

## **WEIR & SONS ACQUIRES RL AUSTEN, STRENGTHENING TIES WITHIN THE HOULDEN COMMUNITY**

**Houlden is delighted to share positive news from within our community, involving two long-standing and highly respected Member businesses.**

**Weir & Sons**, led by the Andrews family, has completed the **acquisition of RL Austen** in Chichester from Mandy Sargeant. RL Austen will continue to trade under its established name, honouring the heritage, deep local roots and trusted reputation it has built over many decades.

All existing team members will remain in place, with Store Manager James Taylor continuing to lead day-to-day operations. This ensures a seamless transition for colleagues, customers and the wider community, while providing a strong foundation for Weir & Sons to work alongside an experienced and highly knowledgeable team.

The acquisition marks a thoughtful step forward for Weir & Sons as they look towards future development, while staying true to their long-held values of craftsmanship, service and exceptional customer experience. Welcoming RL Austen into their wider portfolio allows both businesses to build on established strengths and support the next phase of growth.

For Mandy, this transition comes at a natural time, having been considering the future direction of the business. It is encouraging to see RL Austen continue under new ownership that both respects and celebrates its history. The outcome also reflects the strong bonds of trust, collaboration and shared values that exist across the Houlden network.

We are certain the wider community will join Houlden in **wishing Mandy every happiness for the future**, and in **congratulating the teams** at **Weir & Sons** and **RL Austen** as they **embark on this next chapter together**.

