



A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all

On top of the world



BTU will be making a contribution to Cancer UK and Diabetes UK in recognition of the valiant efforts of Mr and Mrs Tetbury.

The above picture of Robert Tetbury and his wife Sandy was taken two weeks ago at Everest base camp at 5,360m (17,590ft). Robert is the largest landowner for the current Hardham Resource Project in West Sussex and we have enjoyed a very good working relationship during the course of the works.

Festive fun

What beats his chest and swings from Christmas cake to Christmas cake?

Tarzipan.

Why do Christmas Elves wear seat belts?

For elf and safety.

Why does Santa have three gardens?

So he can Hoe Hoe Hoe.

What's worse than Rudolph with a runny nose?

Frosty the snowman with a hot flush.

How does Father Christmas climb up a chimney?

He uses a ladder in the stocking.

Why did Santa's helper see the doctor?

Because he had a low 'elf' esteem.



Christmas trivia and seasonal facts



- * 1 in 3 men do their shopping on Christmas Eve.
- * Christmas crackers were invented by Thomas Smith who imported some French novelties to sell as Christmas gifts. But until he wrapped them up and added a snapper they were not popular.
- * Electric Christmas tree lights were first used in 1895.
- * 125,000 tonnes of plastic packaging is thrown away over Christmas.
- * 1957 – first Christmas message broadcast by Queen Elizabeth II.
- * 1840 – first Christmas card sent in Britain.
- * 1647 to 1660 – celebrating Christmas was illegal. Festivities were banned by Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell who considered that feasting and revelry on a holy day was immoral. The ban was lifted when the Puritans lost power.
- * Victorian Christmas cards often showed a robin delivering Christmas mail. As Victorian postmen had red uniforms they were popularly called 'robins'.
- * Candy canes were originally white sticks of sugar candy used to decorate Christmas trees. A choir-master at Cologne Cathedral bent their ends to depict a shepherd's crook and passed them out to children to keep them quiet during the services. It was not until about the 20th century that the candy canes acquired their red strips.
- * Germany made the first artificial Christmas trees. They were made of goose feathers and dyed green.



Christmases past and present. . .

David Welch – Framework Director

I am really looking forward to see what colour socks I receive on Christmas Day.

My favourite present of all time was a Meccano set my Mum and Dad bought me when I was eight years old. It was not this which aroused my interest in construction – it was my Dad telling me that I was off to Coventry to work on the Streeters Tunnel Contract when I was 17 (no choice really – he wanted me out of the house).

We may be working on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day responding to any mechanical or electrical failures which may arise. I would like to thank all of our Supervisors and Operatives for attending to these eventualities, should they arise, and for their magnanimous efforts throughout the year (sun, wind, rain or snow).

Finally, a thought for the many millions of people who are a lot less fortunate than the rest of us at this festive time of the year.



Mark Whitehall – Commercial Manager

At this time of year it is nice to take a little time to reflect on where we have come from in the last 18 months.

BTU now has a workforce of some 150 individuals, and a fleet of 60 vehicles.

Our turnover per month is now equivalent to the total carried out in the whole of our first seven months of trading.

Quite an achievement from our more humble beginnings!

Our performance remains in line with expectations and we can afford to take pride in a job well done, so far!

We have no time to rest on our laurels, however. Over the Christmas period we are introducing a new software package called Hiremate to control our stock and assets.

In association, we will be completing a stock take in readiness for the auditors who will be carrying out an initial assessment in December and the final audit in February 2011, so everyone in Commercial will be busy over the festive period and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work so far, and to wish everyone a peaceful holiday.

I look forward to an enthusiastic recommencement of operations in the New Year.



More challenges lie ahead for all

Sean Jordan – Operations Director

This has been a tough year with many challenges and while we have

generally performed admirably, there have been occasions where we haven't quite 'risen to the occasion' by failing to complete one or two assignments on time.

Unfortunately, the old adage of 'you're only as good as your last job' means that any indiscretion can adversely affect our (and Southern Water's) reputation – so we always need to be 'on top of our game'.

The year ahead will present further challenges and, hopefully, a greater turnover. In preparing for this, we have invested in some further key personnel who will be joining the business in January 2011.



Richard Hobbs will have the role of Reactive Works Manager. I have no doubt that Richard will add value to BTU and assist us in ensuring that going forward we meet all our objectives and exceed expectations.

I would like to extend season's greetings to you all, BTU and Southern Water colleagues alike, together with all within our supply chain – all of whom ably contribute to the common goal. May you all have a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous (but not too much) New Year!

Finally, to all personnel who have agreed to work / be on standby over the Christmas / New Year period – your efforts in ensuring we provide a 24/7, 365 days a year service maintaining Southern Water assets is greatly appreciated. I hope you don't receive too many call-outs and that you get to spend enough quality time with your family.



WORD SEARCH - just for fun!

Angels
Lights
Shepherds
Tree
Cards
Mince Pie
Sleigh
Turkey
Carols
Mistletoe
Snow
Wisemen
Christmas
Noel
Snowman
Wreath
Crackers
Presents
Stable
Yule
Cranberry
Reindeer
Stocking
Holly
Santa Claus
Tinsel

C	A	R	R	D	S	Y	V	P	O	N	E	O	L	J
S	H	O	Z	X	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S
N	S	R	W	P	W	L	U	Q	R	R	I	W	T	H
O	T	X	I	S	L	E	G	N	A	I	N	R	U	E
W	O	N	S	S	U	G	S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P
M	C	H	E	A	T	R	C	J	B	L	E	A	K	H
A	K	C	M	R	B	M	R	X	E	B	L	T	E	E
N	I	D	E	E	F	E	A	H	R	A	G	H	Y	R
P	N	E	N	J	I	I	C	S	R	T	F	G	Y	D
E	G	F	P	N	M	P	K	L	Y	S	J	M	L	S
I	H	K	D	R	H	E	E	S	T	H	G	I	L	M
C	J	E	L	G	V	C	R	L	H	F	Z	O	O	M
A	E	W	I	C	K	N	S	E	R	T	R	Y	H	L
R	M	E	Y	H	S	E	H	O	J	A	K	R	T	V
D	L	F	K	S	H	M	I	N	C	E	P	I	E	S
S	J	P	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	H	F	L