

August 2018

Gregory Distribution . North Park . North Tawton . Devon EX20 2EB

Hayton Coulthard
Delivering winners



Gregory
Delivering winners



MOVING INTO ERNESETTLE

The Plymouth radial business moved into the new purpose built facility just off the A38 in Plymouth ahead of schedule on 7th July, with the workshop moving from Grampound Road the previous week. The Grampound Road radial business is scheduled to move in early August.

The facility provides a new 25,000 sq ft drive-through transhipment facility and there is also 15,000 sq ft of warehousing as well as parking for around 50 vehicles and 80 trailers.

The warehouse will be used for long term storage, however it has been designed to be adaptable to different customers' transport and warehousing requirements.

Key to the successful delivery of the project has been the relationship with Crediton based C&R Construction, who worked with Jack Gregory as far back as the early 1980s when they helped expand North Tawton depot and subsequently worked on Cullompton.

Construction started in December 2017 and the project was delivered on time thanks to a very focussed GDL

team, the experience and expertise of the contractors, favourable weather and very good ground conditions.

The GDL project team included business unit director Tim Prout whose tenacity ensured everything was kept on course, business project manager Kit Reynolds, general manager Clive Hickey, business unit admin manager Paul Freer, warehouse and facilities manager John Harrison and business support director Paul Jefferson.

Tim Prout said: "The new Ernesettle depot has an on-site workshop, a drive through wash, modern, comfortable offices and enough space to park all of our vehicles on one site. It will enable us to service the pallet network customers of the Transport business unit from a single site, and represents a step change in the quality of our facilities."



GDL RECOGNISED FOR SUPPORT OF THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

On behalf of GDL, John Gregory received a Gold Certificate from the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service in recognition that the company has employed retained firefighters for over 45 years and is one of only two companies in the South West to provide this continuous support.



Main photo: A welcome to North Tawton for those who care for others

Inset from left with John Gregory: North Tawton Watch Manager Mark Quick, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Alex Hanson, firefighters Kevin Murrin, Craig Patrick, Ian King and John King and Station Manager Richard Bulled

Also invited on the day were two other organisations who save people and have been supported by GDL for many years – Devon Air Ambulance (DAA) and the North Devon Search & Rescue Team (NDSR).

GDL's relationship with the Fire & Rescue Service dates back to 1973 when the late John King combined his

role in the workshop with being a retained firefighter. John's sons Paul (NT Workshop) and Ian (NT Transport) carry on the tradition and they are joined by Craig Patrick (NT Finance) and Kevin Murrin (SWW contract). All combine working for GDL with their service at North Tawton and Okehampton fire stations.

In accepting the certificate of recognition, John Gregory said: "For many years we have been delighted to support those organisations who care for us all."

The presentation was made by Assistant Chief Fire Officer Alex Hanson who was accompanied by Group Commander Jon Worsley, Station

Manager Richard Bulled, Watch Manager North Tawton Mark Quick, Watch Manager (Special Ops) Colin Sharp and Station Manager, Rob Cude.

DAA was represented by Fundraising Logistics Officer Brian Chapman and NDSR by David Stoneman, Tim Garrett, Robbie Taylor and Gail Stoneman.

HEALTH+SAFETY MATTERS

REACTING TO TRENDS IN HEALTH AND SAFETY

We continually analyse our accident reports and accident history to identify areas where we can provide additional resource, support or training.

Through this analysis we have identified a recurring area for accidents is when drivers are working with trailer curtains. To address this, we will shortly be issuing all drivers who use curtain-sided vehicles with a 'curtain puller'. This is a simple piece of equipment that improves an individual's ability to open and close curtains in line with their training and maintain a good posture with correct manual handling. Furthermore, this device will provide additional protection to the operator from injury should the curtain jam.

Starting in August 2018, the GDL Operational Training department will be running a new DCPC course where these curtain pullers will be issued to relevant drivers alongside practical training in their use. New drivers will be issued with them as part of the DCPC1 induction training.

Defects identified with curtains and trailers must still be reported through the usual channels, but it is anticipated these devices will make working with curtain-sided trailers easier and safer.

