



abbey

M A G A Z I N E

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abbey

on the road to a
**greener
future**

www.abbeylogisticsgroup.com



Dear colleagues

Welcome to our new company magazine!

Over the last 25 years Abbey has gone through many developments and enjoyed significant growth, far outpacing most of our competitors, enabling us to establish ourselves as a leading logistics company in the UK.

In recent years we started to make bolder, more innovative moves to reshape the company, our brand and what we stand for as a group. As a result, we set ourselves a goal of doubling the size of the business by 2020. Behind our success is an entrepreneurial spirit and a real “can-do” attitude that is recognised and valued by our customers. We are seen as different from our competitors, more customer focused and user friendly and I want to ensure that as we grow, we don’t lose this vital and unique asset.

While our success is important, it is crucial that we never lose our focus on health and safety and compliance. We have made great progress in this area but we can always do more.

One of the most effective ways we can improve standards is by increasing the number of near miss reports we raise. If something is not safe, do not do it, report it immediately. You must not accept unsafe working conditions or equipment and through near miss reporting we can reduce the risk of incidents significantly.

I want to promote a culture where safety and compliance is always at the forefront of everything we do and everyone at Abbey has a responsibility and a part to play to ensure we all go home safe at the end of the day.

2016 has been a year of big changes at Abbey. To achieve the target we set ourselves we needed to make a number of changes to the leadership of the Group. In August we completed a management buy-out which restructured our Group Board, and was a critical next step in Abbey’s evolution.

As the business grows and develops our desire to improve certain aspects of what we do will change some of our processes and procedures. I take this opportunity to stress that this is not a criticism of how we have done things in the past but an acknowledgment that in some areas we can improve. We will see some new faces joining the company over the next few months that will help us manage the changes that are crucial for us to continue to grow the business

I know our teams of drivers, managers and support staff have never shied away from hard work or difficult tasks and our current success and optimism for the future is thanks to the commitment you all demonstrate every day. This approach together with the products and services we provide add real value to our customers’ businesses and I know these will remain the fundamental elements of our continued success. ■

Steve Granite

Chief Executive, Abbey Logistics Group

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Management buy-out demonstrates Abbey's commitment to the future

Abbey Logistics was set up in 1990 by the Lucy family. Since then the company has grown into the UK's largest bulk food grade transport provider, diversified into providing services to non-food sectors, bulk powder, palletised transport, warehousing and established a nationwide depot network.

Under the leadership of Steve Granite since 2009, Abbey has doubled in size and has become a leading player in UK transport and logistics.

The management buy-out (MBO) was the next logical step for Abbey. The Lucy family wanted to step back from the business and Steve and his team understood what the company could achieve under a new structure and leadership team.

With funding from North Edge Capital, the buy-out was completed in August. Together with additional funding secured in January, Abbey will be targeting growth with new and existing customers, as well as exploring a number of acquisition opportunities with support from NorthEdge.

Since the MBO the Board has been strengthened with the appointment of Andrew Palmer as

non-Executive Director and Ian Kelly as Chairman. Tony Kenny has joined us as Operations Director and David Thomas is our new chief Financial Officer.

Steve Granite said: "We are delighted to have partnered with NorthEdge Capital to complete the MBO and enable the Lucy family to exit the business realising their well-earned value. It is an exciting new chapter in the company's life and we are very much looking forward

to continuing the successful journey we've experienced to date.

"Our customers and employees will benefit from the transaction as the new investment enables us to develop our business and continue growing from solid foundations. Through both organic and acquisitive growth Abbey will become the market leader in both the liquid and powder transport markets over the coming years." 





Abbey secures long term British Sugar contract

Abbey has won a long-term deal to manage British Sugar's bulk sugar movements across the UK.

This new contract will see us taking responsibility for transport planning and delivery services, supporting British Sugar to continue to offer a high quality, flexible and dependable service to its customers.

Sugar will be transported in bulk granulated sugar tanks and liquid tankers from four state-of-the-art processing plants in the UK, strategically located to reduce the mileage from farm to factory. British Sugar is the UK's leading sugar producer supplying 1 million tonnes per year to the food industry and supermarkets.

Following a competitive tender process, British Sugar selected Abbey based on our significant experience in the food sector and understanding of the nature of the market. In addition our strong maintenance and depot network, allowing maximum efficiency by reducing vehicle downtime, was a perfect match for British Sugar's needs.

Paul Townsend – British Sugar's Head of Supply Chain said: "Abbey shares our values when it comes to putting the customer at the forefront of everything we do. We're confident that Abbey's proven ability to deliver a flexible and scalable transport solution, will make them a valuable partner in helping us delivering the best possible service for our customers."

