









1976 - 2016 40 YEARS

BANKS Group
development with care

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1976 - 2016 40 YEARS

BANKS Group
development with care

Our journey so far...

Celebrating 40 years of development with care











> The Banks Group are honourable and trustworthy people – right from the top. It has been my privilege to deal with them for over 35 years.



CHARLES HARLE
NORTH EAST FARMER
& LANDOWNER

> I congratulate the Banks Group on forty years in business. Northumberland College is proud to work with the group, in being able to offer students apprenticeships in surface mining to maintain the North East's long and noble tradition of mining coal. This important apprenticeship scheme helps keep these skills alive and ensures that coal in the North East is mined safely, responsibly and efficiently.



MARCUS CLINTON
PRINCIPAL & CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
NORTHUMBERLAND COLLEGE







> Congratulations on reaching forty; your ruby anniversary. Forty years is a long time. To achieve forty years in business, creating jobs, energy and homes, is a significant achievement. And Banks operates in markets that are at the mercy of global forces; which makes the achievement even more admirable. Banks has a proud record of restoring every surface coal mine it has ever worked and going about its business in a very careful and inclusive way. It is a great North East based company. I wish you well for the coming years.



RT HON VISCOUNT RIDLEY DL FRSL FMEDSCI



ABOVE: Harry Banks on site c.1989

Foreword

In recognition of our first forty years

I am pleased to introduce this review of the Group's first 40 years and in so doing to have this opportunity of recording my appreciation and thanks to the many landowners, suppliers, customers, partners and communities who have journeyed with us to make the story possible. I also want to take this opportunity of paying tribute to the professionalism and skills of past and present employees who have taken surface coal mining to new levels of acceptability and are now applying their skills to take forward new business activities alongside our coal business.

This is a story researched, written and presented by Lucy Hinds, Jonathan Burnhope and Angela Robinson, of a family owned West Durham based business which responded to a national call in the early 1970s for coal production to be stepped up to meet an increasing need for energy. Back then indigenous coal was the only option for meeting the expected increase in demand for electricity, and from operating the very smallest of surface coal mines in 1976 the company has gone on to work and restore more than 100 surface coal mines, producing more than 24 million tonnes of coal, and now operating the very largest of sites.

A first year family workforce of five in 1976 was soon to be joined by local staff and later by many more as the business grew to directly employ more than 400 people from its places of work. A first year turnover of one hundred thousand pounds has been increased to one of more than one hundred million pounds and from gifting a few bags of coal in 1976 our annual community involvement has grown with the business

The following pages tell of the high importance which the company has attached to working with local communities and making surface coal mining acceptable. This required new practices and innovative modifications to items of earth moving plant employed at our mining sites as we set out to meet all reasonable expectations of the people directly affected by our work. This led to the adoption of our *development with care* approach which remains at the heart of all that we do.

Whilst the Group has been built on its coal mining expertise and earnings that has not been the whole story. The Group has also become established in land and property developments as well as renewable energy from its wind farms. These are progressing well, and are together closing in on a 50% share of total group business.

The following pages speak of our people, our operations and standards as well as of our work in the communities. It is pleasing that the company has been able to provide long term employment opportunities for so many people and that some have made their careers here having joined from school.

It is also pleasing that we have been able to develop our community involvement and play a real and meaningful part in the communities which host our operations. Key to this has been the invaluable support given by the County Durham Community Foundation and staff who work with us in managing our community funds and enabling us to reach so many good causes. It is to the credit of our teams and the Foundation that our work has been recognised by so many credits and awards.

Our teams in all three business areas are earning high praise and a reputation for delivering quality work and products. We see this as being an important part of our commitment to communities and an indicator that we are on the right track as we pursue new developments. We shall look for continual improvement in all that we do and we shall continue the good work being done alongside the County Durham Community Foundation.

Forty years is not seen to be the ending of anything: it is a milestone and a beginning for the next phase of the company's development.

Harry Banks



HARRY BANKS OBE, DL
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN



"The Banks Group is a very successful County Durham based business. Their philosophy has meant that they put a huge amount back into the county and everywhere they work. I believe Banks have left a positive legacy in County Durham, throughout the North East and beyond. I congratulate them on reaching this considerable milestone."



CLLR SIMON HENIG
LEADER OF DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

"The Banks Group is an important, family owned, North East business. Over the last forty years, despite operating in very difficult and cyclical markets, it has nevertheless invested in its workforce and continuously put back into the local economy through the wages and taxes it pays, the contracts it awards to local suppliers, and its community fund. This *development with care* corporate responsibility approach is the gold standard that other developers should adopt. I wish all at Banks huge congratulations on reaching this forty year landmark."



RT HON BARONESS HILARY ARMSTRONG OF HILL TOP PC DL





"Being in business, and thriving, in highly regulated sectors and difficult markets, is a significant achievement. The Banks Group's *development with care* approach is to be admired and has meant that the company has left a positive legacy in the areas where it has projects. I congratulate them on forty years in business."



RT HON LORD DEREK FOSTER OF BISHOP AUCKLAND DL



Introduction

A major milestone

1976 - 2016
40
YEARS

A lot has happened since 1976 and our story is about the development of a business and the part played by the people within it, to whom our success is owed.

Our story begins in 1976. It is a long time – in life as well as in business. And the last forty years has seen some huge changes not only within regions but across the whole of the UK. Governments have come and gone, policies and legislations have changed, forcing us to adapt and diversify.

Technological changes and advancements have benefited us all, but many traditional industries have declined. Our first forty years have been dominated by our coal mining activities but the extent of that is being reduced. We have continuously identified ways to diversify our business income streams and will continue to do so going forward.

In the late eighties we added waste management and property development to our portfolio. Banks Property is currently promoting more than thirty property developments, making an increasing contribution to the group.

We responded to the shift towards low carbon electricity generation by establishing Banks Renewables in 2004 to assemble a portfolio of prospective wind farm sites. More recently in 2015 we gained consent for a solar farm adjacent to our Penny Hill Wind Farm at Rotherham and will research other areas for extension of our renewables business.

Throughout it all, we've managed to adapt and grow in those forty years and we've got a lot to celebrate.

The following pages are about our business – our origins, our journey and our next chapter. We're extremely proud of it and we want to celebrate and tell you all about it. We also want to pay tribute to some of the people who have helped us along the way and those who are still with us today – helping us to achieve, adapt, develop and grow, taking us onward, looking forward, into the next forty years.

Where we are today

A company snapshot

5,000 NEW HOMES WITH PLANNING PERMISSION





400 MEMBERS OF STAFF



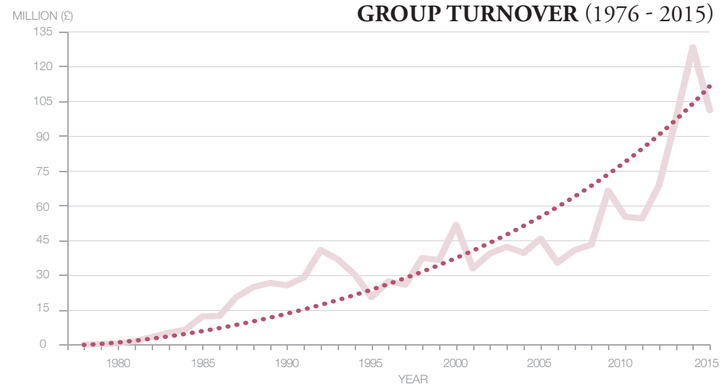
90 THOUSAND POUNDS RAISED FOR CHARITY BY BANKS STAFF OVER THE PAST DECADE

1 MILLION TREES PLANTED



110 RESTORED SURFACE MINES

GROUP TURNOVER (1976 - 2015)







4.3 MILLION POUNDS DONATED TO COMMUNITIES SINCE 1976



24 MILLION TONNES OF COAL MINED TO DATE



600 COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED



14 WASTE FACILITIES APPROVED

39 TURBINES CONSTRUCTED (OVER 7 SITES)



367 PROJECTS

270 MEGAWATTS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY WITH PLANNING PERMISSION TO BE DELIVERED BY 2018





ABOVE: Harry Banks c.1987





IMAGES ABOVE: Tow Law c.1976

Origins

The start of a family business

It all began with Harry Banks - our Chairman - and his three brothers Joe, Graham and Bruce. Harry was the eldest and in 1968, he decided to pursue his career and moved his young family from Chesterfield up to County Durham. Harry trained as a mining surveyor and moved to work in the planning department of Durham County Council, working there until 1974.

Throughout his early professional career, Harry learned about coal - where it was and how to get to it. He saw there was a clear UK need for coal, which was in the ascendancy at that time – especially during the days of electricity shortages, power cuts and three day working weeks. His brothers joined him in the North East and during the spring of 1976, a company was born, H.J Banks & Company Ltd, a surface mining company.

