

Issue 13, Autumn/Winter 2019

Leiths NEWS The newsletter of Leiths (Scotland) Ltd

Produced for our Employees, Customers and Colleagues.

FYFE GLENROCK PETERLOO MEMORIAL



Also featured in this issue

Excavation Works at Parkmore Quarry



Concrete in the Classroom visits Leiths



Health & Safety Good Practice Initiative at Bluehill Quarry





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Message from the Chairman

At the heart of every successful Company are its people and Leiths is no exception. This edition of Leiths News highlights a wide range of achievements by members of the team and not just from within the work environment - from long distance cycling to baking and mountainous marathons!



In a business that is characterised by quite a high average employee age, it is encouraging to see Leiths reaching out to the younger generation and raising the awareness of the challenges and opportunities afforded by our industry. It is equally rewarding to read about Diane Housley's recent success, not only in gaining a degree from Derby University but being awarded the Springbank Quaich for the best Foundation Degree Student by the Institute of Quarrying – well done!

Successful teams are built up from high performing individuals and the successes of Markon and Leiths in the recent RoSPA Health and Safety Awards stands testament to our commitment to creating a safe working environment for all our people across the Group. The Healthy Working Life award is a further reflection of this drive to improve our health, safety and wellbeing.

Ali Moir and I go back a very long way! As he retires from the company after 25 years, I am reminded of the tremendous loyalty that is the backbone of our Company. He will be missed, and I would add my personal thanks for his commitment spanning a whole generation.

This team spirit and focus on high performance is particularly important at this time. The Quarrying and Construction Industry in Scotland is going through a particularly tough period at the moment but I am confident that, with our combined efforts, we will continue to enjoy a profitable and sustainable future for our Company.

lan Leith Chairman

Get in Touch!

Leiths News is published for employees, customers and colleagues of the Leiths Group and its associated companies. Leiths News will be published on a regular basis but we can only do this through the contributions of articles and features from our employees. If you have any comments, ideas for stories, or pictures for future issues, please get in touch. I hope you enjoy this edition of Leiths News and thanks to

everyone who has contributed so far.

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Concrete Supply to Nevis Range

OUR CONCRETE PLANT AT HIGHLAND LIME RECENTLY SUPPLIED ITS HIGHEST CONCRETE POUR, SUPPLYING CONCRETE TO THE NEVIS RANGE SNOW FACTORY.

The Snow Factory building is at the top of the Linnhe Ski tow, west of the Alpha tow and has been designed to withstand wind and snow loading associated with the location. It will accommodate seven freezing units with the ability to produce a maximum output of 168 m³ of snow per day.



50m³ of C28/35 high specification concrete with macro-synthetic fibres was supplied over a 2-day period, with all the concrete placed using a helicopter. Macro fibres were added to the concrete during the batching process in lieu of steel mesh, reducing the risk of injuries from trips, falls and cuts associated with the use of steel mesh on site.

The use of macro-synthetic fibres has transformed concrete construction as the fibres are inert to atmospheric conditions, the alkalinity of concrete and moisture and therefore is 100% rust-free.

This makes for a long service life of the finished fibre-reinforced concrete floor slab and ideal solution for this harsh environment.

Leiths worked closely with our fibre supplier, Adfil, to design a macro fibre concrete to meet our customers' expectations.



Surface Dressing Chips from Highland Lime

Following a small-scale trial in 2016, our Dornie washed limestone chippings have become a feature of the Lochaber landscape.

Considerable tonnages were placed during 2017 including on the A861 from Duisky towards the Corran Ferry on the north side of Loch Linnhe. These works were extended in last year's Lochaber programme with further deliveries to Salen and also to a distribution point at Lochaline Pier House.

Surface dressing involves spraying a thin layer of bitumen emulsion over an existing bound surface or a newly laid base layer, followed by rolling-in a layer of washed stone chippings. The objective of a surface dressing is to create a stable mosaic of stone chippings that are securely attached to the surface by the bitumen emulsion. The result is a sealed surface that protects against water ingress into the base layer below, and, in the case of resurfacing treatment, slows down the deterioration of the road to prolong its life and restores surface texture.

Surface dressing provides the appearance of loose stone but creates a non-slip surface for road users and the light reflective colour of the limestone provides a safe surface for night-time driving. Highland Regional Council has a reduced surface dressing programme this year but trialled Highland Lime 10mm and 6mm chippings in the Inverness and surrounding area for the first time from our deliveries to the former salt dump at Longman Inverness. The success of our limestone in this application is the ability of the stone to adhere to the bitumen layer with minimal removal of loose stone during trafficking.



Concrete Supply for Radiation Bunkers

LOCH HILLS CONCRETE PLANT SUPPLIED HUTCHEON SERVICES WITH C32/40 HEAVYWEIGHT CONCRETE WHICH WAS BEING USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF RADIATION BUNKERS FOR THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

As the typical density of concrete is 2400 kg/m³, barite aggregate was imported from Foss Mine, Aberfeldy to produce a concrete that is 30% heavier with a density in the region of 3050 kg/m³. 77% of barite mined in the UK is used in the Oil & Gas industry as a weighting agent for drilling fluids in oil and gas exploration but can also be used in construction to produce a heavyweight concrete or radiation-shielding concrete. Barite is a natural mineral, consisting of barium and sulphate and is only found in two locations in Scotland, Foss Mine and Duntanlich Mine near Aberfeldy.

There are 11 radiation bunkers to be manufactured and these are for storing low level radioactive waste.



Excavation Works at Parkmore Quarry



AT TIMES DURING THE WORKING LIFE OF A QUARRY, AN OPERATION CALLED "OVERBURDEN STRIPPING" IS REQUIRED TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO EXPOSE MORE STONE FOR PROCESSING.

This entails removing the material covering the top of the stone, called the "rock-head", to expose the stone below, called "the deposit". The overburden above the rock-head can consist of a number of different materials including vegetation, all of which must be removed prior to quarrying to avoid contaminating the deposit when processing.

