



Top job for Richard
2



Paul calls it a day
3



Insight for fire crew
4

opendoor

Welcome... from works manager Sinan Urhan

With the rollout of the UK's vaccination programme and the gradual relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, there is a sense of optimism that the challenging times we have all been facing will soon come to an end.

I am extremely proud of the way the site team has responded to the impact of the pandemic and am grateful to them for their ongoing support as we work hard to continually improve site performance and be a good neighbour.

Wet weather in June and early July restricted our work in the quarry and

restoration has been challenging. I am also aware that vibration from blasting has disturbed some of our neighbours. I apologise for this, but would like to reassure you we continue to work well within our blasting limits at the site.

You may be aware that there was a conveyor belt fire at the works recently. It was, thankfully, dealt with quickly by local fire crews with everyone on site safe and well. We are grateful to the fire service and are investigating the cause of the incident.

We have also applied to Rutland County Council to extend the time we have to

carry out operations at Grange Top quarry, adjacent to the Ketton site to December 2032. The additional time will allow us to quarry the remaining permitted reserves under our existing planning permission, which is due to end in December 2026.

Finally, we are really proud that stone from Grange Top quarry has been chosen by the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness, to form part of a memorial orchard for His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh at Rutland Showground.

I hope you find this issue of *Open Door* interesting and informative.

Quarry application

Hanson has applied to Rutland County Council to extend the time it has to carry out operations at Grange Top quarry, adjacent to the Ketton site, under its existing planning permission.

Works manager Sinan Urhan explains: "Under the current agreement, quarrying should stop by December 31, 2026, but it is now clear that there will still be a significant amount of permitted mineral reserves left to be worked by that date.

"As a result, we have made an application to extend this cessation date by six years to December 31, 2032. This will allow us sufficient time for the permitted reserves to be fully worked out in accordance with the development plans."



Helping sculptor Chris Groombridge, front, select the stone are, left to right, Sinclair Rogers, Dr Sarah Furness, works manager Sinan Urhan and quarry manager Aurelien Colas

Stone donation is royal tribute

Hanson Cement is donating a large piece of limestone as part of a memorial orchard being created in Rutland in memory of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

The apple orchard, at the county showground in Oakham, is the initiative of the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Dr Sarah Furness.

A commemorative bas-relief of His Royal Highness crafted by local sculptor Chris Groombridge will be secured to the stone, which is similar to those at the entrance to Ketton village.

The apple varieties will be ones grown historically in Rutland and the neighbouring counties of Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire.

Appropriately, given Prince Philip's championing of young people, youngsters including Duke of Edinburgh's Award

participants will be asked to help plant the trees and a variety of spring bulbs.

The first planting will take place in November during National Tree Week. The Lord Lieutenant's team hope to raise £7,500 to grow and develop the orchard as a fitting memorial.

The Lord Lieutenant and Sinclair Rogers, chairman of the fundraising group and chair of Ketton Parish Council, visited Grange Top quarry to select the memorial stone with the help of quarry manager Aurelien Colas.

The Lord Lieutenant said: "The main orchard will occupy a prominent site at the showground and will be open for all visitors free of charge.

"In addition to being a lovely place to visit, it will also provide a wide range of educational opportunities and raise environmental awareness – something that meant much to His Royal Highness."

Talk to us...

Hanson Cement operates an open door policy – if you want to talk to us about our operations or visit the works, please contact Sinan Urhan on 01780 727041 or email sinan.urhan@hanson.com

HYDROGEN KILN TRIAL

A two-week trial to use hydrogen in the kiln is to be undertaken at Ketton works, provided the scheme is approved by the Environment Agency.

A relatively small volume of hydrogen will be fed to the main burner and is expected to enhance the flame, enabling an increased usage of solid recovered fuel (SRF).

Hydrogen will be supplied by an electrolysis unit where mains water will undergo separation into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen will be piped into one of the fuel lines on the main burner and the oxygen to one of the combustion air channels.

The hydrogen supply will be on demand, with no intermediate storage. This technology has been successfully trialled in France, showing improved burning conditions and a decrease in fossil fuel usage.

Environment manager Tim Fox said: "We anticipate that the improved burning conditions in the kiln will allow us to use more alternative fuels like SRF and reduce the amount of fossil fuels to cut the CO₂ released."

RAILHEAD UPGRADE

Ketton works is upgrading the tracks at its railhead which plays a vital role in supplying some of the largest construction projects in the UK and helps take thousands of lorries off the roads.

The safety work involves the upgrading of track from the rail loading facilities to Ward Sidings, a distance of three quarters of a mile, at a cost of around £55,000.

Every week, two to three trains haul cement powder from Ketton to the company's depot at King's Cross, London for distribution throughout the capital and south east to concrete plants which serve major projects such as the Thames Tideway sewage system, HS2 and City Airport.

Each train carries 1,420 tonnes of cement powder, which equates to 94 lorry movements.



