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Welcome... from plant manager Murat Burakcin

We have already had a busy start to 2019, successfully completing the first phase of a £24 million pound investment by our parent company which will secure the long-term future of the works and jobs of our people.

The second phase, the re-opening of the railhead to outward bound traffic, is just months away. We are currently undergoing trials by loading lorries from the new cement storage silos before we start loading trains in the second half of the year.

And there will be no let-up as we invite all the community to join us in a celebration of our 70th birthday at our open day on Saturday, June 29. Please come along, tour the site and ask as many questions as you like. We are proud of our site and workforce and there'll also be an opportunity to have some fun and raise money for our chosen charities.

Safety is a huge issue for our industry. I would

like to think we are leading the way with our Cefn Mawr quarry achieving a remarkable record of 20 years without a lost time injury – congratulations to Jason Parry and his team. Here at Padeswood works we are proud to have gone 10 years without any employee injuries.

There's no better example than our recent shutdown, where we had 40 contractor companies on site carrying out annual repairs, clocking up something like 30,000 man-hours without injury. Well done!

I would like to end on a lighter note. We have recently sponsored a snowy owl at the North Wales Owl Sanctuary, near Corwen. Our staff have christened him Hanson, but unfortunately he's too grumpy to join the rest of the sanctuary team attending the open day. We will keep you informed of his development.

So please don't forget the open day – we would love to meet you.



Hanson the snowy owl

Mill project's first phase completed

The first phase of a £24 million project to increase efficiency and boost production at Padeswood works has been completed.

Testing and commissioning of a giant cement grinding mill, capable of processing up to 650,000 tonnes of clinker a year, was successfully concluded in March and means Padeswood's clinker grinding capacity is now matched with output from the kiln.

In the next few months, the installation of three new cement silos alongside the existing railway line at Padeswood will be completed, allowing up to three trains a week to be loaded for deliveries to Hanson depots in London, Bristol or Glasgow depending on demand.

At present, the rail link is only used to bring in coal to fire the kiln.

The investment is among the biggest ever to be made in the UK business and is vital to the future of the plant.

The four existing cement mills are old and inefficient and do not have the capacity to grind the volume of clinker made by the kiln, creating a production imbalance and resulting in thousands of tonnes of the raw material being transported by road to other plants for grinding into cement.

Three of the old mills will now be mothballed, with the fourth kept in service and used as back-up for the new one.



Celebrating 20 years without a lost time incident, Jason Parry, left, and quarry operatives Matt Robinson and Phil Davies

Safety landmark for quarry

Employees at Cefn Mawr quarry have clocked up a remarkable safety record by achieving 20 years without a lost time incident.

Quarry manager Jason Parry said: "This is truly remarkable, especially given the extremely challenging times which have included the expansion of the quarry, as well accommodating the increase of haulage and contractors' activities."

He added that employees are exposed to hazards and risk every day but, if they look out for each other and continue to challenge any unsafe acts or situations, this will reduce or eliminate any potential of harm to work colleagues, contractors and visitors.

The quarry will hold a celebration event for current and past employees to thank all involved.

Repairs success

Padeswood works engineers faced a big challenge during this year's 21-day shutdown.

One of the main aims of the shutdown was to ensure a reliable supply of clinker from the kiln to the recently installed grinding mill.

This and other major repairs costing more than £3 million were carried out on the vertical raw mill and the coal mill, while a large section of the gas conditioning tower was replaced and other environmental improvements were made on the filters.

Maintenance manager Paul Cowell said: "It was a huge achievement from a team of people across the site. The shutdown had a total of more than 30,000 man-hours worked and this was achieved without injury."

Norway move

Kiln engineer James Kidd will spend the next three months at HeidelbergCement's Brevik plant in Norway as part of the company's JET training programme.

On the two-year programme, James will undertake training modules at Padeswood, his home plant, as well as at four other plants in the group.

James said: "The intention is to increase my knowledge while helping the plant I am visiting. I will be gaining invaluable international experience and have opportunities to see other ways of working and cultures."

