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opendoor

Welcome... from plant manager Stewart Jones

Once again, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to read the latest edition of the Hanson Cement *Open Door*, which aims to keep the community informed about key events and developments.

As the Grange Top quarry extension is so vital to the future of our business we were delighted that the Secretary of State for Transport's decision not to allow a section of Empingham Road to be closed and diverted was quashed.

We have now put forward further proposals to divert the road, which you can read about in this issue. We continue to receive a great deal of support from all areas of the local community for this critical development, which is most welcomed.

With a new and modern road built, which we hope will be completed next year, we can remove the small section of Empingham Road which we need to access the extension area

and, in doing so, provide a secure future for our employees and contractors and continue to play an active part in the local and wider community.

The company continues to invest heavily in the plant with committed and planned investments of some £40 million over the next three to four years.

As well as major investments, our commitment to the continuous improvement process means we have implemented more than 500 great ideas from our employees in the last two years in areas of safety, environment and operational efficiency and I congratulate the commitment of the Ketton team across all departments.

Our dedicated employees and contractors alike make our plant the success it is which allows us to work together with the local community for the benefit of all.

Finally, I wish everyone the very best for the coming festive period.



Stopping-up orders key to future of the works

Hanson Cement has applied for a second "stopping-up" order to close a section of Empingham Road in Ketton and allow access to important limestone reserves at Grange Top quarry.

It will run in parallel with the original application to close the road, which was initially turned down but must now be considered again at a fresh public inquiry following a successful legal challenge.

Plant manager Stewart Jones said the second application was essential to safeguard the future of the works.

"A decision on the original order may not be made until late 2018," said Stewart.

"If it is turned down, there would not be enough time to design an alternative scheme and obtain the necessary permissions before our limestone reserves run out."

As a result, an alternative diversion of Empingham Road, which takes into account some of the views expressed at last December's public inquiry, has been drawn up and submitted to the Department for Transport as part of a separate stopping-up application.

"This alternative route and the

consequential changes to the quarry development also require planning consent," said Stewart. "So, at the same time we have submitted two planning applications to Rutland County Council."

The new stopping-up order application, along with copies of the planning documents, have been placed at Ketton Library/Ketton Centre for public viewing. Please contact us if you require any further information.

■ Hanson Cement is a trading name of Castle Cement Limited, the landowner and legal entity under whose name the various applications have been made.

'Important to the area'

Councillor Gordon Brown, who represents the Ketton ward on Rutland County Council, sees the long-term future of the cement works as extremely important to the local area.

He said: "Large employers such as Hanson Cement play a vital role in the local community, as well as making a significant contribution to

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Forty-year servers Andrew Fruin, left, and Steven Maltby with Mark Hickingbottom, right, who has completed 25 years

Long-servers recognised

Three Ketton site employees have completed 40 years service – garage co-ordinator Andrew Fruin, packing plant operative Steven Maltby and Grange Top quarry manager Clifford Daly.

Andrew, 57, is originally from Uppingham but now lives in Corby Glen. He joined as an apprentice HGV fitter in 1977. He and his

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ENVIRONMENTAL HELP IS IN THE BAG

The construction of a new bag filter system costing £8.5 million is seen as a major step in improving the Ketton site's environmental performance and soften its impact on the skyline.

Much of the construction work is being carried out by Danish engineering company F L Smidth. At the height of the contract, there will be an extra 100 workers on site.

The new bag filter will reduce emissions from the plant and keep pace with European standards. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year, with the new filter system being tested during the site's annual shutdown in January.

Project manager Andy Crowson said: "As well as reducing our emissions, the new filter system is constructed from ground level, rather than 20 metres up like the old one, so there will be softening of the visual impact."

ROLLER TRAILER UP FOR SAFETY AWARD

A trailer designed by our own engineers which can carry both the 50-tonne raw mill rollers has been entered for a safety award run by the Mineral Products Association.

Before construction of the new trailer, each roller had to be hoisted out and then dragged across the floor using chains and a loading shovel. The trailer is the creation of engineering supervisor Richard Gray and mechanical engineer Roger Lowther.

Richard said: "I wasn't happy with the way we previously removed the rollers. They had the potential of free running on their own, damaging the rollers and the floor as well as potentially causing serious damage to anyone or anything in their way."

