



IN GEAR

ISSUE 01

KEYSTONE CONSTRUCTION'S FIRST MACHINE EQUIPPED WITH NEW CATERPILLAR® TILTROTATE SYSTEM



60 SECONDS

Ryan Light swapped his fishing trawler for a used Cat machine, with the help of Finning

MACHINE MAKEOVERS AND DAZZLING DISPLAYS

We catch up with our Yard Supervisor, Martin Harris

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Rachel See, General Manager, Finning UK & Ireland

EDITOR'S NOTE

To say 2020 was a challenging year is an understatement. The daily concern for the health and wellbeing of our families has become part of our everyday life now, and on top of that we've all had to adapt to a completely new way of living and working.

Yet, out of the chaos we've seen some incredible examples of our community of colleagues and customers pulling together. For us here at Finning, we're extremely proud to have played our



part during the pandemic, with many of our staff volunteering their time to help those in need. In Belfast, service engineers took to the streets to deliver food parcels to vulnerable people and at Finning HQ in Staffordshire, we handed our car park over to the military to become one of the first COVID testing sites in the Midlands.

With that in mind, I'm delighted to introduce you to In Gear, our brand new customer magazine. Packed with latest news on the machines we sell, and those who own and operate them. We'll also give you a glimpse behind the scenes here at Finning, introducing you to some of the people that make up the heart of the Finning family.

In this issue we find out more about a recent project that Finning has worked on with Keystone Construction. We've also got an interview with one of our inspirational family, Martin Harris, who has managed Finning's yard throughout the pandemic. The events of this year will be written about in the history books for many years to come. For us here at Finning, this year heralds the start of a new phase in our history, defined by a collective responsibility to take care of each other, listen and talk more and be the best partner, supplier and friend we can be.

Rachel See

Rachel See General Manager, Finning UK & Ireland

Another thing that the events of last year has taught us is that there's never been a more important time to talk and listen. We've used the time working from home to do just this. We've listened to the challenges you are facing today and future ones too, so we can develop better ways of working with you to help you build a successful and sustainable business. It might sound like a cliché, but we want to be more than just a supplier of equipment. We want to be the partner who helps you to build, sustain and grow your business.

KEYSTONE CONSTRUCTION CHOOSES CAT FOR FIRST MACHINE PURCHASE



When Edinburgh based groundworks contractor, Keystone Construction decided to purchase its first machine, a Cat 308 excavator was the obvious choice.

However, Keystone Construction didn't purchase just any excavator — the contractor is the first in the UK to have the new Cat TiltRotate system (TRS) fitted to its machine. The company recently took delivery of its new excavator from Finning UK & Ireland, exclusive distributor of Cat equipment and products, and has already been putting the machine and the TRS through its paces. Designed to integrate seamlessly into the Caterpillar Advanced Monitor, the new TRS provides enhanced machine versatility and intuitive control..

Until recently, Keystone Construction hired machines from local plant hire companies to fulfil its building contracts. However, after test-driving a Next Generation Cat 308 at its local Finning branch in Hamilton, Scotland, Keystone Construction made its first purchase. The TRS8 enables the operator to rotate the bucket 360 degrees continuously with a 40-degree angled tilt, which significantly reduces the need to reposition the machine, saving time and reducing wear.

“ COMPARED WITH OTHER LARGER MACHINES THAT WE'VE USED OVER THE YEAR, THE CAT 308 NEXT GENERATION EXCAVATOR HAS THE BEST OPERATING ABILITY, POWER AND PERFORMANCE. ”

explained Jonathan Prior, Director at Keystone Construction. “However, it's also compact, which makes it easy to operate and small enough for our typical construction site.”

“ ROTATING AND TILTING THE BUCKET AT EVERY ANGLE ALLOWS OPERATORS TO DIG SIDWAYS, AROUND A CORNER AND IN REALLY TIGHT, CONFINED SPACES. IT HAS ALREADY PROVED TO BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE, ENABLING US TO COMPLETE SOME OF OUR MOST CHALLENGING JOBS TO DATE. ”
CONCLUDED PRIOR.



