



*Merchant Shipping, Charting a New Course.* Encouraged by this, an integrated undergraduate training programme leading to an Honours degree and first certificate of competency was established at Plymouth in 2002. Plymouth once again re-entered its more traditional role of training persons for the sea.

Today the marine and maritime agenda of Plymouth University is an important area of its work. In 2006 Plymouth University formed the Marine Institute to act as a focus for all marine and maritime research and activity. I became an Associate Director of the Institute, responsible for outreach and marketing. Plymouth University has the UK's broadest portfolios of marine and maritime expertise covering Marine Science, Marine Technology, and Maritime Business. Through the Marine Institute, 60 foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes are offered.

2012 was an exciting year as the University celebrated 150 years since the founding of the Plymouth School of Navigation. It was also the year in which the University was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in recognition of Plymouth University's '*world class marine and maritime research teaching and training*'.

New investments have been made in Plymouth University's marine infrastructure, including a new research and training vessel, the *Falcon Spirit*, and a sophisticated Remote Operated Vehicle for use in underwater surveys. In September, a new marine building (*above*) costing £19 million was opened. The five storey building is equipped with an array of wave tanks (*below*) designed to help research into marine renewable energy and coastal engineering. In addition, a complete floor of the building will provide the location for a Marine Navigation Centre. Facilities being installed include a Full Mission Bridge simulator, an ECDIS training laboratory and CAD modelling facility. The purpose of the state of the art facilities is to train a new generation of professional seafarers.



Much has changed since I entered Conway fifty years ago. But in some ways, much remains the same. Exploiting the sea, whether for trade, energy or food, still provides huge challenges and opportunities. Ships and the sea are still very much part of my life. But time moves on and soon I shall have to step aside. But at present, I am working in an area which, 50 years ago, I found fascinating and exciting, and still do.