Parkmore Quarry at Dufftown produces a very high quality limestone product for agricultural use, so when the requirement for an overburden strip was identified during 2018, management were determined to utilise our own expertise and machines to ensure that the overburden strip was conducted as safely and effectively as possible to avoid any contamination of the resultant deposit and maintain the reputation for quality.

During September, a small team drawn from Contract Crushing, led by Euan Stuart, began excavating. Mark Robinson and David Simon hauled the overburden in artic dump-trucks from the rock-head to the allocated final position as required by our planning conditions. The team shifted approximately 50,000m³ of both topsoil and overburden to expose an area of 3,700m² of rock-head to extend the working life of the quarry.

The utmost standards of professionalism were delivered by the team working, at times in inclement weather, to ensure that the continued successful operations at Parkmore were assured, allowing the Company to maintain its position as market leaders in the supply of "Agricultural Lime" in the North of Scotland.



Civil Engineering and Surfacing Update

Our North division have recently completed surfacing the Westercraigs link road for WM Donald contractors.

The works involved 2,700T of surfacing material supplied from our Mid Lairgs Quarry. The surfacing project had a good start with in excess of 1,000T laid by Willie Mackenzie's squad on the first day. WM Donald Operations Manager, Ian Gray, was delighted with the quality of the work and efforts required to complete the work in the short timescale allowed.



BAM Nuttall - Kintore Railway Station

Leiths Civil Engineering and Surfacing Division have begun work on the creation of the new Kintore Railway Station. It forms part of the commitment for the Aberdeen to Inverness line upgrades. When completed, it will mean there will be between three and four peak-hour trains into Aberdeen from both Inverurie and Kintore, and will cut travel time from Aberdeen to Inverness down to two hours.

Works which started late August are being carried out for Network Rail. Leiths have been contracted by BAM Nuttal to carry out all the hard landscaping for the project.

The works involve 5,000T of type 1 sub base, over 2,000T of surfacing materials, 3,500m of kerbing and 5,000m of ducting. There is also a substantial amount of drainage.



LATEST NEWS!

Leiths Central have secured work for B&Q in East Kilbride. The works will resurface the entire car park and relay some 6000m2 of paviors. Work is scheduled to be completed by Christmas 2019. Leiths Surfacing have picked up surfacing works for David Smith Contractors for several projects in the North East including Health centres in Skye and Aviemore plus schools in Elgin and Lossiemouth. Surfacing work will also start shortly for RJ Mcleod on the new Inverness Link Road.

OVO Energy Tour

Markon's Traffic Management division again successfully delivered all traffic management requirements for the start of the 2019 OVO Energy Tour of Britain cycling event in Glasgow in September.

Stage 1 saw some of the world's top riders tackle a 201 kilometre (125miles) opening leg that started from George Square in Glasgow City Centre to the town of Kirkcudbright in South-West Dumfries & Galloway.

The opening stage, which took place on Saturday 7 September, saw the riders complete a fully closed traffic free loop of Glasgow City Centre before heading south through Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire then into Dumfries & Galloway under Police rolling block closures.

The event was 6 months in the planning and required Markon's team to attend onsite planning meetings as well as a monthly multi-agency meeting.

On the day, we had 12 traffic management operatives, two supervisors and two members of the management team onsite to ensure the operation ran smoothly from start to finish.

This is the second time Markon have successfully delivered the event on behalf of Glasgow City Council and its event partners.



Demolition at William Grant & Sons Distillers at Glenfiddich Distillery

Lawrie Demolition Ltd have been awarded the contract from William Grant & Sons Distillers to demolish two of their warehouses at their Glenfiddich Distillery.

The works will include mechanical demolition of the warehouses, along with internal racking plus the careful removal of the roof section of one warehouse that shares a boundary wall with a storage area that will remain fully operational during the works.

In the early stages of the project, Lawrie worked alongside an ecologist to carefully remove sections of roof and wall coping to investigate areas that were likely to house bats. Once the ecologist was satisfied there were no bats present, the demolition work could commence.

During the ongoing works all the materials generated such as timber, metal and inert rubble, will be removed from site and re-cycled. On completion of the demolition, the site will be left ready for the construction of new storage warehouses.





PETERLOO MEMORIAL



The 16th August 2019 marked the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre when cavalry charged into a crowd of over 60,000 people who had gathered at St. Peter's Field in Manchester to campaign for parliamentary reform, leading to the deaths of 18 protestors with several hundreds more injured.

To commemorate the event, artist Jeremy Deller, in collaboration with Caruso St. John Architects, designed a memorial comprising segmental units built as a series of eleven concentric circular steps to create a cairn style formation. Each series of steps for the memorial was manufactured from a different type of natural stone sourced from across the UK.



In late 2018, Fyfe Glenrock was approached by Manchester based stonemasons Mather & Ellis Ltd to submit a range of Aberdeenshire granites for consideration with Corrennie Pink Granite, quarried in Tillyfourie, being selected as one of the materials for project. The order was confirmed at the beginning of April with a manufacturing programme of 6 to 8 weeks.

The Corrennie element formed the first step – a 10.8 meter diameter ring of 30 no. individual steps cut to radius, each approximately 1200 x 500mm in thicknesses ranging from 110 to 220mm thick, with a flame textured tread and honed riser.

Due to our ability to supply the Corrennie granite element to meet the tight programme, Mather & Ellis Ltd. subsequently asked us to assist with the supply of the fifth step of the memorial – to be produced in Scottish Black Whinstone quarried in West Lothian – 20 no. steps to form a 7.6 meter diameter ring of similar component size with the same finish. We also supplied Corrennie and Whinstone in 20mm thick slab form for Mather & Ellis Ltd. to form feature inlays in the other materials.



Images of the completed memorial provided with kind permission of John Russell (Mather & Ellis Ltd.) and Lesley Chalmers (Lesley Chalmers Photography).

Concrete in the Classroom

Dale Lyon, Director of Concrete Scotland, recently approached Leiths to see if we could facilitate a series of concrete plant site visits as part of the Concrete in the Classroom programme.

Leiths were only too pleased to support the Concrete in the Classroom programme which is a 'Curriculum for Excellence' resource run by Concrete Scotland. Pupils participate in five construction-related lessons and conclude with a site visit to a working concrete plant or construction site. The lessons are structured to give a broad technical and scientific understanding of concrete as a construction product and an insight to the related career opportunities within this sector.