Keystone Construction has just used its new piece of equipment to complete a project on a block of flats, located in the city centre. Here, the excavator was used to dig two complex shapes within half a metre from the boundary on each side. Normally working in close proximity to an

obstruction would require moving the machine multiple times or use of additional equipment on site. However, with the TRS the operator was able to check the angle of the bucket from the cab and adjust it to excavate with absolute accuracy.

KEYSTONE CONSTRUCTION HAS A STRONG PIPELINE OF PROJECTS LINED UP OVER THE NEXT YEAR. IN FACT, THE COMPANY IS ALREADY CONSIDERING ITS NEXT CAT PURCHASE, WHICH IS LIKELY TO BE A CAT 313 EXCAVATOR, ONE OF THE NEWEST ADDITIONS TO THE FLEET.

To find out more about the Cat next generation excavator range, or to book a free demo visit, www.finning.com or call 01543 461 410.



A LOT OF LOVE...

Andy Norris has a lot of love for the Cat next generation mini-excavator. We caught up with him at the company headquarters in Nottingham to find out more.

Just 18 months ago, Andy bought his first Cat mini-excavator and was so impressed that he's now replaced half his fleet with them; taking delivery of his 28th Cat machine this month.

Norris Plant Hire & Sales Ltd has been a Finning customer for the past twelve years. A family-run business, established by Andy's dad, Steve, in 1981, it specialises in the hire and sale of plant machinery to the construction and agriculture industries.

"We've been buying Cat machines since 2008," explained Andy. "We started with backhoe loaders and were so impressed with the build quality and reliability of the machines that we began replacing some that we'd had from other manufacturers with Caterpillar equivalents, starting with a couple of eight tonne excavators. From then on, we've progressively increased the number and variety of Cat machines across our fleet."

The newest additions to the Norris' fleet, two 301.6 tonne Cat next generation mini-excavators, are already out on hire to the firm's customers. This duo takes the number of Cat machines in the Norris company collection to 28, and now make up over half the machines available. It includes three Cat 302.7s, two Cat 306 mini-excavators, and three eight tonne excavators.

Andy explains: "Cat machines are very popular with my customers, many of whom work on long-term utilities projects across the Midlands. They're tough and durable and incredibly versatile so can be used to tackle a range of jobs from breaking trenches, pulling ducting cables and filling in. They're also popular with our domestic customers; used for digging out garden ponds, foundations, or even cleaning out cow sheds."

"For me, it's the high specification and quality of the machines that makes the difference. Although they're not the

cheapest machines around, they're exceptionally reliable which, for my business, is vital. We also take out the two-year standard dealership warranty, but in all the time we've been buying Cat machines, we've had very few breakdowns. Many of my customers have long-term building and utility contracts and simply cannot afford any machine downtime, because it could cost them dearly. Having the reassurance and back up of the warranty provides both me and my customers peace of mind.

"We always buy the machines with the full built-in technology features and even though a number of my customers have been working in the industry for years, they've found these new features easy to use and they have had a direct bearing on how productive and efficient they are on site."

TOP TIPS FOR BUYING PRE-LOVED MACHINES

Buying a machine is a big investment at any time. As companies start to get back to pre-pandemic work levels we're starting to see a rise in demand for used machines.



Look for visible component wear

One of the first and most important things to check is the condition of all easily visible wearing components such as the undercarriage, tyres, and ground engaging tools (GET). These can give a good early indication of the overall condition of the machine. This is especially important with tracked machines as the undercarriage can represent a large proportion of the value of a used machine, or a large cost if worn components are missed. Just because an undercarriage looks good from a distance doesn't mean it is, be sure to check the condition of each component.



Look out for leaking hydraulic components

Weeping hydraulic cylinders can collect dust and dirt. Check the machine for leaking hydraulic hoses and any damp areas around valve blocks, pumps and motors. These can result in costly maintenance and repair, not to mention machine downtime and loss of work on site.



When is the machine due its next major overhaul?

Every Cat machine has an estimated life expectancy. Check the machine hours to work out how much time the machine has before it's ready for a rebuild. From this you can work out, based on your estimated usage, how long the machine will be productive for you and what your future maintenance costs could be. It's also worth checking if the machine has already had any components rebuilt.



