

WJ wins award for 'Weatherline'

Highways Magazine Roadmarking Product of the Year 2010

WJ Roadmarkings is the roadmarking contractor for Derbyshire County Council, who tasked WJ with reducing the number of road accidents and incidents on the A57 Snake Pass by upgrading and replacing the road markings.

The A57 is one of the country's most notorious roads for road accidents. It is extremely twisty with many sharp bends and is covered by trees in some sections. The existing markings were extruded to 100mcd/lux/m2 on old asphalt and surface dressing sites. The seven month period prior to laying the new road markings there were five serious accidents and 13 slight incidents costing the county in the region of £1.1 million.

After consultation with Derbyshire County Council, WJ Roadmarkings and Ambridge Thermoplastics, it was agreed that both the edge line and the centre line would be recovered using the Ambridge Thermoplastic wet night high visibility product, Weatherline. This was to run the full length of the A57, 17km in total.

Weatherline is a flat extruded thermoplastic product which gives

dry reflective readings of 200mcd/lux/m2 and wet readings of 55mcd/lux/m2. It is extruded by a machine and is laid at slightly hotter temperatures than other wet night products so the bond between the old road markings or older surfaces is excellent. It is also laid at 3mm thick so again it is ideal for recovering existing road markings and does not create thick or high road markings that can cause problems for motorcycles. The extruded thermoplastic is laid at speed using a machine which made Weatherline an ideal choice to meet the timescale restrictions on this project.

Weatherline was also complimented with the use of the 3M 590 rubber insert which is the brightest catseye rubber available on the market.

The scheme started on the 7th July 2009 and was completed within the three day closure of the A57 Snake Pass and to date there has



As a result of these fantastic figures we were nominated for "roadmarking project of the year 2010".

The WJ Linkline group attended the award ceremony on the 20th October 2010 at the prestigious Millennium Hotel in London.

Here we were awarded the pinnacle of success "The roadmarking project of the year 2010".

Wayne's thanks go to everyone who was involved in this high profile project and he was very pleased to receive the award on behalf of the group.

Well done and here's to another award in 2011.

been no remedial work. Since the introduction of Weatherline to the present day, Derbyshire County Council has reported that there have been three serious accidents and six slight incidents and no fatalities. This shows a significant reduction in figures; 40% for serious accidents, 53% for slight incidents and the cost to the tax payer has been reduced by around £0.5 million (45%) - proving once again that roadmarkings DO SAVE LIVES.



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LINKLINE GOES LIVE

LINKLINE Maintenance Services' new website goes live at the end of March at www.linklinegroup.com. The smart new site gives clients easy access to useful resources such as downloadable brochures and data sheets, and incorporates several interactive tools, including a design aid for playgrounds. Clients can also access a password protected extranet to find out the real time status of jobs.

The Linkline site incorporates a microsite for Ambridge Thermoplastics, the group's road marking materials arm. This houses a vast library of technical data, risk assessments and method statements for the company's expansive range of paints and materials.

The site also projects a more uniform corporate image, underlining the message that Linkline is part of the umbrella WJ Linkline Group, whose member companies between them cover all aspects of temporary and permanent road marking, from hydroblasting to safety surfacing, building specialist vehicles and supplying road marking materials.

"We hope the new site will reinforce the breadth of services that we offer across the group," said project leader Douglas Ewing.



International ambassador

WAYNE Johnston, MD of WJ Roadmarkings, stepped into the breach of international ambassador when, as the Chairman of the RSMA (Road Safety Markings Association), he was invited to present the UK's vision of the 'future of roadmarkings' at the Hofmann Technology Day 2010.

Hofmann is one of the largest roadmarking vehicle manufacturers in Europe and the day proved to be highly successful, with speakers and guests attending from all over the world.

Round up of the last quarter...



