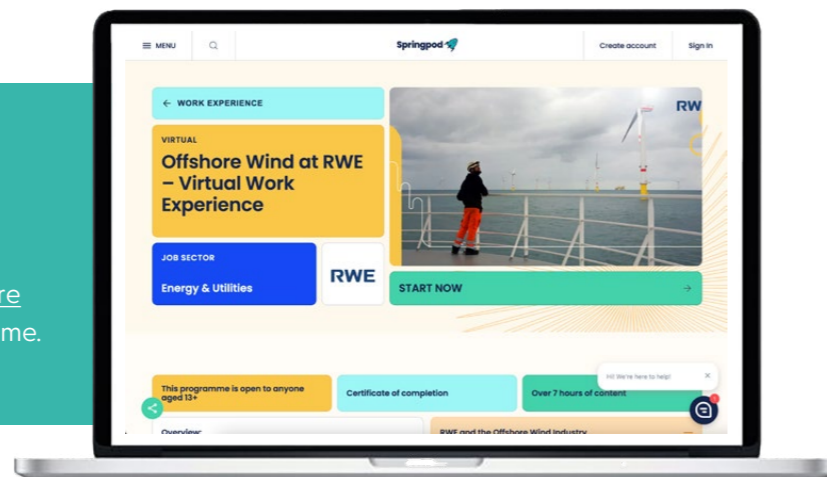


## Offshore Wind at RWE modules



Start your work experience journey!

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to go straight to the programme.



"We are very grateful for this support for our important work in the community."

Jill Harding | Dentaïd

## Our Community Fund

Since construction in early 2012, London Array has supported charities and community groups in the local area. New for 2024 was working with Kent Community Foundation who managed the applications and distributed the £40,000 fund on behalf of the wind farm.

In 2024, awards of up to £5,000 were made available and 13 awards were made in August 2024 to local good causes ranging from fishing competition, training volunteer swimming coaches to a local eco fair.

The fund retained £4,000 from the August distribution to provide support for local charities over the Christmas and winter period. London Array staff voted for the monies to be distributed between Age UK Thanet, RNLI, Salvation Army and Thanet Food.

Early in 2025, we will announce the opening date for interested applicants to apply online for next year's monies via the Kent Community Foundation website.

## Supporting Dentaïd

We were delighted to support Dentaïd, the Dental Charity which provides dental care for the homeless, by awarding £1,475 from the 2024 Community Fund.

This funding supported Dentaïd's project to deliver six free mobile dental clinics alongside the Thanet District Councils RISE (Rough Sleeper Intervention Support Empowerment).

Jill Harding from Dentaïd takes up the story:

"Our mobile dental units are fully equipped mobile dental surgeries on wheels. We offer our patients emergency pain relieving treatments, x-rays, scale and polish and restorative dental care."

"We support people experiencing homelessness by visiting hostels, drop-in centres, and soup kitchens and those who are insecurely housed or sleeping rough. We are very grateful for this support for our important work in the community."



Apply here

Scan the QR code or click the link above for more information

# Join the London Array team & start your journey offshore

## Wind Turbine Technician Apprenticeship

### London Array Wind Farm

**RWE, the company that operates London Array, is offering the opportunity for motivated people to begin a career in renewable energy at our base in Ramsgate.**

This rewarding 3-year apprenticeship scheme will enable the selected candidates to develop into technicians working on wind turbines. The first 2 years will be class room based at IPS International training facility, in Rochester.

Our Wind Turbine Technicians work as part of a small team focused on specific offshore wind farms. Enrolled candidates will learn to carry out all aspects of wind turbine maintenance including scheduled, unscheduled, proactive, and troubleshooting maintenance on wind turbines.

Your hard work will ensure our wind farms continue to deliver power to households and business. It is a rewarding job that allows you to work on highly advanced machinery in a demanding environment.

Once trained you will be working at sea, in all weathers and at height, using heavy, complex mechanical and electrical equipment. You will be required to adhere to the protocol of Health and Safety in all aspects of your work.

Applications to the scheme must be made by 21 February 2025.



### Apply here

Scan the QR code or  
click the link above  
for more information