Should you have an idea that you believe will have a positive impact on your work environment and activities, please complete and submit an ICI card!



HCT SUPPORTING HIGHLAND SPRING

Hayton Coulthard employees attended a fundraising ball in May at Grangemouth in support of key customer Highland Spring's Team Tanzania.

Volunteers from Highland Spring, including their Chief Executive Les Montgomery, will be taking part in a two week home-building expedition to Moshi, Tanzania in October 2018 with international volunteering charity Vine Trust. They aim to make a real difference within the local community, supporting the construction of homes for vulnerable children and families, by digging foundations, mixing cement and building walls with local builders.



Pictured is the HCT crew and their partners, from left: Marina Campbell, Barrie Malcolm, Malcolm Wilde, James Gowans, Rachel Kirkpatrick, Tom McLachlan, Kim McLachlan, Lesley Malcolm, Charlie Kirkpatrick, Jacqueline Kirkpatrick

TEAMWORK ENABLES WAREHOUSE MAKEOVER AT NORTH TAWTON

During the last 18 months, North Tawton Warehouse has undergone a major refurbishment, enabling GDL to store 9,000 pallets of infant formula powder on behalf of Dairy Crest.



Pictured is the NT Warehouse team from left: Richard Stockman, Simon Dinnis, Neil Gillett, William Speak, Brandon Morel, Steve Nosworthy, Chris Goldsbury, Andrew Battishill, Beth Cockman, Allan Mullen, Ian Kiely, Arnie Bartlett and Graham Stokes

The upgrade has involved new racking installations, the floors being re-painted, adjusting rack heights and fabric repairs throughout. The final part of the jigsaw was the extension to Loading Bay 1 and the installation of a loading platform and two docks.

This all took place while carrying on the day-to-day operation, which was no mean task. The project was made even more challenging by the introduction of a brand new Warehouse Management System which has just gone live.

The project was only made possible by the commitment and flexibility of the whole Warehouse team. Well done to all.

ALAN PIKE – A GREGORY LEGEND

It's amazing to think that the transport business started by Archie Gregory with a single truck will celebrate its centenary next year.

It is perhaps even more amazing that senior transport admin manager Alan Pike has worked with the company for over half that time. Yes, Alan has clocked up 50 years of dedicated and distinguished service with Gregory's.

Alan is North Tawton through and through and was also educated in the town and at Okehampton. His father Cecil worked for Gregory's driving a cattle truck, so the young Alan was already used to going to livestock markets and helping around the yard long before he left school.

Alan even did odd jobs for John Gregory's grandfather Archie and is very proud to have been paid by three generations of the family!

A brief spell as a butcher's errand boy couldn't keep Alan away from Gregory's and he started on general duties in 'the Shed' (when there was only one) doing 'what was needed' and this ranged from store work, helping in the office, loading trucks and bagging up coal.

Alan drove a long distance truck from 1971 to the mid-1980s before his all round knowledge of the way Gregory's worked (much learned under the legendary transport manager Gordon Gibbins) and his understanding of the way procedures were developing, saw him join the back room staff, where he has been an invaluable member of the North Tawton Transport team ever since.

This was not before some highly memorable instances out on the road which have included a bullock in a raspberry bush, a young member of the Gregory family failing to close a farm gate with the inevitable consequences of a very angry farmer, and Alan being



Photo: Alan Pike is flanked by Jack and John Gregory

mistaken for an escaped convict while he took forty winks on the floor of a truck.

In 2008 Alan was interviewed for NewsBrief after he passed his 40 year mark. He said: "It's been lots of fun and I'm very proud to have worked here for all these years. I was particularly touched when John Gregory's mother and father made the effort to attend my presentation especially as father Jack hadn't been too well. I was very pleased with that because it recognised that someone like me has made a contribution to the company."

Ten years on, Alan is still working at North Tawton a couple of days a week and was recently taken to lunch by Jack and John Gregory to celebrate his latest landmark.

John Gregory commented: "The photo above was taken after Alan and Jack Gregory had exchanged many stories going back over fifty years. The contrast with their old stories and life today was a wonderful reflection of social history. Equally, it was endearing to hear the affection felt for the past even though they were tough times. Alan remains a key member of the centenary celebrations of our company."