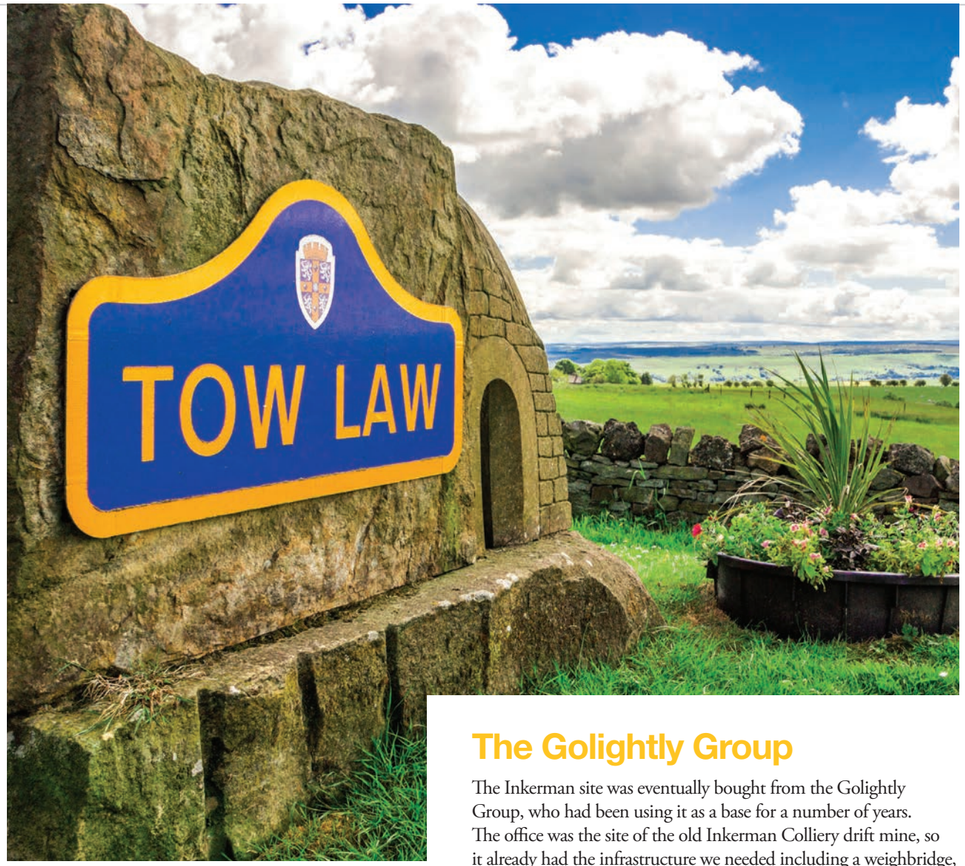
At first, it was just the four of them – but the crucial combination of their skills became the foundation of the early business. Joe worked on the forward programme and marketed coal, Graham was plant director and Bruce, who had mining experience, managed the early works on site. Harry's wife, Janice, was the first company secretary who helped with administration and supplies. Harry's oldest son, Kevin worked on site, joining the company in the summer after leaving school at 16 years old.

The young chairman came across the opportunity to work the Edward Pit in Tow Law, County Durham - a nearly completed site where coal was exposed at the surface. The venture was to take out the last 7,000 tonnes before restoring the site. Harry was also offered the Inkerman Colliery site at Tow Law which had been used as the base station for surface mining in the county by the Golightly Group.

The Tow Law office was strategically placed to service the working and restoration of Edward Pit. This site was the first of a number of West Durham surface mines that we worked (under contract to Golightly Group) whilst progressing our own sites on which propriety work had started before 1976, thereby safeguarding our future.

The business started as most businesses do - with virtually nothing - and Harry had to take on some debt in order to start it. The 'high tech' equipment for removing coal and restoring sites in those days consisted of a shovel, a wheelbarrow, a lot of manual labour and an old three tonne wagon.

As the business slowly started to grow the family was joined by local people, some of whom are still with us today. Over time, the operations expanded and the Inkerman site at Tow Law grew into a hub of activity to develop into our first North East based office. What originally comprised of a temporary one roomed wooden office, evolved into the headquarters of our young company, which it remained until 1988. The head office, along with departments such as finance, HR, IT, plant, construction and transport all moved to Thrislington, County Durham. Tow Law remained the home of our development team until 2010 when various teams were relocated to a newly built head office.



ABOVE: The company's roots were on the edge of the north Pennines in Tow Law, County Durham near Inkerman Road

The Golightly Group

The Inkerman site was eventually bought from the Golightly Group, who had been using it as a base for a number of years. The office was the site of the old Inkerman Colliery drift mine, so it already had the infrastructure we needed including a weighbridge, coal yard, workshop and screening. We took over the mine and the facilities when the company moved premises.

We acquired a number of further sites from the Golightly Group during the earlier years. While contracted by them to complete the workings of the Milkhope site in Northumberland, we identified the prospect of surface mining at the nearby Brenkley Quarry and succeeded in obtaining agreements with the surface owners, including the Blagdon Estate, and a licence from the Coal Board. After many successful planning permissions we are still working on the Blagdon Estate today.





ABOVE/BELOW: Dragline and excavator at Milkhope, Blagdon Estate, Northumberland



OUR FIRST HOME: The Tow Law Office (around 1981) was adjacent to Inkerman Road, a name that inspired the company to name its new head office in Meadowfield, County Durham - Inkerman House when they relocated in 2010.



OUR PEOPLE:

Steve McCormick

PLANT OPERATOR

Joined July 1977 • 39 years service

LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE

"I remember when I was the youngest on the site many moons ago. I went on site in the morning to see if any jobs were going. I saw the foreman who told me to come back in the afternoon and have a word with Harry, he started me that day at 60p per hour."



LEFT: The young Banks children play on a bulldozer after moving to Durham in 1968



OUR PEOPLE:

Keith Tarn

GROUP HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Joined January 1979 • 37 years service

SECOND LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE

"I remember going for my interview and walking towards a little green hut with a weighbridge to one side. I asked where the offices were to which I was told 'in that green hut'... and there it all began."



ABOVE: Site Manager Arnold Kelly and Delhi Surface Mine staff celebrate winning the first Coal Authority's Excellence in Environmental Performance Award in 2004

Growing and evolving

Succeeding in an ever changing coal industry

The scale and complexity of our sites has increased over the years. While only 7,000 tonnes of coal was mined by a few men at Edward Pit in Tow Law back in 1977, our current Shotton and Brenkley Lane surface mines in North East England will see over 9 million tonnes of coal and other minerals mined by a highly skilled workforce of 200 people over a 10 year period.

"We now produce as much coal in a week as the business once did in a year in the early days. Our Shotton site hit a major milestone in 2014, when for the first time in the company's history, we produced over a million tonnes in a year from a single site. We are now one of the largest coal producers in the UK."

JIM DONNELLY
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

During the late seventies and early eighties the amount of coal we were allowed to mine from a single site doubled from 25,000 tonnes to 50,000 tonnes, with a further increase to 250,000 in the early nineties before restrictions were completely removed. When the national coal industry and electricity generating industries went through their privatisation processes it opened better opportunities for the steady growth of our coal business.

Throughout the eighties and nineties, we became a major competitor in the private licenced sector of the UK coal industry - initially through an organisation called the Federation of Small Mines and then the National Association of Licenced Opencast Operators (NALOO). Harry became the inaugural chairman and a leading figure in the industry, taking the business along with him. The Coal Authority came into existence in 1994 replacing British Coal for the granting of mining licences.

Jump to 2016, and we've since operated and restored more than 110 surface mines. Recently we gained international accreditation as a Better Coal supplier and have been recognised by the Institute of Quarrying with a PRIME Award for the way we operate our mines - in a safe, responsible and efficient way.

BELOW: Examples of early plant











ABOVE: Previous underground mine workings unearthed by works on the Petersburn site, near Airdrie, North Lanarkshire



OUR PEOPLE:

Neil Cook

SITE MANAGER, SHOTTON SURFACE MINE

Joined September 1980 • 36 years service

"My role has developed greatly - coming into the business as a labourer before working up into management. I never dreamt I would study at university, work with explosives or be speaking regularly with a Viscount."

RIGHT: Official opening of Bladgon South Park L-R: Viscount Ridley, Owen Paterson MP and Harry Banks

BELOW - RECREATING HISTORY: Bladgon South Park restored to the historic "Capability Brown" style landscape that had been destroyed by post war mining and intensive agricultural production.





BLAGDON ESTATE:
A long term partnership

As business progressed, a major opportunity presented itself to the young company when the partially worked Brenkley Quarry became available. This was the company's first independent mining scheme - the remaining coal seam being located on land on Lord Ridley's Blagdon Estate in Northumberland.

A successful relationship ensued and from that point Banks has worked continuously on the Blagdon Estate ever since. Currently, we are working the Brenkley Lane and Shotton surface mines (the largest in England) which will eventually yield a combined output of over 9 million tonnes of coal and other minerals.





ABOVE: Ensuring product quality using our in house labs and on site dust suppression



AWARDS FROM OUR PEERS: IHS McCloskey UK Coal Surface Miner of the Year 2003 and 2012

1976
First commercial Concorde flights

- H J Banks and Company Ltd incorporated (8th March)
- Edward Pit site (7,000 tonnes) is the first coal site worked by the company
- Number of employees: 5
- The four brothers went without wages until the end of the year

1977
Queen Elizabeth II celebrates Silver Jubilee

- Longest serving employee, Steve McCormick, joins the company
- First project on the Blagdon Estate, Northumberland
- First year's annual turnover: £130K

1978
May Day becomes a bank holiday for the first time

- A further three mining sites receive planning approval in County Durham
- Annual turnover: £520K

1979
Margaret Thatcher becomes the UK's first female Prime Minister

- Work begins on sites in Lumley, County Durham
- Inkerman Road, Tow Law officially becomes the company's headquarters
- Annual turnover: Exceeds £1.8M

Earth movers

From wheelbarrows to the biggest excavators in Britain

BELOW: A young John Banks watching our now redundant dragline at Milkhope, Northumberland in 1979. Brought in from the USA, these huge machines with a small bucket and dragline were used for the first decade of our business until technology and new machines became available allowing us to mine more efficiently.



The scale and complexity of our sites have increased over the years. Therefore, our methods of extracting coal has had to adapt to meet the increases in size. Starting with just a shovel and a wheelbarrow (and a considerable amount of manual labour), we progressed to a dragline in 1977, and eventually to our first 500 tonne RH200 (purchased in 2001 for the Pegswood site in Northumberland) known fondly by staff as 'Big Bertha' making us an operator with a multimillion pound fleet.

We gradually started to build up our fleet into what it is today, as success allowed the business to invest in larger and more productive plant, reducing the number of machines we required. Unfortunately the wheelbarrow was buried at Edward Pit but the vision of Graham Banks, who played a key role in the move for investing in bigger machinery in order to reduce production costs and improve efficiencies remains. Graham was later succeeded as plant director by his sister, Freda.

