

## RETROSPECTIVE

# Back to the future

**Kim Jackson and Brian Davis reflect on *Petroleum Review*'s long history and look ahead to a bright new future.**

As you will have noted from EI CEO Nick Wayth's announcement on p4, this is the final issue of *Petroleum Review*. Although this marks the end of an era, it is also the start of an exciting new future, with the launch of our online magazine – *New Energy World* – in March 2022.

*Petroleum Review* has seen many changes over its long history. It was first published under the guise of the *Journal of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists* in 1914, following the creation of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists in 1913. The Institute changed its name to the Institute of Petroleum in 1938, allowing all professions affiliated to the oil and gas industry to become members, accompanied by a change in magazine title to the *Journal of the Institution of Petroleum* the following year. Today's title, *Petroleum Review*, came into being in 1968.

The Institute of Petroleum merged with the Institute of Energy in 2003, creating the Energy Institute, led by Louise Kingham, representing all those involved in the energy sector, not only oil and gas, but also renewables and new fuels. Since then, *Petroleum Review* has been published alongside our sister magazine *Energy World*.

As you will see from the front covers shown here, the look of *Petroleum Review* has changed over the years. However, what hasn't changed is the magazine's aim to report on the latest developments in the oil and gas sector – upstream, downstream and midstream. From the discovery of first oil in the North Sea in 1969, through the oil shocks of the 1970s and oil price collapse of 2014, to the dynamic transformation of the fuel retail market and ubiquitous impact of the internet and digitalisation on the energy sector.

With an eye on continued professional development and

encouraging new talent and diversity to the industry, *Petroleum Review* has also reported on changes in every aspect of HSE regulation and international energy policy, while highlighting innovative technology both on- and offshore worldwide. More recently, the magazine has been showcasing the energy sector's revolutionary move to low-carbon technology and emissions mitigation initiatives as part of the energy transformation on the road to net zero.

### A fond farewell

Our personal involvement with *Petroleum Review* covers a number of decades, with Kim Jackson joining in 1995 and Brian Davis in 2014.

As we say goodbye to *Petroleum Review*, we'd like to say a huge thank you to all involved. Not only the various editorial team members over the years – including Carol Reader, Chris Skrebowski, Emma Parsons, Elliot Tawney and Louise Hunnybun – and our contributors, advertisers, typesetters and printers, but also to you, our readers, who have been our long-term supporters and *raison d'être*.

### Looking ahead

So, what next? Change is the one constant in the energy sector – and so, too, for *Petroleum Review* and *Energy World*, with 2022 seeing the launch of *New Energy World*. Our online magazine will build on the legacy of both publications, providing a window on the whole of the rapidly changing energy system. *New Energy World*'s content will be organised around news, comment and high-quality feature articles. Published weekly, it will enable EI members to keep their fingers on the pulse of the energy transition.

Before *New Energy World*'s launch, we will publish regular



February 2020: Energy transition gathers pace

Photo: Shutterstock



June 1996: Esso's Pricewatch campaign causes upheaval at the UK pumps

Photo: Esso

news and articles on the EI website to keep you up to date with what is happening in the energy sector – see <https://knowledge.energyinst.org/magazines>

We look forward to introducing *New Energy World* to you. ●



May 1971: Shell/Esso r Sea block

Photo: Shell/Esso



April 2020: Fuel retail I the drive to a low carb

Photo: BP



February 2005: Gazpro operations and export

Photo: Chris Skrebowski



Big spuds well in North

Greenpeace targets Shell's Brent Spar decommissioning plans

Photo: Shell UK



Going ahead

Future forecast



Energy landscape changing in on future



Energy highlights plans

# On reflection

**Brian Davis, Deputy Editor, looks back on over 40 years covering the energy business while closely involved with *Petroleum Review* during these landmark years.**

I became an energy journalist in 1978 because energy was the biggest story of the time – given the second of two major OPEC price shocks and the thrilling developments of the North Sea, the world's most innovative oil and gas patch.

At the time, I worked on *International Petroleum Times* and was often meeting the then *Petroleum Review* Editor Chris Hurst on press trips. Winging our way (or more often travelling by sleeper train) to Aberdeen to clamber around the spectacular North Sea rigs being built at Nigg Bay and other yards. Often, we were flown out by helicopter in heavy survival suits to visit vast offshore platforms like Brent, Magnus and Conoco's tension leg platform. Press trips are never so risky today!

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, Ayatollah Khomeini and Saddam Hussein battled each other... and OPEC's Sheikh Yamani was rarely out of the news. Yes, the geopolitics was never boring.

These were also dangerous times. Red Adair was an iconic figure racing round the world to tackle blow-outs. Piper Alpha and later Macondo changed the way of thinking about health and safety. While the break-up of the *Torrey Canyon* tanker triggered a rethink on pollution handling offshore.

But again and again, our industry was quick to learn and supremely innovative, upstream

and downstream – whether developing production in the icy waters of the Caspian Sea, tackling the Gulf of Mexico or exploiting shale resources in the Permian Basin.

It has also been my pleasure and privilege to interview thousands of energy industry professionals, as well as titans of the sector like Sir Denis Rooke of British Gas, Lord John Browne of BP, Sir John Harvey Jones of ICI, our own EI President Steve Holliday – ex-National Grid, numerous Energy Secretaries of State including Kwasi Kwarteng, and see the exciting energy transition initiatives by Bernard Looney... as well as meet Margaret Thatcher in her heyday.

Technologically, there is no other industry to match. From deep downhole drilling and submersibles, electrification of transport, biofuels to digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

Constantly reinventing itself, our sector is now focused on the energy transition and renewables, solar, wind and fascinating hydrogen opportunities.

Building on the legacy of *Petroleum Review* and sister magazine *Energy World* I look forward with eager anticipation to *New Energy World* online.

Energy is still the most exciting story. ●



November 1995: Greenpeace targets Shell's Brent Spar decommissioning plans

Photo: Shell UK



May 2012: Innovative capping stack design post-Macondo blow-out

Photo: MWCC