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opendoor

New manager Terry joins us at an exciting time

Ribblesdale works has a new manager with the appointment of Terry Reynolds.

Terry takes over from Gary Young, who has moved to a European role. Terry has vast experience of managing within the manufacturing sector and I am sure he will drive forward the company's development plans for the site. I must thank our operations manager Simon Moorhouse, who has so ably deputised as manager during the past 12 months.

Terry joins us at exciting times with sales improving and further investment planned. It has been a good year, but we remain cautious as sales have not yet reached pre-recession levels. On the investment front, we anticipate introducing new technology into our cement grinding process next year, aimed at improving plant efficiency and achieving new emission targets being introduced in 2017.

I regret I must return to a subject highlighted in our February newsletter.

Once again, we had a serious incident at our rail crossing, with another vehicle ignoring the red flashing lights as a train crosses. We are deeply concerned and are investigating ways of increasing security at the crossing and will continue to record registration numbers which will be passed to the police.

Proud record

I suppose it shouldn't surprise me that each year we honour employees for exceptional long service, for Ribblesdale has a long and proud record of providing stable employment for the area.

Two employees are celebrating 40 years with the company.

They are maintenance electrician Michael Cowking and mechanical supervisor John Blockeel. And not far behind them on 35

years are maintenance fitters John Wilson, Graham Kenyon, Matthew King and shift manager Chris Punched.

I congratulate and thank you for your outstanding achievements.

At the same time, I would like to welcome two local lads, Troy Billington and William Sheldon, who join us as apprentices. Good luck in your future careers.

Gareth Price
Technical/operations director



David Holgate oversees the operation to replace the 30-metre section, which was damaged during the storm, inset



Repair done in stacks of time

One of Clitheroe's most striking landmarks is standing proud again. Strong winds caused a five-degree list on a 30-metre section of the 90-metre tall chimney stack, which meant a week's shutdown for repairs and involved three large cranes.

Engineering manager David Holgate said the 33-year-old stack was due for replacement. The repair work on the remaining 60 metres will be carried out this winter.

Near-miss highlights rail crossing danger

Another near-miss – the closest yet – on the rail crossing at Ribblesdale works shows that some drivers are still prepared to put their lives at risk.

Despite highlighting the issue in a previous newsletter, supported by articles in local media and an awareness campaign by Lancashire Police, drivers are still jumping the red lights.

Hanson Cement's shipping manager David Hothersall said: "In the latest incident, the front of the train was just three feet short of the double white lines in the centre of the road when a driver in a black Land Rover Freelander decided to jump the lights. It could not have been any closer, with the vehicle crossing only feet from the front of the train."

The registration of the car was reported to the police, who have appealed to motorists to adhere to the signals at the crossing.

Inspector Ian Cooper, who

covers Ribble Valley, said: "Why anyone would risk their lives, those of innocent others and leave their loved ones grieving, for the sake of a few minutes' wait, astounds me.

"I don't want a police officer at a door somewhere in the Ribble Valley having to tell someone's loved ones that they are dead. So, please adhere to the red signals."

There is only one train a day travelling in either direction, six days a week:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: arrives around noon and leaves about 3pm.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: arrives around 1pm and leaves around 6pm.

Saturdays: arrives at around 2pm and leaves around 6pm.

● Work will start later this year to improve the road surface around the rail crossing. Over the years, the road has sunk significantly and part of the work will include levelling the surface.



Long servers, left to right, Michael Cowking, John Blockeel, Chris Punchard and Matthew King

Long servers celebrate their milestones

Two Ribblesdale employees are celebrating 40 years with the company. They are maintenance electrician Michael Cowking, from Bolton by Bowland, and mechanical supervisor John Blockeel, who lives in Ribchester.

Four Clitheroe workers have clocked up 35 years. They are maintenance fitters John Wilson and Graham Kenyon from Downham, Matthew King from Chatburn and shift manager Chris Punchard.

Two more Clitheroe residents have

worked at Ribblesdale for 30 years. They are shift manager Sean Wilson and fitter Paul Nash, while cement quality production manager Nick Sharpe from Ingleton has also reached the same landmark.

A 25-year award went to stores supervisor Terry Braithwaite, also from Clitheroe.

20-year service: drivers Nigel Tilley and Stephen Bowen and stores attendant Michael Whittaker, all Clitheroe; drivers

David Sherwood, Colne, Robert Duxbury, Preston, Peter Kabrna, Barrowford, Derek Haworth, Great Harwood and kiln production engineer David Rawcliffe, Colne.

