

# Sellafield News

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## Visitor Centre plays host to Knowledge Market

Over 160 representatives from local, national and international firms took part in the UK nuclear industry's first ever Knowledge Market, coming together to discuss the theme of 'technology for harsh environments'.

The event, which was held at the Sellafield Visitors Centre on 17 January, was organised by the Sellafield Ltd's Knowledge Management and Intellectual Property team in conjunction with the Visitor Centre staff and Sellafield Ltd's Supply Chain Ombudsman, Dave Henderson.

The Knowledge Market was designed to help firms who are existing or potential suppliers to Sellafield, make new connections and share knowledge and skills with one another.

The day began with a fun 'speed dating' activity to get everyone on their feet and talking. Individuals from the respective businesses were then invited to write down their top three 'needs' and top three 'offers' on pre-printed charts. People were then invited to scan the market for needs and offers that were of interest to them, whilst promoting their own market booths and sharing their knowledge.



Delegates then identified the knowledge themes they wanted to discuss in more depth. This meant that the content of the day was decided by participants, not the organisers.

The day ended with each group preparing detailed 'knowledge maps' within their chosen themes. The maps illustrated where answers to problems were found, where successful matches between needs and offers were made and also where knowledge gaps exist.

Speaking after the event, Dave Henderson said: "The success of this event demonstrates that we have a knowledgeable supply chain who complement the experienced Sellafield workforce. It also demonstrates that the Sellafield Visitor Centre is a good place for sharing ideas and making connections - helping Sellafield Ltd deliver the NDA's programme, as well as developing new business opportunities for West Cumbria.

"Feedback from attendees has been extremely positive with lots of new connections reported, both between suppliers and importantly between suppliers and Sellafield Ltd."

## LTA success for Capenhurst

Workers at Sellafield Ltd's Capenhurst site have delivered more than 1.5 million man hours of work – equivalent to more than four years, without a single Lost Time Accident (LTA).

Capenhurst's 'Safety First' campaign is a unique approach to health and safety, which allows employees on the shop floor, not managers, to be largely responsible for keeping hazards around the site under control – while all the time undertaking some of the biggest demolition projects in the North West.

Ian Mason, Capenhurst's Head of Decommissioning, said: "This is a great achievement for the site given that we are the most advanced nuclear decommissioning programme in the UK and our day-to-day work includes large scale demolition activities.

"Our success is built on the fact that we operate in safety state of mind, which reflects a healthy unease about hazards and a positive approach to ensuring they are constantly managed. What really keeps us going is a genuine desire to ensure that no-one is harmed by our operations."

The milestone comes shortly after Capenhurst was awarded its fifth consecutive safety award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and its second consecutive safety gold medal, back in 2007.

**Meanwhile at Sellafield...**the Infrastructure team have gone 967 days and the Major Projects Group 112 days without an LTA.

# Health Physics Monitors pick up national awards

A group of Health Physics Monitors (HPM) have been awarded NVQs in 'Radiation Protection' at Level 2, making them among only a handful of people in the UK to have obtained this accreditation.

More than 30 HPMs based in various plants across the Sellafield site, collected their certificates which were presented by Sellafield Ltd's MD Barry Snelson at a ceremony held at the Sellafield Visitors Centre on 22 January.

The award, which has been recognised as the industry standard for Health Physics Monitors, will potentially give every monitor on the site the opportunity to achieve a national accreditation.

In welcoming the group, Head of Monitoring Services, Bruce Denwood spoke about the high quality of evidence produced in the candidates' portfolios and thanked everyone who had helped them achieve certification, including their assessors.

Caroline Henderson, a HPM based in Encapsulation Plants, was among those who picked up her certificate. Speaking after the event she said: "I feel a real sense of accomplishment not just because I have achieved certification myself but because of my involvement in assessing and verifying other candidates."



Above: the group outside the Visitors Centre after picking up their certificates

Before handing out the certificates, Barry congratulated the group by saying: "It's a privilege to be standing here today awarding you all these certificates.

"You have put a lot of hard work and effort in and the site as a whole is proud of what you have achieved. Your work puts us where we should be – at the forefront of the nuclear industry and of the nuclear renaissance; something which you can play a part in.

"I give you my gratitude, recognition, praise and thanks."