Dave Coulson – Abbey Logistics Commercial Director said: "We are delighted that British Sugar has entrusted Abbey with such a critical service. Abbey understands the sensitivities of seasonal food manufacture and delivery, and our significant experience of working with major food manufacturers and retailers will be instrumental in supporting the continued success of British Sugar and its customers." 




New tank containers for growing intermodal fleet

Abbey has added 10 more state-of-the-art food grade tank containers to the growing intermodal fleet, as we look to provide greener alternatives to driver accompanied road transport.

Tank containers, sometimes referred to as ISO tanks are an ideal alternative to road tankers on international routes. They can be transported by road rail or sea, giving the customer much more flexibility and a more environmentally friendly and cost effective way of moving their products.

The tanks will support movements between the UK and mainland Europe and are part of an expanding service which includes bulk intermodal silos which are already busy in this area.

Steve Granite said “Continental Europe has long been a market place we planned to grow into. We are still confident that with our existing and new clients we can increase our share of the Europe-UK market.

“We expect to be increasing our intermodal container fleet over the coming years as we become more competitive in this market and win new business.” 






FORS recognition for Abbey

The Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) is a voluntary scheme awarded to hauliers demonstrating the highest levels of safety, fuel efficiency, reduced vehicle emissions and improved operations.

To achieve this accreditation, FORS completed an audit of all areas of Abbey's operations. They performed an intensive test of how well run our fleet is in terms of safety, driver wellbeing, driver training, efficiency, environmental concern and many other aspects of quality management.

To enable us to achieve this accreditation, we have invested heavily in vehicle telematics, driver training and other equipment which helps us identify areas of focus and training.

Abbey's Group Health and Safety Manager Kenny McCallum said: "With safety at the forefront of our operations, this latest addition to our list of accreditations and certifications reinforces our company wide commitment to ensuring the safety of our teams, customers and the general public. Safety is the primary focus of our operations and this latest award further demonstrates our commitment to occupational health and safety management best practice." 





From L-R: Awards host Jonathan Ross, Career Ready's Neil Caldwell, Manpower's Mick Skerret, Career Ready's Ian Nicol and Abbey's Steve Granite

From L-R: Abbey's Steve Granite, Career Ready's Neil Caldwell and Ian Nicol, Unipart's Bernard Molloy and awards host Mark Watson

Think Logistics and Career Ready recognised with two awards

Think Logistics and Career Ready have picked up two highly regarded industry awards.

Think Logistics, founded by Abbey Logistics MD Steve Granite, is an initiative to reach out to young people and let them know about the wide range of career opportunities the industry offers. Career Ready is a UK wide charity linking employers with schools and colleges to open up the world of work to young people.

In July, the two organisations were recognised by the industry and collected Motor Transport's prestigious Partnership Award. Judges said the partnership presents an "opportunity to recruit the younger generation into the industry and is a great example of collaboration." The awards, organised by Motor Transport magazine, is the road transport industry event of the year, recognising innovation, outstanding service, efficiency and quality. The award is Abbey's fourth Motor Transport award.

In September the partnership was recognised again at the SHD Logistics Awards, by winning the Future Skills award. The event, organised by SHD Logistics magazine is a celebration of

excellence in the industry. Shortlisted companies are judged by industry professionals who look to recognise innovation and acknowledge companies that have provided an outstanding contribution to the sector.

Think Logistics and Career Ready has the overriding objective to educate young people about road transport and logistics by developing direct and long-lasting relationships between employers, schools, colleges and young people. Career Ready has a network of 200 schools and colleges spanning the UK. Events include Think Logistics workshops in schools and colleges as well as workplace visits.

The scheme provides paid internships to students to give them experience in a logistics business, as well as mentoring sessions from experienced industry figures. More than 1,000 students have attended a Think Logistics workshop and the partnership has a goal to grow this number considerably each year. ■


Abbey becomes full member of UKWA

Abbey has become a member of the UK Warehousing Association (UKWA) following a successful inspection of its Bromborough warehousing facility.

The warehouse underwent a rigorous inspection by a UKWA Board member on eleven areas including health & safety, buildings and perimeter inspection, handling & storage equipment and environmental compliance.

Abbey's membership gives our customers the confidence that we are an established and professional organisation who are operating to a high and accredited standard.

Nick Hight, Abbey's Warehouse Manager said "We opened our warehouse in July 2015 with an initial 70,000ft² and due to the success we've had, we expanded the capacity of the warehouse to 140,000ft² from the start of 2016.

