

Another first for Capenhurst

Capenhurst is the first UK nuclear site to use rope access instead of scaffolding to access areas that cannot be reached by scaffolding or scissor lifts.

Last week, hanging 25 meters above drums of depleted uranium and uranium hexafluoride, contractors APC began to install a new smoke detection system in the site's former diffusion plant, which is now used as a uranic storage area.

Ian Mason, Head of Uranic Storage at Capenhurst, said: "Both restrictions on physical access for mechanical means, as well as dose rates implications for scaffolders, made it impossible for these methods to be used to access the roof of the building, which meant we had to be innovative in terms of finding a fast and cost-effective method of installing this new system.

"Through the tender process, we challenged our main contractor, Techserve, to find the most suitable rope access team to do the work. Consequently, we have five expert rock climbers and mountaineers, who have an excellent pedigree in commercial work, to provide a unique solution to a complex problem - in fact they're so fast and nimble that it's proving to be quicker than conventional methods."

The detection system will be fitted to the entire building and annexes over a period of four weeks. This forms part of preparations for the potential reuse of substantial areas of storage space following the launch of the site's new vision to maximise its assets and grow its business.

Phil Malem, Sellafield Ltd's Head of Site at Capenhurst, said: "Finding new ways of working, such as using rope access instead of scaffolding, is essential for the successful future of this site.

"Not only is rope access incredibly safe, as we approach the end of decommissioning, this project is helping prepare the ground - or the roof - for us to find new ways of using the land assets and operational experience that we have gained from being the first site to complete our clean-up programme.

"Much of our site is a blank canvas of flexible space, coupled with hugely knowledgeable employees and we're currently exploring options of how to change our Lifetime Plan away from remaining a safe storage site to contributing more positively to the NDA's hazard reduction strategy."



Sellafield couples hoping to 'win their wedding'

Lucky couples with Sellafield connections are hoping to scoop a big prize next week – their dream weddings, all paid for.

Both couples have made the final of CFM Radio's 'Win Your Wedding' competition, and now they need a helping hand to scoop the big prize.

The couple who raise the most money for the CFM's Cash for Kids appeal by the deadline of 10am on Monday will walk away with the prize.

Martin Sullivan, who works on site for PC Richardson, and Debra Crellin, who works in Thorp for Initial (below), had to put off their dream wedding after the death of their infant son Kieran nearly four years ago.

Martin said: "We had been saving up to try and get married, as I love Debra dearly and wanted to make an honest woman of her. But our son was born with complications, he had five operations in the five weeks he was alive but unfortunately we lost him. He was a perfect little lad and it is impossible to describe the emotional stress that put us through.



"It hit us financially too – you don't have money tucked away in case you ever need to pay for a child's funeral and the headstone alone cost us £1,800.

"We aren't wealthy people so the money came out of our wedding fund, and over the past four years we've never been able to save up anywhere near enough to get married."

Things started looking up for the couple 20 months ago when their second son Kyle was born, and then when Martin heard about the contest on the radio he thought his luck might finally change for good.

The other couple (photographed right) are Thorp control room worker Deborah Ashbridge and her fiancé Kris Wilkinson. They hail from Workington and met 18 months ago.



Deborah said: "I just thought that this competition was a great way to save ourselves a fortune as a wedding can be so expensive. We've got all kinds fundraising things organised to try and raise the money.

"It was really exciting on the day up at Carlisle where they selected the five couples for the final – there was a quiz and then we had to write vows, I just hope we can win now!"

To pledge money in support of Martin and Debra txt WEDDING5 to 63103 or log onto www.justgiving.com/wedding5martindebra. For Deborah and Kris its WEDDING3 to 63103 and www.justgiving.com/wedding3krisdeborah

BNES spells out the ABC of 'radioactive waste'

A series of lectures intended to give engineers and non-specialists alike a technical insight into the ABC of radioactive waste will be running on a weekly basis starting on Tuesday 10 June through to 15 July.

