

June 2019

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

Gregory
Delivering winners



ARRGRAIB

Hayton Coulthard
Delivering winners



NEW COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN HIGHBRIDGE FOR BARBER

AJ & RG Barber have extended their business with Gregory Distribution, with the opening of a new 34,000 sq ft cold store in Highbridge.



The facility has been set up by a truly cross functional project team, providing capacity to store up to 5,000 pallets of locally-produced Barbers cheese.

Project managed by Kit Reynolds, the team oversaw the refurbishment of the facility, under budget and in less than three months.

Key to the success was Warehouse manager Craig Blinman, who coordinated the various elements of the project, enabling the first load to be received according to the agreed timeline; a significant achievement, greatly impressing the customer.

Our Group Facilities manager, John Harrison, also played a vital role, sourcing the new equipment efficiently, cost effectively and most importantly, on time. Working closely with Facilities operative Darren Badcot, together they ensured the site was brought up to the standard required by Barbers.

QMS coordinator, Dawn Brown and Rob Wood, Business Support auditor provided their Compliance expertise, making sure the team understood exactly what quality standards were needed, and IT Infrastructure manager, Kevin Walters got the building connected to our systems.

General manager, Adam Woodliffe, who is responsible for the Highbridge site said: "It's very rewarding to extend our partnership with another family business that has been trading for almost 200 years. My thanks go to the entire project team; the attention to detail has been superb and, by adopting a true 'One Business' approach, they achieved a project to be proud of."





MIKE SIMPSON TAKES THE REINS AT ARR CRAIB

Following the retirement of chief executive Eddie Anderson, chief operating officer Mike Simpson has taken on overall responsibility for ARR Craib.

Having been with the company since 2000 in commercial and senior management roles, Mike was the natural successor to Eddie Anderson. Born and bred in Aberdeen, a city known worldwide as a centre of global excellence in oil and gas, means that Mike has the advantage of understanding how ARR Craib can best work in collaboration with this industry, as well as take advantage of the increasing opportunities presented by the food and drink industries in Scotland.

Mike is married to Julie and has two sons: one at university and the other heading there in the autumn. He loves spending time outdoors, particularly road cycling. His other hobbies include travelling and Formula 1. After eight years training Mike gained his black belt in taekwondo in 2014 and he served on the bench as a Justice of the Peace in Aberdeen for over 10 years.

Long Service Awards

5 YEARS

Name	Position	Business area
John Hodgson	LGV Driver	CDS Transport
Jonathan Lucas	LGV Driver	CDS Transport
Adam White	Warehouse Forklift Assistant	Shepton Mallet
Richard Marklove	Transport Supervisor	Antalis Manchester
Leigh Taylor	LGV Driver	CDS Transport
Jonathan Dawson	LGV Driver	CDS Transport
Duncan Pearce	LGV Driver	Davidstow
Charles Copley	Warehouse Forklift Assistant	Shepton Mallet
Kirkpatrick Wilcox	LGV Driver	Waste Transport HCT
David Warner	LGV Driver	SWW Biosolids
Philip Madge	Storeman	North Tawton Warehouse
Karl King	LGV Driver	Cullompton Transport
Karl Holme	Deputy Supervisor	Cullompton Warehouse
Simon Jenkins	LGV Driver	West Wales Transport
Murray Coulthard	Fleet Planner	HCT Transport
Marcus Axford	LGV Driver	Smurfit Kappa
Mark Waterson	LGV Driver	North Tawton Transport
Charles Cornish	LGV Driver	Milk

25 YEARS

George Cude	Operations Supervisor	Spar Cullompton
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Photo: George Cude receiving his 25 year award from business unit director Darren Beavan

ANTALIS TRANSFERS WATFORD OPERATION TO GDL



Valued customer Antalis has transferred the logistics activities at its Watford site to Gregory from the end of April.

Antalis is Europe's leading distributor of paper, packaging solutions and visual communication products and GDL will be responsible for the running of all their warehouse and customer delivery activities from the Watford site.

General manager Alan Worden, said: "We welcome those staff who transferred to GDL as part of this exciting opportunity.

"Our business with Antalis continues to grow, having already successfully transferred a number of their other operations over the last 20 months, namely the operations in Newton Abbot (September 2017), Bristol (April 2018), Basingstoke (May 2018), Manchester (October 2018) and Winsford (December 2018). We look forward to continuing to support Antalis in delivering an excellent service to its customers."