Callum Suffling, left, and Daniel Webb

Apprentices are making the grade at college

Mechanical engineering apprentices Callum Suffling, 25, from South Witham and Daniel Webb, 23, from Corby are about to embark on their final year of HNC qualifications at Tresham College, Corby and so far have been achieving excellent grades.

Electrical apprentice Will Ward, 19, from Stamford is in his second year at Stamford College doing his City and Guilds Level 3

electrotechnical qualification. He has passed his science and health and safety exams and is now doing the design unit which consists of constructing and understanding electrical drawings.

Acting engineering manager Richard Gray said: "They are currently on track for excellent grades and will be an asset to the company in years to come."

Top engineering job for Richard

Former apprentice Richard Gray has landed the top engineering manager job at Ketton works.

Richard, 33, was an apprentice mechanical craftsman between 2004 and 2009 but became a victim of the 2008 recession. When he completed his time there was no job for him and he had to leave.

His found work at Northern Foods for two years and then went to work for Reckitt Benckiser, who manufacture Strepsils, Nurofen tablets and Optrex eye wash.

His talents brought him back to Ketton in 2014 as mechanical supervisor and he has since completed a Bachelor of Engineering degree in mechanical engineering and a Master of Science degree in strategic engineering management.

In 2018, he was made head of maintenance and in his new role as acting engineering manager, he takes over from Danny Osborne, who has joined a central projects team working across all Hanson Cement's plants.



Richard Gray is taking on a new role

Phil planning active retirement

While Phil Barratt is hoping to “chill out” as he starts his retirement, he is also mapping out an active lifestyle which will keep him busy.

He retired as profuel plant controller this summer at the age of 70, after 20 years at Ketton works. He previously worked at a thermoplastics business for 27 years.

Phil is a keen coarse fisherman but also aims to take up bowls and will fill his time with some voluntary work. He and his wife Julie live in Ketton and he has two children.



Phil Barratt relaxing in his garden

Long-serving drivers mourned

Ketton works is mourning the loss of two LGV drivers. Mark Dow, 52, who lived in Market Deeping, died unexpectedly at home. He had been with the company since 2003.

Keith Robertson, 66, affectionately known as Pedro, passed away after a short illness. Keith, who lived in Stamford, had worked for the company since 2002.

Acting national planning manager Andrew Dixon said: “Our thoughts are with their families and friends in these difficult times.”

A collection for Mark raised £354 to be donated to the British Red Cross.



Paul Knighton, left, with quarry manager Aurelien Colas

Shutdown is a success

Ketton works' annual shutdown for essential maintenance and upgrades is normally a complex affair with the need for careful planning, but this year's event was made even more difficult by Covid-19.

As well as making sure all materials and personnel were in place, and there were sufficient cement stocks to support sales during the shutdown, a detailed safety plan was devised to protect on-site staff and visiting contractors from infection.

The works' visitors centre was turned into a testing centre, with nurses carrying out almost 1,700 tests, and daily temperature checks were carried out before anyone was allowed to enter the works. Visiting contractors had their own working bubbles and welfare facilities to make sure social distancing was maintained.

More than 74,000 work hours were needed to complete the repair programme during the 26-day shutdown, which included repairs to the kiln, a complete overhaul of the coal mill and the installation of a replacement crusher for the cooler.

Paul steps down after 48 years

Quarry team leader Paul Knighton has retired after 48 years in the cement industry.

The Knightons have a long tradition of employment at Ketton works – his father George completed 45 years and Paul has worked alongside his uncle, auntie and cousin. The links with the site continues through his stepson Martyn Horton, who is also a team leader.

Paul, 65, started at Grange Top quarry as an 18-year-old in September 1973.

In his 48 years he has done all the jobs in the quarry. In 1992, he was appointed a team leader working on the geotechnical side.

He said: “I have some great memories, met many friends and had lots of laughs. Mechanisation has had a huge impact. When I started, 67 people worked in the quarry now it's 15. But on the other hand, health and safety has made a huge difference.”

His colleagues presented him with a set of binoculars, an annual subscription to Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and a trip on the *Rutland Belle* to spot ospreys.

Paul lives in Stamford with his wife Kathy. They have three children – two boys and a girl.

WASTE MATERIALS TO BE ASSESSED

Hanson Cement will be applying to the Environment Agency for permission to use a wider range of alternative raw materials at Ketton works.

The aim is to increase the availability of raw feed stock material on site, to improve control of the chemistry in the cement, extend the life of the quarry and potentially reduce CO₂ emissions.

The Environment Agency will be informed of developments, as will the local community through the site's community liaison committee.

Environment manager Tim Fox said: "In 2014, the Environment Agency and the Minerals Product Association issued a code of practice that detailed pre-approved waste materials that could be used in cement and dolomitic lime kilns. It also included a methodology for the introduction of additional wastes that are not on the list."

Hanson Cement will ask the Environment Agency to apply the same environmental risk assessment to enable a new range of wastes, naturally occurring raw materials and products to be assessed. The two raw materials currently under consideration are waste products from the aluminium smelting process and granulated blast furnace slag from the steel-making industry.

