

Issue 12, Spring/Summer 2019



Leiths NEWS

The newsletter of Leiths (Scotland) Ltd

Produced for our Employees, Customers and Colleagues.

KISHORN PORT HOSTS A VISIT BY THE WORLD'S LARGEST DRILLING RIG, THE OCEAN GREATWHITE.



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LEITHS

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Welcome to Leiths NEWS

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Message from the Chairman



In my last "message" I mentioned that a number of new innovative products are being developed to help fill the current lull in concrete volumes in our markets. In this issue we give more details of our RIGAfloor and RIGAflow products which have been designed to make life a lot easier for our customers when they are pouring domestic and commercial floor slabs. These products will ensure that we stay at the forefront of concrete technology in Aberdeen, Moray and the Highlands.

Our Civil Engineering and Surfacing division have rebranded M&M Road Surfacing Ltd, which will now trade as Leiths (Central) Ltd. This further integration and the increased focus on this business is already producing results with contracts secured at Muirfield Golf Club, the University of Edinburgh and Morrison Supermarkets.

Kishorn is in the news again as KPL secured its first major contract assisting with the mobilisation of the biggest semi-submersible drilling rig in the world, the Ocean GreatWhite. She attracted lots of attention during her stay and was an impressive sight anchored in the sheltered haven of Loch Kishorn. The rig is now drilling in the deep, harsh waters half way between Shetland and the Faroe Islands. We hope she will continue to use Kishorn in the future as her base between drilling contracts.

Reading Jim Fiddes' new book "The Granite Men" which we co-sponsored, highlights the enormous changes that our industry has seen since my great Grandfather started quarrying in Aberdeenshire way back in the late 19th century.

Leiths News continues to focus on our people and whilst it is always sad to see some of our key employees retiring, the newsletter constantly reminds me of the tremendous loyalty that our Teams have for the business.

Ian 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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Leiths Launch RIGAfloor...

LEITHS ARE SUPPLYING RIGAFLOOR LIQUID SCREED TO SITES IN ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE.

Leiths, and supply partner Longfloor, have developed a pumpable cementitious liquid screed that can be used in domestic and commercial applications. Our RIGAfloor liquid screed is available in strengths of 25Mpa & 30Mpa and its ease of placement, reduced installation and drying times makes it an ideal solution for underflooring heating systems.

RIGAfloor can be laid at depths up to 40mm and in bay sizes of 100 -150m² without the need for movement joints.

RIGAfloor liquid screed is supplied to applicators that are experienced in the preparation, handling and placement of liquid screeds. Each load of RIGAfloor is checked at the plant and again on site to ensure that the flow is within the target 260-280mm requirement, for optimum performance. The liquid screed is placed using a screed pump and dappled twice with a dapple bar, with the second pass of the dapple bar at 90° to the first pass before a curing agent is applied.

As RIGAfloor liquid screed provides a laitance free surface, this eliminates the need to revisit site to carry out any sanding of floors, reducing time and costs. RIGAfloor liquid screed can also be foot trafficked within 24-36hrs and, due to the reduced drying times compared to some alternative systems, this allows for flooring coverings to be applied sooner.

RIGAfloor liquid screed is currently available from our Loch Hills Plant in Dyce and will be launched in Moray and the Highlands in the coming months.



...and RIGAflow

Following its success in Aberdeen, Leiths have recently launched their RIGAflow self-compacting concrete in the Highlands, which is now available from our Mid Lairgs Concrete Plant in Inverness.

Successful plant and site trials were carried out with local contractors to provide guidance on the preparation, placing and finishing of the RIGAflow so that the performance of the RIGAflow met with the customers' expectations.

Up until recently, contractors were placing conventional concrete the traditional way for house floors which is labour intensive and requires plant and equipment for vibrating, levelling and finishing the concrete. This is

time consuming with concrete floors often having to be finished the following day.

The highly fluid RIGAflow concrete flows under its own weight and maintains homogeneity while filling the formwork. Due to the free-flowing properties, concrete placement is quicker which results in improved construction times providing savings in time and cost through reduced labour and plant. Once the concrete is placed, a curing membrane is applied to protect the concrete resulting in a surface with good regularity and

finish suitable for most floor coverings.

RIGAflow self-compacting concrete provides the end user with a quicker and safer solution that requires minimal energy during placement. Supply of RIGAflow commenced at the end of 2018 and sub-contractors and house builders are now seeing the many advantages of using RIGAflow self-compacting concrete in floor slabs. A guidance document has also been produced for our customers to assist in concrete placement.



Fyfe Glenrock hosts a visit from Aberdeen Geological Society

In early April, 25 geologists from the Aberdeen Geological Society (AGS) headed up by Professor Gordon Walkden, Emeritus Professor of Geology at Aberdeen University, visited Fyfe Glenrock in Oldmeldrum as part of a local field trip.

The team were given a tour of the factory and yard by Allan Bruce, the General Manager of Fyfe Glenrock and he was able to share his intimate knowledge of decorative stone from around the world. Allan was assisted by Richard Collinson, Commercial Manager and Gianpiero Difranco, Fyfe Glenrock's CAD Technician.

Whilst specialising in granite, Fyfe Glenrock has an amazing range of materials in stock including examples of rare exotic rock types from as far afield as Scandinavia, South America, India and China. The geologists were given an insight into the processing of these rocks into a range of products including memorials, kitchen worktops, building and street landscaping elements.

Allan took the opportunity to highlight the growing trend towards the use of indigenous Aberdeenshire granites, including Corrennie, Craigenlow, Kemnay and our own Blackhills. These sources are at the very heart of Aberdeen architecture, hence the nickname "The Granite City".

