

Scarborough,' said Lyndsey.

'Everyone was really excited by the news that she was finally to return to the wild, but at the same time a little bit sad that they wouldn't be seeing her again.'

Consolation for the Scarborough team is the fact that they still have turtles Antiopi and Lefteris...two disabled Mediterranean loggerheads whose injuries were too serious for them to ever have a realistic chance of survival in the wild.

Myrtle was flown, courtesy of My Travel, from Manchester to Las Palmas in a specially built padded crate and was covered in Vaseline to prevent her shell drying out.

She had already been fitted with a special identification tag on her left shoulder to help identify her if she encounters humans again in the future.

She spent a night in a turtle hospital at the Centro de Recuperation de Fauna on the outskirts of Gran Canaria's capital, and on her release, was joined by ten other turtles rescued and treated by the hospital's vet Dr Pascual Calabuig.

'Watching Myrtle swim to freedom was a fantastic and very moving experience,' said Jamie.

'I was thinking of how close to death she had been when she first came to us, and I don't mind admitting there was a tear in my eye as she finally disappeared beneath the waves.'



*Lyndsey Crawford and Jamie Dyer*



*Myrtle is loaded onto the flight at Manchester Airport.*