Garden support

Cefn Mawr quarry is supporting the Bryn Gwalia community garden at Park Avenue, Mold.

The garden was created by the community from derelict wasteland to provide an outdoor community centre designed for social, cultural and environmental activities. It also has an area to encourage wildlife and biodiversity.

Hanson Cement supplied stone for the footpaths from Cefn Mawr quarry, as well as providing guidance on the construction of raised beds and access to the site.

Quarry staff are also planning to help clear scrubland to form an extension to the car park.

Grinding mill is energy saver

Padeswood works' new grinding mill started its life in Spain. The vertical roller mill was purchased from a cement works in Bilbao, which was forced to close in 2014 when the regional market collapsed. It had only 7,000 hours on the clock so was in excellent condition.

The huge machine and associated control equipment were dismantled piece-by-piece by specialist contractors before being shipped to the UK and carefully reassembled like a giant jigsaw puzzle.

The mill can grind up to 650,000 tonnes of clinker a year and will reduce energy consumption for this part of the process by around 30 per cent. It is fully enclosed in a building 34 metres high, minimising noise and reducing the potential for the escape of cement dust.



Plant manager Murat Burakcin with the new grinding mill in the background

Birthday celebrations

Padeswood works will celebrate its 70th birthday this year with an open day for the community on Saturday, June 29. Gates open at 10.30am.

A host of activities is planned, including tours of the site, and the public are encouraged to come along to help raise funds for The Wales Air Ambulance and Action for Children, North Wales. Action for Children has been nominated as Padeswood works' chosen charity for 2019, with fundraising starting at the open day.

There's plenty of fun for all age groups, with the North Wales Owl Sanctuary, dodgems, face painting, archery, football darts, axe throwing, a classic car and bike show and air rifle target shooting, plus music from Northop Silver Band. Mold Fire and Rescue will be attending and there will be tours of the site on our land train and Trevor the Tram.

Works manager Murat Burakcin said: "We are proud to have served the community for 70 years." ■ If small craft businesses would like to showcase their products, stands at the open day will cost £10, which goes to charity. Contact Jo Hodson on 01244 552501.



PADESWOOD WORKS... A BRIEF HISTORY

Padeswood works opened in 1949, employing around 200 people and producing 190,000 tonnes of cement from two kilns.

The site had two previous owners, FL Smith and Tunnel Cement, before being sold to RTZ in 1982, who created the Castle Cement brand.

In 2002, Castle became part of the German cement producer HeidelbergCement, which five years later added the construction materials company Hanson to its portfolio. This prompted a change of name in 2009 to Hanson Cement.

At one time, more than 400 were employed, but over time and with the introduction of modern production methods the number fell to 110.

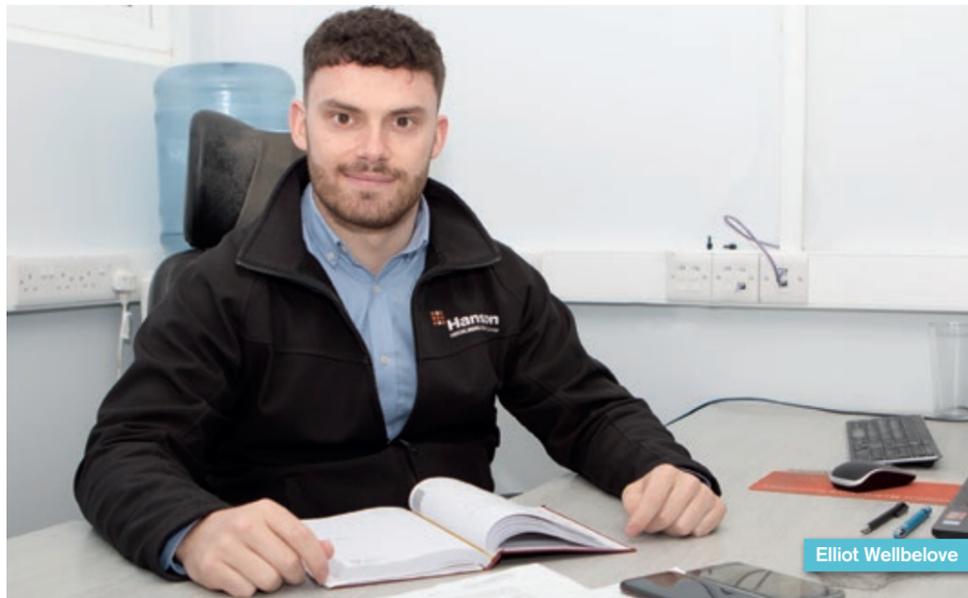
The recession in 2008 and subsequent downturn in construction activity hit the cement industry hard and only 50 people worked at the plant on short-term output.

