

A DAY TO REMEMBER AS FORMER WILTON POWER STATION WORKERS GO BACK TO THE FUTURE.



Ex- power station employees returned to their former workplace to learn about a Teesside initiative leading the way in UK green energy production.

Around 40 former Wilton Power Station workers – all former employees of either ICI, Enron and/or Sembcorp – paid a nostalgic return to the Wilton International site recently.

As well as a tour of the site and a visit to the Wilton Power Station, which was first established in the late 1940s, the group, the oldest of which was aged 88, was given a glimpse of the future on a tour of Sembcorp's new £64 million biomass power station.

The 30MW power plant – the first of its kind in the UK – uses totally sustainable supplies of wood as its fuel to make enough electricity to power around 30,000 homes. It began full production in autumn 2007.

The result is 'carbon neutral' power with a carbon dioxide saving equivalent to the exhaust emissions of 67,000 vehicles a year when compared to a conventional fossil fuel station of a similar size.

"It was great to see so many of our former colleagues return and they were clearly intrigued by our latest innovation," said Sembcorp senior vice president, Tom Davidson.

Former Boiler Operator Ted Leyshon said: "It was great to meet up with old pals again and very interesting looking around the new power station. Biomass power production is clearly a step in the right direction and it was amazing to see the new control room, which looks like the deck of the Starship Enterprise compared to how it looked in my time."

Picture shows John Haveron and Brian Peacock with some of their former colleagues in the silo area of the Biomass Power Station.