

View from the top...

At the end of September I am going to step down as the Managing Director of the Repository. It's kind of a big decision, especially since I have been at the Site for more than 10 years.



However, those who know me will appreciate, it was not a decision made lightly, and there are several sound reasons that influenced my thinking.

The primary reason is that I believe the timing is right for me to leave. I have been the Managing Director for 7 of the nearly 11 years that we have been here; that's long enough to leave a mark, but it's also long enough to become set in our ways. So it is time.

As a result of my tenure, I know that we have developed many good habits and behaviours, all of which have become part of our culture, but equally, I'm conscious there could be things that escape my notice that may not be in the best interest of the organisation. It is time for someone else to pick up the mantle, and continue the process of making the LLWR a better place.

As I look at the LLWR, one of the things that I am most proud of is the fact that the organisation is ready to move forward without me. Although in the end, the decision as to who permanently takes my place is influenced by several external factors, it is my strong opinion and recommendation that the LLWR has what it needs internally to move into the future.

Paul Pointon will assume the role of Managing Director, and Martin Walkingshaw will take the role of Deputy Managing Director.

Both have been on my staff for the entire period, have bought into the principles that have made us successful, and are completely dedicated to the LLWR mission, vision and values. Each has their own ideas on what needs to be done to strengthen the Repository. So it is time to let them begin to leave their own mark.

Many have asked what is next for me, I have committed to help my parent organisation (AECOM) to try and win some key contracts and then to play a part in delivering those contracts if we are able to win them. However, this is by no means a guarantee.

Just because it is *time to leave* does not mean that it is *easy to leave*; saying goodbye to my friends and colleagues at the LLWR will be difficult for me, as many of them have become like an extended family. However, I am convinced that it is time. My only ask is that you continue to be as gracious to Paul and Martin as you have been to me over the last 7 years.

Dennis Thompson,
Managing Director



Great views: Café operator Samantha Burns, left, and Sal Miller

New café is our cup of tea

Funding of £4,000 from LLWR for a pilot project to launch a beach café on the seafront at Silecroft has paid dividends.

The project has proved a great success since its launch in August 2017, creating one full time job and attracting visitors from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United States, who have sampled the food and drink on offer.

"The reaction has been so positive," said Sal Millar, a member of the Whicham Community Interest Company (CIC) Beach Group, made up of local people who have got the project off the ground.

"People have been saying a café was needed for years in that location, but without LLWR we would not have got started. Their injection of cash at the start made us press ahead.

"The bulk of our visitors come from within a 10-mile radius, but we also get a lot of holidaymakers."

LLWR initially gifted £2,000 to the CIC to enable them to buy a container unit that had been used on a building site.

It was painted, decorated and had

kitchen facilities installed. But it had to rely on a generator for power until LLWR gave another £2,000 to ensure it provided mains electricity.

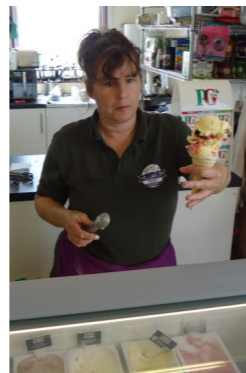
Silecroft Beach Café remained open throughout the winter and has enjoyed booming trade during the warm summer months.

Expansion is now on the cards, with a second container unit planned, courtesy of Copeland Community Foundation, including wheelchair accessible toilets.

The long term aspiration is for a permanent café on the site, though the Beach Group are happy with their progress to date.

"The café's popularity has amazed us," Sal said.

"Next to the sea and the mountains, people love it."



Invitation to our Working Group meeting

Please be aware that the latest quarterly meeting of our West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group LLWR Working Group meeting will be held in Drigg Village Hall, on Wednesday, 17th October, 2pm to 4pm.

All are welcome to join the mix of elected representatives, regulators and senior LLWR staff to discuss topics of mutual interest or concern about the Repository Site.

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Investing in our future as six new apprentices sign up

Six new apprentices have joined LLWR this month, the biggest single intake for the organisation at one time.

They will join nationally-accredited apprentice schemes run by training provider GEN2 at Lillyhall, with LLWR providing the daily work environment.

The apprentices will undergo tailored development programmes and each has been assigned an LLWR mentor for support and guidance.

The new apprentices joining the organisation are Amy Fox and Stephanie Mills (Project Management), Abby Tallentire (Project Controls), Ashleigh Wilcock and Chloe Glaister (Operations/Departmental Managers) and Jade Murphy (Business Administration).

Abbie Wright, Apprentice Scheme Co-ordinator, said: "The organisation invests a lot of time and effort into our apprentices and they receive a lot of support throughout their apprenticeship. It's quite exciting to see our new apprentices coming through, some in disciplines new to our organisation that will help to support business requirements."

In addition to their daily roles, LLWR encourages its apprentices to get involved in community work and fundraising events, which this year for existing apprentices included delivering community newsletters in Drigg, a beach clean at Seascale and organising a USA Day fundraiser for the company's Charity of the Year, Give Us A Break.

They are also encouraged to get involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering



First day: our new apprentices launch their careers at LLWR, welcomed by Deputy MD Paul Pointon, middle right, John Graham, Head of HR & Training, middle left, Mel Scudamore, Training Manager, far right, and Abbie Wright, Apprentice Scheme Co-ordinator, far left

and Maths) activities, attending conferences, events and exhibitions to inspire the next generation of young learners.

Ex-Craft apprentice Jake Icceton moved into a new role in Packaging in June.