WELCOME to our 2nd edition of Chapter 5, the WJ Linkline group newsletter. I am pleased to say that we had some very good feedback from the 1st edition. Please remember this is a company forum

for sharing your news, any ideas, views and suggestions. The newsletter production team would love to hear from you at

newsletter@wjroadmarkings.com

I am sitting here now looking out of my office window at the sun shining, however it doesn't make me forget just how bad the winter has been. December was by far the worst month for the business since we began. Luckily for us the weather in January and February improved but in no way can this make the figures up. We are now looking forward to this year's workload. There have been mixed messages regarding roadmarking budgets across the country. Some customers are reporting drops of up to 30% in budgets while other customers are saying their spend will increase this year on roadmarkings, primarily due to the increased use of surface dressing as opposed to asphalt, in an attempt to reduce overall spend on the roads.

This year the group will be applying roadmarkings to over 14,000,000 m² of surface

dressing, which is pleasing to report.

The industry not only has to put up with funding issues from the government but is also facing unprecedented increases in raw materials. Since last year our thermoplastic costs have risen by over 30%. It is impossible to absorb these increases and as such we have had no alternative other than to pass these on to our customers.

This year we are exhibiting at traffex which is our industry's largest UK trade show, held at the NEC in Birmingham, from Tuesday 29th March until Thursday 31st March. We are promoting our latest products and service innovations. This exhibition allows us to meet all our existing and potential new customers.

It was pleasing to attend and speak at the first full day Health & Safety training meeting from the Stoke depot. I believe the day went very well and I was pleased with the content and the participation from our speakers. This idea has been taken from the Linkline and Ambridge divisions which have been holding an annual two-day Health & Safety training meeting with all their employees for the last ten years. These have proved very successful with our clients and customers invited to both attend and present to the company.

Due to the success of this we aim to roll this out throughout the rest of the group during 2011.

For those who aren't familiar with the group structure, there are four companies within the WJ Linkline Group:

WJ Roadmarkings (Newcastle under Lyme and Elland),
WJ Roadmarkings South West (Taunton),
Linkline Maintenance Services (Milton Keynes) and
Ambridge Thermoplastics (Milton Keynes).



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Having a blast in Stoke

WJ Roadmarkings' Newcastle under Lyme depot has added a third hydroblaster to its fleet to meet growing demand for its road marking services.

The hydroblaster was being rented from the US and was on an American lorry chassis. After six months of use it was decided WJ would buy the truck and put it on an English Volvo FM-9 six-wheeler chassis. The hydroblaster will be used for removing

white lines and aircraft tyre deposits from runways as well as retexturing (improving roads to bring back the original skid resistance properties to the tarmac).

Dan Parkinson, the hydroblaster operative, is taking the vehicle to Truckfest Peterborough, from Sunday 1st to Monday 2nd May, and will be joined by Wayne Murray and the new double-capacity road sweeper.

Stoke six blaze hydroblasting trail

SIX WJ Roadmarkings staff have become the first students in the UK to be awarded an NVQ level 2 certificate in hydroblasting (road retexturing by high pressure water).

The six trail blazers are Lee Dick, Simon Holdcroft, Simon Holland, Jason Craddock, Neil Grant and Marcus Skelton.

"Everyone here is extremely proud of what these six lads have achieved, which is an industry first. It also demonstrates that as a business, we lead the industry in terms of our hydroblasting expertise," said Wayne Johnston, group MD.

A number of other members of the Stoke team have been busy working towards training qualifications.

There are now 27 operational staff with NVQ level 2 in pavement markings, four supervisors with NVQ level 3 in pavement markings; three managers with NVQ level 4 in construction management and nine drivers with full CPCS certification.

Recently Martin Webb passed his NVQ level 5 in senior construction management, proving that even senior managers still continue learning in the business...



From left to right: Kevin Gannon, Lee Dick, Wayne Johnston, Jimmy Smallwood, Simon Holdcroft, Jason Craddock and Martin Webb

New fleet manager



WJ Roadmarkings welcomes a new fleet manager, Scott Logan.