We have created a truly international supply chain having sourced and bought a number of machines from all over the world. A recent purchase was our second RH200 which came all the way from a diamond mine in Canada, and can be found in Northumberland working on our Shotton site along side 'Big Bertha'.



THE LARGEST HYDRAULIC EXCAVATOR IN BRITAIN - THE TEREX O&K RH200: Our first excavator was hired and it could lift 2.5 tonnes. Our first RH 200 carries a bucket capable of loading 50 tonnes each lift. It will load a CAT 785 dump truck in three lifts. To keep it working at it's very best, 60 different engineers have worked on it over the past four years.

> "I project managed the rebuild of the latest addition to the our fleet, a Terex RH200. Brought in from Canada, it's my favourite machine in our extensive fleet. There are only two of these in the UK and we proudly own both of them."
>
> **DEREK ROBSON**
> SITE MAINTENANCE MANAGER



CAT 773B: Some of the first trucks we bought brand new (1989)



RH200 DELIVERY: Weighing over 500 tones, this piece of kit is so large it had to be stripped down into individual parts and transported to site in 18 separate loads

88 DUMP TRUCKS



46 LAND ROVERS



43 EXCAVATORS

Highly skilled

Our workforce has the capabilities to build and maintain some of the biggest machines in the country - including off roaders, dump trucks and excavators. Without our plant team we wouldn't have a functioning fleet. We keep their skills up to speed with new equipment and essential in-house training.

> "I was honoured to lead and work with such a highly skilled plant maintenance team. I wish all at Banks good luck for the future."
>
> **FREDA STYLES** • FORMER PLANT DIRECTOR

BELOW: Brothers, Trevor and Kevin Morris presented with their long service awards by Freda Styles, Harry Banks and Kevin Banks





OLD FAITHFUL: Our oldest excavator still operational today is a RH120. Bought brand new in July 1997, it was showcased at the Hill Head Plant Show 1997, Derbyshire (right)



Environmental innovation



ABOVE: Celebrating the ISO 14001 Award

We have pioneered noise and dust reduction technology, winning several awards over the years. Many of the noise reduction technologies and environmental best practice techniques that are now accepted as the industry standard, were first developed by ourselves.

We developed a novel dust-suppression system where water is sprayed as excavators work. The dust particles attach to the water droplets and fall to the ground helping to keep dust levels to a minimum (see left).

Our plant is fitted with a number of noise reduction modifications which include engine compartments insulation, splitter and exhaust silencers and additional sound dampening.

Our techniques are attracting attention from across the globe by other miners keen to follow our example.

BELOW: In 2005, former Home Secretary David Blunkett presented our team with the Noise Abatement's Society's John Connell Award for Innovation in working to reduce the noise from our trucks – something unheard of for a mining company at that time. That year, we were also awarded the Environmental Pioneer Award



1980
John Lennon shot by Mark David Chapman in New York City

- Approval to work four sites in County Durham
- Private opencast producers meet new Government for the first time
- Annual turnover: £3.5M

1981
Lady Diana Spencer marries HRH Charles, Prince of Wales

- Approval to work a further three sites across the North East
- The amount of coal we are allowed to mine annually from a single site increases from 25,000 to 50,000 tonnes
- Annual turnover: £5.4M

1982
First CD players go on sale in Japan

- Banks Brothers Transport Ltd is incorporated (14th June)
- Number of employees: 126
- Annual turnover: £7.2M

1983
Microsoft realises the first version of 'Word'

- Mel Hunt becomes the first non-family member to join the main board (April)
- Number of projects submitted for planning approval: 4
- Number of employees: 150

Going places

Keeping our business on the move

Banks Brothers Transport was incorporated in 1982. Safe, responsible and efficient - our transport fleet has always been central to our mining business and has grown to become an established business in its own right, supporting the group for over 30 years.



ABOVE: Alan Wright at Shotton Surface Mine, Northumberland

Over the last forty years we have delivered our coal to a variety of customers all over the country ranging from local communities to power stations. Advancements in technologies have resulted in the scale of the fleet changing considerably over the years.

Although predominantly used to carry coal, our fleet has also been contracted to transport a variety of other products for a wide range of businesses. We've carried grain, trees, glass, scrap metal, beetroot (for a very well known soup manufacturer), delivered military equipment, helped out in a national emergency when the foot-and-mouth crisis hit the UK and much more.

In line with our development with care approach, all our drivers received specialised training from Volvo to make sure they are driving the vehicles in the most fuel efficient manner possible and with a high regard for road safety and the communities they travel through. By providing this training we successfully lowered our consumption of fuel by 20% over a period of 12 months.

We're also very conscious of the condition of our vehicles as they travel through communities and pride ourselves in having a clean, efficient fleet delivering coal and other goods to market.

We make sure dirt and dust are kept to a minimum, with consideration for local people at the heart of it. All vehicles use a wheel wash facility before leaving our mining sites to make sure they're in a clean condition and no truck is allowed to drive anywhere without having sheets firmly fixed over loads to prevent any escape of dust or other materials.

RIGHT: Coal delivery to the former Alcan site, Lymemouth

BELOW: Early 1954 dragline body being transported by a rare example of a Banks Transport white low loader c1980, not the well known blue wagon livery we're known for today.







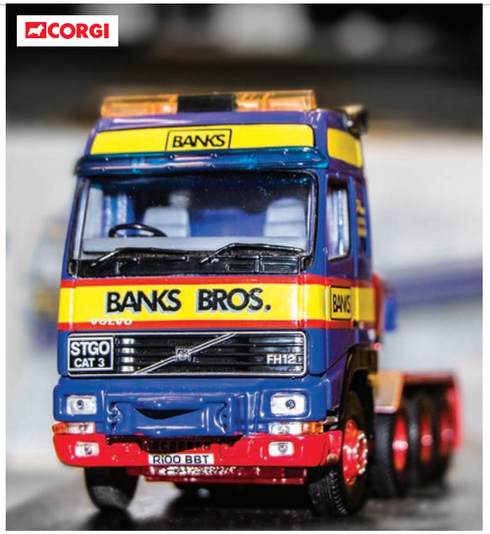






ABOVE: Ian Harrison

LEFT: Translocation of 150 year old oak trees at Delhi Surface Mine, Northumberland



MINIATURE MOVER: One of our low-loaders which we regularly use to transport the larger machines became famous when toy and model maker CORGI issued a limited edition model of it. The Volvo FH12 4 axle Globetrotter Tractor unit and 5 axle King Trailer (bought in 1997) was immortalised in our distinctive blue, yellow and red livery, joining the ranks of other iconic model vehicles CORGI has produced.





OUR PEOPLE:

Debbie McWilliam

FLEET MANAGER

Joined January 1990 • 26 years service

"I remember my first day, it was a hectic, noisy, very busy office. Typewriters, telex machines and two way radios were being used. The yard was full of customers wagons, all lined up in a straight line ready to be repaired in the workshops."

"We earned the exclusivity of moving army vehicles for BAE Systems at Newcastle. Over 25 years we transported tanks and armoured vehicles to locations all over the country."

STEVEN HANLON • TRANSPORT MANAGER

The majority of work involved taking vehicles from the Scotswood Road factory to Albermarle Barracks and Catterick Garrison for trial purposes and also delivering the completed machines to army bases around the country. When the factory closed we moved the tank that had stood at the factory gates to the Discovery Museum in Newcastle where it is now an exhibit.



"I have lost count of the number of sites I have been involved with. What I enjoy most is being involved from the beginning, delivering the first machines to start the site's first phase and then seeing the end result when collecting the machines after the restoration."

IAN HARRISON • LOW LOADER DRIVER

1984
UK Miners' strike begins

- Approval to work two sites across the North East
- Number of employees: 222
- Annual turnover: £12.4M

1985
Nissan begin construction of it's Sunderland factory

- Acquisition of Gilbert Gray Ltd (August)
- Thrislington, West Cornforth premises bought (December)
- First Midlands office opens at Derby Road, Chesterfield
- First Scottish office opens at Coatbridge in Lanarkshire

1986
The Chernobyl nuclear reactor explodes in the USSR

- First colliery spoil tip project at Wood Pit, St Helens
- Company enters the property sector with the formation of Castlebank Development Co. Ltd
- Business celebrates it's first decade

1987
"The Simpsons" make their TV debut

- Seven mining projects receive planning approval
- Number of projects submitted for planning approval: 8
- Number of employees: 311
- Annual turnover: £25M

Diversification

Matching our talents to new opportunities

During the earlier years, it was all about coal. As our only business, we knew it well and it started giving us links into other business sectors. We began to see the potential and the links between coal removal and the regeneration of former mining areas. The diversification into other business areas came both as a natural progression and a need to grow. We brought in more expertise, including professionals in planning and property who could help us expand the business by changing the way we went about obtaining planning permissions and working with communities.







ABOVE: The former Princess Pit at Haydock, St Helens which we reclaimed to create new housing, commercial properties and our first public park, Piele Park (inset)

Colliery Spoil Tip Washing

The landscapes of our coal fields looked very different when our business started - often spoilt by large areas of closed or derelict collieries and their associated spoil tips. We worked with British Coal, local authorities and landowners to recover saleable coal by separating it from the spoil which reduced spontaneous combustion within the tips and enabled the restoration of large areas of dereliction to agricultural uses, woodland, wildlife, recreational and residential areas on several sites across England, Scotland and Wales.

We continue this kind of work today (in a different form) with the remediation of 'orphaned surface mines' - projects that have been abandoned and left unrestored across Scotland's central belt.



Monday, January 6, 1986

Site clean-up

OPENCAST mining near Crook town centre should get the go-ahead according to Wear Valley Council experts. H. J. Banks and Co want to opencast the 26-acre former Dyson's brickwork site and reclaim it as industrial land.

The site is part of South West Crook action area which earmarks it for industry and a new road.

Banks believe it would only take five weeks longer to take out 35,700 tonnes of coal and 5,000 tonnes of fire clay and brick shell than it would to reclaim the site. They say they will create ten new jobs.

Chief planning officer Steve Williamson recommends the council accepts the plan.

