

Connect

Stay connected

MAY 2025
ISSUE 154

CREATING ZERO CARBON HOMES

Individual action for powerful impact together

Hunterston B's fuel-free world first

How our networks can support us

Exciting milestones across our renewables projects

Supporting loved ones who have dementia



EDITORS' NOTE

In this month's Big Interview we speak to Martin Aylward, Head of Zero Carbon Homes, about how we're helping customers on their journey to electrification by installing heat pumps, insulation, solar panels, batteries and EV initiatives.

It's a world-first at Hunterston B, as the first Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor to be verified as 'fuel-free'. Congratulations to the team for their hard work in reaching this achievement ahead of schedule.

Customers MD, Philippe Commaret, discusses the amazing work of our Carers and Accessibility and Cancer Support Networks, which bring people together to share experiences and offer support. This Dementia Action Week, Kathy from the Connect team talks about caring for her mum with Alzheimer's. Talking about life's challenging moments can be reassuring and help us feel less alone.

We have updates across our renewables projects, including the installation of the last turbine at Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm and our first UK solar farm opening in Sutton Bridge.

We love sharing your stories, so send us your news and pictures from across the business to connect@edfenergy.com.

JULIA NUTLEY AND KATHY MANSON
The Connect team



SIZEWELL C MOVES FORWARD WITH FUNDING AND HYDROGEN BUSES

Hydrogen buses have taken to the road as part of a Sizewell C pilot scheme. They could play a key role in the project by reducing emissions, improving air quality and minimising the impact of workforce transport on the local area.

The project has also recently accessed the £2.7bn of government funding announced in the autumn budget. The money will support the project's continued progress on site.

> "This is another significant show of confidence in the Sizewell C project ahead of a Final Investment Decision.



JULIA PYKE, SIZEWELL C
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR



BRAVE NEW WELD

Welding has begun on the primary circuit in Hinkley Point C's Unit 1 Reactor Building. The primary circuit is the network of pipes connecting the main components of the nuclear steam supply system, including the reactor pressure vessel, four steam generators and four main coolant pumps.

Julien Chapuis, Framatome Installation Project Manager, said: "We've considered everything in detail over the last two years, from where to place scaffolding and power sources to selecting the right team and welding process. The team was calm and proceeded one step at a time, monitoring and recording the operation at every stage."



CORE VALUES GUIDE NUCLEAR OPERATIONS

Nuclear Operations has launched its new core values. They are:

- **Agility:** Embracing flexibility, simplifying processes and adapting quickly to changing circumstances.
- **Excellence:** Being committed to delivering high-quality results and always using organisational learning.
- **Integrity:** Open sharing, inclusivity and purposefully collaborating to achieve goals.

Mark Hartley, Managing Director Nuclear Operations, said: "These values are more than just words; they will become the guiding principles that will help shape our culture and drive the delivery of our 10-year priorities. It goes without saying that nuclear safety remains our overriding priority."



BERNARD FONTANA NEW GROUP CEO

The French government has appointed Bernard Fontana as Chairman and CEO of the EDF Group, following the departure of Luc Rémont. Mr Fontana was previously CEO of Framatome and of Arabelle Solutions, who design and provide equipment and technology to the company's nuclear fleet. He has been on the board of EDF Group for a year.



PEDALLING TOWARDS NET ZERO



Ultra-endurance cyclist **Martin Aylward**, the newly appointed Head of Zero Carbon Homes, shares how we're helping our customers on their journey to electrification.

Tell us about yourself.
I've always been passionate about sport and the arts. Over the last couple of years, I've competed in unsupported ultra-endurance adventure cycling races across Norway, France, Switzerland, Italy, Croatia and Slovenia. Next up is a 700km race from Madrid to Barcelona. I also enjoy modern art and architecture; you'll often find me at an art gallery or photographing concrete buildings around London. Spending time with my three grown-up children is the most important thing to me.

Congratulations on your new role as Head of Zero Carbon Homes. What are your key priorities?
We have three:

- Delivering our Energy Company Obligation (ECO) and Great British Insulation Scheme at lower cost than competitors.
- Growing EDF Heat Pumps and Contact Solar profitably to help more customers save cash and carbon.
- Creating an environment where our talented team can do great work.

Why is it important to help our customers on their journey to electrification?
Getting to net zero requires everyone to act – that means government, companies and consumers. While each individual's action may seem small, together they have a huge impact.