Long Service Awards

5 YEARS		
Name	Position	Business area
Nathan Martin	Operations Supervisor	Willand Transport
Kevin Cooper	LGV Driver	Mondelez Minworth Transport
Heath Ashton	LGV Driver	South West Water
Thomas Haigh	Forklift Assistant	Warehouse Freight
Samantha Mait	Transport Co-ordinator	Plymouth Transport
Keith Murison	Warehouse Operative	Spar
Steven Hadfield-Lewis	Warehouse Forklift Assistant	Mendip Distribution Centre
Samuel Brown	Facilities and Stock Senior Supervisor	Highbridge
Kim McLachlan	Customer Services Manager	Twynholm Transport
Simon Thrower	LGV Driver	CDS Transport
Jeremy Barker	LGV Driver	Cornwall Transport
Jason Jones	LGV Driver	Plymouth Transport
William Cottle	Warehouse Forklift Assistant	Mendip Distribution Centre
Robert Lappin	Warehouse Forklift Assistant	Mendip Distribution Centre
Ross Martin	Warehouse Operative	Spar Warehouse
25 YEARS		
Paul Freer	Business Unit Administration Manager	Plymouth
Vanessa Keast	Transport Administrator	North Tawton

GDL APPRENTICES ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Two GDL apprentices were invited to participate in the Talent in Logistics Conference which took place in Telford in June and they weren't just there to make up the numbers.

Alex Johnson (Cullompton Distribution) and Reece Gomes (Spar) were invited to take part in a discussion panel taking questions about 'Why young people are not attracted to the logistics industry?'

Sharing a platform with well-known industry speakers including Matt Burney of Indeed UK, James Billingham of the Logistic Skills Alliance and Andy Kaye from the main conference sponsor BIS Henderson Group, Alex and Reece fielded questions about what attracted them to join GDL's apprentice programme.

It is good to see GDL's apprenticeship programme being noticed on a national scale and we are all grateful to Alex and Reece for representing the business in such a highly professional way. Well done!

A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

The GDL team on the South West Water contract were once again delighted to support FORCE Cancer Charity and the 19th annual 'Nello' cycle challenge on Sunday 24th June.



The event attracts over 12,000 cyclists who cycle either a 55 mile or a 100 mile course to raise funds for the cherished Exeter based charity.

It was a blazing hot day and so GDL's support of a fresh water bowser was most gratefully received.

Sarah Daniels FORCE's Head of Income Generation said: "Thank you so much for your support for The Nello once again. The day is made by so many people helping and getting involved and keeping the event loyal to its roots – a ride for a reason – about local people, to raise money for local people."

CLASSIC CARS AT DARTS FARM

GDL was also delighted to support the Classic Car show held at Darts Farm in June in support of the Estuary League of Friends.



Estuary provides a range of tailored and personalised

services designed to help people lead active and independent lives, and its volunteers work tirelessly to improve the quality of life of those in need of care, comfort and support in our community.

Louise Russell, the charity's Events Co-ordinator wrote in to say: "Thank you so much for supplying the trailer for the car show. It was an amazing day and very busy and we raised over £5,000 for our charity. We appreciate your support and would love the trailer again next year on 2nd June 2019."

Special mention should go to Richard Spear, Jason Burtoft, Martin Borlase and Les Burns for organising, delivering and then collecting the trailer.

INTREPID TRACEY'S CHARITY SKYDIVE

Cullompton based recruitment coordinator Tracey Bennett took a leap of faith on June 24th by jumping from an aircraft flying at 15,000 feet over Dunkeswell Airfield near Honiton to raise funds for Amber, a mid-Devon based charity which aims to transform the lives of young homeless people.



Tracey's skydive raised a creditable £450 while collectively the group jumping on the day raised £3,000.

Tracey said: "I just wanted to say a very big thank you to each and every one of you whose sponsorship made this jump possible. It was an absolutely exhilarating experience and one that I would love to repeat sometime in the future. If you ever get the opportunity to have a go, I'd say go for it! Thank you all once again and I promise I will stop talking about it sometime soon."