SAND & GRAVEL

In 1987, we started working with Marley Tiles at Ebchester in Northumberland. Initially this involved digging coal from their adjacent land at Hepper Hill. We also processed sand from the overburden for use as the raw material for their adjoining concrete roof tile factory. The relationship with Marley developed further with us identifying and developing a new long term sand resource at Hollings Hill (pictured below) which has provided sand and gravel for the north east construction market as Ebchester Sand & Gravel Co. Ltd which was subsequently sold to Tarmac in 2005.





OUR PEOPLE:

Barney Pilgrim

PROJECTS DIRECTOR

Joined June 1988 • 28 years service

"We have always had a strong team with a well-earned reputation for successfully identifying and developing the commercial opportunity within land across a range of business uses, and producing quality projects that provide for customers, stakeholders and local communities. We deliver on our promises."



TWELVE YEARS AGO THEY SAID NORTH EAST ENTERPRISE WAS DYING – BUT WE DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM.

THE HISTORY OF THE BANKS GROUP

THE BANKS GROUP OF COMPANIES

EQUIPPED FOR GROWTH

POISED TO ATTACK THE FUTURE

Banks

INVESTING IN PEOPLE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

H.J. BANKS AND Co. LIMITED

"The Banks Group is not a firm to stifle innovation. It is happy to consider and support new commercial opportunities wherever they come from and whoever suggests them."

JONATHAN COOKE
ESTATES MANAGER

Storing and using waste effectively

Our first significant sideways move was into waste - or landfill. During the eighties, we extracted the coal, re-contoured the land and used the hole to dispose of waste safely in modern, well designed and sensitively operated landfill facilities.

Wherever possible we promoted fully integrated waste facilities, which included recycling and recovery as well as electricity generation units.

Although we developed the waste and landfill business very successfully, we came out of that area around the turn of the millennium, when government policy changed once more.



ABOVE/RIGHT: Methane gas collection and electricity generation

BELOW: Landfill audit







ABOVE: Engineered containment landfill site

"We have achieved considerable success in gaining consents for waste sites. These continue to provide a significant revenue stream which helps fund our community benefit schemes."

COLIN PRIESTLEY
PROJECT MANAGER



FIRECLAY, BRICKSHALE & SANDSTONE

Clays are often found in close association with coal seams and we have dug these for use in the ceramics industry and civil engineering. Our clays have been used in the production of bricks, pottery and a wide range of specialist ceramics – firebricks, electricity insulators and sanitary ware. These clays have also been used for engineering purposes in flood defences, the lining and capping of landfill or contaminated sites and the lining and repair of canals, lakes and ponds. Sandstone blocks won from our Shotton site have been used in the repair of local buildings as well as installations at the Olympic Park in London (pictured left).

1988
George Bush elected US President

- Harry Banks becomes chair of the newly incorporated National Association of Licences Opencast Operators (NALOO)
- Banks Group Ltd incorporated (14th June)
- Annual turnover: £26M

1989
Berlin Wall is torn down, ending the Cold War

- Ebchester Sand & Gravel joint venture with Tarmac
- Commencement of major landfill development at Brenkley
- Number of employees: 482

1990
Nelson Mandela is released from prison

- Commencement of our work on quality assurance systems
- Four mining projects receive planning approval
- Two property projects receive planning approval
- Annual turnover: £29M

1991
The internet goes live

- Sale of Brenkley Landfill to Northumbria Water
- Gilbert Gray Ltd (incorporated January 1956) is now incorporated under the name of H J Banks (Construction) Ltd (October)
- Royal Quays reclamation scheme for Tyne & Wear Development Corporation
- Number of employees peak at 500 due to intensive coal recovery from colliery waste heaps and mining sites (12 projects)

Leading regeneration

Developing our property business

Government guidance in the mid eighties advised avoiding the sterilisation of coal reserves – meaning it was better to dig coal out of the ground first before building anything on top of it. We gradually moved into preparing land for building works - taking out the coal, stabilising the land and then selling it on, gaining value from both the coal and the land.

By the end of the eighties small steps were made into the property sector as we gained planning permission to build new homes in the grounds of Redworth Hall in County Durham and other small schemes.

In the nineties, "brownfield first" was a new government policy aimed at preserving the green field areas around towns and cities. Our expertise grew in working brownfield sites – working on a succession of them between 1991 and 2009. This involved remediation work, putting in drainage, sewers and roads and then selling on the land to house builders. In effect, turning them from brownfield back to greenfield.

Property gathered pace as we created new residential, commercial office and retail developments. We also worked sites that were not straightforward in planning or land ownership terms, sometimes even too big for house builders. We used our skills in land acquisition, planning and technical know-how to come up with bespoke and innovative solutions. We expanded our land portfolio to include sites in the Midlands, Yorkshire, North West England and further into Scotland, where offices were quickly set up to capitalise on local opportunities.

The years following the millennium were a boom time for property, but like so many other companies, we were hit hard in the recession caused by the global financial crisis. We pulled back our geographical spread to the North East and weathered the storm with support from our other core business areas, mining and renewables.

Recently government guidance has changed, moving away from encouraging brownfield regeneration to more green field developments with a focus on increasing the number of new homes built and more sustainable living. We have adapted to meet these new demands.

Over 5,000 new homes have been built on land we've developed over the years and there is the potential for as many more again with the plans we are currently working on.

CASE STUDY: Drumsagard Village

The site of the former Hallside Steelworks in South East Glasgow (which supplied steel for the Forth Rail Bridge), was a traditional brownfield site that had stood abandoned from 1979-94, with derelict colliery spoil heaps nearby. We came up with a scheme for 1,200 houses and a plan for making the old brownfield site green again. The old steelworks had been demolished, we remodelled the land, and planted 250,000 fast growing coppice willow and restored a major part of the site for housing. The site is now know as Drumsagard Village.





ABOVE: Development at Sheraton Park, Durham



ABOVE: Commercial development at Bowesfield Park, Stockton-on-Tees



ABOVE: Retail development at Drumsagard, Glasgow







LEFT: Early examples of new homes built on land we developed

RIGHT - GIVING LAND A NEW LEASE OF LIFE: After acquiring civil engineering company Gilbert Gray we were able to work with the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation. This included remedial work on the former dockyards and colliery sites on the banks of the Tyne (pictured right) and the Wear. As well as work at the Royal Quays, North Shields, St Peter's Basin in Newcastle and Manor Quay, Sunderland - now the site of the University of Sunderland.



"We now develop sites ranging from around 10 acres to sites in excess of 250 acres, working closely with landowners, planning authorities, local communities, house builders and land agents. Our goal is to always be the developer of choice for landowners and communities alike."

MARK DICKENSON
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



OUR PEOPLE:

Michael Shuttleworth

MANAGING DIRECTOR - BANKS PROPERTY

Joined November 1979 • 37 years service

"Banks Property has an experienced multidisciplinary team with a successful track record of identifying suitable sites and gaining the planning permissions and consents to develop land whilst overcoming complex issues to create quality places for people to live and enjoy."

1992
The European Union is created

- Banks becomes the first corporate sponsor of Durham County Cricket Club - a relationship that endures to this very day.
- Piele Park at Haydock, St Helens opens as our first public park
- Heathland restoration at Inkerman and Stonefoot sites
- New North West office opens in Eccleston, Chorley

1993
Hubble Telescope repaired in space

- Publication of our first Environmental Policy document - the first in the industry
- Land for residential development sold to Maunders Homes at Princess Pit
- Marks Quarry and Rigby Landfill sites are developed
- Number of projects submitted for planning approval: 10

1994
The Channel Tunnel is completed and opened

- Privatisation of British Coal and formation of the Coal Authority
- Coal licence tonnage restrictions removed
- Petersburn - the first surface mine we developed for house building after the coaling and remediation of the land had been completed
- Annual turnover: £30M

1995
Ebay is founded

- Hallside/Drumsagard Village property scheme for 1,200 new homes commences
- Number of employees: 331



OUR PEOPLE:

Guy Walton

GENERAL FOREMAN

Joined July 1986

• 30 years service

“Some of my first jobs were the earthworks at Otterburn military camp and remediating land to make way for the new Sunderland University campus.”

BELOW: The coal areas and the existing compound of the Brenkley Lane Surface Mine were separated by Ponteland Road. To avoid the need to cross the highway we constructed a bridge (with the aid of Cheetham Hill Construction) to support the highway and then excavated the earth underneath to create an access tunnel. BOTTOM: Brownfield remediation at Moss Nook, St Helens



Solid foundations

Adding value through construction

Banks Construction is one of the crucial elements of our business. Having our own civil engineering team means we can manage the construction part of our many projects ourselves. Along with transport and plant, it’s one of the most practical on-site delivery parts of the business.

Almost everything we do requires some form of practical construction work. With over 120 projects undertaken, we’ve built playgrounds and wind farms, we’ve remediated contaminated land, filled in waste tips for housing developments and put in drainage systems. We have also led the implementation of the idea of ‘restoration first,’ where some of the benefits associated with mineral extraction and restoration, such as land improvements, habitat creation and the development of new community facilities are delivered in the early stages of operations, rather than waiting until work is complete. One of the most interesting and high profile construction jobs we’ve ever done was Northumberlandia – the Lady of the North.





Northumberlandia

Ambitious, unique, challenging, and immense in scale – Northumberlandia started life as a desk top model and ended up as a tourist attraction half a kilometre in length. A 1,300ft long reclining woman, the world’s largest human form sculpted into the landscape, the 'Lady of the North' is taller than an eight story building at its highest point and took two years to construct.

The £3 million sculpture was shaped on land owned by Viscount Ridley from rock, earth and clay from Shotton Surface Mine near Cramlington, Northumberland. Around 1.5 million tonnes of material was taken from the adjacent surface mine to the construction site, where it was moved into place by members of our construction and mining teams using a variety of techniques and machinery.

Approximately 10,000 man hours were involved in the landform’s construction.