Look at the colour of the fluid in the machine

If the oils are dark or black, the machine is probably due a service and oil change. It could also be an indication of a more costly problem though, such as an engine failure. If the oil smells burnt or of fuel, this could indicate overheating or fuel dilution. Discolouration of oil

is a good indicator of overheating, contamination or wear in hydraulic systems and transmissions, again smell the oil, does it smell burnt?



Operate all hydraulics through complete cycles

Check if any of the machine's key services are slow or laboured, as this could indicate a fault, clogged filters or other hydraulic issue. Whilst operating the services check for wear in bearings and linkages; as the bucket, blade, etc. touches the ground and the weight comes off the pins, is there excessive movement in the linkages? This could mean worn or collapsed bearings and wear in the linkage bores.



Review the maintenance history

Just as you check the service history if you're buying a used car, equipment owners should keep a record of the maintenance work that has been carried out on the machine during its lifetime. Checking these documents can give you a pretty good idea as to whether the machine is clean and a tidy prospect.



How clean is the cab?

A dirty cab may not be reflective of the overall condition of the machine, but it will give you an idea as to how the previous owner has looked after it. If available check the display on the machine for any logged or active fault codes which could point to current or previous issues.



Check out the bodywork

This is a bit of a no-brainer, but the state of the bodywork will show if the machine has been used and abused in the true sense of the word. Machine operators, in the main, take immense pride in their equipment. So, if it's been driven hard on the outside, then it's likely to have some potentially costly damage on the inside too.

60 with Ryan Light SECONDS



In this issue of *In Gear*, we caught up with Ryan Light, who recently swapped his fishing trawler for a used Cat machine, with the help of Finning.

Company background

Ryan Light spent his childhood in the cab of a Cat machine. At the weekend, he'd head to work with his dad, who was the site manager at Glensanda Quarry on the West Coast of Scotland. Here, he'd take every opportunity he had to operate the controls and then, during his teenage years, he completed a year-long placement at the quarry, before taking a full time job there.

When his father retired, he hung up his work boots and became a fisherman. He bought a trawler and, with his dad on board, spent a few years fishing for prawns in the North Sea. However, the thrill of operating a machine never left him and he was soon drawn back to the industry. In the end, he traded in his fishing trawler for a used Cat machine and hasn't looked back since.

What Cat equipment did you buy from Finning?

I was looking for a used machine, between 13 and 20 tons. Finning was extremely helpful and gave me a couple of options, one of which was a Cat 312. I fell in love with it immediately — it was the perfect size and ideal for the range of jobs that I carry out. I bought it with 2,000 machine hours on the clock and a recent

service by Finning. Despite being a used machine, it was immaculate inside and out. When it was delivered, everyone was convinced it was a brand new machine.

What kind of projects do you use the machine for?

My work is extremely varied, so it was important to purchase a machine that could operate well under different conditions. My last job involved digging out a 1.5 km hydro-scheme, but prior to that I was working on a large landscaping job for a building firm. I recently secured a contract to dig out a road on a private housing estate and also have a long-standing contract with a local riding stable, which covers all of their drainage work. The Cat 312 is so versatile — I'm yet to find a job it can't do.

Why did you choose to pick up a Cat, rather than another machine?

I've driven so many different machines during my career, including Hitachi and Komatsu, but I found Cat machines to be the most reliable and powerful by far. A few of my friends, who also work in the industry, thought I was mad buying a Cat, since because they are slightly pricier than other machines, but they've definitely changed their tune after seeing it in action!

It helped that I'd met many of the Finning team before, during my time at Glensanda Quarry. I used to operate a Cat 992K wheel loader and the aftersales and engineering support they offered was second to none.

Who is your industry hero?

I have two — my dad and my grandad. It was my grandad that first introduced me to this industry because he ran his own plant hire company. I'd make regular visits to quarries when I was younger and, like so many children, was desperate to drive a digger one day.

My dad managed a gold mine in South Africa, before returning to the UK to work in a quarry for 25 years. Because of these experiences, he was able to teach me a lot of practical stuff about operating machinery. Watching my dad and my grandad work so hard really inspired me. Now my youngest daughter seems set to follow in my footsteps. She's only three years old, but already loves sitting on the floor in the cab of my machine while I'm working. Although I don't work on a boat with my dad anymore, I still have my family with me. I haven't looked back since swapping the trawler for a Cat.