After a most informative morning, the group moved on to visit a local Granite Quarry which Fyfe Glenrock is currently processing for a number of contracts in the local area.



New Precast Wall Units for Lochton

Lochton Precast manufacture a wide variety of precast products including stair cases, floor slabs, bridge beams, lego blocks, wall panels and many other bespoke items by a small highly skilled team.

In December 2018 Lochton Precast was awarded a large order from CALA for 34 1m wide L shaped wall panels for their contract at Persley Den in Aberdeen. These wall panels ranged in height from 2.6m up to 5.25m with weights varying from 1.75 tonnes up to a colossal 8.30 tonnes.

Due to the huge size of these wall panels, it was decided to manufacture the units outside in the yard. Conscious of the large volume of concrete required for each unit and the intense labour element of placing this concrete it was decided to use Leiths proprietary self-compacting concrete namely RIGAflow.

RIGAflow was manufactured at our Blackhills Quarry and delivered direct to Lochton Precast for discharge directly into the moulds. It was quickly evident that the use of RIGAflow not only cut out the need to vibrate the concrete, thus removing our workforce from vibration exposure, but it also left a superior finish when the moulds were stripped.

The use of RIGAflow assisted in gaining time on what was already a tight programme and produced a very high-quality product. Seeing these benefits, the team at Lochton are considering the use of RIGAflow on other projects and assessing the viability of producing the concrete through their own on-site plant.



New Stockpile Conveyor for Blackhills Quarry

AS PART OF THE CONTINUING INVESTMENT IN BLACKHILLS QUARRY, THE UPGRADE TO THE AGGREGATE PROCESSING PLANT HAS REACHED ANOTHER MILESTONE WITH THE NEW STOCKPILE CONVEYOR FULLY COMMISSIONED AFTER FOUR WEEKS OF SITE INSTALLATION WORKS.



The conveyor is 86 metres long and has a discharge height of 28 meters. It is designed to deliver aggregates from the Primary crushers at 0/350 mm in size at a rate of 800 t/hr. At its peak, the aggregate stockpile will hold approximately 5,000t. This will be delivered by a combination of three feeders to the Crushing and Screening Plant which will be complete later in 2019.

The aggregate storage bins, once operational, will feed directly into the Asphalt Plant which will mean that stocks will be kept dry and readily available. This will also deliver energy savings and a reduction in the carbon footprint with less fuel needed to transport aggregates to and from stockpiles and removing the need to remove excessive moisture from dust and aggregates stored outside.

This is all part of a major overhaul to the site and will be a great improvement and benefit for the unit and its employees and customers for many years to come. As with the tunnel and feeders, the work was carried out by dernaseer engineering from Northern Ireland.

Leiths Limestone feeding the Poultry Industry

Highland Lime at Fort William have been supplying the animal feed market for over 40 years. Originally trading under Howie Minerals Ltd, they were supplying 200 tonnes per annum, which has increased tenfold in more recent times.

The biggest user of the limestone is in the poultry industry. One of our largest customers feeds more than 600,000 chickens per week and produces an average of 1.6 million eggs per week in Scotland alone. They explain why...

“As the main percentage of Broiler & Breeder feed is made up of grains, at the rate that the chickens grow, it is essential to maintain high levels of calcium throughout their lifespan. Limestone is the main primary source of this and vitally important in maintaining bird health. The limestone addition for Breeder flocks is higher as it is also essential for strong bone and egg shell formation on laying chickens. Incorrect calcium levels can lead to skeletal abnormalities and reduced hatchability.”



Morning has Broken

THE PHOTO OF A POWERSCREEN CHIEFTAIN 2100X TRIPLE DECK WAS TAKEN BY ALAN MONAGHAN, MILL OPERATIVE AT OUR OLD MILL QUARRY BY LUGTON.

Known locally as “The Dockra”, it was originally the site of The Dockra Brick Co that used burnt lime as the main component in a grey concrete brick which is totally different from the traditional red clay brick. It was very popular in the area, so much so that they

were bought over by Boral Edenhall, the UK’s largest independent brick manufacturer, and continued manufacturing well into the early 90’s.

After that the site was acquired by Howie Minerals Ltd (as there were long standing permissions to quarry limestone), and then by Leiths in 2008. The Howie business has traded under the business of Leiths Scotland Ltd in the name of Lugton Lime since April 2013.



Civil Engineering and Surfacing: North and South Update

Cala Homes

We have recently commenced work for James Jamieson Contractors at the new Cala Homes site at Persley Den, Aberdeen.

The current works involve traffic management, ducting, kerbing, drainage, lighting, surfacing and lining. There is a tight timescale on the works which include nightshift working to have the site ready for traffic prior to the start of the Haudagain roundabout improvements which will temporarily prohibit other works taking place in the vicinity.

Working collaboratively with James Jamieson has ensured the programme remains on schedule despite the increased work scope. The works were completed at the end of April and required 1500T of surfacing laid over 4 days supplied locally from our Loch Hills Plant.

Following on from the completion of this site the same management and operative teams will commence another package at Cala's Friarsfield site in Cults.



Morrison Supermarkets

Leiths have worked for Morrison Supermarkets on their maintenance contract all over Scotland for over 10 years. The size of the works can vary greatly from small potholes to complete resurfacing and lining. In the last couple of months we have recently completed major surfacing works at Troon, Largs, Johnstone and Lindsayfield.