Following the installation of a new single kiln costing £63 million in 2006, the plant is capable of producing almost one million tonnes of cement a year.

The new kiln, which replaced three older kilns, reduces acid rain emissions by more than 75 per cent, operates at the lowest emission levels in the UK, uses energy more efficiently and makes clean use of materials that would otherwise be dumped in landfill sites.

An investigation by Public Health Wales in 2011 cleared the site of claims that emissions were creating a cancer cluster in the area. The study found that air quality in the area was good or better than the average in the rest of Wales.

Manager Murat Burakcin said: "Today, we have 140 employees at the site, and provide around 60 jobs for contractors. The introduction of a bagging plant and significant investment in new grinding capacity and a rail head will help secure the long-term future of the site."



Elliot Wellbelove

Elliot takes fast track to new role

Elliot Wellbelove, 26, who has developed his career through Hanson's "fast track" management programme, is the new quality and environment manager at the Padeswood works.

As part of the LEAD development programme, Elliot has worked at all three of Hanson Cement's UK plants as well as on secondment at HeidelbergCement's plants in Sweden and Morocco.

He was appointed Padeswood's process

engineer in 2014; from this role he gained valuable knowledge of much of the operating equipment in the plant and this allowed him to increase his ability to problem solve.

Elliot said: "I am thriving with the responsibility the new role has given me. My strong technical knowledge means I am still regarded as a champion in certain aspects of the process, but my main responsibilities remain environmental compliance and product quality."

Talk to us...

Hanson Cement operates an open door policy – if you want to talk to us about this newsletter, our operations or visit the plant, please contact **Murat Burakcin** on 01244 550330 or email murat.burakcin@hanson.com



STEM students Georgia Collis, left, and Olivia Wimbush

Students' STEM success

Alun School students Georgia Collis and Olivia Wimbush have been chosen for Hanson Cement science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) scholarships.

They will spend part of the next 12 months working in the Padeswood works laboratory and have the chance of winning a cash incentive if they do well in exams.

Georgia, 18, from Mold, is studying chemistry, maths, physics and fine art and hopes to become a chartered engineer, specialising in energy, sustainability and the environment.

Olivia, 17, from Shotton, is studying chemistry, biology, maths and psychology and wants to become a large-animal vet.

Padeswood is working in partnership with the Mold school to support the UK-wide STEM programme which aims to produce a strong supply of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians.

Car fan Tony hits the road after 29 years

Cefn Mawr quarry maintenance fitter and team leader Tony Lappin hung up his hard hat and packed away the spanners earlier this year after 29 years of maintaining, repairing and improving equipment for Hanson Cement.

Tony, 61, from Ffonngroyw, spent his first 14 years at the Padeswood works and the final 15 years in the quarry. He is married to wife Avril and they have three children.

Reflecting on his career, he said: "I have been lucky throughout my time to have worked with some really good people who have

made safety a priority."

Cefn Mawr quarry manager Jason Parry paid tribute: "Tony had the skillsets, along with bags of knowledge, that is rare to find these days."

"His passion for the quarry and the plant, along with his drive to improve and make things better, were the key to him being so well respected."

