

# Watts Group News

Spring 2015



## Watts Springs Forward

Spring is definitely in the air, and the Group has already delivered some good results for 2015, with some positive growth for the future.

Plysolene continues to thrive and had an excellent first three months. Watts Truck & Van has seen good results from a big drive on improving the efficiency of the workshops. The Watts Urethane team, who experienced an unusually tough 2014, are starting to see the fruits of their labours in their two new product lines, which will hopefully begin to get the business back on track.

I am confident that we have the opportunity to take advantage of the strengthening UK economy even though this may come under some pressure from a strengthening pound and uncertainty from the

upcoming election. However as much as our success is affected by external events, we know that the more we can continue to be creative, positive and resilient, tough market conditions will have less effect on us than our competitors.

I look forward to working with you all for a successful 2015.

**Stewart Charters**  
Managing Director, Watts Group



### Watts inside

If you have any ideas you would like to have considered for the next newsletter then please email details to [dianeprice@watts-group.co.uk](mailto:dianeprice@watts-group.co.uk)

Watts supplies Welsh Water  
Gary Clark celebrates 25 years  
Lloyd Berry achieves excellence  
Urethane make a manufacturing breakthrough

Plysolene goes down the cat walk  
Meet Andreea, Plysolene's newest recruit

A fond farewell to Robert after 39 years' service



Truck &amp; Van

## Lloyd achieves excellence

The Newport Service Team's excellent record in 2014 was given a further boost, with top technician Lloyd Berry receiving confirmation from DAF Trucks that he has reached the manufacturer's highest accolade – Level 4 Master Technician. Lloyd's hard work and dedication to the job has helped him reach this standard of excellence, and he joins Ross Humphries, Cardiff Service's Supervisor, who achieved this level two years ago.



Lloyd receives his Level 4 Technician certificate

## Watts supplies Welsh Water

Welsh Water has chosen WTV to supply two new Euro 6 DAF trucks, adding to its fleet of vehicles. Both vehicles were to a high specification including AS-Tronic gearbox and ZF-Intarder braking system.



Welsh Water has added two new DAF trucks to its fleet

## Josh Daniel graduates



Josh Daniel and his partner Holly, with Dealer Principal, Simon Griffin.

Congratulations to WTV Cardiff Service Technician, Joshua Daniel, who recently graduated at the annual DAF Ceremony, held at Tortworth Court Hotel.

## Gary clocks up 25 years



Gary Clark was congratulated on 25 years' service by Dealer Principal Simon Griffith

Gary Clark recently celebrated his 25th anniversary with WTV. Having started as an Apprentice Auto Electrician, Gary is now Truck Sales Manager, and was presented with a watch to commemorate the occasion by Dealer Principal, Simon Griffin.

Gary also received a letter from Watts Group Chairman, John Thurston, who congratulated Gary on his 25 years, and hoped the watch gives him the same service as he's given the company.



## Latest breakthrough to boost business



One of Urethane's products, Cutting Sticks, produced from thicker sheets.



An automated casting arm in this centrifuge drum has helped to advance Urethane's manufacturing process.

The innovative Urethane team has made a breakthrough in the manufacturing process, which will lead to long-lasting benefits for the business.

Previously, production of sheets was restricted to c.15mm thick, due to weight and casting capabilities. But using automated casting arms and a new dispensing machine, Urethane has now successfully cast c.22mm and hopes to increase this even further to c.25mm.

"The development means Urethane can produce a number

of products, which were previously hot table cast, to a much higher quality with lower production costs," explained Urethane Sales Manager Will Barker.

"Products such as Cutting Sticks can now be manufactured more efficiently and are a global consumable item which has significant sales potential."

Cutting Sticks are used in a number of industries, with a variety of uses, such as blade protection when cutting other materials.

## Guten Tag Urethane

Urethane will be heading to Germany in May, to take part in the print industry exhibition (FESPA) being held in Cologne. They last took part in the exhibition in 2013 and gathered over 170 leads from more than 45 countries, so there is high hopes for this year's event.

This year, they will be including some engineering products, such as Cutting Sticks, to promote sales of general products to an international market.



Urethane will be showcasing its products to an international audience in Germany.

## Plysolene: Always in fashion

**F**ashion retailer Next has revealed its latest striking window displays, courtesy of Plysolene.

Plysolene supplied 90,000 black and white high impact polystyrene tiles into Next through its customer, Heartbeat Manufacturing. They have been rolled out nationwide.

Team Leader Andy Browne noticed them while out shopping with his children, saying: "It was great to be able to show my kids what I do while at work with these eye catching window displays."



Next's latest window displays, featuring Plysolene tiles



Andreea Mihalut has taken on the role of Logistics Coordinator

## Plysolene's new recruit

**A**ndreea Mihalut has joined the Plysolene team as a Logistics Coordinator. This is her first full time role since she graduated from University in Romania, where she studied Maths and IT.

After spending several months working at a guesthouse in Co. Wicklow, Southern Ireland, she joined Plysolene at the beginning of January.

Andreea lives in Horsham with her fiancé and has a great talent for languages; in her spare time she has taught herself to speak French.

We wish her the best of luck in her new role.



## Farewell to Robert Elliott

After 39 years' loyal service, Robert Elliott has retired from Plysolene.

Robert joined the business on his 26th birthday in 1976. In those days, the company was based in Brockham in Surrey and Robert's first job was a lorry driver, delivering products all over the UK.

Before joining Plysolene, Robert worked in a fishmongers and in a garage as a mechanic. In fact, his mechanical skills came in very handy at Plysolene, when he was asked to maintain and service the company cars!

In the 1980's, the owner of Plysolene, Mark Varvill, decided the business needed more space to expand its manufacturing capability and the company relocated to Southwater in West Sussex.

Robert helped with the relocation and the business started to manufacture twin wall Polycarbonate sheet as well as the PIB it was traditionally known for. By this time, Robert was Transport Manager but from time to time he still ended up behind the wheel of a truck, collecting material from Belgium, France and Germany.

In the late 1990's, the business moved again, this time to its present location, Partridge Green. Up until his retirement, Robert was logistics manager, organising deliveries to customers and managing the warehouse. Over the last 39 years, Robert has become an integral part of Plysolene; he's seen many changes and watched the business grow. He now plans to spend more time tending his garden and helping at the British Legion club in his local village. We all wish him a long and happy retirement.



Watts of Lydney Group Limited, Althorpe House,  
High Street, Lydney, Glos, GL15 5DD, UK  
t +44 (0)1594 847400 f +44 (0)1594 847401

[www.wattsgroup.co.uk](http://www.wattsgroup.co.uk)

