

View from the top...

If you are like me, then you read these company newsletters with a bit of scepticism.

Certainty, it can't all be good, can it? These newsletters are kind of the opposite of what we get when we pick up a national newspaper, which are generally all negative.

I don't pick the articles for this brochure, but I do read them, and I can validate that they are all true. But do they represent the wider picture of what the LLWR is doing?

I know only too well, that the LLWR has its share of disappointments and bad news. There are a few projects that are behind schedule, from time to time there are tensions between the LLWR and its contractors, and not every employee is thrilled with the amount of work they have on their plate.

However, I really do think that if the editors of the newsletter wanted only negative stories, we would find it difficult to fill the pages, and I think that you as the reader, would find it pretty boring and petty.

My personal view is that the LLWR is in an exceptionally good place. I am not referring to a beautiful spot outside of the village of Drigg, although that would be true.

What I mean is that the fundamentals of a healthy business are in place and working.

Roles and responsibilities are well defined, employees know where the company is going, and know where they fit in, relationships between employees and their unions and management are healthy, relationship with the supply chain is positive, and yes, I think even the relationship between the Site and its local community is built on a foundation of mutual trust.

So I do think that the positive articles in this newsletter represent where we are as a company.

We have a workforce who are committed to supporting local charities with both their time and money (see the articles on the Macmillan Cancer Support, and our sponsorship of a suite at the Calderwood House in Egremont).

The LLWR is also beginning to tackle some of the UK's more difficult waste issues and the cover article on FED is a great case in point.

As you can see in one of the articles, our relationship with our key contractors is not only healthy but it is getting national recognition.

And finally overall performance remains at the top of the league, both in safety (see the article on our Perfect Day performance) and in our ability to deliver our clients expectations.

For the next newsletter, I think I will see if I can convince our editor to publish a special "negative" edition; however, I don't think I will be too successful...

Dennis Thompson,
Managing Director

High standards merit award for Framework partners



In the frame: Representatives of LLWR and GRAHAM Construction collect their accolade at the CCS awards in Manchester

Our Framework partnership with GRAHAM Construction has been recognised at the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) awards in Manchester.

Members of LLWR and GRAHAM were on hand to receive industry recognition with a bronze award from CCS, which was established by the construction sector to improve its image by raising standards.

It was the first time LLWR had entered the awards and the Framework was rated 'beyond compliant' in all five categories under scrutiny, in being awarded 43 marks out of 50 by CCS Monitor Tom Lawson on his second inspection of the LLWR Site.

Neil Fawcett, GRAHAM Project Manager, said: "No one should underestimate the amount of effort and time that has gone into receiving this recognition.

"There is a lot of good practice taking place within the LLWR/GRAHAM partnership and the award has just confirmed this."

A centrepiece of the Framework was a new 4.2km Security Fence around Site, completed on time and under budget.

Join us for Working Group meeting

The latest quarterly meeting of the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group (WCSSG) LLWR Working Group will be held in Drigg Village Hall on Wednesday, 19th July, and, as usual, members of the public are welcome to attend.

The meeting will be held from 6pm to 8pm, giving members of the local community who may be at work during the day the best chance to get involved.

WCSSG is an independent body whose role is to provide public scrutiny of the nuclear industry in West Cumbria, and the LLWR Group, including representatives from local government, regulators, unions and community groups, examines aspects of the low level waste industry, including operational issues, environment health, emergency planning and socio-economic impacts.

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ON THE LEVEL

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LLW REPOSITORY

£60m saving on FED waste

A long-running project to dispose of Magnox Fuel Element Debris (FED) at the LLWR Site is estimated to save the NDA estate around £60m and lead to the early disposal of legacy hazards.

FED is waste largely made up of pieces of metal casing, removed to allow greater packaging efficiency before used Magnox fuel from reactor stations was shipped to Sellafield for reprocessing. Such waste at Magnox Ltd sites around the UK had previously been destined for alternative treatment or eventual disposal in a proposed Geological Disposal Facility.

But after over two years of work by a team of technical specialists from LLWR, Magnox and Tradebe Inutec, a specialist provider of radioactive waste management services, the FED was deemed to be within Repository Site limits and suitable for disposal as Low Level Waste (LLW).

