

## Site Update



2009 was a challenging year for the Rhodia Group and for Oldbury Site. It was evident early on that demand for products was very low leading to plants being run well below capacity. A number of fixed cost and cash conservation measures, including short-time working, were introduced for a period of six months both at Oldbury and other Rhodia sites.

A combination of these measures and the commitment of the employees, helped Rhodia get through the crisis last year and indeed emerge the stronger for it! The strict discipline on fixed cost control and inventory management helped cash generation enormously. The first quarter 2010 financial results show that the Group's operating profitability rose to a record level of €221 million. This performance is the result of a rebound in volumes, now restored to pre-crisis levels.

## Oldbury recognised for its Safety record

As a chemical company, our top priority at Rhodia is safety – doing all we can to ensure the safety of the people who work here, our neighbours and everyone who uses our products. Rhodia is proud to have one of the best safety performances in the chemical industry worldwide. Here at Oldbury, we were recently recognised for our efforts in this area by the UK Chemical Industries Association who honoured us with a Diamond Award, their highest safety award. This is only given to production sites that have achieved the Association's stringent Gold performance criteria for 10 consecutive years.

Oldbury was one of only 17 sites around the UK which were awarded the Diamond level for sustained performance over the ten year period 1999 – 2008.

**John Hamnett**  
Site Director



Tom Dutton, Site HSE Manager with Oldbury's Diamond Award

## 2010 Off-site alarm test

This year the Off-site alarm will be tested at 12 noon on Wednesday 11th August. You do not need to take any action during the test.

## Advice to the public

What you should do in the event of an emergency:



Go indoors. Passers-by will also be at risk, consideration should be given to inviting them indoors.



Close all windows and doors. Switch off ventilation fans and gas appliances. If possible go to an upper floor room. Block incoming draughts. Stay calm and rest.



Listen to local radio for further information. Co-operate fully with instructions given by the Emergency Services.



Wait indoors until the all clear message is given.



Do not collect children from school. They will be properly cared for.



Do not light matches or other naked flames.



Do not use the telephone. Keep the lines free for emergency use.

# Friends of Langley Park



The Friends of Langley Park (FoLP) was formed around 18 months ago to work with the Council and the local community to improve facilities and raise the profile of the park. They are largely self-funding but are working towards achieving charitable status in order to tackle more ambitious projects.

Their presence has helped in obtaining extra play facilities, a Goal End Kick Wall and Cradle Swings for under-fives, plus a general improvement to the upkeep of the park.

Rhodia (formerly Albright & Wilson) has an historical association with Langley Park and the local community as it was Arthur Albright who donated the park to the people of Langley.

In the edition of 7th August 1886 "The Weekly News" carried an extensive article on "the public opening of the handsome, though small park which has been prepared and laid out by Mr. Arthur Albright, for the use of the people of Langley for ever" – the *Weekly News*.

FoLP recently contacted Rhodia regarding a possible donation to help with the funding for necessary improvements. I am pleased to say that on this occasion Rhodia was able to assist with a generous donation of £1,000 towards ongoing improvements in Langley Park.

The group is planning a Fun Day on **Saturday 14th August** and a bulb planting in the autumn involving pupils from Langley Primary School. More details can be obtained by contacting Gerald Dyson on 07815 619039.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR – FRANK THOMPSON



## Fact File

- Joined Albright & Wilson in 1973 as an apprentice fitter
- Progressed quickly to a fully fledged Craftsman in 1980
- Appointed Maintenance Supervisor in 2000
- Elected as union representative in 1987 for AEEU (senior rep in 1998)
- Rhodia UK Pension Scheme Trustee since 1997

### 07.15

A typical working day starts around 07.15 a.m. and I usually read the night report and craftsmen's shift report to check if there have been any issues and/or specified work has been completed. I then walk around the plants in my area (there are five in all) and speak to people en route.

