



Newburgh Engineering – Celebrating 75 Years of Success - 1939-2014

Newburgh Engineering (pronounced 'New-burg') has a long and successful history. Established by Isaac Middleton 75 years ago in a small Peak District village called Bradwell, Newburgh has grown into an internationally-renowned, multi-million £ turnover, award-winning business that specialises in manufacturing medium to large precision engineering components and assemblies.

The Middleton family relocated to the Peak District from Hyde in Manchester, some 30 miles west, to escape a serious flu pandemic. Isaac worked at Mytham & Smith, a local electrical and automotive engineering company, later setting up on his own, and calling the company Accumulator Services. Isaac made lead acid batteries which were delivered to customers from his BSA motorbike and sidecar.

In 1938 Isaac purchased the Newburgh Arms public house in Bradwell, Derbyshire, where he lived, and he continued to run Accumulator Services from his garage. This former pub was where Newburgh's name came from. Today, the building is called Newburgh House and remains in the company's possession. Whilst Isaac moved from Hyde, coincidentally his ancestors can be traced back to the 16th century in the village of Bradwell where they lived until they moved to Hyde in the late 1700's.

In 1939 Isaac bought the Liberal Club next door, along with the land on which the current works stands. By now he was supplying general engineering services to local businesses.

During the war there was a huge demand for engineering and manufacturing, and Newburgh provided whatever services were needed to support our country's war efforts.

In the 1940s & 50s an iron foundry was developed onsite because Newburgh had struggled to find a high enough quality of iron castings required to service the glass industry. Moulds for drinking glasses and lightbulbs were manufactured, along with pipework fittings with high nickel content for the ice cream industry, which they called *San-Flo*. This is what is believed to have led to Newburgh producing parts for the nuclear industry.

Later into the 1950s, Newburgh started to manufacture various parts for the nuclear industry, and were one of the first companies to get involved with what was championed as the dawn of a new age. Newburgh continues to produce parts for nuclear reactors, believing in the longstanding future of this key power source.

The 1960s and 70s brought major expansion and growth in the company - Newburgh began to see real profits from its precision work, and expanded the Derbyshire factory several times. The range of customers was diverse, the type of products and services vast. Apprentice training was growing in importance, and many local young men signed up to train and work for Newburgh, knowing that they were likely to have a job for the rest of their working lives.

The 1980s brought hardship for Newburgh and many other manufacturing companies. The economic climate was bleak, and discontentment among workers grew across the country. The Government's decisions caused a great deal of frustration to many companies, and Newburgh was lucky to pull through this extensive period of severe economic downturn.

By the mid 1990s a new age had dawned for Newburgh. A change in management led to a transformation in the company as the business was passed down to another generation. The

management strategy moved away from typical ‘jobbing work’ for hundreds of customers and towards a modern lean environment. New customer-focused ‘cells’ were instigated, and the company focused on creating long-term partnerships, which developed a culture of complete transparency between the supplier and customer.

The teams within each cell would develop their expertise in a particular type of product, and the quality standards would increase significantly as work became more controlled, and with increasing complexity project critical parts.

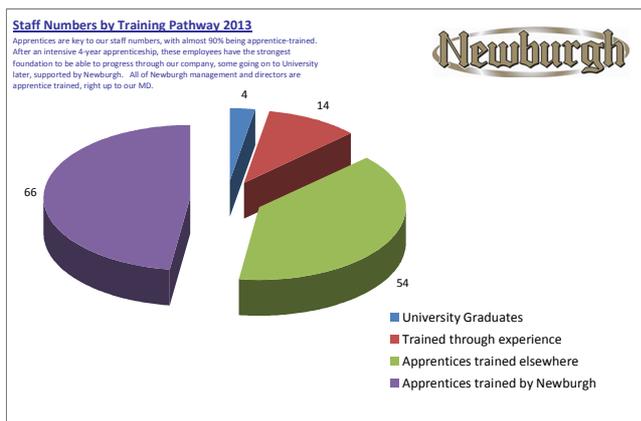
At the turn of the 21st century, Newburgh wanted to grow but knew it couldn’t be done in Bradwell. After expanding as much as was possible on the rural Derbyshire site, and having experienced major problems recruiting, they knew that a second facility had to be created - somewhere that would provide a healthy influx of skilled people. Rotherham was selected, as a variety of global companies like Corus Steel (now TATA) and Firth Rixson had long been established there. The new location would provide a solution to their ongoing recruitment issues, and allow the company to expand, they hoped.

