Revamped scout hut ready for return

Buxton scouts, beavers, cubs and explorers have even more reason to look forward to the pandemic restrictions being lifted. They can't wait to get back to normal with their Tuesday and Wednesday meetings, now that their scout hut has had a total makeover.

Thanks to many hours of volunteer work and a £10,000 grant from Tarmac's Landfill Communities Fund,* the hut now has a brand-new kitchen. In addition, with support from the Bingham Trust and local company Otter Controls Ltd, new toilets have been installed.

Group scout leader, Steve Hollick says: "It has been a shame that the restrictions of the coronavirus have prevented all 80 1st Buxton Scout members from getting together. But there has been a silver lining to this – having the hut empty has meant that kitchen fitters and volunteers have been able to get on with the work safely, without being limited by hut use. We now have a much better space than before. The grants have been very welcome and allowed us to significantly improve the facilities – not just for the scouts but for other community groups who were already using the hut. We can also open it up and promote it for wider community use.

"As well as our sponsors, massive thanks go to the volunteers who have worked hard to keep our costs down and get the jobs done. Thanks in particular to Roger Harrison who has been involved with the 1st Buxton Scouts for over 60 years, and also his son Robert, Scout Leader. Both have devoted their spare time to managing the project and carrying out a lot of the work themselves."

Scouting brothers Robert and Peter Wilson are looking forward to getting back to their scout hut – and we can see why! (Kitchen before and after its makeover)

*The Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund (or Landfill Tax Credit Scheme as it was formerly known) enables landfill operators like Tarmac, to donate part of their annual tax liability to enrolled Environmental Bodies for a variety of approved community and environmental projects. Landfill operators can reclaim 90% of their contribution as a tax credit which means the remaining 10% must be provided either by them or an independent third party. Through the fund Tarmac donates around £1 million each year to community projects throughout the UK. The fund is open to applicants who meet the strict criteria for projects delivering community benefit. For more information please go to www.entrust.org.uk

Happy retirement Alan!

In September, Alan Miller from our roadstone team celebrated an incredible 50 years of service. He began work here in 1970 and has held roles in many different departments, most recently as day production coordinator. He is soon to take very well-earned retirement and we send him very warm wishes from all here at Tarmac Tunstead.

Alan Miller with a signed Manchester United shirt – donated to Tarmac by haulage contractor Lomas for a retirement gift

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 Tunstead?

We would be happy to hear from you – please email us at Tunstead.feedback@tarmac.com and we will respond to you as quickly as possible.

You can also follow our site news on twitter @TunsteadCL.

we welcome your feedback

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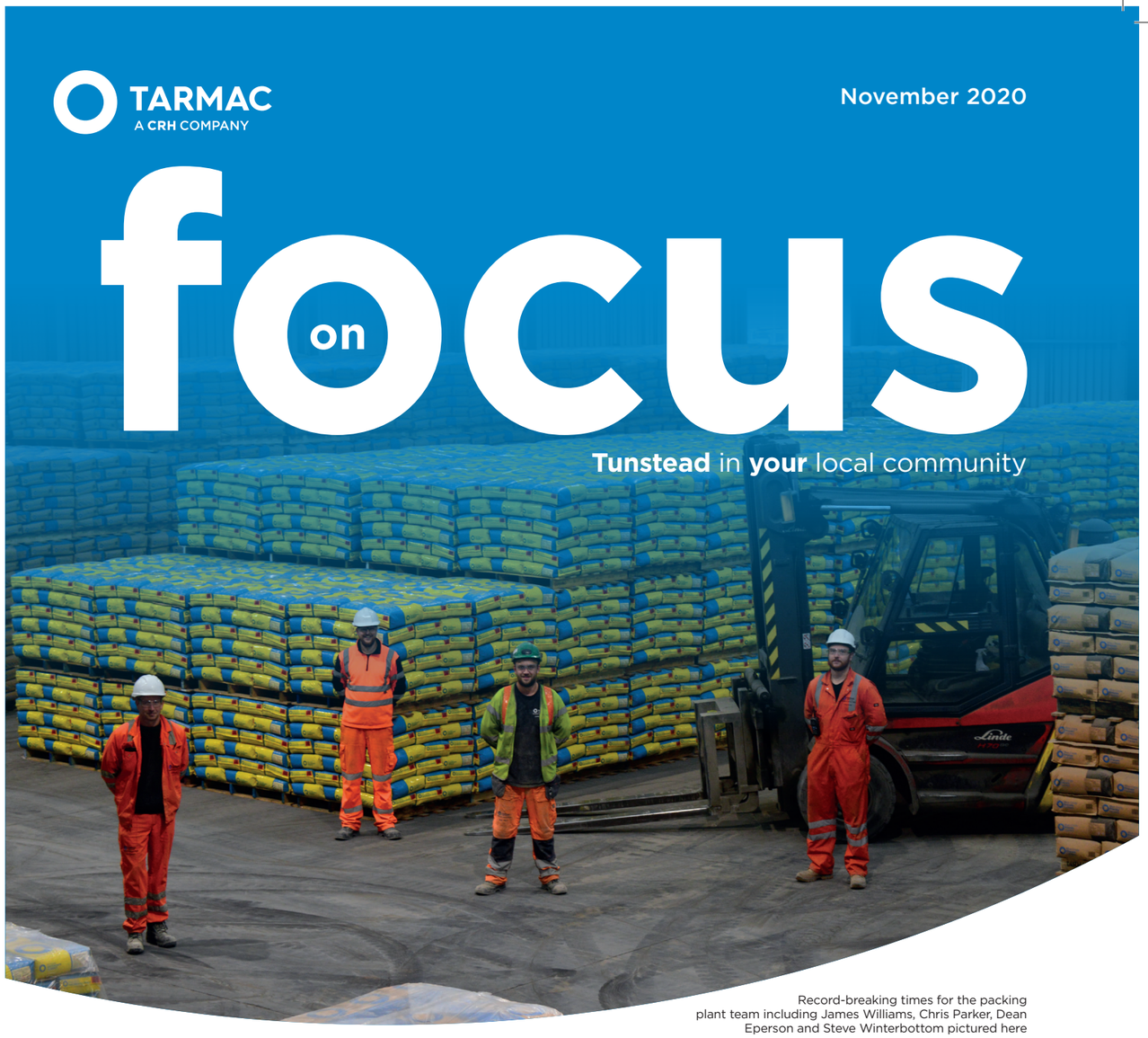
November 2020

