



GLATFELTER
Beyond Paper



LEGACY: Lydney Mill boss George Glatfelter, third from left, presents a cheque to Melville Watts' son Andrew and treasurer of the Friends of Lydney Hospital Brian James with new chairman of the trustees Anthony Midgley while members of the firm look on.

George flies in with parting gift for town

by **Luke Sellers**

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GLOBAL paper mill boss George Glatfelter marked his farewell visit to the Lydney factory with a £2,000 cheque presentation in memory of Melville Watts.

The Glatfelter chief executive officer handed over the cheque to the Friends of Lydney Hospital and Melville's son Andrew during his final trip to the Forest before he retires in December.

Mr Glatfelter, 58, met former Friends of Lydney Hospital chairman Melville on his last visit to the Lydney mill in March.

He said: "He had a real passion for the cause and it really resonated

with me. I am very happy to make this contribution to help keep his work going and because the hospital is important to our employees and the community in this area."

Mr Glatfelter, who is visiting from America, came to the Lydney factory as the last European stop on a farewell tour of the firm's global operations.

And he said he was leaving the Lydney plant in good shape.

"What excites me about Lydney is that it is key to the strategic direction of the company," he said. "The factory has done very well in terms of continuing to change, upgrade and advance."

Mr Glatfelter has been with the company for more than 35 years and CEO for the last 12. Over that time he has established the firm as a world leader in paper-based food and drink products.

Two out of every three teabags used in the world is now made by Glatfelter.

And while other firms in the industry have struggled they have continued to grow.

Mr Glatfelter says his legacy to the company has been to drive them forward while maintaining the values that have been at the heart of the business since it began in 1864.

He said: "We have been committed to changing anything and everything that would push us forward from the management to the board of directors.

"If we hadn't made those changes

we might not be here today.

"But something we have not changed and will not change is our core values; to have mutual respect for our employees, to be financially responsible and to give back to the local communities around us."

And Mr Glatfelter said that he fully expected the firm to continue in the same vein following his retirement.

He said: "The reason for the visit is first of all to pass on a message of thanks to employees for all their support. And also to lay down a challenge for the future to never stand still. If we never stand still at Lydney then I can assure you we will have a wonderful future here."