Scott, who has worked in transport for 27 years, is based out of the Newcastle under Lyme depot. He brings with him invaluable experience from a wide range of jobs.

After leaving school he did an apprenticeship in Mechanics & Large Goods Vehicles. He then went on to work for Brit European as a driver and then he joined the Co-Op.

His drive and enthusiasm have enabled him to work his way up through the ranks from the shop floor right the way up to transport manager in 19 years.

Scott's role is to ensure all of the group's vehicles meet Legal & Licensing requirements.

WJ Linkline Group companies

WJ Roadmarkings: the largest independent road marking contractor in the UK, with sites in Newcastle under Lyme, Taunton and Elland

Ambridge Thermoplastics: a manufacturer of high quality road marking products

Linkline Maintenance Services: a Milton Keynes based road marking service provider

WJ Hydroblast: offering a revolutionary process for removing road markings quickly and efficiently

Joined up approach shaves time on M25 job

THERE are considerable benefits to be gained from using just one road marking company on jobs which require both permanent and temporary markings.

Clients who use WJ Roadmarkings to carry out both elements of a project benefit from a number of synergies, according to Martin Webb, operations director at Newcastle under Lyme.

"Using just one road marking company on jobs which require both permanent and temporary markings means the work is carried out far more efficiently and seamlessly," he says. "The teams are working together not against

each other, they are managed by the same supervisors and they can prepare the permanent job whilst installing the temporary job and vice versa."

The advantages of this approach were demonstrated recently on the M25 section 4 J27-30 for Chevron Traffic Management. WJ Roadmarkings managed to complete the last major switch in just 19 nights, six nights less than the 25 nights it had planned for.

"Carrying out work like this is a credit to our staff. This is what keeps us one step ahead of the competition," added Martin.

Moving on up



ANDY Stapleton has been promoted to contracts supervisor at WJ Roadmarkings' Newcastle under Lyme site.

Andy previously worked as a road marker. In his new role he will be assisting Joe Davies and Kevin Gannon and will cover the Derbyshire area. His main responsibilities will include surveying sites prior to surface dressing as well as planning and marking out jobs.



Fighting chance

■ WJ Roadmarkings is sponsoring an amateur boxing club which aims to give teenagers in the Abbey Hulton area of Stoke-on-Trent a fighting chance.

Hulton Abbey Boxing Club, which

is run by ex-boxer Keith Nugent, helps local youngsters stay off the streets by channelling their energy into sport, and draws potential boxers to and from the local areas.

With the help of sponsors and funding from the Prince's Trust, the club has been transformed from a poorly equipped gym on the brink of closure in the nineties to a thriving centre which has hosted several boxing attractions including Richie Woodhall and John Conteh.

New front office phone voice



MOST readers will probably recognise Jude Wright's voice even if they can't picture her face! Jude is the new receptionist at WJ Roadmarkings' Newcastle under Lyme office. Jude joined the Stoke depot as a temp last September and brings with her over 20 years of admin experience. She is already proving a valuable asset in the front office - so much so that she was made a permanent employee in November. So nice to bring some more glamour to a predominantly male environment!

Weatherline Plus comes to Devon

■ WJ Roadmarkings (South West) has secured an order on a Devon C.C. Improvement Scheme for the dot and line system. The site, situated on the A379 spur road, links the M5 to the Exeter by-pass. The scheme included road widening, new slip roads and a major junction to a new housing development and a Tesco store. Approximately 5000 lin.m of centre line and continuous edge line has been laid on this contract.

WJ dresses up Yorkshire highways

■ WJ's Elland team has been busy surveying sites for surface dressing work it has won in East and West Yorkshire.

In West Yorkshire, WJ is working with Bradford, Kirklees and Calderdale Councils under a contract with Kiely Brothers, whilst in East Yorkshire, it is working together with Galliford Try.