focus on

Tunstead in **your** local community



Record-breaking times for the packing plant team including James Williams, Chris Parker, Dean Eperson and Steve Winterbottom pictured here

Bags of success

Welcome to Tarmac Tunstead's Focus On community newsletter for 2020.

Despite the challenges we all continue to face through the pandemic, this newsletter reaches you at a time when the Tunstead site is fully, and safely operational and very busy.

Working as a site team, we have 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'. (See Safety story on inside pages for more detail.)

Against the testing backdrop of Covid-19, our packed cement team has had much to celebrate.

With home DIY proving to be very popular during the lockdown earlier this year, our cement packers have been kept extremely busy.

Ian Smith, packing plant manager says: "Covid-19 has clearly had a significant impact on construction projects across the UK. However, the spring lockdown saw an increase in DIY activities and thanks to fantastic teamwork we were able to ensure our Mastercrete cement was distributed to builders' merchants around the country, ensuring shelves were kept stocked for all those DIYers."

Working safely through Covid-19 challenges

The safety of our teams has always been front and centre for us here at Tunstead. It was essential to work together to adapt our protocols and procedures to keep our team safe in line with the new strict public health and Government guidance and adhere to our new 'Covid-19 Secure Safety Standard'."

Darren Hall, health and safety advisor on the cement plant explains how we have adapted across the whole site to keep Covid safe.

"It is fair to say that life has changed for us all in the past nine months, most notably in the way each of us go about our daily tasks, work and social interactions. Here at Tarmac Tunstead things are no different and we quickly adapted and incorporated many additional precautionary measures. Safety now encapsulates a much more complex array of procedures and equipment comprising temperature checks, one-way systems and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

"Our safety practices are delivering a robust Covid-19 secure approach to working in all of our surroundings. Our offices layouts have been reconfigured and social distancing signs are a constant feature throughout the plant. Risk assessments provide the essential framework for assessing various interactions and mitigation plans across the working site. These were essential and fundamental in generating a holistic approach and a specific plan for how we could work together (but apart) to keep our working teams safe.

Left, engineering and operations manager Paul O'Nyons and right, Cement Plant manager Chris Bradbury with some of the new Covid-19 safety signage.

"Mental health care during these unprecedented times is also prioritised along with physical safety. This is why our safety policies are clear and concise, dispelling any confusion and helping to alleviate concerns.

"Technology has played a vital role in communications during this pandemic. While face-to-face interactions and discussions are minimised, video or virtual calls are the next best thing to provide an interface between different colleagues and sites across our network and business. We will continue to monitor all the government advice and review site practices to keep everyone safe from Covid-19."

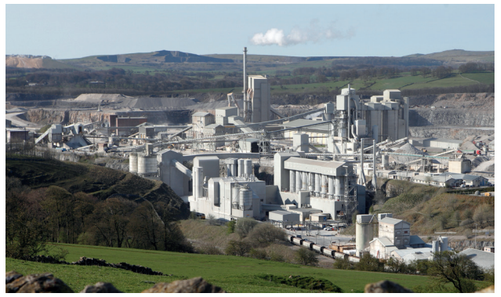
Reducing our carbon footprint

Like many other companies, Tarmac is fully committed to supporting the UK's ambition to transition to a net zero carbon emissions economy by 2050.

