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opendoor

Welcome... from plant manager Stewart Jones

It's great to have an opportunity to give you all a further update in this, my fourth, *Open Door*.

We have had another busy year with cement sales expected to exceed one million tonnes.

I hope many of you had an opportunity to celebrate our 87th year of operation by attending the open day in June. More than 2,000 people attended, helping raise almost £6,000 for charity. I would like to thank everyone involved, both those who contributed and those who attended.

We continue to invest in small and large site improvement projects through our continuous improvement programme (CIP), which brings great ideas from our employees to fruition, making our plant more efficient and improving our working environment.

Around £3 million has been spent on site improvements this year, from the quarry to the packed cement facility, and in the next four years a further £15-£20 million will be invested.

These are exciting times for the Ketton

site in an improving economy. The leadership team is committed to raising standards in areas throughout our operations and we have a committed workforce to help us succeed.

I would like to welcome two young men to the workforce – Bradley Townsend and Lewis Frost, both 18 and from Stamford, have joined us as apprentices. I wish them the best in their careers and may I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the upcoming festive season. I will continue to keep you updated on future progress.



Amber Rudd unveils a commemorative plaque at the solar plant with Hanson Cement project manager Mark Cox and managing director Jim Claydon, right

Investment is welcome jobs boost

Significant investment in the Ketton plant and Grange Top quarry – more than £15 million over the next four years – will help maintain cement production and boost job security.

In addition to the future investment, more than £3 million is currently being spent on 25 site improvement projects.

These projects range from small adjustments in plant equipment to improve health and safety, to large investments in new packing and storage facilities to improve the quality and delivery of our packed products. Some of the projects were suggested by employees in the continuous improvement programme.

The £15 million will improve environmental performance, as well as develop Grange Top quarry to ensure production of cement at Ketton for the future.

Significant benefits

Plant manager Stewart Jones said: "This will mean security for the hundreds of employees, as well as for our many contractors, ensuring continued significant benefits to the local economy."

In addition to the internal investment, the improving economy ensures Ketton cement is in high demand:

- as part of the Northern Line extension, work is starting on the new Battersea underground terminus, with 20,000 tonnes of cement required
- two contracts at Canary Wharf will take 7,000 tonnes of Ketton cement, with the potential for a further 20,000 tonnes for other structures
- Hanson has secured the contract to supply 14,000 tonnes of cement to AstraZeneca's new global headquarters in Cambridge
- more than 1,000 cubic metres of concrete were poured for the foundations of the i360 observation tower in Brighton.

Minister impressed by solar flair

Energy and climate change minister Amber Rudd said other companies could learn from Hanson Cement's approach when she opened phase two of Ketton plant's solar farm.

The 12-megawatt project provides 13 per cent of the plant's electricity and reduces energy bills by around £10 million.

The site, which contains 50,644 panels, will save 3,420 tonnes of carbon emissions a year.

"The site is in a discreet area,

so it's not screaming at an area of outstanding natural beauty and it's been sensitively handled with the wildlife as well," said the minister.

The farm is built on land reclaimed from quarrying and well concealed from the village of Ketton.

Hanson Cement project manager Mark Cox said: "This project shows that renewable energy and heavy industry can work together in reducing overall CO₂ emissions from our industry."

Talk to us...

Hanson Cement operates an open door policy – if you want to talk to us about our operations or visit the plant, please contact Stewart Jones on 01780 727041 or email stewart.jones@hanson.biz

COMMITTEE'S COMMUNITY ROLE

Local residents are kept up to date about issues at Ketton through the site's liaison committee which meets three times a year. Chairman of the committee is plant manager Stewart Jones.

The community representatives are: councillors Andrew McGilvray and Mike Warrington from Ketton Parish Council; Derek Brown and Rita Kelly of Tinwell Parish Council; Rutland county councillors Gary Conde and Diana MacDuff; and planners Gary Pullen and Nick Hodgett.

