

January 2025

**Longcliffe**  
CALCIUM CARBONATES

Happy New Year

# LoCAL

## The road ahead for Longcliffe



*Lady Manners School students learn about road safety with Tony Woodroffe Senior*

Happy New Year from all of us at Longcliffe. Introducing the fifth edition of LoCAL – our community newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about exciting developments in our business including operational investments; our drive for increased sustainability; people news and some of the community projects we have been supporting.

Firstly, I would like to highlight our focus on safety. As well as a continual focus on safety on our sites, we also like to promote important messages in the

community. For the third year we have marked National Road Safety Week – this time with a trip to Lady Manners School in Bakewell. I joined members of the team who took along tanker and tipper lorries to help educate Year 7 students about vulnerable road user safety. Read more on page 6.

I am particularly pleased that we are able to use this newsletter to celebrate many of the people in our Longcliffe team. Please visit the people section of our new website (see page 2) to find out more about

a range of people who are part of the Longcliffe success story.

We hope you enjoy catching up on Longcliffe's news and would really welcome any feedback or suggestions for future issues (see back page for email address). Wishing all our readers a happy and healthy 2025.

**Paul Boustead**  
Managing Director, Longcliffe Group



## Lights, camera, action!

Since the last edition of LoCAL we have been working on ways to showcase Longcliffe and enable more people to go 'behind the scenes' with our company. We are excited to announce that we have now launched:

- a new website – [www.longcliffe.co.uk](http://www.longcliffe.co.uk)
- an animation (on YouTube) to present the range of everyday products made using Longcliffe material: <https://youtu.be/lyWOBxyS-Ac>
- two films (on YouTube):
  - one for customers <https://youtu.be/8lA-rcalGSc>
  - one for other stakeholders including the local community: <https://youtu.be/o0RhrsoEgS8>

Please take a few minutes to have a look at these. We hope you find them interesting and would welcome any feedback – please send to [info@longcliffe.co.uk](mailto:info@longcliffe.co.uk).



# Boosting our fleet with 15 new lorries

With our ongoing commitment to continually renew our fleet, we have invested in 15 brand new Volvo trucks. The best-in-class lorries have a new 'I-Save' engine which will help us achieve up to 10 Miles Per Gallon (MPG), delivering benefits for the environment and customers.

The new vehicles contribute to our goal of reducing our carbon footprint and vehicle maintenance costs.

Logistics Manager James Hopkinson says: "We continue to invest in all aspects of our business and our fleet is a key focus for our drive for improved efficiency and sustainability. Not only are these new lorries helping us with our sustainability goals, but they also offer safety improvements for drivers and vulnerable road users."

This safety equipment includes forward collision warning with Advanced Emergency Brake System (AEBS); side collision avoidance support on driver and nearside; driver alert support warning and tyre pressure monitoring.

Driver Dean Brennan adds: "The new vehicles are very comfortable and are a great all-around drive. The new side proximity sensors are a great assistant to help detect vulnerable road users around the vehicle".

At the same time as investing in the most efficient engines, we are also looking at other sources of lower carbon vehicle fuel to increase the sustainability of our operations.

## New mills increase efficiency

In the last issue of LoCAL we reported news of one of our major 2024 investment projects which was to install two new mills at Brassington Moor Quarry. The mills will deliver major benefits to our operation. Development Director Ian McDonald gives an update.

"I am pleased to say that this £2.4 million project is nearing completion. The first of the new mills is in and operating to full capacity; and the second was installed during December. The two new state-of-the-art horizontal mills are replacing one of the older vertical mills which are manufacturing important products in our calcium carbonates range: L200 which is used in animal feeds and tile grouts; and L150 which is used as a material to blend in with cement to reduce its carbon footprint.

"These new mills are helping us with our sustainability goals. From a carbon footprint point of view, we are achieving a reduction in electricity usage per tonne. In addition, one of the new mills - the 'PYRO-TCM' Mill - is directly linked



*Engineering and Continuous Improvement Manager Mark Whittaker with a bag of product made with the new mills*

to our drying plant which is reducing the need for tankers to physically move material from the dryer to the older mills. This in turn is cutting our diesel use.

"As part of this project we are also using two additional silos which are significantly increasing the tonnage of product we can store. This is helping us make our production planning more economical and our customer service even better."

Overall, this project is delivering increased efficiencies across all areas.