COMPETITION TIME

Can you spot the difference between these two photos of the world's first Cat 777G with serial numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4





MACHINE MAKEOVERS AND DAZZLING DISPLAYS

On arrival at Finning's UK headquarters in Cannock, visitors are greeted by an elaborate display of Cat machines, often wrapped or decorated to suit the time of year. In this issue of In Gear, we caught up with the person responsible, our Yard Supervisor, Martin Harris to find out more about his role.

Tell me more about your career at Finning

My first day at Finning was back in February 2001. I worked in the company's parts department for ten years, before being promoted to Third-Party Attachment Stock Controller. A few years later, I became a Team Leader, looking after the yard staff — I was extremely grateful to change job title because my previous one was a bit of a mouthful! That brings us to last year, when I was promoted to Yard Supervisor — my current role.

Now, I'm responsible for managing the flow of machines as they arrive in the yard, are washed, prepared and sent to the customer. In a typical month, we have around 340 machines coming in and out of the facility, all with different

requirements. It's a huge responsibility because customers rely on us to deliver their machine on time, so that they can start their next job.

What does a normal day look like for you?

I start every day by updating the wash schedules and planning my team's workload. I'll be monitoring this throughout the day too, taking into account any additional requests from all departments and sales team, such as an additional attachment that requires fitting.

I'm also responsible for managing any contractors that come onto site. I do their inductions and safety briefings to ensure that they are meeting our vigorous health and safety standards.

Tell me what happens when a machine arrives in your yard? How do you help get it to the customer?

It's important to get every machine that comes into the yard fueled and in its designated area as soon as possible. The machine is then washed prior to being taken to our new prep area so that the final preparation can begin before the machine can leave the yard.

I'm responsible for new machines and machines that have been sent in by customers for servicing. To keep track of each machine, we use a platform called Cat Inspect. Here, we can upload photos of the machines when they arrive, recording the condition of the machine and, if it's a machine that's in for servicing, any damage that was caused when it

was with its previous user. It's particularly helpful with older machines that are coming in for a service, before they're resold. Cat Inspect is then used when the machine leaves us to be delivered to the customer. Pictures are also taken prior to loading, some of these pictures make it onto social media.

Your displays outside Finning HQ have made quite an impact on the local community. Can you tell me more about them?

I've been doing the displays for around nine years now — it started as an area of the yard that we used for storage, but the locals thought it was set up as a display, so it stuck.

“ WE TRY AND CREATE A NEW DISPLAY EVERY MONTH AND THEY USUALLY HAVE A THEME. THESE RANGE FROM NOVEMBER, REMEMBRANCE DAY, TO A FESTIVE SET UP

AT CHRISTMAS. IN 2020, WE DID A DISPLAY TO THANK THE NHS FOR THEIR HARD WORK DURING THE PANDEMIC.”



What are some of the challenges that you face in your role?

Just like any workplace, my role can be challenging during the busiest times. But we pull together as a team to make sure that every machine is out of the door on time.

In my personal life, I got knocked off my bike on the way to work in 2019 and had to take almost an entire year off. I broke several bones, including four ribs,

three bones in my back and my shoulder. Luckily, I'm now recovered and back on the yard.

Finally, what do you love most about your job?

It has to be the people. Finning is an incredible company to work for — it feels like a family. I know that I can rely on my team and that has a huge impact on how much I enjoy what I do. It will be amazing to see everyone's faces again, once more of the team has returned to the office. I'm looking forward to seeing what they think of our next display!





THE DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW

Pioneering lab analysis keeps machines up and running

Fluid analysis reveals a lot about the health of a machine. Finning UK & Ireland runs a purpose built fluid analysis laboratory near Leeds, which is a pioneering centre for analysing equipment lubricants, fuel and filters.

Stephen Houghton and his team of technicians & diagnosticians carry out tests on these samples and sediment from filters in order to understand exactly what makes a machine tick, and crucially, what's required to keep it up and running.

IN 1895, WILHELM RÖNTGEN, A PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS AT WÜRZBURG UNIVERSITY, DISCOVERED THE X-RAY.

He named it X because it was an unknown type of radiation. The X-ray gave doctors the ability to see what was happening inside a body, without having to make a single cut. The maintenance of construction machinery is of course very different from practicing medicine, but what they do have in common is that it's vital to know what is happening on the inside.