Kevin Burton represents the Environment Agency and the other members of the Hanson team who sit on the committee are quality and environment manager Tim Fox, quarry manager Clifford Daly and operations assistant Tracie Mitchell.

EMPLOYEE IDEAS PUT INTO ACTION

Employees' ideas and suggestions are bringing significant benefit to operations at Ketton.

Owners HeidelbergCement launched a continuous improvement programme (CIP) in 2014. The system is designed to collect ideas from employees and implement the best ones to ensure maximum benefit.

Since the launch, more than 500 ideas have been put forward by employees, with 150 of these being implemented.

Plant manager Stewart Jones said: "The range of projects implemented is quite staggering, ranging from investment in the quarry to improve the service roads to painting barriers to ensure better visibility to prevent vehicle collisions."

SERVICE STARS

Five members of the Ketton workforce have received 25-year long service awards.

They are kiln controller Andrew Hammond from Bourne, maintenance fitter Colin Adams from Oakham and maintenance electricians Tom Clarke, from Uppingham, and Stuart Boyd and Lee Garner, both from Stamford. Tom Clarke has since retired.

Sun shines on open day visitors

More than 2,000 people flocked to Ketton's open day, which was bathed in glorious sunshine.

As well as giving visitors the chance to see how cement is made, the day raised almost £6,000 for three organisations – St John Ambulance, Stamford and District Kiwanis and the Evergreen Care Trust, based at Stamford hospital, which supports elderly and vulnerable people.

The Rocks by Rail Museum, based at Cottesmore, and the Branch Line Society organised steam train trips, while 12 mini-buses ferried visitors on tours of the cement

plant and also to Grange Top quarry, where they saw dump trucks and loading shovels demonstrating their earth-moving capabilities.

It was also a chance for three Stamford residents and former employees to reminisce when they met up. Ken Plant, 85, was a carpenter at the site for 43 years, Roy Prentice, 88, worked at the site for 50 years and Marian Freeman was employed in the canteen for a number of years before leaving in 1982.

Plant manager Stewart Jones said: "I am thrilled that the open day was such a tremendous success following a great deal of hard work by the site team."



Plant manager Stewart Jones, second right, and colleague Alison Mytton, third right, with representatives of the three charities that benefited from the open day, left to right, Rosie MacLennan and Suzi Weekly (Evergreen Care Trust), Sarah Gerrard (St John Ambulance) and David Epps (Kiwanis)



Andrew Brown, High Sheriff of Rutland, used his ceremonial sword to cut a ribbon held by brothers Zac and Oliver Greenhagh from South Luffenham to open the event

Kim enjoys a real blast

Kim Siddons had a real "blast" when she revisited Grange Top quarry.

For Kim, who lives in Deeping, won the big prize at Ketton's open day to set off a blast in the quarry.

Accompanied by husband Michael and sons Charlie, nine, and Daniel, 17, she set off an electronic detonator to bring 8,000 tonnes of limestone to the quarry floor.

Kim said: "We had a great time at the open day watching the display of huge quarry vehicles."

"It was absolutely amazing and then to have the chance to come back to blast all this stone – we all loved it."



Kim Siddons prepares to blast 8,000 tonnes of limestone



Rosie Bell, eight, from Ketton bursting balloons with the help of digger driver Tom Pontefract



Former colleagues Ken Plant, left, Marian Freeman and Roy Prentice

Apprentice pair are new recruits

Two new apprentices have joined the Hanson Cement ranks – Bradley Townsend and Lewis Frost, both 18 and from Stamford.

Bradley joins his father Neil, who works in the packing plant at Ketton. He has taken up a four-year electrical engineering apprenticeship after completing a two-year electrical installation course at Stamford College. He also gained six months' valuable experience working with an electrical contractor carrying out both domestic and industrial work.

Lewis is taking up a mechanical engineering apprenticeship and has already completed a two-year automotive apprenticeship with a local car garage before joining Hanson.

