

## **The Port in Early Spring**

Over February and March 35 cargo vessels arrived at the APB Port of King's Lynn (hereafter Lynn) and 35 departed, with 20 and 16 ships in ballast respectively.

Timber from the forested countries around the Baltic remains Lynn's most significant import, as the wood stacked on the dock estate tells. Two full cargoes from Riga in Latvia were discharged by MV Gt Pike and MV Lady Alida. MV Skagern carried another full cargo from Kristinehamn which is a Swedish inland port.

Five part cargoes of timber were landed by vessels which had first unloaded at Hull (3) and Seaham (2) on England's east coast.

Over this period four shipments of salt in bulk arrived from the German Baltic port of Wismar. MV Fluvius Plym carried three of these cargoes and MV Fluvius Axe the fourth. Wismar is a Hanseatic seaport which has trading ties with Lynn going back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Three single shipments arrived at Lynn. A load of aggregate from Glensanda in western Scotland for the construction industry was imported by MV Frisian River. From the German Baltic port of Vierow MV Mia Sophie B landed a consignment of wheat. A mixed cargo of soya/maize from Bordeaux on the French Atlantic coast was discharged by MV Eems Spirit.

Exports over this period consisted of the staple commodities which vessels take from Lynn on regular runs.

There were five shipments of malt barley. MV Victress sailed with a cargo to Port Ellen on the west coast of Scotland on 5 February and returned to the Wash before departing for the same port with another load on 19 February. For Buckie on the Moray Firth in northern Scotland MV Confidence departed Lynn with a cargo of malt barley on 5 February. MV Tinno carried another such cargo to Drogheda on the east coast of Ireland which is an industrial port town. To Dordrecht in the Netherlands MV Fluvius Otter transported a fifth cargo of malt barley.

Good quality barley has been exported from Lynn to Europe for centuries and MV Breb Trader carried a cargo to Rotterdam and the Marry S to Dordrecht. MV Truffaldino and MV Lyrika sailed coastwise north to Scotland to deliver single loads to Buckie.

Beans for animal feed are regularly exported from Lynn to Norway and MV Eems Sky and MV Wilson Alster took consignments to Floro. A third cargo was carried by MV Wilson Main to Stavanger which is also on Norway's west coast.

MV Baltic Sun sailed with sugar beet from Lynn to Oslo which is the capital of Norway.

The mini mountain of scrap metal on the Bentinck Dock is kept in check by the crane daily loading vessels. No fewer than five of the six ships sailing to Europe had the

Dutch capital of Amsterdam as their destination. The other vessel docked at nearby Rotterdam.

Associated British Ports (ABP) which owns the dock estate continues to invest in Lynn as testified by the new large bulk storage warehouse adjacent to the Bentinck Dock. This £7 million project has recently been completed.

Pilotage for ABP at Lynn is provided for the King's Lynn Conservancy Board (KLCB) which operates two pilot cutters amongst other work boats. It is responsible for the placement and maintenance of buoys in the Wash to ensure safe navigation to and from the Port.

Soon Lynn celebrates 20 years as a member of the New Hanseatic League which community embraces 190 towns across northern Europe. To discover the variety of events highlighting its maritime heritage over the weekend of 14 and 15 June please go to: [www.kingslynnhansefestival.co.uk](http://www.kingslynnhansefestival.co.uk).