



PRESS RELEASE: APRIL 2009

SPECIAL EVENT MARKS FRANKE SISSONS 225TH ANNIVERSARY

Franke Sissons Ltd, based on the Sheepbridge Industrial Estate in Chesterfield, is celebrating its 225th anniversary in May later this year.

The company will be hosting a number of events both for customers and staff to mark this landmark event, which includes a charity balloon release and an official anniversary ceremony, carried out by the local MP Cllr Paul Holmes, the Lord Mayor of Chesterfield Cllr Fred Quayle and the Chief Executive of the company's Swiss parent group, Mr Michael Pieper.

Customers will be given a chance to tour the factory, mostly re-built after a devastating fire in 2006, and see state of the art technology in a world class manufacturing environment. More recently the company has added conference facilities and a new showroom, which customers and employees can take advantage of for training and sales seminars. There will be other special guests at the event from within the Franke Group, and the business's longest serving employee, Granville Lowe, who is currently celebrating his 50th year working for the company!

Andy Dukelow, Managing Director of Franke Sissons, said: "This is a hugely exciting and rewarding year for us and we have been planning these celebrations for many months. I have worked for the company since joining as an apprentice in 1981 and like all businesses there have been some very good times, and times such as today when things are more challenging. What has seen us through over the years is our focus on innovation and excellence in quality manufacturing and close relationships with our customers. This is backed up by a strong culture of teamwork, with all employees working together to achieve a common goal."

Also on show will be delicate artefacts from Franke Sissons history, including several cutlery items, a large meat dish, a toast rack, a tureen and cover, and several Silver

dishes which have all been kindly loaned by Sheffield museums. These items were originally produced by W&G Sissons Ltd when they were located on Eyre Street in Sheffield in 1784 and operated as silversmiths.

During its 225 years, Sissons has changed significantly as a business. Starting out as a manufacturer of silver plated candlesticks, tureens and cutlery to being one of the pioneers of electroplating producing high quality dishes. After the First World War, the company began manufacturing sinks, later lamp reflectors and stub pipes for Lancaster bombers during the Second World War. The company expanded and moved to Calver Mill in Derbyshire in 1973 and then in 1978 bought its current factory location on Carrwood Road in Chesterfield. After becoming part of the Swiss-owned Franke Group in 2002, the company became known as Franke Sissons Ltd and is now the UK's leading manufacturer of sanitary ware systems and solutions for schools, local authorities, prisons, hotels and the commercial sector. The history continues in stainless steel sinks in being the UK's leading manufacturer of commercial sinks.

For more information about the forthcoming events or the 225th anniversary, contact Franke Sissons on 01246 450255 or visit the website at: www.franke-sissons.co.uk.

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Notes to Editor:

Franke Sissons Ltd is one of Europe's largest manufacturers of stainless steel sanitary ware and the UK's leading manufacturer of industrial sinks and associated catering equipment. Franke Sissons is part of the Franke Group within the Washroom Systems division.

Franke Sissons Ltd was founded in 1784 in Sheffield, England. It became one of the first companies in the world to manufacture a kitchen sink from stainless steel in the 1930's. The company is now based in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England.

Franke Sissons employs over 130 people in the UK, of which over 80 are involved in the manufacture of its stainless steel products. The Company has been approved since

1989 to ISO 9001 quality system. Franke Sissons are specialists in deep drawing/pressing of stainless steel and also uses laser cutting, robot welding and CAD/CNC technology to produce high quality products for the UK and worldwide market

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