Through the fluid analysis laboratory, operators can learn a lot about the health of their equipment, by analysing the engine oil, fluid from the transmission or the hydraulic system. For instance, oil

is tested for metal wear particles and water contamination, which can have detrimental effects on the engine if they go undetected.

If the test results of an engine oil sample show an elevated level of Potassium and Sodium for example, the experts will suggest checking the engine for an internal coolant leak. If this test also indicates an elevated level of lead, then the coolant leak has begun to affect the bearings of the engine. Knowing such indicators of engine health before an imminent engine failure could save operators many thousands of pounds on potentially costly repairs and unscheduled downtime.

Stephen Houghton oversees the operations of the laboratory — testing several hundred thousand samples per year. He enjoys speaking to customers about how his team have interpreted their test results and how they can optimise the maintenance of their machinery. When a more specialised testing request comes in, such as evaluating the particles captured within a filter from a tunnel boring machine, Stephen rolls up his sleeves and does the evaluations himself.

Trend or snapshot?

For the technicians at the fluid analysis lab, the result of a test is just as important as having a record of fluid samples over a longer timeframe. If they receive regular samples, they

can interpret trends and analyze abnormalities.

With the help of the Finning fluid analysis lab, maintenance cycles of many systems could be switched to condition-based monitoring, rather than relying on changing fluids after fixed intervals. For instance, a Cat 740 ejector truck can have up to 14 different fluid systems. For anything other than the engine, the fluids can be changed depending on their condition, which results in significant cost & labour savings as well as less waste oil to dispose of.

For Stephen and his team, their work is not finished when they write up an analysis of the test. They teach engineers how the samples should be taken, how to fill out the paperwork and offer advice on the interpretation of the reports. The lab staff also ensures the customers have all the material they need to take the tests, provide access to their online platform and register the samples into the portal.

When the technical staff visit customers, they want to understand the environment in which the equipment operates, which gives them clues about the external impacts on machine health. After all, even regular X-rays do not tell the doctor what kind of lifestyle the patient leads. So, next time you send in a sample to the Finning lab, they know the inside as well as the outside of your machine.

COMPANY NEWS

FINNING APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Finning UK and Ireland has been awarded a national accolade for its outstanding apprenticeship programmes, scooping a place in the government-led Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers.

The UK's exclusive distributor of Cat machines and products was ranked 38 in the league table and is one of just a handful of companies from the engineering and construction industries that earned a place on the list.

"This is a huge achievement for Finning and well-deserved recognition of the work we've done to help develop existing staff as well as the next generation of engineers," explained Marsha Myles, apprenticeship programme manager at Finning.

More than 400 organisations from across the country fought for a place in the league table, including large national employers such as HMRC, The British Army, Sainsbury's, and M&S. The top 100 companies were announced in a live broadcast by the National Apprenticeship Service in October.

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Although 2020 didn't play out as expected, there was still cause for celebration for Caterpillar and Finning UK & Ireland, both of which marked milestone anniversaries in Ireland. Caterpillar has been serving customers in the agricultural, marine, power generation and construction sectors across the country for 75 years, while Finning celebrated its tenth anniversary as exclusive Cat dealer.

Caterpillar and Finning have been involved in some diverse and exciting projects in Ireland over the years. In the marine sector, the two companies were part of the team behind Thunder Child. The ship, built by Safehaven Marine, was designed for naval law enforcement, offshore petrol and fast response emergency services applications. The craft is powered by a pair of Cat C12.9 turbocharged, supercharged and intercooler diesel engines, each providing the ship with 1,000 hp.

Gary Megarrell, Director at Finning UK & Ireland said "Caterpillar's equipment has played an instrumental role in some of the country's most vital industries over the last 75 years. Since Finning came on board ten years ago, we've helped expand Caterpillar's presence by putting our customers first, whether they're small contractors or large scale construction firms."

2020 has been a year that many will be glad to leave behind. However, for Caterpillar and Finning, there has been cause to celebrate — a combined legacy of ground-breaking projects and success.

NEW NAMES, EVEN BETTER PERFORMANCE

Caterpillar has simplified the names of its dozer range. There are now ten dozers for customers in Europe to choose from, from the D2 to D11.



