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Welcome... from plant manager Stewart Jones

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of *Open Door*, which aims to keep the community informed about key events and developments at Hanson Cement.

We were surprised and disappointed by the Secretary of State for Transport's decision not to allow a section of Empingham Road to be diverted (see story below) because moving the road is critical to provide access to long-term mineral reserves at Grange Top quarry and securing the long-term future of the works.

The key elements we will be focusing on as we plan a way forward is to examine and mitigate the concerns highlighted in the planning inspector's report and to promote the economic benefits of the cement works to the wider community in Rutland.

We continue to receive a great deal of support from the local community for the development, which is most welcomed.

Our commitment to the community continues with many charitable donations and support of community groups; some

examples of which are in this edition.

Many of our employees and contractors are involved in these projects and it is good to see how business and community groups can integrate for the benefit of many individuals in our local villages.

Investment in both plant and people continues. It is great to see the development of our apprentices, with a further two joining in September, graduates and other trainees. These people are the future of our business.



Road verdict to be challenged

An application to "stop-up" a section of Empingham Road and divert the highway to allow access to long-term mineral reserves at Grange Top quarry was turned down by the Secretary of State for Transport following a public inquiry last year.

After considering the Secretary of State's verdict and the planning inspector's grounds for not supporting the road diversion, Hanson has decided to challenge the decision by way of a judicial review.

Plant manager Stewart Jones said: "Our legal team considers that the Secretary of State's decision was flawed and that the inspector did not follow the correct process.

"We believe there is a good chance this review will result in the decision being quashed. If it is, the road closure application will be referred back to another public inquiry."

At the same time, Hanson will also be looking at an alternative route for the road diversion which takes into account the issues and concerns raised during the inquiry, and for which the company could apply for a separate stopping-up order.

"Whatever the outcome, we are confident that we will eventually get the consents we need to extend the quarry into areas for which we already have planning permission and, in doing so, secure the long-term future of the works," said Stewart.



Village's tree-mendous cash boost

A magnificent chestnut tree, the centrepiece of the village green at South Luffenham, has been replaced.

The spread of canker up the trunk left the parish council with no alternative but to fell the tree. The costs were beyond what the council could afford, so Hanson stepped in with a donation of £1,100.

The old tree was felled and the new tree, a hornbeam donated by a parishioner and supplied by Barcham Trees, was planted.

Carolyn Welch, chairman of South Luffenham Parish Council said: "The circular oak seat is now re-installed round the new tree and a plaque will be set to commemorate the donation of the tree and the grant from Hanson."

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

APPRENTICES' OPPORTUNITY

Apprentices Harry Payne and Kyle Chalk have been handed an important project to manage after just six months working at the Ketton site.

They will take over and run a waste management project which deals with re-using and disposing of any waste produced on site.

Harry said: "This is one of the first big responsibilities Kyle and I have been given and a good chance to get some experience in managing a large task."

Both aged 19, they completed a year-long course at West Anglia Training Association before starting working four days a week at the plant in January.

Kyle, from Stamford, is also looking forward to the challenge. "This will be the biggest job given to us up to date and the importance of it and responsibility that comes with it has made it a challenge.

"I'm looking forward to it. It will help me to develop into a good leader and make me feel appreciated as a member of staff here."

MARK RETURNS TO KILN ROLE

Former kiln controller Mark Stead is updating his skills to return to his old job at the Ketton plant.

Mark, 49, worked for three years as a kiln controller before the 2008 recession and then changed roles to working as a storeman when one of the kilns was mothballed.

With the upturn in the UK economy and increased demand for cement, he recently returned to the production side.

His mentor, kiln production manager Neil Clarke, said: "Mark is refreshing his skills as the control systems have changed a lot in the past few years with the additions of more alternative fuels, software and other technologies. He is also having one-to-one training with current controllers."

Mark, who lives in Easton on the Hill, joined the company in 1989.



Jason Papagiannakis at his desk at Ketton

Career switch just the job for Jason

From managing five-star hotels in his native Greece at the age of 23 to looking after the fuels and raw materials in a large and busy cement plant – that's the big career switch made by Jason Papagiannakis.

As well as his current role as fuels/raw materials system supervisor, Jason, 46 and now living in Stamford, is also key to supporting the Ketton site's continuous improvement programme (CIP) and integrated management system (IMS) on a number of compliance issues, and he admits he enjoys every minute.

"It's an important role and I enjoy finding myself in a position where I can make a difference and drive initiatives forward," he said.

Jason has certainly had a varied career. After his time in the hotel trade, he then secured a senior position selling medical

monitoring equipment in Greece. During this period he attended 150 operations, mainly open-heart surgery.

He moved to the UK in 2006 and came to the notice of Hanson when working for a contractor who was associated with the Ketton site.

Jason joined Hanson in 2015 and has proved an efficient and enthusiastic member of the team.

As part of the sustainability group, he is monitoring the use of water on site and has achieved a 95 per cent reduction by the initiatives he has implemented.

Site manager Stewart Jones said: "Jason's ability to focus on key issues has made a significant improvement to our IMS compliance for the entire site and he has quickly become a valuable member of the team."

Canteen update on the menu

Ketton plant's old canteen is to be transformed into a community and education facility.

The canteen, which had been running for around 40 years, closed in 2016 and is currently used by some local groups, including an indoor bowls club and the Begonia Society.

Now, a project led by operations assistant Tracie Mitchell aims to update the facilities and make the building more user-friendly.