15-year awards: drivers Adrian Meadows, John Dean, Nicholas Walker, Nolan Jackson, Graham Seed, Carl Ainsworth, David Bowen, all Clitheroe; Andrew Moore, Burnley; John Taylor, Padiham; and plant buyer Karen Lafranceschina.

Experienced Terry is the new manager

Terry Reynolds has been appointed as the new manager of Ribblesdale works. Bolton-born Terry, aged 55, has extensive experience in the coal mining and food manufacturing industry.

He has a degree in mining engineering and his experience of deep mining coal includes 16 years at Parkside Colliery near Newton-le-Willows, as well as being a member of the Mines Rescue Brigade for 11 years.

Following the closure of Parkside in 1993 and the contraction of the industry, he moved over to food manufacturing and spent more than 20 years in management, working for household names such as PG tips, Ryvita, First Milk and Jordan Cereals.



Terry Reynolds outside the main office

Terry said: "I look forward to the new challenges Ribblesdale will present. In the short time I have been here, it's obvious we have a great team of people upon which we can build for the future together.

"I am conscious of our potential impacts upon the immediate environment and our local community; safety and our environment are vitally important

for us and we will continue to strive to improve. I welcome any thoughts or ideas on how we can improve and achieve this and actively invite your feedback."

He lives at Banks on the Ribble Estuary with his wife Lorraine. They have four children – three girls and a boy – and five grandchildren. His hobbies include motorbikes and walking with Lorraine at the weekends.

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 **Terry Reynolds** on **01200 414261** or email **terry.reynolds@hanson.com**

Contact us...

If you have any questions about the business or want to comment on anything in this newsletter, call **Maria Punchard** on **01200 414261** or email **maria.punchard@hanson.com**

Driver Chris plans a busy retirement of fishing and detecting

Driver Chris Westell has hung up his keys and will now concentrate on his two pastimes – fly fishing and metal detecting.

Chris, 61, from Billington, drove both curtainsiders and LGVs all over the country

before deciding to retire this summer after 15 years with the company.

He fishes the local rivers including the Ribble and Calder for trout and his metal detecting exploits have gleaned silver George III coins and a number of Roman

artefacts from the Ribchester area, where there are remains of a Roman cavalry fort as well as evidence of the Bronze Age.

He is married to Ann with two grown-up daughters.

Historic limekilns to be restored

Plans are under way to restore the four limekilns at Bellmanpark quarry.

Despite being partly scrub covered, the kilns are a rare example of the area's industrial past and, alongside 90 metres of associated tramway, are scheduled as an Ancient Monument and deemed to be of national importance.

An assessment of the condition of the kilns, built in 1877, has been made and quarry manager Sam Wrathall and local historian Peter del Strother, the former general manager of the site, will now meet with English Heritage and Clitheroe Civic Society to discuss the way forward.

Bellmanpark Lime Works was opened by James Carter and William Rowe in about 1869. The limekilns discharged quicklime directly via wooden chutes into full-sized railway trucks. Sidings in tunnels under the kilns linked them to the main line which had been completed in about 1850.

A cement works was opened on the same site using a bottle kiln and traded as the Clitheroe Portland Cement Works.

The kiln did not operate for long because Isis Cement, which started in 1895 on the site of the present cement works, built six high-efficiency shaft kilns.



Peter del Strother, left, and Sam Wrathall at the stone fountain and, inset, the limekilns in their working heyday



In 1898, Carter, who had also taken over Salthill quarries, joined Salthill with the Bellman kilns by a 1,500-metre railway line, part of which is still used today as the haul road from Bellman quarry to the cement works. About 5,500 tonne of rock and 21,000 tonne of clay had to be excavated to build the line.

A stone fountain was erected by those who worked at the quarry between 1869 and 1908 in memory of James Carter, who

died in 1903, and it still exists today. James Carter and Sons Ltd ceased trading in 1959/60.

Five-star performers!

Five Ribblesdale apprentices have been highly praised by their training provider after achieving excellent exam results.

Matthew Gibson, 22, from Great Harwood, and Paul Topham, 22, from West Bradford, have achieved the highest success by securing their HNDs – Matthew in operations engineering and Paul in electrical/electronic engineering.

Securing BTEC HNC diplomas were Bradley Holgate and Mark Ward, both in operations engineering, and Thomas Connell in electrical/electronic engineering.

