

Community matters

A community newsletter from Heidelberg Materials
Ketton cement works – Spring 2025

Welcome...



Our planning application to extend Grange Top quarry and secure the long-term future of the cement works is on-going. We are continuing to engage with Rutland County Council statutory stakeholders and you can find out more on **page 2**.

Meanwhile, restoration work at the quarry continues. The area known as C3 is almost complete and newly sown grass is starting to show. Field 19 is also nearly finished, and restoration of Field 11, which will be returned to agricultural land, is progressing.

The government-backed trials of an innovative carbon capture technology at Ketton have been concluded and we are looking forward to seeing the results. If successful, it could have a huge impact on reducing CO₂ emissions throughout the cement industry and help the UK achieve its net zero target. Read more on **page 4**.

You may have seen in the media that we have donated the pterosaur bone unearthed in Grange Top quarry by a local archaeological group to Rutland County Museum. Find out more about the find that proves these 170-million-year-old flying reptilian dinosaurs lived in the area on **page 6**.

Donation enables Tinwell village hall's refurbishment dreams

We are delighted to have donated £1,600 to Tinwell village hall to cover the cost of installing a new CCTV security system as part of the 30-year-old hall's refurbishment project.

Village Hall committee member Ian Buckley said: "Our local pub closed recently so one of our aims is to upgrade the hall's facilities to allow us to stage events and have a licensed bar. CCTV coverage of the building is a key requirement for securing a licence so we are very grateful to Heidelberg Materials for its contribution, which will also pay for training the bar staff."



Getting ready to install CCTV cameras at Tinwell Village Hall are (L-R): Ketton Works Manager Sinan Urhan; Ian Buckley, a member of Tinwell Village Hall management committee; Mark Windsor of Elite Security, Stamford; and Operations Assistant Tracy Mitchell.

Talk to us: 01780 727041

kettoncementworks@uk.heidelbergmaterials.com
heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/ketton

Grange Top extension proposals are on-going

Our planning application to extend Grange Top quarry and secure the long-term future of the cement works is on-going.

Rutland County Council (RCC) validated our application in February 2024 following pre-application consultation carried out in 2023 to seek the views of residents and stakeholders, which helped shape our final plans.

Our proposals have been developed to ensure they enhance nature and mitigate impact. They will also provide transformative improvements to footways and bridleways as well as a new works access road off the A606 which will reroute HGV traffic away from the villages of Ketton and Tinwell.

“We have taken on board that the redwoods are a much-appreciated part of the local landscape and, although they are not a native species, we have listened to residents’ feedback and will be keeping these trees in place,” said Land and Mineral Resources Manager Mark Page.

“Changes to our proposals for the Field 14 extension area will not only see the preservation of the section of redwoods alongside the track access, but a large part of the adjacent ridge and furrow area will also now be retained by moving the screening bund southwards. This will link well with the proposed permissive path alongside Empingham Road, which runs into that part of Field 14 and the ridge and furrow land, giving public access where



The view of Grange Top quarry

previously there was none and thereby providing a benefit to local people.

“We are continuing to engage with RCC and other statutory stakeholders and hope to be able to share an update in the spring.”

Information about our proposals is available to view/download at: heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/ketton



Local fire and rescue crews trialling new equipment

Rescue trials at Ketton

Fire and rescue crews from Stamford and Grantham have carried out trials at Ketton works on new equipment aimed at releasing people from trapped vehicles.

We supplied an old HGV, destined to be scrapped, for the exercise, which included various scenarios such as rescuing a person trapped under the vehicle and those trapped inside.

Harry Bell, Crew Manager at Stamford fire station, said: “Thank you to Heidelberg Materials for not only facilitating the training but donating the vehicle for us to lift and cut – it has been invaluable for us.”

Ellie climbs to new heights



Ellie on her way to the summit

We were delighted to support Ketton resident Ellie Mytton, who was one of a team from the East Midlands to climb Yr Wyddfa (formally Snowdon) to raise money for Bourne-based counselling and mental health support charity Don't Lose Hope.

Ellie, who is studying nursing at Lincoln University, raised £396, including £150 from Heidelberg Materials. Over the years we have also supported the charity with the donation of materials.

Safety video success

A safety video made by Ketton Workshop Manager Chris Sharman has won an award from industry body the Mineral Products Association (MPA).

His video, aimed at keeping drivers safe when accessing or getting out of their cabs, claimed joint first prize in the Safer Transport and Logistics category at the MPA's Health and Safety awards ceremony.



● Did you see the huge 1,000-tonne crane that was on-site to support a £2 million maintenance project? It was the largest ever to operate at the Ketton site.



Pete Bell, left, and Steve Pearce are both celebrating career anniversaries

Congratulations to the following on their long-service awards...

- Grange Top Quarry Supervisor **Pete Bell** – 42 years
- Shift Manager **Steve Pearce** – 25 years

Bidding a fond farewell to company stalwarts

Three long-standing members of the Ketton team have retired after clocking up 80 years' service between them.

We have said a fond farewell to Colin Moncaster, Sam Dickinson and David Whittington.

Colin, 61, has retired after 36 years at the cement works. He started as an Electrical Contractor and has worked in quality control, the laboratory, as a Cement Miller, and latterly as Shift Operator.

"When I started my line manager was Stephen Peachey," said Colin, who lives in Ketton with his partner Karen. "Now it's his son Rob who, like his father, has worked his way through the ranks. What's even better is that we have all become good friends."