“It was a real challenge to translate the artist’s vision due to the shapes, curves and dimensions - but we think it worked and it seems that over 100,000 visitors a year would agree with us.”

MARTIN KELLERMAN • CONTRACTS DIRECTOR

BELOW: Residential apartments built at Saville Gardens in Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne



“We have delivered quality projects with enviable endorsements from local residents. This has been accomplished by a dedicated workforce who, over the years, have shown professionalism at all levels and the dedication to deliver a completed project to a high standard.”

BRIAN HUNTER • COMMERCIAL MANAGER

BELOW: Civil engineering at West Durham Wind Farm included creating access tracks and supervising the building of turbine foundations before the turbines could be delivered and erected





LEFT: Our construction team built a bridge allowing access to the two working areas at the Rusha Surface Mine, which were separated by two large water mains which supply water to the City of Edinburgh

1996

Bill Clinton elected for a second term as US President

- National Training Award received for our Health & Safety training
- Founding member of the County Durham Foundation (now known as the County Durham Community Foundation)
- Durham County Council Environment Award for Oakenshaw Wildlife Reserve
- First company website launched

1997

Publication of J. K. Rowling's first Harry Potter novel

- Investors In People status gained (February)
- BS5750 Quality Assurance Accreditation achieved (now known as ISO standard)
- Number of employees: 317
- Annual turnover: £26M

1998

Angel of the North, designed by Sir Antony Gormley, is completed

- Commencement of Rigby Quarry Landfill site
- ‘Millennium bug’ precautions commence
- Successfully gained Positive About Disability status
- Number of projects submitted for planning approval: 10

1999

Eleven countries begin to use the Euro as their currency

- Sale of Port Clarence and Marks Quarry land fill to Zero Waste
- Number of employees: 332
- Annual turnover: £36M

Renewables

Generating sustainable energy

After the turn of the millennium, we realised that concern about climate change and future sources of energy meant that we needed to diversify as a business once again in order to grow. Talk about moving away from fossil fuels as the driver for the world's energy sources made us realise we needed to embrace the way the energy market was developing and adapt to it.

We looked at a range of different technologies including off shore wind, tidal, hydro, deep geothermal and solar. However, it was onshore wind that really played to our skill set. In 2006, we formally set up Banks Renewables and began to invest heavily in site finding and developing land for onshore wind farms from the income generated by coal, thanks to the commitment of our former development director, Phil Dyke.

Our outstanding staff were able to adapt their skills across the business and march on into the unknown. Our first successful application was for West Durham Wind Farm, where we listened to feedback and worked with the local authority and residents to come up with a scheme that was acceptable and beneficial to all. This was the first step towards becoming a well-known owner and operator in the onshore wind energy industry.

Since then we've gone on to develop and build a number of onshore wind farms across the UK and are currently exploring how to deliver solar photovoltaic farms on these and other sites to maximise the amount of renewable energy we can generate.

> "We currently have six operating wind farms and a seventh under construction in England and three awaiting construction in Scotland. A further three sites have been submitted for planning permission which, if successful, would take our portfolio close to 400MW."
>
> **COLIN ANDERSON** • DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



ABOVE: Students from Singapore visit Penny Hill Wind Farm, Rotherham



LEFT: Hilary Armstrong MP at West Durham Wind Farm turf cutting ceremony



ABOVE: Armistead Wind Farm



Connect2Renewables

Connect2Renewables is a pioneering charter that ensures local communities benefit from our wind farms in their local areas. This can include local contract opportunities, job creation and training initiatives. It is our commitment to continue to use local businesses wherever possible enabling the benefits of our projects to directly reach those surrounding them. We believe the charter will continuously open up opportunities for the local businesses surrounding all our projects.

RIGHT: Colin Anderson speaking at the launch of the Connect2Renewables charter at the Scottish Parliament



OUR PEOPLE:

Stewart Provan

PRINCIPAL PLANNER

Joined September 2003 • 13 years service

> "We have come a long way and I am so proud to have been part of the renewables team that has gained planning approval for eleven wind farms and helped the business grow."



West Durham

TURBINES: 12 HEIGHT TO TIP: 100M

GENERATING CAPACITY: UP TO 24MW

West Durham Wind Farm was the first we constructed, in 2009. It is a little known fact that the piled foundations at West Durham must be amongst the most travelled of any component on the wind farm, having started life out at sea. In an innovative approach, the piling sub-contractor used recycled well casings from the north sea oil fields.



Armistead

TURBINES: 6 HEIGHT TO TIP: 100M

GENERATING CAPACITY: UP TO 12.3MW

Rural areas often lack internet facilities but the Armistead Wind Farm near Kendal enabled local residents to have their lives improved when the wireless broadband connection provided for the project was extended to the local villages. This project was particularly challenging due to the rural location, weather conditions and the sensitive nature of the environment.



Penny Hill

TURBINES: 6 HEIGHT TO TIP: 132M

GENERATING CAPACITY: UP TO 20.4MW

Penny Hill, near Rotherham, boasted the largest turbines erected in the UK at the time and required the use of the largest mobile crane in Europe. The construction of the wind farm demonstrated our commitment to using local companies. Specialist elements (such as the turbine blades) were sourced and imported from Europe.



Heysham South

TURBINES: 3 HEIGHT TO TIP: 125M

GENERATING CAPACITY: UP TO 7.5MW

Heysham Port received a boost in business when turbine supplier Senvion chose to import their turbine components into the port before a short transportation to the nearby site. However the notorious Irish Sea almost had the last word when winter storms delayed one of the supply ships from docking for two weeks, having to temporarily seek shelter in Anglesey, Wales.

2000

'Millennium Bug' fails to cause global chaos

- *Development with care* is officially trademarked
- Successful Investors In People reaccreditation
- Tidy Britain Group - Millennium Marque for Environmental Excellence Award
- Number of employees: 344

2001

Terrorist attack the World Trade Centre, New York

- Aided the British Army and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food with the Foot and Mouth Crisis at the Stonefoot site, which is later donated to Durham Wildlife Trust as a nature reserve
- New Midlands office opens at Barlbrough, Chesterfield
- Harry Banks awarded OBE for services to coal mining and the community in County Durham

2002

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art opens on the Gateshead Quayside

- Sheraton Park at Neville's Cross granted planning permission (November)
- Harry Banks appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Durham
- Number of projects submitted for planning approval: 7
- Annual turnover: £39M

2003

Saddam Hussein captured in the Iraq Invasion

- Scottish office moves to Hamilton, near Glasgow
- 150 year old trees saved through translocation at Delhi Surface mine
- Industry leading initiatives to reduce environmental noise levels from plant
- IHS McCloskey Surface Miner of the Year



ABOVE: Early example of our safety signage on site

“From the very earliest days we placed huge importance on high levels of health and safety, at a time when many companies didn’t.”

CATHERINE FABI
HEALTH & SAFETY COORDINATOR



ABOVE: Noise monitoring

“During the eighties, there was an increasing awareness towards the environment. As a result we were the first in the industry to publish an environmental policy statement.”

CHRISTINE HOGARTH
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

Central to our success

Development with care

Building and maintaining good relationships and partnerships in communities has always been a major factor in the strength and success of our business. *Development with care* is a statement of our intent to meet the reasonable expectations of those effected by our work. It is about corporate responsibility and a strong set of values which helps to set us apart from other developers.

So what does it actually mean?

Well, we believe that when we develop projects that can change the environment or a community, it’s our responsibility to make sure that those changes are as beneficial and well planned as possible to improve an area once our development is complete.

For each of our projects, we produce environmental management plans detailing how environmental issues such as noise, waste management and emissions to water or air are to be controlled - with the intention of meeting or surpassing government guidelines.

The health and safety of all our people is paramount and we continue to exceed government legislation in creating a safe and comfortable work place for all our employees. A safe and well trained workforce is happier, healthier and highly productive.

Priding ourselves on developing high quality, sustainable schemes, we enjoy working with local people and we genuinely care about what we do in their community. We were among the first companies to introduce liaison committees - through which local people come to understand our projects, make their views known and identify the good causes we can support through our community funds. We listen and incorporate the local community’s ideas into shaping a development wherever we can, through better site design and ensuring we deliver on our promises.

These approaches help to set us apart from the rest of our competition. It’s at the heart of our way of working and it’s all about consideration for the environment, the community and respect for our customers, employees, suppliers and partners.



ABOVE: Oakenshaw Community Wildlife Reserve created in County Durham





LEFT/ABOVE: We were amongst the first companies to introduce liaison committees and public consultation – but, more importantly, we were amongst the first to make them work properly



ENCOURAGING NATURE

Through the use of site specific biodiversity action plans we are able to target species present on the land that host our developments. Habitat and nesting creation, bat and bird boxes, tree and shrub planting as well as mixed seed and soil management are then put in place to encourage nature.





OUR PEOPLE:
Mark Rowcroft
SENIOR DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER
Joined January 2003 • 13 years service

“Development with care is a common thread throughout our projects and its something that we actually believe in and not just something we merely pay lip service to. I’ve seen us take many actions that put the community first and great emphasis is placed on doing things properly and ethically.”



Creating opportunities for others

Local firm, Raeburn Drilling has been appointed to help deliver our Kype Muir and Middle Muir Wind Farms in Scotland, through our Connect2Renewables scheme which promotes the use of local suppliers. These contracts have enabled them to taken on apprentice drillers and create new graduate positions.