Human resources and operations assistant Janet Horne said: "The reports from their tutors were excellent, with all five receiving exceptional complimentary comments. Their commitment and dedication was shown in their exam results."

Two new apprentices have joined the Ribblesdale workforce. They are 16-year-olds Troy Billington, from Sabden, and William Sheldon, who lives in Chatburn.

They will study for 12 months with Training 2000 in Blackburn to achieve their NVQ Level 2 in performing engineering operations and then return to Ribblesdale works in 2016 to continue their education on day release.

Troy will start his BTEC national certificate in electrical engineering and William his BTEC HNC in plant maintenance engineering.



Above: The five apprentices, left to right, Matthew Gibson, Mark Ward, Tom Connell, Bradley Holgate and Paul Topham

Right: New apprentices Troy Billington, left, and William Sheldon





Ceri Jones and Stephen Bamford count the charity cash

CERI'S BOOST FOR CHARITY

Ribblesdale employee Ceri Jones, 26, has seen her fundraising efforts rewarded by Hanson Cement.

Ceri, a distribution administrator, suffers from endometriosis, which affects the womb. She organised a charity night at Clitheroe British Legion Club to raise awareness of the condition and to raise funds.

"The theme for the night was yellow and purple, the colours of Endometriosis UK. We raised a fantastic £542, which Hanson doubled," said Ceri.

Half the money will go to Endometriosis UK and the other half to The Cystic Fibrosis Trust because one of Ceri's work colleagues, fitter Stephen Bamford, who has a 10-month-old son suffering from cystic fibrosis, helped with the event.

TOP AID FOR PUB WALKERS

Hanson Cement made a £500 donation to provide t-shirts for the 220 walkers who took part in a hospice pub walk through the Ribble Valley.

The event was expected to raise more than £10,000 for East Lancashire Hospice.

Other organisations who received support in 2015 include: Bowland Pennine mountain rescue team, £250; Ribble community radio station, £500; Chatburn village hall musical event, £500; donations to buy defibrillators at West Bradford village hall and Waddow Hall Girl Guides.

CASH SHARED

Five local charities will share the £500 raised at the Ribblesdale open day. Sadie's Pot of Gold, Carers Link, East Lancashire Hospice, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf and Rainbow House will each receive £100.



Quarry manager Sam Wrathall points out restoration work in Coplow quarry with, from left, site manager Terry Reynolds, Marilyn Wood, operations manager Simon Moorhouse, Jonathan Haine, Lynda England, Ruth Hargreaves, Phil Dykes (Lancashire Wildlife Trust), David Sharp and Richard Sherras

Committee keeps you up to date

Local residents are kept up to date about issues at Ribblesdale through the site's liaison committee which meets twice a year.

The community representatives are: James Russell; Olwen Heap; councillors Ruth Hargreaves, Ian Sayers, Richard Sherras and Alan Knox (all Ribble Valley Borough Council); David Sharp, clerk, and councillor Marilyn Wood (West Bradford Parish Council); councillors Stephen Booth and

Lynda England (Chatburn Parish Council); Lancashire County Councillor Albert Atkinson; and community representative Mary Gysbers. Jonathan Haine, deputy group head of development control, represents Lancashire County Council and Phil Goodwin, the Environment Agency. The Hanson team is site manager Terry Reynolds, operations manager Simon Moorhouse and quarry manager Sam Wrathall.



Bolton by Bowland pupils at Ribblesdale

Pupils give history a voice

Pupils from Bolton by Bowland Primary School were helping to make history when they visited Ribblesdale works.

A group of 21 pupils took part in the Quarry Tales project which aims to capture an oral history of quarrying in the Clitheroe area. The project is being run by Quarry Arts, funded by the Heritage Lottery.

During their visit they carried microphones to record conversations with quarry workers as well as their own observations.

The aim of the project is to interview past and present employees and families, as well as those affected by quarries, to build a picture of how the industry has changed over time. The tour guides were former employees Mick Hall and Paul Whittaker.

The material will be available on the Quarry Tales website www.quarrytales.org.uk as well as being deposited in the British Library Sound Archive.

Local people are being asked to contribute old photographs showing old workings, employees and vehicles, which will be posted on the website.



Ready for lift-off...

Clitheroe schoolboy Toby Musgrave, eight, winner of a balloon ride in the Ribblesdale open day prize draw gets in some practice with balloonist Graeme Church, watched by Toby's mother Sharon Musgrave, left, and Hanson's Maria Punchard