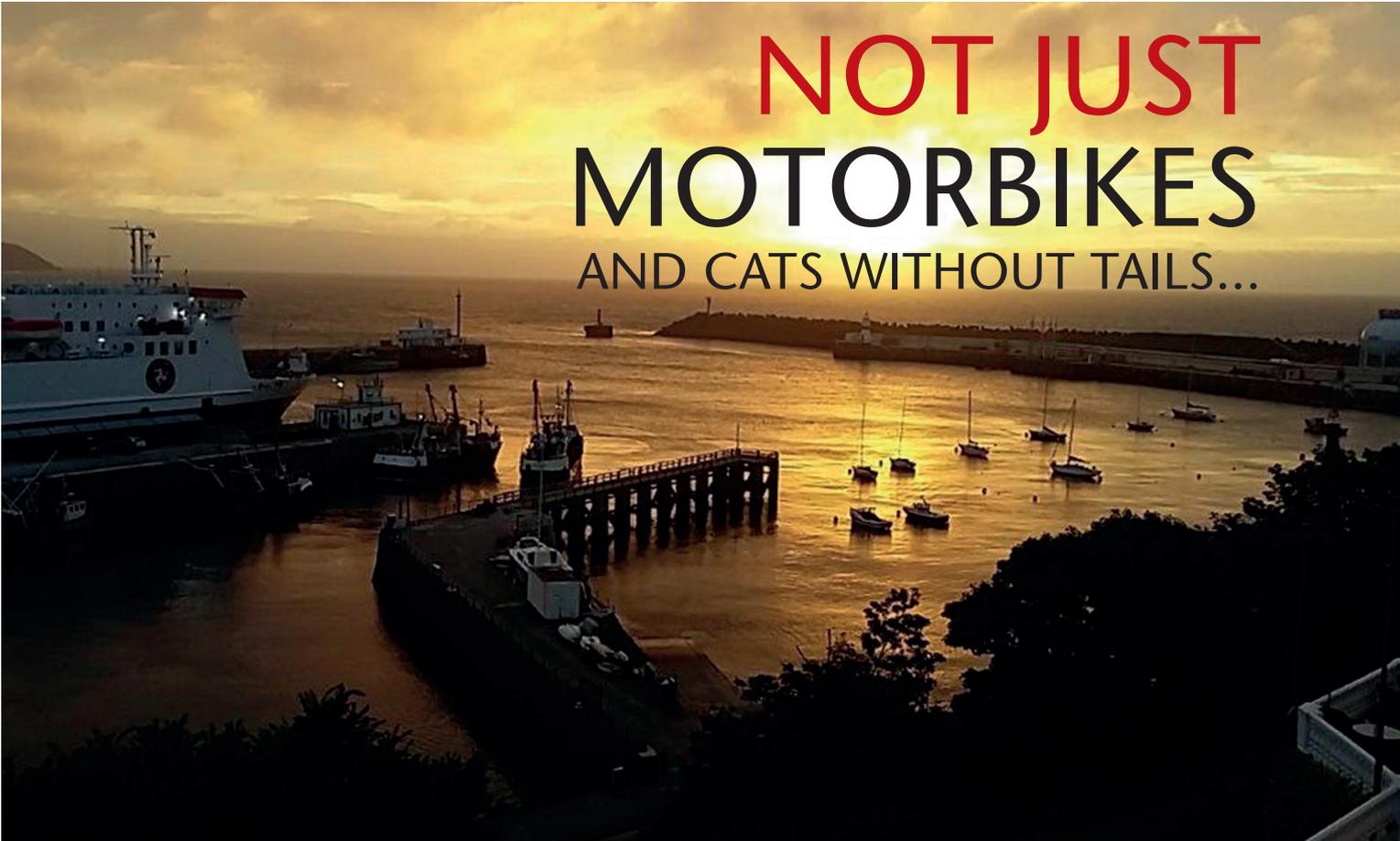


LIVING ON THE ISLE OF MAN

NOT JUST MOTORBIKES AND CATS WITHOUT TAILS...