2004
Olympic Games celebrate their centenary in Athens, Greece

- Pubic consultation and land assembly begins for West Durham Wind Farm
- Cave Lane in East Ardsley, Leeds becomes our 100th successful planning application for a surface mine
- Banks Brothers wagons are replaced with a new fleet to provide better reliability and to further improve environmental standards

2005
YouTube goes live

- Bentley BE Award for Excellence in Site Design (Shotton Surface Mine)
- ISO 14001:2004 standard gained and maintained for the design, development and operation of surface mines
- Sale of Ebchester Sand & Gravel Ltd to Tarmac
- £6,000 raised by staff for Macmillan Cancer Support

2006
Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her 80th birthday

- Banks Renewables is incorporated (27th April) as the group undergoes major restructure
- Former Castle Cement site sold to Barratt Homes in Scotland
- Number of projects that received planning approval: 12
- £10,000 raised by staff for Macmillan Cancer Support

2007
Apple release the first iPhone

- £30M finance secured from HSBC for the construction of our first wind farm - West Durham near Tow Law, County Durham
- £11,000 raised by staff for Children With Leukaemia
- Number of employees: 265
- Annual turnover: £40M

Our greatest asset

The people that make us what we are



ABOVE: Each year, our business teams hold development days, inviting members from different departments across the group to help communicate future plans, identify objectives, share ideas, hold team building exercises (often involving a competition or two) and foster collaboration across the business

From the very beginning, we've always valued our people and their families. Many of our employees have been with us for decades. Many of them have played key roles in making the company what it is and without them, we would not be the company we are today.

Natural progression and ambition moved many into new careers and sadly some are no longer with us, but we still want to pay tribute in our 40th year and to acknowledge how much we value their efforts throughout their years of service...

Thank you.



John Dickenson

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

A driving force within the business from the day he joined, John made an enormous contribution to its success throughout his 28 years of service. As well as his planning skills, John brought with him energy, leadership and a strong will to win. John was appointed to the main board on 18 December 1985 as Development Director and following reorganisation in 1989 he became Group Development Director when the Banks Group was formed. It was a huge loss to the business when John sadly passed away in 2009, but his stamp on the company is continued through the initiatives he began, his children (Mark and Gemma) who work in the business today and by those who worked alongside him.





Army Reserve & Executive Stretch

For many years we have supported our employees who are members of the Reserve Services. Over forty of our team have also had the opportunity to enhance their personal leadership, teamwork and communication skills as well as sampling some of the more extraordinary activities by taking part in the exciting and challenging Exercise Executive Stretch organised by the Volunteer Reserve Forces. Participation in this type of event and our charity and community events has helped individual's build confidence and test their determination, strength of character and ability to work well under pressure and as part of a team.



ABOVE: Work at our Shotton Surface Mine in Northumberland has become a family affair, with no fewer than six sets of fathers and sons working together on site in 2016.

> "We realised a long time ago that the only way we were going to survive was by being the best we could be – and all credit here is due to our people. They've been the best and they still are."
>
> **HARRY BANKS** • CHAIRMAN





Our development teams bring together a multitude of skill sets including surveying, planning, engineering, project management as well as administration, community liaison, design, environmental management, finance, health and safety, HR , IT, procurement, record management and many more





Positive About Disability Standard received in 1998



ABOVE: In 1996, we were awarded Investors In People (IIP) status, which only 16% of UK employers had at the time. We've achieved the year on year improvement required to maintain our IIP status – gaining the Bronze level in 2014. This could not have been achieved without the efforts of former HR director Mel Hunt (bottom left) who was instrumental in developing our HR policies.



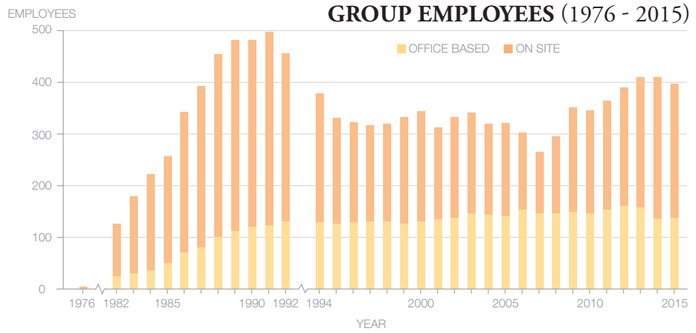
Team representatives from across the group



L-R: Ryan Newall, Rachael Macleod and Gordon Thompson joined our Scottish office as graduates. They have progressed to become senior business development manager, senior development planner and senior project manager respectively, playing a major part in delivering our renewable projects in Scotland.

Graduate Recruitment & Training Programme

Bringing new people into the business has been a key part to our sustained success. The Graduate Recruitment & Training Programme established over ten years ago has brought new talent into the business, helped them gain experience, mentored them through professional qualifications and progressed them along their career path. Our graduates have achieved chartered status in surveying, planning, engineering, public relations, environmental assessment and procurement.



2008
The 'Credit Crunch' impacts the global economy

- Major contracts signed with DRAX and Alcan with the commencement of Shotton Surface Mine, Northumberland
- Construction work begins on West Durham Wind Farm
- £8,000 raised by staff for Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Number of employees: 296

2009
Barack Obama becomes US President

- First site specific biodiversity action plan implemented at Shotton Surface Mine
- West Durham Wind Farm is completed and begins to produce electricity - enough for 13,400 homes each year
- £8,000 raised by staff for Zoë's Place Trust
- Annual turnover: £66.5M

2010
Icelandic volcano eruption causes European aviation chaos

- Headquarters relocated to the newly built Inkerman House, Meadowfield
- Commencement of Brenkley Lane Surface Mine
- Construction begins on Northumberlandia
- £6,000 raised by staff for Butterwick Hospice
- Number of employees: 345

2011
Kate Middleton marries Prince William

- Inkerman House officially opened by HRH The Earl of Wessex
- Banks Mining relocates from Thrislington site to Shotton Surface Mine
- Number of projects submitted for planning approval: 6
- £3,000 raised by staff for Epilepsy UK
- Annual turnover: £54M





BELOW: Sarah Richardson received the Fundraiser of the Year Award at the North East Charity Awards 2015 for her work with Integrating Children our nominated charity that year



Doing our bit

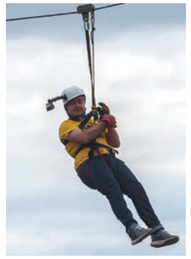
Raising funds for charity

Not only do our generous staff raise money through fund raising activities throughout the year but they also volunteer their time and services to various community groups.









> "I really would like to thank your staff who have played such a personal part in raising this money... Banks Group has shown just how a company can make corporate responsibility so much more than just offering money."
>
> **RICHARD TAYLOR** • INTEGRATING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE





Since 2004, our staff have nominated a charity to support throughout the year. Anyone can put forward a charity to be considered as our official charity for that year and many of the charities we have supported have been put forward by staff because of links to their friends and family. Over the years we have supported big, national charities and small, local ones.

We also support a number of national charities including the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, BBC Children In Need, Comic Relief and Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day to name just a few.

We would like to thank our fund raisers along with our suppliers, contractors, local residents and local businesses who have helped in our efforts over many years. Their continued support has been invaluable and helped many charities.



Royal approval

Recognised at the highest level



Northumberlandia opening

On a glorious sunny day in September 2012, the world's largest human landform received its royal seal of approval after being officially opened by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

> "The event was organised and hosted by Banks staff and was a day of celebration for all who were involved in the creation of the Lady of the North and the local community."
>
> **RICHARD HUTCHINSON** • LANDSCAPE MANAGER









Inkerman House opening

In April 2011, His Royal Highness Prince Edward was in the North East to perform the official opening ceremony of our new, state-of-the-art company headquarters – Inkerman House in Meadowfield, County Durham.

More than 100 staff from our West Cornforth and Tow Law offices came together to the new office HQ, which provides 25,000 square foot of purpose built contemporary office space.

After touring the building, Prince Edward met employees and representatives of a number of groups that we've supported through our Community Fund, other local businesses and community leaders.



Harry Banks OBE, DL

In October 2001, our surprised and delighted chairman travelled down to London to receive his OBE for his services to coal mining and the community in County Durham from His Royal Highness Prince Charles. On receiving his award Harry commented, *"I believe it to be in recognition of the excellent work done by the company in leading the modernisation of the opencast coal industry, involving new practices and the greater involvement of local communities in the design, restoration and benefits of these mines."*

2012
Olympic Games hosted by London

- Northumberlandia wins eight awards including Best Landscape Architecture at the International Property Awards
- Moss Carr wins Landscape Award at Leeds City Architecture Awards
- IHS McCloskey Surface Miner of the Year
- Annual turnover: £69M

2013
Andy Murray wins Wimbledon, the first Brit since Fred Perry in 1936

- Northumberlandia dons a red noise for Comic Relief
- Mount Oswald property scheme in Durham receives planning permission
- £4,000 raised by staff for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research
- Number of employees: 409

2014
Scotland votes to remain part of the UK

- Record year for mining production
- £11,000 raised by staff for DEBRA - a national charity that supports individuals and families affected by Epidermolysis Bullosa - a genetic skin condition
- Annual turnover: £128M

2015
NASA scientists find evidence of water on Mars

- Three of our wind farms successfully achieve Contract For Difference awards from the UK Government in the first auction of this kind
- £16,500 raised by staff for local charity Integrating Children
- Penny Hill Solar Farm receives planning permission
- Number of employees: 397













17

INDIVIDUAL FUNDS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT COMMUNITIES





















600

COMMUNITY GROUPS HELPED





4.3

MILLION POUNDS DONATED TO COMMUNITIES SINCE 1976













Supporting the communities we work with

The Banks Community Funds

We've always been a business that really cares about being involved with the communities around us and in which we've worked. We aim to show our support and make contributions to areas surrounding our projects through our Community Benefit Fund.



OUR PEOPLE:

Mark Dowdall

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

Joined September 1991 • 25 years service

"The priority of the Banks Community Fund is to support projects that promote inclusion, improve local facilities and create environmental benefits - leaving a positive legacy in the communities we work with."

The Banks Community Fund was officially founded in 1995 and is administered through the County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF). We say 'officially founded' because for nearly 20 years before that we'd been giving to the community as a matter of course.

Back in the seventies, our young CEO, Harry Banks, agreed that if every pub in Tow Law had a collecting tin on the bar for local community causes, he would donate a pound to match every pound that was put into those tins.

Around the same time, our 'unofficial' community fund started when we sent round a pickup truck delivering free coal to pensioners in Tow Law for Christmas and we laid on parties for the elderly through the community association.

