

Sellafield employee takes up mountain rescue role in *Coronation Street*

Sellafield worker Alan Prescott has expanded his career to include acting after appearing in ITV 1's *Coronation Street* during the filming of a recent storyline set in the Lake District.

Alan, who works within Sellafield Ltd's Nuclear Decommissioning and Major Project Group as Head of Delivery for the Separation Air Ventilation Project, is also a member of Keswick Mountain Rescue Team.

When the call came back in October, Alan and 13 other members of the team were more than happy to provide assistance to the *Coronation Street* crew as they planned a storyline that followed characters Liam and Maria on a romantic break in the Lake District, fell walking.



Alan, the Mountain Rescue team and the RAF spent four and half days at Honister filming with the crew for three episodes which aired on Friday 4, Sunday 6 and Monday 7 January.

"We were approached by ITV to get involved so that we could provide the crew and equipment as well as the technical support to ensure the events were portrayed as realistically as possible" he said.

However Alan's role didn't stop there. After the character of Liam took a 200 ft tumble down the side of a fell, the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team and the RAF were then called upon to help find and recover him.

"I managed to get myself a starring role in the actual episode after it was decided that a stunt double was needed for the character of Liam in the scene where they find him and he gets air-lifted into the helicopter.

"I wouldn't say I volunteered myself as such - It was more a case of I was the one who had the most hair and therefore most resembled Liam! It was all good fun and I was more than willing to step in," Alan added.

On a more serious note, Alan said he was pleased that the safety message was going out to viewers across the country.

"This storyline has raised some important issues around fell walking and has shown how important it is to be prepared; from having the right gear to planning where you are going and checking the weather conditions before you set off.

"We've all had fun taking part in this, and I suppose you could say we've had our '15 minutes of fame', but I'd also like to think that this has given recognition to the important job that all Mountain Rescue Teams and indeed the RAF do, and the challenges that we face."

For more information on the Keswick Mountain and Rescue team or to make a donation to the charity please visit:
<http://www.keswickmrt.org.uk>

Brian keeps his Pecker up!

A Sellafield worker is aiming for world darts championship glory on BBC television.

Brian 'Pecker' Woods, who works as a contractor on site for Neales Waste Management, is playing in the BDO World Darts Championships at the Lakeside in Frimley Green, Surrey.

Brian, who is seeded 11th for the competition, is relishing the chance to go for glory under the TV spotlight. "I can't wait," he said before the competition began.

"I have played in the last two years but this time I am seeded, and if I'm on my game I think I can beat anyone.

Top ranked seed Gary Anderson crashed out in the first round, but there was no such worry for Brian, who displayed his darting prowess as he destroyed Paul 'Polly Boy' Hanvidge in straight sets, 3-0, and finished the first round with the highest three dart average of any player in the tournament.

"The rankings are a bit false sometimes, because you only get points depending on how many competitions you can go to.

"Gary Anderson was top seed with 136 points, but he played in the competitions abroad, and I didn't, I have a job and a family and just couldn't get to them all," he said.

"If I had done I could have been seeded higher than 11th, but I'm playing pretty well so I'm confident."

Egremont-based Brian was beaten 3-0 by Mervyn King his Lakeside debut two years ago and went down by the same score line against Niels de Ruiter, in 2007.

But he does not believe the pressure of appearing on TV on the big stage was a factor in those defeats. "It has never bothered me," he added.

"Losing the last twice was my own fault. "I know 'if' is a big word, but I missed doubles and let them off. I have beaten these players. It's just a matter of doing it on the day."

Pecker faces fancied Dutchman Co Stompe in round two on Wednesday night.



The Cumbrian started the tournament as a 100/1 shot to lift the £85,000 first prize, though he has no chance of leaving empty handed as even first round losers collect £3,000.

MEB export store open

Success has been the name of the game in Thorp Receipt and Storage as the new Multi Element Bottle (MEB) Export Facility (MEBXF) has started up.

The facility has recently commenced the active commissioning phase and will allow for the removal of some 400 empty MEBs so freeing up space for 1000te of fuel in the ponds.