Sam, 58, was the first female Dumper Truck Driver at Grange Top quarry having taken a career change from an administrative role in the cement works.

"It was great," said Sam, who lives in Uppingham with her husband John. "The best job ever in the quarry; driving in different conditions. We were like a little family."

Sam and David, 66, both completed 22 years' service and are great friends. David, who lives in Stamford with his wife Tina, was principally a Loading Shovel Driver and followed in the footsteps of his father, Arthur, who was a Dumper Truck Driver at the quarry for more than 20 years.

Helping to uncover the past



Tinwell resident Jane Baxter has identified her great uncle Charlie Barwell in the 100-year-old photo of local quarrymen published in the last issue of *Community Matters*.

Charlie, who was born in 1901, was the first of Robert and Annie Barwell’s 11 children and the family lived in Aldgate, Ketton. He followed his father into the aggregates industry; Robert worked at the lime kilns on Uffington Road.

Charlie served in the Second World War as a driver in the Royal Artillery and later moved to Stamford with his wife and daughters. He died in 1984 aged 83 but his grandchildren and great grandchildren still live and work in the Stamford area.

Carbon capture trial complete

A trial of C-Capture’s innovative solvent-based carbon capture technology has been completed at Ketton works.

We are awaiting the results which, if successful, could demonstrate a way to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of cement works and help meet national and global decarbonisation goals.

The primary objective of the government-backed project was to test an alternative method of capturing carbon in

an industrial setting. UK company C-Capture’s novel solvent selectively captures CO₂ and is expected to use 40 per cent less energy than traditional carbon capture methods.

Quality and Environment Manager, Tim Fox, said: “The unit we installed is designed to test the compatibility and effectiveness of C-Capture’s solvent in capturing CO₂ from the flue gases emitted during production. We are very much looking forward to seeing the results.”

Spreading Christmas cheer

Ketton works employees supported Stamford charity Bumps and Beyond, donating Christmas gifts to help parents and caregivers in the area.

We also donated Christmas trees to:

- Ketton School
- Ketton Scouts
- Ketton Church
- Chater Lodge residential home, Ketton
- Tinwell village hall
- Tinwell Church
- Bluecoat County Primary School, Stamford
- Stamford Welland Academy



Our Ketton employees with Christmas gifts for local children

Brood donation is a sweet investment...



Creating a buzz at the Uffington Bee Cooperative are (L-R) David Perry and Adrian Morrel

After setting up our own bee hives at Ketton last year, we have donated £350 to neighbouring Uffington Bee Cooperative to fund the purchase of a nucleus colony.

It is expected to be delivered this spring and will include a queen and thousands of adult bees and will add to their six existing hives. The cooperative sells the honey produced to fund its development.

Ron Smith, a founder member of the cooperative, said: “We visit schools to explain how important bees are to the environment and give pupils the opportunity to get first-hand experience of beekeeping equipment.”

Career kickstart for Ketton Apprentices

We have welcomed three new apprentices at Ketton, all taking advantage of the opportunity to earn while they learn the skills for a rewarding career.

Jak Henson, 17, follows his father Karl into the Ketton workforce, along with Charlie Whaley, 19, from Stamford. Both are combining working with studying mechatronics in mechanical engineering at Tresham College, Corby.

Alfie Whalley, who lives in Kirton, is the new Higher Apprentice at Ketton and will study for a mineral management qualification through Derby University.



Higher Apprentice Alfie Whalley (R) with his mentor Serkan Aslim (L)

Discover more about our 2025 higher apprenticeship intake by visiting our careers website: careers.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk

World-first fossil find unearthed

A fossil found at Grange Top quarry proves that pterosaurs flew above the skies of Ketton 170 million years ago.

The hollow, pterosaur bone is the first in the world to be found from the Bajocian age in the Middle Jurassic period. It was unearthed by the Peterborough Geological and Palaeontological Group, which regularly visits the quarry to carry out fieldwork, and has been donated to Rutland County Museum in Oakham.

The wingspan of the pterosaur is estimated at between 3.5 to 4 metres, making it unusually large.

“This discovery is another example of the important role quarrying plays in uncovering the past,” said Aurelien Colas, Quarry Manager at Grange Top.

“Without it, these fossils would never be found as they are buried so deep beneath layers of rocks.”

Penny Sharp, Director for Places at Rutland County Council, said: “It’s tremendous to have yet another major discovery, following hot on the heels of the Rutland Water ichthyosaur and 4th century Roman mosaic that have already been unearthed in the county. We’re excited that Rutland County Museum will be home to the pterosaur find and are looking forward to it going on display.”



Showing off the pterosaur bone Darren Withers, left, and Richard Forrest, from the Peterborough Geological and Palaeontological Group, with Richard Gray, Ketton Works Engineering Manager.



Edward Hall and Millie Bateman in their Ketton work clothing support local volunteers to protect the rare grasses

Volunteers spruce up nature reserve

Interns Edward Hall and Millie Bateman joined the team of volunteers carrying out maintenance work at Grange Top quarry nature reserve, a protected area maintained by Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust because of the rare and numerous grasses.

Senior Reserve Officer, Sarah Bedford, said: “At the end of summer, we mow and rake all the grassland areas at the nature reserve. This is to ensure the ground is in the optimum condition to support a diverse array of wildflowers and associated species next year. We then return in the winter, to pull out young scrub trees, again to improve the limestone grassland habitat.”