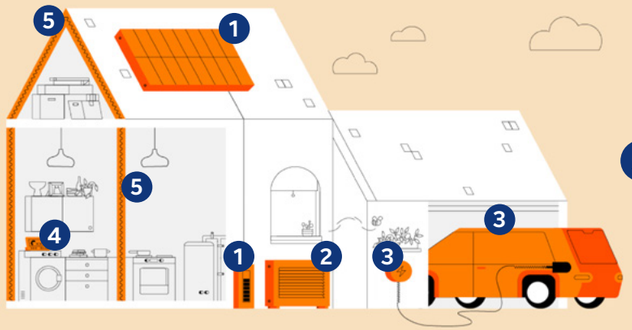
Helping customers adopt solar panels, heat pumps and insulation also improves the UK's energy security by reducing demand for imported energy.

For example, solar panels generate local electricity and heat pumps use electricity instead of burning imported fossil fuels.

WHAT ZERO CARBON INITIATIVES DO WE OFFER OUR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS?

We have lots of ways customers can make steps towards creating their own Zero Carbon Home:

1. **Solar and battery solutions:** We offer solar and battery bundles through Contact Solar and customers can access Britain's first solar tariff with zero standing charge, Empower Exclusive.
2. **Low-carbon heating solutions:** We install air-source heat pumps, which extract heat from the outside air to heat customers' homes and hot water, powered by zero-carbon electricity. Customers can also benefit from grants through government schemes.
3. **Electric vehicles:** We offer EV leasing deals, home charging points via Pod Point and EV tariffs backed by zero-carbon electricity.
4. **Smart metering and energy monitoring:** We provide smart meters and an online 'energy hub', helping customers monitor energy use while giving them personalised energy saving tips.
5. **Home insulation:** Through schemes like the Great British Insulation Scheme, ECO4 and Home Upgrade Grants, many customers can access free or subsidised insulation upgrades.



> If more homes use clean technology, we need less imported fuel and have a stronger, more self-sufficient energy system for the UK.



Better insulation means that homes are more efficient and need less heating in the first place. Together, these cut the UK's need for imported gas and oil, making it easier for the UK to balance supply and demand, especially during cold spells or energy crises, which also improves the grid's reliability.

If we have a network of homes producing and conserving energy, this spreads out energy generation so the energy system is harder to disrupt.

In summary, if more homes use clean technology, we need less imported fuel and have a stronger, more self-sufficient energy system for the UK.

Can you share any success stories where zero carbon initiatives have made an impact?
Our insulation work in the Wiltshire ECO project earned industry awards and helped many low-income households. For heat pumps, we've collaborated with manufacturers to launch the UK's first no-standing-charge heat pump tariff. And for solar, we're implementing JumpTech software to streamline the customer journey from sale to installation, improving customer experience and operational efficiency.

How do these initiatives benefit customers and the planet?
We can help customers to reduce their bills and boost their property value through our Zero Carbon Home initiatives. Many are eligible for grants and can see immediate savings, faster return on investment and improved energy independence. This in turn drives efficiency and electrification, which ultimately benefits the planet.



How do we work with partners and across the business?
Targeted marketing generates leads for heat pumps, solar panels, batteries and ECO Direct, which offers free energy saving measures for eligible households as part of the government's ECO scheme.

We've used learning from years of marketing tariffs and smart metering to inform our activity and have developed specialised tariffs.

We're working with Retail and WMS to bring together home batteries to create tradeable blocks of electricity to help balance the grid. WMS are leaders in optimising and trading grid-scale batteries and we're using this expertise for customers too.

EIT and our data and technology teams are also boosting our efficiency and customer experience at Contact Solar and EDF Heat Pumps.

Are there any future technological advancements that will help?
Yes - absolutely! Innovations in smarter home energy management, more efficient heat pumps, better battery storage, and integration of home energy systems into grid services will drive even greater efficiency and affordability, accelerating the journey to net zero.

BIG WIN FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Our Zero Carbon Homes team were big winners at the South West Regional Energy Efficiency Awards, taking home the top prize for Large Scale Project.

The energy efficiency scheme is in partnership with Wiltshire Council and involved the installation of renewable heating measures and insulation to more than 80 homes, all fully funded using the government's Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) funding. Congratulations to the winners!



→
(L-R) Steve Nash, Jasmine Fox, Ellen Almeida, Mark Dallen, Carrie Jones and Dan Haldane.



FOOTLOOSE AND FUEL-FREE



On 27 March, Hunterston B reached the milestone of being fuel-free, meaning that all nuclear fuel has now been removed from the site. **Andy Dalling**, Station Director, tells us more.