The initiative was launched to help address the need for more vocational learning and better links between education and industry, creating a learning experience which shows employability within the Construction Industry.

Stephen Stewart, Concrete General Manager and Scott Train, Quarry Manager at Loch Hills, assisted with the site visits to provide an insight into the concrete and quarrying industry. Lewis Crouch from Technical Services was also on hand to demonstrate the slump test and cube making. They all shared their experiences with the pupils to help develop an awareness of possible career opportunities within Leiths Scotland Ltd.



Since our first visit by Aberdeen Grammar at the end of August, Loch Hills Concrete Plant has received over 60 pupils from Hazlehead, Kemnay, Old Meldrum and Mackie Academy with Cults Academy to follow. Mintlaw Academy will also visit Longside Concrete Plant later this year.

Precast 'White Dust' for Inverness Justice Centre

Torrin Quarry in Skye has played a big part in the new £30million Inverness Justice Centre together with our customer Plean Precast down in Stirling. Leiths supplied Skye Marble Dust and 14mm Skye Marble Aggregates to give a clean, white aesthetic finish to the building.





Health & Safety Good Practice Initiative at Bluehill Quarry

"SAFE ACCESS TO COLD FEED HOPPERS" INITIATED AND COMPLETED BY MICHAEL GRANT, QUARRY SUPERVISOR.

At Bluehill Quarry, situated at Craigellachie in Moray, feed materials for the onsite Asphalt Plant are subject to the vagaries of the Scottish Highlands weather. They can form frozen lumps of material in the cold feed hoppers of the Asphalt Plant leading to material starvation of the plant with the attendant quality issues arising.

Michael Grant, currently a 2nd year DAPS student, came up with the idea of a mobile platform which could be positioned in front of any cold feed hopper that was suffering blockages, to allow persons safe access at height to clear any materials away without endangering themselves. Michael constructed the platform by utilising steps and railings rescued from old items of plant, and in such a way that the onsite loading shovel could easily pick up the platform in the bucket to set down where required.

The platform has proved to be very effective and allows a potential problem to be cleared quickly, efficiently and most importantly, safely.

Michael completed the platform by painting the upper steps and railings bright yellow to aid visibility in reduced visibility.



SharePoint Update

SharePoint is a computer application that was introduced at Leiths in late 2017, for tracking and monitoring incidents, near misses, non-conformances and complaints.

The HSEQ team and Cegal, our IT provider, have been working hard in the background to make this as smooth a process as possible, implementing various updates along the way.

Recently the Customer Satisfaction Assessments have been moved into SharePoint which, not only removes a step in the overall data input process, but allows for better trend analysis and generation of reports for our Integrated Management Meetings (IMM) and the Board. The page has been laid out identically to our L026 form, so the input of information is exactly the same.

After some initial consultation, the team at Cegal are now developing a system for tracking and logging contractor inductions which will make keeping a handle on which contractors have been inducted at which site as simple as looking up their name in the directory. The date inducted and date of expiry will be shown plus the sites they have visited, and in addition a reminder will be sent through to the site alerting them when a contractor is due for re-induction.

The HSEQ team have also been working through the Integrated Management System (IMS) folders and pro-formas implementing a standard document format which will make version control and document review much easier to track, whilst standardising the look and feel of these documents across the business. The plan is to move these into a searchable database in SharePoint which will make finding the right document quicker and easier. This will also control editable versions of documents and ensure that all document control comes through the HSEQ team and can be traced.

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd and Markon receive RoSPA Health and Safety Awards

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd and Markon Ltd have been handed a prestigious award in recognition of its practices and achievements in helping staff get home safely at the end of the working day.

Leiths achieved a bronze and Markon achieved silver in the internationally-renowned RoSPA Health and Safety Awards, the longest-running industry awards scheme in the UK.

John Caulfield, HSEQ Advisor for Leiths who received the award on behalf of the group said: "It was great to receive both awards on behalf of the Leiths Group. It is a great reward for all those who are driving safety across our businesses. We hope to maintain the high standards and push for gold next year, and I would like to thank everyone for their support of the health and safety ethos at Leiths"

John was presented with the award during a ceremony at DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Central on Thursday, 12 September 2019.

The RoSPA Awards Scheme, which receives entries from organisations around the world, recognises achievement in health and safety management systems, including practices such as leadership and workforce involvement.

Julia Small, RoSPA's head of qualifications, awards and events, said:

"The RoSPA Awards have become the key fixture in the health and safety calendar with new sponsors and new awards this year including the Leisure Safety Awards, the Safe@Work Safe@Home Award and the Inspiration Awards. Highly-respected, with almost 2,000 entrants every year, RoSPA award winners benefit from the wide-ranging rewards of improved sector reputation."

The majority of awards are non-competitive and mark achievement at merit, bronze, silver and gold levels. Gold medals, president's awards, orders of distinction and the Patron's Award are presented to organisations sustaining the high standards of the gold level over



John Caulfield, HSEQ Advisor for Leiths (R) being presented with the RoSPA H&S Award.

consecutive years.

Competitive awards go to the best entries in 24 industry sectors including construction, healthcare, transport and logistics, engineering, manufacturing and education.

There are specialist awards for health at work, environmental management and fleet safety, and excellence trophies for the best international, new entry, workforce involvement and organisation operating or based in Scotland. RoSPA's top accolade is the Sir George Earle Trophy.

Headline sponsor of the RoSPA Awards 2019 was NEBOSH – the National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health – for the 14th consecutive year.

Lab Environmental Initiatives

The Lab and technical staff have recently implemented some new environmental and cost-effective initiatives. They have reduced the purchase of single-use plastic sample bags by 80% through the purchasing of reusable sample buckets for aggregates.

The buckets are easier to handle, easier to stack, safer to transport and more cost effective. There is also less risk of damage and contamination.

The Lab have also reduced the purchase of single-use large double-lined paper bags by 30% through the purchasing of small reusable cardboard boxes.