Operations manager Peter Bignell will be responsible for the running of the Watford site.



antalis ^{EM}
Just ask Antalis

From left: Peter Marshall (foreman/lead driver), Peter Bignell (operations manager), Tim Foley (W&D controller)

HCT MOVES SEATING FOR CONFERENCE CENTRE

With a promise to open Aberdeen's new £333 million exhibition and conference centre in September 2019, city leaders were keen to ensure that everything went smoothly and to plan in the final stages of the development.

So, when it came to shifting the bulk of the seating for the new auditorium they turned to Hayton Coulthard Transport (HCT) who undertook the transport of 40 truckloads from Wiltshire-based seating manufacturer, Audience Systems, to the Aberdeen complex which will boast a 12,500 seating capacity.

The Events Complex Aberdeen (TECA) has some impressive statistics – 48,000 sq ft of flexible event space, 15,000 arena capacity, 5,000 conference capacity and seven conference spaces, 350 on-site bedrooms and a 150-cover restaurant.

It was a significant undertaking considering the 580 mile journey and HCT was supported in the operation by both GDL and ARR Craib.



NEW APPRENTICES HIT THE ROAD

The Apprentice Driver Programme has recruited its latest cohort with 15 apprentices starting their training on April 1st. Their fast track training will see them obtain their LGV licenses in just 12 weeks.

The new apprentices will be working out of various GDL depots including Southampton, Davidstow, Ernesettle, Shepton Mallet, Cullompton, Bristol Antalis and Chef Direct.



From left: Dan Firks, Dave Stevens, Richard Wetherill, James Ward, Mark Mullins, Josh Cutler, Tom Morgan, Neil Robins



From left: Jarek Wisienwski, Karl Taylor, Ashton Clarke (who has left the programme), Kane Tapscott



From left: Gareth Edwards, Martyn Marshall, Sean Starke

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT US

We are only as good as our people on the front line so it's great when customers and the general public take the time to write in to praise GDL people for their efforts

Ian Wilson of Plymtree near Cullompton depot received a delivery of a heavy band saw and, being a pensioner and not as fit as he once was, was worried about getting the new equipment up his 100 metre cobbled path. He wrote in to say:

"The delivery arrived and a very courteous and friendly driver got the palletised package down from the lorry. I thought he would leave it by the gate, but no, he wheeled it in with some difficulty, down the path and we handled into the shed."

"I must say how impressed I was by the delivery driver. He was determined to help me and I was relieved that he did. Very impressed and thank you."

GDL had to move 30 loads from Doncaster to Bristol for new customer Stiga, the lawn mower and motorised garden tool manufacturer based in Plymouth. A Doncaster based colleague in the logistics sector mailed us to say:

"This past two weeks have been an exhausting and stressful time for us at Doncaster but knowing that the transport side is covered has been blissful. Your drivers have been a dream to work with, very chatty, and always cheerful and pretty much always on time."

"So from me I would like to thank you all for from the bottom of my heart, it's been a pleasure to work with you all."

HEALTH + SAFETY MATTERS

YOU SAID, WE DID

In the last edition of Newsbrief we introduced a new initiative where we will be selecting and publishing the best suggestion received via our suggestion boxes.

To help with the sharing of information from these suggestions we have ordered a 'You Said, We Did' board which will soon be appearing in all depots. These provide a forum where suggestion cards can be displayed alongside the manager's response to them confirming what action can, or has been taken.

Receiving suggestions are a massive help to the company as it is the input from people 'on the ground' that identifies where things can be improved. Suggestions do not have to be solely focused on health and safety either, they can relate to anything that you feel will improve your work or your work environment.

Great ideas can bring great improvements, so get thinking, look around and most importantly, complete and submit a suggestion card – you could be selected for the next 'Best Suggestion'.



BRC Accreditation for Cullompton chilled team

Congratulations to the Cullompton chilled and quality systems team on a great job after once again attaining BRC accreditation for food storage and distribution.



The British Retail Consortium (BRC) was the first to introduce a Global Standard for Food Safety but today it has 16,000 certified sites in over 100 countries worldwide and is used both as a global benchmark and to ensure the food industry meets legislative requirements of the EU General Product Safety Directive and the UK Food Safety Act.

