



# Muntons PRESS RELEASE

## Muntons plc appoint new Managing Director

Muntons plc are pleased to announce that Alan Ridealgh has been appointed to the position of Managing Director. Alan has been with Muntons for twenty-six years and has been promoted from his current position as Deputy Managing Director, a post that Alan has held for nearly two years, where his drive and vigour have been a very positive influence to the success of the company.

Alan is well known and respected within the grain, malting and food industries and is well placed and committed to maintaining stability and security within the company; important in the highly dynamic and challenging times currently being experienced by the cereal based food industry worldwide.

With a solid commercial background, Alan is well aware of the importance of customer service and market awareness and it is these key areas that his strengths will prove invaluable in ensuring that Muntons are poised to accept the challenges of the future. "We are well positioned to react to the rapidly changing markets that exist today" said Alan, he continued "but it is our family and staff ownership structure that allows us to think and act with the long term in mind and provides a very stable platform from which to build our business."

Alan stressed that innovation and new product development were not only essential to the Muntons Malted Ingredients division but formed an integral part of his plan for future direction. "The food industry in its quest to reduce salt and sugar in consumer foods is, ironically, hunting for the very products that we make, in its drive to bring healthier foods onto the market and it is this that makes our ingredients particularly relevant today" said Alan, he continued "my aim is to ensure that the recognised benefits of our malted ingredients are brought to the attention of the key market players."

The Chairman of Muntons plc, Mr Tom Wells commented, "Alan is highly respected and well known within our industry and with the trade. I am absolutely delighted that he will become the Managing Director of Muntons plc in January next year."

When Alan formally takes up his new role at the beginning of January he will be succeeding Gerald Prior who will be retiring as managing Director – a position

that Gerald has held for the past eight years. During this period Gerald steered Muntons through a remarkable period of change, dramatically expanding their core business activities and driving the Company from what was historically an agricultural business into a modern food business, with the necessary quality, health and safety and environmental controls in place to ensure its place in today's markets.

Tom Wells remarked "Gerald was at the helm of the company during one of the most challenging times ever in the malting industry. His expertise and management qualities were invaluable during this period. I am delighted to wish Gerald a long and happy retirement and would like to thank him personally for his untiring commitment to the company."

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

After attaining his BSc (Hons) degree in Zoology at the University of Newcastle, and spending two years working for the Ministry of Agriculture, Alan began his career with Muntons in 1980 as a trainee grain buyer at their Bridlington, Yorkshire Maltings. He moved to Stowmarket, Suffolk in 1982 and became Stowmarket grain buyer for five years. He transferred back to Bridlington for seven years in the role of grain Manager. In 1994 Alan was promoted to the position of Grain Director and returned to Stowmarket where he has been based ever since. 1997 saw Alan promoted to Managing Director of Muntons Grain then in 2001 a Director of Muntons (Holdings) plc and Managing Director of Muntons Malt. His last promotion was to the position of Deputy Managing Director of Muntons plc in 2005.

Alan is a keen angler and enjoys sport, particularly badminton and squash.

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