

View from the top...

I remember our first Christmas together almost 30 years ago; it was *not* a perfect Christmas.

I naively assumed that all of the rich family traditions passed down from my own family would simply transfer across into my new family.

I never even considered that my wife had an equally rich set of Christmas traditions. The trouble started early.

It was Christmas Eve, my young wife had prepared some of my favourite dishes using some of my mother's Christmas recipes. It was perfect.

Then it happened. My wife wanted to open one of the wrapped gifts on Christmas Eve as her family had done for years. Oh the horror!

My family never opened any gifts early. So as the head of this new household, I put my foot down. "We will not open any gifts in my house until Christmas Day", I announced. Needless to say, that didn't go over well.

Although the relationship between the Repository and the village is not exactly a marriage, we have an important relationship and we are going to have to "live together" for a long time, and I think there are some lessons to be learned from my first Christmas.

The obvious lesson is the realisation that both parties bring a set of differing priorities to the relationship, and it is important (if the relationship is to be a healthy one) to really seek to understand.

Right now, for the Repository, one of our top priorities is to get the cap placed over the containers in Vault 8.

The village, rightly, has a different set of priorities, and some of them, actually conflict with the Repository's need to place the final cap.

The predominant area of conflict revolves around the amount of traffic through the village. We do understand this.

Just this month, we have entered into discussions with the parish leadership about how we are going to progress some of our large project work in the years ahead, and much of the discussions revolves around traffic management.

These talks are important, and both parties need to seek to understand the needs and priorities of the other party.

Back to my original story... In the end, my wife and I sat down and compared notes and we communicated expectations for the Christmas season. She listened to me, and I to her.

And today our Christmas traditions are not just a combination of our two families, but we have developed new traditions that are even better.

I think in the years ahead, the village and the Repository will be able to do the same.

Oh, and one more thing... we now open a present on the night before Christmas. So much for putting my foot down!

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Dennis Thompson,

Managing Director



LLWR was happy to agree to a request for a visit from leading members of the Japanese nuclear company responsible for developing the strategy for the Fukushima clean-up.

Dr Kazuyuki Kato, Managing Director of the Nuclear Damage Compensation & Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF), was accompanied by two general managers from the organisation and joined by Kenso Fujiwara, Assistant Director, Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry.

The guests, pictured above with LLWR hosts, visited the Grout Facility on Site where they discussed encapsulation of low level waste. They were also keen to learn about LLWR's Waste Acceptance Criteria and its Environmental Safety Case (ESC), which took 85 man years of work to develop and demonstrates to the Environment Agency and other stakeholders that it is safe to continue to dispose of low level waste at the Repository.



Nineteen volunteers from LLWR stepped up to take part in a charity spinathon in memory of their late colleague Milton Huddart.

Milton, a long-serving and popular staff member, died last year, and widow Joanne now organises an annual event in his memory, at Whitehaven Sports Centre.

The 12-hour event, on static bikes, was split into hour-long sessions with Milton's former work-mates stepping up for a 60-minute stint.

"It was a good turnout and everyone enjoyed it," said LLWR's Carl Smith, who pulled together the company's team.

"We had people of varying levels of fitness, including some who had not been on this type of bike, but they went at their own tempo and did really, really well."

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 LLW Repository Ltd

ON THE LEVEL

Edition 10 December 2016

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LLW REPOSITORY

Our Framework is rated "credit to the industry"

LLW Repository Ltd's Engineering, Design & Construction Framework (EDCF) with GRAHAM Construction has been praised as a "credit to the company and the industry" by the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS).

Our site has undergone significant construction projects over the last 12 months and with several major projects planned for the next few years, CCS were keen to explore how well infrastructure schemes were being delivered on a Nuclear Licensed Site, particularly with regard to Community Engagement, Environment, and Workforce Safety.

CCS is a national initiative - of which our EDC Framework is a member - and was established by the construction industry to improve its image by improving standards.

Sites registered with the scheme are independently assessed against a code of practice, designed to encourage the highest standards of facilities and conduct.

Tom Lawson, CCS Monitor, made two visits to assess our site, near Drigg, scoring the Framework on five criteria: Care about Appearance; Respect the Community; Protect the Environment; Secure Everyone's Safety and Value their Workforce.

"This project continues to achieve a very high level of overall compliance with the Scheme's Code of Considerate Practice and is a credit to the company and the industry," he concluded.

On the first visit our Framework was rated "very good" across the board, and on the second visit it scored a perfect 10 in the Community section which is very rare particularly given the



Hats off to the Framework: Stuart Robertson and Tony Buchanan

restrictions for work on a Nuclear Licensed site.

The unique method of advertising our association with CCS was also noted; namely a scarecrow dressed in full PPE near to the site entrance attached, with a CCS and EDCF construction notice board during Drigg's Harvest Festival.

A high level of awareness of ecological issues, waste management and protection of water courses were also noted, while "robust procedures" were in place to ensure protection of the environment, and our community engagement was described as exceptional.

Safety management continued to be excellent and there was a strong safety culture on site, whilst the level of facilities and support for the workforce also remained "exceptional."

Tony Buchanan, LLWR's Lead Programme Manager, said: "The integrated working between LLWR and GRAHAM Construction has

seen us constantly strive for improvement in delivery, and this has been recognised by CCS.

"We were awarded 43 points out of 50 by CCS, which means we still have 7 to chase. But the most important thing is to ensure everyone goes home safe at the end of each shift.

"It's all about protecting our people and the environment they work in."

