

# Moulding Together

## Welcome to our Summer 2018 Newsletter

Hello,

What great weather so far, I think we had all forgotten what a British Summer could be like and how much better everything seems when the sun is out to play! As for the football, well, is it coming home.....? I don't know about you, but I was trying to distract myself during the penalties by cooking!

In the UK, I know the rumour mill has been grinding and we can now definitely confirm W. Howard has bought Albion Park Industrial Estate. Apologies for the late official announcement but unfortunately, we have been bound to retain confidentiality throughout the legal process. Of course, should you ever have any questions about such topics then anyone of the Directors would be more than happy to discuss it with you in private. Please read the article on the building later.



As we will be moving out of the rented Logistics warehouse we will need the bottom two units on Lower Green Lane for interim storage of raw materials and finished goods. Therefore, we are also relocating all the joinery equipment to Unit 4 in Leigh to retain it under one roof and it will be more efficient. The paint spraying equipment will move to Albion Way so that the finish isn't compromised, and it will be able to draw product directly from stock to spray. Onwards and upwards!

From a slow start in the first three months of the year, we suddenly became very busy with practically all our customers wanting their orders quickly. This did cause us some difficulties, so thank you for working with us throughout this period. Things have settled down and we are catching up, but we can't rest on our laurels and need to be prepared for what we hope will be a busy rest of the year.

Yet again, there is plenty of exciting stuff to read in this newsletter about what's going on and it was great seeing you on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July at Haydock Park.

I hope you have a great summer.

Yours,

**Jonathan**



## Eccleston Engineering LLP

Eccleston Engineering LLP are pleased to have launched two new products in recent months.

### Cyclone Helical Conveyor (Pictured right)

Having secured a bespoke design and build contract from leading food production company Bakkavor Foods, we co-ordinated with Ammeral Beltech (a prominent belt manufacturer) to design this helical conveyor. Working with strict constraints imposed by the environment, this item conveys frozen food packages between a freezer unit and labeling machine. Due to the restrictions on height and distance a traditional straight conveyor was not suitable. The helix structure provides the most efficient route for the items to travel whilst minimising valuable factory space. Eccleston Engineering are currently developing a standard range of helix conveyors to serve the wider market.



### LED Light Box (Pictured left)

Eccleston Engineering LLP have developed an elegant but robust Light Box which allows LED panels normally only used in suspended ceilings to be fitted to solid ceilings. The benefit of this is light fittings looking identical in continuous ceilings regardless of whether solid or suspended. Eccleston Engineering are now promoting this product to electrical distributors on a national scale.

## Career Progression

Max Boardman has successfully completed his first year apprenticeship with W Howard Ltd. During his first year with the company, he has proved to be very goal driven, self-motivated and able to complete a varied array of tasks within the logistics office.

Max has adapted to the role extremely well and exceeded all expectations, and I'm sure I speak for everybody in that we all look forward to his continued growth with the company and will continue to support his development



## Albion Park

Well, after an awful lot of messing around and delays by solicitors etc. we now have our building! The internal storage area is around twice the size of our current space and we have much more outside space, so room for expansion too. Some of the rest of the site, about half as much again, is rented out to Better Bathrooms and a commercial vehicle garage.

Now that we have more space we will be able to bring in more product from Kildare and Polyco as well as raw material and so give us a central distribution hub. The site is located on the left-hand side of the road about ¼ of a mile past Bents Garden Centre heading towards Warrington.



Over the next month or so we will be transferring all the raw material and finished goods, along with the racking, to Albion Park. We will then be loading the trailers at the front of the factory. More parking will become available as and when our teams relocate which is expected to be from week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

There will be disruption during this period of relocation, but for the long-term future of the business it is essential we have more space and more security with the ownership of the site.

For our customers sake it is vital we keep this disruption to a minimum, so we are sure we can count on your cooperation and patience as we embark on this change. We will keep you informed as we progress.

Thank you very much for your help and understanding, and let's look forward to a really exciting future growing the business together.



## ISO

W Howard Group are delighted to confirm success in our efforts to secure OHSAS18001 (Health & Safety) accreditation for our Manchester operation, adding to our existing and well established ISO9001 (Quality) & ISO14001 (Environmental) accreditations.

