

## 45 years and still going strong

### Redditch MP gets the party started at local manufacturing firm

Today (29th June 2015) Redditch MP, Karen Lumley helped launch a two-week-long party at local vacuum pump and compressor manufacturer Gardner Denver, to celebrate 45 years of great British engineering on the Washford Industrial Estate.



**Karen Lumley, MP for Redditch County (front row, 3rd right) joins apprentices and long-service employees at Gardner Denver to celebrate 45 years of engineering in Redditch.**

Joined by young apprentices and long-service employees from across the business, Karen visited the Redditch-based engineering firm to learn more about the company's heritage and the strides it is making to encourage more young people in to a career in engineering.

The celebrations, which culminate in a series of open days next week for customers and previous employees, marks Gardner Denver's status as one of the few remaining manufacturers of air compressors and vacuum pumps in the UK.

The company is a major employer in the local area, with over 300 people currently working on site producing world-recognised products including Hydrovane, which has been produced in Redditch since the early 70s, together with the 160-year-old Belliss & Morcom brand and long-standing Reavell range.

Commenting on her visit Karen Lumley said, “I’m proud to be able to celebrate the continued success of a local manufacturing company here in Redditch, a company with a worldwide export market supported by a strong local supply chain.”

“I’m also a big believer in apprenticeships and preparing young people for the world of work and companies like Gardner Denver, which are helping to create sustainable employment and encourage more young people in to a career in engineering, should be recognised for the positive contribution they are making to the economy.”

Ben Sweet, who has just completed his four-year apprenticeship with Belliss & Morcom added,

“Taking up an apprenticeship means you can get ahead while you’re working and I’m always learning something new. Working in engineering means no two days are the same and you benefit from the experience of those around you.”

Trevor Perry, Product Director, who accompanied Karen on the tour and showed her round the Redditch facility added, “It was a real pleasure to be able to show Karen some of our latest product innovations in the Hydrovane, Reavell and Belliss & Morcom facilities and for her to meet staff that have been instrumental in their development.

“She was really encouraged by the strength of our apprenticeship and graduate scheme and spent a long time with our recent recruits talking about the benefits of on-the-job training and the strength of engineering here in the Midlands.

“Everyone, from the HR team through to the shop floor staff worked really hard to make the visit a success, and we’d like to thank everyone for making Karen so welcome.”

Commenting further on the visit, Andrew Power, UK & Ireland Country Manager for Gardner Denver said,

“We’re pleased to welcome Karen to our centre-of-excellence to help us celebrate 45 years of manufacturing on a site that’s rich in engineering heritage. We’ve witnessed many changes since the site opened in the 1970s and today, we continue to manufacture innovative products for sale here in the UK and overseas.”

Gardner Denver provides a complete range of vacuum and pressure solutions for customers across industry, including Hydrovane, the Belliss & Morcom and Reavell high pressure brands, CompAir compressors and Elmo Rietschle and Robuschi vacuum and pressure products.

For more information on Gardner Denver, visit [www.gardnerdenver.com](http://www.gardnerdenver.com)

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