Tell us about yourself.
I have three football-mad children who keep me busy, I'm their unofficial taxi and coach my daughter's team. I enjoy keeping fit and I love playing golf whenever I find the time.

You've recently started in your role as Station Director for Hunterston B. What led you here?
I started as a graduate trainee at the Sellafield site in West Cumbria, a government organisation that manages nuclear waste. After five years, I joined Hunterston B in the engineering department before progressing to the management team in 2016. Following end of generation in 2023 I took up the role of Transfer and Deconstruction Prep Manager, developing future decommissioning plans and working with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) in preparation for when we transfer the site in April 2026. Now, as the Station Director, I am looking forward to implementing these plans ready for the next stage of Hunterston B's life.

Hunterston has recently been verified as fuel-free. What does this mean and why is it so important?
Fuel-free means that we've removed all nuclear fuel from the site. When we shut down our second reactor in January 2022, both reactors were full of fuel. Over the last three years we've systematically removed it, significantly reducing the hazard on site. We're the first Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) in the fleet to do this – in fact it's a world first!

As a result of the reduction in hazard we will no longer need armed police onsite or the same emergency arrangements and our safety case will become much simpler, meaning we can free up resource to focus on decommissioning.

What do you think contributed to successfully reaching fuel-free verification within budget and in a timescale of two years and 10 months?
Initially we set an aspirational target of three years to defuel, to do this faster and within budget was beyond expectations.

We've been preparing for defueling for many years. In 2018, we had a graphite inspection outage that resulted in Reactor 3 being offline for 2.5 years. During this time, we ramped up our defueling preparations, allowing us to be well-positioned for our next mission of defueling. The plant equipment has been reliable in doing what it needed to do, and we've been agile in fixing any issues.

Our people have a can-do attitude – if you set a target, they want to beat it. We increased training to have the right skills in the right places. It's been a fantastic collaborative effort, not just from our people at Hunterston but also the corporate support and coordination with Sellafield.

What are the next steps?
We'll transition from a defueling site to become a decommissioning site. Organisational changes come with this, and our people know where they fit in the future of the station.

In April 2026 our site licence and our people will transfer to NRS. Around 2040 we will dismantle and demolish everything other than the reactor buildings, which will be left to naturally decay as 'safe stores' over the next 80 years.

Defueling and decommissioning are all essential parts of a power station's lifecycle, playing a key role in helping Britain achieve net zero. Over its lifetime, Hunterston contributed £13.3bn to the economy, and by defueling and decommissioning safely and efficiently, we're helping to build the case for nuclear in the future.



Over its lifetime, Hunterston contributed

£13.3bn

to the UK economy

DO SOMETHING SMALL TO HELP OTHERS LIVE BETTER

Philippe Commaret is the Managing Director of Customers and the Executive Sponsor of the Carers and Accessibility Network (CAN), which includes the Cancer Support Network (CSN).



Carers&Accessibility Network

CancerSupport Network

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR NETWORKS ON eNZO

Why was it important for you to sponsor the CAN and CSN?
I often reflect on the incredible people who care for others. Cancer touches many around us. My niece is disabled and my sister dedicates herself to her care, which is why getting involved with the networks resonated with me.

Whether you're a carer, patient, manager or team member, our employee networks offer supportive solutions and advice for everyone, regardless of your circumstances. Getting involved is a fantastic opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Why are the networks so valuable for our employees?
The networks are informal, allowing people to participate and get support according to their needs and time. Finding others with similar experiences is invaluable. The networks offer advice on communicating with colleagues and managers and dealing with issues such as feeling guilty when returning to work. They can help colleagues to adapt their style and support someone undergoing treatment and when they return to work.

What has your experience of cancer been?
My mother had breast cancer and a friend's son has leukaemia. Supporting them involves understanding their treatments and how you can aid their recovery.

> I encourage people to explore and find what works for them, there's something useful for everyone.

We've created a WhatsApp group to support my friend so we can all help when needed and keep spirits up. It's like we're recreating a village mentality using technology!

What have the networks achieved that you are most proud of?
I'm incredibly proud of the representatives across all of our sites. It's great to be able to talk in person to someone with a shared experience and it can be inspiring to see people live with a similar disability. They're very 'human' networks that offer relief and mental health support.