A huge amount of work has gone into achieving this latest addition to our portfolio and special mention is due to Joe Rylance (Group H&S Coordinator UK) for driving through the requirements in a challenging time frame, ably supported by our partner at QEBM in the form of Neil Wilkinson and internally by Nick Woods.

This is a significant achievement and we are delighted!



Pictured above **Joe Rylance** (right) and **Nick Woods** (left)

## IIP

We are pleased to announce we retained our Investors In People accreditation for a further 3 years.

Thank you to all who took part in the Interviews.



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

## W Howard Kildare – Career Progression

Chris Durnin was appointed Continuous Improvement Lead earlier this Year, Chris has successfully completed his training to Six Sigma Green Belt Level.

Six Sigma is a widely recognized Data driven approach to continuous improvement, which provides organisations with the tools to improve the capability of their business processes.

Noel Pearse was appointed Training Lead earlier this year and has completed a train the trainer course.

This accredits Noel with the necessary skills to perform a training role on behalf of the business.

Congratulations to both Chris and Noel, we all wish them every success in their new roles



## Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following people that have all celebrated big birthdays recently;

**Noel Herbert** – Kildare

**Amanda Prescott** – Office

**Max Boardman** – Logistics



## New Starters

A big warm welcome to the following people who have joined us here at the W Howard Group;

**Fred Thompson** – Logistics LDC, Multi Drop HGV Driver

**Mark Thomas** – Polyco Newtown, General Operative

**Phillip Duncan** – Polyco Newtown, General Operative

**Janusz Topolski** – Polyco Newtown, General Operative

**Keith Potticary** – Logistics LDC, FLT Driver/Order Picker

**Dean Balmer** – Production Astley, Process Worker

**Chris Nightingale** – Production Astley, Process Worker

**Adam Dugdale** – Production Astley, Process Worker

**Dean Hollington** – Logistics LDC, FLT Driver/Order Picker

**Maurice Holt** – Production Astley, Process Worker

**Nigel Brooks** – Logistics Astley, LGV Driver

## Loyalty awards

Thank you and well done to the following people who have been awarded for their loyal service;

**Rob Smith** – Logistics Astley

**Neville Waring** – Logistics Astley



## Charity update

As part of our charity fund raising for The British Heart Foundation, on May 13<sup>th</sup> 8 of our employees braved the fresh air and took to the hills for a 12 mile walk up Kinder Scout in the Peak District. The following Sunday 3 of our employees took part in the Great Manchester 10K, between them they managed to raise £1050 for the charity whilst discovering the relaxing benefits of fresh air, exercise and the countryside – and really enjoyed a rare opportunity to socialise with their colleagues.



**We are arranging a second shorter walk in the Lake District on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September and would encourage everyone to join in. For more information get in touch with Ann or Becci or look out for information on your notice boards.**



Three of our lovely ladies from the office took part in Pretty Muddy on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July, raising funds for Cancer research.

Raising £170 between them, If you would like to support and sponsor them please use the below JustGiving link;

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/w-howard-group-cr2018>

Our Coffee Morning will take place in September, date to be confirmed.

This gives you plenty of time to get Chef or Bakers hat on to practice for our bake off competition, sweet and savoury entries will be welcome 😊

**MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

## Employee Recognition

Well done to everyone awarded for their dedication;

**Amanda Prescott** – Office

For continually producing excellent analysis work for Accounts, Sales and HR functions which exceeds expectations.

**Shaun Gallagher** – Production

For consistently good output on the PM shift in challenging circumstances.

**Chris Blackburn** – Production

For always having a positive attitude towards his team.

**Max Boardman** – Logistics

For his continued improvement and willingness to take on additional work within the department.

**Mark Odams** – LDC

For Assisting with the training of new warehouse personnel in his team.

## Grant Award Updates

The Saplings school was nominated by **Pat Pritchley** from our Kildare site. Saplings is a local school in Kill, providing education for Pupils with Autism and Complex needs. The Saplings is an independent, not for profit, public interested company with charity status. It was originally established by a group of committed parents and local professionals. Saplings now has 5 schools and operates as a patron to them all.

The Saplings schools are co-educational specialist Schools, that provide quality education for pupils with autism and complex needs. Each school offers a range of child centered, autism specific education that draws on a range of evidence based interventions.