For every tonne of coal we mined, we'd put 10p into a fund for the communities near our sites, with a local liaison group agreeing how to spend the money on improving the local area. We made this commitment to our own community and to all the local communities surrounding our projects. It is difficult to assess just how much we gave to communities in those twenty 'unofficial' years before the CDCF but we believe it to be high and extremely valuable to those communities.

The CDCF now helps us to administer grants for all our business areas throughout the UK and their hard work has enabled us to reach communities we otherwise would not.

Grants are given to groups within the local communities and applications are approved by various local funding panels, which include representatives from the local community. This has made positive impacts for a wide variety of organisations including scout and guide groups, sports teams, dance clubs, elderly people's clubs, schools and play groups. We've funded IT equipment, allotment benches, employment training, community archaeology projects and memorial gardens. With the community's ideas and involvement, the fund has the potential to do even more good.

We've always felt a responsibility in looking after our communities and the CDCF has allowed us to support a wide range of initiatives, groups and voluntary organisations with a huge range of different needs and causes. We would like to thank the CDCF for all their hard work over the last twenty years.

Providing a platform

Supporting local activities close to our hearts

We want to celebrate the great partnerships we have created over the last forty years within the regions we work in, through our direct sponsorships within our own local community, teams, community groups and local attractions.



ABOVE: Harry Banks playing in the Eckington Band at Skegness Miners Day, October 1955







Brass in Concert

Since 2007, we have supported the Brass in Concert Championships - which is also celebrating it's own 40th anniversary this year. The competition is a thriving and well recognised brass band entertainment contest attracting the very best bands from across the UK and beyond. The competition is currently held at the Sage, Gateshead.

Durham Music Services

"Huge thanks to the Banks Group for supporting Durham Music Service's Sage Showcase, it is a real privilege to be able to demonstrate the musical talent of over 600 pupils from Durham and Darlington, the sponsorship from the Banks Group made the event possible. To allow the pupils from all ages and standards to be able to perform on a world class platform is something that will remain with them for years to come and act as a real catalyst for future music making for them. Speaking to students and parents after the event they were elated by the experience and is a real highlight in their music making. DMS' mission statement is 'Empowering Young People to unlock their potential through music making' and the Sage Showcase sponsored by the Banks Group certainly delivered that for the young people involved."

MICHAEL SUMMERS • DURHAM MUSIC SERVICE







North East Premier Cricket League

The English Cricket Board North East Premier League was formed in 2000 in response to reorganisation of top level club cricket nationally. The NEPL has thrived and is now recognised as a major league with clubs that have continually participated in and won national competitions. The league has been supported from the very beginning by the Banks Group.

"The North East Premier League is immensely grateful for the support given by the Banks Group. Their support has been unstinting and, without question, has helped to enhance the development of the league. Such support is essential for the development and well being of our sport. Both in establishing and maintaining excellence in the game but also as a means of providing real opportunities for the development of young players.

The North East Premier League wishes to thank the Banks Group and all personnel involved for their support since 2000 and congratulate them as they celebrate their 40th year."

KEITH ROBSON • NEPL CHAIRMAN











OUR PEOPLE:

David Martin

COMPANY SECRETARY

Joined December 1987 • 29 years service

"On joining the Banks Group back in 1987 I was immediately impressed by the scale and genuineness of the company's interest in community groups, both in providing financial and participative support to organisations as diverse as the Wear Valley Enterprise Agency and the Northern Youth Football League."



Durham County Cricket Board

Our partnership with the DCCB, began in 1989, with our sponsorship enabling the board to set up and run the Durham County under 19 team.

Since 2006, the sponsorship has helped to cover the costs of the winter player pathway courses with £12,000 being donated annually, equating to over £132,000. Today, the primary focus for the sponsorship is the County Age Group Squads, which have grown enormously over the years. Age groups include, boys squads (under 11 to under 15) and girl squads (under 13 to under 17). They train together approximately 50 times throughout the summer and play around 90 matches against counties from across the country.

The sponsorship money has been used to improve county coaches knowledge and qualifications, support the cost of squad tours, reduce players kit costs, match balls, minibus hire, investment in new technology aiding the work of development officers and online scoring as well as supporting the Girls U15 Cup played annually against Northumberland.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND EVENTS WE SUPPORT:

BEAMISH THE LIVING MUSEUM OF THE NORTH · THE BIG STAMPEDE HAMILTON 2013 · DURHAM BOOK FESTIVAL · DURHAM CATHEDRAL · HAWICK Rugby Football Club · gala THEATRE + CINEMA · Gallop! · LUMIERE · FOUNDATION OF LIGHT

Today and tomorrow

What next for our key businesses?

The industries in which we work face significant challenges as they evolve to meet the requirements of the 21st century, but our highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce has the expertise to continue to drive our operations forward and address new opportunities for growth as they arise with the enthusiasm and commitment they always have.

Coal, property and renewables are still the three mainstays of our business today. The need for new housing remains strong, coal still has an important part to play in the UK's energy mix and renewables are likely to become even more vital in meeting our future energy requirements.

Our focus will remain on finding new uses for land that adds value – for us, the landowner, the local environment and the communities in which we work.

All our developments usually necessitate new planning permissions and other consents and through the deployment of our skills, innovations and experience we have maintained a planning success rate of over 85% across the group's activities - a target we will challenge ourselves to exceed going forward. We have developed and refined our approach to how we design and work our projects, how we collaborate with decision-makers and other regulators and how we engage with local communities and other interest groups. This work will continue to develop and evolve.

As we celebrate forty years, we can look proudly back at what we've achieved and confidently look forward towards the challenges ahead, as we move into our fifth decade.



"I have designed surface mines, secured land deals and sold property sites, built artificial badger setts, resolved radar issues and had a hand in delivering quite a few projects. You learn something new everyday, who knows what tomorrow will bring?"

ANDY LIDDELL • RENEWABLES TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

ABOVE: Our Armistead Wind Farm, South Cumbria



OUR PEOPLE:

Philip Baker

PLANNING DIRECTOR

Joined October 1991 • 25 years service

"Our planning success has been based on listening to people and adapting our approach accordingly but it is also strongly founded on developing lasting relationships and trust through delivering on the promises that we have made and will continue to make in the future."

Mining



NEW BLOOD: Our recent apprentice intake, with mentor Drew Barber (right) - a former apprentice, who was awarded Apprentice of the Year 2015 by Northumberland College

"Coal remains a vitally important part of the UK's energy mix by providing secure and affordable electricity generation while we develop low carbon technologies. This along with demand from industrial and domestic customers provides a future for coal which is why we have continued to develop young talent and new skills, identify new projects and expand our product range. We are also aiding local authorities remediate sites that have been left abandoned by companies who were unable to meet their obligations. Our commitment to quality in both our operation methods and our product has been key to our success and remains central to our future."

GAVIN STYLES • EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Property



NEW HOMES: New family homes at our Mount Oswald project in Durham City

"We're currently working on imaginative plans for new communities as well as leisure and retail opportunities with over 26 active developments. Our plan for the future is to develop top quality sites in desirable locations. This attracts builders to buy and build on land we have prepared from our portfolio - which currently consists of 75% greenfield and 25% brownfield. A can-do philosophy means that house builders and construction companies know that, with Banks, the land is ready for their needs with the infrastructure in place to begin their work and the right environment created for them to deliver their own, excellent service."

SIMON FISHER • GROUP FINANCE DIRECTOR

Renewables



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: Solar farms could help the UK meet our future energy needs

"We believe renewable energy - particularly onshore wind and solar - will play an increasingly vital role in the future energy needs of the UK. Every megawatt generated by the wind turbines we've installed not only supports community and environmental projects, but also jobs and training schemes for local people. We're currently building two wind farms in the North East and a further two in Scotland (comprising more than 50 turbines) with more projects in the Scottish planning system. This will be a significant contribution to meeting the UK's future energy demands."

RICHARD DUNKLEY • MANAGING DIRECTOR

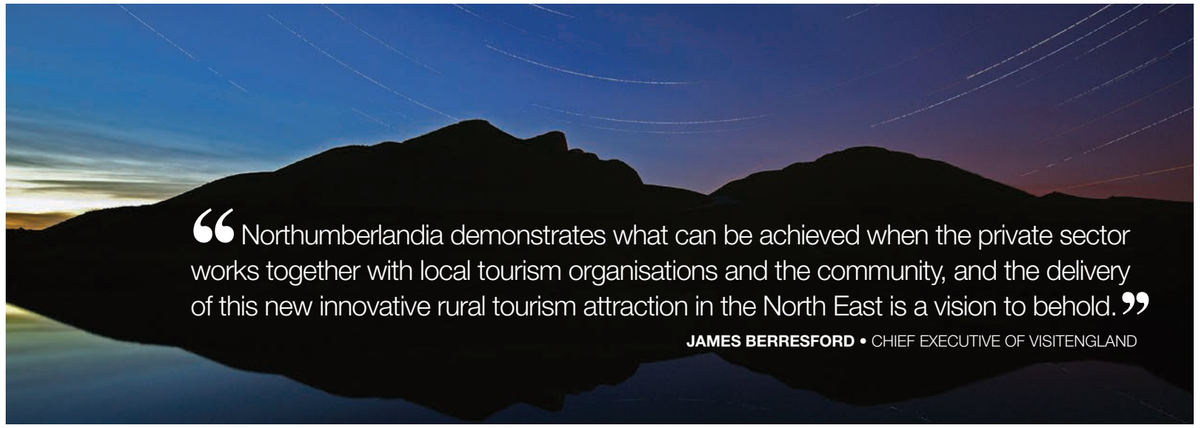
Development with care



ENCOURAGING NATURE: Painted Lady Butterfly on wildflowers established at Shotton

Through our *development with care* approach we have pioneered a number of innovations – site liaison committees, community benefit funds, public parks and nature reserves, *restoration first*, greenfield/brownfield swaps, environmental and operational audits, Connect2Renewables and sustainable developments.

