



Corporate Social Responsibility

A Responsible Business



Welcome to the fourth edition of the *Portakabin Group Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) UK and Ireland Newsletter*.

We hope you enjoy it.

In this summer issue...

- Portakabin focuses on education;
 - Huntington School's Science Week
 - Sales host Cheshire School Site Visit
 - Thirsk School partnership
 - And much more!
- Portakabin employees raise a staggering combined total of over £21,551 for charity – find out how
- Enthusiastic volunteers lead the way
- Upcoming CSR events
- Fill in our CSR survey

Enjoy reading, from your CSR team

Message from your CEO

You may recall that I spoke to you all in November 2014 about our 5 year strategy. Point 10, of our strategy is, 'A corporately responsible employer and business in the community'. I am delighted to inform you all that we are making excellent progress in the areas of Customer Service Excellence, links with educational establishments, volunteering and community events, raising money to help those less fortunate than ourselves and we are continuing to reduce our carbon output on travel (road, air and rail).

Our focus in this edition of the newsletter is education. It is important that we all continue to harness our enthusiasm and expertise to help inspire young people and open up a world of opportunities and possibilities. Our aim is to help them develop their confidence and life skills, give them an insight into different career choices, change perceptions of the *Portakabin Group*, explain how business and manufacturing industry works and give them an insight into a great British manufacturer.

A business of our size has an important and valuable role to play in supporting education – from schools and apprentices to university masters students. Going forward, we want to deliver more initiatives that engage our team members and impact positively on the communities in which we live and work. I look forward to our continued progress.





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Education Focus

Education is the current strategic focus area for CSR and as such education is the main theme of this newsletter. This year we have expanded our work with schools, universities and young people with a range of new initiatives as part of our CSR programme. So far this financial year, the Group has helped 22 schools and universities and more than 720 pupils and students – a significant increase on the same period last year. This education focus stimulates interest in apprenticeships, encourages children to consider science, technology, engineering and manufacturing (STEM) subjects as a career, changes the perception of the *Portakabin Group* with educational establishments and in the long term can help address our potential skills shortages.

Scientists in the Making at Huntington Primary School's Science Week

Huntington Primary School, York, held their 'Science Week' on 16th March to inspire their pupils to consider a future career in Science. Bruce Pottage and Cleo Preston spoke with small groups of children about

science careers at the *Portakabin Group* and the children were then tasked with building a strong lorry which would hold a 'Portakabin Building' (block of wood). The children found our contribution to Science

Week very interesting with one pupil saying "Thank you for the great Portakabin talk you did. I loved the part where we could make our own lorry."

Group Sales Hosts Cheshire School Site Visit

When Bishop Heber High School selected a Yorkon solution from the *Portakabin Group* for their new 6th form and science block, it was the perfect opportunity to show the school how their building would be manufactured. On 31st March, Andy Catherall and Marc Platt hosted fourteen students and three teachers at the manufacturing facility in York to see their modules as they were being built and fitted out.

Andy, the Project Manager for the Bishop Heber High School project, explained the process and benefits of offsite manufacture. The students were amazed at how large the facility was and how the building would be delivered, asking some great questions throughout the day. It doesn't end there; we



continue to work in partnership with Bishop Heber School, local colleges and contractors taking on two work experience students.



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Education Focus

Apprentice Seminar

The *Portakabin Group* held an Apprenticeship Seminar on Wednesday 11th March at York, with over 40 people attending the event to find out more about apprenticeship opportunities for September 2015.

With speakers from the *Portakabin Group*, the National Apprenticeship Service and City of York Council, attendees also had the chance to speak to our training providers, meet three current *Portakabin* apprentices, and gain interview and CV writing tips from HR.

A student from Huntington School said, "It was really good, I will apply. I enjoyed talking to other apprentices who already work at *Portakabin*."



Derwent Training Event

Iain Little and Cleo Preston supported Derwent Training's annual event following two years of partnership. Derwent Training currently work with our Engineering Apprentices at York Head Office.

Thirsk School Partnership

The *Portakabin Group* are working in partnership with Thirsk Secondary School, North Yorkshire. We have been working with the school on three key events which include all students from Year 7 to Year 13. Firstly Year 12 AS Applied Business Studies students interviewed three staff members, Steve Adams, Matt Cotton and Malcolm Church, followed up by a site tour.