The D2 and D3 are included in the small dozer range up to 105 hp. The D2 and D3 dozers replace all D4K/2 and D5K/2 models.



In the medium dozer range there are five models, ranging from 125 hp to 240 hp.

The D4 takes the place of the Cat D6K/2 models, whilst the new D5 replaces the class leading D6N fitted with a Cat 7.1 engine and net power of 127 kW. The new D5 is nimble and responsive with fully automatic transmission and the broadest range of technology features available.

The new 200 hp D6 takes over from the Cat D6T and is also available with optional electric drive, making it the world's first electric high drive dozer. The new D7 replaces the D7E model and is now configured in the high drive arrangement. Completing the medium dozer line up is the D8T.



The large dozer range now includes the D9, D10 and D11, offering 405 hp to 850 hp.

The D9 takes over from the previous T models, while the D10 replaces the D10T2 and the D11 substitutes the D11T.

Although the names have changed, one thing remains. The power and performance of the Cat Dozer range makes it the best in class.

THE SILENT KILLER: HOW FINNING IS MAKING MENTAL HEALTH A PRIORITY

In the UK construction industry, physical health is of paramount importance. It is common to see prominent reminders about physical safety, and yet there are less prominent risks that make construction one of the deadliest professions.

Every year, more construction workers die from suicide than from falls. Putting the right resources in place to support employees will be the driving force behind real change, thinks Keith Oakes, Head of Safety, Health, Environment and Quality (SHeQ) at Finning UK & Ireland.

There's a reason why mental health in the construction industry is known as the 'silent epidemic'. When we think about mental illness, it is easy for our minds to run to the most extreme of conditions — the sickest of the sick. What we sometimes fail to account for is the majority of milder cases, experienced by one in four people in the UK every year.

A recent survey suggests that 64 per cent of construction workers want better health and wellbeing support from their employers, and there are a wide range of actions employers can take to help to tackle this crisis. These actions start with the very basics — education. All workers, no matter their role in a business, need to be able to recognise the early warning signs of mental health issues as well as knowing what support is available and how to access it.

Finning provides ongoing mental health training, such as Starting the Conversation and Managing the Conversation courses, which began in 2018. These courses aim to break down the negative

stigma around talking about mental health and give managers and employees the resources and knowledge to provide real and actionable support to their colleagues.

Although there is currently no mandatory legal requirement for offering mental health support, Mental Health First Aiders (MHFAs) are also present throughout the company, providing confidential face-to-face support onsite for anyone suffering. MHFAs, easily identifiable to all by their "Talk to me!" email banner, have been trained to recognise someone going through a mental health issue, and to guide that person to the relevant help that they need.

One such MHFA is Julia Winter, occupational health nurse at Finning. When a new employee starts, they are invited to a free health surveillance with Julia, who runs a series of baseline physical health assessments including hearing and eyesight checks, which are repeated every two years. Mental health and wellbeing is a critical part of Julia's role; alongside the healthy mind, healthy body sessions she runs across the UK branches, her relationship and rapport with employees means that she is usually the first port of call for anyone struggling.

David Fletcher, who's worked in the New Prep department at the Finning Cannock branch for five years is one of many employees who've benefitted from the mental health services that Finning provides. Fresh faced in the role with only three months under his belt, David started to experience pins and needles symptoms, and with support from his boss, gave Julia a call.

"Looking back now, I've always had mental health issues, but it was never discussed openly. It came to the forefront when I knew my marriage was coming to an end, and I think I was in denial. As the doctors ran tests to determine the cause of the pins and needles, which turned out to be a symptom of anxiety, I got chatting to Julia at work, and I just broke down and told her about everything that was going on at home.

"From then on, we talked regularly, pretty much every other day. She didn't always talk back, she just let me say what I needed to say. Julia really went above and beyond her role and became a firm friend, and I know that I can talk to her about anything. A lot of my close friends are people I work with every day, so the lockdown has had a big impact on my mental health. I wanted to



get back to work as soon as it was safe to do so, so Finning did everything it could to make that happen."

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an immeasurable impact on all of our lives, and none more so than Lindsay Fuller, receptionist at the Leeds branch, who recently accessed Finning's mental health services when her husband fell ill with coronavirus.