### 08.20

Back at the workshop to assign people to various jobs for the morning and liaise with central planning. If contractors are scheduled to come in I have to ensure that the preparation work has been completed for them. During busy maintenance periods this can be two to three times a week. I then try and go through emails and messages which have come in overnight.

### 09.15

I then go to the daily morning meeting on the pilot-plant to discuss production issues, maintenance issues and labour requirements. The pilot-plant is a small scale plant where new products and processes are trialled and optimised. If the product is successful in the market place and demand increases then manufacture is switched to a full scale plant. Following this I take a walk around my plants, checking on jobs as I go and having a chat with people along the way. Being a union rep means that people will approach me with questions on a range of topics such as pensions,

announcements, pay etc. **The interaction with people is one of the best parts of the job for me and I really enjoy it!**

### 12.00

I'm usually back in the office by midday checking on orders/suppliers/arranging contractors and then go to lunch just after 12.30 with the Maintenance team (Terry Deacon, Tony, Dali and Steve Edmundson) to chat over lunch.

### 14.00

Mid afternoon I usually go to see central planning to make arrangements for the night shift work. All the completed jobs have to be completed before the end of the day and then work out the plan for the following day's work.

### 17.00

It's usually five o'clock by the time everything is tidied up and I leave the site to go home to Dudley. But it doesn't stop there! As a Pension Trustee I usually have reports and other information to read at home which is just as well because I'm constantly being interrupted at work!

# Chest Pain

A pain in the chest is something which worries us greatly when we experience it. The first thing we all think is "Is this a heart attack?" All chest pains must be taken seriously and should not be neglected. However, **the majority of pains in the chest have nothing at all to do with the heart.**

Common causes of pain in the chest are:

**Injury.** Damage may occur to muscles, which may be bruised or torn, or to ribs, which may be bruised or even fractured. Typically the pain following an injury will be worse if you move about, swing your arms, or take in a deep breath.

**Infection.** An infection of the lungs or windpipe can be painful, especially if the lining of the lungs is affected. This condition is called pleurisy. Typically the pain is a sharp one which is much worse on breathing in or coughing.

**Inflammation.** There are many structures in the chest which can become inflamed leading to pain.

Common conditions include inflammation of the food pipe, due to acid from the stomach coming up into the lower end of this. The pain is in the centre of the chest, and often burning in nature. It may be relieved by bringing up wind.

Also common, especially in fit younger people, is inflammation of the area where the ribs join onto the breast bone. This is called costochondritis. There may be swelling and tenderness adjacent to the breast bone.

**More unusual causes.** There are hundreds of other causes of pain in the chest. For example, the pain of gall stones may be felt mostly in between the shoulders at the back, even though the gall bladder itself lies below your liver.



Any condition which causes inflammation of the diaphragm, the strong muscle which separates the chest from the abdomen, may cause pain in the shoulder region.

Shingles, are activation of the chicken pox virus in nerve cells around the spinal cord, may cause pain in between two ribs on one side of the body, and can be very hard to diagnose until the rash which is characteristic of the condition appears.

**BUT...** if you get a chest pain which:  
Comes on suddenly in the centre of your chest;  
Is severe and is crushing or gripping;  
Makes you feel short of breath, sweaty, faint, clammy, or sick;  
Makes you heart beat quickly or irregularly;  
Lasts more than five minutes.

**You may be having a heart attack –**

**RING 999 WITHOUT DELAY**

## Oldbury Site Webpage



Have a look at our new Oldbury Site webpage on the Rhodia website dealing with local issues and news.

[www.rhodia.co.uk/en/uk/oldbury.tcm](http://www.rhodia.co.uk/en/uk/oldbury.tcm)

If you would like to contact Rhodia regarding anything in this newsletter you can call us on **0121 552 3333**, email [Ranbir.Padda@eu.rhodia.com](mailto:Ranbir.Padda@eu.rhodia.com) or write to us at Rhodia UK Ltd, PO Box 80, Trinity Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 4LN.