



Sellafield Ltd

Sellafield News

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Ofsted's praise for Sellafield Union Learning Centre

Sellafield's Union Learning Centre was recently visited by education inspectors from Ofsted – and the glowing report is now in.

The inspection was part of a national Ofsted report on U-Net, which is part of the Unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation.

And, at both local and national level, Ofsted found U-Net to be "outstanding."

The report said: "employers benefit from these partnerships, with improved staff morale, reduced sick leave and staff turnover, fewer complaints and grievances, and higher rates of internal promotion."

This has proved to be the case at Sellafield. Debra Sloan, improvements co-ordinator, said: "The Union Learning Centre at Sellafield opened in 2003.

"Since then we have opened a number of satellite offices at various buildings and on plants across the site.

"I think lots of people really do want to learn – if only they had access to learning – which is where we come in.

"We have helped lots of people access learning at work over recent years, and I am sure the numbers will only increase in the future. The Ofsted report shows that the learning and the service we are providing is of a high standard, the best of the best, the results speak for themselves."

The report places U-Net among the best providers in the country, awarding a Grade 2 for all aspects of learning provision. Ofsted judged overall success rates as above national averages and support for learners as outstanding.

It added that the trade unions have produced "learning...highly responsive to employers' needs [which] meets learners' needs as well."

The report concluded that this is backed by good employer support to meet the needs of learners who do not traditionally have easy access to learning. *Continued at the foot of page two.*



Copeland MP Jamie Reed looks in on one of Sellafield's Union Learning Centre offices

Spring Cup contest has become much more than a get together



CUP OF HOPE: Representatives from the teams back at work. Peter is holding the trophy on his team's behalf

A team of Thorp head end workers past and present have turned their annual social get together into a charitable event – with a fiercely competitive streak.

Peter Watson, one of the organisers, said: “We all used to get together once a year and have a few games of pool, that kind of thing, and we decided that it would be a good idea to turn it into a competition – the Spring Cup – and raise some money for charity into the bargain.”

Teams from mechanical engineering and electrical engineering took on the Barbarians, from operations, the Vagabonds, made up of ex-employees and the managers' team – aptly named the Slumdog Millionaires – in a five-way round-robin across a number of pub sports.

There were points on offer all night for winning games of darts, dominoes, pool and whist, with the team with the most points claiming the trophy – and bragging rights – at the end of the event.

Peter added: “It was a really good night. There were four or five men on each team and everyone paid to take part, we were also able to get match-funding from Sellafield Ltd for our efforts which boosted what we gave to charity.

“Des at the Three Tuns at Cleator put on a great spread for us free of charge and supported the night really well – so we made a £70 donation to the Great North Air Ambulance collection that they have in the bar there.

“In the end, my team from mechanical engineering won the cup, and it is fair to say the rest of them haven't heard the last of it.

“What made the night especially memorable was that the bosses in the Slumdog Millionaires came home in last place and ended up with the winning spoon – they won't hear the last of that either.”

On top of the £70 they gave to the pub's charity collection the teams raised £100 for the West Cumberland Child Bereavement Fund and a further £100 for the North West Air Ambulance.

Peter added: “We had a great night and what started out as just a social event has done a lot of good for two very worthwhile local charities. We'll most certainly be doing it again next year.”

From Page One: Brendan Barber, TUC General Secretary, said: “It is a credit to over 20,000 union learning reps all over the country, that this initiative has been recognised as particularly effective and that learning reps are judged to be ‘highly effective role models’. Our overall success rates and skills for life success rates are above the national average and support for learners is outstanding.

“Ofsted's praise for our work among non-traditional learners proves, what we have always said, that unionlearn reaches learners other organisations cannot reach.”

Pictured left to right: Sellafield Ltd's Dave Riley, Steve Clarke and Helen Bennett with Thorp director Stuart McVean at the opening of the latest Union Learning Centre satellite office in Thorp recently.



Land's End to John O'Groats in double quick time for Sellafield duo

Sellafield workers Tony Morton and Alan Roper have completed a mammoth cycle ride – from one end of Britain to the other – in just eight days.

And the pair, who work together in the Sellafield Mox Plant (SMP) have raised over £1,500 for two local worthy causes in the process.

Tony, who is standing on the left on the photograph on the left, said: "I've done a few of these fund-raising bike rides now, but this was as tough as anything.

"When we started off the weather was good and then we were pretty much battered all the way for the full 874 miles. The wind was across us and the rain was pretty heavy – but we had a tight schedule to keep to so we had no choice but to ride on through it and hope we made it out at the other end."

The duo had booked rooms at various bed breakfasts' along the way, and so had to get from place to place each day, whatever the weather.

"It probably helped drive us on to be honest; we knew we had to get there," Tony added.

Tony, from Thornhill, and Alan, from Dington, are splitting the money they've raised between Jenkin Ward at The West Cumberland Hospital and the North Air Ambulance.

Tony added: "I'd like to thank my partner Sally Johnson, and Craig Johnson, who were our back-up drivers."

Tony and Alan are still looking for sponsors and donations, and will be planning their next big ride soon.



ALL SMILES: Alan, left and Tony, in the sunshine at Land's End, and below, at the end of their trek

VIP Visits to Sellafield

14.5.09 Henry Wormstrup (Deputy Mayor of Copeland)

15.5.09 INS Visit

18.5.09 Senior DECC Visit

19.5.09 EA Board of Directors



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