The new fleet of Volvos with (left to right) Dean Brennan (Driver); James Hopkinson (Logistics Manager); and Chris Dakin (Driver Trainer).

## Tree felling for safety

During January and February, you may notice some tree felling taking place along the Via Gellia and other nearby roads. Sadly, this is all due to Ash Dieback – a disease which is currently not treatable and could result in trees coming down at any time. The work along the Via Gellia is being carried out by Derbyshire County Council with our support (some of the trees are on Longcliffe owned land). The tree felling on other roads near our Ryder Point Quarry (Hopton on Via Gellia) and on the B5056 is being carried out by a Longcliffe contractor at our cost.

Whilst we are committed in our focus on protecting and enhancing biodiversity and local woodland, it's important we follow guidance from experts to ensure these trees are brought down safely to maintain bridlepath, footpath and road users' safety. If you have any questions about this activity, please contact [viagellia.adbproject@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:viagellia.adbproject@derbyshire.gov.uk)

## New dumper joins Quarry 'team'

Dumper trucks may seem unglamorous, but without them we would be missing critical mineral products which go into everyday essentials such as animal feeds, glass and adhesives.

Recognising this important role in our process, we have made a significant investment in a new Komatsu dumper. The five metres tall, 110-tonne (loaded) machine replaces an older dumper which has done good service at our Brassington Moor Quarry for over 10 years.

Quarry Manager Jon Murgatroyd said: "The dumpers and their operators can be the unsung heroes of our operation, but they play a vital role in the primary part of our process. Once the rock has been blasted, an excavator loads up the dumpers for onward transportation to our primary crusher. From here we crush the rock down and then mill it to produce the many grades of material our customers need.

"This Komatsu dumper can carry up to 63 tonnes of rock; over its lifetime it will carry up to 3.5 million tonnes of limestone. This new machine offers a step up in comfort and safety with a bigger cab, 360-degree vision and a night heater. It is the first dumper



Brassington Moor Quarry Manager Jon Murgatroyd with the new Komatsu dumper and inset, the tunnel the skilled dumper drivers have to negotiate!

in our fleet to have cameras instead of mirrors – this helps the operator navigate through the narrow tunnel which joins the main processing plant area with one of the quarry areas. From this photo you can see how challenging this is – 20cm to spare either side of the vehicle!"

The dumper operating team – keeping the flow of stone to the crushing and processing plant – comprises four very experienced operators – Emily Brown, John Higginson, Rob Johnson and Andre Needham.



### The dumper fleet:

- Puts in up to 2,500 hours service a year
- Moves up to 25,000 tonnes of stone a week
- Moves up to 1.3 million tonnes of stone a year

## Planning update

As LoCAL readers may be aware from previous issues and the public consultation exercise we ran in early 2023, we are looking to extend our Brassington Moor Quarry into an area called 'Aldwark South'. Getting the green light to do this will secure our operations and protect jobs into the future. In March 2024, we submitted a detailed planning application to Derbyshire County Council (the Mineral Planning Authority).

The application was due to be considered and decided at the Planning Committee meeting on 6 January this year. The weather was against us and due to floods, snow and icy roads, the councillors who make up the Committee were unable to meet. As LoCAL goes to press, we are hoping to



hear that our application will be heard at the next Committee meeting. As and when there are any updates, we will post these on our separate website -

[www.longcliffefutureplans.co.uk](http://www.longcliffefutureplans.co.uk). We hope to report positive news on this important development in our next issue of LoCAL.

## How is Longcliffe material used?

Longcliffe is one of the largest independent calcium carbonate producers in the UK. Every day people benefit from the many products made using Longcliffe materials. Here are just some of them...

**Longcliffe**  
CALCIUM CARBONATES



The high purity of our calcium carbonate enables it to be used in a wide variety of ways. Every day the impact of the 100 products we make extends far beyond the quarry itself, touching lives in

ways you might not expect. From the roads we drive on to the homes we live in, our material is a fundamental element in a multitude of everyday products - whether it's in the tiles under your feet, the glass in your

windows, or even the feed for our farm animals.

An animated version of this graphic can be viewed on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/lyWOBxyS-Ac>



# On the road with Longcliffe

Many LoCAL readers will know Longcliffe by its distinctive blue and white lorries out on the roads. Our fleet of 29 tanker and 11 tipper lorries delivers around 100 different calcium carbonate products to our customers as far afield as Scotland in the north and Cornwall in the south. Behind the wheel of these lorries will be one of our 49 highly trained drivers like Joe Harrison. And helping to ensure our drivers are as safe, considerate and efficient as possible, we are lucky to have our own Driver Trainer Chris Dakin. Here we give you an insight into the working days of Joe and Chris.

