Lay waste to zero-waste



Photo: Container Self-Storage and Traders Association

It became almost customary for us to report on the alternative ways of using a shipping container. Believe it or not, the good-ol' box can serve as storage ashore as diligently as it does at sea. According to the Container Self-Storage and Traders Association's *Container Self-Storage Census 2021*, there were 978 container self-storage sites in the UK alone, up by 35 on the 2020 result, with occupancy levels frequently going over 95% of the capacity. It makes us wonder: are British houses and flats so tiny they cannot accommodate the things people own? Or, conversely, is there just too much stuff to cram under one's roof, no matter the square footage? What was the wisdom again? Ah, yes, love things, use people, right? At least the boxes manufactured for setting up container self-storage take in some cargo from China to Europe. You know, sustainability. Sort of.

Happy Women's Day!



Photos: APM Terminals Gothenburg

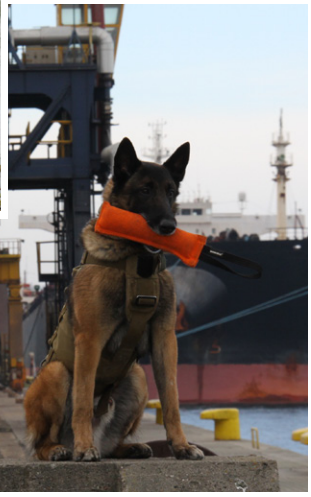
On the 8th of March, we traditionally put the flag out to celebrate women worldwide, among others, in tribute to the various roles and occupations they hold, including as transport & logistics workforce. Although still in the minority across our industry, today's reality is far from being a 'man's world' only. The change has been driven by such figures as Kerstin Åström. Together with nine other women, she began working as a crane operator in Gothenburg in 1965 – answering the port's call to help with the shortage of labour. A few years later and Kerstin decided to apply for permanent employment. "There was a huge opposition to female crane operators at that time, and they came up with every conceivable reason why I could not get a permanent position. But I did not give up but wrote a letter to the Swedish Gender Equality Agency," she recalls. Kerstin persevered, and in 1982 she became the first female crane operator in the Port of Gothenburg with a fixed job. "I was so happy! There was a clear macho culture among the older men, but the younger ones had a positive attitude towards me," Kerstin recollects. We salute all women whose invaluable work helps propel the movement of goods and people!

Who's a good boy?

Starting in mid-February 2022, a two-week-long 'Cerber' drill took place in the Port of Gdynia, allowing service dogs and their partners to hone skills in an environment entirely new for them. The exercise comprised three segments: searching for explosives, sniffing drugs and tobacco, and training with attack dogs. Among others, the human-dog teams had to acquaint themselves with new working conditions, including steel decks of a ship, narrow corridors, and unfamiliar scents when going through the facilities of the search & rescue service, the port fire brigade quarters, the container terminal of Hutchison Ports Gdynia, and Stena Line's ferry *Stena Spirit*. The latest drill formed part of the Port of Gdynia's ongoing security and crisis management programme, which aims at emulating dangerous situations as realistically as possible to prepare for real-life events.









Photos: Port of Gdynia

Book carriers

Transportation comes in various shapes and forms. Smuggling, though nowadays commonly associated with blameworthy acts of drug peddling or human trafficking, was also used to save one's culture (and no, we'll bring up the topic of getting whisky over the Pond some other time). Back in the 18th and 19th centuries, when Imperial Russia was trying to Russify other nations without remorse, among many the Lithuanians, people put their lives at risk to preserve what's at the very core of culture – language. In 1866, a total ban on the Lithuanian press was enforced. The Russians also wanted to replace Latin with the Cyrillic alphabet, to that end forcing schoolchildren to use textbooks written in Russian. Meant as a swift russification campaign, it backfired immensely. The knygnešiaĩ – book carriers – took up the gauntlet with gusto (getting the 'cargo' as far as from the US)! It is estimated that millions of books were smuggled (some 2.75m living in Lithuania in 1897). Five days after their Independence Day on 11 March, the Lithuanians celebrate the Day of the Book Carrier in memory of the brave smugglers (the birthday of Jurgis Bielinis, who brought book smuggling to its heights).



Vincas Juška, one of the knygnešiaĩ; photo: Wikimedia Commons