Can you explain more about your pledge to support employees impacted by cancer?
My goal is to make the networks more visible for example by including them in daily safety messages which the Communications and Health, Safety and Wellbeing teams are helping us with. The networks are essential in providing advice for the business decisions we make every day. For example, our new head office at Nova North in London now has a height-adjustable sink to help with accessibility.

What tools would you recommend for employees experiencing cancer or supporting someone with cancer?
It depends on your situation – whether you're a carer, supporter or patient, the networks provide support for everyone. I encourage people to explore and find what works for them. There's something useful for everyone.



Join our **Skin Cancer and Melanoma Awareness webinar** on **21 May** where **Chief Medical Officer, Dr Jackson**, will discuss these cancers, early detection and prevention. Colleagues will also share their experience of being diagnosed with these cancers.



GOING FOR GREEN

Key project milestones for EDF Renewables UK and Ireland.

NEART NA GAOITHE INSTALLS ITS LAST TURBINE

The 54th and final turbine was installed at Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm last month. This is a significant milestone, with the project due to be fully operational this summer after the next stage of commissioning has been completed.

NnG is located 15.5km off the Fife coast and covers an area of approximately 105km2. When fully commissioned, the offshore wind farm will have a capacity of c.450MW, enough to supply low carbon electricity for around 375,000 homes. NnG is jointly owned by EDF Renewables UK and Ireland and ESB.

Matthieu Hue, Chief Executive Officer of EDF Renewables UK and Ireland, said: "It has been a long journey to achieve this milestone, huge credit to the NnG team led by Matt Haag."



TO FIND OUT MORE VISIT NNGOFFSHOREWIND.COM

PHASE TWO FUNDING BID FOR TEES GREEN HYDROGEN

Hynamics, a subsidiary of EDF Group specialising in hydrogen production and distribution, along with EDF Renewables, has been shortlisted for the government's Hydrogen Allocation Round 2. This funding will support phase two of their Tees Green Hydrogen project, which includes the development of a 100MW electrolyser next to the existing 8MW electrolyser funded in phase one in 2023.

Tees Green Hydrogen is a pioneering project that will use low-carbon electricity to produce electrolytic renewable hydrogen. This hydrogen will supply local industry to support decarbonisation and reduce industrial pollution.

Jon O'Sullivan, Director of Onshore Wind and Hydrogen at EDF Renewables in the UK, said: "This is another great sign of confidence from the government in our pioneering Tees Green Hydrogen project and a step towards our ambitious plan to increase our investment in the Tees Valley."

Hynamics was also successful in having their Fawley Green Hydrogen project shortlisted. Hynamics will install a 120MW electrolyser enabling the reduction of carbon emissions from the adjacent ExxonMobil Petrochemical Complex.



SUTTON BRIDGE - OUR FIRST UK SOLAR FARM

Sutton Bridge, a 49.9MW solar farm located in Lincolnshire, started operating last year and is capable of powering more than 9,000 households annually. A £20,000 annual community benefit fund, administered by Lincolnshire Community Foundation, supports local organisations including Sutton Bridge Foodbank and the local Bowls Club. The local community has been invited to an event to learn out about the biodiversity improvements on site and what's involved in running a solar farm.

Grant Folley, Head of Origination and Planning at EDF Renewables UK, said: "Solar is already playing an important part in the UK's journey to net zero."

"What's just as important is for renewable projects to positively impact the nearby communities who live next to these critical assets."

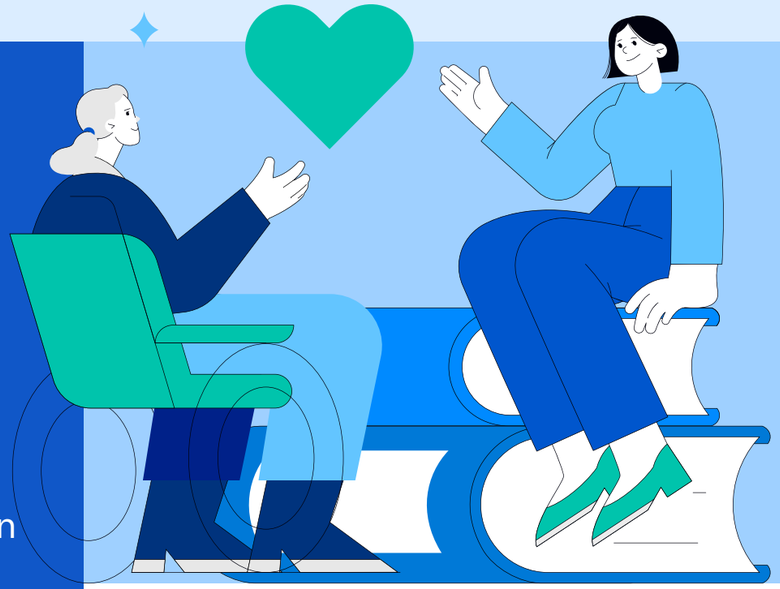
JOHNSTOWN SOLAR FARM IN COUNTY CARLOW, IRELAND

