

Masters degree for Sellafield's emergency planning officer

Sellafield Ltd's Peter Lucas has been awarded a Master of Science degree at the University of Leicester.

Peter, an assistant Emergency Planning Officer at Sellafield, was awarded his MSc in Emergency Planning Management after a three-year distance learning course run by the university.

Out of an initial intake of 25 people, Peter was one of only six to successfully complete the course.

Peter said: "I think it is great that the company is prepared to sponsor people to do things like this, and I'd like to say a huge thank you to them for the opportunity."



"Completing a course like the one I did is challenging and can be difficult, but the fact is that lots of people at Sellafield have done things like this over the years, and the fact that the company is so supportive really does help."

Peter, 37, first started working at Sellafield as an apprentice fitter 21 years ago. After completing his apprenticeship he worked as a fitter in Thorp for eight years before starting a new role as a safety training adviser based in the Sellafield training and development centre. He started his current role five years ago.

In his spare time Peter, who lives at Bransty, is a Lieutenant and the commanding officer of Whitehaven Sea Cadets.

Sea Cadets unit chairman Chas Tinkler said: "Peter has put in a lot of hard work and thoroughly deserves his success. We are extremely pleased for him."

The Sea Cadet Corps is a voluntary organisation that encourages high personal standards and a sense of purpose by basing its activities on the values, customs and traditions of the Royal Navy.

LLW consultation comes to a close

A wrap-up Symposium on 25 March marked the final stage of a public consultation on what to do with low level wastes at Sellafield.

The major consultation consisting of ten workshops, a web-based consultation and presentations to Council nuclear working groups lasted from November 2007 to March 2008.

Sellafield Ltd asked the public and community representatives for their opinions on a range of treatments for low level wastes.

The aim is to reduce the volumes of waste sent to the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) and being stored on the Sellafield site and to reduce the hazards presented by the wastes - for instance by use of technologies which completely remove the health hazard posed by asbestos.

The Low Level Waste team is now taking the output from the workshops into account in developing strategy and implementation plans for the wastes.

Sellafield's Head of Waste, Laurence Cook expressed his gratitude to consultation participants: "We are indebted to everyone who played such an enthusiastic part in this consultation."

"Their views and ideas are already providing valuable input into the wider decision making process on the future for Low Level Wastes at Sellafield."

Charity of the year 2008 announced

Sellafield Ltd's charity of the year for 2008 has been chosen – and it is a cause close to the hearts of two workers in particular.

Tony Bell, Engineering Manager in the Vitrification plant, and his wife Pauline, who is a Health Physics Monitor in the Separation Area, lost their daughter Lisa to meningitis in April 2006.

In the two years since that tragedy the couple, who live at Egremont, have raised over £10,000 for the Meningitis Research Foundation themselves, and a total of over £17,000 has been raised by people in the area in memory of Lisa, who was just 16 when she died.

This year Tony and Pauline are determined to add to that already impressive tally, and as charity of the year for 2008, if they are successful they will secure match funding from Sellafield Ltd to a maximum of 2008.

A huge chunk of that could be raised on the evening of Friday 28 March when The Ship Launch in Egremont hosts a race night in Lisa's memory.

Pauline said: "When we first started out we had a number of events but now what we try to do is have two big ones each year and focus on them – the first of those takes place on Friday night.

"It is a big boost to be named charity of the year, as we want to try and raise £5,000 this year."

Friday's event starts at 7.30pm and will also feature music from a live band once the racing has finished.

Coming soon...

Local MP Jamie Reed will be at Sellafield on Friday 28 March to officially open a newly refurbished tea bar within Sellafield's Effluent Treatment Plant.

The project to refurbish the tea bar was initiated by Sellafield's lead disability champion and Low-Active Effluent Management Group (LAEMG) process worker, Carl Lewthwaite. It was decided back in June 2007 that the area needed to be more user friendly, especially for those with disabilities and mobility issues.

The project has been completed in-house by the LAEMG team at the minimal cost of £12,500 using nearly all local, west Cumbrian suppliers at a fraction of the price that it would have cost using external suppliers.

Representatives from Sellafield's LAEMG team, the trade unions, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Sellafield's Director of Production Operations, John Storer will greet Mr Reed as he visits the site to officially open the tea bar in honour of the hard work and effort displayed by all the team in completing this important project.

- Look out for photographs and the full story in next week's edition of the Sellafield News

Event report

On Wednesday 19th March, liquid deriving from Sellafield's sea discharge plant overflowed from holding tanks into a concrete room designed to contain and deal with overflow incidents.

A small amount of liquid was also discovered in an adjacent concrete corridor. All material was recovered and radiation monitoring confirmed that the liquid was of such low radioactivity that no further work was required to decontaminate the area.

An investigation is underway to understand more about how the incident happened and any findings will be shared with our safety regulator, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, and the Environment Agency.

The incident has been classified as Below Scale on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

For all media enquiries and photographic requests please contact:

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VIP visits to Sellafield 19 - 26 March 2008 included:

There were no visits to Sellafield this week.