

# 25th Anniversary Edition



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Issue 029

Hello and welcome,

Thursday 4th July 2013 will live in my memory for a very long time, as will our staff party the following day!

Perhaps I have a fear of failure because I am not one for looking back, I like to always be on the front foot looking forward but stood on stage looking out at 100's of customers and staff surrounded by 25 years of Gelder memorabilia, memories and corporate displays I did feel a tinge of emotion with all that the company has achieved.

Many, many thanks to everyone who managed to join us and for making it such a special day, the highlight of which for me was the speech by Bradley Robinson, Levi Beckett and Joe Nobel of the Gelder Virtual School who left few with a dry eye (see over). It was also great to recognise our long service achievers and our annual apprentice awards, which took place on the day is always an important event for me.

We now turn our focus on to the next 25 years, if we can grow from nothing to £40m sales and 350 staff, including doubling in size during the worst recession in living memory, our 50 years in business celebration in 2038 should be some event!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Best Regards



Steve Gelder MBE



## 25 Years in Business Celebrations

500 suppliers, friends and customers along with 100 Gelder Group staff celebrated, in style, 25 years of continued growth and investment in the local area with a 4th July marquee reception, in which all Group companies and divisions displayed their products and services.

The Gelder Group now has sales of £140,000 every working day, this is more than its first years revenue back in 1988. During June 2013 over £6.5 million of new orders were received, equivalent to the company's sales during it's first 6.5 years of trading.

During the day the company recognised some of the people who make it all possible everyday, with length of service awards for 15, 20 and 25 years in service.



Pictured: The longest serving member of staff, Dave Wells receiving his 25 Years in Service Certificate and gift from Group Managing Director, Steve Gelder.

## Charity Presentation



In June 2012 The Gelder Group announced that it would raise £25,000 for its chosen charities, St Barnabas and The Alzheimer's Society to celebrate 25 years in business. The staff all worked tirelessly for 12 months raising money with skydives, 40 mile bike rides, race nights, quiz nights, a charity ball, car boot sales and a golf day. The final amount raised was announced by Group Managing Director Steve Gelder as being £30,518.86. On the achievement Steve commented "I've been overwhelmed with staff, suppliers and clients who have so generously donated their time and prizes in support and the final amount raised is quite incredible".

Pictured (Left to right): Veronica Brien - St Barnabas, Steve Gelder - Gelder Group and Cathy Low - Alzheimer's Society.

## Apprentice Awards 2013

The Apprentice Awards are always a highlight in the Gelder Group calendar and this year was no exception. As part of the celebrations the Awards were centre stage and several Managers and Directors introduced and presented the awards to the apprentices.

On the event Mike Johnson, Training Manager, commented "The competition this year was the most difficult I've ever had to judge. The quality of the apprentices has been outstanding and I'm very proud to be a part of the awards ceremony".

*Pictured: The winner of the ATA Apprentice of the year, Tom Willoughby accepting his award from Russell Cunliffe, Finance Director.*



## Gelder's 25th Anniversary Celebrations

*Written by Young People at the Virtual School*

Spring arrived and Steve walked into our classroom with an announcement. 'Hi guys', he said. 'I want you to do something for the 25th Gelder Anniversary'. We all looked at each other nervously. 'What do you mean?' said Joe. 'When?' said Brad. 'Do we have to stand up in front of anyone?' enquired Levi. Steve looked philosophical as he explained that the Gelder Virtual School is an important part of the Gelder Group and that we should be featured prominently at the celebrations and would we perform something interesting for the 'punters'. Levi's first instinct was, 'I don't want to do it', followed closely by other comments, 'We don't have to act, do we?' and 'I'm not singing'. We all put our ideas in and we ended up with producing a speech about what we thought about Gelders, our training and the interesting things that go on in the school. On the day we all focused on our words and remembered Reg's instructions to speak clearly, projecting our words right to the back. Don't rush, take your time and be confident! People laughed in all the right places. They clapped at the end and some even had tears in their eyes. Obviously, we were so bad that it brought tears to their eyes, we thought, but we were assured by Mike that we had moved the audience.



**Thank you Gelder – for being there!**

*Pictured: Young People from the virtual school telling their stories.*

## Appointments



**Bradley Robinson** a former student of the virtual school has started with the Gelder Group on a 3 month trial from July. Bradley will now enrol with Lincoln College and if successful during his trial period he will take up the role of Apprentice Mechanic from September 2013.

## Gelder Group Corporate Social Responsibility

The Gelder Group proudly unveiled its Corporate Social Responsibility stand on 4th July which represents the company's philosophy on CSR. While the Gelder Group have always been a community focused business, few people outside of it appreciate just how deep this runs.

The Gelder Group not only contributes hugely to the local economy financially, it also holds the title of being Lincolnshire's greenest company, it works closely with HMP Lincoln to reduce re-offending rates, has trained over 250 apprentices through its award winning apprentice programmes and operates its own school within its Head Office complex in Sturton by Stow which educates children from the ages of 14–17 who have, for various reasons, fallen out of main stream education (see opposite).

*Pictured: Levi Beckett and Bradley Robinson from the Virtual School with Katherine Hartoch from Children's Services Commissioning Team.*



To see a short video of the day go to:

<http://www.gelder.co.uk/news/media/>

## Diary Dates

13th September - Gelder Golf Day