A public consultation took place last month for Johnstown Solar Park, which was acquired in late 2020. The project already has planning permission for 10MW and the team hope to extend this to c.32MW. Engaging with the local community throughout the development of the project is key, with a drop-in clinic planned ahead of the new planning application.

DESTINATION RENEWABLES EXPANSION

In Wales, Destination Renewables, an award-winning educational programme aimed at 16–18-year-olds developed in partnership with DP Energy, Pembrokeshire College and Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, has expanded. The programme was first piloted in Pembrokeshire College and has now been rolled out to four other colleges with Colchester Institute being the latest college to deliver the programme.

TAKING CARE





Dementia Action Week is 19-25 May. Connect's very own writer, Kathy Manson, shares her experience of looking after her mother who has Alzheimer's disease.

The first time I realised that something wasn't quite right with my mum was when she started to tell me elaborate stories about her neighbour trying to steal her house. She also lost weight rapidly because she was forgetting to eat.

Alzheimer's runs in my family so I knew it was important to get a formal diagnosis to get the ball rolling with things like medication, care and financial support. I contacted her GP who arranged the assessment tests. It took a bit of persistence but I got there in the end!

The team who worked with my mum were patient and understanding. Nothing phased them, even when Mum refused to have a brain scan because she was scared. They were able to make the diagnosis without it, which was a weight off my mind.

Kathy's Mum, Mary Ann. →

My mum is now in a nursing home as she needs round-the-clock care. The hardest thing for me is that she's forgotten who I am. When I go and see her, it's like I'm chatting to a child who's happy to meet a new friend. I always hug her, hold her hand and tell her I love her so we can connect in that way.

ACCESS THE HELP YOU NEED

1 Speak to professionals. Alzheimer's Society has a support line. I used it and they were reassuring and full of practical advice. They can also tell you what financial support is available.

2 Keep your manager informed. There'll be times when you need to make phone calls during work hours or dash off to an emergency. My team was so flexible and supportive, it made all the difference in the world.

3 Persevere. There's a lot of work involved in getting a diagnosis but it's worth it. The most important thing is making sure your loved one is safe and cared for and a diagnosis is the first step.

4 You're not alone. When I tried to do everything alone it made it harder. Looking after a loved one, it can be difficult to see things clearly and make decisions because you're upset. People want to help you so let them.



WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

Dementia is a set of symptoms associated with an ongoing decline of brain functioning, in areas such as memory, problem-solving, language and behaviour. There are many causes of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CHARITY PARTNER, ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY, ON eNZO

ISLA RUNS A MARATHON

Congratulations to Isla Emmett, Science and Engineering Graduate from Hinkley Point C, for successfully running the London Marathon. She and her fiancé ran to raise awareness and funds for our charity partner, Alzheimer's Society.

Isla said: "It was by far the toughest thing I've ever done mentally and physically but the crowds were incredible, the Alzheimer's Society cheer squads were so loud, and the other runners were so kind and kept us pushing on. There were many times when we could have just given up but the thought of why we were there really drove us forward."





GUEST SPEAKER
IFE THOMAS

COME TOGETHER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

It's Mental Health Awareness week from 12-18 May, and this year's theme is community. The Mental Health Supporters Network have organised events to bring everyone together, including:

- **Tuesday 13 May:** The We in Wellbeing: how community shapes our mental health, with speaker Ife Thomas from the X Factor.
- **Tuesday 13 May and Wednesday 14 May:** Men's Mental Health (EDFManClub) at Retail Sites.
- **Thursday 15 May:** Mental Health Buddies Conference at Hinkley Point C.

FIND OUT MORE ON eNZO





WIN £1000 IN OUR ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY SPRING RAFFLE

Support life-changing dementia services and groundbreaking research and be in with the chance to win one of 25 fantastic cash prizes from £50 to £1000 by taking part in this year's charity raffle.

