

INVEST IN  
**South  
Lakeland**



## James Cropper plc

A spectrum in paper to rival any rainbow

**JAMES  
CROPPER**  
EST. 1845

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**James Cropper is a name synonymous with industry in South Lakeland, a company that proudly traces a direct line of paper manufacturing heritage in the district back to 1753.**

Croppers, as they are affectionately referred to, are one of the world's foremost manufacturers of specialist and highly coloured papers and supply a customer base spanning more than 50 countries with a product range which includes everything from papers for books and bindings, to picture framing and archival grades, to papers and board for premium packaging of luxury goods.

Most famously, James Cropper manufacture the bright red paper stock for the Royal British Legion's poppies, produced each year in remembrance of those from the armed forces that have lost their lives in wars and conflicts.

The first James Cropper took over the Burneside and Cowan Head mills in 1845 and since then six generations of the Cropper family have been at the helm, with Mark Cropper the current Chairman.

Phil Wild, CEO of James Cropper PLC, tells us more about the workforce: "Our company ethos is based on family values and hard work. The company strives for high standards in everything we do and a lot of this is down to a heritage of innovation, investment and resilience."

James Cropper, which became a publicly quoted company back in 1951, is still seen very much as an independent business and Mark Cropper, like his father, is still a hands-on Chairman.

Mark Cropper adds "Being involved in making things is intensely satisfying and the challenge of continuing to manufacture products that fit every parameter - safety, environment, customer needs and of course, profitability, ensures that our work will continue to challenge and evolve. We are proud of the fact that many aspects of our operations are truly world-class, reflecting our long term policy of continual investment."

Along with significant investment in machinery, staff and the Burneside manufacturing site, James Cropper have also ensured they stay at the front of innovation in terms of process technology and colour science. With customers demanding ever greater choice (ranging from matching the colour of a leaf to intensely coloured board suitable for direct contact with food), so the development team rise to the challenge. With deep colours being a signature of Croppers, their library boasts over 3,500 live shades and computerised matching of another 12,700.

A company which has also embraced and encouraged diversification, in 1986 James Cropper PLC formed Technical Fibre Products, a wholly owned subsidiary company based alongside the main Mill but who are far removed from traditional paper-making.





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Technical Fibre Products (TFP) develop and manufacture high-performance nonwoven materials, offering the capability to tailor materials to meet performance requirements. These find application in surface engineering of composites, fire protection, power storage, cryogenic and thermal insulation.

TFP Optimat®, Optiveil® and Tecnofire® materials deliver properties including superior quality surface finish, while providing functionality across areas spanning EMI shielding, electrical conductivity, fire protection, static dissipation and enhanced abrasion resistance. Typical materials include carbon, glass, aramid, ceramics and metal coated fibres supplied into Aerospace, Energy, Automotive, Electronics, Thermal Insulation and Construction industries.

To meet the demands of this ever-evolving sector and an increasing customer-base, TFP has established a sales team and specialist manufacturing facilities in North America where over 50% of its products are sold.

Their latest venture, James Cropper 3D Products, has been formed to shape a sustainable future for stand-out packaging. The new product innovation COLOURFORM™ can be made using 100% renewable, natural wood fibres or high quality recycled content from James Cropper's own world-class recycling plant. A truly sustainable alternative to plastic and other materials: fully recyclable and naturally biodegradable. This will provide a new generation of stand-out moulded packaging, with a distinct tactile finish, in any colour, with guaranteed consistency. In this new era of packaging design, James Cropper 3DP is committed to enhancing customers' brand identity, product value and packaging integrity, while reducing the impact on the environment.

## **James Cropper plc**

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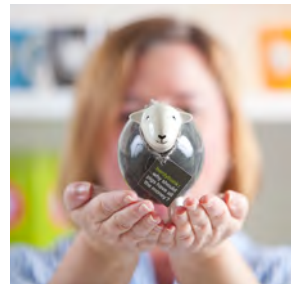
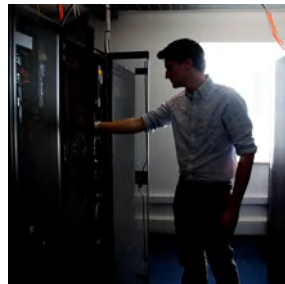


# Welcome to South Lakeland

A Breath of Fresh Air for Business



An area known globally for its astounding natural beauty and unique vibrant culture, South Lakeland is also home for a thriving and innovative business environment where companies can become established, grow and prosper.



The entrepreneurial business spirit is strongly encouraged in South Lakeland, reflected in the healthy number of fledgling enterprises setting up each year in our region, and our work also encompasses projects designed to help make the first steps to start-up as easy as possible.



The Economic Development Team at South Lakeland District Council are an inward investment service providing information and support to businesses of all sizes, covering all industry sectors, whether you are already here or are looking to locate your operations in South Lakeland.



The Economic Development Team are here to help your business uncover the exciting potential that exists here. Should you have any questions, we are on hand to assist and tell you more about the opportunities to be found in the most beautiful corner of the UK.

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