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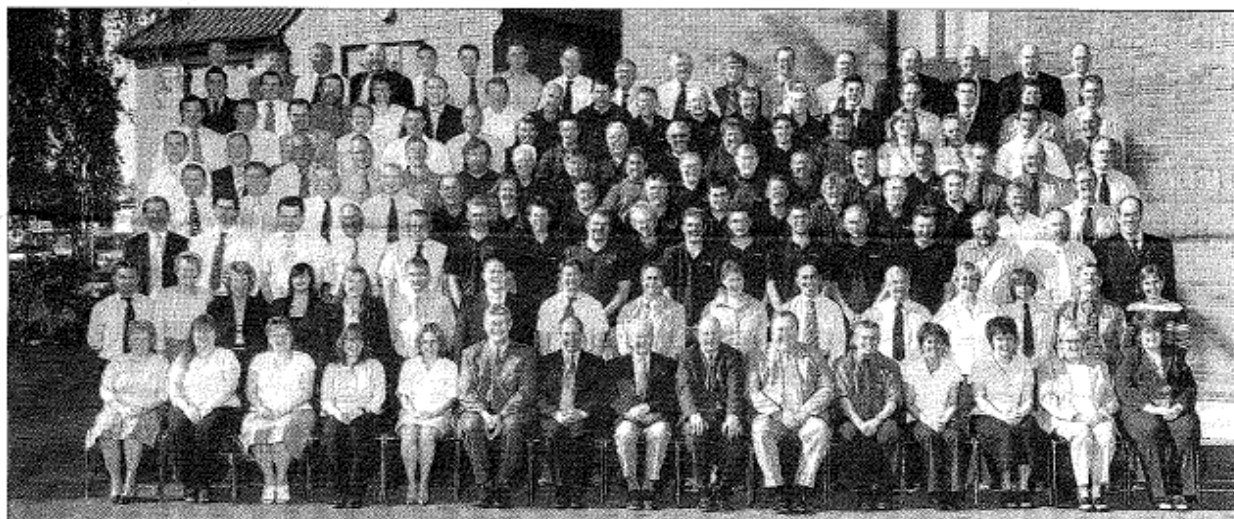
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Happy staff put firm in top 20



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COUNTY construction company EG Carter is officially one of the top 20 best small companies to work for in the United Kingdom.

The Gloucester business was 18th in the weekend's *Sunday Times* Best 100 Small Companies to Work For in 2006 and the second best in the South West.

It is the only firm in the county to make the list, which forms part of a two-supplement special in the national newspaper and is now in its third year.

The newspaper says: "Equality, respect and fairness are the building blocks at EG Carter. The 224-strong workforce of this family-run building contractors, from carpenters and bricklayers to surveyors and contract managers, feels valued, giving the firm an 85% positive score for believing they can make a good contribution to its success. Staff report a strong sense of family in their team (82%) are excited about where the company is going and say their job is good for personal growth (both scoring 80%)."

Not only that, its latest turnover figure for annual sales was £36 million with profits of £270,000.

EG Carter was more than happy with the results. The data is compiled



■ **HAPPY SHIP:**

EG Carter staff pictured on the firm's 60th birthday last year; left, Michael Carter, managing director of EG Carter (right) receives the company's award from Richard Caseby, managing editor of the *Sunday Times*

for the *Sunday Times* by Best Companies Ltd which demands at least 40% of each company's workforce replies for it to be considered at all.

With the Lower Tuffley Lane firm believing a reliable, skilled, motivated workforce pays dividends in its industry - where reputation counts - it is not surprising managing director Michael Carter is very pleased indeed.

Mr Carter said: "We are delighted to have achieved 18th place in the *Sunday Times* Best 100 Small Companies to Work For list.

"We have a low employee turnover and feel this is due to the opportunities and benefits we offer individuals, as well as the strong team spirit we aim to encourage.

"We believe that our success lies largely in the hands of our staff, in their skill and their commitment to working together as a team.

"That's why we invest in programmes and activities that enhance working life and give employees job satisfaction. We've enjoyed a great deal of success as a business over the last few years and it is our current team, with their strong work ethic and commitment to the business, that has brought this success to us."

Staff were asked to rate EG Carter against 66 different questions covering eight key elements such as leadership; personal growth; community spirit and well being.

According to Best Companies Ltd the survey results gave a clear idea of

the standard of communication, level of satisfaction, career opportunities and individual development programmes in place within the company.

The *Sunday Times* 100 Best Small Companies to Work For programme aims to encourage the adoption of best practice, promote employee welfare as a way to business success and provide a forum where best practice can be recognised and rewarded.

Only last year EG Carter beat more than 100 companies to take first place in the *Contract Journal*-sponsored Best Places to Work in Construction awards.

In 1992 EG Carter was one of 10 building contractors in the country invited to join the Chartered Building Company Scheme and in 1998 it was one of the first building companies to achieve investor in People status.

The company was founded in 1945 by George Carter from his family home in Treadworth and last year it celebrated its 60th anniversary. The year was also marked by several other notable achievements: it was awarded first place in a national search for the best place to work in Construction; it was listed at number 30 in the Top 100 companies in Gloucestershire, published by *The Citizen* and *Gloucestershire Echo*, and at 29 in the list of the top 50 Fastest Growing Companies in the South West, published by the Western Daily Press.

EG Carter has also been invited to become a Beacon company.