



CHSA MEMBER PROFILE

Introducing Cromwell Polythene

Celebrating its 35th anniversary last year, Cromwell Polythene was established in October 1983. Today the business employs 37 people and has ambitious plans for growth.

Cromwell Polythene is proud to be an independent, family-run business committed to supply products for the capture and containment of waste and recyclables. It is owned and managed by James and Debbie Lee, and Paul Fleetwood. James and Debbie's three sons, Angus, Alexander and Henry Lee, work in the business as Office Manager and Business Development Managers respectively.

"It is our mission to be the most resourceful company in plastics, supplying products that help make the world cleaner, greener, and more economical."

James Lee, Managing Director

People make the difference

"I'm incredibly proud of the people in our business. It's my absolute privilege to work with great people who take pride in what they do and make a valuable contribution to the business. Many have progressed their careers with the company. Several have been with us for 10 and 15 years, and some more than 20 years. 10 of our longest serving employees have over 200 years' service between them!"

A flavour of the culture

"When I think about what sets us apart, integrity, honesty, reliability, quality, innovation, environment and family come to mind. Of course, we exist to serve our customers but first and foremost we look after our colleagues - our extended family if you like. In turn, they look after our customers."

Looking to the future

"Last year we enjoyed 20% growth. It was fantastic, but effectively working at 120% of our current warehouse capacity, it stressed our existing warehouse and logistics system and the team.

"We've invested in new facilities to accommodate this growth and support our ambitions for the future. Our new distribution warehouse and office, conveniently just down the road at Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire, is under construction and due to complete in August 2019. We're really looking forward to moving in!

"For the future we plan to continue in the markets we already serve - janitorial, local authorities, waste management - at the same time as expanding into new areas we will be better able to serve from our new site with our increased capacity.

"We've also put the environment at the heart of our business and set very clear goals. We will:

- Supply products with the highest recycled content, that are recyclable, reusable, or compostable.
- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions through efficient product design, packaging, and production.
- Strive to improve our environmental credentials of operations and distribution.
- Share knowledge and values with all our partners to promote resource efficiency."

The challenges in the industry

"There's such a lot going on at the moment, currency issues, trade agreements, etc., but probably the biggest issue is the heightened awareness of plastic, plastic waste, and its impact on the environment. Intuitively you would think it's bad for a plastics business but for us I think it's good. Our focus has always been on products with high recycled material content. Not only that, but we hope that our mainstream products, waste and recycling sacks, are part of the solution rather than the problem. Helping to store and collect waste and recyclables, keeping valuable resources in the circular economy and preventing leakage through poor waste management."



Cromwell Polythene is a Member of the CHSA's Manufacturing Standards Accreditation Scheme for Plastic Refuse Sacks



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Run by our members for our members, the CHSA is the powerful collective voice of all the major manufacturers and distributors of cleaning and hygiene products, from global multinationals and national networks to privately owned independent businesses.

Visit our website www.chsa.co.uk for a full list of our Accredited Distributors and Manufacturers.

Contact us at secretary@chsa.co.uk or 0800 243919 for more information.