"We've managed to build a great team of people at Bromborough and are open 24/7 to service our customer's needs. Thanks to the expansion we have capacity to take on more business in the warehouse and provide in-house transport and distribution to cater for companies looking for more than storage." 






Abbey Logistics Group Secures ISO50001 Accreditation

Abbey has successfully achieved the ISO50001 standard for energy management.

As an accredited company Abbey has demonstrated it has gone above and beyond what is required in terms of environmental compliance and gives the company the platform to identify and promote energy saving opportunities throughout the Group.

Richard Walsh, NQA Regional Assessor said: "After discussing certification to ISO50001 with Abbey it became apparent that along with the importance of energy management there is a huge commitment to carbon reduction across the company."

Abbey's Quality and Compliance Manager Ian Clark said: "Gaining accreditation to ISO50001 standard was the perfect fit as it further enhances our commitment to the environment and challenges the company as a whole to focus on individual energy saving opportunities which in turn will further reduce Abbey's carbon footprint." 



The Abbey Group Board



Steve Granite
Chief Executive

Joined Abbey in 1995. Became Finance Director in 2004 and Managing Director in 2009. Qualified management accountant & founder of industry initiative 'Think Logistics' encouraging young people to join the industry. Since becoming MD in 2009 sales grown from £18m to £55m.



Dave Coulson
Commercial Director

Joined Abbey in 1994 and has worked his way from transport planner to his current role. Dave is the key contact for customers and has been instrumental in growing Abbey from a liquid tanker transport business into a diversified logistics provider.



David Thomas
Chief Financial Officer

Joining the business in November as Chief Financial Officer from logistics giant XPO where he was Finance Director of their UK supply chain businesses. David has extensive finance, risk and operations experience within the logistics sector, and will oversee the finance, corporate development, risk and commercial legal functions.



Tony Kenny
Operations Director

Tony Kenny joins us in November. He has enjoyed a long career in logistics and supply chain and held senior roles in some of the UK's largest transport companies. Most recently he was Supply Chain Director for SCA Timber, a leading global hygiene and forest products company. Prior to that he was Europe and USA Regional Director with Suttons Group and held senior sales and operations roles at Bibby Distribution, Wolseley, Glen Dimplex, DTS Logistics and TDG.



Ian Kelly
Chairman

Joined in August 2016, Ian's career has been spent in growing private equity backed businesses. Formerly chief executive of Matrix Energy Management, the UK's largest energy management company serving retailers such as Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Sainsburys and Boots. Ian was awarded the Ernst & Young UK Entrepreneur Of The Year for energy, cleantech and renewables in 2012. In 2014 he was awarded the British Venture Capitalist Association CEO of the year for North West England.



Andrew Palmer
Non-Exec Director

Well respected industry expert who joined the business as part of the recent MBO. Andrew's previous roles include Managing Director of Bibby Distribution and Managing Director of Suttons Transport Group where he oversaw the development of new services, and more than doubling sales for the Group. He has extensive experience of growing businesses and driving cultural change.



Chairman of British Transport Advisory Consortium joins Abbey Logistics Group



Abbey has appointed the chairman of the British Transport Advisory Consortium to lead our engineering department.

Well known and respected engineer David Batty will manage our rapidly expanding fleet of liquid and powder tankers, trucks, distribution trailers, and take responsibility for our maintenance depots across the country.

David will oversee all new vehicle specification to ensure we provide the most appropriate equipment for each of our customers. He will also play a leading role in supporting our commitment to vehicle maintenance compliance.

Working closely with drivers and support teams, David will work collaboratively to understand how existing equipment is performing on the job, and what can be done to drive continuous improvement.

David joins the business with more than 40 years of industry experience where he gained a

wealth of knowledge through working with some of the UK's leading companies.

He is highly regarded among his peers and in 2007 was awarded the prestigious "Motor Transport Service to Industry Award", followed by an induction in to the Motor Transport Hall of Fame in 2016 for outstanding contribution to the road transport industry.

Steve Granite, Abbey Logistics Group's Chief Executive said: "David possesses a unique mix of skills and experience that strengthens our commitment to engineering excellence.

His knowledge will ensure engineering supports the overall Group strategy to drive efficiency in every area and provide our customers with the certainty that they are receiving the very highest engineering standards in the industry." 




Abbey adds 20 new vehicles to the fleet

20 new DAF XFs have been added to Abbey's fleet in September. The vehicles are part of an ongoing fleet expansion programme as we look to provide even more flexibility and coverage for our customers across the network, comfortably managing demand fluctuations in the wide range of sectors we operate.