Surface dressing is an extremely cost effective way of maintaining a road. It restores skid resistance and seals the road surface to prevent water ingress. Hot bitumen is sprayed onto the road and chippings are then applied and rolled in. The road is then swept to remove excessive chippings.

Dave sets the standard in contract management

■ CONGRATULATIONS are in order to Dave Clark who has been awarded NVQ level 3 in road marking supervision and is now signed on the first ever intake of the Road Safety Marking Association's new NVQ level 6 contract management course. Dave is a contracts manager with Linkline Maintenance Services in Milton Keynes.

Word from the West Country



■ IT is hard to believe that our first year of trading is almost complete. How things have changed and progressed since the opening of our depot and offices in Taunton!

We are now a totally self-contained unit within the group with Catherine Caple as our office manager responsible for all office procedures, assisted by Anna Lewis administering some of the major contracts. Jeff Brown is heading up the accounts section with Matt Hancock our contracts manager, looking after day-to-day operations and operatives.

We are delighted to announce we have acquired the services of Terry Trevelyan who has joined the company and heads the team as operations manager. Terry was the managing director of Somerset White Lining Ltd before it was taken over by Prismo. He started his road marking career with SWL in 1986 on a handscreed crew and ultimately as a steersman on the multimark.

In 1996 he became a contracts supervisor and eventually in 2006, the MD when Dave Milford took retirement from the company. He had 10 years of working alongside and with the help of David, such that now he has excellent knowledge of the industry

and customer-base.

In addition to our existing first-class workforce, we welcome two new experienced operatives who joined the team, all of whom should be congratulated on their contribution to the company's success to date.

We are pleased to announce two additional term maintenance contracts awarded to us: a three-year contract to supply road markings, road studs and anti-skid to Balfour Beatty for North Somerset Council and we have commenced delivering the requirements on the A30/A35 DBFO for the SWH-BBIS J.V. with a combined annual value of circa £500,000.

With an increase in new customers and a number of scheme work contracts secured for this year, the forward order book is very encouraging and we look forward to these challenges.

New vehicles for the South West depot include two hand screed lorries, delivered in February and March, as well as a new feeder lorry to be delivered later in March. In addition we have a purpose-built combi-lorry which can be used as a hand screed truck or by changing the back end be utilised as an anti-skid truck with a small provision to do limited white screed work. A very useful vehicle to deliver a service to smaller scheme works.

Double capacity sweeper reduces carbon footprint

■ WJ Roadmarkings has custom-built a new road sweeper which will reduce CO2 emissions during removal operations.

Skid steer machines are used to plane off road markings and anti skid materials. The skid steer machines leave debris in their wake, which is cleared using a road sweeper. However, when the removal of large amounts of ribline is undertaken, too much debris is created for one standard sweeper to handle, which means two sweepers are normally required on these jobs.



Thanks to the development of a double capacity sweeper, this is no longer the case. By stretching a Volvo FM-12 tractor unit, WJ Roadmarkings has built a sweeper that can clear 6,000m of ribline debris rather than the usual 3,000m. Using just one road sweeper is also more environmentally friendly as it uses far less fuel and therefore emits far less CO2. Wayne Murray, the sweeper operative, is taking the vehicle to Truckfest Peterborough, from Sunday 1st to Monday 2nd May, and will be joined by Dan Parkinson and the new hydroblaster.

Yorkshire depot up-and-running



■ WJ Roadmarkings' Yorkshire team is now fully up and running in its new, bigger premises in Elland.

The team moved from its 3,200 sq ft in Mirfield to a 10,000 sq ft site in Elland to enable it to keep pace with growing demand for its specialist road marking vehicle manufacturing and refurbishment services.

The new depot boasts a spacious office,

workshop and outside yard and gives the company the capacity to build up to 12 new vehicles a year, as well as refurbish a number of existing vehicles.

