

Update

Behind every striking carpet lies a succession of processes, skilled operators, and high quality yarns. However it is not too often we reflect on how these carpets come to possess the colour that governs the decisions of so many homeowners today. To celebrate reaching its 110th year in operation and fifth year at its current facility, leading yarn dyeing expert, Harrison Gardner, reveals to CFR the secrets of over a century of success ...

DYED TO PERFECTION



Founded in 1901, family-owned Harrison Gardner has remained one of the leading names in the yarn dyeing industry. By maintaining such high standards in its operations, the company has built a reputation for good service appreciated by a whole host of branches within the wool textile industry.

Striving to deliver unique shades, service and satisfaction, the management team and flexible workforce continues to work very closely with its customers to build partnerships that it can develop. Efficiency is high on the company's agenda with a just-in-time principle and the ability to hold stock to ensure turnaround of dyed yarn within tight deadlines.

Now celebrating its 110th anniversary, the team believes the key to its success has been following in the footsteps of its founder WH Harrison, as Jonathan Harrison, joint owner and director, explains: "It was due to WH Harrison's indomitable character that the company survived the pioneering years. He prided himself on a hands-on approach to business, backed up with technical expertise, and this philosophy has been passed through the generations."

Continuing on from generations of successful leadership, brothers Jonathan and Daniel Harrison, joint owners and directors, maintain a hands-on ethos and believe in leading by example. Jonathan heads up the production department, while Daniel oversees all

technical aspects of the business, as well as distribution.

Jonathan continues: "All of the Harrisons have continued with this tradition of close involvement in the skill of colour matching. Over the years we have adapted our business in order to survive the changing marketplace. We have invested in the latest dyeing machines and dyeing processes to ensure we operate with maximum efficiency."

In order to remain competitive within the marketplace, Harrison Gardner took the decision five years ago to relocate to new premises at British textile manufacturer, Bulmer and Lumb, based in Bradford. Jonathan expands: "The old mill where we had been for over 95 years had become inefficient. We knew that in order to survive and remain competitive we needed to streamline our plant. This huge project involved purchasing new machinery and creating a purpose-built dyehouse."

"The result is that we now have a plant which is capable of turning work round very quickly and a capacity of 50,000 kilos per week."

Behind the whole operation lies a dedicated workforce, passionate in delivering an unprecedented service to its customers. Harrison Gardner employs 35 people – many of which remained with the business throughout its move to Bradford from Hightown. Furthermore, six employees have over 35 years service,