The move will bring forward the closure of the Bradwell plant, where the FED was initially stored. The facility in Essex ceased operations in 2002. FED had historically been assumed by Magnox to be Intermediate Level Waste (ILW),



FED and buried: FED waste is bound for LLWR vaults

but a significant proportion has now been shown to be LLW. This is partly a result of radioactive decay whilst the FED has been stored in vaults at Bradwell but also due to careful separation of the metallic FED and corrosion products from high dose rate items such as springs/fuel fragments, and improved characterisation data resulting from sampling.

The first trial container of FED waste was encapsulated and disposed of at the Repository in May, and the project team has taken a

phased approach.

"Everything is being done safely," said Howard Falconer, Project Managing for LLWR. "At the start of this process we began with virtually lab-sized trials using inactive simulants, slowly building to drum-sized trials, all the way up to 'first of a kind' consignment.

"We've learned a lot during the process but there's still a lot of work to do and bulk processing won't start until around the end of this year. It may take up to five years to process all the FED from Bradwell. However we believe there are opportunities to expedite this process.

"We are talking about saving tens of millions of pounds for the taxpayer."

Having established the inventory of LLW FED, the initial focus of the work was to ensure it could be safely packaged for transport, first to Tradebe-Inutec facilities, at Winfrith, in Dorset.

This included the receipt and unloading of FED drums at Winfrith, where drums undergo supercompaction, to make them compatible with the final disposal container (half-height ISO freight containers) at LLWR. The Bradwell element of the project will save around an estimated £10m and it will also prove of benefit to other Magnox sites, such as Oldbury and Sizewell, with total estimated savings of about £60m over the course of the long-term project.

Continuing to deliver AND meet targets

LLWR enjoyed another record year in 2016/17, delivering more scope than ever whilst producing savings of £3.9m. The organisation delivered £62.5m-worth of workscope for £58.6m, and met 97% of objectives set by Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

"It was a very successful year," said Dave Rossiter, Business Manager. "LLWR continued to deliver and work together as a team. This is shaping up to be an even bigger year with even more to deliver. It's the final year of our current five-year contract with NDA and we want to end it on a high."

The Plutonium Contaminated Materials (PCM) Programme, Security Programme and Asset Refurbishment Programme all have important milestones this year, and work will continue on the Type B Packaging Programme, to enable materials to be returned to Sellafield for storage.

IT Modernisation is also planned and LLWR will tie in with NDA's Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity campaign, involving surveys to assess attitudes, training and an information drive. "We are set for a very busy year," Dave said.

Macmillan is our new Charity of Year

Macmillan Cancer Support has been chosen by the workforce to be LLWR's Charity of the Year – and determined staff are looking to top last year's tally.

Some £5,001 was donated to West Cumbria Carers in 2016/17, including a company contribution of £2,000, and staff plan to pull out all the stops to raise even more for Macmillan, who will ensure every penny raised by LLWR will be spent in West Cumbria, providing specialist health care, information, emotional and financial support to people affected by cancer.

Sue McDonald, Fundraising Manager, Cumbria, said: "We love to be supported by the local community and I'm looking forward to working with everyone at LLWR. It's brilliant that LLWR wanted to be involved."

Some of the funds raised will be directed to patient grants, for those in dire financial need due to cancer.

"We give these grants to make life as normal as possible for people living with cancer," Sue added. "People with cancer tend to feel cold,



Cheers: Cath Giel, from LLWR, left, gets to know Sue McDonald, of Macmillan

and one lady said she got to the end of the week and had to choose between getting some food and turning on her fire."

Cath Giel, Head of Public Affairs at LLWR, said: "This year we will have some of our old

favourites returning and some fresh fund-raising ideas. We're aiming to top our total from last year. To present over £5,000 to the Carers was fantastic and reflects so well on our generous workforce."



'Runners' quick to rally round

Members of our IT department are tackling the Gosforth 10K for charity—and they are inviting colleagues to join them on the start-line for the popular event.

When Macmillan Cancer Support was chosen by the LLWR workforce as our latest charity of the year, IT Project Manager Dave Little decided to get involved and roped in colleagues Julie Sweeney, Leona Middlehurst, Andy Gray, all pictured left, and Jasper Kirkman, all of whom will be sponsored for the race. "I thought it was a good opportunity to

put our money where our mouth is," quipped Dave.

"If anyone else at LLWR wants to get involved, it's a good goal to focus on. You don't need to be Seb Coe, you just need to make a start."

None of the IT crew is a serious runner, but Dave is a former fitness instructor who took part in the Gosforth race 11 years ago and finished in a speedy 46 minutes.

The event will be held on Tuesday 5th September, starting at 6.30pm.