Stuart Robertson, GRAHAM Contracts Director, said "GRAHAM is a CCS Associate Member and we proudly advocate and strive to attain excellence from the scheme for each of the sites we work on.

"LLWR is a high performing site and our recent CCS score is further evidence of this.

"We are particularly pleased with the maximum score in the Respect the Community section as it is our collective ambition to deliver a positive legacy both on and off site."

We keep funds flowing from Rivers Ride

LLWR proudly retained the Shield for leading company contributor to the Jennings Rivers Ride again this year. A dozen riders in company colours tackled distances ranging from 27.5 miles to 83.75 miles and raised £1,884 in sponsorship and LLWR added an additional £2,000, to take the tally donated to Cumbria Community Foundation to £3,884.

“Considering we had fewer people taking part than last year, it was a tremendous effort from our riders,” said Cath Giel, Head of Public Affairs, who was on hand in a support vehicle with colleagues Donna Glasson and Nicole Nicholson.

“The feedback we received was that the new circuit, starting in Cockermouth, was more arduous than in previous years, when it was based in Keswick. But thankfully, we had no emergencies and all of our people completed the circuit without any major dramas.

“There were some tired bodies crossing the finishing line, but they had the satisfaction of knowing that they had pulled out all the stops for a charity that provides over £2m annually to more than 500 community projects.”

Pictured below: Some of our riders ready for the off, and right, Foundation Chief Executive Andy Beeforth presents the Shield to Cath Giel



Providing a helping hand at homeless hostel

Volunteers from the LLWR site helped bring pre-Christmas cheer to a ground-breaking hostel for homeless people in Egremont.

Members of the Engineering, Design & Construction Framework (EDCF) team – a collaboration of LLWR and GRAHAM Construction personnel working on major projects at the Repository site, near Drigg – were asked to join support staff and residents of Calderwood House to decorate bedrooms and communal areas, and they happily obliged.

Tony Buchanan, Lead Programme Manager, said: “It is important to the Framework that alongside the work we are carrying out on the Repository site we also deliver a positive legacy in the local community.

“I think we are unique in that we are consciously making available a half day a month to carry out works in the community and it was our pleasure to answer the call for help when made by Calderwood House.

“It is a fantastic facility and if by doing what we can make life a bit easier for the residents then it is a win-win for all.”

Calderwood House, which opened just over a year ago on the site of the town’s former police station, provides en-suite accommodation for homeless people in the local community, with priority given to former members of the armed forces. Staff also provide training and education.

Rachel Holliday, founder and manager of Calderwood House, said: “It is fantastic that firms like LLWR and GRAHAM Construction are willing and able to come along and help out. It is important that Calderwood looks welcoming and by the works that we carried out together we have made a real difference to the look of the facility but it is also a welcome morale boost for the residents.”

£340m Programme looking for 2017 launch

The far-reaching Repository Development Programme (RDP) — LLWR’s biggest programme of work to date estimated at around £340m over several decades — is hoping to take a major step forward next month following submission of the Business Case for the first tranche of work to NDA for sanction.

When agreed it will enable LLWR to access initial funding of £14.5m that will allow completion of detailed design work for capping Vault 8 and the adjacent trenches, together with initial physical works to start on the programme, that will create around 120 construction jobs over its lifetime.

The early physical work, expected to start late

next year, will include the erection of noise barriers, removal of tree screening and the relocation of contractors’ compounds to create a stockpile area for capping material.

Under the programme, a final engineered cap will be constructed over existing facilities and future vaults.

Dennis Thompson, Managing Director of LLWR Repository Ltd, said: “In addition to creating new construction jobs, the development will secure existing posts and help support the local economy.

“But that is only part of the story. Stringent measures will be taken to minimise disruption

to local residents through, for example, screening around the perimeter of the development area, controlling working hours and using trains to deliver materials where possible.”

The programme will progressively close facilities by construction of an engineered cap and new vaults will be constructed when required to ensure ongoing capacity is available for the UK nuclear industry, whilst at the same time ensuring protection of the environment.

Given the success of waste diversion achieved by LLWR, as opposed to disposing of materials at the Repository, it is likely to be several years before the next vault is constructed.

Lego proves a surprise package!

LLWR’s Type B packaging team put together a model to illustrate the transport of the new fleet of Novapak packages which are currently being manufactured – using a seven-year-old’s Lego set.

Type B team member Marc Goodwin utilised son Alfie’s building blocks for a customer session at Risley, adopting an innovative idea suggested by a colleague from NDA. The workshop simulated the transport of PCM and Nuclear Materials between the Harwell, Sellafield and LLWR sites via road and rail to test operational readiness at each site.

The Type B team constructed a train, railway tracks and crane out of Lego to visually show how the new packaging system will work when it becomes operational later this year, and Marc thinks it went down well with stakeholders.

“Everyone seemed to find it beneficial,” he said. “It helped us convey a message and helps stakeholders understand some of the physical challenges around handling the packages.”

“We took on board NDA’s Learning From Experience (LFE) to get across our message.”

Dave Rossiter, Senior Responsible Officer for the Type B programme, said “It’s great to see project teams really thinking about how to connect with their audience, in this case Operations, Engineering, and Transport teams from three different organisations.

“The use of Lego added a visual element to the workshop and helped review the practicalities and challenges of re-introducing these packages at all three sites after several years of no shipments.”

Pictured: Alan Jackson, who heads the Type B team, with colleagues Rachel Starkey and Natalie Harker, are happy with the reception for the Lego models

