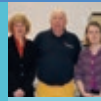




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opendoor

Welcome... from plant manager Stewart Jones

These are exciting times for the Ketton plant and I'm really pleased to be introducing the spring edition of our *Open Door* publication.

Demand for cement is really strong at the moment in terms of bulk road and rail supplies and the packed cement market is also buoyant. We expect to

despatch more than one million tonnes of cement in 2015. This presents significant, but positive, challenges. We have completed major shutdown and repair works over the winter and our operation is now beginning to fulfil its potential with a strong management team on site,

supported by a dedicated workforce.

Their involvement in the continuous improvement programme we started more than 12 months ago is showing significant benefits for our employees and for the site.

This year, we will be looking to recruit two new apprentices, as well as a

management trainee, which is a positive move for the future of the company.

Our commitment to maintaining high standards of health and safety for our employees and contractors is paramount, as well as our endeavours to supply the market with good service and quality cement.

Ketton cement is in demand

Growth in the construction market and Hanson's success in supplying high-profile infrastructure projects means demand for Ketton cement is high.

Last year, around 200,000 tonnes was supplied by rail from Ketton into King's Cross for London's Crossrail, the largest civil engineering contract in Europe. A further 50,000 tonnes is due to be delivered this year.

New work the company is hopeful of securing includes the London Gateway gas power plant – 10,000 tonnes; Astra Zenica, Cambridge – 24,000; Canary Wharf high rise development – 120,000; Northern Line extension and Battersea development – 55,000; and Oxford Westgate Centre – 24,000.

Hanson has retained its two main buying groups for bagged cement, Fortis and H & B, who will be responsible for orders in excess of 140,000 tonnes from Ketton. Fortis has acquired two new members which will require an additional 20,000 tonnes.

Sales of Multicem cement in plastic bags were up by 32 per cent and, at the end of 2014, 40 per cent of all bagged cement sold was plastic. The aim is to drive that figure to 50 per cent in 2015.



Alison Mytton and Stewart Jones get the open day message across

PICTURE: JOHN PARKINSON

Open day will be filled with lots of family fun

Don't miss our public open day on Saturday, June 6, 2015 – that's the message from Ketton plant manager Stewart Jones.

The event will be opened by Andrew Brown, the new High Sheriff of Rutland, and while an informative and fun-packed programme is still being finalised, there will be lots of interesting things to do, as well as plenty of enjoyable activities for youngsters.

The previous open day was staged in 2003 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the opening of the site when some 3,500 people attended.

A raffle is being organised with proceeds donated to three local charities: Stamford and district Kiwanis, St John Ambulance and Evergreen Care Trust, based at Stamford

Hospital, which supports elderly and vulnerable people.

There will be lots of prizes, one of which will be the opportunity to press the button to trigger off the blast to remove thousands of tonnes of limestone at Grange Top quarry.

Already planned are rides on a locomotive, displays of huge quarry machinery and cement tankers and minibus tours of the cement works. It is hoped there will be displays of vintage cars as well as lots of other attractions

Stewart Jones said: "As a major business employing some 300 in Ketton, it's important that we interact with the local community so that they understand what goes on within the cement works."

ROAD WORK DATE HOPE

Construction work for the new section of highway on Empingham Road, part of the extension of Grange Top quarry, is likely to start in the spring of 2016.

The new one-kilometre section will allow the extension of the quarry and secure the future of the cement works. Planning permission to extend the quarry and carry out the road work was granted in 2007.

The proposal is to remove a section of road between Wytchley Warren and Wytchley Warren Farm and replace it with a new road on Hanson land. The company has submitted a Stopping Up Order to permanently close the section of Empingham Road to be replaced. The works will include construction of a new bridge over the quarry haul road.

Engineering consultants White Young Green were appointed as the bridge and highway designers and the approval process is ongoing with Rutland County Council's highways department.

Project manager Andrew Crowson said: "A number of technical reports have been compiled for submission. It is now a matter of gaining approval for these designs. Once this is granted, a construction period of eight months will be planned."

Shutdown success as vital equipment gets annual overhaul

Ketton's workforce is celebrating the success of its annual shutdown. Vital parts of the plant were either replaced or refurbished at a cost of £2.5 million and 30,000 man hours worked over this critical period without a single lost time injury.

Construction of the new gas conditioning tower, which cools the kiln gases with water jets, was successfully completed. The structure is seven metres in diameter and 30 metres high.

One of the biggest jobs was the removal of the raw mill rollers that crush more than a million tonnes of stone each year. Both rollers, weighing in excess of 40 tonnes, were removed and overhauled.

Around 180 tonnes of refractory lining was replaced – this allows for the internal system of the kiln to cope with temperatures of up to

1,300 degrees centigrade and prevents the steel structure from melting.

Another 24 tonnes of refractory ducting was replaced in the system which re-uses gasses in the combustion chamber and new plates were also fitted to the dust collection system.

Engineering manager Danny Osborne said: "Given the amount of heavy equipment and contractors on site, the shutdown was a great success with no lost time injuries, as well as all equipment starting on time and running as required."

At Grange Top quarry the main crusher, responsible for processing more than one million tonnes each year with a mixture of limestone and clay, was repaired. This feeds the cement plant's raw mill ready for crushing and drying.



Major repairs being carried out on one of the giant roller mills

PICTURE: JOHN PARKINSON



The footpath, inset, leads down to a footbridge with views over the quarry

PICTURE: JOHN PARKINSON

Completed footpath a big hit with walkers

The completion of the second phase of a footpath diversion project around Grange Top quarry is proving popular with local walkers and groups from further afield.

The restored footpath means there is a continuous walking route between Ketton and Empingham village which links to another footpath and a bridleway.