The group of 30 now join 30 other monitors based at Sellafield who have already completed their Radiation Protection NVQs, collecting their certificates back in May 2007.

## Charity of the year - 2007 announced

Sellafield Ltd has announced that The Charlie and Kathleen Dunnery Children's Fund (CKDCF), which works with children in the Egremont area, is its charity for 2007.

The fund was formed in 2002 by local musician Francis Dunnery in honour of both his parents with the sole aim of raising funds for children's health and educational needs in and around his hometown of Egremont.

The CKDCF is a unique organisation in that it has no paid members and takes no money for administrative costs, which means 100 per cent of the income it generates goes directly to the children's causes it supports.

Since its inception in 2002, the charity has raised tens of thousands of pounds for children's schools and The West Cumberland Hospital. The money raised has made an incredible difference in the health, wellbeing, and education of children in need.

CKDCF charity fundraising weekends are held annually in West Cumbria and include a host of events such as a sponsored walk, golf tournament, pop quiz and an auction of celebrity memorabilia.

The events are co-ordinated by Mark Andrews, who works at Sellafield in the Mox Demonstration Facility and Development Labs.

Mark went to school with Francis, and the pair have remained firm friends ever since.

Cheryl Ireland, community relations officer for Sellafield Ltd, said: "We have a charity of the year every year and the fact that we have chosen the Charlie and Kathleen Dunnery Children's Fund this year is testament to the hard work that one of our employees, Mark Andrews, puts in to raise funds for it.

"The work that the charity does is fantastic, and we are delighted to be able to support them."

CKDCF will receive £2007 from Sellafield Ltd, cash generated over the course of a series of fund raising events held by employees over the year. Next year the chosen charity will get £2,008.

Cheryl added: "We started the charity challenge in 2000, and have donated every year since. We are currently looking for suggestions for the 2008 charity."

# Africa mission for Sellafield chaplain

Sellafield's chaplain Tom Luke is about to embark on a mission to Africa to help children in an orphanage suffering from AIDS, after raising more than £8,000 for the worthy cause.

Tom will spend three and a half weeks in Africa with his wife, foster daughter and two other youngsters from his local church. The group will spend time at the Lebone House children's orphanage – home to more than 100 children, 30 of whom suffer from AIDS. The orphanage provides a permanent home to some 50 children while the other 50 spend Mondays to Fridays at the home.

As a local minister for the Beacon Hill Methodist Church in Barrow, Tom will leave for Africa on Monday 4 February on what will be his fourth trip to the country. In total he has helped raise more than £27,000 over the three year period for which he has been involved in the scheme.

Lebone House provides children with food, medicine, clothing and education. It also operates a skills centre for adults enabling them to gain the necessary skills to become self sufficient.

"We are all really looking forward to this trip. We've managed to raise a fantastic sum of money for the orphanage and it's going to be very rewarding to see it being put to good use", said Tom.

"I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped us raise the funds so far. However, I would like to take this opportunity to ask people to pledge whatever funds they can – as we still have a week and a half before we leave and want to collect as much money as possible.

"I will be back at work on Monday 3 March and will be happy to share the experiences from my trip along with the photos I'm going to take. I'm available on Lotus notes or on extension 74036.

"I've also been asked to do a 'blog' while I'm away which will be available from 4 February so please look out for it on the website: [www.sellafieldsites.com](http://www.sellafieldsites.com)"



*Photographed above: Tom and his wife on a previous visit to Lebone House*

- If you would like to make a contribution to the orphanage you can post a cheque or cash to Tom at his home address - 143 Abbey Road, Barrow, LA14 5EZ. Alternatively you can email Tom at [tomandjanluke@btinternet.com](mailto:tomandjanluke@btinternet.com) for more information on his mission or to learn how to make a contribution.

## GEN II Apprentice intake

The GEN II apprentice recruitment campaign for 2008 has commenced.

Anyone interested in registering should do so by contacting Connexions before 31 January 2008 for an aptitude test which takes place in February.

The number for Connexions is 0800 435 709.

Further information is available on the GEN II website available at: [www.gen2training.co.uk](http://www.gen2training.co.uk)

## VIP visits to Sellafield 16 - 23 January 2008 included:

21/01/08 – Japanese Utilities

22/01/08 – 23/01/08 – British Energy

25/01/08 – Manchester University

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