**Joe Harrison**  
Driver



### So why did you decide to become a lorry driver?

I have a lot of family members who are drivers. As a child I used to go out with my dad. I loved the whole life – exploring the country from the cab. After school I had various jobs for 10 years and then finally decided driving was for me, so I went for it! I went straight from car to driving Class 1 HGVs like the Longcliffe articulated lorries. I came to Longcliffe in April 2023.

### What does an average day look like?

I come in between 3am and 5.30am. If the lorry's not loaded, I load it up with one of Longcliffe's many products and then head out to the customer. If they are in, say, Ashbourne, I make the

delivery and then head back to the quarry to load up again. I can sometimes go as far as Rochester in Kent but may have to stop overnight in a suitable place to ensure I don't exceed my permitted hours. Then I would come back the next morning.

### What are the challenges of your job?

The traffic is the main challenge of this job! But we also have to ensure we are good at route planning and time management to ensure the most efficient delivery plan. I don't love sleeping in the cab and would much prefer to be at home! I have just bought a 'doer upper' of a house in Heage near Belper so the more time at home the better!

### And what do you love the most?

I love seeing new places and meeting new people which happens most days. We have a good team here and every day is different. When I'm driving a tipper, I am usually delivering to construction sites, builders' merchants or houses; when driving a tanker, I am more likely to be heading out to farms or feed mills (animal feeds).

## Moving over to electric

Our commitment to sustainability goes beyond our on-site operations. We are investigating renewable fuels for our fleet, and we are encouraging employees to look at non fossil fuel options for their own vehicles. To support this drive - for use by employees and Longcliffe vehicles only - we are installing a total of five double electric vehicle charging points at Curzon Lodge Transport Depot, Brassington Moor Quarry and in our head office car park. And from 2025, our small fleet of company cars will go over to electric as they are renewed.

**Chris Dakin**  
Driver Trainer



Driver Trainer Chris Dakin (left) with Driver Philip Roach

### What does your job entail?

I train all our tanker and tipper drivers to ensure they are operating in the most safe and efficient way. This includes compliance with the Fleet Operators' Recognition Scheme (FORS) Silver Standard; fuel efficient driving; and the RASOW (Risk Assessment and Safe Assessment of Work) guidelines.

### What's your average day like?

My day is always different but can include looking at the drivers' Key Performance Indicators (KPIs); fuel efficiency (ie the Miles Per Gallon each driver is achieving as this makes a substantial impact on our fleet operating costs); office administration; and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) coordination.

And if we are short on drivers, I even jump back into the cab again to ensure our customers are still receiving their deliveries on time!

### How did you end up in this job?

I started with Longcliffe in 2009 as an eight-wheel tipper driver; then moved on to drive the articulated tanker lorries. Whilst carrying out tanker procedures and tasks, I would take new recruits out for training. I also train new internal quarry plant operatives in tanker loading-unloading. I became Driver Trainer in 2021.

I have a Class 1 HGV licence and 12 years of practical experience and understanding of the Longcliffe aggregates and industrial powders business. I also have Level 3 qualifications through the Mineral Product Qualifications Council (MPQC).

### What skills do you need for your job?

Important skills for my job are Health and Safety awareness; patience; diplomacy and consistent time keeping.



Quality, Compliance and Environmental Manager Tony Hutton tries out one of the new EV charging points.

## Walk this way – improving safety on site

Through our vigilant employees and health and safety focus, we are continually reviewing areas where we could make improvements. Our operational sites are always busy, and the segregation of vehicles and pedestrians is a key area for our safety attention.



Improved pedestrian walkways at our Curzon Lodge Transport Depot

We are now close to completing a £50,000 project to upgrade the walkways at Brassington Moor Quarry and Curzon Lodge Transport Depot. This project has included laying down new tarmac and repainting and adding to pedestrian walkway lines, enhancing safety for both vehicle drivers and pedestrians as they move around the sites.

Engineering and Continuous Improvement Manager Mark Whittaker comments: "Like any other area that sees a lot of traffic, our sites need regular review. We are very pleased with the result so far of the improvements we are making. This project has not only replaced tarmac and white lines that were there before; it has also seen additional safety equipment installed, like new pedestrian walkway gated hoops which add another layer of separation between vehicles and people walking around the sites."

