



Sussex Nurseries Ltd's staff outing to Whipsnade Zoo, 1960 – Judy, Sarah and Graham Bailey.

other growers and horticultural businesses will consider donating their own business archives to relevant repositories, not only to preserve their own history, but to help researchers study and understand the history and development of the industry and its impact on a local, national and even international scale. The National Business Archives Strategy offers general advice on managing and looking after business archives in-house (www.managingbusinessarchives.co.uk). The Peter Bailey Ltd collection catalogue can be viewed online, via West Sussex Record Office's Search Online facility (<http://www.westsussexpast.org.uk/searchonline/>), and the physical collection can be accessed via the Record Office's searchroom, located in Chichester. Full details of West Sussex Record Office's location, opening hours and access arrangements can be found on our website

(www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro).

Having been persuaded of the benefits of a Graso straw-burning boiler to provide heat to be stored in large thermo-tanks at Guy and Wright's tomato-growing greenhouses in Essex (see *The Commercial Greenhouse Grower* June 2013), Rob Jones has joined forces with Arkadiusz Dobrowlski and Gerald King to form ARG Biomass Ltd writes Richard Shepherd-Barron

Burning straw - not money

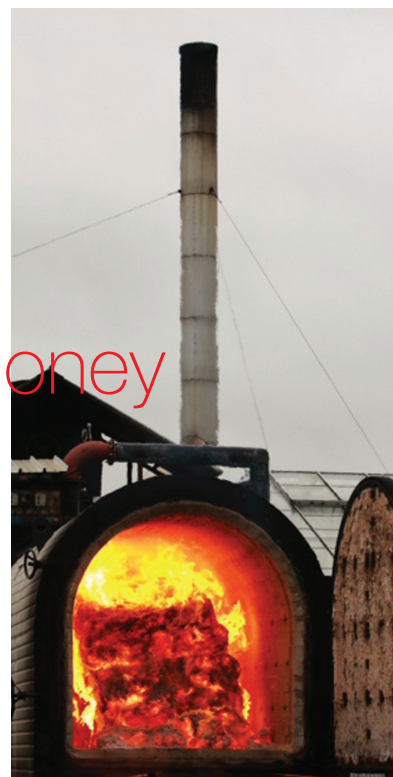
ARG Biomass is a specialist supplier of straw-fired boilers for agricultural and industrial uses. They will design and supply a project to provide the advantages that are available under the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme. The three directors bring a wide range of knowledge and experience to the new business: Rob Jones has a technical background as a race mechanic in many forms of motor racing (from Formula One to touring cars) as well as a good knowledge of horticulture gained with his family's business - Guy and Wright.

Arkadiusz has been working at Guy and Wright for the past eight years as manager of their renewable energy enterprises. The company have a large AD plant which uses their own and other companies' green waste). Gerald's background is in heating and fuel installations for a wide range of industries including pipework installations for protected growers in the Lea Valley.

The boiler supplier is the Polish company Graso who have

been making straw burning boilers for over ten years, having supplied several hundred customers in Poland and other countries. ARG say that the Graso boilers are compact, reliable and long lasting. They are guaranteed for twelve months and have all necessary certificates to comply with flue gas emission standards. ARG favour manual loading of straw bales (large or round) and reckon that their installations can be two-thirds of the cost of an automatic system. Loading isn't normally a problem as most larger farmers and growers have a fork-truck or front end loader available.

Rob Jones said: "Our 1MW boiler can heat up to three acres of greenhouses and we can design the entire system



to fit in exactly with our customer's needs. We can provide significant fuel cost savings by converting an old heating system to straw and I would expect the likely pay-back through the RHI payments to be in the region of four years. In addition to cost savings, straw-fired boilers help "tick the box" in the ever increasing list of environmental requirements for produce".



A Straw boiler open afternoon earlier in the year.