"At our old facility we had the capacity to build four vehicles a year. That was enough at one time, but as demand kept growing, it became apparent we had outgrown the space," said Mark Fawcett, general manager of the

Yorkshire depot. "The move to Elland has improved the efficiency of our vehicle manufacturing operation, enabling us to build and refurbish three times as many vehicles and shorten the lead time on new builds."

26 people now work at the Yorkshire site - the site's highest ever head count. Eight crews operate out of the Elland office: six street crews, one anti-skid crew and one machine crew.

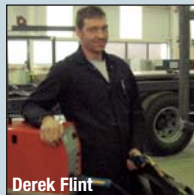
Elland expands

■ THE beginning of March saw Mark Archer join WJ Roadmarkings. Mark brings a wealth of knowledge to the group, including over ten years' experience in the white lining industry at management level.

Mark started his career straight from school with Tarmac. He worked his way up through the ranks over 17 years and gained a HND in Road Surface Engineer & Quarrying.

As white lining operations manager for WJ's Elland site, Mark will have overall responsibility for all of the depot's white lining work. This includes negotiating and managing contracts, pricing jobs and scheduling work. We are sure with all this knowledge and expertise he will prove a great asset to both the Elland depot and the WJ Linkline Group.

Derek Flint is also new to the Elland team. He started his career straight from school as a Vehicle Painting & Finishing apprentice with Sanderson Ford. Derek completed a three-year Welding & Fabrication course at Huddersfield Tech which makes him more than qualified to join WJ Roadmarkings as a welder fabricator.



Funday in Taunton

■ TAUNTON Town Centre Company has been set up to maintain and continuously enhance Taunton's position as the premiere retail destination for the sub-region. WJ Roadmarkings (South West) was very pleased, therefore, to be a major sponsor of its 'Christmas Lights Switch-on 2010' which took place on Sunday 21 November 2010.

Matthew Hancock, our contracts manager, decided we should appear as the major and magnificent sponsor and excelled in exhibiting WJ Roadmarkings (South West) with one of our smart new lorries and gazebo attached in a prominent position in the very heart of the celebrations. Just in case no-one could see the bright yellow lorry, he prowled and danced around as the Lion King (of the road!) in a fantastic outfit and certainly became a major attraction of the day, reaching out to adults and children, creating laughter and adding a great deal of atmosphere to the occasion.



Efficient driving cuts fuel consumption

AS part of its drive to become a safer, greener company, WJ Roadmarkings is training all of its vehicle operating staff in SAFED (Safe and Fuel Efficient Driving).

Over the next 12 months, every member of staff will be sent on the one-day course, which includes one-to-one on-road training from a qualified instructor.

In the morning, candidates drive a 30 mile route, taking in towns, motorway and country lanes, accompanied by the instructor. The instructor records time taken, distance travelled, number of gear changes and fuel used. This is followed by a discussion of the way the first run was driven. The driver is then given training on safe, fuel efficient driving. In the afternoon, candidates then have to do the same run, this time with the instructor



giving ongoing input. Once again, the time taken, distance travelled, number of gear changes and fuel used are all recorded. Generally, the second run takes the same amount of time, but uses up to 15% less fuel and up to 50% fewer gear changes.

"This course demonstrates that safe and fuel efficient driving doesn't have to mean crawling along at 20 miles per hour - it's about knowing how to adapt your driving technique to different roads and conditions," says Martin Webb, operations director at WJ Roadmarkings' Newcastle under Lyme site. "We want all our vehicle operators to do this course as it equips them with skills and techniques they wouldn't necessarily gain from other driving qualifications whilst at the same time reducing fuel consumption and wear and tear to vehicles."

Specialist Marking Division takes off

LINKLINE'S Specialist Marking Division has only been up and running for a matter of months, but is already delivering specialist marking services to schools, rail service providers, car parks and airports.