He said: "An opportunity arose in Waste Management and LLWR showed its support so I was really pleased to take it. My apprenticeship gave me a good understanding of the working world. It takes the naivety out of you and you realise you are no longer at school. It has been a big change for me, no longer being 'on the tools', but everyone has been helpful and I'm learning new skills."

Dennis to move on

Dennis Thompson is to step down from the role of Managing Director of LLW Repository Ltd at the end of September to pursue new opportunities within his parent organisation AECOM.

Deputy MD Paul Pointon will be appointed as Acting Managing Director, with Martin Walkingshaw taking on the role of Acting Deputy MD. Dennis will remain Chairman of the SLC Board, in a non-Executive capacity, to support the organisation as it transitions.

For Dennis's thoughts on his move, please see his back page column.

Major Project 1

Our largest logistics project for 5 years drives capacity savings



A partnership between LLWR, Cyclife and Magnox is leading to the recycling of over 800 tonnes of metal from the Chapelcross site, near Annan – and preserving valuable capacity at the Repository.

Around 30 consignments that otherwise would have been destined for LLWR have been sent to a Cyclife facility in Sweden, where 95% of the material will be recycled.

LLWR managed the transportation of steel to the North East for shipping in its largest logistical operation since the movement of the Berkeley Boilers five years ago.

The latest operation involved 16 road movements over 10 days, two escorted 40m-long trailers travelling in convoy from Chapelcross to the Cyclife Metals Recycling Facility at Lillyhall where the steel was prepared for shipping.

Lane restrictions on the A66 meant the trailers were diverted through the Cumbrian village of Greystoke, and extensive

On the road: top, a huge trailer at Chapelcross and above, heading for Lillyhall

stakeholder engagement, including leaflet drops giving advance notice of the abnormal loads, and liaison with statutory consultees and local authorities ensured the transports passed off without major incident.

Dave Rossiter, Head of Waste Management Services at LLWR, said: "It was a challenge for our team because of the size of the components and the logistical planning we had to incorporate, as well as the unexpected roadworks, but they performed well.

"We've built on the experience gained in previous projects such as the Berkeley

Boilers and other complex logistical projects."

The £23 million three-year decommissioning project to remove the top section of each of the sixteen, 100-foot tall, heat exchangers at Chapelcross has taken the site another step towards closure and dramatically changed the local skyline.

Under the landmark Berkeley Boilers project, 15 redundant 300-tonne boilers, each 22m long, were transported four miles through Berkeley town centre and on to the coast for shipping to Sweden.

New Seascale playground

Seascale Community Beach Park project has opened, much to the delight of villagers – and LLWR! The organisation contributed £10,000 over two years to the six-figure project, launched by parents and the wider community to update the old seafront play area for youngsters and create a playscape that encouraged exploration and social play, left.

Cath Geil, Head of Public Affairs at LLWR, said: "Right from the start of the project, the energy and enthusiasm of those involved was evident. A new, safe, vibrant and inviting play area for Seascale and the surrounding area has been the outcome, and we were happy to play a part."



Major Project 2



Box Day: above, WAGR Box arrives on Site and right, disposal in Vault 8

New home on Site for Sellafield Boxes

A first batch of 10 low level waste WAGR Boxes has been moved to LLWR for disposal, freeing up storage at Sellafield that could be used to accelerate high hazard decommissioning work requiring a high level of shielding.

The move highlights a new phase for LLWR in which it undertakes projects to support decommissioning operations across the NDA Group. A second batch of five Boxes will be disposed of at the Repository later in the financial year and a third batch is currently being assessed for potential disposal down the line.

"We are providing innovative disposal solutions and freeing up capacity in highly-engineered stores at Sellafield, for materials that may require that level of protection, and removing the requirement

for Sellafield to build new ones," said Dave Rossiter, LLWR's Head of Waste Management Services.

Some 35 WAGR or Windscale Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor Boxes were disposed of at the Repository in the late 90s/early 2000s. The Box itself is the disposal package and LLWR is satisfied on its robustness from a technical compliance perspective.

"Not all Boxes from the third batch will be suitable to come to the Repository," Dave added. "We will only take WAGR Boxes that meet our Waste Acceptance Criteria and can demonstrate they are in line with our Environmental Safety Case."

Summit definitely going on until 2023—and well beyond!

Dennis Thompson has unveiled LLWR's Vision for the organisation's third and final five-year contract term.

The Managing Director revealed the plan to the workforce at a recent Employee Forum and it includes targets for the organisation up until the final year of the contract in 2023.

Plans for 2018 include ensuring the entire Type B packaging fleet is in operation and launching a health and wellbeing scheme, while the following year includes the completion of the current Security and Plutonium Contaminated Materials (PCM) Programmes, and improvements to safety figures.

Higher stacking of containers in Vault 8 is due to have started by 2020 and the following year a fully integrated radioactive waste programme is planned to be in place, an Integrated Waste Treatment Service

launched, and a transition leadership team ready to take over the running of the business, on completion of the contract.

2022 sees the focus remaining on improving safety figures, with, in addition, the final PCM drums leaving the Site, and a new workplace strategy implemented. The five-year journey has been sketched for LLWR as a trek up a Cumbrian fell, but Dennis indicated there was much more to achieve than shown on the diagram.

He said: "Of course, this is not an exhaustive list and we have many other areas where we are looking to develop and show improvement. It will be a challenging five years, but LLW Repository Ltd has a much longer mission in support of NDA objectives, and the aim, as we state in our strategic objectives, is to become an organisation that is resilient, agile, embraces change and is ready for the future."



Peaking: Dennis unveils his plans at LLWR's Employee Forum