NEW WEBSITE FOR GDL >>>

The new Gregory website went live on Monday, July 16th 2018.

The new website is modern, colourful, easy to navigate and includes an Employee login to our People System on the desktop version.

It marks the start of our centenary celebrations with a section dedicated to the Gregory timeline showing significant milestones in the history of the company.

Some of the new features include:

- 'Move a Pallet', a way for businesses to easily arrange for ad-hoc pallet collection and delivery direct through the website
- The website is fully responsive, so works on a desktop as well as phones and tablets
- The Employee login will allow staff to book holidays, claim expenses and view payslips from their home computers. A mobile version is being developed
- It will provide people with the ability to easily locate our main depots via an interactive map with the ability to zoom and scroll to specific locations
- It will allow candidates to search, apply for roles and manage their applications from directly within the website itself

Many thanks to all those people who have helped in the delivery of the new website, especially those employees who participated in the photo shoots.

Please pass any feedback on the design or content of the new website to enquiry@gdl.uk.com

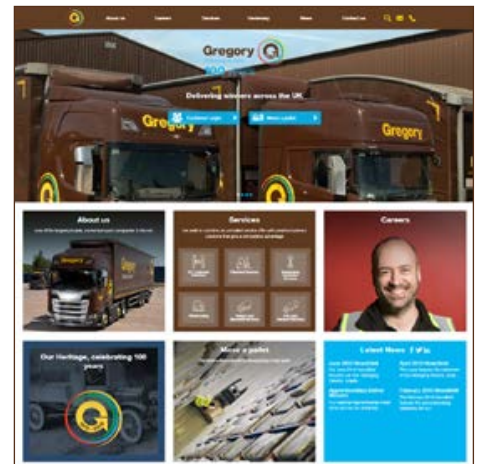
LAND, SEA... AND NOW AIR!

Two GDL apprentices got a pleasant surprise when they visited the Tiger Moth Training Centre at Henstridge Airfield in South Somerset.

Adrian House, an apprentice driver since June 2017 who is just about to finish his apprenticeship, is pictured on the left with Gary Talbot who only started his apprenticeship in June.

Gary has been shadowing Adrian on Palletline duties from Shepton Mallet and they made a delivery to The Tiger Moth Training Centre where they were given a brief history lesson about the iconic aircraft and even got to try on the flying outfits!

As operations training manager Steve Rose commented: "Land, sea and now air... Delivering Winners. Gotta love this job."



HERITAGE TRUCKS AT POWDERHAM CASTLE

The 45th Historic Vehicle Gathering at the spectacular Powderham Castle near Exeter was the backdrop for a public outing for GDL's two heritage vehicles in early July.



The 1919 Model T Ford is original and similar to Archie Gregory's first truck and the 1951 Bedford 'O' series short wheelbase four ton truck represents the first vehicle acquired by Jack Gregory who drove it for over 30,000 miles. They took their places amongst the hundreds of vehicles on show and attracted considerable interest from visitors as well as specialist event organisers.

Along with other vintage vehicles of the type that were once in the GDL fleet and are currently being restored, the Model T and the Bedford are destined to be the highlights of a Heritage Centre which will open at Cullompton to mark the company's centenary next year.

Gregory People

Congratulations to ...

... GDL Chill driver Steve Partridge on becoming a grandfather after the birth of Willow Faith Partridge. Parents Matt and Carly celebrated Willow's birth at four minutes to midnight on June 12th. The little girl weighed in at 7lb 11oz.



Sharon McCabe

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Sharon McCabe who passed away peacefully at Exeter Hospice on 27th June after a long battle with cancer.

Sharon began working for Gregory Distribution in January 2010 as the Business Support and Compliance Administrator, leaving in June 2016 after being diagnosed with cancer. Sharon was a stalwart of the team during her time with us and kept in touch throughout her battle with regular updates.

Sharon put up a remarkable fight to beat the disease and at one point believed the battle had been won, only to become ill again this year.

Her funeral was held on Friday 13th July at St. Andrews Church, Cullompton where she was an active bell ringer.

Sharon will be truly missed by us all.