The division, which is headed up by Douglas Ewing, was created to focus on those jobs where more specialist marking materials are desirable. For example, it recently carried out work at the newly extended Birmingham Moor Street station which involved painting the platforms using MMA (Methyl Methacrylate Acryline). MMA is far more durable and easier and safer to use than thermoplastic. Because thermoplastic has to be hot applied at 200°C, it has to be kept warm during transportation to the railway station which can be very difficult and dangerous. MMA by contrast, is cold applied, so can be

transported cold and mixed at its destination.

The division is also working with MMA on the A454 Black Country Route, where MMA was selected as the material of choice for all white and edge lines owing to its durability and reflectivity.

On another completely different project a crew is painting all the stands at Exeter airport and will shortly be starting work on the runway there.

"In the past Linkline Maintenance Services had done some work in schools, airports and railway stations but we hadn't really taken the time to analyse the specific needs of these sectors," said Douglas. "With the new division we now have a targeted offering for these sectors, enabling us to develop marking solutions that address individual customer



concerns and requirements."

The division currently operates out of Milton Keynes, but Douglas and team are training staff throughout the group on how to work with these specialist marking materials.

Hydroblast retexturing reaps rewards



USING hydroblasting to retexture a road surface has saved one of WJ Hydroblast's customers £12,000.

WJ Hydroblast was asked to retexture a section of newly laid HRA that had failed on texture depth. The crew attended site and completed 3000m² of retexturing in one shift using hydroblast technology. The alternative method would have been to plane out the new surface and relay, which would have taken two shifts.

Not only did hydroblasting save the customer a huge amount of cash (approximately £12,000), but also had less of an environmental impact compared to the alternative method - WJ only needed to use one truck for one day as opposed to

one planer, 14 wagons to cart material to the tip, 14 wagons to deliver the new material, and a paver, tractair, two rollers, and two vans for two days.

The texture depth of the carriageway should not be below 1.5mm; the Hydroblast machine increased the texture depth from 1.2mm to 1.8mm.

Hydroblast technology is an alternative proven method to resurfacing or surface dressing existing networks if you want to increase texture depth and skid resistance of the road surface. The hydroblast operation is ideal for existing stone mastic asphalt / thin surfacing, hot rolled asphalt wearing courses and fatted up surface dressing.

Back to school for Douglas and team



AT a time when the government is cutting spending on one hand and asking for more help with their "Big Society" ideas on the other, Linkline Maintenance Services is doing its bit by helping out local schools in the Milton Keynes area.

Douglas Ewing and his team has offered to mark out number lines to help with numeracy, hopscotch for coordination and alphabet snakes for literacy - work that would normally cost schools in the region of £1,200.

So far Drayton Parslow Village School and Mursley Church of England School have benefitted from the scheme.

"The last time I was in school I was writing lines - now I'm painting them," said Douglas.



Quiet new feeder truck

WJ Roadmarkings' Elland team has built a new 'quiet' 26-tonne feeder truck for transporting and preheating road marking materials.

The Volvo FE 6x2 will be used by WJ's South West depot to service white lining machines carrying out surface dressing work. It incorporates two 120-gallon preheaters for warming

thermoplastic materials prior to them being transferred onto a self propelled road marking machine with different functions. The preheaters are hydraulically lifted and lowered to enable easy and safe transfer of materials, and all hydraulics are driven through PTO (Power Take Off). The benefit of PTO is that all the hydraulics can be run through the main vehicle engine rather than through a separate, additional engine. This makes the truck quieter and more environmentally friendly.



Health and safety training seminar hailed a success

STAFF from Linkline Maintenance Services updated and improved their knowledge of health, safety and environmental regulations and best practice at a two-day health, safety and environment training seminar in January.



"The event was organised to make our crews aware of the very latest thinking on health, safety and the environment," explained Paul Aldridge, MD of Linkline Maintenance Services. "We believe that when it comes to health and safety, it does not matter how good you think you are or how much you think you know - there is always more to learn."