DIGITAL PROJECT PILOTED AT WORKS

Ketton works is part of a pilot project to introduce digital technology to improve the way the business is run, with the aim of reducing energy usage and lowering CO₂ emissions.

The digital transformation scheme, being promoted by parent company HeidelbergCement, is expected to make them the most technologically advanced company in the cement sector.

Digital transformation is the process of using digital technology to create new or modify existing business processes. Cloud technology, IT software and smart industrial phone apps are all examples of systems that process and analyse data and optimisation on real time.

Project manager Houari Rais said: "At Ketton, we are implementing five digital products we have developed. These are expected to reduce CO₂ emissions, increase plant performance and reduce energy consumption, while allowing higher throughput."

Donations help charity and the community

A donation of 30 bags of cement has helped a mental health charity based in Bourne set up a community garden.

Don't Lose Hope, which offers professional counselling for the community, has been using cement donated by Ketton works to lay concrete paths, secure pergolas and create a base for a shed as they develop new features in their garden.

- Work has been completed on a major refurbishment of the playing field at Easton on the Hill, partly thanks to a donation of 50 bags of multi-purpose concrete from Ketton works.

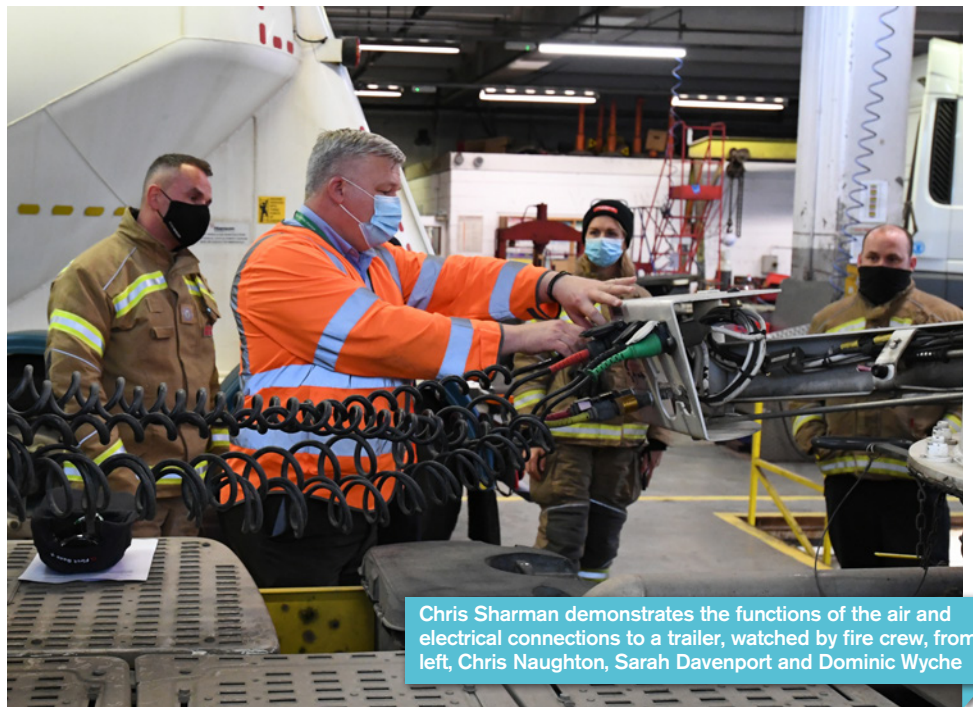
Hanson Cement's donation was used to install fencing around the play area.

- The most popular piece of equipment at Ketton's Hall Close recreation area – the basket swing – is being replaced thanks to a donation from Ketton works.

The donation of £2,100 will cover the cost of a new basket – the previous one was 10 years' old – and the replacement of safety matting around the swing.



Volunteer Neil Taylor helping with the Don't Lose Hope garden clear-up



Chris Sharman demonstrates the functions of the air and electrical connections to a trailer, watched by fire crew, from left, Chris Naughton, Sarah Davenport and Dominic Wyche

Fire crew get emergency insight

Stamford Fire and Rescue crew now have a better understanding of how to deal with emergency situations such as road traffic accidents or fires in bulk cement tankers.

As part of their regular weekly drills, the fire crew were invited to Ketton works to get up close to an LGV to explore ways of securing and stabilising a vehicle if something goes wrong.

Workshop manager Chris Sharman escorted watch manager Jacob Smith, crew manager David Vines and nine other fire crew as they examined a DAF truck unit and

powder tanker. Chris said: "The visit was invaluable. The crew asked many questions and provided some important suggestions that will assist with our on-site response plan."

- Members of the fire crew returned to the site to tackle a fire when an underground rubber conveyor belt caught alight at the cement works. They were one of several local crews to attend the scene and the fire was extinguished quickly and safely with everyone on site safe and well. The cause is being investigated.