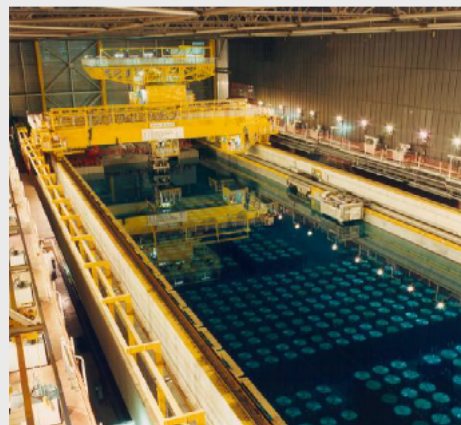
Light Water Reactor (LWR) fuel has been stored underwater within these cylindrical containers known as MEBs for over 20 years in some cases. After the fuel is removed for reprocessing, the empty MEBs have continued to be stored in the ponds because they cannot be reused.

Bob Burns, Project Manager explained: "The empty MEBs are firstly lifted out of the storage pond, rinsed down and monitored. They are placed into special ISO freight containers which are transferred to the new MEB Interim Store (MEBIS)."

"The team has been working on this project for over 10 years on and off and I'm very pleased to see this new facility up and running."

The MEBIS was built last year to accommodate 400 MEBs at a cost of £1.5m, which could be extended to take 1000 if necessary. This facility will store the MEBs loaded into special ISO freight containers until a final disposal route is made available.

Tom Gardner, Head of Manufacturing, Fuel Services said: "The start up of the MEBXF is very important to allow us the space to store more fuel in the pond system and to provide the flexibility to easily move fuel around in the pond."



Above: MEBs currently in the Thorp storage pond

Greedy pigs!

A Group of Sellafield workers recently took part in a competition to see who could eat the most 'pigs in blankets' in 10 minutes helping to raise over £1300 for charity.

Nicholas Bulman and Allan Bruce (both Health Physics Monitors at Sellafield) and contractor Glen Boylan, were among the group of 13 who stuffed their faces with 'pigs in blankets' in order to raise money for Kirk Courty, a Workington youngster who has been in the Carlisle Infirmary in a state of minimal awareness for seven years following a serious accident.

The event took place on 28 December 2007, at the Sailors Return Pub in Maryport. Each of the 13 entrants represented a different public house in West Cumbria, and raised money by getting sponsorship from local customers from their respective pub.

Despite the efforts of the team from Sellafield, the winner on the day was Neil 'Eatamus Maximus' Thompson who managed to wolf down 47 'pigs in blankets'.



Above: Glen and Alan put in some practice before the event

Speaking after the event, organiser Glen 'Buffet Beast' Boylan said: "We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen and for being such good sports. I would especially like to thank Moree from the Sailors Pub who cooked nearly 800 (very tasty!) 'pigs in blankets'. The money raised will be going to a very worthwhile cause. Well done everyone."

As well as winning £200, Neil also received a 'Pigs in Blankets Eating champ 2007-2008' T-shirt.

The remainder of the money will go towards buying modern audio equipment for Kirk and talking books for people in similar circumstances on the ward.

This was the fourth wacky event organised by the 'Xtreme 13' team. Other fundraising events organised by the group have included:

- 13 lakes swim which raised £3500 for Macmillan Cancer Support
- A baker's dozen Macabre menu in which people were sponsored to eat 13 items including fish eyes, chocolate covered scorpions and giant wood ants raising £2300 for Leukemia research
- 13 lochs swim which involved swimming in 13 lochs including Loch Lomond which raised £4000 for Cancer Research UK.

Sellafield bloggers are back!

Following the ongoing success of the Sellafield blogs on the www.sellafieldsites.com website, Managing Director of International Nuclear Services (INS) and long serving employee, John Clarke (photographed below) has taken to the web to give us an insight into his recent trip to the INS Japan KK offices in Tokyo.

John's blog covers his week long trip to Japan, not just from a business perspective but also giving his personnel thoughts and feelings about being 7000 miles away from home.



Sellafield site blogs are completed by Sellafield Ltd employees and other people working on behalf of the company. The blogs are designed to give an understanding into the work undertaken on our sites and the personnel experiences of our workforce.

VIP visits to Sellafield 21 December – 9 January 2007 included:

- 07/01/08 – John Weston (NDA)
- 08/01/08 – AWE Disarmament Verification Research Team
- 08/01/08 – Forepoint familiarisation
- 09/01/08 – Environment Agency

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