

A write royal gift

West Cumbria company produces diamond-adorned pencil

THE managing director of the Cumberland Pencil Company at Lillyhall was at Buckingham Palace last night to present a Diamond Jubilee pencil gift for the Queen.

The pencil – one of only two in existence – was handmade by production services manager Clive Farrar, of Stainton, near Penrith.

David Sharrock had an appointment with a palace official to hand over the gift.

It features Cumberland graphite from Seathwaite Mine in Borrowdale, where the material was discovered during the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth.

The graphite was encased in incense.

The pencil was then painted black and had “60 Dazzling Years – 2012 Diamond Jubilee” written on it in calligraphy by master scribe Paul Antonio.

CROWN

To complete the gift the company commissioned a white gold crown, in the shape of a diamond and featuring 60 of the jewels and white gold lilies to symbolise royalty.

It was designed by jewellery designer Daniela Paladi and handmade by Mario Pietroluongo, a master goldsmith from Pforzheim, Germany’s gold city.

The second pencil, which is identical, will go on display at the Cumberland Pencil Museum in Keswick from Saturday.

To make the pencils, Clive revived traditional skills used by craftsmen before 1832 when the first pencil factory was opened in Keswick.

He said: “The biggest

BY SARAH NICHOLLS

challenge was to achieve an even thickness of graphite, just 2.6mm, from a single lump of material using a band saw.”

Paul added: “I used a script developed in England in the 17th century called English Roundhand.

“It is one of the most difficult hands to master and was made doubly difficult as the surface of the pencil is curved.”

Leah Lister, marketing manager at Cumberland Pencil Company, said: “We are proud of our long association with the Queen.

“She opened our new factory here in Lillyhall in June 2008 and we really wanted to do something very special to commemorate her Diamond Jubilee.

“I knew of the wonderful designs Daniela the jewellery designer could do, so I commissioned her to create a glorious crown decorated with 60 diamonds and made in white gold.

“We then required a pencil to match this dazzling crown, so Clive stepped in and created this truly unique pencil by hand using graphite from the original Borrowdale mine.

“We are delighted with the finished product.

“We do hope the Queen will enjoy this beautiful memento from the Cumberland Pencil Company, celebrating 180 years of British manufacturing this year.”

On Saturday a walk will be held to the Seathwaite mine for 30 people.

The guided walk has been arranged by the pencil museum and the National Trust. For tickets visit www.pencilmuseum.co.uk or call 017687 73626.



Diamond gesture: Clive Farrar, Derwent’s production services manager who made the pencil, proudly displays the gift which has been sent to the Queen

He’s waxing lyrical about the jubilee



Happy and glorious: Poet Howard Laws

A POET has found a unique way to mark the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee – and he has received royal approval for his efforts.

Howard Laws of Carlisle has penned his own new verse of the national anthem paying tribute to Elizabeth II.

He put these lyrics on a home made greetings card and sent them to Buckingham Palace – and he has received an acknowledgement.

The acknowledgment read: *I send you my grateful thanks for the words of loyalty and support which you have so kindly sent on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of my Accession to the Throne.*

ELIZABETH II

“I was delighted,” said Mr Laws, 75, of Moorside Drive, Carlton Grange. “I didn’t really expect to get anything back.”

The new verse praises the work that the Queen has done during her reign.

ROYAL LYRICS – Mr Laws’ new verse

God save our gracious Queen,
None nobler has there been,
Nor one so keen,
Serving aspiringly,
Working untiringly,
Reigning inspiringly,
God save the Queen.



Special presentation: Close-up of the pencil and the box it was contained in for the handover at Buckingham Palace

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