The work requires close co-ordination with the store managers as every car parking space lost can cause a loss in their profits. With this in mind we programme and provide traffic pedestrian management plans for each store agreeing the balance between working space and keeping the supermarket traffic live. Within the contract we utilise Leiths (Central) Ltd and Markon, both of which are part of the Leiths group of companies, to carry out the civil engineering works, traffic management, milling and lining elements of the works.



The photo shows works ongoing at the resurfacing contract at Ferry Road store in Edinburgh. The work involved approx. 1000 tonnes of stone mastic asphalt. Similar in size and nature, works will soon be commencing for the Fort William store and should last 5 weeks.

Leiths Central Update

Sunshine on Leiths (Central) Ltd

As you may be aware, M&M Road Surfacing Ltd was acquired by the Leiths Group in June 2009. Following successful management changes over the last 18 months, the Leiths Group have taken the opportunity to further integrate the operations into the Group and rebrand the business. As a result, the trading name (i.e. brand) of the company is now Leiths (Central) Ltd and has relocated to our Middleton Lime Works near Gorebridge.

It is anticipated that the above changes will enhance the profile of the business and, utilising the strength of the Leiths brand, will allow Leiths (Central) Ltd to expand its tender opportunities and reinforce its operational capabilities.

The business will continue to be led by Robert Bremner - Area Manager Contracting and Derek Dunbar - Commercial Manager.



University of Edinburgh

Leiths Central have recently completed works to roads for the University of Edinburgh at their Pollock Halls residence.

The works proved challenging carrying out the work safely in the lively student campus.

The photo shows the surfacing squad laying Ulticolour Stone Mastic Asphalt. The specialist material was supplied and delivered from England by Tarmac. Tarmac's technical team were present on site to monitor progress and quality which resulted in Leiths Central being accredited to lay all Tarmac's specialist materials.

The University are delighted with the high-quality finish to their campus.

Specialist Footpath Surfacing Contract for Muirfield Golf Club

LEITHS OPERATING DIVISIONS IN THE CENTRAL BELT: LEITHS (CENTRAL) LTD AND MARKON, WORKED TOGETHER ON A SPECIALIST FOOTPATH SURFACING CONTRACT FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS MUIRFIELD GOLF CLUB IN GULLANE, EAST LoTHIAN.

The work involved relaying the blacktop surface around the club house to very fine tolerances in preparation to receive Markon's "Pebble Lite" resin bound aggregate surface course.

The aggregate selected by the client was a 1-3mm Autumn Quartz blended with a 2-5 Autumn Quartz which was then combined with a two-pack resin, mixed until the aggregate was evenly coated and hand trowelled to 18mm thick. A coat of fine crushed glass grit was applied before the "Pebble Lite" cured to enhance the anti-slip qualities of the finished surface.

Due to the high costs of the selected aggregates and resins, it was imperative that the substrate laid by Leiths Central was uniform in terms of level, thus avoiding undulations which would have impacted on costs for the project and this was achieved successfully.

Our operative, David Conroy, who's skills have been instrumental in the growth of this specialist division for over 22 years is pictured here, trowel in hand, with 355m² of completed footpath in the background earning him positive comments from members and a satisfied client.



New Kit for Markon

Markon's planing division recently placed orders with The Wirtgen Group for a W100 CFI and a W210 Fi Cold Milling Machine to enhance its current fleet of five 1m planers, three 2m planers and three 350mm planers supported by our fleet of tippers, low loaders, tractors, water tankers, skid steers, road brushes and other auxiliary equipment.

The first to arrive, pictured here, is the new state of the art W100CFi which incorporates many automated features for ease of operation, precise level control and maximum production, reduced width of the machine frame on the right for optimised forward visibility, side moving operator's platform for significantly optimised visibility, high quality camera system to assist the operator. The access ladder and operator's platform are fully illuminated when approaching or walking away from the machine when working in the hours of darkness. This machine has a battery-operated hydraulic power pack which, in the event of a catastrophic engine problem, the



Wirtgen W100CFi Planer

operator can use to lift the planer out of the ground and travel at low speed to a suitable area to be repaired.

This machine is capable of milling depths from 0mm-330mm in one pass and height adjustments in increments of 1mm or 5mm, with milling speeds of 5km/hr @ 85mm deep.

The environment has been taken into consideration with the design of emissions and exhaust gas after treatment to comply with the strict requirements of the currently high EC Stage 4 emission

standards making this machine an efficient environmentally friendly work horse.

Operator comfort and innovative safety features come as standard which, coupled with our Blue/Red Light Exclusion Zone 5+2 Initiative and operator/HGV driver/banksman Pelter communication system, ensures the whole operation is a much safer working environment for our crews crews and all other site operatives.

Second to arrive will be the W210 Fi planer which we are hoping to take delivery of in May.

Lawrie begins work at Brora Distillery

Lawrie Demolition recently commenced works for Morrison Construction at Brora Distillery.

Phase 1 Demolition of the Still House, Boilerhouse, Tun Room, Grist and Stables were completed, with the salvage of 1,000 tonnes of stone and over 200 corner stones for re-use on the new Diageo Brora Distillery. Roof timbers were also salvaged for future re-use.

Due to the close proximity of buildings and the age and condition of the buildings to remain, a large part of the roof removal and wall reduction was done manually from scaffolding, with the stones and timber carefully stacked, palletted and stored on site.

Lawrie have also been awarded further works to strip out the interior of the site cottages and remove areas of the cooperage floor. Future works for Lawrie on site includes removing the kiln.



KISHORN PORT HOSTS A VISIT BY THE WORLD'S LARGEST DRILLING RIG, THE OCEAN GREATWHITE.



