

focus


Aberthaw in your local community

Working safely through Covid-19 challenges

As the new Plant Manager at Aberthaw Works, I am delighted to be sending this newsletter out to the communities around our site. Despite the challenges we all continue to face as a result of the pandemic, I'm very pleased to be contacting you at a time when Aberthaw Works is fully, and safely, operational and very busy. Back at the start of lockdown, as with many industries, construction projects reduced quickly and significantly. While this initially impacted our activity levels, it didn't take long for demand for bagged Blue Circle Cement to ramp up again, in part due to the many people carrying out DIY projects which seemed to be very popular in Wales! Working as a team, we quickly adapted our protocols and

procedures to keep our team safe, following strict public health and Government guidance and adhering to our new 'Covid-19 Secure Safety Standard'. The changes made include sanitation stations, signs to reinforce social distancing, staggered shift patterns to avoid congestion in changing and mess rooms, and the introduction of regular temperature testing. I'm very proud of the team for enabling us to safely run the plant, supporting local jobs and the local economy at a challenging time, as well as keeping our customers across Wales and the south west stocked with cement. By the end of May we were pleased to have our operations running in as normal a way as possible.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone for their hard work during what has been an unprecedented and testing time for us all. This issue of *Focus On Aberthaw* includes the opportunity to get to know some more members of the team, find out about what we're doing to support the local bee population and learn about some of the ways we're improving energy efficiency and environmental performance. I hope you enjoy reading more about our site, our team and our operations and look forward to your feedback.


Stuart Escott
Aberthaw Plant Manager



Andy Watkins (left) and Hesh Ibsule (right)
(Picture taken prior to Covid-19 restrictions)

First aider to the rescue!

Hesh Ibsule, Maintenance Technician here at Aberthaw Works is a true superhero!

Late last year, Hesh saved the life of one of his site colleagues, Packing Plant Supervisor Andy Watkins, by performing the 'Heimlich manoeuvre' when he began choking. The incident could so easily have had a very different outcome had Hesh not been first aid trained. Commenting about the incident Hesh says: "I've never in 10 years of being a first aider had to use my training, but when Andy started to choke during lunch, I responded, remembering immediately the steps to take when a person is choking: back slaps followed by abdominal thrusts. Luckily after five thrusts it worked. I'm proud that I was able to have helped Andy."

For advice on how to help someone who is choking visit the St John Ambulance website: www.sja.org.uk/get-advice/first-aid-advice/choking

Lorry re-route is good news for community

Welsh Deputy Minister and Chief Whip Jane Hutt, and Vale of Glamorgan MP Alun Cairns, have welcomed our recent move to re-route some of our Tarmac lorries on their journey to and from Ewenny and Bridgend.

The upgrade of a section of the B4270 means that Tarmac lorries (like the one seen here) and contractor hauliers can now use this new route to reach the A48, avoiding the B4265 which runs through Wick and St Brides Major.

Plant Manager Stuart Escott says: "We are always looking for ways to reduce our impact on the surrounding communities. The road upgrade has offered us a great opportunity to divert our lorries away from these villages, and it also provides a safer and more efficient route for our drivers."



Would you like to win a Galaxy tablet?

Enter this competition for a chance to win a Galaxy tablet. Answer the questions below and email your competition entry to Aberthaw.feedback@tarmac.com Deadline 1 December 2020.

- 1) What year did Plant Manager Stuart Escott start work at Aberthaw?
- 2) What is the name of the life-saving manoeuvre that stopped one of our staff from choking?
- 3) Which college does our apprentice Zena attend?

COMPETITION

Do you have any comments on this newsletter or suggestions for what you would like to see in future issues? Do you have any questions about what we do at Tarmac Aberthaw? We would be happy to hear from you - please email us at aberthaw.feedback@tarmac.com and we will respond to you as quickly as possible.

we welcome your feedback

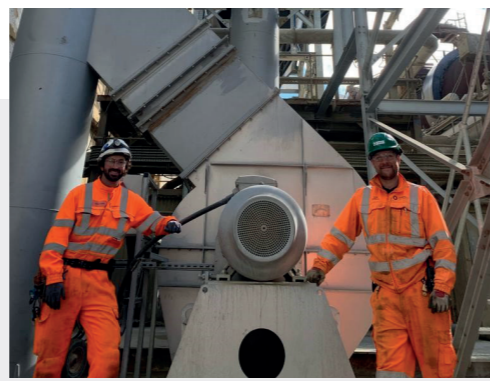
Looking to the future

Improving efficiency and environmental performance

We are continually looking for ways to manage our environmental impact and improve performance. In early 2020 we completed a major engineering project, with the installation of a 'clinker cooler hood'.

The clinker cooler is located at the end of the kiln, the heart of the cement-making process. Cement clinker (or nodules of cement) is cooled from 1400°C as it leaves the kiln to around 150°C in the clinker cooler, before being stored and then ground to the more familiar powder.