## Road safety brought to life for Bakewell students

The theme of the 2024 National Road Safety Week in November was 'After the Crash – every road victim counts'. We ran an interactive session to bring this message to life for Year 7 students at Lady Manners School in Bakewell.

Every year, more than 1700 people die on UK roads. Another 30,000 receive serious, life-changing injuries.\*

For the third year running we chose a local school to visit during Road Safety Week. This year we took along a 44-tonne articulated tanker lorry, and a 32-tonne rigid tipper truck. The event aimed at emphasising safety messages, particularly focussing on vulnerable road users who account for nearly half of fatalities on UK's roads. Our session included an opportunity to sit in the lorry driver's cab, providing an impactful first-hand view of visibility limitations and blind spots.

We also took the students through an exercise around the tipper lorry to understand how to be as safe as possible as a pedestrian. The interactive work was complemented by a quiz, for which we awarded a prize to the winner in each of the eight form groups.

Lady Manners School Head of Year 7 Hayley Hallam said: "Road safety is such an important issue for us, and we want all of our students to feel safe as they

"I really loved the event we had at school. It made me respect how hard it is to drive a lorry and how hard they work to help keep us safe."

Isaac, student

travel to and from school. By getting the students actively involved in this event, we hope it has highlighted the dangers of blind spots, speeding and irresponsible parking. The students thoroughly enjoyed being able to sit in the driver's seat and see first-hand the view that the HGV drivers have of the road ahead."

As part of the team who took the students through the safety exercises, our Head of Health and Safety Tony Woodroffe added: "Safety is Longcliffe's number one focus – not just for the 190 employees, but also for visitors, contractors, customers and everyone in the local community. It's important we play our part in educating about safety, particularly for young people who may be walking or cycling to school."

Longcliffe presented the students with a 'Be Safe, Be Seen' high visibility waistcoat to take home.

[\\*https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week](https://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week)

"The event was exceptional and really informative, especially as I had the opportunity to go up into the cab and understand the view of the drivers when on the road."

Emily, student



Longcliffe Group Managing Director Paul Boustead talks Year 7 students through safety messages at Lady Manners School





Left to right: - Callum, Jack, Tom

### Welcoming Tom, Jack and Callum – three of our new apprentices.

**Tom Bowyer** (17) from Wirksworth has joined us on a three-year mechanic fitter apprenticeship. This role sees him learning all about maintenance and repair on a wide range of machinery from large scale (for example crushers) to smaller scale (for example conveyor belts small valves).

Six months into his apprenticeship Tom is really enjoying being out on site and learning different skills every day.

Despite the regular challenges of cold and wet weather, he has found he has progressed significantly in this time and feels there are lots of opportunities for him.

**Callum** from Chesterfield is just 16 and joined us in summer 2024 straight from school. Having had an insight into the industry through his father and two uncles, he decided he wanted to work with machines as part of a team. He has started a quarry and mixed plant

operative apprenticeship with us. He is enjoying being an extra helping hand in a variety of places on the site and sees his apprenticeship as a great way to start a career in quarrying.

Middleton-based **Jack** (29) actually joined Longcliffe back in 2018 and has worked in several parts of the business since then. He saw a mobile plant fitter apprenticeship advertised and decided this was a good way to develop his skills and career. Having enjoyed working on vehicles from a young age this apprenticeship was a perfect fit for him. His role includes learning how to repair and maintain quarry equipment from light towers to dumper trucks.

Jack is enjoying the variety of jobs he is involved in every day and likes the challenge of being part of a team, which is sometimes focused on getting equipment back up and running to avoid slowing the production process.

Engineering and Continuous Improvement Manager Mark Whittaker says: "It's a pleasure to work with these three young men. We are committed to supporting their training and on-the-job learning and proud to be able to offer apprenticeships to local people looking for a long-term career in our industry."

### Awards recognition for talented young team

Three of our young employees have received industry recognition for their hard work.

James McDonald, Joe Wardman and Joe Gaeta have received highly commended certificates in the British Aggregates Association Young Talent Awards which recognise exceptional contributions to their employer and the wider industry.

James, who lives in Ashbourne is a Systems Engineer and Electrical Team Leader. He started as a Saturday worker in 2012 and has since earned a 1st class degree in Electrical Engineering. His problem-solving abilities and leadership on major projects have been invaluable to Longcliffe's ongoing success.