The boxes save time by eliminating having to re-split oversized samples and can be placed directly into the laboratory ovens for reheating. It is easier to identify sample numbers and inspect materials and they are safer to stack for archive storage.

The Group are always looking at ways of improving our green practices and we are very supportive of these recent changes.



Housekeeping at Mid Lairgs

Maintaining high standards of housekeeping is a key objective within our organisation.

Derek Morrison, our Asphalt Plant Operator at Mid Lairgs Quarry, has truly transformed his place of work into something to behold. Derek commented to Grant Milne, Group Managing Director of the Quarries Division, "If I'm not manufacturing asphalt I'm out in the plant doing my regular maintenance and tidying up". Derek's concerted efforts have not only made the Plant look tidy but it's safer, more environmentally friendly and will be far more reliable in years to come.

This is a fantastic demonstration of pride and ownership – something we all should be striving to achieve.



Healthy Working Lives Award

Following much hard work and effort the Leiths Group were awarded the Bronze Healthy Working Lives award in April 2019.

The Group has been on a journey for the last two years to promote health and wellbeing and decided to embark on achieving the award through this nationally recognised scheme.

The Healthy Working Lives Programme awards achievement at three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The aim of the scheme is to promote awareness of health, safety and wellbeing and their effect on an individual's work life. Demonstrating commitment to health and safety is one of the core requirements of the scheme together with raising awareness of a healthy lifestyle.

The award ceremony was held in Aberdeen at the end of May 2019 where Dave Bremner (Group Health and Safety Director) and Ross Cameron (IMS Assistant) received the award on behalf of the Group. Since receiving the award, the Group has been awarded the Silver award which recognises that the organisation has put in place the policies, procedures and practices which allow everyone to become engaged in protecting and improving their health, safety and wellbeing.

The next stage of the process is application for Gold award status which requires a demonstration of long-term commitment to improving health, safety and wellbeing both within the workplace and in the wider community. It builds on the good practice developed at Bronze and Silver. In achieving Gold the organisation can evidence that a health, safety and wellbeing culture exists, and positive employee behaviour changes are evident.



The Healthy Working Lives awards are supported and endorsed by the HSE, NHS, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Government and are a nationally recognised award.

The Health and Wellbeing Committee have been instrumental in making this award possible and will be asked to receive the Silver award at next year's ceremony.





Dave Bremner (C) and Ross Cameron (R) being presented with the Bronze Healthy Working Lives Award.

Cove and Altens Community Council Information Cairns

Following a generous legacy left to the Cove and Altens Community Council, and after consultation with the local community, it was decided that the money would be spent creating five information cairns which would be placed around the village of Cove as a lasting memorial to the farming life of the area.

Margaret Allan, who left the legacy, lived at Mains of Loirston farm with her family and spent her later years at Sgt's Croft along South Loirston Road in the village. The Allan family were the last to farm Mains of Loirston which has since been demolished and the fields now hold housing developments.

The Charleston cairn, located beside Charleston School, was dedicated to Granite, Gravel and Grit, and Leiths provided the wording based on the history of our local Blackhills Quarry.



Granite, gravel and grit

Pockets of quarry work started near the coast around 1760 and eventually lead to the industrial quarrying at Blackhills that we know today. In these early days the granite was used primarily for roadstone for use in the developing infrastructure.

Blackhills Quarry has been actively worked by Leiths since the mid 1970's. The rock deposit is a granite aggregate from the Cove Granite which is Ordovician in Age (443 – 485 million years old). Blackhills is the only granite quarry still in operation in Aberdeen and, during its lifetime with Leiths, has extracted some 9 million tonnes. The rock is used for a wide variety of products ranging from traditional construction aggregates, concrete and road surfacing aggregates, decorative aggregates, walling stone, rock armour and as a polished building and monumental stone. The Cove Granite was recognised as particularly durable and was formerly extracted towards the Cove village for Cassies or Setts. More recent high-profile contracts have been the supply of concrete and asphalt to the Third Don Crossing, concrete and aggregates to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) and the supply of rock for sea defences for the Aberdeen Harbour Expansion Project.

Historically, there was sand and gravel quarrying in the surrounding landscape. During 2013/2014 land remediation took place in these areas which were subsequently developed.

Blackhills Quarry still plays a large part in local history, by supplying materials for local infrastructure, employing local people and supporting community activities.

The official unveiling of the Cairns took place on Tuesday, 24 September at the Mains of Loirston cairn (corner of Earn's Heugh Road and Langdykes Road in Cove) and was attended by many of the local community and businesses.

Liz Allen (R), the late Margaret Allan's niece and Michele McPartlin, Cove and Altens Community Council Chair, at the unveiling of the Mains of Loirston Cairn plaque.



Skye Mountain Rescue – Donation of Aggregate

In May 2019, a member of the Skye Mountain Rescue Team approached Leiths Torrin Quarry as they were in the process of tidying up the car park of their base at Sligachan on the Isle of Skye and were looking to see if Leiths would make a donation of aggregate to cover the car park area.

The Skye Mountain Rescue Team is made up of unpaid volunteers who provide assistance to walkers and climbers on the Isle of Skye, as well as assisting the police and coastguard in searches on the Skye coast and mountains. Skye Mountain Rescue is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and they rely on public donations, grant aid and support from other charities. On Saturday, 14 August 2019, a load of 20mm aggregate was delivered from Torrin Quarry to their Sligachan base, where volunteers were waiting, with the help of a mini digger, to spread the load.



Strictly Inverness 2019 UPDATE

In our last edition, we highlighted the dancing exploits of Martin Gill, a local farmer and haulier, who has been a customer of Leiths for the past 20 years. Martin was raising money for Strictly Inverness on behalf of Highland Hospice and Inverness Ice Centre. Leiths supplied a delivery of Lime for their Farm Open Day Auction in advance of the dance event.

Although Martin didn't make the final, since the event in May, he has raised the phenomenal sum of just under £70,000! This figure is the highest single amount raised in the history of the event.

Martin said afterwards: "The Open Day attendance was way beyond our expectations with stock judging, sheep dog displays, a crook making demonstration, an auction and a raffle. The auction was hosted by Frasers Auction Rooms and all the items sold well. Thank you to Leith's for their support.

