



Levenseat Ltd

Specialists in Waste Management

Some History and Background

Levenseat Ltd

Levenseat Ltd was founded by its two present directors Hew Hamilton and Peter MacLaren and began operations in 1986 at its first landfill site, now referred to as Levenseat 1. In 1988 the company formed a joint venture with British Industrial Sand Ltd (BIS) which was the operator of Levenseat Quarry and in 1990, on the completion of Levenseat 1, operations moved to BIS's Muldron Quarry.

Preparatory to the sale of Hepworth Minerals & Chemicals Ltd (formerly BIS) to the Sibelco Group, the joint venture was dissolved in 1998 and Levenseat Ltd took over the whole business of the joint venture. At that time and following the introduction of landfill tax in 1996, Levenseat began its first recycling operations at Muldron Quarry.

In August 2002, and following a period of site preparation, the present site at Levenseat was opened for business, and at this point, with custom designed facilities, the company was able to accelerate its diversification into recycling.

In May 2000 Levenseat Ltd acquired Torphin Quarry which is now operated as an inert landfill.

Levenseat – the name

The name Levenseat is believed to originate from the time of the Covenanters in the 17th Century. The story is that a group of 11 Covenanters met regularly for open-air worship at a seat shaped rock near what is now Leven Seat trig point. The name "Levenseat" is derived from the words "Eleven" and "Seat".

Confusingly, there are two renderings of the name in use. The summit with the trig point is usually referred to as Leven Seat – 2 words – whereas the general area and other features such as Levenseat Quarry are referred to as Levenseat – 1 word. The two word rendering is probably the older.

Levenseat – History

The Levenseat area has been the subject of extensive mineral extraction since at least the early nineteenth century. Minerals extracted have included ironstone, limestone, fireclay, and sandstone and signs of all of these activities are apparent in the landscape today.



Levensat – Poetry

POEMS OF FRANCIS ELLIS

THE MAIDS O' LEVENSEAT

Among the heather and the bent
A canty clachan lies
And though to very few 'tis kent
For fame it never sighs;
But Scotland wide for lassies fair
Has nane that can compete
In queenly grace and beauty rare
Wi' the maids o' Levensat

Chorus:

Fair maids o' Levensat,
There's nane mair kind and sweet;
My heart I've gi'en to her wha's queen
'Mong the maids o' Levensat

Among the rest there is a lass,
Her name I winna tell,
Her een are dewdraps 'mong the grass,
Her cheeks the heatherbell;
And than her voice nae sang e'er sung
Was e'er sae pure and sweet:
O she's the fairest flower among
The maids o' Levensat

Fair maids o' Levensat, etc

When gloamin' folds her mantle grey
O'er hill and moorland wide
Wi' joyous heart I fondly stray,
My dear love by my side;
The happy hours flee fast awa',
While I, in bliss complete,
Woo there the sweetest lass o' a'
The maids o' Levensat

Fair maids o' Levensat, etc

Francis Ellis, published 1905



MY NATIVE HOME

My native home I'll ne'er disown,
But to it will return,
Back to the mountain's gentle slope,
And to the Clochrie Burn.

There oft in Childhood's golden age
With heart both leal and true,
I wandered by the green-clad banks,
The cataracts to view.

Oft I roamed the moorland wild
In summer's sunny days,
And listened to the wild birds sing
Their sweet refreshing lays.

I've heard the moorcock crowing loud
Among the heather sweet,
And listened to his echo clear
Near the mine at Levensat.

I've stood and watched the wily fox,
As from his den he'd creep,
To hide behind some old grey rock
Beneath the sun to sleep.

Those happy scenes of by-gone days
Still linger in my mind,
I see again the village school
So cunningly designed.

I seem to see the merry boys
With faces all aglow,
As when we played at hide and seek
Around the smithy row.

Ah many of those merry boys
From parents far did roam,
And never will they meet again
All in their native home.

For some have found a soldier's grave
Far o'er the briny foam,
While others met as sad a fate
Not far a way from home.

My rural home, my rural home,
My mountains wild and free,
What happy thoughts dost thou recall,
Dear Levensat to me.

Francis Ellis, published 1905



DEAR LEVENSEAT

Though it has no winding bays,
Nor shady valleys sweet,
It is the theme of many lays,
My home, dear Levenseat.

The laverock there, on airy wing,
Pours forth his music free,
And makes my heart more fondly cling
To my home of infancy.

I love my native mountain,
I hold it ever dear,
I love its sparkling fountain,
So brilliant and clear.

I love to climb its rugged face,
To pluck the sweet blue-bell,
And take the fern from its place
From off the rocky fell.

No more o'er thee I'll wander,
From thee now I must part,
But through absence I'll grow fonder
Of the home I love at heart.

Francis Ellis, published 1905

Francis Ellis was born at Muldron in 1876, his family removing shortly thereafter to Levenseat. From the age of 17 he served in the 1st Battalion, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders then, after purchasing his discharge, returned to work in the mines where he subsequently was blinded in an accident. Living at Bankhead, Levenseat, he subsequently worked as a packman which he described as an "ancient calling". He published some poetry in the West Lothian Courier and the Glasgow Observer and in 1905 published a collection titled "Sprigs o' Heather"



Levenseat – Levenseat Sand Quarry

Levenseat Sand Quarry is operated by WBB Minerals (previously named British Industrial Sand Ltd, Hepworth Minerals & Chemicals Ltd and Sibelco Minerals & Chemicals Ltd). WBB is owned by a Belgian company, Sibelco.

Although the quarry is situated on land belonging to Handaxwood Farm, the sandstone (and fireclay) belong to a third party and neither Levenseat Ltd nor Hew Hamilton and Peter MacLaren have any financial interest in the quarry or any legal rights to determine how the quarry is operated.

There has been quarrying and mining at and around Levenseat for at least the past 200 years. Minerals extracted have included coal, ironstone, limestone, fireclay and sand.