The Ocean GreatWhite in Kishorn Loch [credit: HeliPeP]

When the Ninian Central oil production platform was towed out of Loch Kishorn in May 1978, at just over 600,000 tonnes, it was the largest concrete structure that had ever moved across the face of the earth.



The Ninian Central Concrete Production Platform under construction in Kishorn Dry Dock in 1976

Over 40 years later, another giant of the oil and gas industry has visited Kishorn.

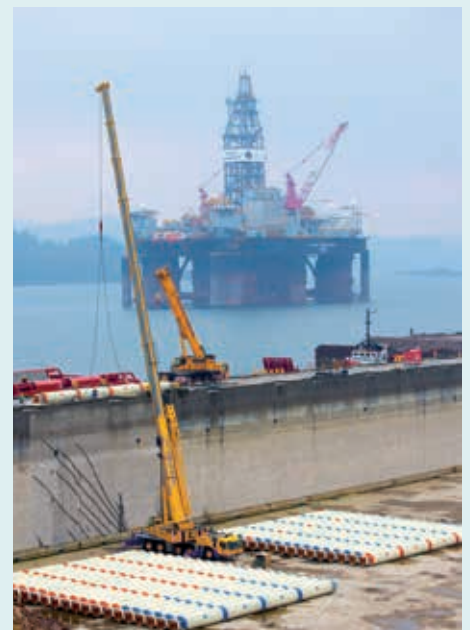
Kishorn Port Ltd (KPL) landed its first major contract and the yard that produced the super-sized Ninian platform hosted a visit by the largest semi-submersible offshore drilling rig in the world, the Ocean GreatWhite. Owned by Diamond Offshore, a global

offshore drilling contractor, the Ocean GreatWhite weighs in at 60,800 tonnes and is a 6th Generation Harsh Environment Drilling Rig capable of drilling down to 10,000m in 3,000m of water. With a draft of over 23 metres, the rig required deep water for anchoring and Loch Kishorn provided the ideal sheltered conditions.

The Ocean GreatWhite had made her way from Singapore, via Las Palmas in the Canaries, taking over 5 months to make the journey. Throughout her 10 week stay at Kishorn Port and Dry Dock, the site supported the Ocean GreatWhite by providing a supply base during her remobilisation programme.

The Dry Dock was utilised for the storage of components and materials that were required whilst the rig was stationed at Kishorn and was assisted by Ferguson Transport and Shipping, Leith's partner in KPL, with port, marine agency and stevedoring services. The rig left Loch Kishorn in early March and

is currently drilling several boreholes west of Shetland for Siccar Point Energy, an Aberdeen based oil and gas development company.



Kishorn Dry Dock was used for the storage of Drilling Risers and Rig Thrusters

The transition to ISO 45001

The ISO 45001 international standard for Occupational Safety and Health was issued by the International Standards Organisation in 2018. This standard will replace the existing OHSAS 18001 standard and will reflect the layout and requirements of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001.

The new standard replaces the OHSAS 18001 standard and companies currently registered to OHSAS 18001 will need to transition to this standard by late 2020/early 2021.

A complete review and overhaul of the Integrated Management System is being carried out in relation to the existing systems, and amendments, where necessary to meet the requirements of ISO 45001, are being made.

A gap analysis on the current OHSAS 18001 system has been conducted on the interactions within the group and all its divisions.

You will recall that we transitioned from the previous versions of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 in 2017. This transition will be taking place this year with full registration to the new standard by the end of the year.

The most significant new requirements are the need for top management participation, worker participation and consultation, quantifying opportunities and demonstrating the use of the hierarchy of control in specification and procurement.

We will be auditing (internally) to the new requirements in 2019 as part of the transition and, as always – if you have any questions about the new standard just ask the HSEQ team.



Energy Savings

As part of our energy savings initiative, the team at North Lasts quarry implemented an idea to reduce the mains electricity use for the Asphalt plant by using the existing generator to fulfil the heating requirements of the plant.

Mains electricity was used to provide power for the bitumen heating on the Asphalt plant, this meant that the mains electricity supplied the bitumen tanks with heating to maintain the workability of the bitumen for use during the following day.

This energy was supplied throughout the night with the bitumen tanks retaining the residual heat throughout the day. The team at North Lasts suggested that the generator which was in use for the mechanical elements of the plant be used to heat the bitumen throughout the day – negating the need for significant energy use from the grid and taking up the capacity on the generators output.

Following a six month trial, the savings have averaged 43% compared to the same period (and similar production) as last year with no effects on quality or productivity.

The site team plan to add to this success by using the generator capacity to supply power to other pieces of equipment onsite.

If you have any suggestions for energy savings in your workplace – let one of the HSEQ team know at HSEQ@leiths-group.co.uk.



Wellbeing in Leiths

You will recall the creation of the Health and Wellbeing Committee at Cove and, following the successful implementation of this initiative, it has now been expanded to encompass the rest of the sites within the Leith group.

The Committee will be circulating news and competitions throughout the group so keep an eye out for these items via email and on your noticeboards and canteens.

This year's nominated charity is Alzheimer's Scotland and they will be the focus of our fundraising activities throughout the year.

A healthy body and mind is something we all aspire towards and the Health and Wellbeing Committee will be circulating useful information and helpful hints throughout the year. Information can also be found on the Leiths Website, under the News section, on a regular basis.

If you want to be a part of this initiative, please contact a member of the Committee (currently: Dave Bremner, Pat Dunlop, Sam Leith, Caroline Anderson, Coral-Ann Birnie and Rosabella Cornwall).