We are as committed to working to the highest environmental standards and to contributing to the well-being of the communities in which we operate, as we've ever been and *development with care* will remain at the heart of everything we do as we go forward.



“Northumberlandia demonstrates what can be achieved when the private sector works together with local tourism organisations and the community, and the delivery of this new innovative rural tourism attraction in the North East is a vision to behold.”

JAMES BERRESFORD • CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF VISITENGLAND

ABOVE: Northumberlandia is our most visual demonstration of the positive legacy we try to create and a prime example of *restoration first*





TOP LEFT: Northumberlandia wears a red noise in aid of Comic Relief
BOTTOM: The Lady of the North has even inspired her own cheese

HELPING COMMUNITIES: Bee Happy - a unique West Lothian craft group - can continue to offer classes that enrich the lives of disabled adults and their carers thanks to a donation from the Banks Group



“The equipment bought through the grant has already shown us that all our members do have hidden skills... their fund is making a real difference in the local area.”

JILL STEWART • BEE HAPPY GROUP

Our legacy

Leaving a brighter future

We're proud of our achievements and in what we've helped to create over the last forty years. We believe our legacy is in using development as an opportunity to make significant improvements to the environment, to communities and to the local economy that are as beneficial as possible.

Our commitment to community is what drives our projects and is at the forefront of all that we do, our legacy will always flourish within communities through the support for community projects and we will continue to bring these benefits for as long as we are in business.

In the restoration of our mining schemes we've planted millions of trees and improved drainage on agricultural land that was badly worked and restored in previous decades. Our sites are restored with the principle of what is created is an improvement on what was there before. This in turn enhances landscape value and encourages biodiversity and habitat creation.

Some of our sites are developed into community parks to provide better public access and facilities such as fishing and boating lakes, new footpaths, bridleways, cycle ways and public art for all to enjoy. Once our sites have been restored, they enter an aftercare phase of at least five years to make sure that the high level of restoration is maintained.

We have alleviated flooding, cleared contaminated or derelict land and restored it for housing in order to create new and thriving communities.

Our belief in *development with care* and *restoration first* is an approach which we think sets us apart from the rest of the mining, onshore wind and land development companies.

We are wholly committed to working to the highest environmental standards and in contributing to the long term wellbeing of the communities in which we operate. We continue to support local communities, create jobs across different industries, develop new places to live and work, create energy to meet demand, build natural habitats and - ultimately - deliver on our promises.

That is our legacy.



NEW NATURE RESERVES: Hedleyhope Fell Wildlife Reserve (previously a Banks development on Tow Law Fell) now managed by Durham Wildlife Trust, with West Durham Wind Farm in the background. All of which came out of our legacy of working in the area.



Educating the future

We also see ourselves as having a role of an educator. We aim to educate and inspire not only our staff and those surrounding our projects but also to reach out to future generations, often in the form of school site visits and workshops. Developing skills and training staff are key if we are to continue to grow as a business.





OUR PEOPLE:

Mark Simmons

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Joined April 1994 • 22 years service

“Where possible, we identify land adjacent to our projects where we could deliver improvements to the landscape whilst mining operations are still in their early stages. This *restoration first* approach allows local communities to see environmental and landscape benefits from the start of a project.”

Unearthing forgotten pasts



As part of the planning process, many areas of archaeological interest have been identified and investigated on many of our sites. We work closely with archaeologists over a number of years. A variety of artefacts have been discovered (including Stone Age flints, Anglo-Saxon beads, Medieval coins and nineteenth century jewellery) as well as unknown Iron Age and Medieval settlements. These discoveries simply wouldn't be coming to light without the development work that's facilitating them through funding by the Banks Group.

SILVER PENNY: A coin of Edward III, minted at Durham 1351-2, showing the 'long-cross' on the back found at Shotton Surface Mine. In 1351 a master carpenter earned three pence per day.

“I started my apprenticeship with Banks Mining and Northumberland College last year. I'm really enjoying learning whilst earning a good wage and want to keep going.”

MAX ANDERSON • APPRENTICE MECHANIC



Final word

Forty years of success...



BEST OF BRITISH: Held in September 2016, our employees and their partners enjoy a 40th anniversary celebration evening with a patriotic theme

As a long term resident of the North East, a past competitor and a recent addition to the team, having joined as a non executive director three years ago, I am pleased to be asked to close this brochure. The group has been a stalwart of the North East business community over the past forty years and has developed a hard earned reputation by holding to the values that *development with care* stands for, doing business the right way, the 'Banks way'. All involved in the business should be very proud of their contribution and I offer my congratulations for all the great achievements. The foundations and years of experience gained will help build on further achievements and, together with the obvious enthusiasm shown by employees, partners and suppliers, will deliver future success. I look forward to being a part of the next forty years.





CHRIS GILL
NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"The Banks Group has a great record for creating jobs, energy and homes in Scotland and the North East. You have every reason to be proud of the positive impact you have made in the communities across these regions. I would like to offer my congratulations to everyone at Banks on your achievements over your first forty years and wish you every success for the next forty."



RT HON TONY BLAIR
MP FOR SEDGEFIELD 1983 - 2007
LEADER OF HM OPPOSITION 1994 - 1997
PRIME MINISTER 1997 - 2007

"The Banks Group has been a great supporter of Durham County Cricket Club and youth league cricket in the region over many years. Such great North East businesses, supporting cricket at all levels in the North East, are essential if we are to continue to nurture and produce cricketing talent in our region. We wish them well on their 40th anniversary and look forward to raising our bats to their 'half century' in ten years time."

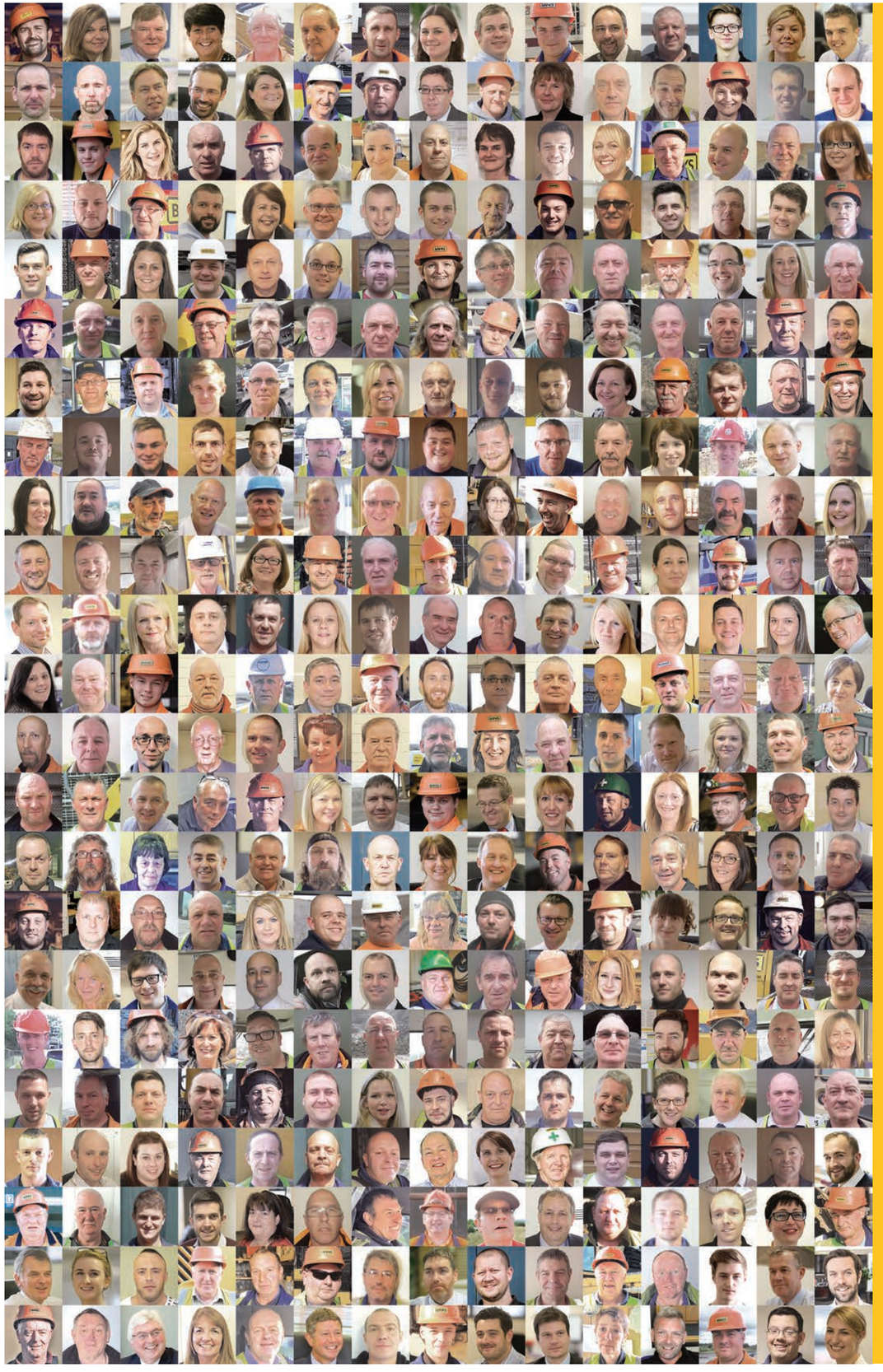


CLIVE LEACH CBE
CHAIRMAN, DURHAM COUNTY CRICKET CLUB 2004 - 2016

"The County Durham Community Foundation (CDCF) has worked closely with the Banks Group for many years. The Banks Group puts a huge amount back into the communities in which they operate and serve.
I congratulate them on reaching forty years old. They say 'life begins at forty' so no doubt CDCF and the Banks Group will achieve even more positive change together in the coming years."



SIR PAUL NICHOLSON
PRESIDENT, COUNTY DURHAM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Our team as we celebrate this milestone
Thank you all for your contribution

1976 - 2016
40 YEARS