Group MD Wayne Johnston opened the event with a key note speech in which he outlined how the business is performing and where he believes it can improve. Andy Stubbs highlighted Linkline's achievements with its key suppliers and how its health, safety and environmental performance are key to retaining business.

Two guest speakers also addressed the 90-staff who participated in the training seminar.

Dave Bubbins, Amey's health, safety and environment representative for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Birmingham, talked about behavioural safety and visible felt leadership. Ian

Mumby from the RSMA discussed burns prevention and treatment.

During the afternoon, break-out sessions equipped participants with practical knowledge and skills. They were led by Ian Mumby on burns, Craig Williams "Safety Craig" on hazard identification, Douglas Ewing and Simon Barnes on setting out and George Weatherson "Safety George" on tool box talks.

Health and safety supervisor

AFTER working as a marker for 11 years, George Weatherson has taken on the role of site health and safety supervisor. He is already proving to be a great help to 'safety Craig.'

George will be visiting all four of the group's sites to carry out site audits, as well as near misses and accident investigation.

Simple idea saves workers from injury

CRAIG Williams and team have designed a guarded bucket that greatly reduces the risk to workers.

One of the most common injuries among road marking operatives is burns to the hand as a result of dipping their fingers in buckets of hot thermoplastic at night after inadvertently mistaking thermoplastic for glass beads.

At WJ Linkline Group the practice of putting glass beads in buckets was outlawed some years ago and specifically designed shakers were introduced. The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 state that where practical, work equipment should be protected at source.

Craig and his team have gone one step further by designing a guarded bucket that greatly reduces the risk to workers of being able to put their fingers / hands into buckets of hot material.

The bucket guard has been introduced throughout the group and has also attracted interest from the wider road marking industry.



Triple boilered truck cuts costs, congestion and carbon emissions in the capital

Linkline Maintenance Services to cut fuel usage, congestion, waste and traffic management costs when lining London's 'red routes'.

One of the problems with working in London is the lining of the 'red routes'. Traditionally, road marking vehicles carry two preheaters containing white and yellow material. When working on a red route three colours - white, yellow and red - are often needed, which presents road marking companies with two choices: either have the traffic management out for two days or send out two trucks.

With the first option, there are several downsides: the CO2 emissions generated by the number of vehicle movements and all the associated dangers of running back and forth across a live carriageway. Then there is the congestion that is often created by closing lanes on London's busiest roads. It is Boris Johnson and Transport for London's stated wish to reduce congestion caused by road works.

Sending two trucks is the preferred option if they are available but given that an ordinary HGV produces its own weight in CO2 every 4000

BORIS Johnson, the mayor of London, should welcome the development of a new triple boilered truck, which will enable

miles and that Transport for London is requiring all vehicles working on their network to use euro 5 low emission engines, Linkline decided that a better option all-round would be to build its own customised vehicle.

"We thought that if we could build a vehicle with three preheaters, therefore having white, red and yellow available on one truck, we could slash emissions. This solution also reduces waste because there is no longer a need to carry out colour changes - changing colours requires the preheaters to be cleaned which creates waste material that cannot be recycled very easily and ends up in landfill," says Linkline MD Paul Aldridge.

"We believe the truck to be a simple common sense innovation that makes us and all the stakeholders in TfL's network more efficient, reduces CO2 through fewer vehicle movements, reduces cost through less traffic management and potentially reduces journey times."

Training snapshot from Stoke depot

In January:

- 10 staff completed a first aid refresher course
- 31 staff completed a banksman course
- 6 staff completed fork lift refresher courses

In February:

- 3 staff completed the SAFED (Safe And Fuel Efficient Driving) course
- 5 staff completed the IOSH (Institution of Occupational Safety and Health) course
- 18 staff completed a fire safety course
- 43 staff attended a training day

Ruby's on the road to recovery

RUBY Owen, the local toddler whose story has touched everyone at WJ Roadmarkings, is back home after successful treatment in America.

