

# Business news

## Firm celebrates milestone

by Gavin Moore

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this month.

Tonight, Friday, January 15 the firm will celebrate the milestone during a meal at Villiers Hotel in Buckingham.

Gerrard Herring, started with the company 24 years ago as an apprentice after graduating from The Cooper School in Bicester and is now the firm's general manager.

He said; "It is a business which has a great deal of strength and depth, a significant brand know as a world leader within the industry.

"We have had some difficult times but the management has always been very honest with the workforce who find it an enjoyable environment to work in."

Tony Walton, sales and market manager said: "It is a big event for us.

"It shows we are a well established company and its longevity is important to both our customers and ourselves."

A MARKET leading business based in Buckingham which supplies testing equipment around the world is celebrating its 80th birthday this week.

In 1930 Leslie Hartridge created a company which produces equipment for testing diesel engine components and in 1941 the company moved to Buckingham to escape the blitz.

Equipment produced by Hartridge Ltd now tests components on cars, ships and other machinery around the world.

In its heyday the company, which is now based at a purpose built factory in Radclive Road near Gawcott, employed around 400 people.

In 2004 it was subject to a management buy-out led by current owners Peter Smallwood, Terry Markwell and Glyn Harris when it employed around 35 people.

That figure has almost doubled in the last five years and as Hartridge Ltd bucks the economic trend it continues to thrive and has welcomed several new recruits



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US:** The staff of Hartridge Ltd celebrate their 80th birthday. Pictured at the front are managing director Peter Smallwood, left and general manager, Gerrard Herring. 100113M-A321. Picture by Jake McNulty