The new vehicles are all fitted with the latest driver telematics to ensure the highest levels of fuel efficiency and safe driving together with cameras to increase security for our drivers and the products they carry.

The trucks are DAF's newest model which features the latest engines, developed for maximum efficiency, high performance and low operating costs. The truck's exterior has been designed with aerodynamics and airflow optimisation to further reduce running costs and emissions.

David Batty, Abbey's Fleet Engineer said: "This latest addition to our fleet was made with our customers in mind. By increasing our fleet size, we can increase the flexibility and responsiveness of the service we provide, shortening lead times and optimising our assets on the ground.

"The development also demonstrates our ongoing investment in the UK road haulage industry and the strength of our relationship with DAF." 





Team CFC

Abbey driver Michael Babenko completes gruelling bike ride for charity

Michael Babenko, Abbey's lead driver at our Hull depot has completed the Vätternrundan, a 300km cycling event which is a circuit of Lake Vättern, Sweden's second largest lake. Michael finished the ride in an impressive time of 13 hours.

The ride was first held in 1966 and is now an annual event which attracts more than 30,000 riders from across the world.

Michael entered the event as part of a team representing the charity Cyclists Fighting Cancer (CFC). CFC enables children and young people living with cancer across the UK to regain their

physical fitness, strength and confidence by giving them new bikes, adapted trikes, tandems, and other cycling related equipment.

CFC was represented at the Vätternrundan by 24 cyclists from the UK, raising an amazing £25,000. CFC operate on the kind support of the public and cyclists doing bike rides around Britain and across the world. All money raised goes directly to the charity and helps increase the number of children they support. For more information about Cyclists Fighting Cancer their activities and their bike donation scheme, please visit www.cyclistsfc.org.uk

World's biggest coffee morning

Every year Macmillan Cancer Support hold 'The World's Biggest Coffee Morning', Macmillan's biggest fundraising event. It involves people all over the UK hosting their own Coffee Morning and collecting donations for Macmillan. Last year the event raised £27.5 million for the charity which provides medical, emotional, practical and financial support to people living with cancer.

This year at Abbey, Suzanne Sutton and Helen Cunningham at our Knowsley office organised several events. Supported by Natalie Coulson in Bromborough, Kay Radge and Val Langford in Hull and Jo Hall and Mick Rogan at Middlewich, staff at each office enjoyed coffee and cakes brought in by staff and raised an impressive £418 for the charity. Many thanks to everyone who contributed and all those who worked hard to make the event a success.

Clothes appeal for homeless charity

Abbey's Head of IT Dom Clarke is collecting warm clothes, sleeping bags and blankets for homeless men and women in the Liverpool area. With help from Alan McAlees at our Bootle depot, collections will be delivered to the Whitechapel centre in Liverpool and Dom and Alan will be out on the streets in the run up to Christmas handing out the items to people who urgently need this support. The Whitechapel Centre works tirelessly with some of the most vulnerable people in the community. Help includes support out of homelessness, preventative support and warm clothing, for those already sleeping rough. If you have any items that you can donate, please leave them at the collection points in Knowsley or Bootle. For other sites, please contact Dom or Alan who will arrange collection. If you'd like to give money, Dom and Alan will be collecting donations which Abbey has pledged to double. The money raised will be used to buy hats and scarves which will be distributed around the city.


Doing things the Abbey way!

Earlier this year Abbey launched a new recognition scheme “the Abbey Way” to recognise individuals who have gone “the extra mile” for the company.

Our teams are hugely committed and often go out of their way to deliver exceptional service to our customers. In addition, people regularly move mountains to support their colleagues across the business, demonstrating a team spirit that is hugely valuable to the business.

The Abbey Group Board is keen to recognise and reward staff who show initiative, innovation and dedication to their role and hope that all staff will support and participate in the scheme.

How to nominate a colleague

The process couldn't be simpler! If you would like to put forward a colleague, all you need to do is send an email to your line manager who will review and pass it through to the Group HR team for final approval. 

We've had a lot of winners so far and look forward to many more!

Abbey Way Winners

David Crombie	Peter Hutchinson
Paul Wright	Paul Stanley
Neil Bebbington	Graham Price
Paul Wharton	Paul Chadwick
Mark Ransley	Ric Bowyer
Mark Molloy	Charlie Reid
Gary Turner	John Thomas
Clive Worsley	Denis Yeatman
Shaun Byrne	Kevin Winder
Tom Ward	Bryan Rodgers
Tom Rogerson	Martin Godfrey
Paula Mohan	Terry Jenner
Ian Clark	Karl Mitchell
Brian Hildreth	Dave Crouch
Kevin Kelly	Brian Lipscombe





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