Newburgh’s purpose built, state-of-the-art factory designed by Bond Bryan architects, was opened by HRH The Duke of York in 1995. Some of the Bradwell-based staff moved across as their homes were closer, and many remained in the founding village. They attempted to recruit but found that there was a serious shortage of engineering skills, particularly amongst younger people. Finding people with the skills required remained a critical problem which urgently needed addressing.

Apprenticeship training locally was poor and nothing like the standard of Newburgh’s in-house training. Something had to be done, and the company’s then Managing Director (now Chairman) and grandson of Isaac, formed an action group. Other engineering company leaders were invited to join and devise a solution to their shared frustrations. The plan was to design a new kind of apprenticeship, based on the old style 4-year programme. It was modernised and with the support of the action group, rolled out using Brinsworth Academy of Engineering as the training delivery provider.

Newburgh’s Bradwell site had supplied the Power and Defence markets since the company had formed, but the new site at Rotherham had focused almost entirely on the Oil & Gas industry, which was hit hard by the 2007 recession. Tough decisions had to be made which included redundancies - Newburgh needed to protect itself from any particular market decline and move into growing industries that were not as badly affected. Now supplying a broader spread of sectors, the company has strategically balanced out the effects of the recession, enabling it to survive and grow. As well as Oil and Gas, Power and Defence, they continue to supply to Nuclear, Aerospace, Automotive and Food sectors.

Newburgh’s strategy was a success and they doubled the size of their factory in 2008. Today, the company employs 148 employees (20% of which are current apprentices) over the two facilities in Bradwell, Derbyshire and Rotherham, South Yorkshire. Its turnover last year grew to over £11million - an impressive feat during a recession. Around 90% of Newburgh staff are apprentice-





trained, including all management right up to the present Managing Director.

Newburgh's continued dedication to Quality, Skills and Training has led to recognition in the form of numerous business awards – here is an updated list of their recent achievements:

2013

- Finalist - SME Investment in Skills (SEMTA – results pending)
- Runner Up - EEF Partnership with Education Award
- Winner - Apprentice of the Year – Theo Smith (BR Chamber)
- Winner - Excellence in Manufacturing (City Region Business Awards)
- Winner - Excellence in Manufacturing (Sheffield Business Awards)
- Winner - Apprentice of the Year – Jonathan Todd (Made In Sheffield)
- Finalist - SME Manufacturer ((over 125 employees), The Manufacturer)
- Finalist - Outstanding Contribution by a First Year Apprentice (The EEF)
- Finalist - Outstanding Contribution by a Final Year Apprentice (The EEF)
- Finalist - Apprentice of the Year – Theo Smith (Made In Yorkshire)

2012

- Winner - EEF Outstanding Apprentice of the Year – Jonathan Todd (Midlands region)
- Winner - Environmental Business Award (BR Chamber)
- Winner - Employer of the Year (Brinsworth Academy of Engineering)
- Winner - Investment in People (Made in Sheffield)
- Winner - NDI Company of the Year

2010

- Winner - NDI Training for Success

Founded in 1939, Newburgh Engineering offer total manufacturing solutions from exemplary facilities in Rotherham, South Yorkshire and Bradwell in the Peak District. Newburgh supply critical engineering components and assemblies into global supply chains. www.newburgh.co.uk