I wasn't successful in making the final of Strictly but had a fantastic time participating in the event and met some lovely people along the way, including my dance partner, Dawn. And there is still money coming in!".



Martin with Anton du Beke from Strictly Come Dancing.



Martin with his dance partner, Dawn, doing the Quick Step.

Cove Woodland Walk

The Leiths Group was approached by local residents to undertake improvement works to the Cove Woodland Walk which runs from Cove Road next to our Headquarters along the coastline to Cove Post Office.

The Civil Engineering and Surfacing Division undertook two days of work to clear mud and vegetation and thereafter reprofile and overlay the section

of footway which runs next to our Head Office.

The footway is very popular with local residents and dog walkers and they should now have mud free footwear after their walk.

A BIG THANK YOU

To everyone at Leith's, and especially the hard work by the team that upgraded the top section of the path on the Cove Woodland Trust.

Without the support of local companies like yours it would be impossible to maintain the paths. Hundreds of locals who use the walk every week to walk their dogs, go for a stroll with their children or grandchildren, have commented very favourably on the work done to make them safer and more even, especially for the elderly.

The schools who use them for nature and environmental lessons will also benefit from the better paths provided by yourselves.

The committee and the 100 plus members of the Trust truly appreciate what you have done.

Yours Truly

Ian Bowie – Chairman, Guy Craig – Vice Chairman, Wendy Suttar – Treasurer, Raymond Davidson – Secretary, Jim Henderson, Brenda Reid, Mike Duncan, George Duncan & Willie Falconer

Ali Moir retires after 25 years



Ian Leith presenting Ali with his and moved to the current sit retirement gift alongside Grant Milne. at Rigifa. Over the following

ALI MOIR, ONE OF OUR HGV DRIVERS, BASED AT RIGIFA HAS RETIRED AFTER MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF SERVICE.

Starting with us in August 1994, Ali has seen many changes over his time, including a vast expansion of our business. In 1994 the business outgrew the original premises at Linksfield Road, and moved to the current site at Rigifa. Over the following

years, Ali has seen both Leiths and the Rigifa site grow dramatically.

Ali began driving a Mercedes 6 wheeler but soon progressed to an ERF 8 wheeler. Despite only having a rest cab, he regularly spent days away from home, alongside other drivers, delivering lime, asphalt and sand. Ali especially enjoyed his forays to Skye and the West Coast.

"On one occasion whilst delivering to Applecross, the ERF had a tyre blowout, which frightened a poor tourist enough to make her fall into a ditch! On another occasion, whilst Geordie, Ali and Stuart were working out of Sconser Quarry, Ali suggested that they should go for a walk after they had finished work for the day. Unfortunately, the walk took far longer than expected, and they ended up hitching a lift from a kind motorist, who came upon them in the pitch black after 9pm! Leiths used to have a minibus which was used to transport drivers back and forth at the weekends, when they were working away from home. On their way back after a weekend off, one of the drivers borrowed Ali's holdall to use as a pillow. When they stopped for a cuppa on their journey, Ali opened his bag to discover that the driver had been lying on his washbag, and his holdall was filled with shaving foam!"

Ali has seen many changes in our business, including improvements to health and safety, as well as technological changes in quarries and transportation. He says that most of these changes are welcome advances, especially the automatic gearboxes and electrically operated covers, which were unheard of "back in the day".

Ali grew up in Potterton and was at school at the same time as our Chairman! When presenting Ali with his Retirement Award, it was great to hear them both reminiscing about their school days, especially their "run-ins" with the local "Bobby"!

We wish Ali all the best in his retirement and thank him for his hard work over the years.



Ally (C) receiving his long service award from Grant Milne (MD of the Quarries Division) (R) with Bob Adamson (Fleet Manager) (L).

Diane Housley to receive Derby University Award



Diane Housley, Assistant Quarry Manager at Torrin, started the Derby University Foundation Degree (Science) in Mineral Extractives Technology in September 2016. After three years of hard work she graduated in June this year, receiving a Degree with Distinction.

In recognition of this, her Tutors at Derby recommended her for a student award, the Springbank Quaich. This is given to

the best Foundation Degree Student from the Institute of Quarrying Scottish Branch.

Diane received a Certificate and cheque for £200.00 at the Student Awards Ceremony which took place at the Fellows Lunch held at the New Armouries, Tower of London, on 1 November 2019. Grant Milne, Leiths Managing Director of the Quarries Division attended the ceremony to support Diane.

Commenting on the Derby Award, Diane says she found the course very challenging and time consuming, but well worth the effort. The Mineral Extractives Degree, in conjunction with a number of successfully completed training courses offered by Leiths have enabled

her to progress into quarry management.

Diane started her career with Leiths as the Weighbridge operator at Torrin Quarry in 2006. She was promoted to Office Administrator in 2010, and took on the additional role of Concrete Batcher in 2012. In recognition of her continuing efforts at Torrin, she was promoted to Assistant Quarry Manager-Designate in August this year.



We would like to congratulate Diane on this very well-deserved award.

Transcontinental Race 2019 A race across (most of) Europe!

By Dominic Cordner, Leiths Geologist, based at Rigifa

As some of you may well know, I am a particularly keen cyclist! Over the past eight years I've been training and racing a variety of cycling events (road races, time trials, hill climbs etc.) across the UK. Typically, these races are between a few minutes to a few hours in duration. While these events have been challenging, I've always wanted to see how I'd fare in a much longer race.

So, for 2019 I thought it was time to challenge myself. I decided I'd enter the cycling world's equivalent to an Ultra-Marathon. The Transcontinental Race. The Transcontinental Race is a self-supported cycling race from one end of Europe to the other. This year the race start was in Burgas (Bulgaria) and the finish in Brest (France). Unusually for a cycling race there is no set route, each rider decides how best to get from Bulgaria to France. The only requirement is that along the way you have to pass through 4 checkpoints which were, typically, located at the top of climbs (Freedom Arch – Bulgaria, Besna Kobila – Serbia, Passo Gardana – Italy, Alpe d'Huez – France). Rather fiendishly they were also placed strategically to force you into the mountains and to extend the overall distance of the race.