"My story is not an easy one to tell. In late March, my partner Glen became ill with COVID-19 and was admitted to hospital. He fought hard and the medical team were amazing, but seven days after he was admitted, Glen passed away, aged 62. As he had tested positive for coronavirus, I also had to self-isolate, which meant that our families couldn't visit me or have any physical contact.

“I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR JULIA. WE SPOKE EVERY SINGLE DAY. IT DIDN'T MATTER IF I WAS SOBBING OR SCREAMING, IF I CALLED DURING HER LUNCH BREAK OR IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SHE WOULD BE ON THE OTHER END OF PHONE. SHE REALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT GRIEF ISN'T ON A SCHEDULE AND THAT WAS ABSOLUTELY INVALUABLE.”

"The support from not just Julia, but the wider Finning family has been outstanding. I've had messages of support from colleagues from all across the business, and the senior leadership also video called to send their wishes and to ask whether there was anything they could do. When I was ready to return to work, they ensured my area was COVID-19 safe and always checked in to make sure I felt secure and happy at work. It honestly kept me sane."

David and Lindsay used the services provided by Finning at different points in their career. Regardless of their time in the role, both had access to the same resources and support, even though David had only been in his job for three months. "Finning made sure that, even though I was suffering, my job was secure. Having that security meant that I had one less thing to worry about, so I could focus on myself and my daughter," he said.

Finning UK & Ireland is partnered with Mates in Mind, a UK charity raising awareness, addressing the stigma of poor mental health and promoting positive mental wellbeing across the construction industry. Through this, Finning employees can gain clear information, access available support and receive guidance on mental health, with information and resources sourced from charities such as Mind, Samaritans and Mental Health First Aid England.

It's a team effort to get a machine out of the door, one that involves all areas of Finning. The same can be said for its mental health support and services, whether it's through MHFAs like Julia, resources from Mates in Mind, or talking with colleagues who have sought help themselves. There is still a long way to go, but Finning is creating a culture where people feel valued and heard, one conversation at a time.

If you need support, you can contact the following charities and helplines:

Construction Industry Helpline 0345 605 1956 — Managed and funded by the Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity

Mind, the mental health charity 0300 123 3393 — Provides advice and support to anyone experiencing a mental health problem

The Samaritans 116 123 — Confidential 24-hour support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts

SHOUT OUT

There's been a lot of love for our machines and for Finning across social media in the last six months.



This one from ECL Civils really tells a story – the Cat 963K track loader getting stuck into the job in hand!



WM Plant Hire's next in line for a shout out. Here's a close up they shared on Twitter of a long reach Cat 345C on site – nice perspective!



Check out this beastly shot from one of our Instagram buddies, V8Steeve. Up close and personal with a Cat machine doing what it does best!

We'd love to see more photos and connect with you through our social channels.

Don't forget to use the hash tag, **#FeaturedByFinning**

Get involved by following us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter or Instagram

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We salute you KJ Services! Specialists in plant hire for the construction and quarrying industry, check out these beauties - Cat 740GC and Cat 745 articulated dump trucks getting down and dirty for some crushing.



The M O'Brien group has been shining a spotlight on some of the smaller Cat machines – since adding a Cat 308CR to its fleet – thank you M O'Brien – small but mighty!



A MACHINE OPERATOR'S BEST FRIEND

McGuirk Hire from Dublin recently shared a picture of one of their hardest workers operating a Cat 300.9, one of many micro-diggers in its fleet.

It's not just our customers that share shatteringly good photos. Here's one from Demolition News; a stunning profile of the new Cat 352 Ultra-high demolition excavator. This machine can carry a 3.7 tonne attachment and can work to a height of 28 metres!



BUILT FOR IT

Our friends at Ashbrook Ltd regularly post pics of their beloved Cat machines on their social feeds - and they know how take a good photo! Check out this one showing their new army of Cat 313FL GCs.



Throughout COVID, True Plant Hire have been carrying out critical jobs to keep the country going. Here's one of their super skilled operators carrying out essential agricultural ditching and draining works in their trusty Cat 313FL GC excavator.



DMJ Drainage specialise in all aspects of land drainage. They recently took delivery of two new Cat D6 bulldozers – here's the moment they landed on site – #D6 #Dozer





HERE TO HELP

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