Both will study at Peterborough regional college before completing their apprenticeships.



From left to right, apprentice Bradley Townsend with mentor Trevor Jibb, and Lewis Frost with his mentor John Parkinson

Trevor earns top job

From apprentice to the top electrical job at Ketton – that's the achievement of Trevor Jibb, who has taken over the role of electrical engineer at the plant.

Trevor, 28, from Stamford started as an apprentice at Ketton when he was 16. He completed his apprenticeship and gained a Higher National Certificate in electrical engineering, and is currently working towards a degree in electrical engineering.

He spent six months at the Padeswood site in north east Wales before returning to Ketton.

Trevor said: "I consider myself fortunate to have had an excellent apprenticeship and mentoring, which gave me a solid grounding as a multi-skilled maintenance electrician."

"I gained valuable experience when I switched from a day electrician to shift work. It was from this role I felt confident to apply for the role of electrical engineer at the Ketton plant. I am excited to be involved in moving the plant forward."

In his spare time, Trevor enjoys mountain biking, photography and motor sports.



St Gilbert's head teacher Frances Dicker, left, with plant manager Stewart Jones and Dannii Vincent

Life-saving charity hits target

Hanson is backing the Dosh4defibs charity set up by Dannii Vincent to install a defibrillator in each of Stamford's five primary schools.

The Ketton plant has given £1,100 to fund the installation of a defibrillator at St Gilbert's Primary School. Company electricians also installed a defibrillator in Collyweston Community Shop free of charge.

Dannii, from Stamford, launched the campaign in memory of her nephew, Bailey Drew, who died in May 2014 aged 11, from sudden arrhythmic death syndrome (SADS).

She said: "I am so grateful to Hanson for their donation, funding an entire defib for the school. Our initial aim was to put a defibrillator in each school, and once local companies like Hanson got on board it was easily achieved so I decided I can't stop there.

"We are now fundraising for a further six defibs for the town centre and surrounding residential areas."

Exton Play Action Group also benefited to the tune of £500 from Hanson to help establish a skateboard ramp in the village.



A dump truck carries hedgerows to replant in restored areas

HOLY HEDGEROWS, TO THE BAT CAVE!

Bats roosting in Grange Top quarry are enjoying five-star treatment in the newly restored areas.

The 350-acre site, which includes the quarry, already has a confirmed bat roost in an abandoned stone mine. As part of the quarry restoration process, hedgerows have been established in worked out areas to provide linear corridors so the bats can use the entire site.

The hedgerows link the existing mine to a newly created bat cave. The work included the lifting of existing hedgerows to be moved into the restored areas.



Ketco indoor bowlers, from left, chairman John Rogers, competition secretary David Tomblin, Bill Cooper, Jean Stringer, Dennis Starbuck and Malcolm Rylance

Club bowled over by new members

The Ketco indoor bowls club, founded more than 30 years ago by Ketton employees, has seen an increase in membership.

The club, which uses the Ketton works canteen during the winter, plays on Mondays and Tuesdays but has added Wednesdays to its playing programme to cater for new members.

Founder member David Tomblin said: "In

the early days we had 80 to 90 members, but lost many when a new full-size indoor bowls facility was opened in Stamford. But we have had a big boost this year with new members, due mainly to the closure of a similar club."

The club runs a league throughout the winter season from September to April and also holds club competitions.



Peter Daniels crosses the finish line

CYCLIST PETER'S LONDON PRIDE

A tough training regime paid off for cement tanker driver Peter Daniels when he tackled the Prudential London Surrey 100 cycling event.

As part of his build-up, Peter regularly biked the 50-mile round trip from his home in Spalding.

The ride follows the 2012 Olympic road race course, finishing on The Mall. Peter completed the course in just over five-and-a-half hours.

"I felt absolutely wasted for half an hour, but the next day I felt pretty good," said Peter, who raised £750 for Macmillan Cancer Support, helped by the Hanson charity match fund.