The installation of the new clinker hood means there is now a physical barrier between the dust produced by the kiln and the atmosphere. This is particularly important during start up and shut down when the dust can be more difficult to manage.



Members of the project team next to the new kiln hood fan - Left - Dafydd Hewitt; right - Luke Williams



Clinker cooler hood being lifted into place

Covid-19 - a personal view

Throughout the challenges of the pandemic, Phil Morgan, Filling and Loading Operator has been busy helping to keep our very popular packed products on the shelves of the DIY stores.

Phil gives his view of how the virus has affected his home and work life:

"From a personal point of view, early on in the pandemic, my wife showed all the symptoms of the virus. This meant I had to self-isolate for two weeks; fortunately, she has fully recovered and shows no signs of any ill effects.

"Concerning work, it has been a question of getting used to the new regime and increasing our efforts to keep safe at work. This has included additional risk assessments, social distancing, and hand sanitising whilst trying to meet unprecedented customer demand.

"My colleagues and I have changed our working patterns three times during this period and have never been busier. In the last three months, we have managed to break our monthly production records twice!"



Phil Morgan in the busy packed product warehouse.



The Fraser family tending their hives at Aberthaw Works

Aberthaw busy bees

Back in 2015, our site became host to 10 beehives, each of which are managed and cared for by Barry based family the Frasers. As part of the Tarmac's efforts to enhance biodiversity around our site, the arrival of the hives has been a great asset. Each summer, the bees work hard pollinating the many plants and wildflowers growing in the area, and reward us with beautiful honey every year.

Stuart Escott, Plant Manager says: "It's great that we are able to provide a safe and undisturbed location for these beehives. We particularly enjoy the delicious honey that the Fraser Family share with us each year, made all the sweeter for knowing it's been produced with pollen collected from flowers growing around us."

Stuart Fraser who set up the hives adds: "With bees generally experiencing a decline in numbers in the UK we want to do everything we can to help our bees thrive. It's so hard to find a location where our bees can live undisturbed but that also offers a good supply of plants and flowers on which they can gather pollen. Tarmac's Aberthaw site has proved to be an ideal location."

Meet some of the team



Stuart Escott
Plant Manager

At the beginning of the pandemic former site boss, Graeme Bride moved to Scotland to take over running Tarmac's Dunbar cement plant.

Since then, the operation of Aberthaw Works has been passed on to the site's new Plant Manager Stuart Escott who was previously Maintenance Manager for five years.

It is fair to say that Stuart knows the site like the back of his hand having started as a 16-year-old apprentice here back in 1986.

"Having worked here for many years with a short break to work at a site in Nigeria, I am delighted to have the opportunity to lead the fantastic Aberthaw team.

"Working with the challenges of Covid-19, we continue our focus on the safe and sustainable operation of the site and our hugely important links with the community."

Cardiff born and raised, Stuart is a Cardiff City season ticket holder and lives in the city with his partner, daughter and stepdaughter.

Georgina Taubman

Health, Safety and Environmental Business Partner

Earlier this year our site appointed a new Health, Safety and Environmental Business Partner. Georgina Taubman has come to us from the Ffos-y-fran open cast coal site up in Merthyr Tydfil where she was their Environmental Liaison Officer.

"I'm really excited to take on my new role with Tarmac," says Georgina. "I have over 20 years of

experience of working in, and with, heavy industry so appreciate the importance of maintaining excellent Environmental Monitoring and Management. Ultimately, our goal is to be a responsible neighbour and to take all practicable steps to achieve this.

"I have already met a few of our closest neighbours but very much look forward to meeting other members of the community to share information about site activities and to get their views and ideas."



Zena Rogers
Apprentice Electrician

Meet our newest Apprentice, 22-year-old Zena Rogers from Bridgend. Zena, who joined us in 2019, developed an interest in engineering through her dad's

work in the industry and enrolled on an Electrical and Electronic Engineering course at Bridgend College.

Zena says: "Although I had a keen interest in engineering, I wasn't sure where to pursue a career. At college I completed my Level 3 NVQ and at the same time learned about the different types of engineering. I became interested in the skills and knowledge I could learn through an apprenticeship."

While progressing onto a Higher Education course, Zena learned about the Tarmac apprenticeship scheme. After going through the recruitment process including an assessment day and an interview, she was excited to learn that she had been successful at gaining an

Electrical Apprentice position within Tarmac.

"I had almost no knowledge of heavy industry but was excited by the challenge. Working at Tarmac while continuing to further my education is amazing. I have learnt a lot so far in my apprenticeship. I work closely with the former electrical apprentices and my co-workers in the electrical department and they are constantly sharing their tips of the trade.

"As a female in this field my advice to those looking to go into an industry, where women make up a small percentage of the staff, is to go for it! If it is what you love to do, nothing can hold you back and you can always find a way to move forward."