Despite being quite a simple concept (race from one end to the other) the race comes with a complex set of rules all designed to make it more challenging. As a self-supported race, riders are not allowed to ride behind one another (which makes cycling much easier), pre-book accommodation or, critically, accept outside help at any point in the race. You're on your own the whole way and any mechanical issues, navigation issues or issues of any kind have to be resolved by the rider at the roadside.

I went into the race with reasonably high expectations and was determined to finish within the top 40 riders (of the 300 starters). My plan was to ride about 200 miles a day with 4-5 hours of sleep between. All being well this would bring me to the finish in around 14 days. What quickly became clear was that the cycling would be the easy part. The main difficulties of the race would be the weather and the lack of sleep. From the 40 degree heat in Eastern Europe to the deafening mountain thunderstorms of the Alps, the race had all the weather conditions going!

Unfortunately, 13 days into the race, and just 24 hours from completing the journey, I picked up a stomach bug in the middle of France. Unable to keep any food or fluid down I knew very quickly I wasn't going to make it. Even 48 hours later (most sleep filled) I was no better. It was a shame to end the race

early, but I knew there was nothing more I could do.

Many thanks to everyone who followed the race at the time and sent me messages of encouragement. Thanks also to everyone who had kind words when I returned slightly disheartened to work. Overall, I immensely enjoyed the challenge, and decrite an unfortunets.

challenge, and, despite an unfortunate end, I look back on the race as a success.



Ice-cream for breakfast!

Without the stomach bug I would have achieved my top 40 goal and I have learnt some valuable lessons for the next adventure.

Several people have asked if I'd do the race again. There's every chance I will but for next year I'll find something slightly less crazy to do!

Some of the statistics from my race:

- 3,673km cycled (2,282 miles) 193km longer than the Tour de France
- 10 countries crossed (Bulgaria Serbia Bosnia & Herzegovina
 Crostia Slavenia Austria Italy Liechtarstein Switzerland
- Croatia Slovenia Austria Italy Liechtenstein Switzerland France)
- 158 hours on the bike over 13 days (12 hours a day on average)
- 762,880 pedal revolutions
- 89,898 kcal burnt (The same as 494 pints of beer, 1,152 eggs, 69kg of cooked rice, 0.56 tonnes of celery or 18kg of Chocolate)
- 8.3kg (1 stone 3 pounds) of body weight lost





The dirt road climb to Checkpoint 2, Besna Kobila, Serbia.

All you need for a 14 day trip across Europe - a bike and a single change of clothes!

Arthur Wiseman runs the Glencoe and Loch Ness Marathons for Leiths chosen charity, Alzheimer's Scotland

On 8 September 2019, Arthur Wiseman, Leiths Group Health and Safety Advisor, successfully completed the Glencoe Marathon in aid of Alzheimer's Scotland, Leiths chosen "Charity of the Year".

This was Arthur's first ever marathon and one of the hardest in the United Kingdom. Regular marathons are 26.2miles long and run over a relatively flat and smooth route, however, even though the Glencoe Marathon is the same distance, it has a total ascent of 1608m or 5275ft. In comparison Ben Nevis is 1344m or 4411ft in height from sea level.

The route started at 9am from the Red Squirrel Campsite just outside Glen Coe village. The runners were split into 6 Waves which set off five minutes apart.



Here is Arthur's journey in his own words: "I was in Wave D and by this time the nerves were really starting to kick in and I had thoughts of 'what the heck am I doing and am I nuts?' running through my mind but that was short lived and once I started I soon settled into a steady pace.

The route took me through Glen Coe on old military roads and tracks then through a wet and muddy bog which lasted for around 2 ½ miles, before joining up with the West Highland Way at the foot of the infamous "Devils Staircase" which was the first long ascent. The route was very rough from here with loose stones, scree and boulders making it difficult to maintain any kind of rhythm, however, the scenery was superb!! The decent into Kinlochleven (13.1mile point) was steep and quite tricky due to the loose stones underfoot.

My spirits were lifted by the quality of the aid station - mars bars, Lucozade, bananas and Haribo - but no more so than seeing my wife cheering me

Rigifa Veggie Bake Sale!

Leiths chosen charity for 2019 has been Alzheimer's Scotland, and staff at Head Office were delighted to take part in our Annual Bake Sale which took place on Monday, 23 September, to help raise funds for this very worthwhile organisation.

This year, there was a slightly different theme to the Bake Sale – everything had to include a vegetable, cakes included! We had lots of interesting contributions, from Parnip and Apple Cake, Chocolate and Beetroot Brownies, and Orange and Potato Cupcakes! We also had some delicious savoury bakes, including Onion Bhajis, mini Quiches and Mozzarella Loaf.

Phil Leith, our Deputy Chairman judged (and tasted!) all the amazing bakes with Ross Cameron, Leiths IMS Assistant, winning best home bake for his Pea and Lemon Vanilla Sponge Cake!



Ross (R) and Phil Leith with the winning cake!

Thanks to everyone (and their families) who kindly donated to the bake sale and helped raise £200.00 for Alzheimer Scotland, and, in particular, Rosabella Cornwall who did a wonderful job of organising the event.



The winning cake!



some Carrot Cupcakes!

Pea and Lemon Vanilla Sponge Cake!

Ingredients:

For the Cake:

- 275g fresh or frozen peas
- 200g unsalted butter, softened
- 150g granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- zest and juice of 1/2 lemon
- 250g plain flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- For the Lemon Buttercream:
- 150g unsalted butter, softened
- 300g powdered icing sugar
- Zest and juice of 1/2 a lemon

Method

- 1. Preheat the oven to 160C. Grease and line two 9" cake pans, or three 6" pans (I did 3 for the bake sale).
- 2. Boil the peas for a few minutes, drain, refresh under cold water and puree until completely smooth. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until light 3. and fluffy. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, then beat in the cooled pea puree, vanilla, zest and lemon juice.
- 4. Sift in the flour, baking powder and salt and stir to gently combine.
- 5. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tins, push to the edges and level, then bake for 25 minutes or until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes in the tins and then turn onto a wire rack to cool completely before icing.