Tony has a big passion for old Land Rovers and is currently working on a 1984 110 station wagon – although, apparently, his wife has a number of projects lined up so he's going to be busy!



Tony Lappin working on his vintage Land Rover

Abbey dances to the World Cup

Buckley dancer Abbey Young will be carrying the backing of her family, who have strong connections with the Padeswood works, when she travels to Portugal to compete in the Dance World Cup this summer.

Abbey, 16, is a member of the 45-strong Elite School of Dance team which has been selected to represent Wales.

Abbey's mother Karen said: "Our family has close ties with Hanson Cement going back over 40 years; my father and brother

have spent all their working lives there."

Karen's father David Price completed more than 30 years as a HGV driver and her brother Gareth is still employed by Hanson Cement.

To help fund the trip, dancers have packed bags in local supermarkets, held a charity dinner and a "wear pyjamas to dance" week. They are also seeking sponsorship from local businesses – Hanson Cement has donated £500.



Abbey Young, second left, with, left to right, Elite Dance principal Emma Knox Jones, Murat Burakcin from Hanson Cement and mum Karen



Jason and Tracey Parry remember an epic rugby win by Wales over England

Epic victory remembered

Cefn Mawr quarry manager Jason Parry and his wife Tracey featured in a BBC Wales documentary to commemorate Wales' historic rugby win over England in 1999 at Wembley – the home of English football.

The documentary, *Epic, Wales v England 1999*, was screened as part of the run-up to this year's clash between the two sides at The Principality Stadium, which Wales won 21-13.

The 1999 match was played at Wembley because The Millennium Stadium had not been completed. The game featured a memorable winning try from Wales' centre Scott Gibbs.

Rugby fans, including Jason and Tracey, shared their experiences of the day, which were shown alongside clips from the match.

Jason said: "My wife always had a camera on hand, so we were fortunate to have lots of photos of the day and I also managed to retain the match-day

programme and tickets which were also featured. It was a great to be a part of the programme, which allowed us to share our experiences and relive the day all over again with the nation."

Tracey added: "We watch the highlights of the game every year and still cheer Scott Gibbs' try, 20 years on."

Marathon efforts

Kevin Groom and James Kidd raised almost £3,000 for charity when they competed in the Chester Marathon.

Kevin, a process operative at Padeswood works, raised £1,800 for two charities, Muscular Dystrophy UK and Jenson's Fight, while kiln engineer James raised £1,120 for BEAT eating disorders.

Their efforts were boosted by £500 from the Hanson charity match scheme.

Wicked leak! Mystery finally solved

It took Pantymwyn resident Paul Williams four years to find out why his garden was continually waterlogged but, thanks to his persistence and some help from neighbours Hanson Cement, he finally got his answer – a leaking water main.

Paul knew a pipe from Padeswood works ran under his lawn and so digging began to locate what was thought to be a leak from the works. During the excavation, his water company Dee Valley Water said that, as there was no chlorine detected in the water, they were not to blame.

But, because they hit water before getting anywhere near the Hanson pipe it was agreed the problem was caused by a blocked land drain, which was repaired and cured the problem for a while.

However, in 2017, Paul noticed the waterlogging was getting worse, so in came

Hanson Cement to dig up his lawn again. The land drain was replaced, but still the water came flooding back.

Hanson Cement operations manager Stewart Mitchell said: "We were only too happy to help a neighbour. We were pretty sure it wasn't us because our water comes from a bore hole. We took five water samples and when we analysed the water in the garden, it contained chlorine."

Armed with the evidence, Paul called in the water company who, after further investigations, found a leak near the main road.

Paul said: "It was a big leak, losing 60 litres every 70 seconds. I am relieved it's all over – my neighbours joke how well my lawn is looking given the number of times it was dug up. I can't thank the Hanson lads enough, particularly Stewart and Craig Holt."



Checking out the lawn, left to right, Craig Holt, Stewart Mitchell and Paul Williams