Westlakes students motor to Nissan Trophy

Students from Westlakes Academy in Egremont are celebrating after winning the North East and Cumbrian finals of the Engineering Education Scheme – a national scheme designed to get young people interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The students spent six months working on a real world problem, creating innovative solutions whilst working alongside STEM Ambassadors from LLWR. They competed against over 30 teams from across Cumbria and the North East and were delighted to find out that they had been awarded the Nissan Trophy, for the best performance, at the celebration and assessment day held at Newcastle University.

Ian Wills, Head of Nuclear Safety Cases at LLWR, said: "It was a pleasure to work with the students from Westlakes Academy, their team spirit

and hard work paid dividends and they were very worthy winners.

"Over the course of the project they visited the LLWR Site and looked at various ways of investigating how reactive metals are affected by encapsulation. By carrying out a number of experiments they were able to transfer the theoretical learning into practical solutions."

Westlakes Academy staff are also celebrating following an outstanding OFSTED inspection report.

The academy was awarded the highest possible rating in all five key areas of assessment –Leadership and Management, Teaching and Learning, Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare, Post-16 Provision and Outcomes for Students.

'Perfect' start to the new year

LLWR has marked its first 'Perfect Week' since introducing the Perfect Day concept last year to focus on maintaining and upgrading standards across the board within the organisation.

The Perfect Day idea was borrowed from Framework partner NSG and adapted to suit LLWR's needs.

Criteria to be met to qualify for a Perfect Day cover requirements in areas such as Safety, Security, Environmental Stewardship, Stakeholder Relations, Quality, Schedule Adherence and the company's own Standards and Expectations.

In 2016/17 its first year of operation, 193 Perfect Days were achieved, or 53% of total days.

This year, that figure, as of 31st May, stood at 73% after LLWR achieved its first Perfect Week in April, followed a few weeks later by the first Perfect Fortnight.

Allan Stephenson, LLWR Safety Advisor, said: "We've twice come close in the past, getting six consecutive Perfect Days, but to get seven, the



Perfect Week, everybody felt it was a great achievement.

"It actually went on to be 10 consecutive Perfect Days. A perfect week isn't easy to achieve and it takes the efforts of everyone across the organisation.

"It's important now that we don't rest on our laurels and seek further improvements."

Schedule adherence is one area where huge strides have been made, and several initiatives

are planned to improve performance in other areas.

LLWR boasts an outstanding safety record but the company is attempting to reduce the number of minor injuries we are currently seeing.

"Statistically, if you can cut back on these, it has been proven that you are more likely to prevent a more serious incident," Allan said.

To celebrate the first Perfect Week, the workforce received Perfect Day mugs and computer mouse-mats as reminders of the Perfect Day criteria.

This year we will launch the LLWR Safe Behaviours initiative, aimed at improving our awareness of the ways to keep ourselves safe when carrying out everyday activities such as walking up and down stairs, using kitchen facilities and moving around the workplace.

Allan added: "We aim to build on our success to date, and let's see how many perfect weeks we can get, or maybe even a perfect month."

Proud to give a helping hand

A suite in an emergency homeless hostel in Egremont has been named in honour of LLWR. The organisation has agreed to sponsor a suite in Calderwood House, which has performed a vital community role, offering temporary housing to around 70 homeless people, aged 19 to 80, since it opened in October 2015 on the site of the town's former police station.

Its inspiration and founder was Rachel Holliday, who suffered drug addiction and homelessness in Manchester as a teenager, before returning home to West Cumbria and turning her life around.

LLWR's sponsorship of the suite, one of 11 in the hostel, a not-for-profit social enterprise, will last for 12 months. Guests can stay for a maximum of six months and receive training in handling budgets and debt advice. They are encouraged to take creative writing courses and have an opportunity to train as baristas and work in the hostel's mobile coffee van or on its market stall in Whitehaven.

Rachel said: "Homelessness has grown in West Cumbria over recent years, and if not for the kindness and compassion shown by companies such as LLWR, Calderwood House couldn't keep its doors open."



Nice move: left to right, Leanne Donlon, who resides in our sponsored room, ex-Calderwood resident Joanne McKone and support work Keith Duck

Refurb work is in the pipeline

Essential refurbishment work to Manhole 11 on the foreshore at Drigg beach is to get underway in June and last up to seven months.

Slight disruption is expected around the marine discharge pipeline with up to around five works vehicles using the car park at Shore Road.

Barriers will be erected around the Manhole works, though the public will still be able to access the shoreline pathway from Drigg to Seascale.