Recently here at Tunstead we have begun a ground-breaking project to explore two innovative energy sources in the production of cement and lime. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) awarded £6.2m to the Mineral Products Association (MPA) to manage the project nationally and Tunstead has been chosen for two of the trials.

In the lime business we currently burn natural gas to fuel our kilns. As natural gas has a carbon content, it naturally adds to our emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2). By using hydrogen instead, we would produce water vapour and significantly reduce our carbon impact.

On the cement side, we will be installing a 'plasma torch' in the calciner (back) end of the kiln – this will help us move towards a carbon neutral combination of fuels in that part of the kiln. The electricity powering the plasma torch will come from renewable sources so during this trial we will be able to say that this part of our cement process is carbon neutral.


Tarmac's Tunstead site

Mike Eberlin, managing director of Tarmac's UK Cement and Lime business, says: "Collaborative working and embracing innovative technologies are key in our collective efforts to create a lower carbon, resilient built environment and we are proud to be involved in such as important project which will help inform industry and Government strategic plans on decarbonisation."

As well as this exciting new project for Tunstead we continue to use sustainable, lower carbon waste-derived fuels in our cement manufacturing process. And, as a whole site, we are now powered 100% from renewable energy sources.

Transport is another way in which we try to reduce our carbon footprint. At Tunstead we try to maximise use of rail and manage lorry movements. Recently we have signed a new contract with Freightliner to haul aggregate and cement from Tunstead to our network of rail depots and onwards to customers. Each train load removes up to 60 lorries from the roads.


One of the first trains to bring stone in from Tunstead arrives at Hindlow in late 1987


Possibly one of the last stone trains at Hindlow in September 2020

Rail milestone for Hindlow

September was a milestone in the operation of our sister quarry at Hindlow which employs more than 20 people and also produces lime products.

Production manager Joe Bowers explains: "Since 1987 the operation at Hindlow has been fed with stone from the quarries at Tunstead, delivered to site by rail. In the summer of this year, we began to extract stone from the Hindlow quarry again, leading to the lime plants being fed with stone from this site for the first time since 1988. So, in September this year, we potentially saw the last train bringing stone from Tunstead into Hindlow.

"Stone quarried from the limestone deposit at Hindlow is very pure and ideal for producing lime which will be sold into various industries including water treatment, construction and other industrial processes. We estimate that over the last 32 years around 10 million tonnes of limestone have been shipped by rail from Tunstead to Hindlow. By being self-sufficient we have been able to reduce rail movements from Tunstead to Hindlow by six to eight train movements per week."

Refit boosts crusher performance

After 21 years of service and breaking up millions of tonnes of stone, we have given our Primary Crusher a complete overhaul. Stone and powders maintenance manager, Richard Strawford, managed the major engineering project, supported by several other team members and departments on site, and a range of contractor specialists including several local companies. In total around 50 people worked on the project.

He explains what the overhaul entailed: "This project was the biggest task we had undertaken on the crusher and aimed to put this vital piece of plant back to 'almost new' so that it could give us another 20 years plus service.

"Planning started back in 2018 with help from the original manufacturer FL Schmidt. The team there helped us make sure we had all the parts we needed and were 100% prepared before we took the crusher out of operation in August 2020.

"High winds hampered our work early on with the 1000-tonne mobile crane we had on site unable to carry out some of the key machinery lifts we had planned. Once the main lifts had been completed the overhaul gathered good pace and seemed to be back on track for completion on day 14 as expected. Our contractors worked with our team day and night to ensure a smooth run to the finish.


Job done! Left to right: Liam Garner, maintenance inspector; Paul Bould, maintenance inspector; Richard Strawford, stone & powders maintenance manager; Ben Cross, maintenance supervisor (methods)

"On 7 September we were delighted to start the crusher back up and immediately see improvements in its operational ability. The project was another example of Tunstead great teamwork, and my thanks go to all involved."

Did you know...

The Primary Crusher at Tunstead is a gyratory crusher which is fed by a fleet of 100 tonne dump trucks. A gyratory type crusher consists of a bell-shaped mantle that slowly gyrates inside a bowl crushing stone to a specified size. This crusher at Tunstead will crush 100 tonnes of stone in under 90 seconds, with the stone from the blast face ranging from rocks the size of small cars down to dust fractions below 4 mm. Everything that passes through the crusher will be less than 250mm in size and it can hold up to 300 tonnes of stone at any one time.