Strictly Inverness 2019

In May 2019, ballroom dancing met the farming community at Strictly Inverness! Taking place throughout the four days of 8, 9, 10 and 11 May, this large fundraising event raised money for Highland Hospice and Inverness Ice Centre.

Martin Gill, a local farmer and haulier, has been a customer of Leiths for the past 20 years, purchasing Lime from Parkmore Quarry and aggregates from Achilty. As part of the fundraising, which has included a charity ceilidh dance in Munloch Hall on 30 March and Farm Open Day at Easter Templand Farm on 27 April, Martin, who is being sponsored by The Cromarty Brewing Co., took part in Strictly Inverness early in May.

Martin attended three hourly training sessions per week for 14 weeks in order to be well prepared for his performances. He also had to perform in front of a panel of judges and scored accordingly. As a big burly farmer and haulier, Martin is very much out of his comfort zone but is doing everything he can to raise as much money as possible. As a valued customer, Leiths were delighted to supply a delivery of Lime for the Farm Open Day auction in advance of the dance event.

So far, Martin has raised over £8,500. If you would like to sponsor Martin, please visit the following link:

<https://strictlyinverness2019.everydayhero.com/uk/papa-gill-s-strictly-2019>

If you would like further information relating to Martin's involvement in this great event, please contact Carrie MacDonald, Strictly Inverness Event Organiser, Tel: 01463 243132 or email: c.macdonald@highlandhospice.org.uk.



Martin with his dance partner Dawn Gray



Highland Hospice (SC011227) is the only hospice serving adults with incurable life limiting disease in the Highlands of Scotland.



Formerly owned by Caledonian Associated Cinemas, Inverness Ice Centre (SC03343) was put up for sale in May 2002. After an extensive appeal to its supporters to help save the ice rink, and latterly a successful application to the National Lottery and the Common Good Fund, it was purchased in February 2003. The curlers and the other ice users are now very proud to be the owners and actively run the ice centre (voluntarily) through a charitable company called Inverness Ice Centre Ltd.

Spean Bridge Primary School Fundraising Group Auction/Raffle

SPEAN BRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LIVE AUCTION NIGHT
HOSTED BY
ISABEL AND LINDA CAMPBELL
&
FAMILY CEILIDH
WITH
A'HOOLIGAN A'HOOLIGAN JUNIORS
CAMERON MACISAAC
THE FULFORD BOYS
JIMMY CAMERON

Friday 8th of February 7:00pm
Spean Bridge Primary School Hall

AUCTION LOTS

35 TONNE STONE/SAND - FREE DELIVERY FROM LEITHS
7 DAY WEEKEND DISCOUNT HIRE FROM CAMPBELL PLANT
WINTERED 24HP HPI - FREE DELIVERY FROM DUNDEE
TRAILER LOAD OF WOOD - FREE DELIVERY BY JAMES SCORLEY
40 CRAB OF BEER DELIVERED BY GLENFORTH BROWNI
WINE AND SPIRITS HOOCH - DONATED BY LEE
4 BALL, FORT WILLIAM GOLF CLUB MEMBERS
FAMILY JACKETE STEAM TRAIN TICKET
10 DAY ROCK CLIMBING OFF SITE, BRANG WITH KENNY GRANT GUIDES
JEE BARBERS SCARVES JERSEY & MOUNTAIN BIKING GEAR
10 YR HOUR PT SESSONS WITH CROSSFIT DEN NEWS

FREE ENTRY BYOB

EVENT SPONSORED BY **hwenenergy**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK - SPEAN BRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISING GROUP
FOR CONTACT INFO VISIT @SPEANBRIDGE

Following a recent request from the Spean Bridge Primary School Parent Fundraising Group, Leith's offered a 20t load of any quarry material from our Dornie Quarry at Torlundy near Fort William with free delivery within a 20 mile radius of the quarry, as a prize.

The auction, which was held on 8 February 2019, attracted over 100 people and was a great success. It raised over £3,000.00 (not including an extra £500 in raffle sales and donations) in total.

The Leiths donation of a 20t load of sand and stone was the star lot of the auction and raised £550.00, with Dave Kenyon at Bunroy Holiday Park being the winning bidder.

"The Granite Men"

For hundreds of years, generations of quarrymen laboured deep within quarries in North-East Scotland to unearth the stone that gave the Granite City its name.

Whilst their endeavours live on in buildings all over the world, the memories of most of those who spent their days quarrying granite across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have largely been lost. Thanks to the dedication of Aberdeen author Jim Fiddes, their stories have been retold in his new book, *The Granite Men*.



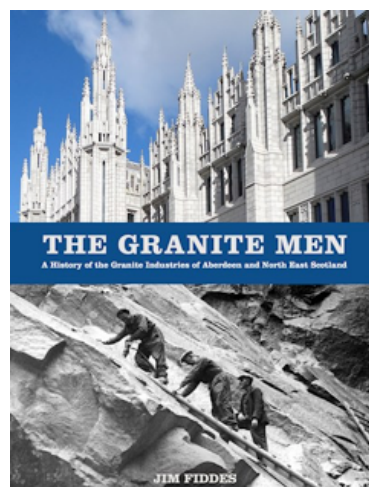
Jim Fiddes

Jim traces the North-East's granite industry, from its origins of Neolithic farmers creating stone cairns and circles, to the stonemasons of the medieval era and all the way to the turn of the century when thousands of quarrymen were employed in the industry.