Operations manager, Simon Thomson said: "I couldn't be more pleased to advise that we have again achieved the highest grade of 'AA'. This is truly an example of how well the Spar contract team has performed again this year.

"A big well done and thank you to everyone in the team who went the extra mile to achieve this massive result, as well as to Dawn Brown, QMS coordinator for her great assistance."

TEA FOR TEN A CREAM TEA TREAT SUPPORTING FORCE

FORCE, the Devon based cancer charity, is out to tempt us with a new fund-raising idea for businesses – ‘cream teas in a box’.

FORCE are inviting employees to order a minimum of 10 cream tea boxes at £5 each for delivery to your workplace between 12–3pm on Thursday 11th July 2019, slap in the middle of Wimbledon so you can add a punnet or two of strawberries yourself and make it a real seasonal treat while supporting a very worthwhile cause.



Guy Maddocks and his team on the South West Water contract were the first to sign up and they are keen that others follow.

FORCE supports anyone affected by cancer at centres in Exeter, Okehampton, Tiverton and Honiton.



Interested? Book your department's cream tea by mailing Sarah at FORCE
Sarah.Daniels@forcecancercharity.co.uk

GDL HERITAGE TRUCKS SHOWCASED AT HONITON



One of the highlights for visitors to this year's Devon Truck Show held at Smeatharpe Stadium near Honiton on May 11th and 12th was the display of GDL's heritage trucks celebrating the group's centenary.

Trucks from all over the UK including fleets, customised vehicles, owner driven trucks and American trade stands were on show at the lively event which also included family fun and games, stock car demonstrations, a quad stunt show, truck driver banger racing and a massive selection of food.

Paul Willis, GDL's head of Operational Compliance & Property said: "It was a great weekend and our stand created lots of interest."

Gregory Distribution would love to keep you updated with the latest news about our services and employees. However, if you would prefer not to hear from us, you can stop receiving Newsbrief at any time by contacting us in any of the following ways, and please make sure to state your name:

- Email: enquiries@gdl.uk.com
- Telephone: 01837 883307
- Post: Carol Hancock, Gregory Distribution Ltd, North Park, North Tawton EX20 2EB

We will then remove your personal data from our database. Please note we will not use your details for anything other than sending you newsletters.

SAMMY-JO'S SKY DIVE FOR CHARITY

GDL's Sammy-Jo Luxton, HR administrator at North Tawton, braved the skies in April to make a 15,000ft charity skydive.

Sammy-Jo had sadly lost her grandad, Lester, to prostate cancer in November last year and she resolved to do something to raise money and awareness of the disease that will affect 1 in 8 men during their lifetime.

Sammy was able to raise just under £800 for Prostate Cancer UK and this will go towards research, development, treatments and support.



The donation page is still active, so if you would like to donate, visit:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sammy-joluxton

VIGILANT DRIVER SAVES A LIFE

We have continually emphasised the need to be vigilant around our depots and to report people not wearing hi-viz vests, as well as hazards and potential accidents you may encounter.

The significance of these precautions was thrown into sharp relief in April when Medina driver Christopher Dine spotted someone acting oddly in the yard. Chris wrote:

"On Thursday 4th April I was doing my paperwork in my lorry when I saw a man walking around the yard with no hi-viz on. He walked up alongside my vehicle and was looking up at the milk silo in the Medina yard. He tried to climb the fence but I jumped out of my vehicle and pulled him back and questioned him. I went to get help and got a fellow driver to hold onto him while I got the Medina manager. It later turned out I stopped the man committing suicide."

Everyone involved here has good reason to thank Chris for his vigilance and prompt action. Any incidents of this sort should be notified to your line manager as soon as possible.

If you have any doubts about who to talk to or what to say, you can access our Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). Provided by Care First, you can speak confidentially to an EAP advisor 24/7 by calling 0800 015 5630.

MICHAEL (MICK) ANDREWS

It is with great sadness we announce that Mick Andrews passed away on Saturday evening, March 30th at the age of 63.

Mick joined Gregory Distribution on October 1st 2007 working in the Dairy Crest contract in Cullompton before moving to work in Spar and then ultimately the BCT warehouse contract.

In this time Mick made many friends and will be remembered by his colleagues as a hardworking, gentle, kind man with an easygoing nature and a great sense of humour. He will be truly missed by us all.

Our thoughts are with his wife Julie and his family at this sad time.