



December, 2016

“So this is Christmas, and what have you done? Another year over...”

John Lennon

Review of the Year

2016 has seen a huge amount of activity and the year has passed quickly for the members of the project team.

In January, Programme Director Andy Davies joined the team and other senior managerial appointments were made.

Relationships with our integration partners REPL (for the JDA Warehouse Management System) and Keytree (for the SAP Order to Cash system) were formalised and detailed planning took place in the early part of the year.

The project organisation structure was finalised in the spring and the project office at Bookpoint was set up in April.

In July, we announced our plans to consolidate our warehouse operations into a single Distribution Centre at Didcot. Since then, we have engaged with key stakeholders to bring them up to speed with the project activities.

The team of Business Process Owners gathered business requirements during the spring and summer ahead of an intensive programme of process workshops that took place between September and November.

Construction Update

Piling work started in November. This involves inserting large columns of concrete deep into the ground as supporting foundations for the new building. A total of 3,500 piles will be inserted, and this activity will continue until the end of the year.

A temporary office has also been built on the site, from which the building activities will be co-ordinated.



Planning permission for the new warehouse was granted in August and construction started in early October.

Design work for the state of the art ‘Stingray’ automated stock retrieval system started in November and will be finalised by the New Year.

The year is ending in one of the busiest periods for the project team, with construction work continuing at pace and process design being finalised. More detail on this can be seen below.

The project team would like to wish all staff at Hachette and our third party distribution clients a very happy Christmas and we look forward to communicating further progress in the New Year!

Process Design

The series of workshops for the Order to Cash system completed in November. The outputs from these discussions are detailed in process design documents which are produced by the Business Process Owners on the project team.

The documents cover the business requirements and the future state processes that will be handled in the new SAP system. They also cover any interim processes that need to be in place during the transition period of bringing publishers into the new warehouse.

The processes will inform system development, which starts early next year.

What’s in a Name?

When trading from the new warehouse, the combined businesses of LBS and Bookpoint will be known as ‘Hachette UK Distribution’.



Meet the Team

Jason Gilbert

Senior Project Manager

(Warehouse Management Systems and Operations)



Jason has worked at LBS for more than 20 years, most recently as Head of Operations and Customer Services.

He has recently joined the project team to take on responsibility for the delivery of the warehouse management systems, as well as the new operational practices that will be deployed at the warehouse.

Jason will report into Andy Davies and his appointment allows Mark Jones to fully focus on the warehouse build, fit-out and delivery of automated stock picking.

Caption Suggestions

Last month’s newsletter included a picture of senior management at the site of the new warehouse.

Many thanks to those who suggested captions.



The best submissions include “Homepride Collectables” from Susan Howe at Orion and an “Unenthusiastic Beastie Boys Tribute Act” from Ian Duffy, the project’s Senior Project Manager for Order to Cash.