Matlock-based Joe Wardman, Processing Plant Team Leader, joined us in December 2022. His managers noted that his 'calmness under pressure and his quick adaptation to quarrying operations have been remarkable, taking on key

responsibilities with a proactive attitude'.

HGV Technician and Team Leader Joe Gaeta, who lives in Buxton began as an apprentice in 2010, and returned to Longcliffe in 2019 after completing his apprenticeship. Joe's strong leadership skills and dedication to keeping the company's service schedules running smoothly are second to none.

Group Managing Director Paul Boustead says: "We are immensely proud of these individuals and their contributions to our

ongoing success! This industry recognition is well deserved, and we look forward to seeing them continue to flourish in our organisation."

At the same event our quarries were also celebrated, with both Brassington Moor and Ryder Point Quarries chosen as runners-up for the Quarry of the Year Award. This recognition reflects Longcliffe's commitment to operational excellence, sustainability, and the continuous improvement of health and safety practices across our sites.



Left to right – Highly Commended in the Industry Young Talent Awards - Joe Gaeta, Joe Wardman, and James McDonald; with Paul Boustead (Longcliffe Group MD) and Richard Clemmey (BAA Chairman)

Here at Longcliffe we are proud of the role we play in the local community. For almost 100 years Longcliffe has been an important local employer, now with a team of over 190 people. We contribute around £20 million to the local economy each year – both directly through wages, and indirectly through the local suppliers we use.

We also actively support the local community through project sponsorship, visits and stone donations. Here are just a few recent highlights:

## Sponsorship secures defibrillator for historic mine



Down in the mine during defibrillator training – left to right: Margaret Fogarty, Ian Godlington, Roger Hall from the Good Luck Mine Preservation Club; Michelle Waters (defib4life), David Barrie Hon Sec of the Preservation Society; Logan Cuthbert and Callum Redman from Longcliffe.

A potentially life-saving defibrillator has now been installed at historic Derbyshire visitor site, Good Luck Mine\* near Matlock. The former lead mine which opened in 1830 is now a popular visitor spot with around 400 cavers and miners coming to the site each year.

Special trips are arranged so that visitors are able to go down the mine, under Middleton Moor, and explore the old workings which ceased operation in the 1950s.

The Good Luck Mine Preservation Club, which has 60 members, had been

fundraising for a defibrillator after a Club member collapsed inside the mine and had to be rushed to hospital. Thanks to sponsorship from us and other contributors, the Club has been able to buy and install a defibrillator at the entrance to the mine.

Club Secretary David Barrie explains: “Good Luck Mine is a fascinating place and we are working hard to continue to preserve this important industrial archaeology site. We encourage visitors and are keen to ensure their safety when on site. The mine is regularly checked by His Majesty’s Inspector of Mines, but we wanted to add to the safety measures by installing the defibrillator.”

\*To find out more about Good Luck Mine please visit <https://www.subbrit.org.uk/sites/goodluck-lead-mine/>

## Rugby players benefit from new post protectors

Tackles and tries near the goalposts could now be less bruising for Ashbourne rugby players thanks to the installation of new protection pads. The protectors – an important piece of safety equipment – have been installed at Ashbourne Rugby Club around the posts on the pitch used by the first, second, third men’s teams, the women’s team, the Colts, and some of the older junior teams.

Longcliffe sponsorship has covered the costs of replacing the old protectors with these new upgraded 40cm wide pads. Some of our 190 employees play for the well-established Club which started in 1931 and has over 400 members including a growing women’s section.

Club Chairman Martin Clowes says: “Local sports clubs are an important part of our communities,

bringing people together through friendships and a shared passion. Support from businesses like Longcliffe plays a vital role in keeping clubs like Ashbourne Rugby Club thriving, and underpins the hard work and dedication of volunteers who ensure the success of every match day and every training session. We are extremely grateful for their support.”

Ashbourne Rugby Club’s members go from five-year-old tag rugby players through to adults. The Club is always looking for new members and encourages even adults who have never touched a ball before to go along and find out more about the Club and the game.

If you are interested in finding out more, please visit [www.ashbournerru.fc.club](http://www.ashbournerru.fc.club)



Ameena Wadeson scoring a try against Newcastle in one of the women’s games earlier this season

## KEEP IN TOUCH

We would love to hear your views on Longcliffe LoCal. Please email your comments and questions to us at [info@longcliffe.co.uk](mailto:info@longcliffe.co.uk)