Paul McKenna presented the cheque when he visited the school, and said the following;

“My visit to the school was a humbling experience, the teachers and staff there are doing amazing work with the pupils!”



Pictured above; **Paul McKenna** presenting the cheque to **Louise Caraher** the School Principal

## Grant Award Updates – continued

Pictured below; **Stefan Simm** (left), presenting the cheque to **Mr Brown** (right) club representative



Stefan Simm nominated Westhoughton Lions who put their funds towards new playing kit for the under 11's team.

Westhoughton Lions is the only rugby league club in the Bolton area with a junior section. The club has boys and girls from 4 years old through to its open age men's team and has close to 200 players registered.

The club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017, and 2018 is already a landmark year for them as the groundwork began in February on the clubs very own clubhouse at "The Den"

On completion it's hoped that the clubhouse will become a hub for local community events as well as giving the club members something to be proud of after years of planning and fundraising.

Lancashire mining museum is based at Astley Green Colliery, it houses the only surviving headgear and winding engine in the Lancashire coalfield. Both of which have now scheduled monument and listed building status.

If you would like to find out more information, or find out how you can help please visit;

<https://lancashireminingmuseum.org/>

Pictured below; **Karen Boardman** (right) presenting the cheque to **Stephen Eckersley** (left) a representative of Lancashire mining museum.



Pictured above; Two representatives from Kelly's Kat Rescue (left), **Ian Brady** (right) from Polyco

Kelly's Kat rescue take in stray cats and kittens in the Newtown and surrounding areas, they currently have 12 foster volunteers who look after the cats and kittens in their own homes until a suitable permanent home is found. They promote neutering to prevent unwanted kittens and direct people to get funding if they need the help. Kelly's Kat rescue mainly concentrates on cats and kittens that have no home and no one to look after them, so they take them to the vets to be checked and treated if necessary and then find them a suitable new home.

## Getting to know you – Vinnie Cuddihy W Howard Kildare

**Job Title** – Despatch Team leader

**Married/Single/Any**

**Children?** – Married – 3 Children, aged between 11 and 16

**How long have you worked for W Howard?** – 1 year 8 months

**Where did you work prior to W Howard?** Balcas for 25 years

**What kind of music do you like?** – Traditional Irish

**What was your very first album?** – Luke Kelly

**Do you have any pets?** – 4 dogs – Trigger, Tyson, Peg & Sully

**If you were sent into the jungle what 3 items would you take with you?** – Brennans bread, a frying pan & rashers

**What would be your dream car?** – Anything but a Lexus

**If you could have dinner with any celebrity dead or alive who would it be and why?** – Keith Wood, Rugby hero

**What is your most memorable moment?** – My Wedding day

**What is your most embarrassing moment?** – Misplacing my clothes at a swimming pool and having to find them naked

**Do you have any party tricks (please keep it clean)?** - Singing

**Describe yourself in 3 words** – Outgoing, humorous & moody

**What is the best thing about working at W Howard?** – Job security

**Who do you nominate to do the next getting to know you?** – Brian Murphy



## Getting to know you – John Critchley W Howard Astley

**Job Title** – E-Commerce Manager

**Married/Single/Any Children?** – Single – 0 kids

**How long have you worked for W Howard?** – 6 years/7 in September

**Where did you work prior to W Howard?** – Warmco Space Heating

**What kind of music do you like?** – Classic rock/80's music

**What was your very first album?** – Journey – Revelation 2008

**Do you have any pets?** – Cat – English Blue – Called Riggs

**If you were sent into the jungle what 3 items would you take with you?** – Jaffa Cakes – Bottle of Rose (White Zinfandel) – Bottle of Gin

**What would be your dream car?** – Porsche 911 GT3 RS Green

**If you could have dinner with any celebrity dead or alive who would it be and why?** – Winston Churchill – Talk about WW2 and the conversations he had.

**What is your most memorable moment?** – Graduating from Uni

**What is your most embarrassing moment?** – Throwing up in a random house for pre-drinks and not making it out for the night and my family picking me up as I couldn't move

**Do you have any party tricks (please keep it clean)?** - Nope

**Describe yourself in 3 words** – Short, helpful, chatty!! 😊

**What is the best thing about working at W Howard?** – The people who I work with daily, you know who you lot are 😊 !!!

**Who do you nominate to do the next getting to know you?** – Paul Ashurst