For the icing:

1. In a large bowl, cream the butter until fluffy. Add in the icing sugar and beat. Beat in the zest and a little of the lemon juice. Add more lemon juice until the consistency is spreadable. Store in the fridge until ready to use.

To assemble:

1. Spread a little of the buttercream between the layers of the completely cooled cakes and sandwich together. Cover the cake in the remaining buttercream and decorate with pea shoots and lemon zest.

on. 2hrs 26mins and 13.1miles done.

The second half of the route picks up the West Highland Way again, all the way to Glen Nevis. The next climb was by far the hardest section of the route which seemed to go on forever. The track traverses the foot of the Mamore's and the infamous Ring of Steall with spectacular scenery. At the 15mile point I experienced some severe cramps on both legs due to salts not being replenished well enough. This led me to walk for a while and took some salt sticks. After about 20 minutes I was running again and settled into a steady (albeit, slower) pace. The final 3 miles were fantastic, descending into Glen Nevis with the Ben as a backdrop, I could see and hear the finish line with cheering and music which really raised my spirits.

I finished the marathon in 6hrs 8mins and came 201st out of 308 runners. Elated!

What makes this so special to me is that less than 18 months before the marathon, I was over 22 stone and got out of breath tying my shoe laces. I was a runner in my younger years but hadn't run or exercised in years or contemplated doing something like this. To get from where I was at, to where I am now has been a phenomenal journey and to have the opportunity to take part, raise money and awareness for Alzheimer's Scotland has been incredible."



Well done to both Arthur and Dominic on their very well deserved achievements!

A day in the life of... Bert Archibald - Multi-Unit Manager at Blackhills Quarry

I joined the company in October 1978 which, at that time, was known as Leith Transport and was based at Linksfield Road in Aberdeen. I had previously been working for Edinview Properties, a quarrying and house building company.

What I can remember of that time was there were approximately 20 staff employed between the

transport team and Blackhills Quarry. When I started I was involved in the development of the site, learning a broad range of skills that have served me well ever since.

Some of the many interesting projects I have been involved in have been the refurbishment and erection of the 1st Parker Plant Asphalt Plant back in 1984 which had a 0.75 tonne mixer. This was closely followed by a new Blackmix 2000 in 1985. I also worked for 10 months on the Press/Entrepose 42" oil pipeline from St Fergus to Montrose and on the dismantling and removal of a fish processing plant.

My working day

A typical day for me begins around 5:30am when the office and site is opened, where I look over any emails for changes in the outputs for sales for the forthcoming day and meet with the team for a brief on the day ahead.

I have a core team of approximately ten people, but this increases at busy times when producing and supplying materials, for example, the new Aberdeen Harbour Extension Project. This has been a very demanding and high-profile project, not forgetting our large following of other customers. It has been a steep learning curve for all involved, however, I believe we have now become masters at the production of the core and bedding materials that saw the delivery of up to 4,000 tonnes per day at the peak phase in the construction of the North

Breakwater.

Blackhills is currently going through a major upgrade with a new Benninghoven TBA2000 Asphalt Plant recently installed and the 1st phase of the new Aggregate Processing Plant installed and operational. I was heavily involved in the redevelopment of the site to accommodate the civils work required before the new plant could be erected. This was taking place while the site still had to be operational to keep up with other customers whom I have formed a great relationship with over the last 40 years.

The additional works means an increase in the number on site with both internal and external contractors and the issues they present.

The variances in the role is what I find interesting and challenging, not forgetting keeping up to speed with the ongoing changes in Leiths health and safety culture.

Hobbies/Leisure time

I played a lot of football in my early days, only stopping fairly recently. Other hobbies included judo and badminton. I like taking my boxer dog, Darcy, on long walks around Fetteresso Forest close to my home. I am a keen DIY/gardener for my own property (which I designed and built) together with my two daughters' properties, Emma and Hayley.

I became a Grandad in August 2018 to my youngest daughter Hayley's little boy, Archie, who keeps me extra busy in the little spare time that I have. And, not forgetting my wife, Anne, who has managed to put up with me for the last 35 years!





Blackhills Quarry 1979

Blackhills Quarry 2019

Staff Update We're delighted to share some personal news with you this edition.



Laura Bisset, one of our Management Accountants, based at Rigifa, got engaged on 1 September to Grant Ingram. Laura and Grant met at Leiths six and a half years ago.

Lois Gray, another of our Management Accountants based at Rigifa, was married on 3 August at Fasque Castle in front of family and friends.



Don't let a scammer enjoy your retirement

Find out how pension scams work, how to avoid them and what to do if you suspect a scam.

Scammers can be articulate and financially knowledgeable, with credible websites, testimonials and materials that are hard to distinguish from the real thing. Scammers design attractive offers to persuade you to transfer your pension pot to them or to release funds from it. It is then invested in unusual and high-risk investments like overseas property, renewable energy bonds, forestry, storage units, or simply stolen outright.

Scam tactics include:



If you suspect a scam, report it

- Report to the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) by contacting their Consumer Helpline on 0800 1111 6768 or using the reporting form at www.fca.org.uk
- Report to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at www.actionfraud.police.uk

 If you're in the middle of a transfer, contact your provider immediately and then get in touch with The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) at www.thepensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk

www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart

Construction Worker Helpline



- Need help with debt or money worries?
- Think some counselling would benefit you?
- Want some guidance about housing and social welfare?
- Struggle with mental or physical health issues?

Call us in confidence Freephone © 0808 801 0372 8am to 8pm – 7 days a week.

MEMBER



Competition Issue 13

To be in with a chance of winning £100.00, please tell us:

How much snow can the new Nevis Range Snow Factory produce in a day?



Entrants should send their answer, including name, place of work and contact details to Caroline Anderson (canderson@leithsgroup.co.uk) by 13 December 2019.

The winner will be randomly picked from all correct entries and announced by 20 December 2019 and featured in the next edition of Leiths News.

Good Luck!

Competition Winner Issue 12

Thanks to everyone who entered the last Leiths News Competition in Issue 12.