The students said, "Thank you very much for letting us visit *Portakabin*. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. All the information provided to us by the interviewees was extremely helpful, and will help us in our section of coursework. The tour was very educational and it extended our knowledge of *Portakabin*."

Secondly two volunteers, Tony Masterson and Lee Shepherd took part in a Year 11 interview day to prepare students for the choices they will make post-16 and give the students interview experience with a business. Lee Shepherd said, "The interview day at Thirsk School was challenging and fast-paced, with 12 interviews over the course of six hours. I found it extremely rewarding and feedback from the staff and students was very positive. I also found it beneficial for brushing up on my own interview skills."

Finally, we attended Thirsk School 'Inspirations Evening' which raised awareness of *Portakabin Group* and discussed careers in manufacturing and construction. The strong partnership will be continuing through 2015 and into 2016.





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Young Enterprise Success for the Home Bake Company

In September 2014, *Portakabin* Young Enterprise Business Advisors, Paul Sherlock and Nigel Kemp, embarked on a journey with budding young entrepreneurs from Fulford School, York.

The Homebake Company was created with a team of ten sixth-form girls where their future success was evident from day one. Creating delicious self-bake products for purchase and under guidance of their business advisors, the company began to recoup success, winning 'Best Young Enterprise Company' in the Harrogate and York areas. The company expanded their product range and business acumen to go on and claim 'Best Marketing Sales' and 'Customer Focus' award and 'Overall Best Young Enterprise Company' in the York area.

However, their journey did not just end there, they picked up two awards at the Regional final including 'Best Financial Management' and 'Best Sales and Marketing'.

Jill Tinsley, Young Enterprise Manager, North Yorkshire said "We would like to thank the *Portakabin Group* for their vital support throughout this process, without the experience that the business advisors brought, the girls from The Homebake Company wouldn't be leaving this process with the vital life skills and business knowledge they have gained."

Georgia Gardnea, The Homebake Company Managing Director said "We would like to thank *Portakabin Group* and Paul and Nigel for their continued support, we have learnt so much and couldn't have done it without them."





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Employees in the Spotlight and Enthusiastic Fundraisers

Portakabin Group has raised a total of **£21,551** this financial year. Well done to all our fundraisers!

Dave Watson – Winter Run

Dave Watson, London East Hire Centre, completed the London Winter run on 1st February 2015. It was a 10K course along the Thames Embankment with 15,000 people taking part with all proceeds going to Cancer Research UK. However Dave

asked for his donation from *Portakabin* to be made out to Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, London East's regional chosen charity. Well done Dave!



Racing Stripes at the Lord Mayor of York Charity Karting Challenge

Two teams from the *Portakabin Group* took part in the Lord Mayor of York Karting Challenge on Friday 13th March. The event, which saw over 20 businesses from the local area take part, raised £10,000 which was split between two local charities; York Teaching Hospital Charity

and York Against Cancer, the latter of which Patrick Shepherd sits on the Board of Directors. This was a fantastic event and both *Portakabin* teams did well!



Foremans & Hays five-a-side Charity Football Tournament

On 6th February *Foremans*, alongside Hays recruitment agency and a number of suppliers to *Foremans*, organised a five-a-side Charity Football Tournament. *Foremans* entered two teams with a mix of people from the office and factory. The first *Foremans* team, captained by Richard Hook, were runners up out of the 12 teams who entered and Andrew Stott was top tournament goal scorer and player of the tournament. A raffle also took place with the top prize being Hull City FC tickets

along with a variety of other prizes donated by local businesses. The event was a great success and just over £500 was raised for Dove House Hospice, *Foremans'* local charity. Well done to all involved!



Jersey Day

Portakabin Ireland raised €95 for their local charity, the Irish Cancer Society, by supporting 'National Daffodil Day' with their dress down and jersey day.



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Employees in the Spotlight and Enthusiastic Fundraisers

Foremans Charity Walk for Dove House Hospice

A party of 16 met on a lovely afternoon in May to raise money for the Foremans charity for 2014/15, Dove House Hospice, a centre based in Hull that provides superb care in the later part of life for people in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The 8km walk around the beautiful Wassand Loop, a mere on the outskirts of Hornsea, was a chance for individuals from all parts of the business to spend time together, get to know each other better and understand each person's area of the business whilst also raising over £1,000 for the charity the staff at *Foremans* chose.