To enter, visit the eNZO page and make a donation of £2 or more. Enter your name and make sure you don't hide your donation amount. For every pound you donate, you'll be entered into the draw that many times. The closing date is 30 May, so don't miss out!

Volunteer for the Forget-Me-Not Appeal
Alzheimer's Society and Morrisons are looking for volunteers to host collections in Morrisons stores between 2-8 June.

TO FIND OUT HOW TO TAKE PART, VISIT eNZO

SIGN UP FOR PAYROLL GIVING AT OUR ROADSHOWS

This month, the Hands on Payroll Giving team will be visiting some of our sites to help answer any questions about the scheme and show how it works. They can help you sign up so you can start donating tax-free to any UK charity.

You'll find the team at these sites on the following dates:

- Gadeon House on 6 May
- Doxford on 6 May
- Hartlepool on 7 May
- Heysham 2 on 20 May
- Gloucester on 20 and 21 May



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PAYROLL GIVING ON eNZO

TALKING SCIENCE AT CHELTENHAM

The company is once again a principal partner of the Cheltenham Science Festival, which takes place from 3-8 June. It features talks with popular faces from the world of science such as Brian Cox and a programme of educational events to get schoolchildren excited about science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects.

We will have 50 free tickets to give away to a nuclear and renewables event where Dave Cole, Sizewell C Strategy Director, will join a panel of industry experts to discuss the future energy mix. More information on how to apply will be available on eNZO.





DIRECT AIR CAPTURE FACILITY TO BE DEVELOPED IN TEXAS

DAC park aims to remove

500,000 tons

of CO_2 per year



Texas, United States

Direct Air Capture (DAC) is a technology that captures carbon dioxide (CO_2) directly from the air. The DAC process involves drawing ambient air through fans into a system where CO_2 is trapped by a fluid or solid sorbent. The captured CO_2 can be combined with low-carbon hydrogen, made from electrolysis, to produce e-fuels.

EDF Renewables North America will be collaborating with Skytree and Return Carbon, in partnership with Verified Carbon to develop a Direct Air Capture (DAC) facility in Texas. Together with this partnership, the DAC park aims to remove 500,000 tons of CO_2 per year. This landmark collaboration promises to revolutionise carbon removal efforts by integrating DAC technology, a direct renewable power source, and Gulf Coast's rich geological carbon storage capacity.

By recycling atmospheric CO_2, DAC enables carbon-neutral fuel production, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting decarbonisation goals.

Return Carbon · skytree · VERIFIED CARBON

FIND OUT MORE

MONTH OF MAY QUIZ

Test your spring time knowledge.

1. What is the birthstone associated with May?
A. Ruby
B. Sapphire
C. Emerald

2. Which famous film franchise premiered its first instalment on May 25, 1977?
A. The Godfather
B. Star Wars
C. Lord of the Rings

3. Which important figure in the American civil rights movement was born on May 19, 1925?
A. Martin Luther King Jr
B. Malcolm X
C. Rosa Parks

4. What major international cycling event traditionally takes place in May?
A. Tour de France
B. Giro d'Italia
C. Paris-Roubaix

5. What flower is traditionally associated with the month of May?
A. Lily of the Valley
B. Rose
C. Tulip

6. What major fashion event, often called the 'Oscars of fashion,' is held annually on the first Monday in May?
A. Paris Fashion Gala
B. Met Gala
C. New York Fashion Awards

7. What astronomical event is commonly observed in May, characterised by shooting stars?
A. Perseid Meteor Shower
B. Orionid Meteor Shower
C. Eta Aquariid Meteor Shower

8. Which major sporting event, known as The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports, is held annually in May?
A. The Kentucky Derby
B. The Masters Tournament
C. Indianapolis 500

9. What zodiac sign covers the first three weeks of May?
A. Taurus
B. Gemini
C. Virgo

10. What important historical event is celebrated on 8 May?
A. ANZAC Day
B. D-Day
C. VE Day



Answers: 1c; 2b;3b;4b; 5a; 6b; 7c; 8a; 9a; 10c.



CONNECT'S PHOTO COMPETITION

Paul Taylor, an Internal Audit Manager at Gloucester Business Park, often takes a short walk to unwind down to Clevedon Pier to watch the sun set over the Welsh horizon. Exercise and nature is a great way to manage your mental health, which is the theme for our photo competition.

Connect welcomes news and comments from all employees. Connect is published by EDF. Please email Julia Nutley and Kathy Manson at connect@edfenergy.com
Design and production by Definition thisisdefinition.com
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