Tracie said: "We will remove all the catering equipment, put in a small kitchen and update the toilets, as well as adding a covered area outside which we will use for school visits."

Hanson Cement would like the venue to be a focus for the community, ideal for hosting school visits and a variety of events, including next year's proposed open day at the Ketton plant.

Driver's eye view helps gets cycle safety message across

With a fleet of 80 large goods vehicles, Ketton plant puts great emphasis on the safety of other road users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

A team from Ketton attended a cycle safety event at Arthur Mellows Village College in Glinston, near Peterborough, organised by the Safer Peterborough Partnership and vehicle manufacturer Skansa.

The Hanson Cement team spoke to around 500 pupils, focusing on cycle and pedestrian safety around large goods vehicles, which are fitted with many safety features, including cameras.

Road safety prevention and enforcement officer Jenny Wright said: "The school had concerns with the road safety actions of some of the students. A lot are bussed into school, which means there are a lot of large vehicles visiting the site before and after school."

An important aspect of the day was showing students the areas around large vehicles where pedestrians and cyclists may not be visible to the driver and also showing them the driver's view from the cab.



A young cyclist checks out a Hanson vehicle, while other youngsters get a view from the cab



Chris Munton, left, receives his award from Daniel Cooper

Chris celebrates 40 years...

Ketton plant shift manager Chris Munton has received a 40-year long service award from Hanson UK chief executive Daniel Cooper at a ceremony in London.

Chris joined as an apprentice in 1976 and has worked his way up to his current role as a shift manager.

He recalls his first job interview at the Ketton plant. "I remember my mother

and father attended the interview. When I started, I think I earned about £7 to £11 a week and lived like a lord. I am passionate about my job. I have some fabulous work colleagues and a great management team supporting us."

His spare time is spent on his smallholding and he also enjoys DIY projects.

Heat is on as mill is refurbished

Ketton's annual shutdown saw the retirement of the site's original, 30-year-old raw mill table, which has crushed more than 30 million tonnes of limestone and clay, the core ingredients of cement.

Engineering manager Danny Osborne and his team had to ensure a smooth project from start to finish, with a total of 30,000 hours worked in just three weeks and around £4 million of investment.

Another major task was the refurbishment of four huge crushing rollers, which weigh more than 40 tonnes, with new grinders, bearings and seals.

Danny said: "This was an extremely nervous task when each bearing costs upwards of £40,000, with four having to be replaced.

"In all, some 25 per cent of the total shutdown cost was aimed at giving the mill another lifetime of service."

The potentially dangerous task of retaining the heat within the tower fell to production manager Neil Clarke and site process engineer Greg Webber.

With temperatures within the tower reaching 1,100° C, the whole structure had to be coated in a special refractory concrete, under the watchful eye of the site rescue team led by Ketton part-time fireman and shift manager Andy Eastman.

PROJECTS GET HELPING HAND

Ketton plant has made a number of donations to community projects in the area, including covering the insurance costs for the Ketton Good Neighbour project and providing cement and assisting with the removal of waste at the sports and community complex in the village.

Stamford Welland Academy gardening club received funding for replacement beds and grass cutting, while Ketton Cubs enjoyed a trip to Duxford Air Museum thanks to funding for transport. Raffle prizes were donated to First Ketton Guides' charity dinner and the McCarthy & Stone tea party.

CRACKING START FOR NUTTERY

A two-tonne boulder known as a freestone, which is a 60-million-year-old piece of hard limestone taken from near the base of Grange Top quarry, has been donated to mark the planting of a nuttery at Barnsdale.

The quarry team selected, collected and delivered the boulder, which will mark a community project to plant a nuttery on the banks of Rutland Water.

The Barnsdale Nuttery is thought to be the first planted in a public space since Victorian times.

OPEN DAY PLAN

An open day is planned for the Ketton plant next year to celebrate the 90th birthday of the cement works.

Staff have held their first meeting and are looking at dates in the late summer of 2018. The last open day in 2015 attracted more than 2,500 people and raised £6,000 for local charities.



The youngsters celebrate at one of their training sessions

Donation gets club's training sessions up and running



Panthers' chairwoman Caroline Hattee gives Amelia a helping hand with the new tricycle

Ketton Panthers Triathlon Club is to offer training sessions to children with special needs thanks to donations from the local community, including Hanson Cement.

Ketton plant donated £950 to help buy equipment so the Panthers could provide six sessions of running and tricycling for children aged four to 18 with Downs Syndrome, with the aim of developing the sessions for children with other special needs next year.

Panthers' chairwoman Caroline Hattee said: "We have been overwhelmed by the kind generosity of a number of donations from several sources.

"Over the next few months, we aim to buy two tricycles and various other pieces of athletic equipment, including exercise balls, cones and a parachute."

Danny's marathon effort pays off

Danny Vincent hopes to raise a minimum of £1,800 for the Beating Bowel Cancer campaign after completing the gruelling London Marathon.

Danny, who was raising money for the charity following the death of his uncle from bowel cancer five years ago, clocked a creditable four hours and 16 minutes in his first marathon.

Danny, 27, from Stamford, works in the packing plant at the Ketton site, and his

fundraising efforts will be boosted by a £500 donation from the Hanson charity match fund.

"I had a great day and the atmosphere was amazing," said Danny, who had never run a competitive road race before, although he has been involved in a number of the long-distance charity cycle events organised at Ketton.

"Thank you to friends, family and work colleagues who supported me, it really means a lot and I'm very grateful."



Danny Vincent tackling the London Marathon