



## DEAR NEIGHBOUR,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Platin Local Community Newsletter.

Over the past 6 months since I took on the role of plant manager in Platin the whole team here has been busy running the cement factory, completing our annual overhaul and welcoming many visitors to Platin to see first-hand how we make cement.

Last year, 2022 was a record year for fossil fuel replacement, one of our key goals in decarbonising our cement product. Thanks to our new EPA licence we have been able to gradually reduce our fossil fuel imports as we work to hit our target to get to 80% fossil fuel replacement by 2030.

As you can see in this newsletter many of the Platin team have been involved in community projects with local schools and clubs. Some of my colleagues have even gone back into the classroom as part of our support for local education programmes. We are proud to be part of the community for 50 years and we look forward to welcoming more visitors to our site in 2023.

Please feel free to contact me if you any questions or comments.

Yours sincerely,

## David Chambers

Platin Works Manager  
T 041 9876000  
E [info@irishcement.ie](mailto:info@irishcement.ie)

## 10 YEARS OF DROGHEDA SAIL TRAINING BURSARY



The Drogheda Sail Training Bursary, established 10 years ago in 2013, was the first of its kind in Ireland. Through the ongoing support of a group of local sponsors, including Irish Cement, the bursary has provided an opportunity for 150 young people from Co Louth and Co Meath to spend time at sea on sail training adventures run by Sail Training Ireland.

For each of the trainees the voyages can be challenging, both physically and emotionally. Under the guidance of experienced crews, the trainees work together to complete the daily tasks aboard a sailing vessel. They are often out of their comfort zone, working and living closely with others who may have come from different backgrounds. The voyages at sea help build resilience and self-confidence in the trainees. They are encouraged to work as a team and value each other's contributions as they battle the elements and the heavy sails. The overwhelming response when the trainees return to shore is that they have had a positive life-changing experience.

With a renewed commitment from the original sponsors and new sponsors coming on board, the bursary is set to grow and provide this wonderful personal development opportunity to more and more young people.

The vessel, Brian Boru (pictured above) docked last month in Drogheda to celebrate the 10-year anniversary. (Image supplied by Sail Training Ireland)

## ON TOUR IN PLATIN

Some recent visits to Platin, from top left, Frank Hughes explaining how cement is made to pupils from St Olivers, on the right UCD Chemical Engineering Students and bottom left, 22 6th years students from St Mary's Diocesan Secondary School.





## RAW MILL REASSEMBLY



Extensive maintenance and repair work is carried out each year during the site overhaul. For many months leading up to the overhaul a long list of tasks is identified and planned, spares, equipment and materials are ordered and stored on site in advance. Responsibility for each task is assigned and the work is scheduled. In addition to our own workforce up to an additional 250 specialist contractors are also on site for the overhaul. In the photograph a section of the raw mill is being reassembled before being lifted back into place. Safety of all activity on site is a daily priority and even more so during the overhaul when so many people are working on site.

## BACK IN BUZZNESS!



Our hives of native Irish Honeybees are becoming more active as the days get longer and the temperatures rise. The next few months will be the busiest period for the bees as they forage in the surrounding countryside for nectar and in doing so are important pollinators of both wildflowers and agricultural crops. Bringing back nectar to the hive is not only an important food source for the bees, their queen and the larval stages, but it also tastes good to those of us who love honey!

## WORLD OF WORK IN ST OLIVER'S



It was back to the classroom for Paul Owens, Daniel McManus and Sean Flanagan, from Platin. But this time they were not the pupils, they were taking part in the Business in the Community World of Work programme in St Oliver's Community College. As part of this programme volunteers from Irish Cement spend time in the classroom with 2nd year pupils explaining about their roles in the business, on the job training and their qualification pathways. There were some great questions from the pupils. The idea behind the programme is to get the pupils thinking about future career opportunities and encouraging them to remain engaged with education in school.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



International Women's Day took place on March 8th this year and the team in Platin celebrated their female colleagues with a special event on the day.