Jim approached Leiths some time ago as there was an obvious connection within his book to James Leith, Ian's great Grandfather, when he was operating Cairncry Quarry in the 1870s. As well as operating Persley and Craigenlow Quarries during the late 19th century, James Leith also became one of Aberdeen's main granite contractors working on projects such as sewers and waterworks, the Riverside Esplanade and the archway at the north end of the Wellington Suspension Bridge.

As we have mentioned in a previous edition of Leiths News, he also built the bridge over the River Don at Persley which opened in 1892. Leiths were delighted to support and sponsor the publication of the book.

Jim, who spent most of his 29 years as a librarian at the Robert Gordon University's School of Architecture and Construction, was himself the nephew of a granite worker.



Jim has very kindly donated a signed first edition copy of his book to Leiths – see page 15 to be in with a chance to win it.

HR Update

HMRC – Suspicious Emails etc

In the last year, HMRC have removed over 20,000 fake and malicious websites and they are reminding people to stay alert to anything suspicious. If you receive an email, social media message, text message or phone call from the HMRC and you are in doubt of its authenticity, please forward the information to HMRC for investigation via the details below:

Emails / Social Media Messages:	phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk
Text Messages:	60599
Phone Calls:	phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk
Include the following in your email:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of Call • Phone Number Used • Details of the Call 	

HMRC will never send notifications by email about tax rebates or refunds and they will never ask you for personal or financial information if they send a text message.

To stay safe do not:

- Click on any website links
- Open any attachments
- Disclose any personal or payment details.

HMRC – Personal Tax Accounts

The Personal Tax Account system is an online resource the HMRC has launched to enable individuals to view and make changes to your information online which, in some cases, can save you sending a letter or making a phone call. There are already over 30 services available through the new system, these include:

- Checking your Income Tax estimate and tax code
- Filling in, sending and viewing a personal tax return
- Claiming a tax refund
- Checking and manage your tax credits
- Telling HMRC about changes which may affect Child Benefit
- Checking your State Pension
- Tracking tax forms that you've submitted online
- Checking or updating your Marriage Allowance
- Telling HMRC about a change of address
- Check or update benefits you get from work, e.g. company car details and medical insurance

To sign up you can use the dedicated Personal Tax Account website:
<https://www.gov.uk/personal-tax-account>.

HMRC – Marriage Allowance

Marriage Allowance lets you transfer some of your personal allowance to your husband, wife or civil partner, if they earn more than you. This reduces the tax they pay in the tax year.

To see if you are eligible and to apply, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/marriage-allowance>. Claims can be backdated to include any tax year since 5 April 2015 that you were eligible for Marriage Allowance.

Technical Services Update

AS PART OF STRENGTHENING THE TECHNICAL SERVICES GROUP, LEITHS HAS PURCHASED LASTRADA SOFTWARE FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS.

LASTRADA is used by road authorities, independent laboratories, materials producers and construction companies, and research institutions in more than 20 countries. LASTRADA is a major advancement from our current GradLab software which has become obsolete and is no longer supported.

LASTRADA will also eliminate the current use of numerous spreadsheets (which have their inherent issues) and will integrate the entire laboratory workflow into one system from the sample receiving to reporting and analysis.

In addition, LASTRADA will assist in enhancing our in-house capabilities related to the design of bituminous and concrete materials and specialised aggregate blending to meet the ever-changing and challenging industry requirements.

The modules selected for the initial package includes:

- Aggregate Quality Control
- Aggregate Factory Production Control
- Asphalt Quality Control
- Asphalt Factory Production Control
- Asphalt Type Testing and Suitability Testing
- Concrete Factory Production Control
- Concrete Quality Control
- Advanced Concrete Mix Design

Initial training has been completed and the intent is to have the programs fully operational by the summer.

Jock Mitchell and



25 Years Long Service Award for Graham Barclay

Graham started with Lawrie Demolition Ltd in 1994 as an operative on the demolition of the old Hays Lemonade Factory in Berryden, Aberdeen. After working in that role for about six months, and after a machine operator was off one day, the foreman asked Graham if he could drive the digger, and has worked as a Planter Operator ever since. Graham went to Dyce Primary and then Bankhead Academy, which he took great delight in demolishing in 2012. Graham is married to Olive and they have three grown up children Leanne, Louie and Paul. Despite reaching 60 years young last September, Graham has no plans to retire any time soon.



Graham (L) being presented with his award by Graeme McInnes, Lawrie Operations Manager

Jamie Glendinning gets engaged!

Jamie started at Leiths Head Office in July 2013 as an Accounts Assistant, before being promoted to Assistant Accountant in March 2016.

We are delighted to share the news of Jamie and Georgia's engagement. Here, in Jamie's own words, is the story of how they met.

"We met online in January 2018 and we seemed to hit it off and connect quite quickly. After chatting and getting to know each other, we agreed to go on a first date. However, just after we agreed to meet, Georgia was offered a four month work placement in Brussels. We were left with two choices, cut our losses at the early stage, or we could carry on messaging and I would wait for her to come back to meet. Obviously, I chose to wait for Georgia to come home!

While Georgia was away we messaged every day and learnt a lot more about each other which showed we had a very similar sense of humour! Skip ahead a bit and we (finally) got to meet at the end of May and go on our first date! Although it almost didn't happen as Georgia walked right past me at the meeting point! However, the date was a success and we've never looked back!

In 2019, discussions about the future came up and we both realised that we saw a future together, so I took a leap of faith and asked Georgia to marry me and she said yes! I was obviously delighted, and we are currently looking at venues and planning our wedding in the near future."



John Fyfe retire

Friday, 5th April 2019 proved to be a day to remember at New Forres Quarry when John "Johnnie" Fyfe, Shovel Driver, and John "Jock" Mitchell, Quarry Supervisor retired after 40 years and 20 years service respectively.