FLEET IMPROVEMENT GETS INTO TOP GEAR

An £8 million programme to renew Hanson Cement's road delivery fleet is due to start before the end of the year.

The purchase of 58 DAF tractor units will see improved fuel economy, fewer emissions and improved driver comfort. Alongside this, will be the purchase of 42 new trailer tankers and 20 curtainsiders.

Distribution manager Nick Elliott said: "The new fleet will allow us to carry more tonnage, meaning fewer traffic movements and less carbon emissions."

'Large employers play a vital role'

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the overall success of Rutland's economy.

"The Ketton plant is directly responsible for some 350 jobs, while countless smaller employers benefit from business opportunities created by the wider supply chain.

"Hanson contributes more than 10 per cent of all business rates collected in Rutland, in addition to supporting a large number of local charities and environmental initiatives.

"The plant is extremely important to our local area in terms of safeguarding jobs and sustaining the local economy, although care must be taken to ensure any developments safeguard the interest of residents and the environment."



Councillor Gordon Brown



Rowan O'Neill, left, and Callum Suffling

Apprentice duo join up

Two new apprentices have joined the Hanson workforce.

Engineering apprentice Callum Suffling, 22, is keeping up a family tradition in the cement industry. His grandfather Malcolm Yeates worked at the site for many years and retired as a kiln controller.

After a spell in the hospitality industry, Callum decided on a career change and opted for engineering, particularly as his father is an engineer.

In his spare time, he works on classic cars and bikes with his father, and plays the guitar and table tennis. He lives in Uppingham.

Rowan O'Neill, 18, from Ryhall, has joined the garage team as an HGV engineering apprentice. He originally worked as a cleaner on site for six months, but was then offered an apprenticeship.

In his spare time, he enjoys the gym and working on and riding his trials bike.

Long servers celebrating milestones

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team of nine fitters are responsible for the maintenance of cement tanker trucks.

Steven, 61, from Bourne, started in the yard gang which was responsible for repairs, including re-bricking the kiln and repairs to the mill. He was a leading hand for 16 years before joining the docking bay, which produces a variety of packed cement products.

Clifford's ability as a footballer got him his first job at the cement works at the age of 18. The deal was if he played for Ketton he would be offered a job at the works.

He started working shifts as a coal miller

on kilns one to four before transferring to the quarry.

"In my first week I was disciplined by Cyril Greetham for reading on the job," said Clifford.

"I remember the union steward Sam Long getting me off because he pointed out I was reading a book called *Notes on Cement and Reinforced Concrete*."

Completing 25 years' service is commercial director for bulk products Mark Hickingbottom.

Mark started his career as a chef, but then joined the company as a laboratory technician in 1992 at the Scunthorpe Lab.

Training exercise is tough test

The cement plant's emergency response plan was put to the test in a tough training exercise when two cars were crushed by a train, injuring five people.

Incident co-ordinator Andy Eastman described the scene: "On a quiet Saturday morning while the shunting engine was crossing the road, it collided with two cars. One contained a family of four, the other a single driver and, just to make things harder for the emergency services, there was another person trapped under the car that was wedged under the train."

Emergency services from Lincolnshire and Stamford were first on scene, followed by crews from Uppingham, Melton Mowbray and a specialist team from Leicester southern station.

It took 40 minutes of cutting the car roofs and doors away to rescue the casualties in the cars. That left the person under the car to be freed. The train was not able to move under its own power, so the technical rescue crew had to winch the train off the cars.

Within an hour of the first call, all casualties had been rescued.



Emergency services tackling the training exercise



Mick Saunders, left, Lee Stewart and David Young

Newcomers boost the workforce

Four new employees have been appointed, taking the workforce up to 134 in the operations department.

Two of the appointments are in the quarry – Mick Saunders and David Young. Mick, 51, from Exton, is an excavator driver and spent 17 years in a similar role at Grange Top working for a contractor. His son Benjamin also works in the quarry for a contractor.

David, 31, from Stamford, also worked for two contractors on the site for six years before joining on a permanent basis as an operative driving loading shovels.

Lee Stewart, 33, is from Corby and was a self-employed bricklayer before moving to Hanson. He's currently a day operative, learning how to run the mills, doing day-to-day checks and assisting the shift workers. Lee is also training to do lab analysis to be able to cover for the shift workers.

Our fourth newcomer is David Taylor, who has joined as a plant operative in the packing section.