The competition gave employees an opportunity to win a signed first edition copy of 'The Granite Men' by Jim Fiddes, who featured in the newsletter, by answering the following question:

Q: How many granite yards existed in Aberdeen around the year 1900??

The answer was 100 granite yards.

We had 10 correct entries which were entered into our prize draw and the lucky winner was **Dave Bremner, Group Health and Safety Director.**

Well done Dave!



Group Companies

O Leiths

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd Rigifa, Cove, Aberdeen Aberdeenshire AB12 3LR Tel: 01224 876333 Fax: 01224 876332

4 Markon

Antonine House 6-10 Dunnswood Road Wardpark South, Cumbernauld Glasgow G67 3EN Tel: 01236 875134 Fax: 01236 875525

Group Resources



1. Highland Lime Torlundy, Fort William Inverness-shire, PH33 6SQ Tel: 01397 702227 Fax: 01397 702308 SERVICES (See Ke ABFHIJKNO

2. Torrin Quarry Leiths (Scotland) Ltd Broadford Isle of Skye, IV49 9BA Tel: 01471 822265 Fax: 01471 822266 SERVICES (See Ke

ADFJKN

3. Kishorn Quarry Nr Strathcarron Ross-shire, IV54 8XF Tel: 01471 822265 Fax: 01471 822266 SERVICES (See Key) DFJN

4. Achilty Quarry Leiths, Contin, Strathpeffer Ross-shire, IV14 9EG Tel: 01997 421122 Fax: 01997 421145 SERVICES (See Key) CDFKR

KEY

A Agricultural Lime B Animal Feed

C Asphalt Products

- D Decorative Stone
- E Concrete Blocks

2 Lawrie Demolition Rigifa, Cove Aberdeen

Tel: 01224 876333 Fax: 01224 876332

Aberdeenshire AB12 3LR

G Ross A Ross & Sons Ltd Daviot Inverness Inverness-shire IV2 6XN Tel: 01463 772255 Fax: 01463 772321

B Joss

Joss (Aberdeen) Ltd Parkhill, Dyce Aberdeen AB21 7AT Tel: 01224 774422 Fax: 01224 772444

8. Parkmore Quarry Leiths (Scotland) Ltd Dufftown, Keith Moray, AB55 4DL Tel: 01340 820200 Fax: 01340 820890 SERVICES (See Key) ADFJR

9. Longside Concrete Plant Faichfield, Longside Peterhead. AB42 3ED Tel: 01779 821466 Fax: 01779 821354

SERVICES (See Key) J 10. Loch Hills Quarry Joss (Aberdeen) Ltd

Parkhill, Dyce Aberdeen, AB21 7AT Tel: 01224 774422 Fax: 01224 772444 SERVICES (See Key) CDGJKO

11. North Lasts Quarry Leiths (Scotland) Ltd Peterculter, Aberdeen Aberdeenshire, AB14 OPE Tel: 01224 732690 Fax: 01224 876332 SERVICES (See Key) CDFKN

12. Nether Park Quarry Joss (Aberdeen) Ltd Drumoak, Banchory Kincardineshire, AB31 5AD Tel: 01224 660468 Fax: 01224 772444 SERVICES (See Key) DO

13. Lochton Precast Concrete Leiths (Scotland) Ltd Slug Road, Durris Banchory, AB31 6DD Tel: 01330 844444 Fax: 01330 844417 SERVICES (See Key) IJ

14. Blackhills Quarry Cove, Aberdeen Aberdeenshire AB12 3LR Tel: 01224 897568 Fax: 01224 897590 SERVICES (See Key) CDFKN

K Recycling Facilities L Road Marking M Road Planing N Rock Armour O Sand and Gravel Quarry

Leiths News is published for employees, customers and colleagues of the Leiths Group and its associated companies by Leiths Scotland Ltd, Rigifa, Cove, Aberdeen, AB12 3LR.

If you have any stories for the next issues of Leiths News, please send them to: canderson@leiths-group.co.uk

Edinburgh

15. Montrose Concrete Products Leiths (Scotland) Ltd

Broomfield Industrial Estate Montrose, DD10 8SY Tel: 01674 677037 Fax: 01674 672809 SERVICES (See Key) ПЛ

16. Lugton Lime Lugton Kilmarnock Ayrshire, KA3 4EB Tel: 01505 850435 Fax: 01505 850590 SERVICES (See Key) AFHK

17. Markon Office

Antonine House 6-10 Dunnswood Road Wardpark South Cumbernauld Glasgow, G67 3EN Tel: 01236 875134 Fax: 01236 875525 SERVICES (See Key) LMQT

18. Leiths Central Ltd Middleton Lime Works

Gorebridge Midlothian EH23 40P Tel: 0131 6244466 Fax: 0131 6244467 SERVICES (See Key) P

19. Fyfe Glenrock

Academy Way Colpy Road Industrial Estate Oldmeldrum, Inverurie AB51 0B7 Tel: 01651 873873 Fax: 01651 873399 SERVICES (See Key) S

20. Kishorn Port Ltd Kishorn Base, Kishorn Strathcarron, IV54 8XA Tel: 01397 773840 Fax: 01397 773850 **SERVICES** Dry Dock Port & Harbour Services

- P Civil Engineering and Surfacing **Q** Traffic Management R UKAS Accredited Laboratory S Masonry and Specialist Natural Stone Products
- T Signage

Rigifa, Cove Aberdeen AB12 3LR T: 01224 876333 F: 01224 876332 www.leiths-group.co.uk



A Ross & Sons Ltd Daviot, Inverness Inverness-shire IV2 6XN Tel: 01463 772211 Fax: 01463 772321 SERVICES (See Kev CDEFJKNO 6. New Forres Quarry

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd Rafford, Forres Moray IV36 2RQ Tel: 01309 671188 Fax: 01309 671199 SERVICES (See Ker CDFJKNP

7. Bluehills Quarry Leiths (Scotland) Ltd Craigellachie Moray AB55 4BW Tel: 03301 190627 Fax: 01340 820890 SERVICES (See Key) CDFKN

F Hardrock Quarry G Inert Landfill Site H Limestone Filler Precast Concrete Products Ready-Mix Concrete

5. Mid Lairgs Quarry