Group Quarries Division Managing Director, Grant Milne, was on hand to present to Johnnie and Jock a hand-selected piece of New Forres stone, carefully cut and polished by Fyfe Glenrock, on which is mounted a plaque commemorating their outstanding service to the Leiths Group, together with a model of the machine that each man operated at New Forres Quarry.

Additionally, the following personnel – Jim Logan; Raymond Thain; Mick McConnell; Mark Duncan; Aaron

Head; Alex Saville; Rikki McMillan and Paul Mortimer – collaborated in organising personalised gift bottles of Glen Moray single malt whisky for both Johnnie and Jock.

Both Johnnie and Jock received many messages of good luck and were treated to a string of visitors wishing them all the best in the run up to Friday, which left both visibly touched.

Campbell McNab, Area Quarry Manager said, "Both were instrumental in ensuring the safety of road users in Moray by loading road gritter's during the winter months out of hours and at weekends. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to both Jock and John for their unswerving loyalty and commitment to the company and they will prove extremely large boots to fill."

A day in the life of...

Steven Spalding - Compliance Supervisor



In November 2012 I was given the opportunity to join the Leiths Group as Fleet Assistant, with a view to help expand and develop a new structure within a busy fleet department. Once I was able to review the information available, I was able to write an access database programme which helped bring information regarding MOT, Inspections, Services etc all together in one computerised system. We were able to work with this for 3 years after which time I helped the software team incorporate it into Leith's Navision Computer Programme.

Leiths have also helped with my Modern Apprenticeship in Management. I started my apprenticeship through Tullos Training in May 2018 and I hope to have it completed by May this year. The basis of the apprenticeship is focussed on improving customer service, using information and communication styles to improve understanding, and how to manage teams. This will enable me, in the future, to have further involvement in managing the Leiths Fleet team and, to help with this achievement, I had my job title changed to Compliance Supervisor.

My daily activities consist of:

1. Working with all internal and external workshops
2. Creating and issuing purchase orders relating to inspection and servicing of our vehicles
3. Updating and maintaining computer

maintenance planner

4. Working with the Transport Department, ensuring they are kept up-to-date

A breakdown of my day:

My day starts at 6am at Cove when I start reviewing e-mails before checking in with the workshop foremen and by visiting the workshop which enables me to get an update on anything that has happened overnight i.e. breakdowns or any other incidents.

I then start responding to the external suppliers who have submitted their request for purchase orders, followed by a check of the Inspection, Services and MOT's that have occurred by using the computer programme and manual records to see what information is still outstanding from our workshops.

I gather all the relevant job card sheets received and log them on to an external workshops programme before inputting the relevant dates and information into Navision. The programme then moves the next inspection, service and MOT to the relevant dates when a new report is created.

Using the report that has been created via the Maintenance Planner programme, I then look at planning the next 4/6 weeks schedules for our 150 HGV's and 200 LGV's. This is an important part of my job as it consists of making sure we are compliant with the regulations of our Operators Licence. HGV's need to be inspected either on a four or six week basis and be serviced either yearly or 40,000km and LGV are maintained on a yearly or by manufacturer recommendation whichever comes soonest.

The HGV and LGV schedules are then emailed out to all relevant managers to make them aware of when the vehicles relevant to their department are due into the workshop.

An essential part of my job is to make sure that the schedules for HGV and LGV are adhered to as they are issued in line with the requirements of our Operators Licence and it's my job to make sure that the company stays compliant.

I then move on to review the vehicle

defects both for HGV's and LGV's which are compiled and supplied from our weighbridge operatives, supervisors or Transport department. I separate both sections into defects received or nil defects Reports and upload all this information into Navision which allows me to raise reports showing which vehicles require repairs. It is also part of my remit to make sure all company vehicles are taxed, insured and MOT'd as per legal requirements and that any vehicle hired complies with the agreement by checking national databases for the prior details.

I oversee the issue of fuel cards and monitor the usage of company fuel which can either be by external fuel sites using the company fuel cards or via the fuel tanks that are on most sites.

I also manage the usage of our Navman tracker system to ensure that all personnel with a requirement to use it are provided with both a username and password to allow access at the required level. I then provide back-up for any issues which may arise and ensure that all vehicles required to be tracked have working trackers through feedback from the supervisors and managers. Reports are also issued to the necessary supervisors and line managers in relation to any speeding, idling and usage.

Management reports are also created and issued in relation to fuel records, trackers system and MOT records. These reports highlight current miles per gallon, pence per mile and idling to show development over the last 12 Months as well as isolating figures such as wrong fuel usage or MOT pass rate for HGV.

My role within Leiths is a busy one and gives me job satisfaction knowing that I have achieved the goals set out for me.

On a personal level, I have two young boys who I love spending time with and playing football. I am also heavily involved in training other 5-7 year olds in my local area. I am also an avid Aberdeen fan, so you can see that football plays a large part of my life outside of work.

Social Committee Casino Night!

Friday, 29 March 2019

Whether roulette, poker, bandits or Mah-jong is your game, there was something for everyone at the Rainbow casino.

As we watched the roulette wheel spin in anticipation, our fellow colleagues were celebrating the wins and consoling the losses in another beverage. As the night went on our group of over 30 was filled with laughter and it has been said that the biggest highlight of the night was getting to know our colleagues throughout the group, most of which we would never have gotten the chance to speak to on a day to day basis.

We endeavour to run a social event every quarter with a range of experiences for everyone to join in.