Experienced trio are welcomed aboard

Nick Elliott is Hanson Cement's new distribution manager for the south, based at Ketton. He joins from Hope Construction Materials where he was national transport manager.

Nick, 54, has more than 35 years' experience of the construction materials sector, having worked for Lafarge Aggregates. He joined Redland Aggregates as an apprentice HGV fitter in 1979 and is a qualified LGV driver.

Hilary Nicholls joined the weighbridge team in September as a weighbridge technician. She has gained experience in a variety of road haulage roles with RCS Logistics, Argos and Mick George Ltd. She holds a Cat C (LGV) licence.

Hannah Woodhall is the third newcomer, joining from Breedon Concrete, where she worked in the distribution office.



Happy to be here, left to right, Hilary Nicholls, Nick Elliott and Hannah Woodhall

OPEN DAY DATE CHOSEN

Saturday, June 30, 2018 has been chosen for an open day to celebrate the 90th birthday of the cement works.

Site employees are currently working on arrangements for the event and more detail will be available in the New Year.

Plant manager Stewart Jones said: "Our last open day in 2015 was a great success with some 2,500 visitors enjoying steam train rides, mobile plant displays in the quarry and lots of family friendly activities. We are hoping the event in 2018 will be an even bigger success."

SCHOOL GETS DEFIB FUNDING

Hanson Cement is to fund the purchase of a defibrillator for Ketton CoE School. Training will be provided by shift manager Andy Eastman, who is a qualified trainer with the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

Other donations included: Kiwanis firework display (£1,000), Ketton Horticultural Society (£30), Stamford Scouts raffle (£50), Blackstones Juniors FC sponsorship (£179), Stamford Burghley Rotary Club sponsorship (£250) and the NSPCC's Christmas concert in Oakham (£100).

STUDENTS' VISIT

Chemistry students from Stamford High School had the chance to see how their studies could be put into practical use when they visited Ketton works and quarry.

The 15 female students were shown around the site by process engineer Greg Webber.

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



The ospreys at Grange Top quarry

Osprey work pays off

Work to provide secure nesting for ospreys in Grange Top quarry is paying off.

In partnership with Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, employees erected an artificial nest in a quiet area and it wasn't long before it attracted the attentions of a four-year-old male osprey, who had been wintering in Senegal.

Quarry manager Clifford Daly said: "We have a wide array of wildlife, so we were delighted to add ospreys to the list. The male bird attracted a female, so we are hopeful they will return in the spring of 2018."

Charity skydivers inspired by friend's six-year battle

Three women took on a 14,000-foot skydive in memory of their friend to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Under the banner of Charlie's Angels, Claire Tupholme, Rebecca Sale and Sarah Machin, all from Bourne, have raised more than £3,500 and paid tribute to the courage of Charlie Fletcher, who battled with the disease for six years before passing away just after the dive was completed.

Rebecca, who is a senior plant buyer, said: "Since her diagnosis, Charlie had refused to give up on life. She campaigned, raised money and raised awareness of motor neurone disease. This is another reason why we took on the skydive challenge – to help



Rebecca Sale makes a safe landing

raise awareness of a disease some people have never heard of and most think happens to someone else."

The skydive was completed at Hinton Airfield, near Brackley, with the Hanson charity match

fund adding £500 to the total.

Rebecca added: "Charlie wanted to live while she still had her voice. When she lost the ability to speak, we took over and we are shouting for her now."

Steve hot-foots it to impressive total

Steve Goodbody's wife Teresa secretly arranged a "hot date" for him which has helped raise more than £3,500 for Peterborough charities.

After getting over the surprise Steve, 54, leading hand storeman at Ketton, agreed to take part in a charity night walking bare-footed

over hot coals. He was also persuaded by his future daughter-in-law Laura Bailey, the current Miss Peterborough, who was supporting the event.

Steve said: "It didn't hurt, but some others admitted to having a warm reaction. We spent about an hour and a half training to convince ourselves it was a case of mind over matter."

The event at the Black Horse, Elton raised £14,000 for four charities – Give Back Peterborough, Sailability, Globals Make Some Noise and Action For Mental Health.

It seems Steve has really caught the "extreme bug" and is looking for something far more dangerous to tackle next year.

His son Harry, 25, suffers from Crohn's and colitis and was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma in February so he will be doing something to support associated charities.



Steve Goodbody braves the hot coals