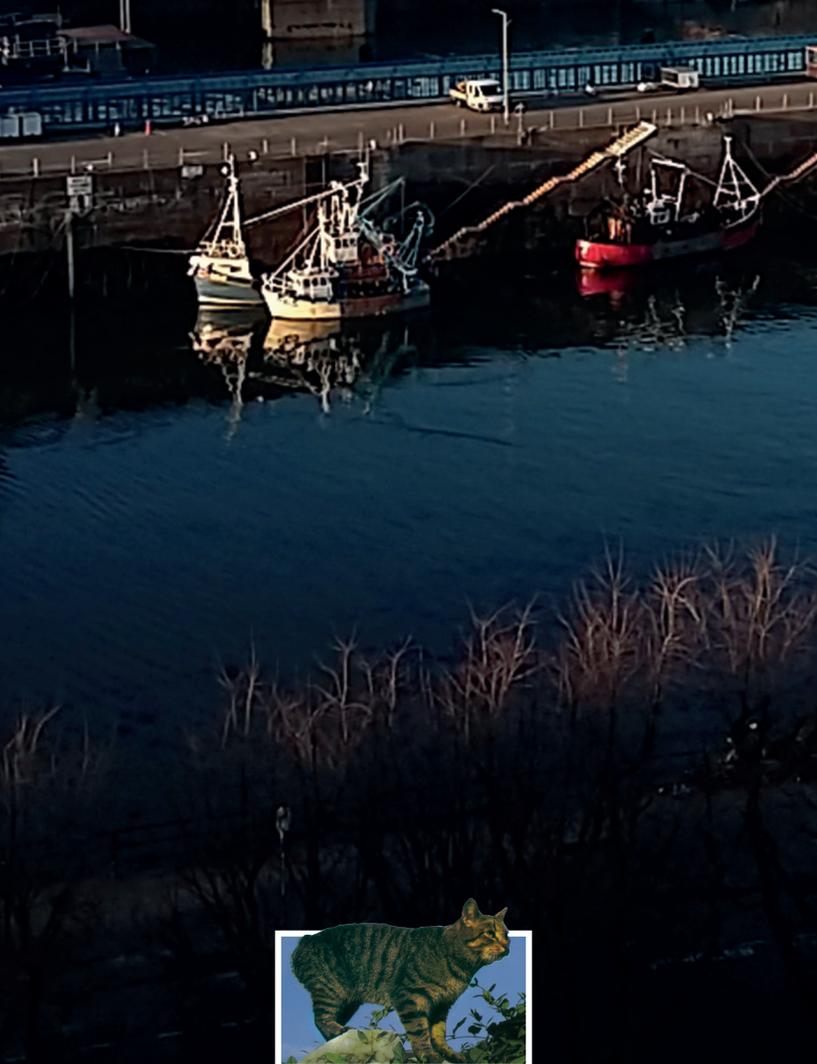


+++ A personal report by **our colleague** about life at one of Döhle's main locations +++

Since relocating from Cornwall in the South-West of England to seek pastures new on the Isle of Man in September of 2008, I was very much unsure as to what to expect moving to an island in the middle of the Irish Sea with slightly over 80,000 inhabitants. It is safe to say that almost eight years later I am firmly settled and enjoying everything my new home has to offer.



“This is a place to come at least once in your lifetime”



Tourist Trophy Race

Undoubtedly the Isle of Man is most famous around the world for the **TT (Tourist Trophy) races**, which take place across May and June each year and have done so since 1907. Commonly known as the most dangerous and thrilling motorsport race in the world, owing to the fact that the course is on a road-racing street circuit set out entirely on public roads. An event that attracts around 45,000 visitors per year and generates almost £30M for the Isle of Man economy each year, it is famously the oldest motorcycle racing circuit still in use.

Along with the TT races another individuality the Isle of Man also is renowned for is a unique breed of **domestic cat** that either have a small stub of a tail or are entirely tailless. Known for being fairly tame and social creatures they have often been sought by farmers with rodent problems due to their hunting skills. This being a vital attribute of a feline used as a ship's cat in times past where catching rodents was key to ensure that damage on board a vessel to ropes, woodwork and eventually electrical wiring was kept to a minimum.



Döhle Group first established a presence on the Isle of Man in 1989 and moved to its current location in the Fort Anne building in 1998. At present in the office we are approaching 90 staff in total across the various departments, which include Crew Accounts, Technical Management, Crewing, Insurance, Chartering, Corporate and Trust Services and Private Client Yachting. Despite the woeful situation of the worldwide economy since the crash of 2008 sentiment in the office remains positive and activity has been encouraging year by year.

Although the interaction by crew members with the staff in the Isle of Man office may not be as commonplace as that with those in the head office in Hamburg, it cannot be underestimated the crucial role that the staff here on the Isle of Man have. The next time you are speaking with a colleague from our office here on the Isle of Man it may be the person responsible for ensuring that crew are paid on time, or it may be the person who takes great care and diligence over the safety of the vessel that you work on when he performs statutory internal audits.

With the shipping industry being a worldwide trade it is of no surprise that ship management companies often boast a wide range of individuals from all corners of the world. Just looking around the office in which I sit we have individuals from 8 different countries, each of whom provides their own expertise as well as a piece of their own culture to the environment within the office.

For those that haven't visited the Isle of Man, I can highly recommend a visit, as this is a place to come at least once in your lifetime. When landing (or berthing) on the Isle of Man you will be greeted with a generous and friendly welcome and whilst it is not recognised as somewhere where snow or sub-zero temperatures are commonplace,

if you are visiting in February it is always advisable to pack plenty of warm clothing and a very durable umbrella!

Each individual person
is an **integral cog** in the
Döhle machine!

 Luke Tippett

