

# Roofing group set to grow again & create more jobs

## - but it says new section won't disturb neighbours

One of the most successful firms in Teesdale in modern times, the CA Group, is getting ready to expand once more.

It started with a workforce of five in a rented factory at Evenwood 17 years ago, but now has 440 employees around Britain, with 256 of them on a hi-tech site covering 7.5 acres on the edge of the village.

It has just bought an adjoining field of 6.5 acres so that it can keep on growing.

The CA group, which now includes six companies, had a turnover of £32 million last year and expects the figure to rise to £37 million this year.

Plans for the latest expansion are worrying some local residents, who have written to Teesdale Council asking for it not to be approved.

But Mr Neville Colegrove, joint managing director, pointed out on Friday that more space is desperately needed.

The firm is applying for planning consent to use its new field as temporary storage, and means to apply later for permission to put a building on it to house one of the most expensive roll-forming machines of its kind in the world.

The factory receives up to 18 lorry loads of stainless steel and aluminium each week and works round the clock turning it into various styles of roofing material which goes out in up to 30 lorry loads per week.

Mr Colegrove gave the Mercury a guided tour, showing a hive of activity going on all over the spotlessly clean premises - and pointing to loads of roofing stacked around the yard and in part of the car

CA Roofing was started 17 years ago by four men who had previously worked for a roofing company in Bishop Auckland.

Two of them, Neville Colegrove and Henry Agnew, are now joint managing directors. The other two, Richard Crane and Bryan Atkinson, have retired but retain family connections with the firm.

The first employee was Nigel Randon-Partis, who lived in Staindrop at the time and is now a production director with the firm.

The growth of CA Roofing



Mr Neville Colegrove

park, all waiting to be loaded onto lorries during the night.

"We need to be able to store this in our new field," said Mr Colegrove, who has lived in Evenwood all his life. "If we can store our output in there while waiting for it to be taken away it will relieve the pressure. There is a rapid turn-around, so no load will be in there more than a day or two."

The loads go all round Britain as well as many other countries. Recent roofing has gone to Saudi Arabia, Tasmania, Barbados, the Philippines and Glaxo premises in China.

Apart from the 256 employees in Evenwood, most from the surrounding area, the group has offices in Warrington, Leamington Spa and Cambridge. It has reps on the road as well as workers on construction sites.

If consent is given for tempo-

rary storage to relieve the pressure, a later application will be made for a new £1 million building in the field, and that will enable more jobs, possibly 50, to be created.

Objectors have suggested that the firm should use a different field, over a road on part of the old Randolph cokerworks site. In fact Durham County Council gave it a chance to buy that site some years ago, but it was found to be contaminated.

It could have cost the firm around £1 million to decontaminate it and prepare it for building - and the same drawback has since prevented the council developing the site for a new industrial estate.

Mr Malcolm Gallimore of Copeland Row and other local residents who object to the new expansion have complained about noise from the factory, especially at night, and about rubbish outside the site.

The firm says it keeps noise down as much as possible, though some is inevitable, but that if the new building is allowed the equipment in it will be extremely quiet.

It also clears up any debris every week - and it has to be said that when the Mercury called all the surroundings were litter-free.

Members of the council will be getting a report on the application for temporary storage in the near future before deciding if it should be allowed.

Mr John Challenor is new chairman of charitable trust

Ross Whittle has stepped down as chairman of the Gainford Charitable Trust after giving a lot of excellent service, and John Challenor has taken his place.

This was reported by Allan Nicholls, the treasurer, at the annual parish meeting.

He said the trust had continued to arrange coach outings for elderly people, and had paid for three push-button alarm sets for local residents.

Support was also given to the afternoon club, village school and horticultural society.

He added that the trust's funds were now limited, and it would welcome any additional money that could be donated.

Mr John Scott reported on the Gainford Charities, which have money to give in some circumstances, though no application had been made in the past year. One fund can give grants for education but another is for needy people only, and it is difficult in modern times to qualify for it.

Joseph's amazing dream show is a winner once more

Joseph had all ages singing, swaying and clapping along in lively style as his Dreamcoat show got its latest two-week run underway at Darlington Civic on Monday.

The amazing Rice and Lloyd Webber musical turns up every few years and will probably go on doing so as long as the theatre stays in operation, but it seems nobody will ever tire of seeing it again and again.

Tim Driesen is in the title role in this version, and a good job he makes of it, getting loud calls for encores near the close.

Vivienne Carlyle is outstanding as the busiest person on stage, the singing narrator. This Scots girl appears to have everything it takes - looks, voice and presence - to become a major star.

But the biggest shrieks are reserved, as in previous runs, for the Elvis-style Pharaoh, played here by Trevor Jary.

Tim Goodman is Jacob, and Joseph's 11 brothers look fit enough to get a better result for Darlo than their own lineup has done lately. The four hand maidens are eye catching.