The lectures are designed to give the audience an overview of the types and forms of radioactive wastes and how they are currently managed on the site. The lectures will also include a description of the future management of these materials and the proposed option for disposing of higher-level wastes.

Wayne Ingamells, of the BNES said: "This year's programme builds upon the highly successful "ABC of Sellafield" series of lectures held last summer, involving an array of people from members of the public to local parish councillors, suppliers, nuclear industry employees and fund providers.

"In total over 350 people attended the series and the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. This year's lectures have been built on this good relationship by developing this series around the feedback and discussions with the audience."

The programme of lectures includes:

- **Low Level Waste: Generation & Disposal Tuesday, 10 June** – *Martin Walkingshaw, Strategy Manager LLW Repository Ltd*
- **The Challenges of Intermediate Level Waste Tuesday, 17 June** - *Dr Steve Palethorpe, Senior Technical Leader (Encapsulation, Waste Science and Analytical Team) Nexia Solutions Ltd*
- **High-Level Waste Plants Tuesday, 24 June** - *Steve Walker Head of Technical (High Level Waste Plants) Sellafield Ltd*
- **Implementing a Geological Disposal Facility Tuesday, 1 July** - *Alun Ellis, Project Director NDA-Radioactive Waste Management Directorate*
- **An Independent View of the UK's RadWaste Policy Tuesday, 8 July** - *Ian Jackson Consultant Jackson Consulting Ltd*
- **A Community's View on Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Tuesday 15 July** - *David Moore Chairman West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group*

The lectures will be held at the Immersion Theatre (Sellafield Centre), and will commence at 5.30pm, with refreshments available from 5pm.

For further information please contact Wayne Ingamells - 019467 84229 or email abc@bnescumbria.org

'Lump bunch' do the Moonwalk

Two sisters from Sellafield Ltd were among a group of 15,000 participants who donned their bras and took to the streets of London to take part in the annual 'Moonwalk' marathon to raise money for breast cancer research.

Joanne Gavin from Sellafield Ltd's Communications team and Janine Bell, from Records Management, who are both based at Risley, took part in the mammoth midnight trek on 17 May.

Joanne (below centre) and Janine (below right) formed part of a team of seven women named the 'lump bunch' who took part in the walk, raising nearly £6,000 for the valuable cause.

"The walk took us just under nine hours, but this did involve a few toilet stops! It began at Hyde Park and took in sights such as the London Bridge, The Eye and Harrods before ending up back at Hyde Park" said Joanne. "A 26 mile walk in the cold dead of night isn't really my idea of fun, but it was for a worthwhile cause and feels very rewarding to have completed it" she added.



"We decided on the name 'lump bunch' because we have three girlfriends, who, in the past 18 months, have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Two of the girls did the walk with us, but one is still undergoing treatment" she said.

Janine added: "The moonwalk was one of the hardest things I have ever done, but I feel a great sense of achievement knowing that the money raised will help a great cause.

"We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us, by providing sponsorship. This fantastic sum of money will go a long way to helping the thousands of women (and men) who are affected by this illness every year."

- **Hot on the heels of the ladies was Craig Brannigan (below centre), a Programme Manager based at Sellafield Ltd's Capenhurst site. Craig took part in the event with partner Amy in support of a friend and former work college who was diagnosed with breast cancer last year.**

"I was entered as it was believed that I would help generate more sponsorship - especially if I dressed up in a 'bra-man' costume" said Craig.

"So far we have raised over £750. It was a brilliant night and well organised. I would recommend to anyone to have a go, even if it's only to see the expressions on the drunks waiting to get on the night buses as around 15,000 women (and a few men) walk past wearing bras - tastefully decorated, of course."



VIP visits to Sellafield 29 May – 4 June 2008:

30/05/08 – Times & Star (familiarisation visit)

03/06/08 – The Observer

04/06/08 - Captain Jeff Miller - US Attache

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