If you have any ideas for future events, please contact Coral-Ann Birnie or Alexis Leiper at Head Office.



Some of the attendees From L to R:
Murray Craib (Plant Manager), Nichola Greig (Payroll Co-Ordinator), Chris Roderick (Asphalt General Manager), Chris Breen (Quantity Surveyor), Natalie Cooney (Accounts Assistant), Kevin Sargent (Operations Manager Quarries, Gemma Anderson (ex Employee), Kevin Milne (Purchasing Assistant), Coral-Ann Birnie (Contracts Administrator), Paul Bennett (Quantity Surveyor), Robert Bremner (Area Manager Contracting), Ailsa Fraser (New Forres).

Competition Issue 12

On page 11, we write about Jim Fiddle's new book, 'The Granite Men' which features interesting historical references to James Leiths and the Leiths Group.

To be in with a chance of winning a signed first edition copy of 'The Granite Men' please tell us:

How many granite yards existed in Aberdeen around the year 1900? (answers can be found online)

Entrants should send their answer, including name, place of work and contact details to Caroline Anderson (canderson@leiths-group.co.uk) by Friday, 7 June.

The winner will be randomly picked from all correct entries and announced by Friday, 14 June and featured in the next edition of Leiths News.

Good Luck!

Competition Winner Issue 11

Thanks to everyone who entered the last Leiths News Competition in Issue 11.

The competition gave employees an opportunity to win **£100.00** by answering the following question:

Q: How much diesel does the group use in a year?

A: 1,500,000 litres

B: 5,000,000 litres

C: 8,750,000 litres

The answer was C.

We had 11 correct entries which were entered into our prize draw and the lucky winner was **Scott Willsher**, Laboratory Technician at Rigifa.

Group Companies

1 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

2 Lawrie Demolition

Rigifa, Cove
Aberdeen
Aberdeenshire AB12 3LR
Tel: 01224 876333
Fax: 01224 876332

5 Ross

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

3 Joss

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



Group Resources



1. Highland Lime

Torlundy, Fort William
Inverness-shire, PH33 6SQ
Tel: 01397 702227
Fax: 01397 702308
SERVICES (See Key)
A B E F J I K N O

2. Torrin Quarry

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
Broadford
Isle of Skye, IV49 9BA
Tel: 01471 822265
Fax: 01471 822266
SERVICES (See Key)
A D F J K N

3. Kishorn Quarry

Nr Strathcarron,
Ross-shire, IV54 8XF
Tel: 01471 822265
Fax: 01471 822266
SERVICES (See Key)
D F J N

4. Achilty Quarry

Leiths, Contin, Strathpeffer,
Ross-shire, IV14 9EG
Tel: 01997 421122
Fax: 01997 421145
SERVICES (See Key)
C D F K R

5. Mid Lairgs Quarry

A Ross & Sons Ltd
Daviot, Inverness,
Inverness-shire,
IV2 6XN
Tel: 01463 772211
Fax: 01463 772321
SERVICES (See Key)
C D F J K N O

6. New Forres Quarry

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
Rafford, Forres
Moray,
IV36 2RQ
Tel: 01309 671188
Fax: 01309 671199
SERVICES (See Key)
C D F K N P

7. Bluehills Quarry

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
Craigellachie,
Moray,
AB55 4BW
Tel: 01309 671188
Fax: 01309 671199
SERVICES (See Key)
C D F K N

8. Parkmore Quarry

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
Dufftown, Keith,
Moray, AB55 4DL
Tel: 01340 820200
Fax: 01340 820890
SERVICES (See Key)
A D F J R

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: 01309 671188
Fax: 01309 671199
SERVICES (See Key)
C D G J K O

11. North Lasts Quarry

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
Peterculter, Aberdeen,
Aberdeenshire, AB12 0PE
Tel: 01224 732690
Fax: 01224 876332
SERVICES (See Key)
C D F K N

12. Nether Park Quarry

Joss (Aberdeen) Ltd,
Drumoak, Banchory,
Kincardineshire, AB31 5AD
Tel: 01224 660468
Fax: 01224 772444
SERVICES (See Key)
D O

13. Lochton Precast Concrete

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
Slug Road, Durris,
Banchory, AB31 6DD
Tel: 01330 844444
Fax: 01330 844417
SERVICES (See Key)
I J

14. Blackhills Quarry

Cove, Aberdeen,
Aberdeenshire,
AB12 3LR
Tel: 01224 897568
Fax: 01224 897590
SERVICES (See Key)
C D F K N

15. Montrose Concrete Products

Leiths (Scotland) Ltd
Broomfield Industrial Estate,
Montrose, DD10 8SY
Tel: 01309 671188
Fax: 01309 671199
SERVICES (See Key)
I J

16. Lugton Lime

Lugton
Kilmarnock
Ayrshire, KA3 4EB
Tel: 01505 850435
Fax: 01505 850590
SERVICES (See Key)
A F H K

17. Markon Office

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

18. Leiths Central Ltd

Middleton Lime Works,
Gorebridge,
Midlothian,
EH23 4QP
Tel: 0131 624466
Fax: 0131 624467
SERVICES (See Key)
P

19. Fyfe Glenrock

Academy Way,
Colpy Road Industrial Estate,
Oldmeldrum, Inverurie
AB51 0BZ
Tel: 01651 8773873
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

KEY

A Agricultural Lime
B Animal Feed
C Asphalt Products
D Decorative Stone
E Filler

F Hardrock Quarry
G Inert Landfill Site
H Limestone Filler
I Precast Concrete Products
J Read-Mix Concrete

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

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

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