Special mentions should go to Claire Parkinson for raising £362 for the charity and to Tracey Smith for organising the walk and suggesting the use of her local pub car park at the Swan Inn, Seaton to start the walk.

The total raised for Dove House Hospice so far this year now exceeds £1,500. Thanks to all who walked the Wassand Loop and also to all those who sponsored people to do the walk.



Portakabin Finds the Funny Side Comic Relief

A massive £1,099.36 was raised for Comic Relief on Friday 13th March. There were several events across the Group which generated a real buzz around the offices and factory.

Fundraising events included a raffles taking place in York and Scotland, and Central Services organised a Comic Relief Bake Off. Mary Berry (Sandra Falcus) and

Paul Hollywood (Kev Walker) were our expert Bake Off judges with first place going to Claudia Snee, followed closely by Gavin Drake and Joanne Coverdale.



Kilt Walkers

In April, Elizabeth Murphy and Alison Grahame, from *Portakabin* Scotland, completed the 26 mile Glasgow Kiltwalk from Hampden Park to Loch Lomond. In total they raised an amazing £800, a portion of which will be going to their local children's charity, Yorkhill.





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Enthusiastic Volunteers Lead the Way

School Industry Day

Martin Irvine, Sales Division, took part in a School Industry Day at Archbishop Holgate's School, York. At which 18 teams made up of eight students, were set the task of developing a new brand of shoes and fashion accessories with the support of business experts. The teams developed fully-costed business plans, prototype products plus sales and marketing strategies. There was a final presentation where each team was assessed against key criteria with the winner getting the highest average score.

Martin said, *"I really enjoyed the day. It is always a challenge to integrate people into a functioning team in such a short space of time, but these 13 and 14 year olds certainly did their best to overcome the challenges of the day and complete the task to the best of their abilities. I have already been approached to help again next year and, diary permitting, I will be there."*

Glen Allotment Volunteering

Seven volunteers from Stores have used their volunteering day to help transform Glen Allotments, York, into an active learning environment. Local primary school children, disabled children and Beaver groups will be using the allotment area to learn a non-curriculum activity – gardening. Lea Unwin and Ian Brown returned from their volunteering day on the allotment and commented on how they had enjoyed the day and found it very rewarding knowing that the children would benefit from their efforts and if the opportunity arose would willingly offer their services again.

Phil Marsland Conducts Mock Interview Day at Millthorpe School

Phil Marsland, HR, carried out five mock interviews with Year 10 students at Millthorpe School, York, working in partnership with NYBEP. The *Portakabin Group* was one of several employers represented at the event which was designed to prepare students for their work experience interviews and increase their confidence.

Phil said, *"It was a great experience and so lovely to give something back, hopefully helping some young people as they move toward the world of work. The students were very well prepared, had completed application forms and were all keen to receive feedback at the end of their interview. I was very impressed."*

Portakabin Support Venturefest Entrepreneur Business Exhibition

On 16th March Amy Littlefair and Cleo Preston represented *Portakabin* at Venturefest 2015 held at York Racecourse. The unique entrepreneur business exhibition is sponsored by Shepherd Group.

York Jobs Fair

On 19th March the *Portakabin Group* in York supported their local community by attending the Jobs Fair organised by City of York Council. The Jobs Fair seeks to connect job seekers with employers and training providers.



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Upcoming Events

- 1st – 30th September** Fabric bag collections will take place at the York site throughout September which the Yorkshire Air Ambulance can then trade in for money.
- Friday 18th September** 'Jeans for Genes' dress down day; the charity raises money for Genetic Disorders UK and aims to change the world for children with genetic disorders.
- Friday 25th September** *Portakabin* Ireland coffee morning in aid of Irish Cancer Charity
- Friday 24th October** 'Wear it Pink' Breast Cancer Awareness dress down day; the day is to raise awareness and funds to achieve their aim; to stop women dying from breast cancer by 2050.
- Friday 30th October** Halloween 'Bake Off!' at the York site to raise money for Yorkshire Air Ambulance.
- Friday 13th November** BBC Children in Need dress down day; the charity gives grants to projects in the UK which focus on children and young people who are disadvantaged.
- Friday 11th December** Save the Children's Christmas Jumper Day; raise funds that promote children's rights, provides relief and helps support children in developing countries.

Your Opinion Matters
We would like to
hear from you



We value your opinion and would be grateful for your views on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

We will be issuing a short survey soon.