Around 700,000 tonnes of materials had to be removed as part of the planning

permission, then re-placed and shaped to retain some of the existing topography. Landscaping will be completed this year with the planting of additional trees, hedgerows and copses to help sustain the ecology and biodiversity of the area, as well as improve views.

Completion of the work means all temporary routes are now closed and revert to private land.

Tonnes of cement is gift to rail museum

More than 20 tonnes of cement has been donated from Ketton works to the Rocks by Rail museum at Cottesmore.

This follows an earlier donation of an old loco and wagon from Ketton. Hanson's contribution

to the project included aggregates from Baston Fen. The materials will be used to construct walkways for visitors. The museum aims to highlight the role played by railways in past quarrying activity in the east of England.

Workforce ideas come to fruition

Since the launch of HeidelbergCement's continuous improvement programme (CIP) in 2014, Ketton – as the first pilot plant in the global rollout – has seen hundreds of hours' training, while more than 300 ideas for improvement have been suggested by the workforce.

CIP is a structured way for the workforce to focus on how the plant operates, with the aim of making small improvements to overall performance. But it isn't just about equipment performance, it is also about improvements to health and safety, environment and quality as well. As part of the rollout, the site hosted visitors from all over the world.

During the launch and training, employees were asked to think about "what's in it for me?" and to think of ideas that could improve the way they work and make life easier. Often, this will also mean an improvement in the plant's performance.

Plant manager Stewart Jones said: "CIP aims to involve as many employees as possible and no idea, big or small, is ignored."

Ideas have included an upgrade to part of the packing plant to reduce downtime and a cement recycling system that improves health and safety and environmental performance in the packer building.



Tom Atkins carrying out a fault-finding exercise on an electrical panel

Big year for bright spark Tom

It's going to be a big year for Tom Atkins as he completes his apprenticeship at Ketton and waits for the results of his HNC exams in electrical engineering at Peterborough University.

But there's another big date circled on his calendar as Tom, 26, is due to marry his fiancée Michelle Rose in May.

Tom, who lives in Wittering, already has a B-Tech in electrical engineering and is a qualified electrician, having gained a City and Guilds qualification before joining Hanson.

He is currently working shifts at Ketton. In his spare time he goes snowboarding, with Andorra one of his favourite destinations.

We're recruiting!

Ketton plant is looking to recruit two apprentices and a management trainee. The apprenticeships, in electrical and mechanical engineering, will start in September. For more details contact Alison Mytton at alison.mytton@hanson.biz



PICTURE: JOHN PARKINSON

Paul Knighton with Sally Brodie, left, and Alison Mytton

Cinch an Inch scheme is a big winner

Quarry team leader Paul Knighton was the top weight loser in the Ketton works Cinch an Inch club.

Paul, 59, from Stamford lost 10 kilos and five inches from his waistline in six months.

As part of a HeidelbergCement initiative to promote health and fitness, the Cinch an Inch club was launched and employees encouraged to sign up to a monthly weight monitoring regime. Regular appointments were made to discuss healthy eating

options and provide exercise advice, with weight and measurements recorded.

The top three weight losers received vouchers to spend on sports equipment to help them continue their healthy living regime.

Second was plant manager's secretary Alison Mytton, who lost 7.5 kilos and four inches from her waist, and third was customer admin co-ordinator Sally Brodie with 6.5 kilos lost and four inches from her waist.

Donation helps pupils enjoy outdoor fun

Young pupils at Easton Garford Endowed CE School have been jumping for joy since they got access to their newly-refurbished outdoor "early years" area.

Interim acting head teacher Scott Dainty has been able to achieve this spring clean-up thanks to a donation of £1,070 from Ketton works.

Pupils aged from four to seven can now try out new bikes, scooters, sand and water trays, giant bricks, blocks, diggers, shopping trolleys and costumes for role play.

Mr Dainty said: "A recent Ofsted report highlighted the need to enhance our early learning outdoor area to provide more

stimulating resources. It came as a very pleasant surprise when Hanson agreed to fund everything we need."

Plant manager Stewart Jones said: "It was a pleasure to be able to help local schoolchildren with their outdoor early learning area and I hope Ofsted can see the benefits this brings."

Hanson Cement continues to offer support to local organisations. Among others who received help last year were Stamford Festival, Ketton Community Choir, Barrowden Film Club, Wansford Dog Centre, Ketton School, Evergreen Santa Fun Run, Poppies Appeal, Ryhall and Essendine Scouts.



PICTURE: RUTLAND AND STAMFORD MERCURY

Testing times for the new play equipment as the pupils carry out a rigorous inspection, watched by school governor Lynn Greaves who also works for Hanson Cement

LONG SERVERS HONoured

Nine members of the Ketton workforce are the latest to receive 25-year long service awards and another four are due awards this year.

Already completing 25 years are operator team leader Viv Russon, process operators Stephen Morris, Dave Berry and Alan Hare, mechanical craftsman team leader Colin Tyler, mechanical craftsman Dave Minchell, Keith Griffiths from shift maintenance, LGV driver Gerald Tyler and storeman Mark Stead.

Set to complete 25 years in 2015 are Stuart Boyd, Lee Garner and Colin Adams – all from shift maintenance – and kiln controller Andy Hammond.

NEW TRUCKS WILL IMPROVE SAFETY

As part of the annual fleet replacement programme, Hanson Cement will replace 59 trucks this year to improve vulnerable road user safety and communications with drivers, as well as complying with new EU pollution standards.

The trucks, supplied by Mercedes and DAF, will be shared across the company's three sites – Ketton, Ribblesdale and Padeswood.

● Ketton will continue to supply the company's King's Cross depot by rail, running five 1,000-tonne capacity trains a week.

With the introduction of new rail wagons, the tonnage will increase to 1,400 per train by the end of the summer.

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