David Steadman leads a good band, and pupils of Carmel School make up a splendid choir. There are tickets left for performances over Easter, each day except Sunday, but anyone wanting them will have to hurry.

# Don't give details to burglar alarm firms which call

Two security firms are canvassing over the telephone and door-to-door in Teesdale at the moment, and are telling people they are "police approved."

But Sgt David Steel of the police's community safety department told the Mercury, "This is untrue as the police do not recommend any individual company. The firms are also stating that this is a high risk burglary area, but again this is untrue."

He advised that nobody should give details over the phone about their present security arrangements. Anyone who thinks their security needs upgrading should:

1. Call the crime prevention officer on 01325-742314 for free advice, or

2. Contact your insurance company who should have a list of approved local installers, or

3. Look in Yellow Pages and contact several reputable burglar alarm companies who will give a free estimate for the installation of an approved alarm system which is at least to British Standard BS4737.

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Raymond Hillery was noted for straight, friendly dealing

Mr Raymond Hillery, a businessman who was noted for his straight dealing and friendly manner, died suddenly on Friday at his home in Galgate, Barnard Castle, aged 78.

He was one of the founders of the agricultural merchants Boothman and Hillery in 1955 and built up the firm steadily.

After he took over Mr Billy Robinson's firm in the town Boothman and Hillery became builders' merchants and he continued to expand until he retired 13 years ago.

Mr Hillery is survived by his wife Gladys and daughters Joan and Iris. Joan became managing director of the firm after he retired, until it was taken over by J.T. Atkinson of Darlington. She now runs their Barnard Castle branch.

Raymond was born at Bowes where his father worked for the Dugdale family. He went to Bowes School and Barnard Castle School before working at a garage in Bowes.

During World War II he served in the RAF and had a spell in Belgium. Later he was manager of R.T. Dent's transport depot in Barnard Castle until it was taken over by British Road Services. He was given a chance to be a manager elsewhere, but instead started the firm in partnership with Roland and Fred Boothman.

He was a keen member of the Round Table, 41 Club, Rotary Club and latterly Probus. He was a former captain of Barnard Castle Golf Club. He will be sorely missed by many friends, who saw him regularly around the town as he kept himself abreast of all the local happenings.

The funeral service is being held at Barnard Castle Parish Church tomorrow afternoon. It will be conducted by one of his long term friends, the Rev John Moore.

# MP presents doctors with quality award



Mr Derek Foster MP was full of praise for the GP practice at Middleton when he presented a Health Quality Service Certificate to Drs Peter Austin and Jonathan Nainby-Luxmoore on Friday. He is pictured handing it to Dr Austin, while the other doctor is standing behind.

The certificate is part of a project dedicated to improving quality in the NHS. Each practice had to meet over 400 quality indicators. The test resulted in the Middleton team being commended 29 times.

Mr Foster said it confirmed what everyone in the updale already knew: that the two GPs and their staff give an outstanding service.

He congratulated the doctors and everyone connected with the surgery on achieving such an outstanding result. He also congratulated all the other 12 practices in the dales primary care group on good results.

Dr Austin said the accolade was not won by himself and Dr Nainby-Luxmoore but by all

the dedicated team. He thanked them for giving such great support to ensure that all patients received the best possible treatment and help.

The ladies in the picture are, from left, Diane Swinbank, Jane Reed, Nicola Wharton, Elizabeth Beech, Jennifer Copland and Marjorie Raper.

# Easter Brings Hope for All

A message from John Farrell, President of Barnard Castle Christian Council and the Rev Father Tony Barker, Parish Priest of St Mary's RC Church

This is a special year, a year of celebration and jubilee. We recall Jesus' coming on earth to share our lives, to teach us by example and word how to live and enjoy life while helping others to do the same. It is a year to re-establish Jesus at the centre of our lives.

During the 2,000 years since the birth of Jesus there has been much good and great holiness, but also terrible crimes.

For the good we give thanks to God. For the evil we are sorry and ask God's forgiveness. Especially during Holy Week and Easter we ask forgiveness of God and each other, for the harm we have done and for our lack of care and concern for others.

On Easter Sunday we are given hope, so we look forward joyfully to enjoying our own lives and helping those in the world to do the same.

We see hopeful signs as the Third World debts are reduced, in negotiations taking place to bring peace in different parts of the world, and in the way we are becoming more conscious of our vandalism of the world and its resources. There is hope for the future, and that hope will be greater when we know that

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

But while we have great hope for the future, let us do all in our power for those who in recent months have suffered great devastation to their lives by some natural disaster such as flood, drought or earthquake, and the subsequent evils of starvation and disease, that they too may have hope and a future.

And let us join our prayers with the hopes and wishes of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland that the Stormont Assembly be restored and the search for lasting peace in the province is brought to a successful conclusion.

A happy Easteride to you all.

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