Last year, Lisa Webb and the Stoke office angels raised £1000 to help pay for little Ruby to go to America to have a brain tumour treated. She had to travel to America for the treatment because they have a special machine to give her 30 radiotherapy sessions to her head.

The treatment went very well and since



returning home, Ruby has had three brain scans, all of which have come back clear.

Lisa Webb visited Ruby at home and reports that she appears like any chatty four-year old; her hair has grown back and she's running around like any other child. Ruby's parents again

thanked WJ Roadmarkings for all its support throughout this last year.

We wish Ruby, her parents Martin and Rachael and her big sister Charlotte best of luck with Ruby's next scans.

One for the road

Needless to say WJ wasn't responsible for the above blunder! Send in your comedy road sign photos to newsletter@wjroadmarkings.com for the next issue. The best photo receives £50 worth of M&S vouchers.



Nippy in Northampton...hot in Havana



Ian (top limbo dancer) Durant, showing the experts how to limbo



Above: Who says fat men can't limbo?

DESPITE the snow that hit the whole of the country in December the WJ Linkline Group Christmas party was still able to go ahead although many from the South West depot were actually snowed in!

20 revellers from the Stoke depot arrived on a 52-seater bus to meet up with the Milton Keynes crew at the Towcester Race Course for a night themed 'Hot in Havana'.

They were entertained all evening with fire eaters, limbo dancers and salsa dancing. Safety Craig was certainly strutting his stuff with his wife Joanne showing us all how to dance.

Snow didn't dampen spirits at the WJ Stoke depot lads' Christmas do either. 50 lads and one brave lass went off to Leek to take up the challenge of cross bow, archery, human football, axe throwing, quad biking and clay pigeon shooting.

A great day was had by all - we

kept both Wayne and Webby and the health and safety guys Craig and George away from the axe throwing area just in case anyone had ideas of creating a new target!

Lots of fun and laughter - in particular on the human football with Sergeant Sandy getting right in amongst it with the young lads.

Well done to the following trophy winners: cross bow - Mark Horsley; axe throwing - Marcus Skelton; Archery - Chris Brown; football man of the match - Big Col Jones; clay pigeon shooting - Lisa Webb (taking much credit for beating her hubby Webby!); quad biking - Ian Darlington.

Particular thanks go to Ian (I've ridden quads all my life) Darlington for making the whole day truly memorable with his head-on crash into the only tree in a massive field. Don't give up your day job Ian.



AT WJ we are always looking out for ways of doing things better. If you have any ideas for anything we could do better, from health and safety improvements to fundraising activities, we'd love to hear from you.

Here's one to start us off:

A few years ago, Scott Logan and a bunch of colleagues posed for and produced a Calendar Girls style calendar, and in baring all, raised £22,000 for Breast Cancer. Scott thinks it would be a great idea to do this here - we could split the months up between the five depots and have our gorgeous hunks strutting their stuff...any volunteers?

Send your suggestions to newsletter@wjroadmarkings.com for the next issue. The best idea receives £50 worth of M&S vouchers.



Linkline gives Santa a ride

IN the Milton Keynes area this Christmas, Santa tried out an alternative mode of transport, trading his sleigh for a pick-up truck.

Linkline Maintenance Services lent one of its picks to the Flitwick Vale Rotary Club, which transformed the truck into a winter themed float with Santa on the back and drove around the villages of Central Bedfordshire collecting cash for various good causes. The club raised a cracking £7000 in total.

Douglas is a knock-out



DOUGLAS Ewing of Linkline Maintenance Services cast his dignity aside when he took part in a charity "It's a

Knock-out" competition.

He might have come last but he succeeded in raising £400 for DEBRA, the national charity working on behalf of people with the genetic skin blistering condition Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB).

